



Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers, Iowa Flood Risk Management

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Location

Des Moines, Iowa

State(s)

IA

Congressional District(s)

IA-3

Status

The existing levee system protects much of the city's critical infrastructure, including City Hall, the Police Station, a regional sewage treatment facility, and aviation fuel facilities. Downtown Des Moines is also a national center for the insurance industry. Flooding of these areas would result in extensive flooding of neighborhoods and commercial/industrial areas that could cause serious contamination of Red Rock Reservoir. Approximately 600,000 people would be impacted by the flooding. In 2010, the City of Des Moines requested a feasibility study be conducted and they continue to strongly support a feasibility study that would evaluate a variety of structural and nonstructural flood risk management measures. The study area would include the entire downtown area and the Southeast Des Moines levee which is part of the Lake Red Rock project and is connected to the downtown levee system.



Description

The Des Moines and Raccoon River was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, and funds were appropriated in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2010. The project has completed reconstruction of levees at Birdland Park and Central Place as recommended in the 2005 feasibility report and construction of closure improvements in the downtown levee system is scheduled to be completed in 2015. The 2010 Des Moines River Regulated Flow Frequency Study identified a high risk of flooding in the Des Moines area - significantly higher than estimated in a 2005 feasibility report. The resulting hydraulics show that the existing levees in downtown Des Moines do not provide reliable protection against a 100-year flood. A 905(b) Reconnaissance Study is needed to assess the impacts of the increased flood risk identified in the Flow Frequency Study.

Summarized Project Costs

	Recon	Feasibility
Federal Cost	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,500,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$ 0	\$ 1,500,000
Total Cost	\$ 100,000	\$ 3,000,000
Federal Allocations through FY 2013	\$ 0	\$ 0
FY 2014 Allocations	\$ 0	\$ 0
FY 2015 Budget	\$ 0	\$ 0



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Balance to Complete	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,500,000
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Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

None (no funding).

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

Prepare 905(b) Reconnaissance Report and begin Feasibility Study if Federal funds are appropriated.

Authority Details

Resolution adopted by Congress on July 1, 1958, following appropriation of funds in the 1998 E&WDAA, also Section 216 of the 1970 Flood Control Act (Public Law 91-611)

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