

**Delaware River Basin Comprehensive Study – Interim Feasibility Study for New Jersey
Flood Risk Management Measures**

Fact Sheet
Structural Measures
(Local Protection)

Option: Levees and Floodwalls

- Description:** A levee (an earth embankment) or floodwall (a concrete or steel wall) is constructed along the banks of a stream to prevent floodwaters from reaching the area behind the structure.
- Example(s):** Levees along the Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers in New York State in the cities of Binghamton and Elmira, respectively. A levee system is under construction in Bound Brook, New Jersey.
- Benefits:** Contain floodwaters within the stream channel and protect the adjacent community. Eliminate flood damages from storms that do not cause stream levels to rise above their design height.
- Challenges:** Topography, steep banks, and the level and complexity of the infrastructure of communities being protected often results in high project costs with respect to potential benefits. Potential levee/floodwall alignments often contain buildings, utilities and other structures impacting project costs. In addition, the interior protected areas must have space for interior drainage systems. There is a potential for natural resource impacts and for induced flooding in areas outside the levee or floodwall's protected area. For the Delaware River, structural measures that restrict or limit access to the waterway may face local opposition.



US Army Corps of Engineers floodwall in St. Louis, MO

