



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

PROJECT FACTSHEET

**Tookany Creek, Church Road
Cheltenham, Montgomery County, PA**

January 2008

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: Rep. Fattah (PA-2)

APPROPRIATION / PHASE:
Continuing Authorities / Feasibility

BUSINESS PROGRAM:
Flood Damage Reduction

AUTHORITY: Section 205, Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended.

LOCATION: The study area is situated along Tookany Creek, in the Elkins Park section of Cheltenham Township in eastern Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, 9 miles north of Philadelphia, Pa.

DESCRIPTION: Homes on Shoemaker Avenue, adjacent to Tookany Creek near Church Road, experience chronic flooding. Flooding of the municipal maintenance building, storage area, and parking lot on the opposite side of the creek also occurs. According to local residents, the frequency of out of bank flooding in the area is increasing. In addition, there is a small dam on the creek in this area, of unknown ownership, dating back to the time of an old mill. In 1967, after five (5) floods were reported, the Township undertook an extensive structural project, including dredging the creek and the construction of stone walls along the creek, to help alleviate the flooding. The project was reported effective until approximately ten (10) years ago when the township terminated maintenance dredging of the creek due to environmental concerns. With the cessation of maintenance dredging, debris (silt and stone) began to choke the creek and now appears, from visual inspection, to be a significant factor contributing to the flooding problem. The area behind the dam is silted in, and there is some bank erosion just upstream of the dam.

It is proposed that both structural and non-structural solutions to the flooding problem be investigated. Structural solutions would include dam removal and reconstruction of the stone walls along the creek. The downstream reaches of the creek should be studied to check bridges for possible snagging and clearing which might help to alleviate flooding. The non-structural solution would be to buyout the affected homes, with estimated market value of \$350,000 each. The buyout option could lead to an environmental restoration project that could include the removal of the dam and restoration of the floodplain in the area, which would further reduce the flooding problem.

STATUS: FY 07 funds in the amount of \$30K were used to continue the feasibility study. FY 08 capability funds in the amount of \$45K will be used to complete the feasibility study. The buy-out option will likely be recommended.

Tookany Creek, Church Road, Cheltenham, Montgomery Co., PA (continued)

| FINANCIAL DATA (\$000) | Fed | Non-Fed | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---------|-------|
| Feasibility | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Plans & Specifications * | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| Construction ** | 200 | 1,050 | 1,250 |

| BUDGET DATA (\$000) | | Comments |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Thru FY 05 | 25 | |
| FY 06 | 0 | |
| FY 07 | 30 | |
| FY 08 | 45 | FY08 capability |
| FY 09 | TBD | |

* P&S initially fully federally funded, then reimbursed by sponsor at construction

** Estimate based on buyout option: 3 homes @ \$350K + environmental restoration @ \$200K

SPONSOR: Cheltenham Township

COMMENTS: An environmental assessment will need to be prepared.

PROJECT MANAGER: Don Martinelli
 (215) 656-6589
don.r.martinelli@usace.army.mil