



US Army Corps of Engineers®

# Flood Risk Management

## Value to the Nation

### Stillwater Lake

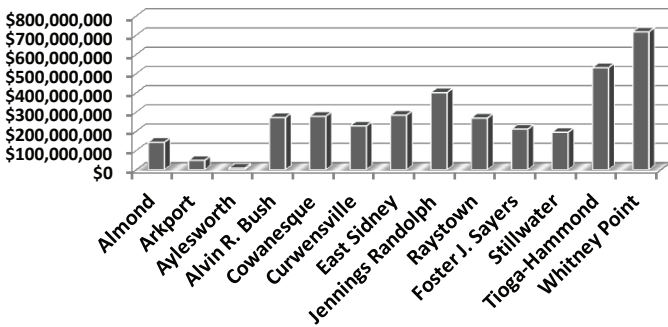


Every year floods sweep through communities across the United States taking lives, destroying property, shutting down businesses, harming the environment and causing millions of dollars in damages. Nearly 94 million acres of land in the United States are at risk for flooding. It is impossible to prevent all floods, but it is possible to prevent some and to limit the damage and risk from those that do occur. One of the primary missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is to support flood risk management activities of communities in both urban and rural areas throughout the United States. To carry out this mission, the Corps operates projects that reduce flood risk and conducts emergency management activities. At the direction of Congress, the Corps studies and implements flood risk management measures. Over the years the Corps has significantly reduced the impacts of floods by implementing measures such as dams, levees and floodplain management activities.

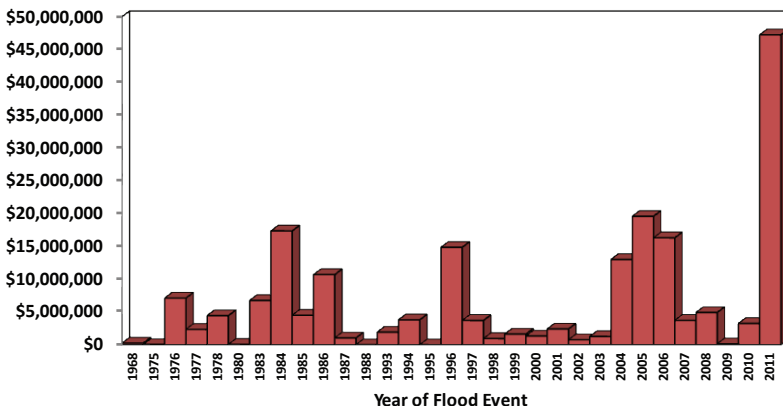
Some of the most valuable real estate in the nation is also located in high risk areas that are prone to flooding. Many industrial facilities are built near rivers and harbors for easy access to waterborne transportation. Coastal metropolitan zones are engines of growth for the economy.

Coastal communities are highly desirable as residential locations and tourist destinations and offer many recreational activities but are vulnerable to coastal storm and flood damage. The Corps Flood Risk Management mission reduces the risk of flood damage to these facilities and homes as well as to vital infrastructure such as energy grids and transportation networks. Since 1936 the Corps has completed over 400 major lake and reservoir projects, emplaced over 8,500 miles of levees and dikes, and implemented hundreds of smaller local flood damage reduction projects. These projects have prevented an estimated \$706 billion in river and coastal flood damage, most of that within the last 25 years.

**Baltimore District Historical Flood Damage Reduction**



**Stillwater Lake Flood Damage Reduction**



**Total Baltimore District Savings:  
\$3,914,511,000**

**Total Stillwater Lake Savings:  
\$195,345,000**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

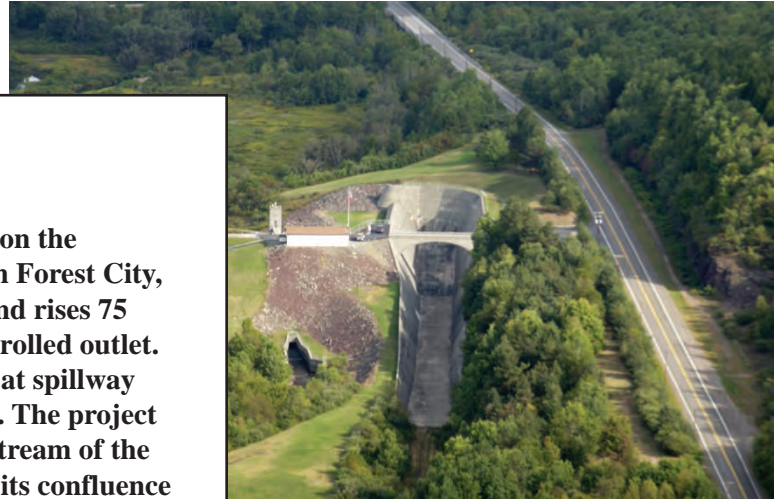
# Flood Risk Management

## Value to the Nation

### *Stillwater Lake*

#### **Background:**

Stillwater Lake is located in Susquehanna County, PA, on the Lackawanna River four miles north and upstream from Forest City, PA. The dam is an earthfill structure, 1,700 feet long and rises 75 feet above the streambed, with a spillway and gate controlled outlet. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 11,600 acre feet at spillway crest, and controls a drainage area of 36.8 square miles. The project reduces flood heights on the Lackawanna River, downstream of the dam and on the Susquehanna River, downstream from its confluence with the Lackawanna River. The Pennsylvania-American Water Company (PAWC) utilizes Stillwater as a source of water supply for the Forest City Water Purification Plant on infrequent occasions. The intake facility is located immediately downstream of the reservoir on the Lackawanna River. Under a Corps real estate agreement, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission operates and maintains a boat launch at the lake. Swimming and gasoline powered boat motors are prohibited in the lake since it may be used as a water supply source for downstream communities.



#### **Authorization:**

The project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of August 18, 1941 (Public Law 77-228).



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District  
P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, MD 21203**

**[http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/  
Missions/DamsRecreation/  
StillwaterLake.aspx](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/DamsRecreation/StillwaterLake.aspx)**