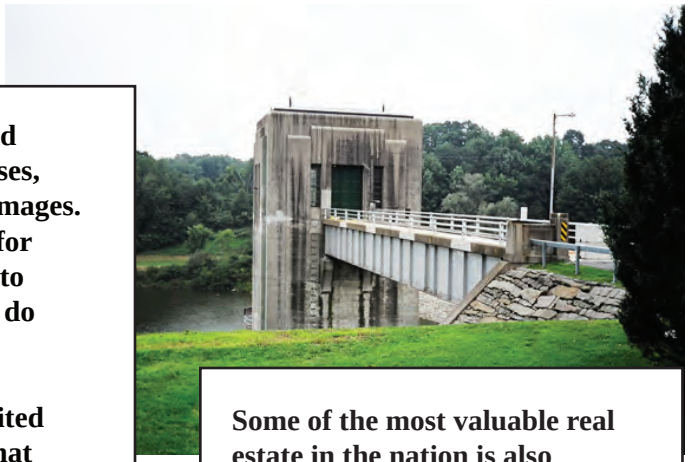
US Army Corps of Engineers®

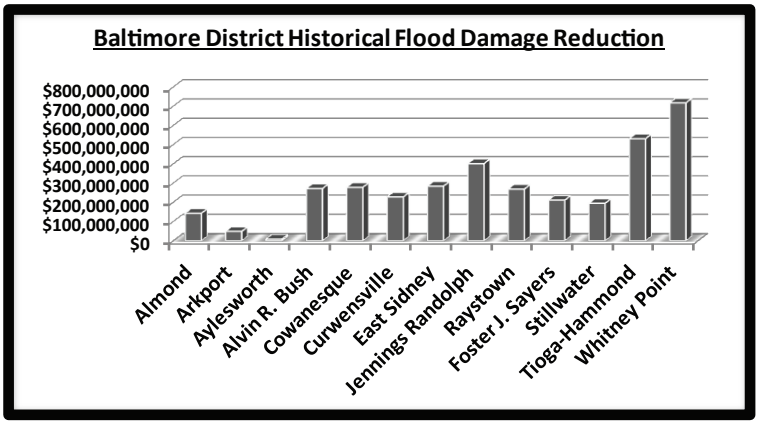
Flood Risk Management
Value to the Nation

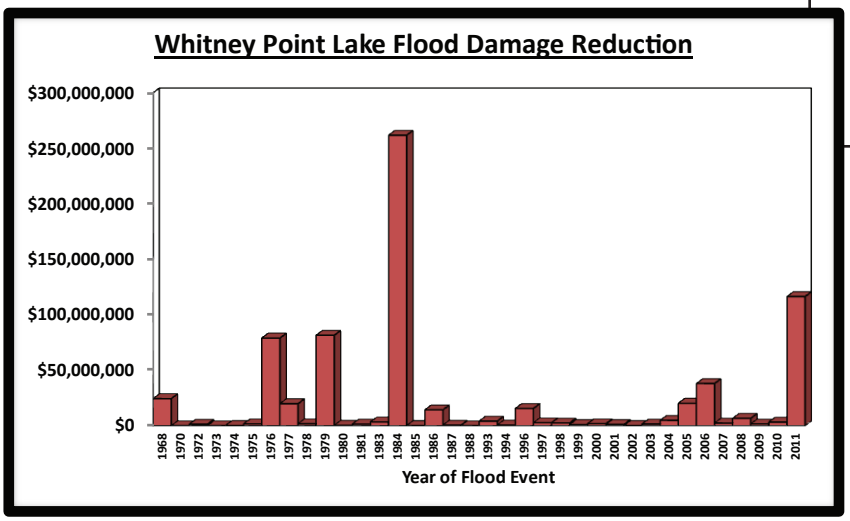
Whitney Point Lake

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.





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

Total Whitney Point Lake Savings: $717,970,000

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Background:

Whitney Point Lake is located near Whitney Point, New York, on the Otselic River, a tributary of the Tioughnioga River, which discharges into the Chenango River, which, in turn, discharges in the Susquehanna River at Binghamton, New York. The dam is an earthfill structure, 4,900 feet long, rising 95 feet above the streambed, with a concrete spillway and a gated outlet in the left abutment. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 86,440 acre-feet (28.2 billion gallons) at spillway crest and will extend about 12 miles upstream when filled to that level. The project controls a drainage area of 255 square miles, the entire watershed of the Otselic River, and 16 percent of the Chenango River watershed upstream from Binghamton. The project forms part of the protection for Binghamton and reduces flood heights on the lower Chenango River and throughout the Susquehanna River Valley downstream from Binghamton. Under a Corps real estate agreement, the Broome County Department of Parks and Recreation operates and maintains Dorchester Park. Facilities include a beach, boat launch, boat rentals, picnic areas and campground. New York Department of Environmental Conservation manages fish and wildlife on other project lands, including Upper Lisle.

Authorization:

The project is a unit of the comprehensive flood control plan for the protection of communities in southern New York and eastern Pennsylvania authorized by the Flood Control Act of June 22, 1936, as amended by the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938, and is described in House Document No. 702, 77th Congress, second session.

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http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/DamsRecreation/WhitneyPointLake.aspx