

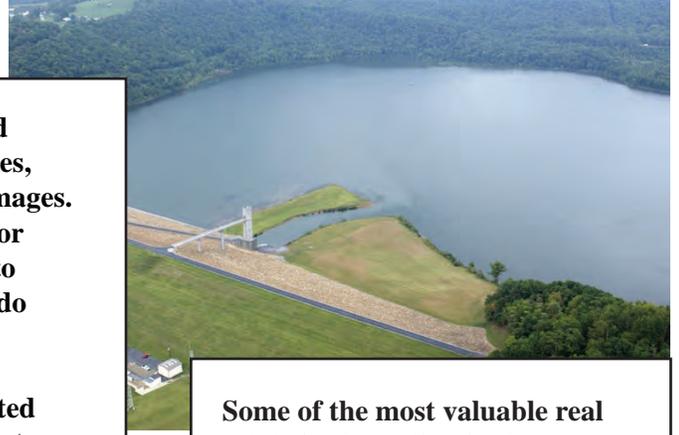


US Army Corps of Engineers®

# Flood Risk Management

## Value to the Nation

### Curwensville Lake

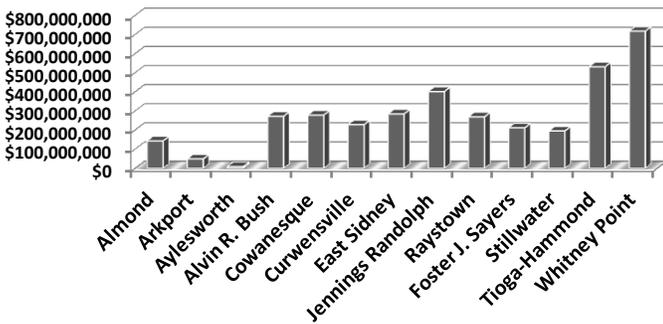


Every year floods sweep through communities across the United States taking lives, destroying property, shutting down businesses, harming the environment and causing millions of dollars in damages. Nearly 94 million acres of land in the United States are at risk for flooding. It is impossible to prevent 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.

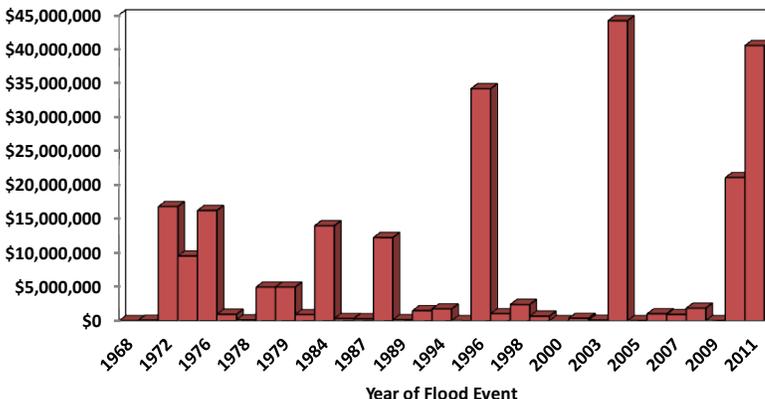
Some of the most valuable real estate in the nation is also located in high risk areas that are prone to flooding. Many industrial facilities are built near rivers and harbors for easy access to waterborne transportation. Coastal metropolitan zones are engines of growth for the economy.

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**



**Curwensville Lake Flood Damage Reduction**



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

**Total Curwensville Lake Savings:  
\$233,136,000**



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of Engineers®**

# Flood Risk Management

## Value to the Nation

### *Curwensville Lake*

#### **Background:**

Curwensville Dam is located on the West Branch Susquehanna River about 0.6 miles upstream from Curwensville, Clearfield County, PA. The dam is an earthfill structure 2,850 feet long, rising 131 feet above the streambed, with a spillway and a gate-controlled outlet. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 124,200 acre-feet at spillway crest and extends 14 miles upstream when filled to that level. The project controls a drainage area of 365 square miles or 98 percent of the West Branch at Curwensville and 75 percent at Clearfield. The project reduces flood heights along the West Branch below the dam, and provides a lake for recreation. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania coordinates the operation of George B. Stevenson Dam with the Corps' operation of Curwensville Dam, Alvin R. Bush Dam, and Foster Joseph Sayers Dam, in order to secure optimum flood control benefits through operation as a system. Fifty-seven percent of the conservation storage space is allocated for water supply storage. Susquehanna River Basin Commission pays the Corps for this storage on an annual basis. Payment is based on annual operation and maintenance costs. Under a Corps real estate agreement, Clearfield County operates and maintains the recreation area which includes a beach, boat launch, picnic areas, athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic pavilions, and a campground.



#### **Authorization:**

The project is a unit of the comprehensive flood control plan for the protection of communities in the West Branch Susquehanna River basin and was authorized by the Flood Control Act approved September 3, 1954. It is described in House Document No. 29, 84 Congress, first session.



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