



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Buffalo District

FACT SHEET

February 2016

SMOKES CREEK - NY

Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment

Section 1135 of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act, as amended (P.L. 99-662)
Construction General (Continuing Authorities Program)

Location

- On the south shore of Lake Erie within the limits of the city of Lackawanna, Erie County, NY

Project Description

- Current channel configuration has sheet-pile which is not suitable spawning habitat for walleye and other fish
- Currently sediment fills in at the mouth of Smokes Creek and restricts fish movement
- The restoration could possibly provide wetland and riparian habitat of significantly higher quality than is currently found along Smokes Creek.
- Other project features could include aquatic and wildlife enhancement and providing public access features

- Feasibility phase is cost-shared 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal, if the project goes to construction

Importance

- The overall goal of the Smokes Creek project is to restore ecosystem functions that are currently lost or degraded in this region. The degraded aquatic habitat conditions present an opportunity to enhance fish and wildlife habitat along Smokes Creek.
- Working with our partners, Smokes Creek will become more suitable for spawning and eventually be ecologically restored

Consequences

- If a project is not pursued, the mouth of Smokes Creek, a tributary to the Great Lakes, will be devoid of suitable critical spawning habitat

Project Phase	Est. Fed. Cost of Phase	Federal Funding through FY15	FY16 Requirement	FY16 Budget	FY17 Requirement	FY17 Budget
Feasibility	TBD	\$417K*	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA

*FY13 funding provided through GLRI

Project Sponsor/Customer

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the city of Lackawanna, NY
- Letters of request October 8, 2002 and October 26, 2010

Congressional Interests

- Representative Brian Higgins D-NY-26
- Senator Charles Schumer D-NY
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D-NY

Current Status

- The Feasibility study is approximately 75% complete
- The project is on hold until a Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement (FCSA) can be signed

Issues

- Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement required to complete the feasibility study and because the non-Federal sponsor is unable to cost share the project at the present time, the project is on hold



Project Manager: Patti McKenna (716) 879-4367, patrice.m.mckenna@usace.army.mil