



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Wilmington District

Tar-Pamlico River Basin, NC Study (Flood Risk Management)

- **Sponsor – State of North Carolina**
- **Study Area Impacted by Hurricanes Matthew (2016) and Florence (2018)**
- **Study Cost: \$3,000,000**
- **Fully funded under Disaster Relief Act (DRA) of 2019**
- **Tentatively Selected Plan milestone currently scheduled for April 2022**



Flooding in Rocky Mount, NC – Hurricane Floyd

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: NC 1, 3, 4

DATE: 01 APRIL 2022

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution adopted April 11, 2000; and House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution adopted May 21, 2003.

2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** The Tar River Basin begins in the piedmont of North Carolina and extends 215 miles southeast through the coastal plain and flows to the Pamlico Sound estuary. The basin covers just over 6,100 square miles and encompasses all or part of 19 counties. Land use within the basin is primarily agricultural, but the basin also contains many small towns and several cities that represent important commercial centers. Major municipalities in the study area include the cities of Louisburg, Nashville, Rocky Mount, Greenville, Tarboro, and Washington, NC. The Tar-Pamlico River Basin is one of just four river basins contained entirely within North Carolina, and it is the third largest in the state.

3. **PURPOSE:** Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of structural, non-structural and natural/nature-based measures that could be implemented to reduce overall flood risks. Examples of flood risk impacts include Hurricanes Matthew and Florence on the southeast Atlantic Ocean coastline that led to record flooding within the study area. Hurricane Matthew produced 4 to over 12 inches of rain across this basin, resulting in impacts to over 2,400 structures and total damages of approximately \$112 million. By comparison, Hurricane Florence produced an average of 6 inches of rain across this basin. The communities of Tarboro, Princeville, Greenville, and Washington were also severely impacted by Hurricanes Fran (1996), and Floyd (1999). This flooding caused tremendous damage to residential and commercial structures, as well as flooding of critical transportation infrastructure and evacuation routes supporting public and commercial activities. The communities have been very active in pursuing flood damage reduction measures to reduce risks from future flooding.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Tar-Pamlico River Basin, NC, Flood Risk Management Study – Continued

4. **COST ESTIMATE:** Feasibility Study Phase:

\$ 3,000,000	(Federal)
\$ _____	0 (non-Federal)
\$ 3,000,000	Total

5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2021:** \$1,800,000 (Disaster Relief Act of 2019).

6. **FY 2022 ALLOCATION AMOUNT:** \$800,000 (Disaster Relief Act of 2019).

7. **FY 2023 ALLOCATION AMOUNT:** \$400,000 (Disaster Relief Act of 2019).

8. **KEY DATES (SCHEDULED):**

Tentatively Selected Plan Meeting - June 2022
Release of Draft Report to Public - August 2022
Agency Decision Meeting - November 2022

9. **STATUS:** The plan formulation process looking at combinations of structural, non-structural, and natural/nature-based measures to reduce risk throughout the basin is underway. Measures still under consideration include dry detention dams, property buyouts, and structural elevation and floodproofing. The Tentatively Selected Plan milestone is currently scheduled for June 2022.

10. **OTHER INFORMATION:** Prior reconnaissance level report approved in 2004. No feasibility cost sharing agreement executed.

The study area includes an existing Federal project at Princeville, NC, which was funded for construction under Disaster Relief Act of 2019. All communities within the study area are part of State-wide risk assessments conducted by the State of North Carolina's Emergency Management, as well as in the on-going Corps' South Atlantic Coastal Comprehensive Study. No recommendations or construction of risk management features has yet resulted from either effort. Following Hurricane Matthew, the State of North Carolina completed a basin-wide report that included a flood analysis and an array of mitigation strategies, including flood risk avoidance and minimization.