

## Sponsors of the South Jersey Levee Inventory Project

The South Jersey RC&D Levee Inventory is a cooperative effort of the US Army Corps of Engineers, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, members of the Delaware Estuary Levee Organization (DELO), local NRCS Field Offices and the South Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council.

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## What is the South Jersey RC&D Program?

The South Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (SJRC&D), located in Columbus, New Jersey, was formed in 1974 to address environmental issues in South Jersey. The Council is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of representatives from County governments, Soil Conservation Districts, and at-large members from the eleven county area.

The Council bridges the gap between local resource needs and community development providing a unique partnership between county, local and federal partners.



To learn more about this project and other projects of South Jersey RC& D, visit  
[www.sjrccd.org](http://www.sjrccd.org)

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# South Jersey Levee Inventory



*Locust Island Meadow Bank Company Levee  
Protecting Historic Hancock House  
Hancock's Bridge, New Jersey*



**South Jersey**  
**Resource Conservation &  
Development Council, Inc.**

[www.sjrccd.org](http://www.sjrccd.org)

## Why Conduct an Inventory of the Levees of South Jersey?

Hurricane Katrina in 2005 made an indelible impression on this generation. Images of destruction vividly illustrate the importance of a durable and functioning levee system. Loss associated with levees that do not function properly can be catastrophic.



NOAA photo of Hurricane Katrina

In the late 1700's and early 1800's, levees were constructed in south Jersey along the Delaware Bay. We rely on these aging structures to protect us in our homes, farms and businesses. Some of these levees, constructed of earthen materials over a hundred years ago, have undergone some repair, upgrade or modification over time. However, there is no central record of the status of these structures, and therefore no ability to assess how they might function in the event of a Katrina-type or lesser event.

Because of the critical role levees play in South Jersey, several sponsors have combined their efforts to initiate the South Jersey Levee Inventory.



Locust Island Meadow Bank Company Levee at Hancock's Bridge

## What Levee Characteristics Will Be Described?

The Inventory will identify and characterize the location, extent and characteristics of existing levees/dikes in South Jersey and the amount, type and extent of vulnerability of people and property protected by these levees including agricultural acreages and businesses.

Some of the site characteristics that will be observed and recorded include:

- ◆ Levee length, height and width
- ◆ Vegetation (trees, shrubs, or grasses)
- ◆ Existing erosion
- ◆ Evidence of burrowing animals
- ◆ Presence of floodgates and pumps



## How will this data be used?

Inventory data will be useful to:

- ◆ Assist emergency personnel if evacuation becomes necessary.
- ◆ Determine the need for upgrading, operation and maintenance of levees
- ◆ Identify the flood/inundation areas in the event of catastrophic failure

## How Will This Inventory Be Conducted?

Municipal officials, County Engineers, County Planners, County Mosquito Commissions, Soil Conservation Districts, and Agricultural Agents are being contacted to help identify local levee systems.

Landowners and land managers of property adjacent to these structures will be contacted by mail or telephone by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) professional who is conducting the inventory.

With the landowner's permission, USDA-NRCS personnel will visit the site to assess the levee located there. Landowners or their



agent are welcome to accompany the inventory agent, but are not required to be onsite during the inventory. Inventory activities at one site will require no more than one visit.

About 100 sites will be inventoried and data compiled for release in 2010.



Mill Creek Levee  
Greenwich Township  
Cumberland County  
New Jersey