



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Roseau River, Roseau, Minnesota



Aerial view of Roseau looking north, taken on June 12, 2002. The downtown business district is in the center of the photo.

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Location/Description

Roseau is located in the northwestern corner of Minnesota in Roseau County about 10 miles south of the Canadian border and about 65 miles east of the North Dakota border. Roseau's population is about 2,800. It is home to Polaris Industries, Inc., which employs over 2,000 people and, along with agriculture, provides a solid economic base for the community. Roseau County has 16,000 residents; the population is expected to increase to 19,000 by 2030.

The Roseau River flows north through the city. Most of Roseau is located in the regulatory floodplain because the city is very flat and relatively low in elevation. Once the river flows out of its banks, it flows throughout most of the city. From June 9 to 11, 2002, intense rainfall over the river basin dumped an extraordinary amount of water into the area. This water quickly collected and drained into the Roseau River, overtopping the city's levee system and flooding most of the developed area. The flood damage was extensive, resulting in significant damage to downtown businesses and private residences.

Background

After the 2002 floods, the city of Roseau and the Roseau River Watershed District asked the Corps of Engineers to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a small flood control project in Roseau. In 2003, a likely Federal interest was determined, and the Corps recommended that a feasibility study be initiated.

In September 2003, the city and Corps signed a feasibility cost share agreement to initiate a feasibility study. The feasibility study was completed in September 2006. The finalized Chief's report was signed in December 2006. The design phase began in fall 2006, and the design agreement was signed October 2006.

Status

The project was authorized in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act. The planning, engineering and design is ongoing. Construction of this project could begin as early as 2009.

The design phase has been ongoing, and plans and specifications have been completed for the first construction project. Primary construction of this project could be completed in 2 years, with minimal construction in year 3.

Authority

This specifically authorized study originates from a resolution of the Senate Committee on Public Works, September 30, 1974.

Fiscal

	Total	Funds provided
Initial appraisal	\$100,000	\$100,000
Feasibility study	\$1,220,000	\$1,220,000
Preconstruction engineering and design	\$653,000	\$653,000
Estimated construction costs	\$29,800,000	\$0
Federal	\$16,500,000	\$0
Non-Federal	\$13,300,000	\$0