

Potomac River Waterfront Flood Mitigation Study

Project Overview Fact Sheet

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to identify and evaluate flood reduction solutions along the Potomac River.

Study Project Area

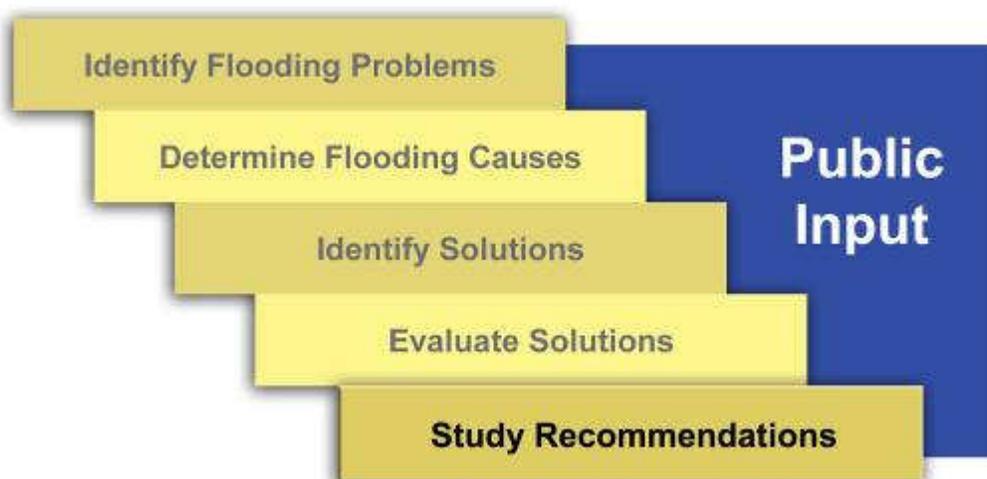
This image represents the area that the study encompasses. It is the area affected by flooding associated with the Potomac River. In general, the southern boundary is the Capital Beltway and the northern boundary is near the railroad tracks by Bashford Lane.

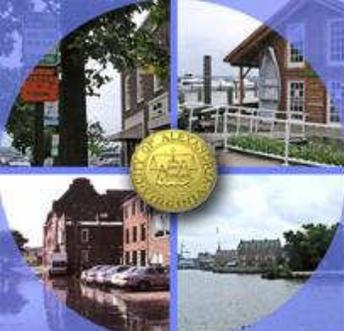


Courtesy of the URS Corporation

Study Process

The image below represents the steps of the project. Throughout this project, the City of Alexandria met with business owners and residents to determine concerns, discuss possible mitigation measures, and to obtain input to how to rank these mitigation measures. Currently, we are in the “Study Recommendations” phase:





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Study Recommendations

The following flood mitigation measures are recommended for implementation:

The study determined that an elevated pedestrian walkway would be beneficial and provide the most benefit to the city. The walkway will serve as a floodwall and is based on providing protection for up to the 10-year flood event. The walkway extends from Duke Street to King Street and the additional section extends from Queen Street to Thompsons Alley.



It is recommended that the City maintain the sandbag program and implement the following changes:

- Expand sandbag service areas to include all floodprone areas,
- Document guidelines for determining when to initiate sandbag distribution, and
- Post information for sandbag policy on the City website.

Floodproofing is recommended to protect residential and commercial property. Owners can take steps to dry floodproof their property by placing physical barriers to prevent floodwaters from entering. This includes placing flood gates on doors (shown in the right image) and raising the internal level of the building. Owners are also encouraged to place HVAC systems, electrical boxes, and valuable items above flood levels.



This study also recommends that the City of Alexandria improve their Floodplain and Zoning Ordinances with a goal of reducing future flooding impacts. It also recommends elevating inlets and roads in the vicinity of The Strand and King Street.

For more information:
Go to alexandriava.gov/waterfront
Or contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at
703.746.4045