



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Charleston District

# Project Fact Sheet

## Waccamaw River, Horry County, SC

Horry County, SC

**P2#:** 493919

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**Congressional Districts:** Tom Rice (SC-07)

**Appropriation:** Investigations

**Phase:** Feasibility Study

**Business Line:** Flood Risk Management

**Authority:** Section 216, P.L. 91-611

**Location** The study area is the watershed of the Waccamaw River, which is located in the northeast corner of South Carolina and the southeast corner of North Carolina. The Waccamaw River begins in Columbus County, NC, and flows 140 southwest through Horry County, SC approximately paralleling the coast of the Atlantic Ocean until joined by the AIWW and the Great Pee Dee before reaching the tidal Winyah Bay in Georgetown County, SC. Portions of the river are aligned by dense population, while others are surrounded by vast protected lands.

**Description** Horry County and all eight of its municipalities have experienced several flood events since 2015, including those from Hurricanes Joaquin (2015), Matthew (2016), and Florence (2018). The tidal influence, relatively flat topography, and low elevation result in slow draining when flood events occur. Flooding in the Waccamaw River also occurs from the Pee Dee river backflowing upstream into the Waccamaw River and its tributaries. This Flood Risk Management feasibility study will evaluate the cost and benefits of alternatives to reduce risks of riverine flooding and storm surge to communities and transportation routes within Horry County. A 1981 Corps reconnaissance report did not identify a solution that was in the Federal interest. Since then, the population of the area has grown and knowledge of climate-related effects has increased (primarily sea level rise, and the potential for increased storm frequency and/or intensity). The current study will consider a range of options including structural, nature-based, and non-structural management measures. The estimated \$3,000,000 study will be cost shared 50/50 with Horry County, the Non-Federal Sponsor, and will take an estimated three years to complete.

**Status** As of November 2022: The Waccamaw River, Horry County, SC Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study began on August 19, 2022 when a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement was signed with the Sponsor. The study team is currently scoping the study, gathering existing data, and evaluating if the predetermined \$3M and 3 years allocated to feasibility studies is sufficient to complete the scope. In FY22, \$500,000 was appropriated to initiate the study. The FY23 President's Budget indicates an additional \$300,000 in federal funds to continue study efforts. In out years, remaining required funds will be requested to bring the study to completion.

**Sponsor:** Horry County, SC

**Project Manager**

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