

The Center for Sustainable Communities (CSC) at Temple University

The Center for Sustainable Communities (CSC) has been a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) since 2003, and has been involved with two CTP Flood Map Modernization projects.

Complete Story (link)

The first project involved alleviating flooding and pollution in the Pennypack Creek Watershed, a 12-municipality area encompassing parts of the City of Philadelphia and Montgomery and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania. This area had a history of flooding issues, and significant coordination was required so neighboring communities could work together for a solution. The study was funded by community contributions and a FEMA grant. The CSC's study resulted in an updated set of floodplain maps for the watershed and provided research to evaluate existing stormwater facilities and identify modifications to further mitigate flooding problems.

The second project the CSC is undertaking is a 14-month study to model flooding problems in the Sandy Run and Ambler Area Watersheds in order to prepare new floodplain maps for submission to FEMA. A flood study for the Borough of Ambler in Montgomery County will include the following outputs:

- hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and the preparation of new floodplain maps for the watershed areas;
- 2-foot digital contour coverage for the watersheds and a Digital Elevation Map based on aerial photography flown in 2005; and
- an evaluation of existing area stormwater management facilities, with field verification of flood elevations and stream obstructions.

The CSC provides an objective point of view for what can be a very political process. The CSC has been the local resource, providing a "hands on" approach that has facilitated the Federal process of updating the flood maps.