

SOUTH WILMINGTON WETLAND RESTORATION
AND CONSERVATION PROJECT

Congressional Appropriations Funding Request – Fact Sheet

Element	Element Description
Funding Request	A \$10,000,000 Federal Appropriations for a \$23,900,000 flood abatement control project The City match will come from State Revolving Funds and local user fee revenues
Project Goals	The project will reduce flooding, eliminate CSOs, and provide urban green space by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restoring 14 acres of low functioning tidal wetlands to a high functioning stormwater wetland system ▪ Separating 36 acres of combined sewers and directing the separated stormwater runoff to the wetland ▪ Creating public access and recreational features ▪ Adding green stormwater infrastructure into area transportation improvements
Priority	The project is part of the 2006 South Wilmington Special Area Management Plan and the South Walnut Urban Renewal Plan, a comprehensive land use-planning document adopted by the Wilmington City Council in 2009. Specific elements of the project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State-of-the-art combined sewer system infrastructure improvements ▪ An innovative urban stormwater wetland park ▪ Urban transportation enhancements and greenways
Sustained Benefits	This Project benefits local, regional, state and national interests by reducing the frequency, volume, and impacts of flooding and combined sewer overflows to the surrounding Rivers (Christina and the Delaware). It provides flood control & economic benefits to the South Wilmington community. Specific benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased capacity and reliability in the City’s aging combined sewer system ▪ Enhanced economic resiliency in the Southbridge community ▪ Improved water quality to the City, County, State and Federal surface waters ▪ Protecting regional public health and safety from water borne contamination ▪ Enhanced ecological habitat and new urban recreational space ▪ Stimulation of new housing development in the Southbridge neighborhood ▪ Stimulation of investment in 78 acres vacant or underutilized property ▪ Creation of approximately 300 engineering and construction jobs ▪ Remediation of a Brownfield and elimination of a large vacant, blighted tract ▪ Improved pedestrian access from neighborhoods to commercial/retail areas
Financial Issues	Below are several local financial issues that demonstrate the need for federal funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The City has committed to borrowing \$8,500,000 for this project. This borrowing is part of the City’s 6-year Financial Plan for fiscal years 2016 to 2021 ▪ Bond repayment will be accomplished through a series of annual rate increases <p>In addition to this project, the City’s water/sewer utilities have compliance, service reliability and deteriorating infrastructure replacement needs in the same 6-year Financial Plan that requires an additional \$100,000,000 which leaves the City unable to provide any additional funding to this effort.</p>

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In addition to the planned bond funding of \$8,500,000, the City has only received \$5,400,000 in State/Local project support. Therefore, the City is still in need of \$10,000,000 of funding to fully finance this critical project. To date, the City has already expended \$1,600,000 on land acquisition and engineering

Finally, the City's Median Household Income (MHI) is only 73% of the national MHI, and 65% of the state's MHI. Hence, utility rate affordability is and will continue to be a major issue without the requested federal support.

Leveraging

The City has partnered with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the surrounding community as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funded 2006 South Wilmington Special Area Management Plan to holistically evaluate, plan, design and implement needed sewer and stormwater system improvements to alleviate flooding issues. In addition, the City has proactively identified various sources of funding including grants and bond financing. Specifically, the City has collaborated with DNREC to obtain a Land Conservation Loan (Grant) of \$4,400,000 and a local brownfield grant of \$1,000,000.

**Speed to
Functionality**

The planning phase is now completed and the project has now transitioned to the final design phase. The first phase of land acquisition has been completed. Additional land acquisition, permitting and public participation activities are being conducted concurrently with design. Construction activities are expected to begin in 2016 upon completion of land acquisition and securing of project funding.

Support

The City continues to secure written support from entities that are impacted and deeply interested in this multi-benefit wetlands restoration project. It is expected that State, County, and Local Agencies, local institutions, and area business leaders will support this request. Support letters received will be forwarded directly to Congressional offices

**City Support
& Contacts**

The City stands ready to provide whatever assistance, information or office support that may be needed to move this request along. As support or additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact those listed below.

Mayor Dennis P. Williams - (302) 576-2100

Jeffrey Flynn, Director of Economic Development – (302) 576-2120,
jflynn@wilmingtonde.gov

Sean Duffy, Director of Water Division - (302) 576-3060, sduffy@wilmingtonde.gov

Bryan Lennon, Assistant Director of Water Division - (302) 576-3075,
bplennon@wilmingtonde.gov