

— Project Cost —

- The total estimated project cost is \$46,239,000. What is the Town's share?
Bloomsburg is responsible for approximately \$8 million of the project's cost. The project's total cost will be divided among the federal, state, and local government, based on the following formula: federal share, 65%; state share, 17.5%; local share, 17.5%. If necessary, the Town may also be responsible for \$900,000 for environmental cleanup measures.
- How will the Town pay its share?
In order to reduce its share of the project's cost, Town Council is identifying all potential sources of funds including state and federal grants and the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program. If the Town is unable to secure the full amount it needs, it will have to borrow the money, and that debt will be repaid through a combination of fees and taxes. In some Central Pennsylvania communities, residents pay a specific fee for costs associated with flood protection.
- Why should I pay fees or higher taxes if I'm not behind a flood wall?
It is true that the flood protection system is designed to chiefly provide direct protection to the west end of Town. Yet all of Bloomsburg, and much of the surrounding region, will benefit if that area is protected. Between them, Magee Rieter Automotive Systems and the Bernardi Italian Food Company employ 880 people who pay county and local taxes. The companies themselves pay taxes. The Bloomsburg Fair, while not a major employer, generates well over \$100,000 in amusement tax for the Town, in addition to revenues for local retailers. In terms of dollars, the loss of either company or the Fair would be incalculable. Protecting these businesses now will keep our taxes lower later.
- Is there any private money in the project?
At this point, the only direct project funds are derived from public sources. The Columbia Alliance for Economic Growth has contributed \$30,000 for a public awareness program related to the project. There are ongoing discussions with area businesses about their financial participation in the project.
- What will the yearly maintenance and operation costs be?
The total estimated operation and maintenance costs for the Bloomsburg flood protection project are \$185,000. As required by law, the local community is responsible for maintaining and operating the flood control system. This includes care of the levees, floodwalls, closure structures, and drainage structures. Periodic inspections must be undertaken and the flood warning system maintained.

Bloomsburg Area Flood Control Project

