NORWICH FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT

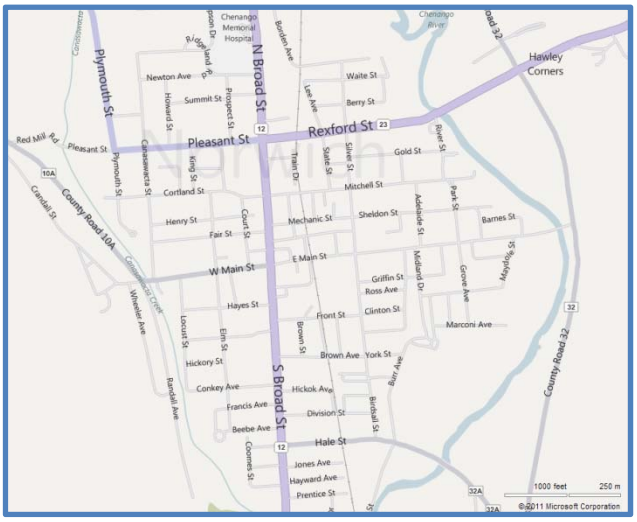
Department of Environmental Conservation

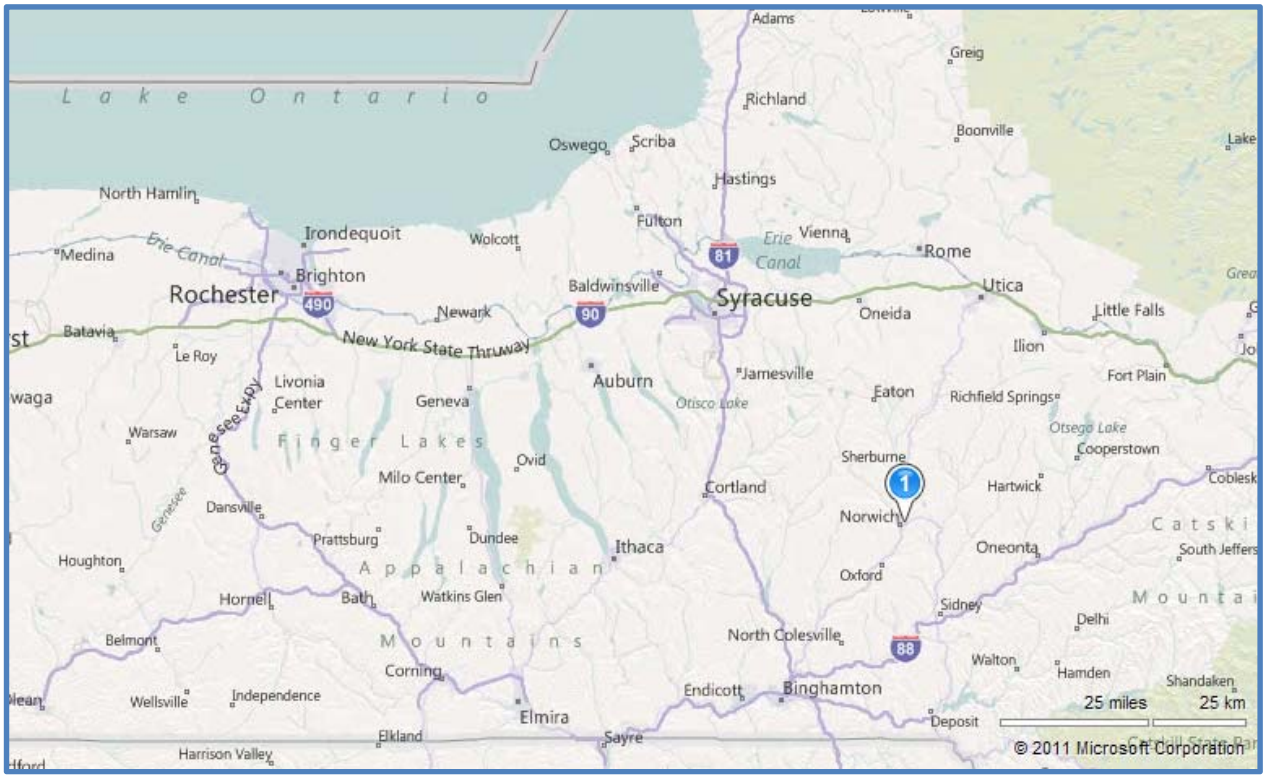
Operated and Maintained by: ***New York State***

Region 7 Counties*: Broome, Cayuga,* ***Chenango****, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Tompkins*

PROJECT LOCATION

Norwich is located in Chenango County, New York. The project is located in Norwich on the Chenango River approximately 51 miles upstream from its confluence with the North Branch of the Susquehanna River at Binghamton, New York.





PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The completed project consists of the improvement of approximately 2 miles of the Chenango River channel through Norwich from Rexford Street Bridge to and in the vicinity of the mouth of Canasawacta Creek. The work includes channel straightening and enlargement, riprap protection, and the removal of gravel bars, brush, trees, and other obstructions from the channel, banks, and floodway.

AUTHORIZATION

The authorizing legislation for the channel improvement project completed by the Corps of Engineers in the Chenango River for flood abatement at Norwich is contained in Section 205 of Public Law 858, 80th Congress, 2nd Session, which authorizes the construction of certain "small flood-control projects…which come within the provisions of Section 1 of the Flood Control Act of June 22nd, 1936…provided further that the provisions of local cooperation specified in Section 3 of the Flood Control Act of June 22nd, 1936, as amended, shall apply," and with certain other provisions.

PROTECTION PROVIDED

Flood damage investigations immediately following the flood of March 1948 indicated that damages resulting directly from river overflow were relatively small but that extensive damages have occurred from the flooding of cellars and underground utilities as the result of seepage from high river levels during that flood and others.

The geological history of the region indicates that the city is built on a glacial fan which carries a large groundwater flow. Rises of groundwater levels, usually in conjunction with rises in river level, causes the major portion of flood damages through infiltration into cellars of residential and commercial properties and adversely affect sewers and streets.

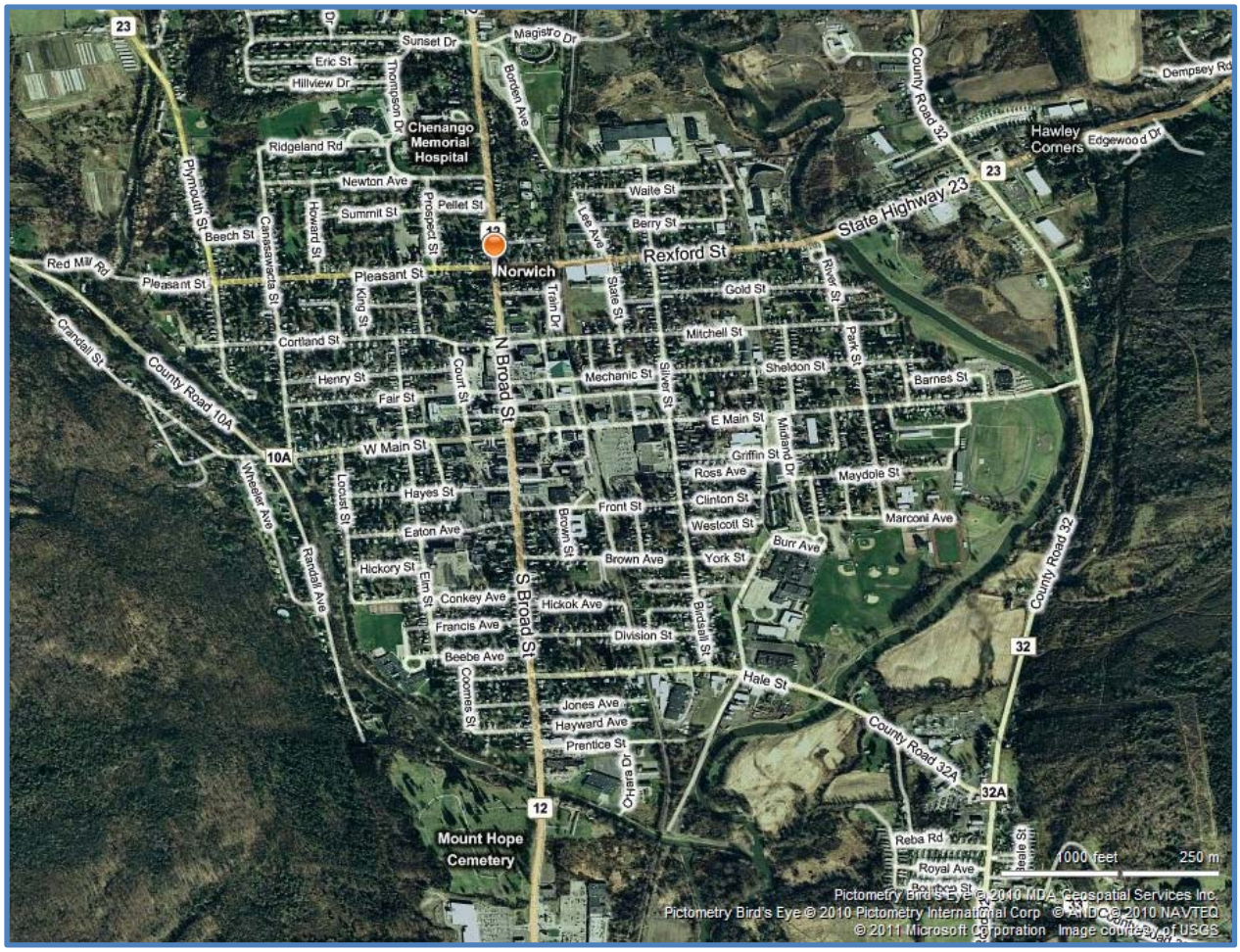
The investigations indicated that the comparatively large increases in discharge that could be obtained by channel improvement with small change in stage, together with the substantial reduction in river stage and groundwater levels that could be obtained during the more frequent floods would yield comparatively large benefits. Discharges of 2,000 to 4,000 cubic feet per second are yearly occurrences at Norwich, and the channel improvement, if properly maintained, will reduce stages of discharges up to 4,000 cubic feet per second by about 1.5 feet or more at Main Street and by about 3 feet at Rexford Street. The improvement will also reduce the probability of occurrence of debris and ice jams which cause appreciably greater depths of flooding than normally occur from excessive run-off alone.

CONSTRUCTION

The project was approved August 15th, 1949 by the Chief of Engineers and a contract for this work was awarded in November 1949. The work was completed October 31st, 1950.

NORWICH – GENERAL PLAN

NORWICH – BIRD'S EYE VIEW



NORWICH – GENERAL PLAN AND AERIAL MAP OVERLAY