

EASTWICK COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE STRATEGIES: HESCO BARRIER

The City of Philadelphia Office of Sustainability is studying if a HESCO barrier along Cobbs Creek will prevent floodwaters from entering Eastwick at the Planet Streets.

A HESCO barrier would help to lower the impact of smaller storms that cause river flooding from Cobbs and Darby creeks. The barrier would take less time to build than a levee system. However, it would likely not provide the same protection as the levee.

HESCO barriers are soil-filled boxes made of fabric mesh and a wire frame, connected together to create a flood barrier. The barrier will likely follow a similar route to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) levee. The barrier would be an interim measure and would be removed once there is a long-term replacement, like a permanent levee system.



Benefits and Challenges of a HESCO Barrier

Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HESCO barriers block some floodwaters and reduce flood risk to the most impacted homes. • They can be built more quickly than the USACE levee, giving time for longer-term planning. • They are easy to put up and take down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HESCO barriers will have to be carefully designed to avoid moving floodwater to other locations. • There are contamination and coordination concerns with the landfill. • These barriers may not block the full impact of larger storms.



Realization Timeline:

~2–3 years



Lifespan:

5–7 years



Potential Funding and Assistance:

FEMA

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Direct Technical Assistance (DTA)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Congressionally Directed Spending (PDM-CDS)
Note: This funding source has been appropriated but not yet awarded.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

City Funding

NOTE: This is a draft document. We are learning more about this measure all the time. Is information missing? Let us know at eastwick@phila.gov.