



Connecticut Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier

The Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier is located in Stamford on Stamford Harbor, about 20 miles southwest of Bridgeport.

Stamford has been subject to heavy losses from storm tidal flooding since 1635. The September 1938 hurricane resulted in losses in the project area of almost \$6 million. Hurricane Carol in 1954 caused \$3.4 million in damage, of which \$2.9 million could have been prevented if a hurricane barrier had existed at that time. The barrier today provides protection to about 600 acres, which includes principal manufacturing plants, a portion of the main commercial district, and residential sections.

Construction of this project started in May 1965 and ended in January 1969, costing \$14.5 million. The city operates and maintains the Stamford Hurricane Protection Barrier, with the exception of the navigation gates, which are operated and maintained by the Corps.

The project consists of three elements. The first, a barrier at the east branch of Stamford Harbor, is composed of a 2,850-foot-long earthfill dike with stone slope protection. It has an elevation of 17 feet. A 90-foot-wide opening is provided for navigation, and a pump station discharges interior drainage.

The second element is a barrier that provides protection at the west branch of the harbor. This barrier, which has an elevation of 17 feet, is composed of a 1,350-foot-long concrete wall; 2,950 feet of earthfill dike with stone slope protection and a pumping station. The third portion provides protection at Westcott Cove. This barrier is a 4,400-foot earthfill dike with stone slope protection having a maximum elevation of 19 feet. It also has two pumping stations.



Aerial view of the Stamford Hurricane Barrier, Stamford, Conn. (Click photos for high-resolution version)

