



to citizens and government offices about the possibility, for example, that a specific tract of land has flooded or could flood. The theory is they will use that information to guide decisions that will lead to wise use of floodplain lands.

In the 1960s, the Corps was authorized to get into the floodplain management business after studies documented that U.S. flood damages were rising faster than flood control works could be built to control flooding.

In 1967, Jerry L. Greer was named assistant chief of engineering for flood plain management services for the Tulsa District. With floodplain management, Greer said, the Corps was moving away from just “keeping water away from people” toward also “keeping people away from water.” Greer was followed over subsequent years by floodplain management chiefs E.T. Kimbrough, Carroll Scoggins, Ed Endacott, and Joe Remondini.

Since it began in Tulsa, the program has responded to about 250,000 requests for information about flood hazards and now answers about 13,000 a year.

Local officials have echoed Lt. Gen. Hatch’s praise for the floodplain management program. “The Tulsa District’s floodplain management program has been a major factor in our progress in the City of Tulsa floodplain policies,” said Tulsa’s Street Commissioner J.D. Metcalfe. “Since the early 1970s, the Tulsa District has provided information, over and over again, that we have used in our public and private decisions relating to floodplain developments. It would be impossible to overestimate the value of this program in the Tulsa community.”⁵



Under water again, the neighborhoods around Kingfisher Creek in central Oklahoma were built before the Corps developed its floodplain management programs in the late 1960s. Above: Tulsa District floodplain management staff has included, top to bottom, Ron Kerr and Kent Hisey; Ed Endacott; Joe Remondini.

