United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Watershed Operations

August 2009

South Darlington Watershed and Greenway, South Carolina

Introduction

This partnership project will lessen the impacts of flooding to homes and businesses in 90 percent of the project's area. In all, nearly 1,150 people and 128 homes and 6 businesses will be protected from the ravages of flooding.

South Darlington Watershed and Greenway are located in northeastern South Carolina.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Darlington County, 5th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** $1,040,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** $455,693

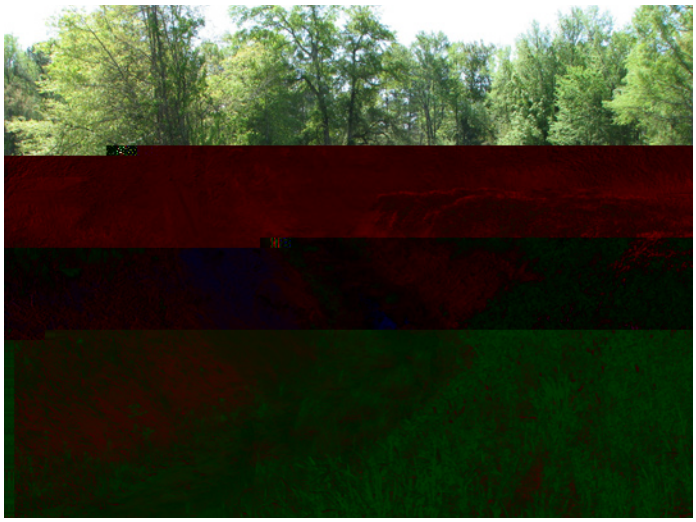
Existing drainage channels will be upgraded to convey excess water away from the town; this will reduce large areas of standing water that create health problems and serve as breeding areas for unwanted disease carrying insects. Downstream, a new water control basin will improve water quality, reduce sediments and pesticides in water, and bring the area into compliance with water quality regulations.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Darlington County
- South Carolina Department of Transportation
- Darlington Soil & Water Conservation District

Benefits

This project will improve public health and safety by preventing heavy rainfalls from damaging septic systems and reducing problems associated with standing water. Nearly 30 State and county road crossings will be protected from flooding. In addition, newly-planted trees and shrubs will serve as buffers that improve water quality and beautify the community.



Buffer strips to be planted in this project will prevent sediment and pesticides from entering waterways.

South Darlington Watershed and Greenway, South Carolina

Economic Opportunities

Jobs will be created or saved with the planning, design, and construction phases of this project. Flood protection will improve the safety, health, and vitality of this community and enhance future economic development and opportunity in the area. Each year, this project will provide more than $70,000 in cost savings from flood damages. In addition, nearly 160 acres of frequently-flooded cropland will benefit from reduced flood risks.

Statewide Perspective

South Darlington is a predominantly minority community which has been negatively impacted by poor drainage and frequent flooding. Ditches regularly overflow during heavy rainfall, causing damage to property and creating unhealthy conditions. This project will help alleviate safety, health, and environmental issues by enabling the area to handle water overflow and reducing the problems associated with standing water.

For More Information

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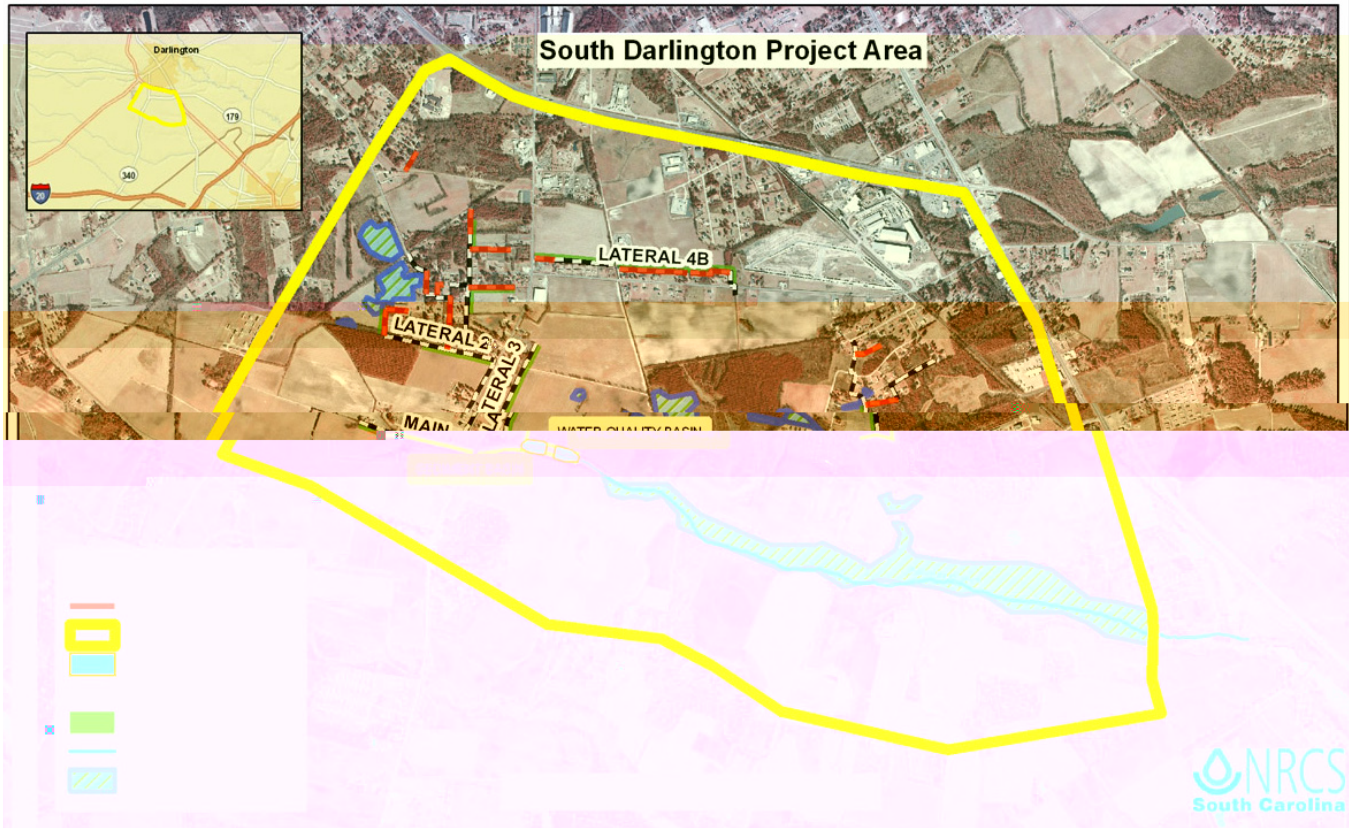

During heavy rainfall, floodwaters have the capacity to damage nearly 150 homes and six businesses in the South Darlington Watershed.

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