

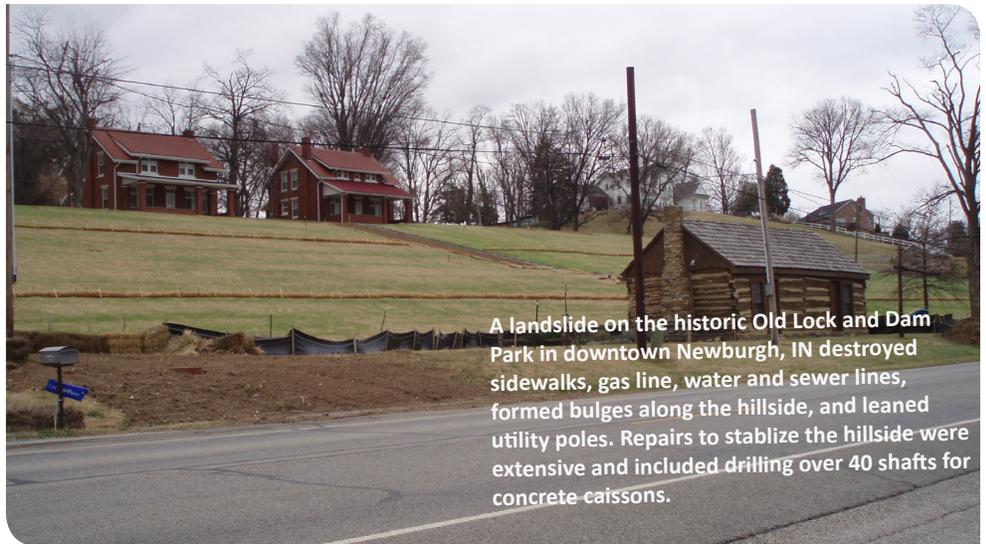
## OVERVIEW

Private citizens own over 90 percent of the land in Indiana which includes nearly 15 million acres of farmland and about 4 million acres of forestland, making stewardship absolutely critical to the health of our environment. Each day, farmers and forest landowners are making decisions about natural resource use and management that impacts soil and water quality. With the **Natural Resources Conservation Service's** help, many are creating more productive lands while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

### Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service

# EWP

### Emergency Watershed Protection Program



A landslide on the historic Old Lock and Dam Park in downtown Newburgh, IN destroyed sidewalks, gas line, water and sewer lines, formed bulges along the hillside, and leaned utility poles. Repairs to stabilize the hillside were extensive and included drilling over 40 shafts for concrete caissons.

The **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)** program helps protect lives and property threatened by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires. The program is administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which provides technical and financial assistance to preserve life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

The program objective is to assist sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to remove debris from streams, protect destabilized stream banks, establish cover on critically eroding lands, repairing conservation practices, and the purchase of flood plain easements. There are two EWP programs administered by NRCS - EWP Recovery and EWP Floodplain Easement.

A case by case investigation of the needed work is made by NRCS. All projects undertaken must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the State of Indiana, such as a city, county, general improvement district, or conservation district.

## SNAPSHOT OF EWP

- NRCS may pay up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services.
- Sponsors are responsible for providing land rights to do repair work and securing the necessary permits. Sponsors are also responsible for furnishing the local cost share and for accomplishing the installation of work. The work can be done either through federal or local contracts.





BEFORE EWP RECOVERY (2012 Henryville Tornado)

AFTER EWP RECOVERY (2012 Henryville Tornado)

## Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service

### EWP - RECOVERY

**Eligibility** - The EWP Program is a recovery effort program aimed at relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance, but must be represented by a project sponsor that must be a legal subdivision of the State of Indiana, such as a city, county, township or conservation district, and Native American Tribes or Tribal governments.

**Practice Measures** - EWP work is not limited to any one set of measures. It is designed for installation of recovery measures to safeguard lives and property as a result of a natural disaster. NRCS completes a Damage Survey Report (DSR) which provides a case-by-case investigation of the work necessary to repair or protect a site.

Watershed impairments that the EWP Program addresses are debris-clogged stream channels, undermined and unstable streambanks, jeopardized water control structures and public infrastructures, wind-borne debris removal, and damaged upland sites stripped of protective vegetation by fire or drought.

**How to Apply** - If your land has suffered severe damage that may qualify for the EWP Program, you should contact your local sponsoring authorities and request assistance.

### EWP - FLOODPLAIN EASEMENT

**Eligibility** - Privately-owned lands or lands owned by local and state governments may be eligible for participation in EWP-FPE. To be eligible, lands must meet **one** of the following criteria:

- Lands that have been damaged by flooding at least once within the previous calendar year or have been subject to flood damage at least twice within the previous 10 years
- Other lands within the floodplain are eligible, provided the lands would contribute to the restoration of the flood storage and flow, provide for control of erosion, or that would improve the practical management of the floodplain easement
- Lands that would be inundated or adversely impacted as a result of a dam breach.

**Practice Measures** - EWP-FPE easements are restored to the extent practicable to the natural environment and may include both structural and nonstructural practices to restore the flood storage and flow, erosion control, and improve the practical management of the easement.

Structures, including buildings, within the floodplain easement must be demolished and removed, or relocated outside the 100-year floodplain or dam breach inundation area.

**How to Apply** - Landowners interested in enrolling their land in a permanent EWP-FPE easement should contact their local USDA Service Center at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/contact/>.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Emergency Watershed Protection Program visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/programs/financial/ewp/> or contact Mike Cox, State Conservation Engineer at: [mike.cox@in.usda.gov](mailto:mike.cox@in.usda.gov).

[www.in.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov)

Helping People Help the Land.

