

Watershed Operations

May 2009

Flood Control and Habitat Improvement Along Lower Silver Creek, California

Introduction

This watershed project builds upon \$40 million of flood control and environmental enhancement work done by partner organizations on Lower Silver Creek. More than 250,000 people use nearby highways and infrastructure that could be imperiled by flooding.



Lower Silver Creek is in Santa Clara County, California.

Project Description

‡ **Location:** San Jose in Santa Clara County, 15th and 16th Congressional Districts

‡ **SWW&G V&Y**, \$19,000,000 (Phase 1 and 2)

The project combines public safety, job creation, and environmental and community enhancement, by completing flood protection on 2.3 miles of a 3.8-mile stretch of creek. The green design combines sound engineering with community and environmental enhancements.

Partners

‡ USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

‡ Santa Clara County Water District

Benefits

When completed, the project will provide flood protection along the 2.3-mile stretch of creek for 16,000 people as well as businesses, schools, highways, and infrastructure used by 250,000 people. It will create 3.4 acres of urban wetland habitat and low flow channel for fish passage and 6.3 acres of riparian plants adding shade, habitat and creekside aesthetics. Citizens will enjoy community beautification, and public health and safety improvements.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administrations plan to modernize the nations 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.



In Reach 3, an already completed section of the project, trapezoidal concrete was replaced with multi-benefit designs combining flood control, habitat, and community parks and bridges.

