

INDIANA'S CONSERVATION SHOWCASE

Helping People...

...Help the Land



Emergency Watershed Protection Project—Newburgh, Indiana



Failure planes and horizontal cracks exposed.



Newburgh Partners Discuss the Project



Drilling over 40 shafts for concrete caissons to stabilize the hillside

PROBLEM

Saturating rains and heavy winds in May of 2011 triggered the start of a landslide on the historic Old Lock and Dam Park property, located just east of downtown Newburgh, IN. The property sits on relatively shallow bedrock just north of the Ohio River bank. Separation cracks at the surface of the ground appeared horizontally for approximately 300 ft across the property. Lateral pressure from the ground destroyed a side walk, gas line, water and sewer lines, formed bulges along the hillside, and leaned utility poles toward the public street. Two rental cottages built by the Army Corps of Engineers in the early 1900's are located just to the north and uphill of the slide. They both sustained minor structural damage and were rendered unusable. The Town manager requested Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) assistance from the NRCS just days after the event occurred, after the Warrick County Soil and Water District informed them about the program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND FUNDING

Through the EWP program, NRCS has provided up to \$371,014 in financial assistance toward construction costs, and \$40,477 in technical assistance for private engineering design services. Due to the design complexity and scope of the project, the Town of Newburgh hired their own private engineering firm to oversee and implement the stabilization practices.

PARTNERS

The Sponsor for this project is the Town Council of Newburgh, IN. The town manager, Cynthia Burger, has been very instrumental in making sure this project stays on track. NRCS has provided 75% of the cost for a portion of the project, while FEMA is assisting in a separate scope of work onsite. The Town hired Commonwealth Engineering, Inc. out of Evansville, IN for technical assistance.

SUCCESES

The historical aspects and public benefits of the parks and recreation property have been preserved. Since the landslide occurred, the park property had been condemned. Upon completion of this project the Town of Newburgh will be able to re-gain use of the property for various events throughout the year (car shows, fireworks along the Ohio River, festivals, etc). The town of Newburgh can also resume renting out the historic cottages, which can bring in around \$15k per year in revenue.