

# EWP

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) was established by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is designed to provide assistance to recover from damages caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural occurrences. EWP helps groups of people with a common problem. All projects undertaken must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the State, such as a city, county, drainage district, levee district or conservation district. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the program.

*After EWP assistance*



### **EWP in Missouri**

Federal funds for EWP assistance may cover up to 75 percent of the construction costs for most restoration measures including levee repair, logjam removal, streambank stabilization near roads, bridges and buildings and sediment removal from drainage ditches. Assistance is limited to measures necessary to reduce threats to a stable condition. NRCS can only restore the site to its pre-disaster condition through EWP.

### **Who is Eligible?**

Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor.

### **What Does the Project Sponsor Have to Do?**

Sponsors are responsible for providing landrights 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 is generally accomplished through local contracts.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

*Hole in levee along Chariton River.*



## What are the Criteria for Assistance?

All EWP work must reduce threats to life and property. Furthermore, it must be economically and environmentally defensible and sound from an engineering standpoint.

## How to Apply for Assistance

If you feel that your area has suffered severe damage and may qualify for EWP assistance, contact your local NRCS/SWCD office to request assistance. City and county governments, drainage and levee districts and conservation district are the most common sponsors of EWP projects in Missouri. The sponsor's application should be in the form of a letter signed by an official of the sponsoring organization. The letter should include information on the nature, location and scope of the problem for which assistance is requested. Information is available from NRCS offices to explain the eligibility requirements for EWP. Send applications for assistance to your local USDA Service Center, NRCS Field Office or your NRCS State Office.

## Who to Contact

Harold Deckerd  
Assistant State Conservationist  
for Water Resources  
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*To locate the USDA Service Center nearest you, look in the phone book under "U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture," or access <http://offices.usda.gov>.*



## EWP Floodplain Easement

Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, ground water recharge and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; safeguard lives and property

### Land Eligibility

NRCS purchases EWP easements on floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have flooded at least two times over the past 10 years.

### Restoration of the Floodplain

To the extent practicable, NRCS actively restores the natural features and characteristics of the floodplain through re-creating the topographic diversity, increasing the duration of inundation and saturation and providing for re-establishment of native vegetation.

### Landowner Use

Landowners retain several rights to property, including quiet enjoyment, the right to control public access and the right to underdeveloped recreational use such as hunting and fishing.

### Exigency

In cases where there are eminent hazards to life and property, funding and assistance can be accelerated.

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