



NRCS-Assisted Watershed Projects

Springbrook PL566 Project

Karlstad, Minnesota

There are 2,100 watershed projects in the nation established by local units of government with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program (Public Law 78-534 and Public Law 83-566). These projects consist of over 11,000 flood control dams and thousands of conservation practices that provide over \$2 billion in annual benefits in flood prevention, water supplies, recreational areas, and other benefits. The following is just one example of how the Watershed Program is benefiting local communities and the nation.

About Springbrook / PL566

The project is located roughly nine miles west of the City of Karlstad, MN. It follows an existing watercourse for a length of nine miles. The watercourse serves as the outlet for Kittson County Ditch 10 and in turn outlets downstream into Judicial Ditch #10.

Severe and repeated out of bank flooding have caused infrastructure and cropland damages, erosion problems, and excess sedimentation. The project consisted of constructing set back dikes to the 10 year flood elevation along the lower reaches of the watercourse to prevent future out of bank flows and overland flooding.



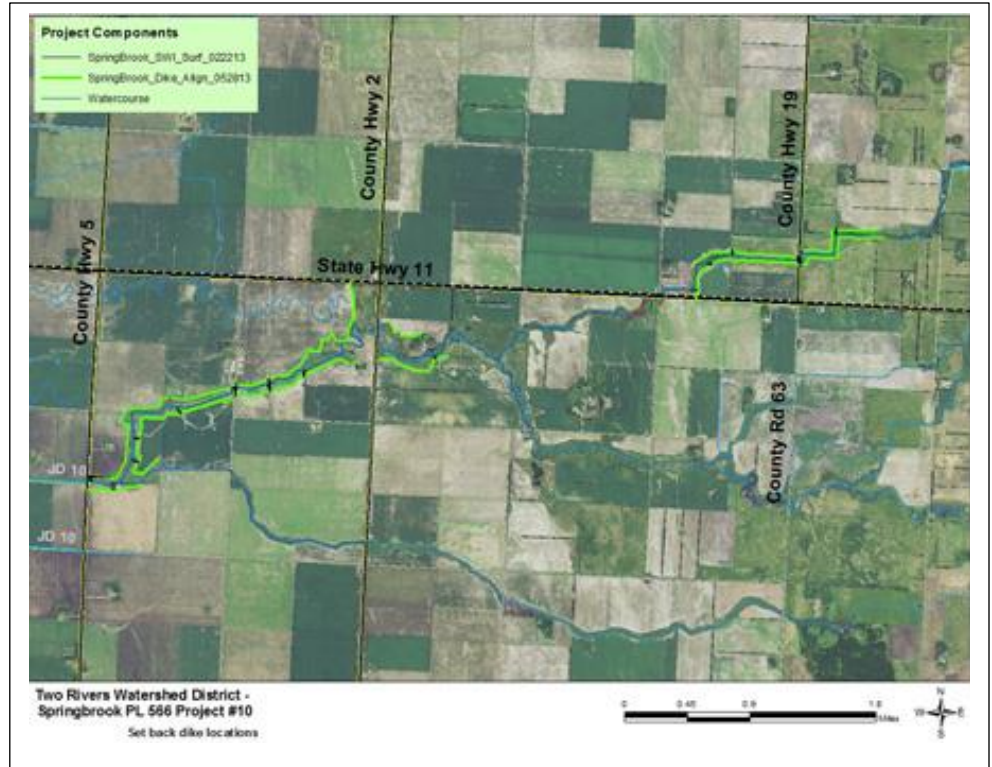
It also implemented environmental improvements, including creation of a grass buffer corridor. Twenty eight side water inlets were installed, each consisting of a culvert through the set back dike with a flap gate on the 'wet' side. Funding for 300 acres of the riparian buffer was secured through the RIM program and the remainder of the project through other sources.

The project was planned, designed, and built using funding and expertise under the federal PL 566 program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS planners, economists, and engineers assisted the Two Rivers WD with the project and NRCS contributed \$1.3 million for construction. The State of Minnesota through the DNR's Flood Damage Reduction grant program also contributed \$160,000.

Project Benefits Flood Damage Reduction: Set back dikes protect public infrastructure (roads, culverts, ditches) and cropland from overland flooding. The historically erosive watercourse that serves as an outlet for City of Karlstad storm and sanitary sewers was stabilized.

Natural Resource Enhancement: Protection of stream for 9 miles, creation of 300 acres of riparian buffer, habitat for migratory waterfowl, enhance fish migration and restoration of aquatic and upland habitat.

Water Quality: Reduction in channel erosion and bank sloughing, upland buffer establishment thus reducing effects of agricultural runoff. Reduce turbidity and suspended solids in the Red River and its tributaries.



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