NRCS Floodplain Easement Program
Sheffield Brook Floodplain Restoration

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Conservation Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- A Voluntary Federal Technical Agency

- Administers the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) that was established in 1978

- In 1996 the EWP Program was amended to add Floodplain Easements (FPE)
EWP Program - Recovery

- EWP Recovery is a response to emergencies created by natural disasters.
- Designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods and other natural occurrences.
- Provides financial & technical assistance for installation of recovery measures and for debris removal
- All EWPP projects must have a project sponsor
EWPP - Floodplain Easements

- EWPP-FPE is an alternative measure to EWPP recovery when it is more economical than recovery
- Permanent easements purchased on eligible sites
- Goal is to restore floodplain functions and values to natural conditions to the greatest extent possible
- Structures within the easement must be removed
EWPP-FPE Hurricane Sandy Relief

- $179 million in funding for floodplain easements to help victims of Sandy and mitigate the effects of future storms
- 96 applications were tentatively funded in Connecticut
- Applicants must meet Landowner and Land Eligibility Requirements
Hurricane Sandy Land Eligibility for FPE

- Must be within a county where Stafford Act disaster declaration was made as a result of Hurricane Sandy
- Must not be in FEMA “Coastal” Flood Zones (V, VE, V1-30)
- Documentation of flood damage from Hurricane Sandy
Sheffield Brook Initial Floodplain Easement

- Sheffield Brook was essentially a drainage channel with very limited floodplain.
- The brook then flowed into an undersized pipe and then into Long Island Sound.
Sheffield Brook frequently flooded a densely populated neighborhood.
Sheffield Brook Final Floodplain Easement and Design
Goals of the Sheffield Brook Project

- Restore Floodplain and wetland areas
- Reduce the flooding frequency of adjacent streets, homes, and properties
Sheffield Brook Construction
Northern End

BEFORE

DURING

AFTER
Sheffield Brook Construction
Downstream of Station 6+00

BEFORE

DURING

AFTER
Sheffield Brook Construction
Upstream of Station 2+00

BEG INNING

DURING

AFTER
Sheffield Brook Construction
Southern end

BEFORE

DURING

NEAR COMPLETION

AFTER
References and Contacts

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- Connecticut website for the EWP Program  

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