

## The NRCS Saves Natchez House from Rapid Erosion

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*Natchez, Miss.* — The powdery soil of Adams County has been tough to tame, but with the guidance of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), dozens of sites have been stabilized in this southwest Mississippi county.

"If we have a heavy rain, it is typical for the city or county to call with possible Emergency Watershed Protection sites," NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist Earl McMillian said. The dusty nature of the area's soil makes it highly vulnerable to severe rain, often threatening homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, the NRCS is able to assist private landowners and public entities to rehabilitate highly erodible land. On public lands, the local government must co-sponsor the project. In addition to funding, soil conservationists and engineers of the NRCS provide technical assistance in fixing the problem.

The most recent EWP project in Adams County saved a home in Natchez. A tough storm caused massive erosion in the backyard of a Wisteria Lane home, putting the home at risk of capsizing with the next big wash out. The home was only six feet from a 20-foot drop into the wooded area below.

NRCS stabilized the site with 1,500 yards of dirt and 120 feet of pipe, securing the hazardous site. The \$50,000 offered to the site paid for its correction.

"This backyard was very dangerous for nearby residents," McMillian said. "EWP has allowed us to correct problems like this one and many others like it across the city and county."

For more about this, read an [April 16, 2011 story](#) in *The Natchez Democrat*.

### About EWP

The purpose of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is to undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of flood plain easements, for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood or any other natural occurrence is

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causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed. For more information, visit [NRCS' EWP site](#).

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Before:



After:

