

Martins Creek Watershed

Flood Prevention Planning Study Fact Sheet

Martins Creek Short Story

The Martins Creek Watershed Work Plan was completed in 1961 by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with other federal and local partners to address the prevalent needs for flood prevention through various actions including planned construction of two flood control dams in Kingsley and Brooklyn.

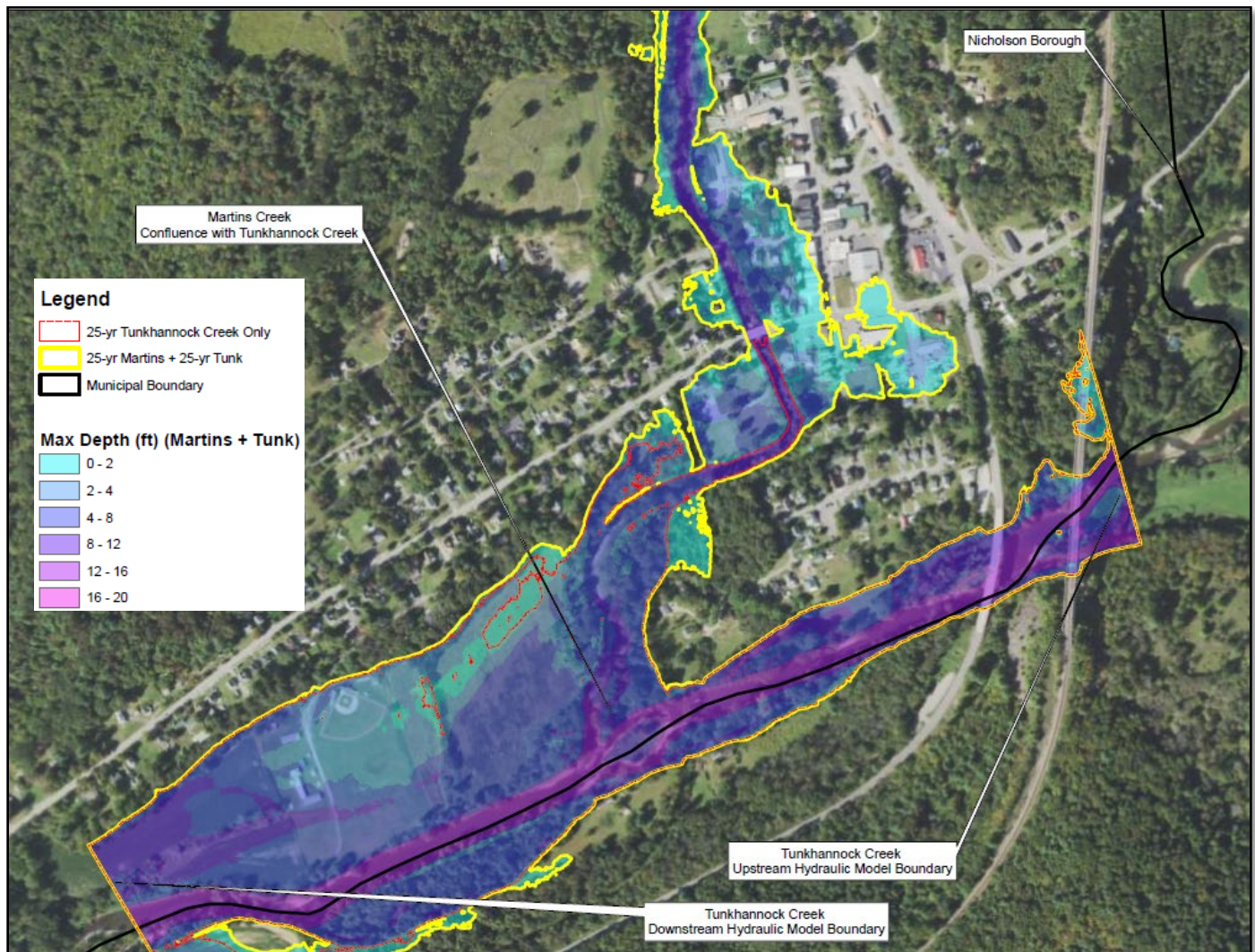
After an influx of funds to the Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program in 2018, the Wyoming County Conservation District, on behalf of Nicholson Borough, approached NRCS regarding the possibility of additional flood control measures to benefit Nicholson.

Planning Process

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) authorizes NRCS to work with local communities and watershed project sponsors to address public health and safety concerns and potential environmental flooding. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance in planning, designing, and implementing flood control projects. The Planning Study for the Martins Creek watershed is currently underway to evaluate needs, objectives, and alternatives for potential projects.

NRCS may provide up to 100% of the costs of the Watershed Project Planning Study, design of measures, and construction. Local sponsors are responsible for the costs of permitting, acquiring land rights, local project administration, and other planning and implementation costs associated with the project.

25-Year Flood Event Water Depth in Nicholson



Project Need

In the past 20 years, Nicholson Borough has experienced at least 4 significant flooding events, causing repetitive damage to homes and businesses which resulted in significant costs. Nearly \$3,000,000 in damages have been incurred by the residents of Nicholson since 2006. Following the 2006 Mid-Atlantic State Flood event, multiple homes in this area were considered total losses and were ultimately bought out as part of FEMA's buyout program. The remaining community still suffers from flooding on a routine basis, posing a risk to life and property.

The primary objective for this project is to identify and implement structural and/or nonstructural practices/measures/strategies to reduce risk to public health and safety and property damage resulting from flooding within the project area. Secondary objectives include improvements in water quality and increased watershed resiliency.

Drainage Area	25.4 mi ²
2-year, 24- hour rainfall	2.6 inches
10-year, 24-hour rainfall	3.7 inches
25-year, 24-hour rainfall	4.4 inches
100-year, 24-hour rainfall	5.8 inches

Approximately 44 homes or commercial buildings located within the 100-year floodplain

The following alternatives were considered to reduce the flooding frequency and impacts along Martins Creek in Nicholson.

- [illegible]

- Permitting/mitigation
- Configuration of existing infrastructure
- Sponsor interest
- Cost vs. Benefit

- Determine which, if any, alternatives to move forward
- Evaluate those alternatives against scoping parameters
- Complete Draft Planning Document and agency reviews
- Public Review of Planning Document
- If appropriate, NRCS authorization of federal funds for design and construction

At this time, the potential benefits outweigh the projected costs for this project, which is favorable for moving Martins Creek forward for additional evaluation.