

Restoration Volunteers



Volunteers and staff generously contributed sweat equity to the project.

Horry County and the City of Conway provided labor and equipment that made excavation and planting possible.



The natural setting is a restored floodplain that offers great wildlife habitat for birds, fish,



deer and small mammals, turtles and small reptiles, and insects like dragonflies and butterflies.

Lead Partners

- Horry County Stormwater
 - City of Conway Stormwater
 - Coastal Carolina University's Waccamaw Watershed Academy
 - Clemson University
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - US Environmental Protection Agency
 - US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - SC Department of Natural Resources
 - Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium
 - Waccamaw Riverkeeper
 - Kingston Lake Environment Awareness Network
- ## Acknowledgements
- Crabtree Swamp Watershed Conservation District
 - Horry Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Mr. Jimmy Gerald

For more information, please visit the Waccamaw Watershed Academy website <http://www.coastal.edu/wwa>

The Restoration of Crabtree Swamp in Conway, SC

Before



After

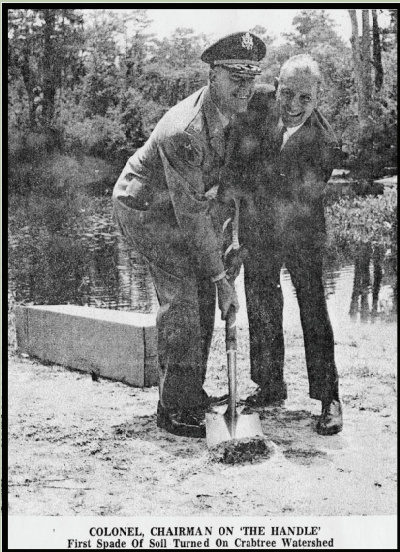


Horry County, City of Conway, and Coastal Carolina University

Why was Crabtree Canal built?



A severe storm in June of 1964 dropped 10.38" of rain in about 14 hours. The flood destroyed millions of dollars in farmland, homes and businesses. All major roads into Conway were flooded.



Mayor Huckabee and concerned landowners saw the need for some sort of flood control. George Jenkins, Sr. and Col. S. Y. Coker of the US Army Corps of Engineers spearheaded a flood control project. The idea was to construct a drainage canal in Crabtree Swamp.

Channelization



The Corps of Engineers excavated an 8-mi canal through Crabtree Swamp in 1965-66 for drainage. This narrow channel causes water to flow very rapidly.



This has led to serious erosion of the canal banks, as well as other water quality challenges.

Restoration

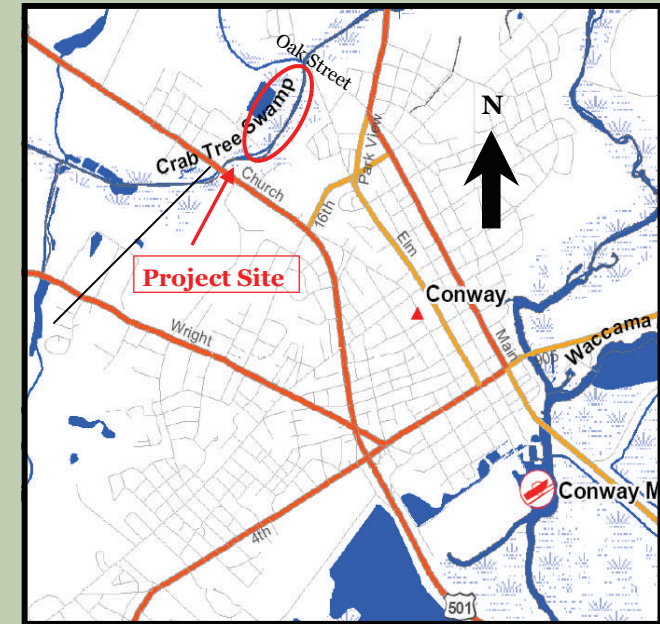


Horry County, the City of Conway, and Coastal Carolina University have devised a restoration plan to improve conditions in Crabtree Canal.

A demonstration site has been established between Oak St. and Hwy 501. Restoration efforts include lowering the slope of the west bank and planting native trees and shrubs to stabilize the banks. Grass was also planted for bank stability.



Over 500 trees and shrubs were planted at the 1/2 mile demonstration site with funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service .



Restoration Goals

The main purposes of this project are to slow the flow of water, increase water storage, and reduce erosion. The site now offers a more natural, park-like setting.



To provide a more natural appearance, some of the bank was planted with aquatic plants.