

# The Environment

The Green Brook Sub-Basin contains important natural resources. In developing the project, we sought to preserve the environment to the greatest extent possible, while providing comprehensive flood protection.

The approach used in developing the plan is as follows:

## **(1) Avoid impacting natural resources;**

We identified wetlands and natural resource. We attempted to avoid these natural resources by using non-structural protection features (e.g. flood proofing or buyouts).

## **(2) Minimize impacts to natural resources;**

In areas where project features would impact natural resources, we placed features (e.g. floodwalls and levees) in a way to achieve minimal disturbance to the environment.

## **(3) Mitigate.**

Where there are unavoidable impacts, mitigation is provided to replace any lost habitat. The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement discusses the proposed mitigation.

### **PROJECT STATISTICS**

<b>Total square miles in the project area:</b>	<b>65.2 sq. miles</b>
<b>Total square miles being adversely affected:</b>	<b>0.28 sq. miles</b>
<b>Area needed for mitigation*:</b>	<b>0.47 sq. miles</b>
<b>Number of potential sites identified for mitigation:</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Total area of those sites:</b>	<b>2.27 sq. miles</b>

**\*estimated**

# Mitigation

We propose enhancing the habitat value for approximately 300 acres to compensate for the land affected by the project.

We have identified 39 potential mitigation sites within the basin, totalling 1,450 acres.

Criteria used to evaluate potential sites include: prox-

imity to project area, surrounding land use, availability of suitable water source for wetlands creation, size of property, and vegetative cover.

Specific mitigation plans and the completion of permitting requirements will take place prior to construction.



**The photo on the left shows abandoned farmland which may be used as a mitigation site. This farmland provides habitat for few wildlife species. The photo on the right shows a similar mitigation site approximately 10 years after planting activities were completed. The forest created at the mitigation site provides valuable habitat for a wide variety of animals.**