

The Pee Dee Progress

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF
CHESTERFIELD DARLINGTON DILLON MARION MARLBORO

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Marlboro High School Nature Center



Touch Ponds and Footbridge were constructed with assistance from the Marlboro SWCD, NRCS and Marlboro County Public Works.

The *Touch Ponds* for the Marlboro High School Nature Center are completed. An underground irrigation system has been installed. Tree selection and planting for the *Arboretum* is complete. A second phase of funding has been approved by the SC Forestry Commission through a grant submitted by the Marlboro SWCD. This Project is now funded by two Urban and Community Forestry Grants from the SC Forestry Commission with contributions from Marlboro County Public Works, Marlboro Soil & Water Conservation District, the High School Science Club and Marlboro County School District. When completed, this facility will include *Pond Plantings*, a *Footbridge* across the stream between the ponds, an *Amphitheater* with seating for fifty or more persons, a *Composter*, *Boardwalks*, a *Pavilion* and *Feature Gardens*. The *Arboretum* is near completion with the recent planting of four Palmetto trees, the State Tree of South Carolina.



Footbridge and Pond Construction

Pee Dee Land Trust Accepts First Easement

A 13 acre tract of wilderness that lies along Ten Mile Creek in the Kelleytown area of Darlington County will remain protected as a nature preserve and wildlife habitat area thanks to the generosity of a well-known Hartsville family. Jacqueline J. Segars and her daughters Katharine Kelly Segars and Jacquelyn Segars Watford granted a conservation easement to the Pee Dee Land Trust during a brief signing ceremony on August 8. The conservation easement is the first for the Pee Dee Land Trust. <http://peedeelandtrust.tripod.com/>



Jacqueline J. Segars, left, watches as her daughter, Katharine Kelly Segars, signs the conservation easement. Looking on are Ann Williamson of the Pee Dee Land Trust and Leigh Edwards of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation.

Other tree plantings consist of twenty different varieties of trees native to South Carolina including, sycamores, white oaks, tupelos, live oaks, maples, dogwoods, river birches, willow oaks, redbuds, and southern magnolias.



Developing the ponds, Marlboro County Public Works

Everyone is encouraged to visit the project website where numerous photos of the progress to date are available.

<http://mhsnature.tripod.com>

Craig Park Nature Trail Funding Approved



Stairs near the entrance of the Craig Mill Trail, behind the Community Center

The Pee Dee RC&D has assisted the town of Chesterfield in developing a grant proposal to the *Urban and Community Forestry Program* of the South Carolina Forestry Commission. This proposal has been approved and the RC&D is now assisting with the project implementation. The Craig Trail project previously received funding from the South Carolina Trails Program for the construction of boardwalks, stairs and a swinging bridge across Thompson Creek. The new funding will be used to provide interpretative signage including tree identification along the trail. Also the new funding will develop a web site and brochure to increase public awareness of the availability and location of this public facility. The Craig Park in Chesterfield was initially developed through the *Works Progress Administration* in the 1930s.

Current Efforts

Craig Mill Park Chesterfield - Urban Forestry Grant requesting funding for improvements to the Nature Trail - Approved
 Blenheim Nature Center (Baker's Trail) - Urban Forestry Grant requesting funding for a Forestry Learning Lab - Pending
 Marlboro HS Nature Center - Urban Forestry Grant requesting Phase II funding to complete this project. - Approved
 Learning Tree Child Development Center - Grant application submitted for grounds improvement - Pending
 Snake Branch Water Quality (Hartsville) - DHEC 319 Proposal requesting funding for TMDL Implementation. - Pending
 Pine Recreation Center (Darlington) - Outreach Grant application submitted for facility restoration/enhancement. - Pending
 POWER for Wildlife - FY 2001 contracts have been approved and FY 2002 Applications being accepted.
 Rural Fire Protection Water Storage Tanks (Dillon) - Tanks being installed and fitted with hydrant heads.
 Dry Fire Hydrants (Darlington) - Additional hydrants being installed in the Hartsville area.
 Thompson Creek TMDL Project (Chesterfield) - Collection and analysis of water samples is continuing.
 Pee Dee Carolina Bay Preservation - Grant Application Submitted to the Turner Foundation. - Pending
 Pee Dee Geographic Information - Dillon County Farm and Field boundary digitization completed.

The Pee Dee RC&D is grateful to the local Conservation Partnership; including the NRCS Field Staff, the Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners and Staff, SC Department of Natural Resources Field Staff, and Citizen Volunteers. Without the support and efforts of the Partnership, many of these projects which we coordinate would not exist.

Pee Dee Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Incorporated

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