



# Bee Branch Watershed

## Flood Mitigation Project News

Vol. 3 Issue 1 >> May 2017

**The Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project is a multi-faceted approach to address the severe and frequent flash flooding experienced in the Bee Branch Watershed.**

Flood disasters have repeatedly impacted residents and employees of businesses within the watershed. Between 1999 and 2011, six Presidential Disaster Declarations were issued with total damage estimates of almost \$70 million.

The project consists of several infrastructure improvements that will reduce the volume of stormwater, slow the rate of stormwater through the upper watershed, and increase the safe conveyance of stormwater through the flood-prone area.

The City has received \$160 million in the form of grants, forgivable loans, and other financial savings to help fund the \$219 million project.

For more information, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch).

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## Upper Bee Branch Creek Ribbon Cutting July 19



Construction of the Upper Bee Branch Creek, designed with input from a citizen committee, started in June 2015. The creek has been conveying stormwater as designed since fall 2016 while still under construction. The park is scheduled to open this summer.

**Save the date for the Upper Bee Branch Creek Ribbon Cutting and Opening Celebration on Wednesday, July 19. The ceremony will be at 4 p.m. at the amphitheater and a celebration in the park will follow from 5 - 7 p.m.**

The project required a large amount of excavation, the relocation of underground utilities, and the construction of several box culverts, two bridges, a half mile creek channel, an outfall structure, spillway, permeable parking lot, an amphitheater, several raised planter beds, a biofield and boardwalk, play area with slides, and a multi-use trail system.

Remaining work includes finishing the E. 24th St. outfall structure, E. 22nd St. spillway, and play area with slides near Prince St. and installing light poles, security cameras, an automated flood warning system, and landscaping.

A nutrient-separating baffle box was recently installed on Pine St. near Garfield Ave. A

baffle box is a stormwater management device used to remove pollutants. Leaves, trash, and debris are caught and stored in a suspended filtration screen as sediments settle to the bottom. A floating boom captures petroleum. Baffle boxes minimize nutrient leaching and bacterial growth, and allow for easier debris removal. Additional baffle boxes are located at E. 22nd St. and E. 24th St. They will help keep the Bee Branch Creek clean and healthy.

To receive Bee Branch Project-related updates and alerts via email and/or text, including details about the opening celebration on July 19, subscribe to the Bee Branch Notify Me at [www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme). For general questions or comments, email [khill@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:khill@cityofdubuque.org) or call (563) 690-6068.

**OPENING CELEBRATION**  
**BEE BRANCH CREEK**

*Save the Date*  
**JULY 19, 2017**

**4pm Ribbon Cutting at the Amphitheater**  
**5 - 7pm Celebration in the Park**

# What's Next?

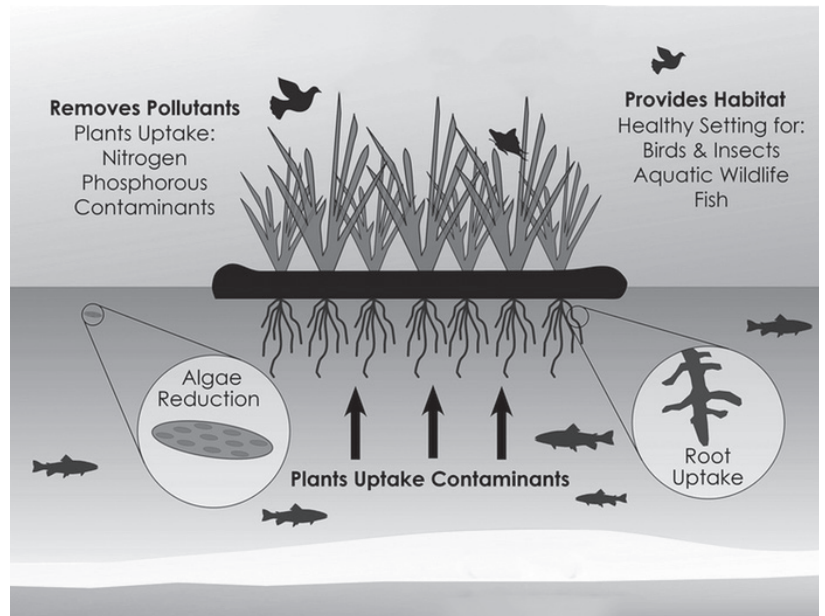
*The next phases of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project include several storm*

## Floating Island System in the Lower Bee Branch

In April 2011, the City received a River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism grant from Vision Iowa for amenities associated with the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project. The grant agreement includes a series of floating islands in the Lower Bee Branch Creek.

Floating islands are floating masses of soil held together by vegetation. They occur naturally in marshes, lakes, and rivers. Floating islands provide wildlife habitat, attracting butterflies, fish, songbirds, and waterfowl, while their large root systems pull problematic nutrients out of the water.

The man-made system in the Lower Bee Branch Creek will consist of 14 floating islands that will vary in size from 70 sq. ft. to 300 sq. ft. They are expected to be assembled, planted, launched, and anchored to the bottom of the creek this summer.



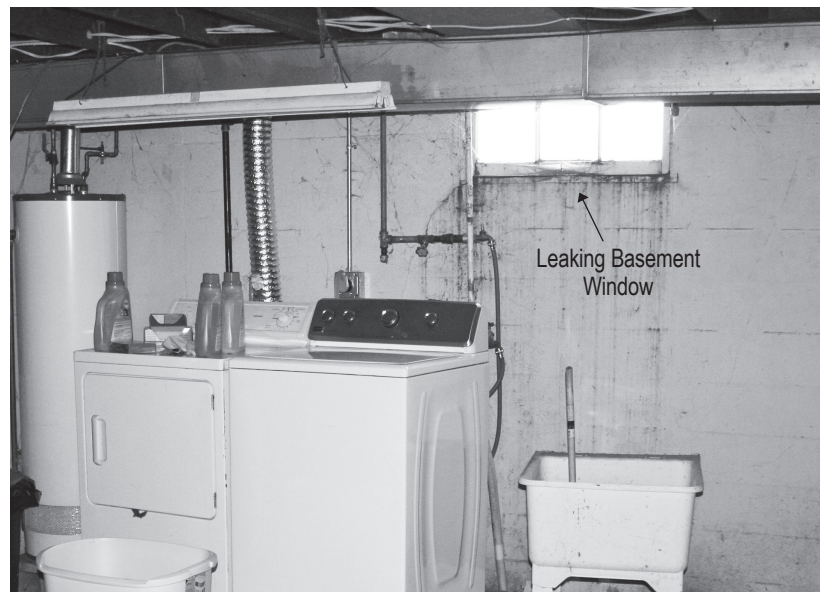
## Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program



The Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program includes \$8.4 million in the form of forgivable loans to improve the conditions of 320 housing units. The program is funded by a disaster resiliency grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A

variety of repairs and renovations will make the housing units more resilient to future flooding. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- foundation repairs and modifications
- water and sewer service improvements
- mold and mildew remediation
- lead paint and asbestos remediation
- furnace replacement
- water heater replacement
- property drainage improvements
- sump pump repair/installation
- basement window repairs
- sidewalk improvements



This program is available to owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units that are located in the Bee Branch Healthy Homes eligibility area and meet income requirements.

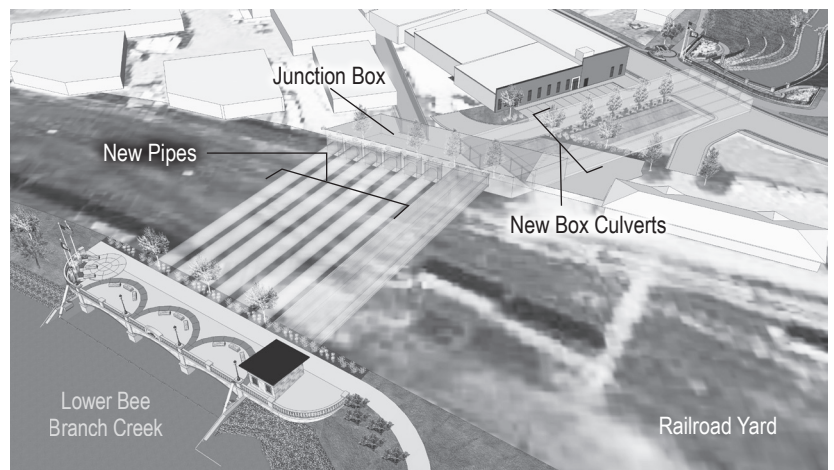
More information, including applications and a map of the eligibility areas, is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh). For questions or to request a paper application, call (563) 690-6168.



**sewer capacity improvements. The following projects will be completed over the next 5 years.**

## Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts

The Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts Project includes tunneling six 8-foot diameter pipes from the Lower Bee Branch Creek approximately 165 ft. through the Canadian Pacific railroad right-of-way to a junction box, and the construction of five 12-foot wide by 10-foot high concrete box culverts from the junction box 200 ft. north toward Garfield Ave. and the Upper Bee Branch Creek. This will allow stormwater to drain more efficiently from the Upper Bee Branch Creek to the Lower Bee Branch Creek and 16th St. Detention Basin. Construction is expected to begin in early 2018.



## E. 22nd St. /Kaufmann Ave. Storm Sewer Improvements

The E. 22nd St./Kaufmann Ave. storm sewer capacity improvement project consist of a new concrete storm sewer along E. 22nd St. from Elm St. to Central Ave. continuing up Kaufmann Ave. to Kane St. Large, high-capacity storm drains will be placed in the grass terrace along Kaufmann Ave. to capture overland drainage, and several standard single-grate storm drains will be installed. The project includes the reconstruction of the street and the relocation of underground utilities along the entire length of the project. Construction will be completed in phases starting at Elm St. The first phase is expected to begin in early 2018.

## 17th St. / W. Locust St. Storm Sewer Improvements

The 17th St./W. Locust St. storm sewer capacity improvement project includes the installation of an 8-foot diameter pipe from the Lower Bee Branch Creek west through the railroad tracks, and a new concrete storm sewer from the railroad tracks to W. Locust St. continuing up W. Locust St. toward Angella St. Additional high-capacity and standard capacity storm drains will be installed. Finally, the project includes the reconstruction of the street and the relocation of underground utilities along the entire length of the project. Construction will be completed in phases starting with the pipe through the railroad tracks. The first phase is expected to begin in summer 2017.





BEE BRANCH WATERSHED

## BEEKEEPERS

Working together to keep  
the Bee Branch Watershed  
healthy and safe!



Living near a creek will be a new experience for many families and children living in Dubuque's North End neighborhood. It is important to talk to your children about the risks related to fast-moving stormwater and the importance of not entering rain swollen streets and creeks.

Although it will serve as a beautiful linear park, the Bee Branch Creek is also part of our community's infrastructure to control flooding. During rain events, the creek will rise out of the limestone channel and cover the trail and grass. This is the way the creek is designed — to take on stormwater and move it safely through the area without flooding adjacent properties. It is NOT safe to be near the creek during and after rain events when the water level is high. Please practice safe behavior and do not use the park for recreational activities during these times.

During rain events, stormwater runs along curbs, and in some cases, covers entire streets. Its important children also know, and take seriously, the dangers of entering these types of flash floodwaters. Please share the follow information with the children in your life.

- Never walk or play in stormwater. It is often deeper and moving faster than it appears, and it is VERY strong! It only takes six inches of moving water to knock someone off their feet.
- Do not go near streams, creeks, or streets known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur quickly without warning.
- Stay away from manholes and storm drains. Even the strongest swimmers could get swept away or trapped and drown.
- Children have lost their lives from playing in stormwater. Turn away and stay away. Doing so could save your life!



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Bee Branch Project

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