



Bee Branch Watershed

Flood Mitigation Project News

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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.

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Runs, Races, and More at the Bee Branch Greenway



Since it opened in July, a number of events have been hosted at the Bee Branch Creek Greenway. The Bike Coop performed free bicycle safety checks in August; more than 150 people participated in the Dubuque Community School District's One Mile Fun Run in September; and approximately 200 people, mostly children, painted pumpkins and cheered on rubber ducks as they raced down the creek at the Leisure Services Department's inaugural Fall Festival in October.

The greenway sees a steady stream of walkers, runners, and bikers, and kids playing in the park. An artist painting, young fishing enthusiasts, and recreational drone flyers have also been spotted. If you have not yet visited the restored creek, we encourage you to stop by soon. The greenway is home to scenic overlooks, an outdoor amphitheater, benches, lighting, rest areas, a play area with slides, and more.

Bee Branch Creek Greenway Rules and Information

- Fishing is allowed.
- Pets on leashes are allowed; cleanup is required in all areas.
- Non-motorized skateboards, bikes, and scooters are allowed.
- Swimming and wading is prohibited.
- Canoeing, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding is prohibited from E. 24th St. to Garfield Ave. It is allowed in the lower section of the creek along 16th St.
- The greenway is open 24 hours a day.
- Parking is available in the public lot located at the intersection of 22nd St. and Prince St., and on the streets bordering the greenway.
- A public restroom is located at the Comiskey Park Community Center across 24th St. from the Bee Branch Creek Greenway. Doors to access the restrooms are located on the outside of the building. Restroom hours are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranchcreekgreenway.

Benefit of the Bee Branch Creek: 2017 vs. 2002

The Bee Branch Creek Greenway channels stormwater safely out of the North End neighborhood during rain events. This summer, 4.9 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours in Dubuque. With the completed creek, property damage was largely avoided. In 2002, there was a similar storm of 4.9 inches of rain in a 24-hour period that resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration and \$11.6 million in property damage. Although every rain event is unique, it can be estimated that the 4.9 inch rainstorm this summer would have caused significant property damage without the completed Bee Branch Creek.

Storm Sewer Improvement Projects



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

The first phase of the 17th St. / W. Locust St. storm sewer improvements project started at the intersection of 17th St. and Elm St. on August 21. Crews constructed a new 12 ft. x 7 ft. box culvert and relocated underground utilities. Elm St. reopened the week of November 20. Work on 17th St. west of Elm St. is expected to be finished in early December. The second phase of the project is expected to begin in 2018. Construction will impact 17th St. from Elm St. to Heeb St. Additional phases and project limits have not yet been determined.

The 17th St. / W. Locust St. project includes increasing the capacity of the storm sewer from the Lower Bee Branch up 17th St. to W. Locust St. and continuing up W. Locust St. toward Kirkwood St. A larger storm sewer and additional high-capacity storm drains will help alleviate the flash flooding frequently experienced on these streets. The estimated completion of the entire project is 2021.

22nd St. / Kaufmann Ave. Storm Sewer Improvements

As it runs down Kaufmann Ave., stormwater can form what resembles a river on 22nd St. from Central Ave. to Elm St. New concrete box culverts will be installed to increase the capacity of the storm sewer. Currently, the storm sewer is not large enough to handle even a moderate rain event.

The 22nd St./Kaufmann Ave. project consists of a new concrete storm sewer along E. 22nd St. from Elm St. to Central Ave. continuing up Kaufmann Ave. to Kane St. The first phase of construction will impact 22nd St. from Elm St. to just west of White St. This work is expected to begin in early 2018. Additional phases and project limits have not yet been determined. The estimated completion of the entire project is 2021.

Bee Branch Healthy Homes Program

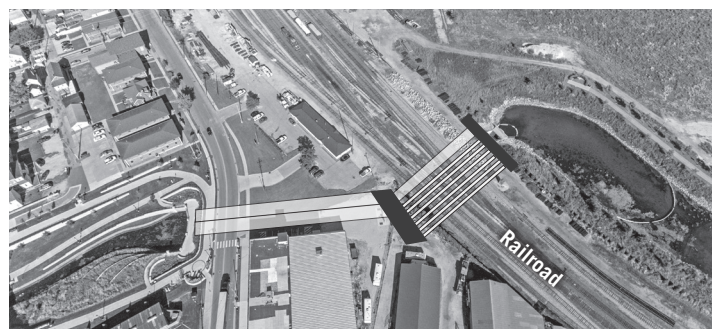


The Bee Branch Healthy Homes (BBHH) Resiliency Program helps property owners make repairs and renovations that improve housing conditions and make homes more resilient to future flooding. Examples include foundation repairs, mold and mildew remediation, property drainage improvements, and basement window repairs.

More than 350 BBHH applications have been requested and nearly 80 have been completed, processed, and approved. As of early November, repairs and renovations have been completed at two properties and an additional 12 properties are under construction or have signed contracts. Several other projects are currently out to bid. To date, approximately 10 local construction companies have been contracted or subcontracted to perform work as part of the BBHH program.

The program is available to owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units that are located in the BBHH eligibility area and meet income requirements. Assistance is in the form of five-year forgivable loans. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh or call the BBHH office at (563) 690-6168.

Bee Branch Railroad Culverts



Aerial photo of the Canadian Pacific railroad tracks. The Upper Bee Branch Creek is on the left and the Lower Bee Branch Creek is on the right.

The Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts Project includes tunneling six 8-foot diameter pipes through the Canadian Pacific railroad right-of-way to 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 late 2018.

Flood Mitigation Maintenance Facility

Estimated Completion - 2022

In order to maintain the mile-long Bee Branch Creek Greenway and ensure it functions as designed, a maintenance facility is planned at 16th and Elm streets where the former Blum Co. served as a scrap yard and recycling facility for over 50 years.



The building along Elm St. pictured above will be redeveloped into a flood mitigation maintenance facility that includes space for public use.



The contaminated properties at 501 and 411 E. 15th St. will go through the Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment process.

Brownfields Cleanup & Redevelopment Process

The former Blum properties are currently contaminated with hazardous substances which make them unsuitable for redevelopment without remediation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the City of Dubuque grants through its Brownfields program to safely clean up the former scrap yard.

East Blum Site: 501 E. 15th St.

Property between the railroad and the creek

The City received an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant in 2016 to fund the cleanup of the East Blum site. The property has been enrolled in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Land Recycling Program. The IDNR and a professional environmental consulting firm are overseeing the cleanup.

The cleanup activities will begin with the remediation of the present structures, including asbestos and lead dust removal prior to deconstruction. After the buildings have been taken down, one to two feet of native soils will be removed to reduce the number of small contaminated areas. Soil samples will be tested and analyzed in order to create a full remediation plan which may include the removal of contaminated soil or the encapsulation of contaminated soils in an on-site berm.

West Blum Site: 411 E. 15th St.

Property between the railroad and Elm St.

The City received an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant in 2017 for the cleanup of the West Blum site. The first consideration in the cleanup of this site is to address the two structures present on the property. The western building along Elm St. will be redeveloped for future use as a flood mitigation maintenance facility. The other buildings will be deconstructed, as they are not structurally sound to support future occupancy.

The West Blum site will also be enrolled in the IDNR Land Recycling Program. After the removal of the buildings, the soil will be sampled and a full remediation plan will be created. Once the site is fully remediated, the renovation of the building and redevelopment of the site will begin.

Maintenance Facility and Recreational Space

The maintenance facility will store equipment and provide work space for City employees assigned to maintaining the creek. The building will also include space for public use. The remainder of the property will be redeveloped into a recreational area along the creek. Plans have not yet been developed but possibilities could include a fishing pier, kayak and canoe launch, and outdoor exercise equipment. The City is currently seeking input from residents on how to best utilize the greenspace. Vote for your favorite concepts and submit your ideas at www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranchrecspace.

In 2018, a second phase of community engagement will be conducted which will expand on the results of the input gathered this year. The City's design team will review the input from the community and then determine what concepts will work best given the property's size and location. Ultimately, the design team's recommendation will be brought to the mayor and city council for their final approval.

We Want Your Ideas!

Gathering ideas through Dec. 15

Vote for your favorite concepts and submit your ideas for the future recreational area along the Bee Branch Creek at www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranchrecspace or on the first floor of City Hall located at 50 W. 13th Street.

Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project Timeline

Infrastructure Improvement	Status
Carter Road Detention Basin	Completed in 2003
West 32nd Street Detention Basin	Completed in 2009
Lower Bee Branch Creek Restoration	Completed in 2011
Historic Millwork District Complete Streets	Completed in 2012
Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration	Completed in 2017
Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts	Est. Completion - 2019
Flood Mitigation Gate Replacement	Est. Completion - 2020
22nd St./Kaufmann Ave. Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements	Est. Completion - 2021
17th St./W. Locust St. Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements	Est. Completion - 2021
Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program (Assistance to over 300 homes in the Bee Branch Watershed)	Est. Completion - 2021
Flood Mitigation Maintenance Facility	Est. Completion - 2022
North End Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements	Est. Completion - 2025
Water Plant Flood Protection	Est. Completion - 2025
Green Alley Reconstruction	Est. Completion - 2038

► For detailed information about each phase of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, please visit www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch.

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Green Alley Snow Removal



As winter approaches, we want to remind residents that the City of Dubuque does not plow alleys — including the new permeable green alleys that have been reconstructed as part of the Bee Branch Project. Snow removal is the responsibility of the abutting property owners.

Snow removal for green alleys is the same as conventional pavement including shoveling, snow blowing, and plowing. Plow blades do not require rubber tips or rollers. Sand should not be applied to the green alleys because it will compromise the permeable nature of the surface. To improve long-term durability, we also ask that you minimize your use of salt. New concrete is very susceptible to the harmful effects of salt. If using salt becomes necessary, sweep the slush and salt off the concrete as soon as possible and rinse the concrete in the spring.

If while removing snow from the alley a paver becomes dislodged or damaged, the person removing the snow is not liable for the costs associated with repairing or replacing the paver. The City asks that you report any damaged pavers to the Public Works Department by calling (563) 589-4250.

