



CONTACT
Kristin Hill, Communications Specialist
City of Dubuque khill@cityofdubuque.org
563.690.6068

NEWS RELEASE

November 10, 2016 – For Immediate Release

City of Dubuque Launches Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque has officially launched the Bee Branch Healthy Homes (BBHH) Resiliency Program. The program includes \$8.4 million in the form of five-year forgivable loans to improve 320 housing units, including owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units.

Funds will be awarded to properties in targeted areas in the Bee Branch Watershed where low- to moderate-income residents reside. Eligible projects will make repairs and implement onsite stormwater management principles to decrease environmental health and safety issues from flooding. A map of the eligibility areas and program details are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh.

The local project is being funded through the \$96.9 million U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) Grant awarded to the State of Iowa’s “Iowa Watershed Approach,” a collaboration of numerous agencies, universities, non-profits, and municipalities. The NDRC invited communities that experienced natural disasters in 2011, 2012, or 2013 to compete for funds to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters.

Many residents in the Bee Branch Watershed have experienced repeated flash flooding from stormwater during heavy rain events, including six Presidential Disaster Declarations since 1999. As a result, they are living with residual structural issues, electrical hazards, and chronic mold and mildew problems.

The BBHH Resiliency Program is designed to help residents and property owners meet unmet structural needs and empower individuals to be a part of the creation of more resilient housing. A variety of repairs and renovations will improve housing conditions and make homes more resilient to future flooding. Examples include, but are not limited to, foundation repairs, water and sewer service improvements, basement window repairs, mold and mildew

remediation, sidewalk improvements, sump pump repairs and installations, and property drainage improvements.

The City of Dubuque Housing & Community Development Department will hold three open house information meetings. They are scheduled for 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the Prescott Neighborhood Resource Center; 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the Comiskey Park Building; and 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar. City staff will provide information about the program and answer questions. Applications will also be available.

The City of Dubuque received a total of \$31.5 million through the NDRC and Iowa Watershed Approach. In addition to the \$8.4 million for the BBHH Resiliency Program, the grant will provide \$23.1 million for stormwater infrastructure improvements related to the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project. Specifically, this includes \$9 million towards the \$18 million project to install culverts to pass floodwaters from the Upper Bee Branch to the Lower Bee Branch through the railway yard on Garfield Avenue. The grant will also provide \$11.5 million towards the \$15.4 million project to provide drainage improvements from the Bee Branch Creek to the west along 22nd Street up Kaufmann Avenue all the way to Kane Street. Finally, the grant will provide \$2.6 million towards the \$11.3 million project to provide drainage improvements from the Bee Branch Creek to the west along 17th Street to West Locust Street and along West Locust Street towards Kirkwood Street. The HUD Resiliency Grant will expedite the completion of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, expanding its scope to lessen the flood damage caused by future flash floods.

More information on the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Project and applications are available at www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh. For questions or to request a paper application, contact BBHH Resiliency Coordinator Sharon Gaul at (563) 690-6168 or bbhh@cityofdubuque.org.

#