In January 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the City of Dubuque $31.5 million in disaster resiliency funds for the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program and stormwater infrastructure improvements including the Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts and West Locust Street and Kaufmann Avenue storm sewer projects. The City partnered with the State of Iowa to apply for the federal funds through the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), which 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. As a result, they are living with residual structural issues, electrical hazards, and chronic mold and mildew problems.

The Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program includes $8.4 million to assist 320 income eligible owner occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units make repairs and implement on-site stormwater management principles to decrease environmental health and safety issues from flooding. A variety of repairs and renovations will improve housing conditions and make homes more resilient to future flooding.

Examples include:
- Foundation repairs
- Water and sewage services
- Furnace replacement
- Water heater replacement
- Basement windows
- Mold and mildew remediation
- Lead remediation
- Soil modification
- Lateral connection repairs
- Sump pumps
- Downspouts

The City intends to implement the plans over the next several years. Additional information will be available as City staff develop plans for community outreach related to the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program to identify eligible properties.
Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts

$9 million
The City received $9 million to install six 8-foot diameter culverts through the Canadian Pacific railroad right-of-way. These culverts will convey stormwater from the Upper Bee Branch Creek (currently under construction) to the Lower Bee Branch Creek. The total cost for this component of the Bee Branch Project is estimated at $18 million, with the remaining funds already in the City budget.

Kaufmann Avenue Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements

$11.5 million
These improvements total $11.5 million and will increase the capacity of the stormwater management system from Central Avenue to Kane Street by constructing a 10-foot by 6-foot reinforced concrete box culvert with 80 stormwater drains.

W. Locust Street Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements

$2.6 million
These improvements total $2.6 million and will increase the capacity of the West Locust Street corridor stormwater management system by constructing a new storm sewer from 17th Street toward Kirkwood Street. Estimated project completion is 2021.

Learn more about the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, including the stormwater infrastructure improvements listed above, at www.cityofdubuque.org/beechannel. For more information about the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh.