



# 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, increase the safe conveyance of stormwater through the flood-prone area, and provide floodwater protection to the City's water treatment plant on Hawthorne Street.

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

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*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*

## Upper Bee Branch Creek Functional This Year, Landscaping Finished Next Spring



Trees, shrubs, and grass along the creek.



Amphitheater near Audubon School

The Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project is scheduled to be fully functional by the end of this year with landscaping completed in the spring of 2017.

The south end of the project corridor is beginning to look less like a construction zone and more like a recreational space. Between Garfield Ave. and E. 22nd St. you'll see paved trails, retaining walls, grass, shrubs, trees, and water flowing through the creek.

The E. 22nd St. bridge opened in early October and the trailhead parking lot near Prince St. is almost finished. It is expected to open to the public this fall.

Work on the amphitheater/outdoor classroom near Audubon School is progressing nicely. The stadium seating and geothermal water feature have been installed and concrete was recently poured for the stage and walkways.

Much of the remaining construction will take place north of E. 22nd St. This work includes completing the spillway; installing retaining walls and limestone blocks along the creek channel; grading topsoil; finishing the baffle box, culvert, and outfall structure; and reconstructing E. 24th St. — which is scheduled to open in November.

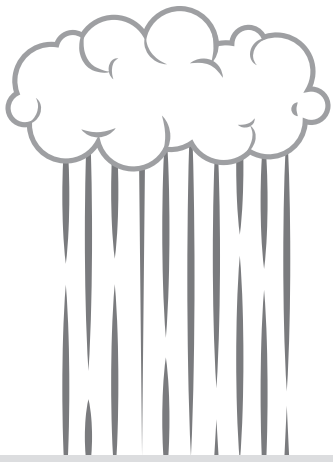
While the trail system will appear complete this fall, it will not be open to the public until the railings, lighting, and security cameras are installed next spring. Crews also expect to finish the bus shelter at E. 22nd St. in 2017.

The project area will remain quiet over the winter. However, if the weather is above 20 degrees, crews may be able to complete some electrical work.

To receive Bee Branch Project-related updates and alerts via email and/or text, 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.



Trailhead parking lot to open this fall.



# What To Expect During a Rain Event

The Upper Bee Branch Creek is designed to move stormwater through the creek corridor to the Lower Bee Branch and ultimately to the Mississippi River. When it rains, the creek channel will slowly fill and then slowly drain out. When the creek is completed and additional culverts connecting the Upper Bee Branch to the Lower Bee Branch are installed, it will fill and drain the same way it does now, but more efficiently.



E. 22nd St. bridge and spillway during dry conditions.



E. 22nd St. bridge and spillway during a 2016 rain event.

## Why is there still street flooding in problem areas?

It is important to understand that the Bee Branch Creek is only one phase of the multi-phased flood mitigation project. There will be incremental benefits as each phase is completed, but a lot of work still needs to be done. There will continue to be street flooding during short, heavy rain events until improvements to multiple storm sewers are completed. These improvements and the installation of culverts through the railroad right-of-way are scheduled to be constructed over the next five years with an estimated completion date of June 2021.

## Why was the creek restored before the sewers were improved?

The planned storm sewer capacity improvements along 17th Street from Elm to W. Locust, along 22nd Street from Elm to Kane, and throughout the North End Neighborhood would not provide benefits unless the downstream Upper Bee Branch Creek provided a place for the stormwater to go. That is why the improvements are being made from “downstream to upstream,” working from the 16th St. Detention Basin and Lower Bee Branch to the Upper Bee Branch and then the storm sewer improvements.

## Upper Bee Branch: Fast Facts

- The Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project started in June 2015.
- The creek channel is 2,300 feet long.
- The creek and flood plain required the removal of 200,000 cubic yards of soil.
- More than 270 trees will be planted.
- More than 90 lights will be installed.
- The amphitheater will seat 80 to 100 people.
- Slides for children will be installed on the embankment just north of the trailhead parking lot near Prince St.
- The Upper Bee Branch trail system will provide a one mile loop around the creek.
- The Upper Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project will be finished in the spring of 2017.





# Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program

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.



Leaking basement windows.



Mold and mildew problems.



Poor drainage and sloping.

The Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program includes \$8.4 million in the form of forgivable loans to improve the housing conditions of 320 housing units over five years. 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
- mold and mildew remediation
- lead remediation
- furnace and water heater replacement
- property drainage improvements
- sump pump repair/installation
- basement window repairs
- sidewalk improvements

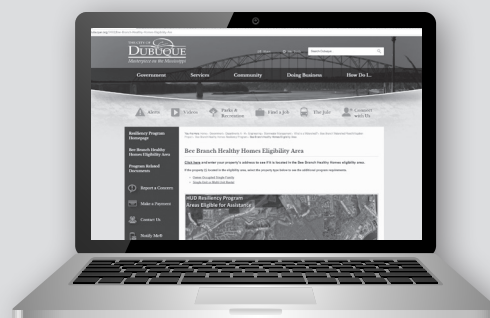
This program is available to owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units that are located in the Bee Branch Healthy Homes eligibility area and meet the income requirements established by HUD. A map of the eligibility area, program requirements, and a pre-application form is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh).

All applications will be served on a first-come, first-qualified/verified basis. Please note, applications will be placed in an "inactive status" until all required documents are received. For questions or for more information, please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at (563) 589-4230.

## Is Your Property in the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Eligibility Area?

The first requirement of the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program is that your home or rental property must be located in the Bee Branch Watershed Healthy Homes eligibility area.

An interactive map of the eligibility area is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh). To identify your property, type the address in the search bar located at the top left corner of the map. The eligibility area is marked in red. For questions, call (563) 589-4230 or email [bbhh@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:bbhh@cityofdubuque.org).



[www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/bbhh)

# 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	Est. Completion - 2017
Flood Mitigation Gate Replacement	Est. Completion - 2017
Bee Branch Creek Railroad Culverts	Est. Completion - 2019
22nd St./Kaufmann Ave. 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
17th St./W. Locust St. Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements	Est. Completion - 2021
North End Storm Sewer Capacity Improvements	Est. Completion - 2023
Flood Mitigation Maintenance Facility	Est. Completion - 2023
Water Plant Flood Protection	Est. Completion - 2024
Impervious Surface Reduction (240 Green Alleys)	Est. Completion - 2038

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

