



TO: Mike Van Milligen, City Manager

FROM: Kristin Hill, Communications Specialist

SUBJECT: Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project and CHANGE Program Receives 365ink Impact Award for Sustainability

DATE: March 8, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to share that the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project and CHANGE program received a 2017 365ink Impact award for sustainability.

BACKGROUND

The 9th annual Impact Awards event, hosted by *365ink Magazine*, was held on February 28, 2017. The purpose of the awards is to celebrate people, businesses, and organizations who are changing the face of our community. Local impact-makers are honored in a variety of categories including arts, best new thing, community vision, dining and nightlife, multicultural advocacy, music, non-profit innovation, sports and recreation, and sustainability.

DISCUSSION

The Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project and CHANGE program received a 365ink Impact Award for sustainability. The City was recognized for a community-friendly flood mitigation design that is centered around a beautiful linear park. Attractive limestone features enhance the area, as well as gardens, play structures, an outdoor classroom/amphitheater, and a multi-use trail system. The project has received \$160 million in grants, and will prevent an estimated \$582 million in future flood damages over the 100-year design life of the project.

The award was also in recognition of the City's ability to see things from all angles and its efforts to take action on multiple fronts. In addition to the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, the City has launched the Comprehensive Housing Activities for Neighborhood Growth & Enrichment (CHANGE) program. Over the next five years, \$19 million dollars will be invested to improve 739 housing units in Dubuque.

The Bee Branch Healthy Homes (BBHH) Resiliency Program, a component of CHANGE, includes \$8.4 million in the form of 5-year forgivable loans to improve 320 housing units including owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units. The program will help low-to-moderate income residents in the Bee Branch Watershed meet unmet structural needs and empower them to be a part of the creation of more resilient housing through on-site storm water management principles and sustainable, healthy homes behaviors.

An important component of the BBHH Resiliency Program is the healthy home advocate. Participants are required to meet with a home advocate to determine if there are other things with which they might need help—from unemployment and education to substance abuse and mental health support. It's not just about fixing houses, it's an overall approach to helping families succeed.

The 365ink Impact Award was given to the City for its vision to revitalize this important area of our community. The Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project and CHANGE program will improve the livability and appearance of the neighborhood, and help families, giving Dubuque a strong foundation for the future.

REQUESTED ACTION

This information is being provided for informational purposes only.

Cc: Randy Gehl, Public Information Officer
Deron Muehring, Civil Engineer
Steve Brown, Project Manager