

FEMA Awards \$2.1M to Boardman Township for Flood Risk Reduction Project

Release Date: 2? 2, 2023

CHICAGO – FEMA and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency announced today the release of \$2,165,400 in hazard mitigation funding for a project to reduce flood risk in Boardman Township, Ohio. A current underground stormwater and sewer system will be replaced by the township, and the Forest Lawn Stormwater Park will be developed with assistance of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds from the COVID-19 disaster declared March 31, 2020.

Green infrastructure projects like this provide opportunities for communities to protect against future flooding while taking advantage of upgrading older infrastructure with stormwater parks and rain gardens for residents to enjoy. The Forest Lawn Stormwater Park project will mitigate flooding for downstream residents and improve water quality within the watershed. Native plants will help absorb nutrients and the passive stormwater park will provide additional storage during storm events.

“FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs create safer communities by funding mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages,” said Tom Sivak, regional administrator, FEMA Region 5. “By choosing to replace older underground infrastructure using nature-based solutions, communities like Boardman Township can create beautiful public areas for residents to enjoy while reducing future flood risk.”

“Through the use of hazard mitigation grant funding, much needed projects like the Flood Risk Reduction Project can become a reality,” said Sima Merick, executive director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “Coordinated efforts between federal, state and local partners cannot be understated.”



For this project, FEMA will pay 90% of the \$2.4M million eligible project cost. The remaining funds will be provided by the Boardman Township. HMGP provides funding to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures following a presidentially declared disaster. HMGP can be used to make improvements to public or private property but must provide a long-term solution to a specific disaster risk. The state or tribe sets priorities related to project selection and submission. For more information about Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants and resources visit: [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants | FEMA.gov](#).

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