



# FEMA

## Homes Removed from Harm's Way Along the Missisquoi River

**Troy, VT** - Just a short drive on River Road southeast of North Troy is an area adjacent to the Missisquoi River that floods every year due to spring thaws and summer's heavy rains. A single-family home on one acre of land and a small farm house with its farm outbuildings on 15 acres were the heaviest hit properties. Each time the cost was about \$20,000 for lost farm animals and crops and for cleaning and repair.

In June 2002, Orleans County experienced a flooding event categorized as a 500-year flood. At the peak of the flooding, Missisquoi River waters rose to 18 inches on the first floors of both homes.

The disaster declaration resulting from this flood gave the community the opportunity to apply for funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Collaboration between the Town of Troy, Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Vermont Land Trust, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and FEMA succeeded in acquiring the grant, a 90 percent federal share for the project. The remaining 10 percent local share was provided by the property owners from the equity when the land was purchased at the local tax assessment appraisal.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$150,000.

After all the buildings were cleared from the site, an observation deck for viewing wild birds was constructed on the area where the single-family home had stood. A Troy High School community service project provided workers to clean up litter from the area, plant maple trees along the river bank for erosion control, and prepare signage for a primitive campsite on the remaining land.

In addition, a community garden and leased organic vegetable fields are planned for the site. All of the elements of the project are flood-damage resistant. A custom, hand-painted sign was locally produced and erected on the site at the 2007 completion of the project.



Orleans County, Vermont



### Quick Facts

Sector:

**Public/Private Partnership**

Cost:

**\$150,000.00 (Actual)**

Primary Activity/Project:

**Acquisition/Buyouts**

Primary Funding:

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**