

BEE BRANCH CREEK PROJECT

STATE PROGRAM: Iowa Department of Natural Resources

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: City of Dubuque

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$28.9M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bee Branch Creek project in Dubuque, Iowa is a success story about how a city dealt with an historic neighborhood prone to flooding (with six Presidential Disaster Declarations and \$70 million in damage between 1999 and 2011) by replacing one-mile of storm sewer with a creek and floodplain. This daylighting of the creek will not only allow stormwater from flash floods to safely move through the area (protecting more than 1,000 properties), but will also restore aquatic habitat by allowing sunlight to foster the growth of the microorganisms needed to sustain fish. The design includes riffles, runs, a cobble creek bed, submerged boulders, and permeable pavement for nearby streets. The project proved its worth in 2017, when a heavy thunderstorm caused minimal flooding compared to a similar storm in 2002 which resulted in more than \$11 million in damage. Nearly half the project's \$60 million cost came from the CWSRF (including \$6 million principal forgiveness), and the city paid for the rest with financing from six other state and federal programs and municipal stormwater utility fees.

To read more about this case study, please visit epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-11/documents/pisces_compendium_final2.pdf.