



Success Stories in Mitigation



City of Fairfield (Butler County)

HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (HMA)

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs present a critical opportunity to reduce risk to individuals and property from natural hazards while simultaneously reducing reliance on Federal disaster funds.

PDM GRANT PROGRAM

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program is authorized by Section 203 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5133. The PDM program is designed to assist States, Territories, Indian Tribal governments, and local communities to implement sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation programs to reduce overall risk to their citizens and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding from future, major disaster declarations.

Pleasant Run Creek Conservation Project

Certain areas along Pleasant Run Creek in the City of Fairfield, Ohio have repetitively flooded over the years causing damage to residential structures. In an effort to address this problem the City of Fairfield played an active role in developing the Butler County All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. One of the goals identified in this mitigation plan was to acquire repetitively flooded properties, demolish the structures, and convert the land to open space. The long term vision for this repetitively flooded area near Pleasant Run Creek is a community park that will aid in reducing flooding in the community by restoring the natural function of the floodplain. In addition, such a project will create recreation opportunities for residents and potentially increase surrounding property values. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs are helping the City achieve this long term goal.

Mitigation is defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long

term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. Mr. Ben Mann, Engineer for the City of Fairfield, understands the long term benefits that an effective local mitigation program can provide for a community. For over nine years, the City has combined various HMA grants with state and local funds to



"Before mitigation" and "after mitigation" photographs for 18 King Arthur Court in Fairfield, Ohio



PDM03 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR):** 1.14
- **Project Benefits:** \$3,921,088.00
- **Project Final Cost:** \$3,197,062.00
 - Federal:** \$2,397,798.00 (75%)
 - Local:** \$799,264.00 (25%)
- **Number Acquired/Demolished:** 21



PDM06 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR):** 1.525
- **Project Benefits:** \$2,645,112.50
- **Project Final Cost:** \$1,645,403.73
 - Federal:** \$1,234,052.00 (75%)
 - Local:** \$411,351.73 (25%)
- **Number Acquired/Demolished:** 10



One of many residential structures in Fairfield that has been acquired and demolished

CURRENT PROJECT

As a result of the federal disaster declaration FEMA-DR-1805-OH declared on October 24, 2008, funding was made available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to provide grants to local governments to fund long-term mitigation measures. The declaration was based on damage resulting from hurricane-force winds resulting from Hurricane Ike on September 14, 2008. The City of Fairfield submitted a sub-application for a third acquisition project involving 17 residential structures in the Pleasant Run area. When complete, this project is projected to prevent nearly \$5,326,913.00 in future damages.

Project Funding Break-Down:

Federal: \$2,716,589 (75%)

Local: \$905,529 (25%)

The local, or non-federal, share is being paid through/by third-party contributions, city cash, property owners, and the Clean Ohio Fund.

The period of performance for this project ends on November 8, 2012.



Map showing the areas already mitigated and the areas of proposed for mitigation via DR-1805 HMGP

achieve their goal. The City has received two grants from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program, and they were recently awarded Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding to continue their efforts to reduce flood risk in Fairfield. The overall effort exhibited with this project has been a successful collaboration of all levels of government. Once completed, this land will comprise the third largest preservation area within the City, and it will be part of the City Parks System.

To date, the City has purchased 31 homes and approximately 39 acres of land in the Pleasant Creek floodplain. Converting the land to park space will help to protect the urban stream and add to the existing preservation area which includes grasslands, woodland areas, and riparian habitat for various plants and animals. The park will include walking paths, scenic overlooks, and a memorial tree grove where citizens can donate trees in memory of loved ones.

Additional information about Fairfield mitigation efforts can be found on the City's website at: <http://www.fairfield-city.org/publicworks/floodprone/index.cfm>.