

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chair Arnett & Public Works Commission Members

From: Andrew Beyer, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Date: 12/4/2025

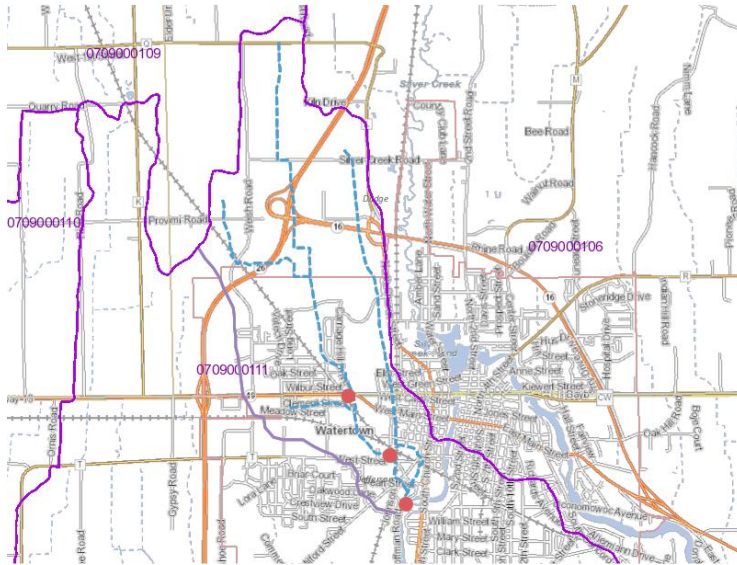
Subject: Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Opportunity

Background

Update, No Action Required: Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Opportunity

Background:

The City's multi-year Flood Control Plan project (February 2024) identified 15 priority flooding areas to be addressed throughout the City. At least four (4) of the priority flooding areas drain to the westside creek system (the Brandt-Quirk Creek and High School Creek systems, which meet near the new fire station site). This creek system begins upstream (north) of the City limits, receiving additional flows from tributary streams and storm sewer before it discharges to the Rock River near the intersection of Fairview Drive and Hoffmann Drive. The Flood Control Plan recommendations included additional site-specific study and modeling to design detailed solutions to the flooding problems. Staff recommend applying for a Wisconsin Emergency Management Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant to study the overall inter-connectedness of the flooding areas and the receiving creeks. This project would collect field data on the creeks, evaluate and model the impacts of combined creek flows, floodplain and stormwater runoff to the overall creek system during various storm events, consider current floodplain and recommend any floodplain revisions in this drainage area, make recommendations on natural management and systems to improve creek flows and minimize flooding, and particularly evaluate how solving one flooding area could impact a different upstream or downstream flooding area.



(Westside Creek System shown in blue)

Wisconsin Emergency Management offered the Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant for the first time in 2024. The City applied for this grant, and received positive feedback from the WEM grant administrators, however other submitted grant applications scored higher than the City's applications. The city is eligible again this year for this grant due to flooding that occurred within the past 10-years (August 2018). It is not known at this time if the Pre-Disaster Resilience Grant will be offered again in future years, or if the City would continue to meet eligibility requirements in future years. The Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant offers up to 75% cost-sharing, up to a maximum of \$300,000, for the work proposed in this project.

WEM Pre-Disaster Flood Control Grant applications are due December 12, 2025, and require a resolution indicating approval to participate in this grant opportunity and to expend the City's share of the funds, and that all state grant requirements, forms, local codes and standards will be met. A municipal resolution was approved at Common Council on December 2, 2025 for inclusion in the grant application packet.

Budget Goal

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure in an effort to ensure quality, safety and compliance
2. Promotes and fosters innovative approaches for community development and growth
3. Maintains a safe and healthy community, and expands community education on safety and health

Financial Impact

A WEM Pre-Disaster Flood Control Grant can offset a portion of the cost to study and develop solutions to at least four (4) of the priority flooding areas that were identified in the City's 2024 Flood Control Plan. The data collected as part of this study and modeling effort would provide baseline information that would impact the design and effectiveness of proposed flood control measures. Completing necessary modeling, floodplain analysis and other hydrological evaluations as part of this grant project would shift funds that would otherwise be incurred during multiple individual project studies and designs toward this comprehensive approach, which would be 75% funded through a Wisconsin Emergency Management grant. This project is currently estimated at \$178,100; the City is seeking an 75% grant cost-share from Wisconsin Emergency Management of \$133,575 with the remaining 25% City cost-share of \$44,525 to be funded through the Stormwater Utility. The City's cost share was planned for and has been requested in the 2026 Stormwater Utility budget.

Recommendation

The Public Works Department has received approval from Finance Committee (11/24/25) and Common Council (12/2/25) of a resolution supporting the City's application and participation in the Wisconsin Emergency Management Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant. Staff intend to submit the grant application by the 12/12/25 deadline.

2024 Operational Goals

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure in an effort to ensure quality, safety and compliance
2. Promotes and fosters innovative approaches for community development and growth
3. Maintains a safe and healthy community, and expands community education on safety and health