



# Success Stories in Mitigation



## Franklin County (Franklin Township)

### 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.

### DR-1805 HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

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 a severe wind storm associated with Tropical Depression Ike on September 14, 2008.

## Whims Ditch Acquisition Project

Franklin County proposed the acquisition and demolition of 21 residential structures in accordance with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under DR-1805-OH, declared October 24, 2008. The project area is located in the southwestern portion of Franklin County, within unincorporated Franklin Township.

The neighborhood was developed between 1950-1970, prior to local floodplain delineation and flood risk management measures. As a result many of the residential structures were constructed in low lying areas, and experienced flooding during significant rain events.

The primary flood source is Whims Ditch. When the ditch overflows it causes significant property damage to the structures in close proximity to the ditch. The project intends to acquire and demolish the residential structures to permanently mitigate the impacts of repetitive flooding.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR): 4.34
- Project Benefits: \$12,881,983
- Project Final Cost: \$2,808,682
  - Federal: \$2,038,282 (72.57%)
  - Local: \$770,400.00 (27.43%)
    - Local Cost Breakdown –
    - \$688,900 Cash
    - \$81,500 In-Kind
- Number of Residential Properties Included in Project Application: 21
- Number Purchase Offers: 21
  - Accepted: 15
  - Declined: 6



Homeowner walking to his office located in the rear of his home during a 2005 flood.  
*Columbus Dispatch File Photo*



### BEST PRACTICES

Franklin County used both cash and in-kind services to meet the local match requirement. The county engineer's road crew was used to demolish the structures, while a portion of the project management costs were counted towards the local match.

Franklin County partnered with the City of Columbus and a local business, Inland Products, to meet the cash portion of the match. The City of Columbus and Inland Products each contributed \$150,000.

### FUTURE PROJECTS

In December 2011, the Franklin County Engineer's Office submitted an application to the FY2012 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program to acquire 23 parcels and demolish 20 structures in the Whims Ditch community. Phase II of this project seeks to acquire structures within the special flood hazard area that were not included in Phase I. The application was selected for further review; project award is anticipated in late summer 2012.

#### Project Funding Break-Down:

**Federal:** \$1,970,985 (75%)

**Local:** \$656,995 (25%)

**Project Total:** \$2,627,980

## Additional Photographs



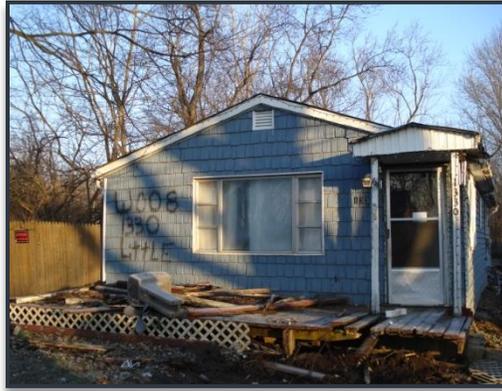
Little Avenue home, shown in 2008, that was slowly sinking into the ground caused by chronic flooding.

*Columbus Dispatch File Photo*



Interior photo of the Little Avenue home prior to demolition. Exterior walls and flooring shows water stains, mold and mildew.

*Ohio EMA File Photo*



Little Avenue home prior to demolition.

*Ohio EMA File Photo*



Little Avenue home during demolition.

*Ohio EMA File Photo*



Vacant Little Avenue lot prior to final grading and seeding.

*Ohio EMA File Photo*

Additional mitigation success stories and mitigation-related information may be viewed at <http://ohiosharpp.ema.state.oh.us/ohiosharpp/home.aspx>.