

Portland, Ore – Congressman Earl Blumenauer announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency is awarding a \$2.7 million Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for the State of Oregon. The funding will be matched in part by the City of Portland and used to conduct its Portland East Lents Floodplain Restoration Project—an effort to create flood storage and improve Johnson Creek’s flow conditions in an area that has been subject to repetitive flood damage.

FEMA and Oregon Office of Emergency Management officials will be in Portland in early November to formally award the grant to the Portland City Council.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant will fund the restoration of over 20 acres of floodplain in the Johnson Creek watershed. This work is part of a comprehensive approach to allow areas to flood naturally - providing flood storage while improving water quality and creating habitat for fish and wildlife. The City of Portland purchases frequently flooded properties through a willing seller program and currently owns 160 acres in four target areas.

Blumenauer said, “This is a great example of the federal government leading by example and being a good partner to local communities by helping them become safer and more disaster resistant. Johnson Creek residents and the City of Portland deserve high praise for their commitment to improving watershed health for generations to come.”

In 2001, Portland demonstrated national leadership in addressing flooding by earning a Class 6 Rating in FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS provides discounts on floodplain insurance based on local community programs to reduce flood risk. Currently, Portlanders receive a 20% discount on their flood insurance and may qualify for a 25% discount when Portland revises their status in the program later this year.

Blumenauer worked with FEMA in 1998 to secure a federal Project Impact designation, which leveraged federal seed money to create more disaster-resistant communities in the Portland area. The Project Impact designation was part of a sustained effort by Blumenauer to focus attention and resources on restoring Johnson Creek as well as his work to reform the National Flood Insurance Program. In 2004, the “Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act,” which provides a disincentive to property owners to live in repeatedly flooded areas, was signed into law.

Blumenauer Applauds \$2.7 Million FEMA Grant For Johnson Creek Floodplain Restoration

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