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Press Release

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City receives disaster recovery grant to replace failing Midlothian Creek culvert

Oak Forest, Illinois – The City of Oak Forest has received \$593,000 from the state of Illinois' "IKE" Disaster Recovery Program to replace the failing Midlothian Creek culvert under Waverly Avenue.

"The failing culvert at Waverly Avenue drains storm water from nearly 12.5-square miles of land upstream," explained Oak Forest Public Works Director Troy Ishler. "Replacing the culvert is critical to maintaining a safe storm water flow through the city."

According to Ishler, the September 2008 storms – spurred by Hurricane Ike – set near-record flow rates for Midlothian Creek in Oak Forest. The U.S. Geological Survey stream gauge, located approximately a half mile downstream of the Waverly Avenue culvert, recorded 321,000,000 gallons of water running through the creek on September 13 and 14. Another 617,000,000 gallons of run-off was recorded the following five days for a grand total of 938,000,000 gallons of water flowing through the culvert in seven days.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has distributed \$48 million in public infrastructure grant funds from the "IKE" Disaster Recovery Program, named for Hurricane Ike – one of the costliest hurricanes ever to make landfall in the United States. Illinois received a total of \$169 million in federal disaster funds under the recovery program to assist communities within 41 Illinois counties recover from devastating floods and storms in 2008, and minimize the impact of future disasters.

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