### **RGGI GRANTS** COMMUNITY FLOOD PREPAREDNESS FUND



Rounds 1-4 (10/05/2021 - 03/20/2024)

Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) from 2021-2023 generated \$827.7 million in revenue while also reducing power plant carbon pollution in the state by 22%. Half of RGGI proceeds from quarterly auctions funded low-income energy efficiency programs and 45% funded the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF). Without RGGI, there is no mechanism to maintain long-term revenue for the CFPF.

The CFPF provides grants and loans for projects, studies, and planning throughout the Commonwealth to identify and address flood vulnerability for communities. CFPF funds can build capacity in localities that need additional resources to develop comprehensive flood vulnerability assessments and actionoriented flood mitigation approaches.

# **CITY OF ROANOKE**

The City of Roanoke, located in Southwest Virginia, has experienced devastating, recurrent flooding which has increased in recent years. Funding from the CFPF provides for the City to expand and develop the planning and implementation of resilience projects to mitigate flood risk.





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# **1** RESILIENCE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Roanoke has experienced devastating, recurrent flooding which has increased in recent years as rainfall events become more intense. The City will use this CFPF award to hire a consultant to develop a comprehensive Resilience plan to guide future floodplain and stormwater management efforts.

#### **2** 1ST AND SALEM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Due to a localized low point in Salem Avenue and a diagonal tunnel to its south that crosses a private parking lot and goes under existing buildings, it was determined that a new culvert could be installed within the public right-of- way (Salem Avenue and 1st Street) to better convey runoff from this area. Due to shallow cover conditions, a low height box culvert or elliptical pipe may be required for portions of the new storm drain system. Also, there are low points in the existing 36" RCP that do not drain well into the 54"x96" box culvert that conveys runoff from this area.

#### **3 ORE BRANCH STREAM AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION**

Ore Branch is a small stream in the southern part of the City of Roanoke with a highly developed watershed (3.8 sq. mi., 30% impervious cover), whose drainage begins on the western face of Mill Mountain and flows generally north along the US-220 corridor, then through south Roanoke before draining into the Roanoke River. Intense rainfall has caused repeated flooding along Ore Branch – and in particular in the downstream-most stream mile where the stream flattens before it converges with the Roanoke River. Flooding along Ore Branch is caused by three factors: (1) the significant amount of development in the watershed; (2) the almost complete lack of floodplain storage capacity along the waterway and (3) backwater from the Roanoke River preventing Ore Branch from draining under certain larger-scale storms (i.e. tropical storm systems).

## **WHY IT MATTERS**

"We firmly believe that this funding will enable the City to develop a plan to guide the implementation of flood mitigation projects to work towards a more resilient community."

- Robert S. Crowell, Jr., City Manager, City of Roanoke

