

Fremont, Nebraska

2023 Accomplishments

The City of Fremont, NE (pop. 27,373), located in Dodge County, experiences frequent flooding due to floodplain inundation and stormwater backup. In 2019, Fremont and Dodge County experienced a devastating flood that destroyed homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Neighborhoods that are predominantly lower-income families and Hispanic people, such as the Regency Mobile Home Park, were some of the hardest hit areas in the flood.

FloodWise Community since October 2023

Project services paid by FloodWise to date: \$26,970

2023 FloodWise Deliverables

- Engaged with key stakeholders to identify solutions to reduce flood risk and expand recreation for the community.
- Partnered with JEO Consulting Group, Inc. to develop a community-driven concept plan for Johnson Park.
- Facilitated project meetings with the city, county, and JEO.
- Hosted a site visit with key community stakeholders including Dodge County, United Way, and the City.



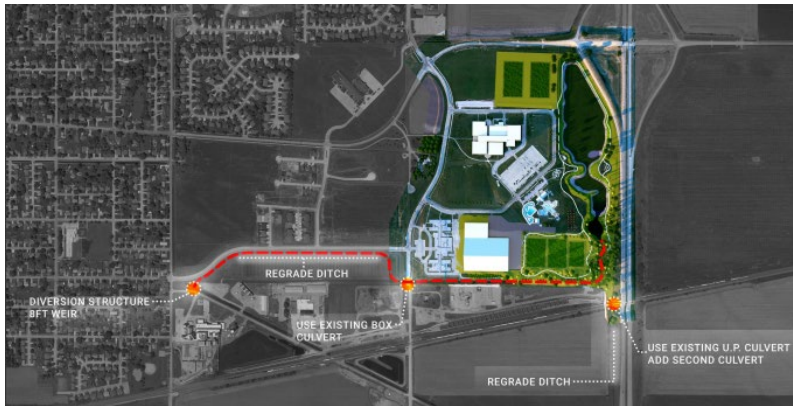
Photo: Headwaters Economics



Photo: Headwaters Economics

Stakeholder Engagement

FloodWise Community Assistance reached out to the City of Fremont in the summer and offered to assist with flood mitigation. By late summer, FloodWise contracted with JEO and meetings were underway to define the project scope and determine goals. JEO conducted one-on-one meetings with City Planning and Development, Public School Department, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, multiple city councilmen, the City Administrator, and the Mayor in October to collect initial input for a park redevelopment concept. JEO, FloodWise staff, the City Engineer, United Way, Dodge County Emergency Manager, and other stakeholders met again in late November to review the concept plan and provide feedback. FloodWise staff also toured the community and their flood-prone areas with key stakeholders in late November.



Johnson Park Concept Plan: JEO

Johnson Park Concept Plan

Johnson Park was identified as a desirable location to add stormwater detention/retention capacity to reduce flood risk for the southeastern portion of Fremont. However, the community lacked funding to further develop this plan. FloodWise hired JEO to continue with this work, facilitate stakeholder engagement, and develop a concept plan for Johnson Park that prioritizes flood mitigation and incorporates key community stakeholder recommendations including but not limited to improved water quality, recreational enhancements, and environmental flood/wetland education.

Johnson Park is immediately adjacent to the middle school and the Splash Station, and the Parks and Recreation Department plans to build a fieldhouse on the southwest portion of the parcel. Incorporating stakeholders' ideas, JEO developed a park concept plan that accounts for and enhances neighboring land uses *and* improves flood resiliency for the community. The Johnson Park concept plan adds flood storage and wetlands, expands the park trail network, adds five sports fields, creates educational landscape ecologies, and includes other park amenities. The city has accepted this plan and is moving forward with implementation.

Next Steps

- Assist the City of Fremont in issuing a Request for Proposals for the Johnson Park project, as needed.
- Continue discussion with Dodge County, Fremont, and United Way to identify additional ways FloodWise can contribute to the community's flood resiliency needs.
- Coordinate with the City of Fremont, Dodge County, United Way, and industry partners to identify ways to reduce flood risk to residents in the Regency Mobile Home Park.

About FloodWise Community Assistance & Headwaters Economics

FloodWise Community Assistance is a program of Headwaters Economics that provides free technical assistance to decrease flood risk and strengthen communities.

Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group whose mission is to improve community development and land management decisions. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/>