

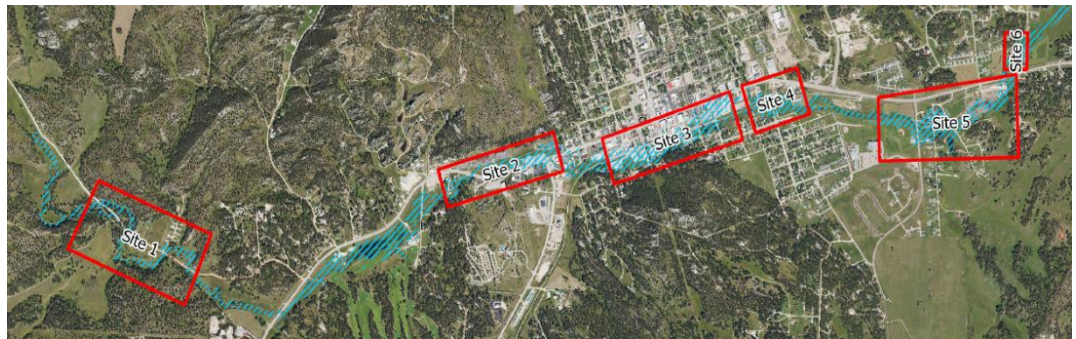
Custer County, South Dakota

Severe rainstorms cause sudden flash floods across Custer County, South Dakota (pop. 8,360). French Creek runs parallel to the main street of Custer City, the county seat. In August 2019, the city and county experienced significant flooding resulting in damage to critical infrastructure and evacuations. The majority of Custer County was designated by FEMA as a Community Disaster Resilience Zone (CDRZ) as of 2023.

In 2024, Custer County was notified that its FEMA-Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant proposal of \$495,200 – prepared with assistance from FloodWise – was selected for funding. The grant will fund the completion of a scoping project to prioritize projects, conduct feasibility and benefit-cost analyses, and design engineered solutions to frequent flooding of French Creek.

Partnership Outcomes

- FloodWise assisted the county in writing a Request for Proposals to solicit bids from engineers/contractors interested in conducting the flood mitigation work outlined in the county’s successful FEMA BRIC grant proposal.
- Custer County kicked off the French Creek Flood Mitigation Scoping Project funded by the FEMA BRIC in October. The project began with a public presentation by RESPEC Engineering, the selected contractor.
- FloodWise continued to consult with the local steering group as it implemented the grant-funded project.
- RESPEC identified six flood mitigation project sites and developed a mitigation prioritization framework to evaluate the alternatives.



RESPEC Engineering project site map

Next Steps

- FloodWise will continue to support the local steering group as it gathers public input and prioritizes potential projects.
- FloodWise will explore funding opportunities to continue flood mitigation work once the scoping phase is complete.

- ◆ FloodWise Community since July 2023
- ◆ Project services paid by FloodWise to date: \$62,200
 - ◆ Other funds secured: \$495,200



FloodWise Community Assistance is a program of Headwaters Economics that provides free technical assistance and customized research to help reduce flood risk and strengthen communities. <https://floodwise.headwaterseconomics.org/>