

Hermosa, South Dakota

Severe rainstorms cause sudden flash floods in the Town of Hermosa, South Dakota (pop. 397). Battle Creek runs south of town with a secondary channel and floodplain extending through the southern portion of town. Old Dairy Drainage runs west to east across the northern extents of town. These waterways and the town's stormwater system flood during significant rain events, overtopping roads and damaging infrastructure. In 2007, significant flooding washed out the railroad embankment and moved three homes off their foundations.

In 2024 FloodWise assisted the town in its successful pursuit of a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant for \$458,850. Hermosa was also notified that it was selected to receive direct technical assistance (e.g., evaluating infrastructure and supporting residential geocoding) from FEMA.

Partnership Outcomes

- FloodWise assisted in creating and circulating a Request for Proposals for services to implement the scope of work funded by the FEMA BRIC grant. Benesch Engineering was ultimately hired.
- A kickoff meeting for the Hermosa flood mitigation project was held in October.
- FloodWise continued to consult with the local steering group as it implemented the grant-funded project.
- FloodWise assisted the Town in applying for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for generator power back-up for critical town infrastructure. The project was selected and is undergoing FEMA review.



Undersized and eroding culverts contribute to flooding when water backs up during storm events, especially on flat agricultural lands. (Photo by Headwaters Economics)

- ◆ FloodWise Community since July 2023
- ◆ Project services paid by FloodWise to date: \$24,500
- ◆ Other funds secured: \$458,850