

SHELBY COUNTY, TN

SUMMARY

Shelby County experienced three powerful storms in April 2011. These storms damaged homes, infrastructure, and environmental resources throughout the county. The County, with extensive community input, recently developed a tri-state plan (called GREENPRINT) to build a network of green infrastructure projects that increase resilience to future flooding while addressing unmet recovery needs from past storms. The Greenprint for Resilience Project implements this vision through a comprehensive set of activities designed to protect Shelby County's communities from natural hazards while increasing environmental, economic and social opportunity for all residents of Greater Memphis, especially vulnerable communities. The primary intervention will create flood protection including development of new floodplains and create wetlands and detention areas to create more storage for floodwaters. The county, which borders the Mississippi River, will also offer to purchase properties of residents within repetitive flood zones to get them out of harm's way. These activities will create additional greenway trails and enhanced recreation areas that help connect people to jobs as well as areas for local food production.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- **Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Area** – Creation of a recreational area, with native vegetation and wetlands, that doubles as a floodplain during severe storms.
- **Wolf River Wetland Restoration and Greenway** – Construction of a 36-mile greenway as well as nature-based improvements to adjacent parks that will reduce flooding and increase access to parkland.
- **South Cypress Creek Watershed and Neighborhood Development** – A series of open space and infrastructure investments that will repurpose vacant lots for community benefit (such as flood protection, and healthy food access) and increase transportation access.
- **Regional Resilience Plan** – Integration of resilience into the existing GREENPRINT regional plan to provide a model for other communities in the region.

LEAD AGENCY & PARTNERS

Shelby County (lead); Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon; Memphis Center for Food and Faith; Chickasaw Basin Authority; City of Memphis; Community Development Council of Greater Memphis; GCR Inc.; Habitat for Humanity; Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc; Pique Public Relations; Sasaki Associates Inc.; University of Memphis; United Housing; University of Tennessee; Wolf River Conservancy

NDRC FUNDING

HUD is awarding \$60,445,163 to Shelby County.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS TO RESILIENCE

- Eighteen counties across three states have adopted GREENPRINT as their official plan and civic institutions have committed funding to staff the coordinator role.
- Over the next two years, the City of Memphis will conduct drainage studies for each of the 17 drainage areas in the city.

- In a little over a year, the Wolf River Conservancy has protected 481 acres, adding to their total of 13,500 acres of land in the Wolf River Watershed.
- Since October 2014, Resilient Shelby has reached 100,000 households with public awareness materials and reached an additional 5,000 people through their events to improve emergency preparedness.

WEBSITE

<http://resilientshelby.com/>

