

# \$70 Million in Flood Buyouts Approved

Thirty property acquisition projects have received approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These projects are worth almost \$70 million for buyouts of property damaged in the 2008 floods.

Local communities must now work with the owners of the properties so that they can be bought, demolished, and turned into parks and green space. This should help mitigate the impact of future flooding in Iowa. However, no owners can be forced to sell their properties.

State Hazard Mitigation Officer John Wageman noted in the recent Homeland Security and Emergency Management newsletter that although buyouts are “the heart of the mitigation initiative resulting from the disaster,” other efforts are also underway, such as mitigation planning, tornado safe rooms, flood walls, utility retrofits and other steps.

Here is a snapshot of the approved projects as of July

29, 2009. The list includes the applicant, the project cost, and the number of properties involved.

- Black Hawk County/\$1,946,755/17
- Cedar Falls/\$11,914,250/151
- Evansdale/\$661,143/6
- Greene/\$816,942/13
- La Porte City/\$1,165,326/13
- New Hartford/\$1,663,434/27
- Shell Rock/\$326,835/4
- Waterloo/\$5,715,669/88
- Waverly/\$8,565,805/74
- Coralville/\$3,292,751/18
- Iowa City/\$11,529,588/40
- Linn County/\$2,248,290/17
- Charles City #1/\$306,314/6
- Charles City #2/\$797,882/11
- Floyd County/\$160,058/2
- Rockford/\$632,245/9
- Des Moines #1/\$829,756/13
- Des Moines #2/\$252,849/5
- Oakland/\$169,870/1
- Webster City/\$156,893/4
- Cedar County/\$2,492,685/24
- Vinton/ \$2,179,800/29
- Olin/\$181,031/5
- Davenport/\$701,775/5
- Muscatine County/\$1,091,516/13
- Elkader/\$2,760,982/29
- Mason City #1/\$312,336/1
- Mason City #2/\$133,600/2
- Mason City #4/\$6,163,989/75

You can find more information on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org). Click on the Iowa Disaster Recovery 2008 link in the Quick Links section.