



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Funding for Lake Bella Vista Dam

Bentonville, AR.....The City of Bentonville is pleased to announce the receipt of an approved project worksheet for the total replacement of the Bella Vista Lake Dam. On Wednesday, August 24, the City's Engineering Department received word from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) that the project would receive funding required to replace the current dam structure.

The project worksheet outlines FEMA's intentions to fund 75 percent of the total cost for the entire project. This includes engineering and design fees, demolition of the current structure and construction costs. The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management has indicated their willingness to contribute 12.5 percent of the total cost of this project. Additionally, the City has received a grant from the Arkansas Disaster Relief Fund. In total, the City has received initial approval of Federal and State grants for the complete repair of the Bella Vista Lake dam.

The current dam was damaged in the flood events in the Spring of 2008 and again in the Spring of 2011. After receiving the project worksheet from FEMA, the City of Bentonville began negotiations with an engineering firm to develop a design for the new structure. The new dam will be constructed at the location of the current dam. The project will include 500 linear feet of earthen dam with a walking trail for pedestrian use. The lake's existing normal pool elevation and hydraulic characteristics of Little Sugar Creek will go unchanged.

After FEMA reviewed the site on August 9, 2011, the City of Bentonville's Street, Engineering and Parks and Recreation Departments began repairing the pedestrian trail across the dam. This project is complete and the trail has re-opened to the public. The current trail was constructed as a temporary measure until the new dam is constructed. The repaired trail, although not in the condition of a new pristine walking surface, is available for the enjoyment of the City's outdoor enthusiasts.

For further information, please contact Ben Peters, City Engineer, (479) 271-3166.

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