



## Philippi Acquisition

### Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

#### *Barbour County, West Virginia*

**Philippi, WV** - The terrain of West Virginia is very rugged, consisting of forested hills and mountains with narrow valleys. Due to the extremely narrow river valleys throughout most of the State, flooding is the most common cause of widespread disaster.



The flood stage is 17 feet. Since 1985, the Tygart River has flooded 8 times with flooding over 20 feet. In 1996, the area experienced, again, heavy rains and flooding. This repetitive flooding has caused more than \$2 million in damage.

The community received Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to acquire three residential and three vacant commercial warehouses. Philippi will retain this area as open space.

Based on previous damage assessments, a savings of \$270,931 will be avoided in future damage. Plus, savings in disaster response costs are expected as a result of this project.

Standard Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program makes Federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in participating communities.

#### Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region III**

State: **West Virginia**

County: **Barbour County**

City/Community: **Philippi**

#### Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**

Hazard Type: **Flooding**

Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts**

Structure Type: **Wood Frame**

Activity/Project Start Date: **07/1998**

Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**

Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); State sources**

Funding Recipient: **Local Government**

Funding Recipient Name: **City of Philippi**

### Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$165,493.00 (Estimated)**

Non FEMA Cost:

### Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal  
Disaster? **Yes**

Federal Disaster #: **1132 , 08/14/1996**

Value Tested By Disaster? **No**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

### Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>

### Main Points

- HMGP funds used to acquire three residential and three vacant commercial warehouses. This area is retained as open space.