



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2021

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**SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT BREAKS GROUND
ON MASSIVE \$40 MILLION DOLLAR FLOOD MITIGATION AND RECREATION
PROJECT IN MILLINGTON**

The Big Creek Resilience Project seeks to prevent flooding, like the historic floods that severely damaged portions of north Shelby County in 2010 and 2011.

- WHO:** Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, Millington Mayor Terry Jones, Naval Support Activity Mid-South Commanding Officer, Captain Mike Mosbrugger, and County Commissioner Amber Mills.
- WHAT:** Big Creek Resilience Project Groundbreaking
- WHEN:** Monday, December 13, 2021 at 1 p.m.
- WHERE:** 4815 Jack Huffman Boulevard, Millington, TN 38053

Shelby County, TN – On Monday, December 13, 2021, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris will join representatives from the City of Millington, the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development, and Naval Support Activity Mid-South to break ground on a massive flood mitigation project in Millington.

This groundbreaking ceremony marks the beginning of construction for the \$40 million grant-funded flood mitigation project. The project area includes over 1,200 acres and will lower the ground level up to four feet to allow floodwaters to be contained and diverted away from nearby homes, businesses, and the Naval Support Activity Mid-South. The Big Creek project will also provide broader community benefits by the construction of trails, recreational space, an amphitheater, and other amenities.



In 2010, the Millington community experienced catastrophic flooding after 14 inches of rain fell over a two-day period. Thousands of residents were evacuated, including residents of Naval Support Activity Mid-South. The following year, 2011, historic storms and floods hit Millington again with impacts felt throughout Shelby County.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, reported flooding of rivers and waterways have increased because of climate change. Additionally, intense rain events like the one that led to the flooding of Big Creek in 2010 and 2011 have risen substantially. Nationwide, nine of the top ten years for extreme one-day precipitation have occurred since 1996.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “Climate change has caused an increase in major flooding like Millington saw in 2010 and 2011. This massive flood mitigation project will not only make this community more resilient to the effects of climate change, but also create additional greenspace, trails, and recreational areas for families to enjoy.”

Naval Support Activity Mid-South Commanding Officer, Captain Mike Mosbrugger:

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“We’re proud that Naval Support Activity Mid-South is one of the largest employers in Tennessee and home to thousands of Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Coastguardsmen, and their families. The flooding seen in 2010 caused real impact on families who live on base and concern for our ability to execute our missions. We are excited that our local partners have made resilience a priority.”

Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development Director John Zeanah: “This is likely one of the largest flood mitigation projects in the history of our county. For some time, we have been focused on this project, communicating with the community, and formulating the plan. I’m thrilled to see that work come together for the groundbreaking.”

(End of Release)