

# Memorandum

**To:** Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee  
**From:** Lori Ann Laster, Stormwater Management Engineer  
**Date:** December 31, 2024  
**Re:** FEMA Swift Current Grant Program Agreement – Puritan Manufacturing

---

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) has received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that \$10 million is available to help National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders across Nebraska become more resilient to flooding. Called Swift Current, these funds can pay for structure elevation, relocation, or demolition, and other mitigation efforts such as floodproofing. The Swift Current grant is not a nationally competitive program and all applications will be reviewed at the State level and by FEMA for award of funding.

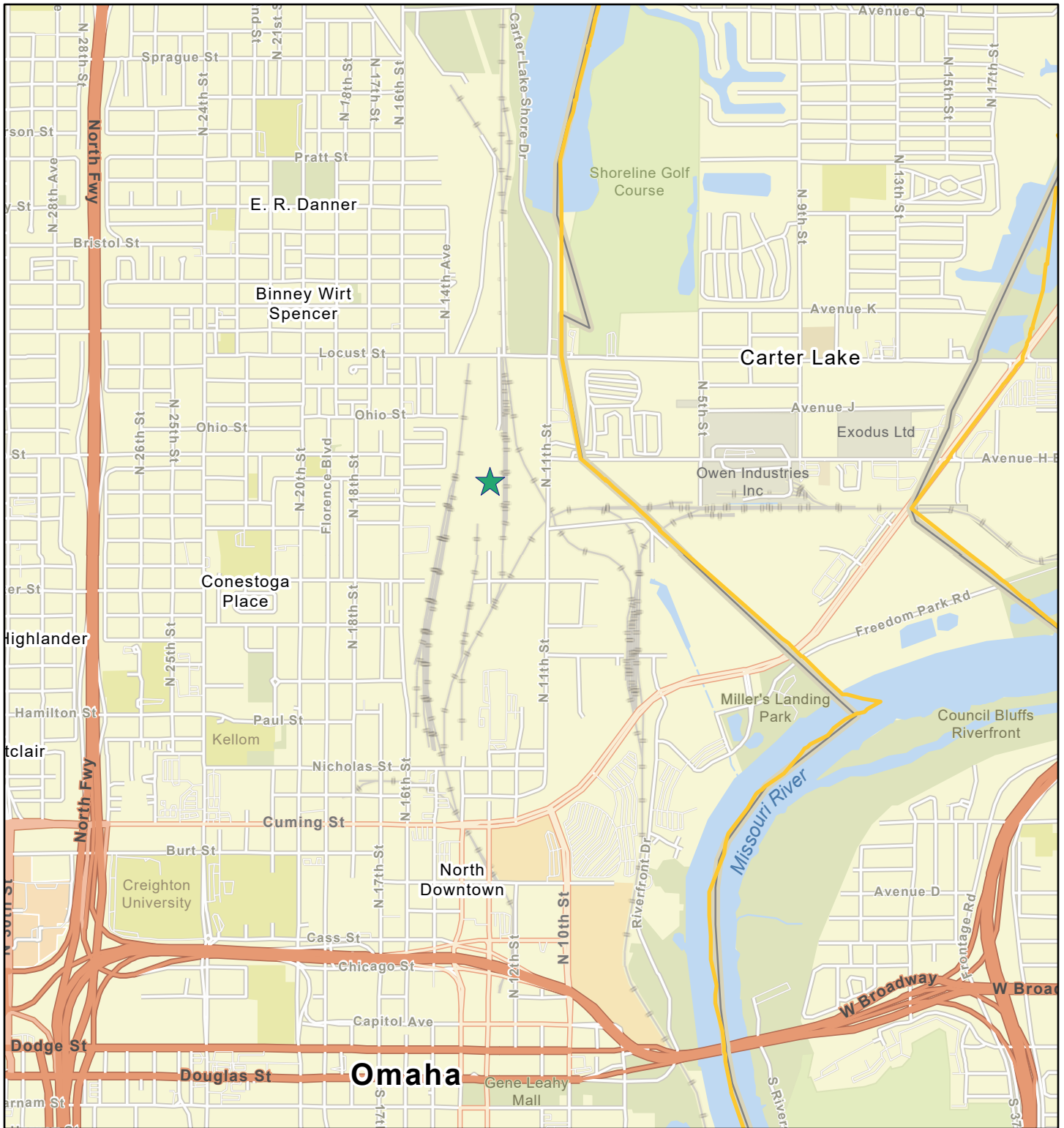
Local governments are eligible to apply for these funds that are available to properties with a repetitive loss history or that have been substantially damaged from flooding as a result of the May storm events. Repetitive loss properties (an NFIP-insured structure that has had at least 2 paid flood losses of more than \$1,000 each in any 10-year period since 1978) are eligible for 90% federal cost share to implement an eligible flood mitigation project.

Puritan Manufacturing, located at 1302 Grace Street in Omaha, has been designated as a repetitive loss property. They experience flooding regularly due to the flat topography of their site, resulting in an estimated loss of over \$1.9 million since they purchased the facility in 1980. As a result of flooding, they have worked to elevate some of the floor surfaces in their building to reduce damage, but more could be done. They would like to apply for Swift Current funding to retrofit their building to meet FEMA's dry floodproofing standard. This project would include modifications to make sure the walls are sufficiently able to withstand pressures from floodwater, prevent infiltration through exterior walls, and modify any windows and doors to make sure they are watertight.

Staff is proposing to enter into an agreement with Puritan Manufacturing to apply for the available funding. The agreement stipulates that the District will act as the local sponsor and manage the grant, including all bidding and contracting. Puritan Manufacturing will provide the 10% local match requirement.

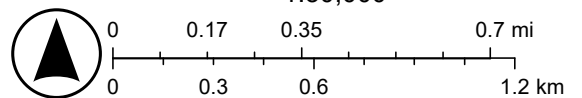
**Recommendation that the General Manager be authorized to execute the proposed agreement with Puritan Manufacturing to proceed with the Swift Current project, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approval as to form by District Legal Counsel.**

# Puritan Manufacturing Location Map



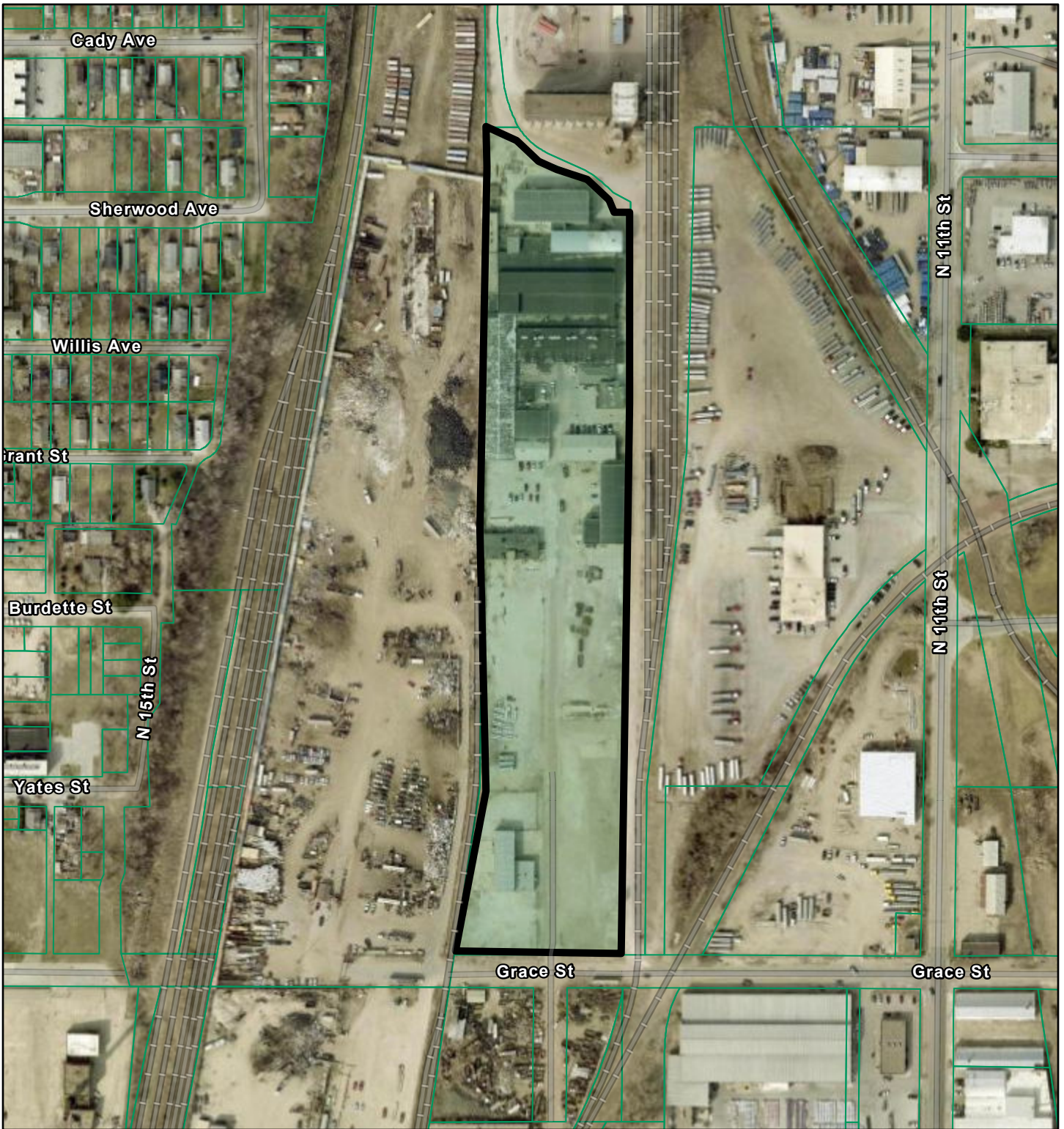
1/2/2025

1:30,000



County of Douglas, NE, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, Iowa DNR, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

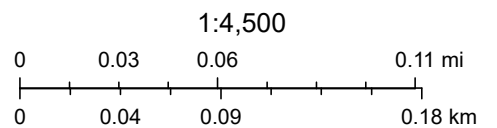
# Puritan Manufacturing Site Map



1/2/2025

- Douglas County Parcels - Web Service
- NRD Counties
- World Imagery
- Low Resolution 15m Imagery

- High Resolution 60cm Imagery
- High Resolution 30cm Imagery
- Citations
- 1.2m Resolution Metadata



Douglas County NE, Pottawattamie County, IA, Maxar, Esri Community Maps Contributors, County of Douglas, NE, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, Iowa DNR, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

Puritan Manufacturing Inc.

2/1/2019

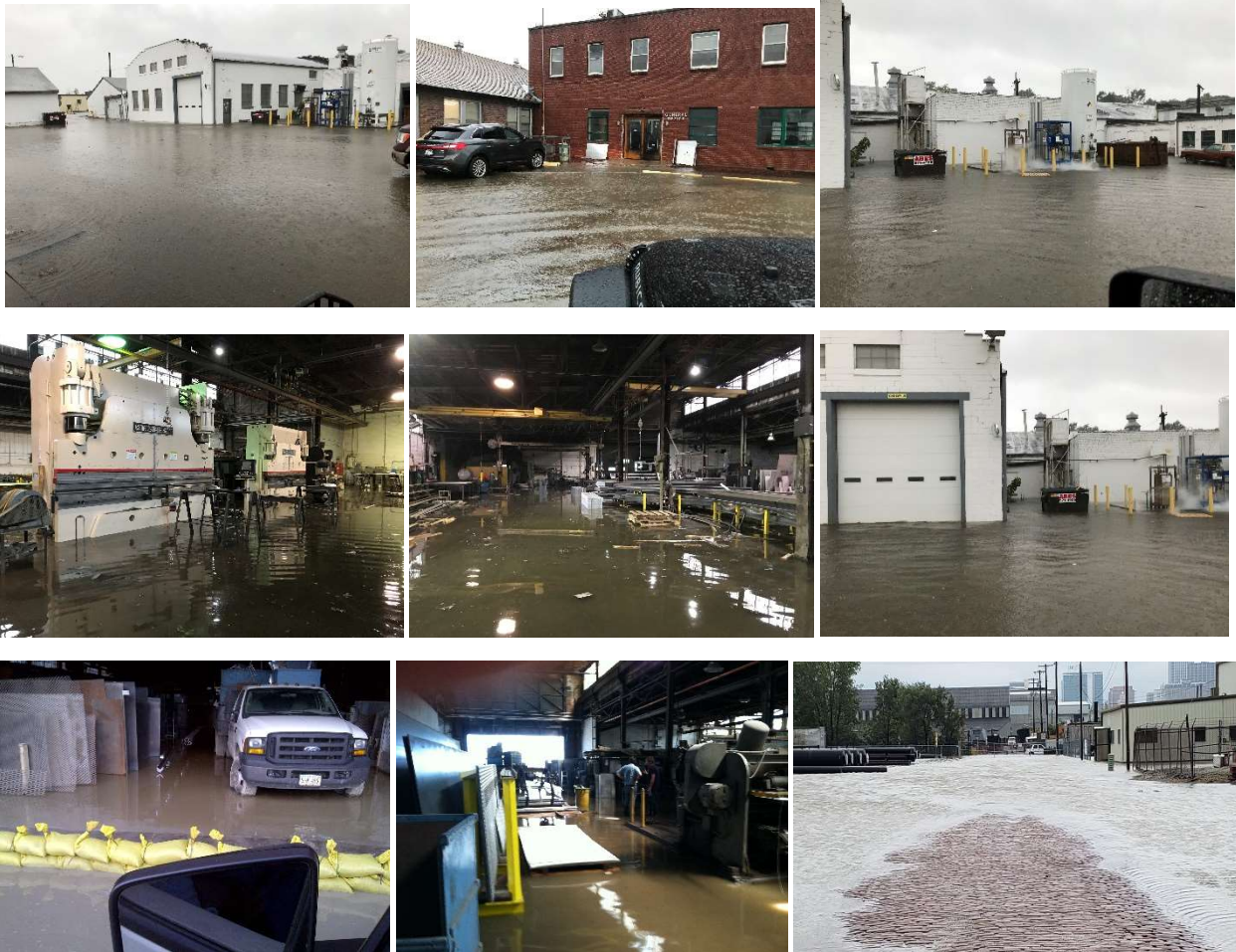
1302 Grace Street

Omaha, NE 68110

RE: Flooding Issues

Puritan moved into the current facility in 1980 where it conducts a Custom Metal Fabrication business. Our location is in North downtown Omaha between Nicholas Street and Locust Street off 11<sup>th</sup> Street. We currently employ 35 full time employees, we provide goods and services to customers in the United States and around the world. We have approximately 10 acres of land with approximately 110,000 square feet of buildings on the property.

Unfortunately since we located here in 1980 we have experienced a variety of flooding events. Most recently we had flooding issues in December of 2018. Prior to that August of 2018 of that same year was one of the worst from the standpoint of damage and downtime.



The above pictures were taken August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018.



Partial view from the air of our facility, property extends south to Grace Street not shown here.

We have consistently been flooded every spring and summer at least two or more times each calendar year.

We estimate that each of these incidents cost approximately \$15,000 per day loss labor, \$5,000 per incident cost to pump water and clean up, along with approximately \$5,000 of material loss per incident. So a total of 76 days @ \$25,000 = \$1,900,000, loss over the 38 years. The two major incidents, the one in August of 2018 and the one during the summer of 2011 costs exceeded \$250,000.

At this point in time we have no intention of leaving and moving our operation as we continue to invest in the buildings and equipment that we have. We need to greatly improve the issues regarding flooding and the lack of adequate sewer discharge during these events.

Attached is a copy of a current survey of our property, dated 1/23/2019. The entire east property line is along a road owned partially by West Plains, the southern border is Grace Street, owned by the City of Omaha, west border runs along Anderson Railroad Addition which is owned by Lakeside Recycling, our northern border is the grain elevator that is owned by West Plains Grain.

Drainage off of our property happens from two primary methods, (1) water discharges to the south down the length of our property to a 30" diameter sewer pipe that empties into the main on 11<sup>th</sup> street (see sewer map showing Grace Street Sewer map, City of Omaha) , or (2) water on the northern part of our property empties into a sewer line estimated to be 30" in diameter which runs underneath the existing railroad tracks and neighboring properties to a 72" diameter main that empties into the same 11<sup>th</sup> street main(see City of Omaha Sewer drawing of record showing sewer #37137, built in 1927).

During these rain events water runs onto our property and into our buildings from the adjacent properties. Our neighbor to the west has installed drain piping and pumps to move the water to the south to help to prevent it from coming in, but in times of heavy rains the city sewers do not seem to have the capacity to take all of the water to prevent that from happening. We have contacted West Plains who borders our north and east property lines and indicated that the added materials that have been put on the road have caused us to be flooded repeatedly. They have attempted to pile materials up along our property line to make a dirt barrier. This was not effective as water still runs onto our property from the road.

Dave Waters, VP, General Mgr.