

The Virgin Islands Consortium

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Awarded Nearly \$1 Million For Spring Gut Watershed In Christiansted

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Wednesday was awarded nearly \$1 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands for the Spring Gut Watershed. This watershed, when working properly, drains and directs the hillside water in the Gallows Bay area to the Caribbean Sea.

Improper drainage and flooding of the watershed has occurred for decades and is a source of chronic damage in both the harbor and hillside areas, increasing damage to residential property, local businesses and infrastructure, FEMA said in a release issued

Thursday.

Revitalizing the Spring Gut Watershed will reduce erosion and hazards to the marine coastal environment and Mount Welcome Hillside communities, improving the quality of life for residents and visitors. Communities that will benefit most from this project will be: Mahogany Welcome, Tulipan Welcome, The Seventh-day Adventist School and Sundial Park, the federal agency said.

The first phase of the work will include a hydrology and hydraulics study, architecture and engineering design and the development of the final scope of work, according to the release.

Phase two will be the construction phase. The estimated time of completion will be early 2022.

For more information visit: stxfoundation.org or vitrails.org for the St. Croix Foundation for Community Development and the Virgin Islands Trail Alliance.

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