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My Most Vivid Memory Concerning Water

In 2020, one of the most vivid memories of my life occurred when the roads around our house flooded. At the time, it felt like a huge inconvenience, but looking back, it became a defining moment that showed me how a community can come together to solve problems and adapt to unexpected challenges. The flood wasn't just an event; it became a catalyst for change, and it left me with a deeper understanding of both the power and necessity of good water management.

The flooding started after a wet fall and heavy snowfall that winter. The roads surrounding our house were quickly submerged in water, turning them into impassable rivers. It was frustrating at first, but fortunately, our home and property weren't damaged. The real trouble began with the travel—our usual routes became impossible to navigate. The water sat there for months, and what had once been simple drives became complicated journeys.

We got creative with our transportation. My dad would hop on the side-by-side and drive it through the field, across the little creek, just to get to the car. The ground was soft and muddy, and it felt like every day was an adventure. Even to catch the bus, we had to make some drastic adjustments. Our dad would take the side-by-side through a field and across the flooded roads just to get us to the bus stop. It was a daily reminder of how much the landscape had changed.

Eventually, we had to take a completely different route into town. What used to be a simple 10-minute drive turned into a 30-minute trek, winding through back roads and detours just to avoid the flooded areas. The inconvenience became a constant presence in our daily lives, but it was also a reminder of how much we were relying on water, both for our survival and, in this case, for our struggles.

But through all the frustration, our township was quick to act. They applied for a FEMA grant to help fix the roads and improve the drainage systems. The repair process was long, taking nearly a year to complete, but watching the progress unfold was inspiring. People in the township tore up the damaged roads and installed new culverts, working tirelessly to improve the drainage system. They even rerouted water in some areas to avoid collecting in low-lying spots. It was impressive to see how much planning went into making sure this wouldn't happen again.

What really stood out to me during that time was the way our community pulled together. Instead of letting the flood disrupt daily life for good, everyone came together to turn it into an opportunity to improve our infrastructure. It wasn't easy, and the roads were torn up for a while, but it was clear that this effort would make a big difference for the future.

This experience taught me more than just the importance of water management—it taught me about resilience, problem-solving, and the value of being proactive in the face of challenges. The flooding, though a temporary inconvenience, opened my eyes to how critical it is to plan for the unexpected. Water can be an unpredictable and powerful force, but with the right infrastructure and foresight, we can harness it to protect our communities rather than let it disrupt our lives.

In the end, the roads were repaired, and the drainage systems were improved, making the area more resilient to future storms. We had gone from dealing with a major inconvenience to having a stronger, safer system in place. Looking back, I feel grateful for how our community came together to solve the problem. What began as an inconvenience became an opportunity to improve our infrastructure and better prepare for whatever might come next.

The flood of 2020 wasn't the disaster it might have seemed at first. It was a turning point for our township, where the challenges we faced led to positive change. And for me personally, it was a reminder that even when unexpected obstacles arise, if we work together and face them head-on, we can turn them into opportunities for growth.