

Section 7

Mitigation Priorities

After evaluating the hazards facing Wayne County and identifying the number of people and the extent of property at risk, the Committee began to analyze mitigation actions that might be taken to reduce that risk. FEMA has identified six categories for successful mitigation programs. They are listed here for identifying and selecting among alternative mitigation measures.

1. Prevention. Adopting and administering ordinances, regulations, and programs that manage the development of land and buildings to minimize risks of loss due to natural hazards.

Examples: building codes, land use plans, subdivision regulations, floodplain regulations

2. Property Protection. Protecting structures, their occupants, and contents from the damaging effects of natural hazard occurrences. This includes retrofitting existing structures to increase their resistance to damage and exposure of occupants to harm, relocating vulnerable structures and occupants from hazard locations, and conversion of developed land to permanent open space through acquisition and demolition of existing structures.

Examples: acquisition of flooded homes, elevation above flood height, safe rooms, building tie downs

3. Public Education and Outreach. Educating and informing the public about the risks of hazards and the techniques available to reduce threats to life and property.

Examples: severe weather awareness events, leaflets, public service announcements on radio or television, internet access to hazard information and mitigation alternatives

4. Natural Resources Protection. Preserving and restoring the beneficial functions of the natural environment to promote sustainable community development that balances the constraints of nature with the social and economic demands of the community.

Examples: open space easements, wetland restoration/preservation, acquisition of environmentally beneficial lands

5. Emergency Services. Responding to and recovering from a natural hazard disaster.

Examples: disaster warning and forecasting systems, weather alert radios, storm shelters, flood alert gauges

6. Structural Projects. Engineering structural modifications to natural systems and public infrastructure to reduce the potentially damaging impacts of a hazard on a community.

Examples: dams, stream channel modifications, levees

There are only two ways to manage disasters. One can manage the hazard, or one can manage the development. In some cases, it is both possible and practical to manage the hazard. For example, better drainage systems for storm water can reduce the risk of flooding and keep developed land safer. However, for many hazards there are no feasible options for managing the hazard. Things like tornadoes and flooding do not allow a lot of control over the event itself. In these cases the County seeks to manage the development. These policies seek to make wise decisions that will help minimize the impact of hazards. The County has several methods and plans for controlling development.

Floodplain Regulations

The County has adopted floodplain regulations that meet all NFIP requirements. These regulations call for the proper elevation of structures and also control the effects on the floodplain itself (cuts, fills). These regulations do not ensure the safety of those who develop in the floodplain but go a long way in reducing the effects of flooding by removing structures from the projected path of water.

Subdivision Regulations

These regulations govern the development of how land will be divided into separate lots or sites. They help manage hazards by requiring proper arrangement of roads, in order to ensure the maneuverability of emergency vehicles. They also require the review and acceptance of planned public facilities that includes drainage and sewerage. These subdivision regulations are designed specifically to complement the Comprehensive Plan of the County.

Comprehensive Plan

The County has created a comprehensive plan to guide long-term development. Ingrained into the plan are ideas that are integral to sustainability and disaster resistance. The goals of the Plan include the control development through expansion of community services, land use management, and the preservation of natural resources. This plan allows the County to incorporate disaster mitigation into all future development decisions.

Building Code

These codes create minimum standards for all new or substantially improved structures to protect against natural hazard threats. For example, these standards govern the wind resistance of structures as well as their anchorage for high wind events. These codes help to strengthen our built environment by reducing the vulnerability to certain known hazards.

Mitigation Goals

This section outlines the mitigation actions that have been chosen for implementation. These actions were decided upon through a qualitative benefit-cost review conducted by the Core Committee and were based on five categories: Economically Justifiable, Technically Feasible, Socially Equitable, Publicly Acceptable, and Hazard Rank. This qualitative benefit-cost review prioritized mitigation goals from high to low based on the five categories above. This prioritization process was emphasized to maximize the benefits to cost ratio for the mitigation actions.

Afterwards, the findings of the Committee were shown to local mayors who filled out a survey in order to provide additional information. The mayors were asked to include any specific mitigation needs they had identified for their jurisdictions (see Section 5: Local Participation for the survey). Additionally, the local newspaper ran articles on the Mitigation Planning Process and the Assessment of Priorities. After this, the Committee established a final priority list. What follows is a list of Mitigation Goals for Wayne County, their associated activities, and a report of progress for each.

Goal: Educate the public on hazards awareness.

Activity 1: Facilitate severe weather training classes in conjunction with NWS.

Activity 2: Publish educational material regarding Earthquakes.

Activity 3: Publish educational material regarding Drought.

Activity 4: Publish educational material regarding Wildfires.

Activity 5: Publish educational material regarding Hazardous Materials.

Activity 6: Publish educational material regarding Subsidence.

Jurisdictions Included: All (see list in Section 5: Local Participation)

Lead Agency: Wayne County EMA, with NWS and local organizations.

Start Date: Ongoing project

Finish Date: Programs are done seasonally and at the request of local organizations or businesses.

Task 1: Provide educational materials to the Media.

Task 2: Continue to run biannual Severe Weather training.

Task 3: Solicit organizations for training.

Task 4: Specific issues will be referred to a regulatory agency.

Resources: National Weather Service, FEMA, Ohio EMA, and Local Partners.

Progress Status: Ongoing.

Much of the work toward achieving this goal is done by the Wayne-Holmes Emergency Coalition. Once every month, the Wayne-Holmes Emergency Coalition publishes an article in the Daily Record as a public information service. These articles focus on a different topic every month and spotlight hazard awareness information that is generally relevant to the current season.

Goal: Increase the tornado siren system within the County.

Activity 1: Buy new or update old tornado sirens and coordinate their usage within the County.

Activity 2: Narrow banding of sirens to conform to the radio system.

Jurisdictions Included: All (see list in Section 5: Local Participation)

Lead Agency: Wayne County EMA along with local jurisdictions

Start Date: November 2004

Finish Date: Dependent upon local participation and budgetary constraints.

Task 1: Evaluate current sirens.

Task 2: Identify ones in need of either replacement, or repair.

Task 3: Identify any new areas that would require sirens.

Task 4: Work with local jurisdictions to secure funding.

Task 5: Purchase and install new sirens and/or repair old sirens.

Task 6: Help to establish consistent activation and maintenance protocol.

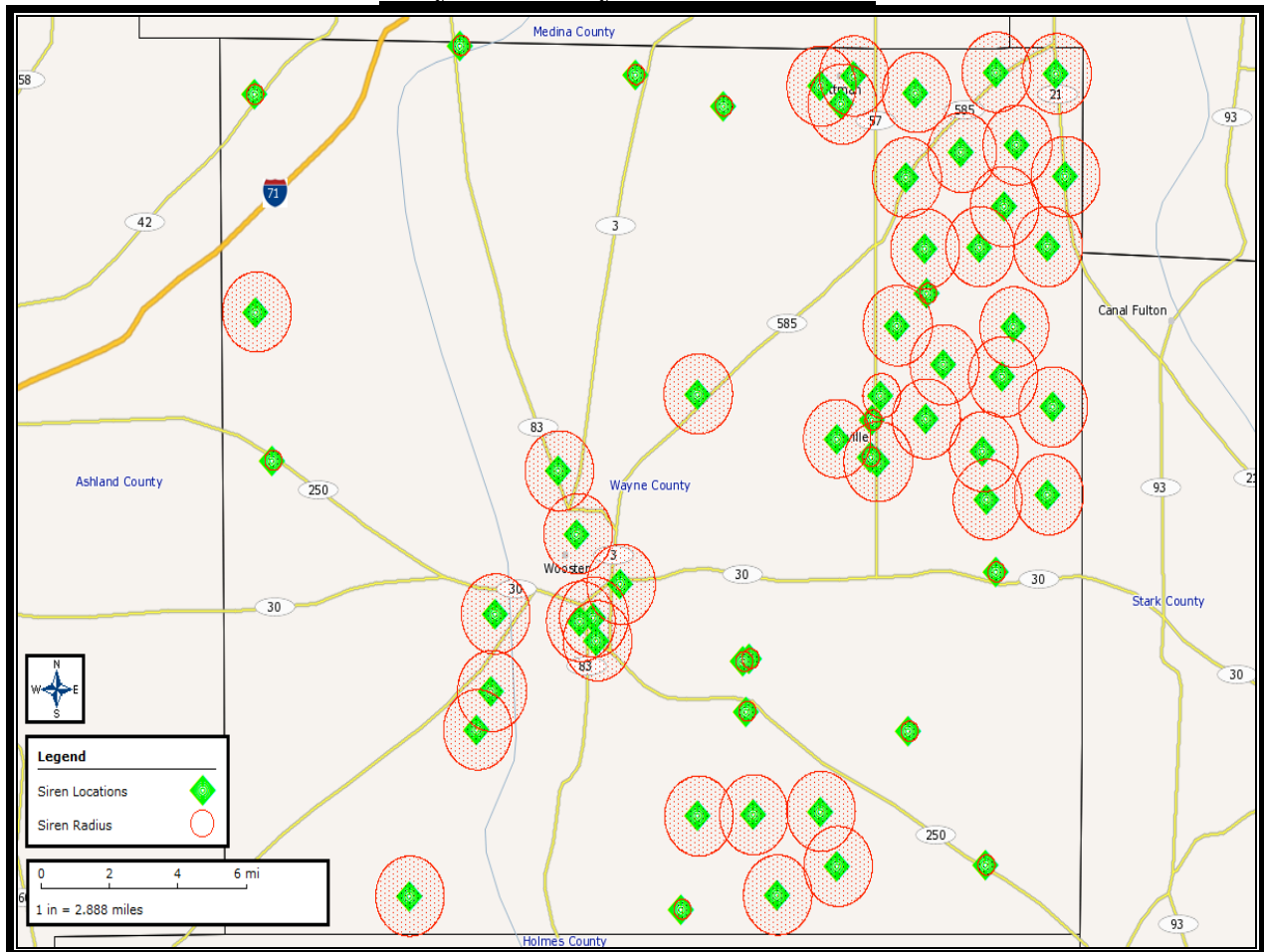
Task 7: Educate citizens on meaning and response to siren.

Resources: Special Projects Grants (EMPG), any other grants and resources as they become available.

Progress Status: Ongoing.

Currently, there are 60 sirens located throughout the major population centers of the County. These sirens are within an audible distance of around 70% of the population. In order to ensure that the public recognizes these sirens and to maintain proper function, they are regularly tested on the first Monday of every month at noon.

Wayne County Siren Locations



Goal: Reduce future risk by proactive planning for future development.

Activity 1: Review and update the plans that govern future development. (Floodplain Regulations, Building Code, Subdivision Regulations, Zoning)

Jurisdictions Included: All (see list in Section 5: Local Participation)

Lead Agency: Wayne County Planning Department, Wayne County Building Code, and local jurisdictions

Start Date: Ongoing projects- plans have maintenance schedules built in.

Finish Date: N/A. Plans are continually reviewed or redone.

Task 1: Identify all planning regulations that govern future development.

Task 2: Work to incorporate mitigation ideas into planning.

Task 3: Help to see that regulations are enforced.

Task 4: Participate in reviews to improve regulations.

Resources: Wayne County Comprehensive Plan, and Local Building Codes.

Progress Status: Ongoing.

Wayne County and its Jurisdictions review and update the plans that govern development on a regular basis. For example, the County is currently using the most up to date version of the State of Ohio Building Codes (the 2007 OBC and the 2006 RCO, both including the January 2009 updates) as the County Standard.

Goal: Help to mitigate losses from floods.

Activity 1: Have every community with floodplain in NFIP.

Jurisdictions Included: Currently all communities within 100 year floodplain are NFIP compliant, with the exception of Shreve

Lead Agency: Wayne County Planning Department, and EMA

Start Date: Ongoing project

Finish Date: Unknown- locals have complete discretion

Task 1: Continue discussions with communities on NFIP.

Task 2: Use any available resources to show benefits of NFIP.

Task 3: Get communities to commit to NFIP program.

Task 4: Establish inter-governmental agreements as needed.

Task 5: Work with County and locals to see support for program.

Task 6: Pass proper legislation to activate the program.

Task 7: Help with education and implementation of NFIP.

Resources: NFIP, FEMA Flood Mapping, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Progress Status: Ongoing.

During the original 2004 drafting of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, three communities within the 100 year floodplain had yet to join NFIP: Wooster, Shreve, and Burbank. By the time of the 2010 Plan revision, Wooster and Burbank had joined. As of the first quarter of 2010, Shreve is the only at-risk community in Wayne County that is not participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Additionally, it should be noted that in 2009 the State reaffirmed the Wayne County Floodplain Regulations' continued compliance with NFIP standards.

Goal: Mitigate Repetitive Loss Properties along Jennings Ditch

Activity 1: Acquisition and demolition of dwellings within the 100-year floodplain.

Jurisdictions Involved: Wooster Township

Lead Agency: Wayne County EMA and Consultants

Start Date: 7/17/2008

Finish Date: 12/31/2009

Task 1: Secure funding for acquisition/demolition.

Task 2: Hire firm to manage project.

Task 3: Appraise properties within the 100-year floodplain.

Task 4: Acquire properties/restore ground.

Resources: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

Progress Status: Completed.

Wayne County was able to purchase the repetitive loss properties in the unincorporated area known as Jennings Ditch, just north of Shreve. The structures on those properties have subsequently been demolished.

Goal: Increase the effectiveness of our emergency notification systems.

Activity 1: If possible, implement reverse 9-1-1 for select facilities.

Jurisdictions Included: All (see list in Section 5: Local Participation)

Lead Agency: Wayne County EMA

Start Date: January 2005

Finish Date: Dependent upon budgetary constraints.

Task 1: Identify the cost of installing and maintaining system.

Task 2: Conduct cost versus benefit analysis.

Task 3: See if there is funding available, now or in future.

Task 4: Identify the number of high-risk facilities that would receive notification.

Task 5: Determine agency that would operate system.

Task 6: Begin installation of phone lines and equipment.

Task 7: Determine protocol and maintenance of system.

Resources: Any grants and other resources as they become available.

Progress Status: No Change.

The funds required for this project have not yet been made available. This goal is still considered to be viable and has been left on the list for this reason.

Goal: Reduce flood risk in City of Rittman.

Activity 1: Engineering study of storm water runoff for Landis Ditch.

Jurisdictions Included: City of Rittman

Lead Agency: City of Rittman, Wayne County EMA, and Engineering Firm.

Start Date: Dependent upon availability of funds.

Finish Date: Dependent upon availability of funds and start date.

Task 1: Secure funding for engineering study.

Task 2: Hire firm to conduct study.

Task 3: Use study to analyze possible mitigation measures.

Task 4: Select appropriate measures and begin to implement them.

Resources: Any grants and other resources as they become available.

Progress Status: No Change.

The funds required for this project have not yet been made available. This goal is still considered to be viable and has been left on the list for this reason.

Goal: Reduce flood risk for City of Orrville.

Activity 1: Construction of a detention basin in the Crown Hill area.

Jurisdictions Included: City of Orrville

Lead Agency: City of Orrville, Wayne County EMA, and Engineering Firm.

Start Date: 2005.

Finish Date: 2009.

Task 1: Secure funding for project.

Task 2: Hire firm to construct detention basin.

Resources: City of Orrville, OPWC, OEPA, and OWDA.

Progress Status: Completed.

The City of Orrville completed a project to excavate a two acre storm water detention basin near the Crown Hill Cemetery. The detention basin was designed to have the capacity to hold back 14- to 15 acre-feet of water. 14 to 15 acre-feet is the equivalent of the amount of water it would take to cover 14 or 15 acres to the depth of one foot.

Goal: Identify and Quantify risk due to all Class 1 dams in the County.

Activity 1: Conduct inundation studies on all Class 1 dams in the County.

Jurisdictions Included: All (see list in Section 5: Local Participation)

Lead Agency: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Start Date: Dependent upon availability of funds.

Finish Date: Dependent upon availability of funds and start date.

Task 1: Contact and solicit cooperation of owners of Class 1 dams.

Task 2: Hire Engineering Firm to conduct study (will likely require grant funding).

Task 3: Use study to analyze possible mitigation measures.

Task 4: Select appropriate measures and begin to implement them.

Resources: Any grants as they become available, ODNR, MWCD.

Progress Status: No Change.

The funds required for this project have not yet been made available. However, recent changes set forth by Ohio Legislation and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) may provide incentives for dam owners to create and keep up to date Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for each individual dam under their control. Part of the process of creating an EAP would be to conduct an inundation study. Such incentives may allow this Goal to be soon realized. Additionally, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) may provide another valuable resource and potential partner in this project. Currently the MWCD is dealing with several pressing projects, but after their completion the MWCD may turn its attention to this issue due to ODNR incentives.