Community Rating System (CRS)
Activity 510
Floodplain Management Planning

2024 Annual Evaluation Report on Progress with Implementing Flood Action Items in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)

Prepared for

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Introduction

This report summarizes the activities carried out by agencies in Prince George's County in accordance with Community Rating System (CRS) requirements for participating communities which received credit for CRS Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning) during CRS reporting period October 15, 2023 through October 15, 2024. This year's report summarizes a review of each flood management related action item for Prince George's County which has been identified in the *Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023* (HMP). It describes what was implemented (or not implemented) during the reporting period and recommends changes to the action plan as appropriate. A description of how this report will be shared with the governing body, released to the public and made available to the public has been documented.

Also, the Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting met on September 18, 2024 to review flooding mitigation action items in the HMP. A copy of the meeting minutes is included in Attachment A.

Floodplain Management Planning

The Community Rating System (CRS) gives participating communities credit for producing an overall strategy of programs, projects and measures that will reduce the adverse impact of flood hazards and help to meet other community needs. CRS credits multi-hazard mitigation plans which include floodplain management planning. Because the *Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023* (HMP 2023) identifies flooding as a natural hazard affecting the County and the HMP 2023 planning process is consistent with the 10-Step CRS planning process, the County receives credit for floodplain management planning under CRS Activity 510. To remain eligible for floodplain management planning credit, the County must submit an evaluation of the progress on implementing the HMP 2023 flood action items.

10-Step CRS Floodplain Management Process

1. Organize to prepare the plan
2. Involve the public
3. Coordinate
4. Assess the hazard
5. Assess the problem
6. Set goals
7. Review possible activities
8. Draft an action plan
9. Adopt the plan
10. Implement, evaluate and revise

Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023

The Prince George's County Council passed Council Resolution CR-65-2023 to adopt the *Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023* (HMP 2023) on September 26, 2023. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved HMP 2023 by letter dated November 3, 2023. This 5-year plan will expire September 25, 2028.

A copy of the original plan can be obtained from the Prince George's County Department of Homeland Security (OHS), Emergency Management Division (EMD) at 7915 Anchor Street, Landover, Maryland 20785. Also, a digital copy of this plan is available at Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Annual Evaluation Report Preparation, Approval and Dissemination

Staff representing the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) prepared the 2024 annual evaluation of progress report and shared it with the County's OHS/EMD which coordinates with other offices and entities on relevant activities, accomplishments and progress. The report preparer served on the Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) that guided development of HMP 2023.

The 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual advises that a CRS community which receives credit for floodplain management planning must prepare an annual evaluation of progress on implementing relevant action items in their multi-hazard mitigation plan. It requires the participating community to submit this report to the governing entity, release it to the media and make it available to the public. Also, the County is required to engage the original planning committee for the hazard mitigation plan, or a successor committee of similar makeup, in monitoring the plan and to meet at least annually with the committee to evaluate plan implementation. The MAC met on September 18, 2024 to evaluate progress towards implementation of flood mitigation actions in HMP 2023. Meeting minutes are included in Attachment A.

DoE has submitted this evaluation report to the Office of the County Executive with the recertification request package. This report is posted on DoE's website and has been released to the media.

Flooding Mitigation Action Items Review

HMP 2023 identifies 43 mitigation actions for Prince George's County. Fifteen (15) of these mitigation actions relate to flood hazard management. Table 1 – HMP 2023 Flooding Mitigation Actions gives a snapshot of these actions and respective descriptions of implementation progress. Plan assigned priority level and timeframe influence progress on implementation.

Table 1. HMP 2023 Flooding Mitigation Actions

Action #	Action	Progress on Implementation
PG-4	Collect flood depth information to support a grant to provide elevation certificates in areas newly included in the Special Flood Hazard Area or to those experiencing flooding issues to support Letter of Map Amendments (LOMA) or NFIP premium reductions.	**Priority**: Medium **Timeframe**: Funding contingent **Implementation Status**: This mitigation strategy has not been implemented. This action will be implemented as funding is made available.

PG-6	Prohibit all waivers to allow development in floodplains.	**Priority:** High **Timeframe:** Ongoing **Implementation Progress:** Not implemented. Floodplain waiver requests are evaluated and approved on a case-by-case basis. Implementation requires on-going collaboration among permitting, planning and environmental agencies and offices.
PG-9	Require County Stormwater Management (SWM) Standards to Incorporate Projected Climate Change Impacts by using approved downscaled and up-to-date climate impact information to reevaluate peak rainfall estimates and future design storm profiles. Evaluate SWM standards using this criterion at least every three (3) years. Require all upgrades of County storm drain systems and Capital Improvement Project roadway, bridge, culvert and stormwater management repair or renovation projects to meet these updated climate-resilient design criteria.	**Priority:** Medium **Timeframe:** Long-term **Implementation Progress:** Not implemented – This action is contingent on development and adoption of design standards update. As Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) continues to develop guidance for flood and stormwater management in a changing climate – Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland (A-StoRM) - the County will follow MDE guidance.
PG-10	Avoid Future Development in Flood Inundation Areas Below Existing High-hazard Potential Dams. Require that plan sets for subdivision proposals and permit applications to show the danger reach and inundation area and prohibit new construction in these areas.	**Priority:** High **Timeframe:** Ongoing **Implementation Status:** Not implemented – Implementation requires on-going collaboration with permitting, planning and environmental agencies and offices.
PG-14	Support mitigation projects that will result in the protection of public or private property from natural hazards. Eligible projects include but are not limited to: 1. acquisition of hazard-prone property or structures 2. Elevation of flood-prone structures 3. Minor structural flood control projects 4. Relocation of structures from hazard-prone areas 5. Retrofitting of existing buildings, facilities, and infrastructure 6. Retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities for shelters 7. Critical infrastructure protection measures 8. Stormwater management improvements 9. Advanced warning systems and hazard gauging systems (weather radios,	**Priority:** **Timeframe:** **Implementation Status:** In-progress – The County's 5-Year Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget allocates funding for flood mitigation projects. County agencies continue to implement flood control projects and stormwater management improvements.

	reverse-911, stream gauges, I-flows) 10. Targeted hazard education 11. wastewater and water supply system hardening and mitigation	Also, the County continues to operate and maintain a 40-gauge flood warning system.
PG-18	Implement proposed flood mitigation projects from the upcoming watershed study for the Collington Branch Stream. Develop a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Laurel to inspect and clean the portion of the stream that runs through their jurisdiction.	**Priority:** High **Timeframe:** Long-term **Implementation Status:** Not implemented – It's recommended that this action be revised to correct reference to the City of Laurel. Collington Branch is outside city limits.
PG-19	Conduct a study to determine the feasibility of creating a stormwater park/greenway (or another watershed- or landscape-scale flood risk reduction project) that will improve natural floodplain functions in areas of high risk.	**Priority:** Medium **Timeframe:** Short-term **Implementation Status:** Not implemented – Funding opportunities for this action will explored.
PG-20	Develop a program to utilize vacant land (both publicly and privately owned) for stormwater management. Acquire land to serve the dual purpose of green infrastructure/ stormwater infiltration and recreational/open space.	**Priority:** Medium **Timeframe:** Ongoing **Implementation Status:** Not implemented – Funding opportunities for this action will be explored.
PG-25	Conduct a Countywide Flood Assessment (including pluvial mapping) to understand the impact of updated rainfall intensity estimates per the latest version of NOAA Atlas 14, recent elevation data, and stormwater controls. Identify priority areas for mitigation projects and update the stormwater ordinance as needed.	**Priority:** High **Timeframe:** Ongoing **Implementation Status:** In-progress – Watershed flood hazard assessments and flood mitigation studies are underway for Western Branch, Piscataway Creek and Oxon Run Watersheds. Also, sub-watershed flood hazard assessments and flood mitigation studies are underway for Wells Run and Guilford Run sub-watersheds.
PG-26	Develop structural and action plans with inundation mapping for all High Hazard Potential Dams with poor conditions and no Emergency Action Plans. Develop structural and action plans for high-risk pump stations, levees, and other flood control infrastructure. Ensure a process for supporting affected "downflow" communities that a dam failure hazard would inundate.	**Priority:** High **Timeframe:** Long-term **Implementation Status:** In-progress – Emergency action plans for new/updated high hazard potential dams are being developed. These plans include inundation mapping.
PG-27	Implement stormwater management projects, such as drainage retrofits, to address	**Priority:** High **Timeframe:** Ongoing

	pluvial/stormwater flooding in community-identified areas. Prioritize restoration projects from the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that will support the Plan 2035 future land use pattern. Downtowns should be given priority for stormwater retrofits, especially environmental site design practices. Land acquisition or ecological restoration activities should be targeted to stronghold watersheds.	**Implementation Status:** In-progress - The County's 5-Year Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget allocates funding for drainage retrofits to address pluvial /stormwater flooding in community-identified areas. County agencies continue to implement projects to alleviate pluvial flooding in municipalities as well as unincorporated areas of the County.
PG-30	Update Upper Marlboro Emergency Response Plan to address flooding, including evacuation, emergency response, mitigation, etc.	**Priority:** Medium **Timeframe:** Short-term **Implementation Status:** Not started – A recent FEMA grant award to develop a new standard operating procedure for the flood warning system provides opportunity to update a component the Upper Marlboro Emergency Response Plan.
PG-34	Assess Climate Projections and Consequences of Dam and Levee Failure. Analyze baseline conditions against local/regional climate projections to highlight future vulnerabilities and risk. Model hydrological loads to the consequences of failure under present and future conditions and jointly evaluate dams, levees, and interdependent components. Incorporate Findings in Emergency Action Plans.	**Priority**: High **Timeframe**: Ongoing **Implementation Status**: Not implemented – This action is contingent on development and adoption of design standards update. As Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) continues to develop guidance for flood and stormwater management in a changing climate – Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland (A-StoRM) - the County will follow MDE guidance.
PG-35	Continue annual flood risk awareness and mitigation mailing to all owners of high-risk properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area, including Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss structures. Provide additional outreach in response to new/upcoming grant opportunities and funding.	**Priority:** High **Timeframe:** Ongoing **Implementation Status:** Implemented – Annual flood risk awareness and mitigation mailings continue to owners of

		high-risk properties in Special Flood Hazard Area, including RL properties. County agencies will continue outreach to communities in watersheds for which new flood hazard assessments are underway. County agencies will also continue outreach to communities where flood control and stormwater management CIPs are in-progress.
PG-38	Conduct outreach to homeowners located on Founders Terrace (and other high-priority streets/neighborhoods) on opportunities to get funding for potential flood mitigation projects for the streams that run behind their homes.	**Priority:** Medium **Timeframe:** Short-term **Implementation Status:** On-going - A homeowner who experiences credible flooding conditions which damage their house or who experiences erosion which threatens the structural integrity of their house are eligible for flood mitigation projects. Drainage investigators advise such residents of this eligibility.

Review of Implementation Schedule

HMP 2023 is a 5-year plan. The County is in Year 2 of the plan performance period. While several flood mitigation actions are in-progress, no activity has occurred on several other flood mitigation actions. Implementation progress is expected to accelerate across all flood mitigation actions over the remaining years of plan performance period.

Recommendations– New Projects or Revisions

A minor text revision to Action #PG-18 has been recommended. New projects have not recommended. The identified text revision and any future revisions and new projects will be recommended for incorporation in the new plan update as appropriate.