CRS Activity 510

Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Date this Report was Prepared: 09/28/2022

Name of Community: City of Huntsville AL (City)

Name of Plan: Alabama EMA Division F Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date of Adoption of Plan: 6-8-2022

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: October 2023

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:

   The plan was recently approved and will be posted on the city of Huntsville's website in the near future.

2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

   This report is available to the public on our City website under Environment>Water>Flooding. Our City Communications office released it to the media. It was emailed to the governing body.

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

   See Below (the evaluation of each goal is in **bold**)

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

   See below

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

   See Below

Seek a Countywide update of all FIRMs (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) in digital format, with an emphasis on detailed studies of developed and developing areas with elevations provided and floodways delineated.

FIRMs continued to be updated periodically. The last update was in 2018.

Evaluate additional land use restrictions within designated flood zones, such as prohibition of storage of buoyant materials, storage of hazardous materials, restrictive development of flood ways, among others.

No additional land use restrictions have been implemented in the last year.

Maintain a library of technical assistance and guidance materials to support the local floodplain manager.

The guidance materials are updated on a continual basis for use by the local floodplain manager.

Obtain membership for local floodplain managers in the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

Local floodplain managers have access to ASFM membership.

Evaluate the effectiveness of higher regulatory standards, such as additional building elevation and limitation of fill within floodplains, to be included in local floodplain management regulations.

No additional higher regulatory standards have been implemented in the last year.

Provide technical assistance to owners to advise on available retrofits to protect against flood damage.

The city employs a drainage engineer to meet with homeowners and discuss options for reducing their flood risk. The drainage engineer meets with property owners on a weekly basis.

Seek funding such as Community Development Block Grant funds, to assist low-income homeowners with building retrofits to protect against flood damage.

The city continues to pursue alternate funding sources to reduce flood risk.

Promote the purchase of insurance coverage for flooding, earthquake, and sinkhole damages in high-risk areas by property owners and renters.

The city conducts an annual flood mailout that promotes the purchase of flood insurance. We also speak with citizens about their flood risk concerns and where appropriate recommend the purchase of flood insurance.

Acquire or relocate high-risk, flood prone buildings and convert those properties to permanent open space with covenants that prevent future development. The emphasis should be buildings located within floodways, substantially damaged buildings, repetitive flood insurance loss properties, pre-FIRM buildings (constructed prior to the enactment of local floodplain regulations), and critical facilities. Where feasible, acquisition or relocation is preferred over elevating or flood proofing structures.

No purchase of high risk properties has been completed in the past year.

Acquire all floodway properties within the City of Huntsville and/or remove all structures from the floodway.

No purchase of floodway properties has been completed in the past year.

Elevate buildings, where feasible, to reduce potential flood damages. The emphasis should be on certain buildings where acquisition or relocation is not feasible and on buildings not compliant with floodplain regulations. Elevating structures may be an alternative to acquisition/relocation and is preferred over flood proofing, where most feasible.

The city continues to regulate according to the substantial improvement rule, and occasionally property owners choose to elevate their structures to become compliant with FEMA regulations.

Flood proof buildings where feasible to reduce potential flood damages. The emphasis should be on non-residential buildings constructed before the enactment of flood plain regulations (pre-FIRM buildings). Flood proofing should only be considered if acquisition/relocation or building elevation is not feasible.

Where applicable, the city regulates and provides information for flood proofing non-residential structures.

Enforce dumping regulations.

The city continues to enforce dumping regulations.

Enforce erosion and sedimentation control regulations.

The city continues to enforce erosion and sedimentation control regulations.

Seek technical assistance through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System with Best Management Practices (BMP) for channel and drainage system maintenance.

The employees at the city conduct bi-annual professional development to stay on top of the latest Best Management Practices.

Establish a flood warning system at strategic locations in the county to cover vulnerable flood locations. Sensors should provide real-time access to stream flow, stream stage, and precipitation data, at the minimum. The system should link data into GIS with the ability to use measured and forecasted rainfall to predict potential flood levels and create real-time maps of flooded areas.

The city has not implemented a flood warning system in the last year.

Prepare and implement standard operating procedures for drainage system maintenance.

The city has not changed its standard operating procedures for drainage system maintenance in the last year.

Dallas Branch and Pinhook Creek Flood Mitigation Project: on Pinhook Creek, from twin RR bridge immediately north of Holmes Avenue, north to confluence of Dallas Branch, and Dallas Branch, upstream to Coleman Street.

The city plans to further pursue funding opportunity through Alabama EMA/FEMA.

Evaluate, design, and implement cost effective flood control (structural) projects, including, but not limited to, channel expansions, bridge expansions, pipes and culverts, detention basins, and bridge demolitions within the City of Huntsville.

The city has a drainage budget that is used to improve the flood risk of properties within the city. This work continued in the last year.

Aldridge Creek and Four Mile Post Road flood control project (bridge expansion and channel improvements): engineering design and construction project to modify and expand the existing bridge opening in order to increase the hydraulic capacity of the existing bridge structure.

This project has not been completed. No change within the last year.

Broglan Branch and Clinton Avenue flood control project (bridge expansion and channel improvements): engineering design and construction project to replace the existing undersized bridge structure in order to maximize the hydraulic capacity of the bridge.

This project has not been completed. No change within the last year.

Broglan Branch flood control project bridge expansion and channel improvements): engineering design and construction project to increase the capacity of Broglan Branch between Holmes Avenue and Clubview Drive. Project includes channel improvements along the project limits and bridge expansion at University Drive and possible acquisition of property and homes

This project has not been completed. No change within the last year.

Peavy Creek flood control project bridge expansion and channel improvements): engineering study, design, and construction project to decrease the peak flood discharges along Peavy Creek. Project will include acquisition of property (see mitigation measure # 2.3.2), construction of a detention/retention facility, channel improvements and replacement of existing undersized bridge structure at Little Cove Road

Some channel improvements have been made to Peavy Creek within the last year.

Governors Drive/U.S. Hwy 431 drainage improvements: engineering design and construction project to increase capacity of the existing undersized drainage facilities that drain Governors Drive and convey flood waters from Governors Drive to Fagan Creek.

This project has not been completed. No change within the last year.

Pinhook Creek Flood Mitigation Project: flood control project in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; on Pinhook Creek from Memorial Parkway north to twin RR bridge immediately north of Holmes Avenue.

We were awarded a RAISE grant from USDOT that will encompass this project.

Discussion of why items were not achieved or are behind schedule:

The city of Huntsville employs a Senior Civil Engineer to oversee \ Floodplain Management and a Senior Civil Engineer to oversee Drainage Projects. The floodplain management side also includes a floodplain management analyst. For the most part, the high priority items are on schedule. We continue to pursue funding to address the lower priority items.

New projects and revised recommendations:

The RAISE grant application previously mentioned includes additional channel improvements along Huntsville Spring Branch south of Memorial Pkwy. through the south side of the Lowe Mill property/development.

The city has contracted with a local engineering firm to provide a hydraulic/hydrologic evaluation of a large portion of the 5 points area in order to prioritize both projects and funding in the area to reduce the most flood risk for the money we have available.

The city has contracted with a local engineering firm to analyze the hydraulic/hydrologic condition of the upper portions of Fagan Creek to get some proposed mitigation projects for flooding in that area (primarily related to flash flooding).