

2022 State Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan DRAFT Mitigation Goals and Objectives

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources manages our most precious natural resource--water--through sound partnerships, cooperation, and science-based decision making.

Goal

Goals describe the overall direction that Nebraska will take to reach its mission. The order in which they are listed is not indicative of any ranking.

Objectives

Objectives link goals and actions and help organize the plan for efficient implementation.

A. Reduce or eliminate long term flood risk to **human life and property**.

- Promote and support initiatives that **protect or exclude human habitation in flood zones**.
- Improve **emergency communication** and flood **warning systems**.
- **Manage development and growth** to minimize flood risks.
- **Reduce, remove, or mitigate existing structures** in flood hazard areas.
- Identify opportunities to mitigate vulnerable **State facilities, local critical facilities, and other Lifeline-related facilities**.

B. Preserve and enhance the **natural and beneficial functions of floodplains**.

- Encourage the use of **green and natural infrastructure**, and promote resilient and sustainable construction to reduce vulnerabilities.
- Encourage integration of **future climate trends** in planning and design.
- Promote the continued use of **natural systems and features**, and **open space preservation**, in land use planning and development by local jurisdictions.

C. Promote **public awareness** of flood hazards and post-flooding response.

- Provide **educational** opportunities to the **public** to learn about flood risk, flood mitigation, floodplain management, and post-flooding response.

D. **Coordinate** with federal, state and local partners for flood mitigation **planning and program** efforts.

- Provide **technical assistance to communities, State agencies, and Federal agencies** to assist with identification of flood hazards.
- Provide **best available floodplain mapping** and regulatory data for floodplain management and hazard mitigation planning purposes.
- Coordinate with State and Federal agencies regarding **disaster response**.
- Coordinate with state and local agencies on **mitigation** efforts, and promote **resiliency and sustainability**.

2022 DRAFT Flood Hazard Mitigation Actions

Actions are activities or projects that support the accomplishment of the goals and mission. These are sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from flood hazard and its effects. The following mitigation actions are proposed as holistic, discrete, and cost effective approaches to flood hazard mitigation. The mitigation actions have been grouped in accordance with FEMA's mitigation action categories: Structure and Infrastructure, Local Plans and Regulations, Natural Systems Protection, and Education and Awareness Programs. Also note that each group color correlates with a draft mitigation goal.

Structure and Infrastructure	Natural Systems Protection	Education and Awareness Programs	Local Plans/Regulations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit percentage of impervious surface within re-developed parcels and those under development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish or enhance programs to link, manage, and expand existing parks and open space to help manage stormwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with emergency management to provide flood forecasting and community warning or public notification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate flood hazard mitigation into the community's comprehensive plan, agency strategic plans, or program guidance materials.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize or require the use of low-impact development techniques to manage stormwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an open space acquisition, reuse, and preservation program targeting flood hazard areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually distribute flood safety pamphlets to residents in flood-prone areas. Encourage landlords to do the same. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually update plans and guidance as new information or best available data becomes available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a buyouts program to acquire residential properties and local business that experience repetitive flood losses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a land banking program for the preservation of natural and beneficial functions of flood hazard areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate citizens about safety during flood conditions, such as: avoid electrical hazard, and to not drive through flood water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate multiple levels of backup safety in plans should primary flood protections fail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a fund to maintain or rehabilitate existing flood protection infrastructure, such as flood walls, levees, and diversions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design policy and pursue projects to promote stream and wetland restoration for the retention, drainage, and diversion of stormwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach residents the importance of clearing storm drains of debris, and securing propane tanks, yard items, or stored objects that may be swept away or pose a hazard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify vulnerable community members and plan for additional support or public services during and after a flooding event.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt policies to support green infrastructure for the absorption and retention of stormwater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain property easements for use as water retention and drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents to develop household evacuation plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage development to limit flooding and improve runoff and stormwater management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement best management practices for stormwater when constructing or rehabilitating facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require local construction to restore, protect, and preserve wetlands for management of stormwater, especially those upstream of flood hazard areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind realtors of State requirement to disclose in writing whether the property is in a SFHA, or whether the property has incurred any damage due to flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit storage of materials that may be hazardous, flammable, explosive, or buoyant from storage within the SFHA.

Structure and Infrastructure

- Routinely **clean and repair stormwater drains**, conduits, and other infrastructure.
- Require new residential development, walkways, driveways, roadways be elevated and designed such that **dryland access to evacuation** routes out of the floodplain area is ensured.
- Add or increase local **freeboard** requirement for structure, mechanical, and electrical equipment to 1' or greater.
- Require that fill within the SFHA result in **no net loss of natural floodplain storage** by providing equal storage volume at or adjacent to the development site.
- Adopt standards for **fill compaction, slope, materials, and armoring**.
- Use check valves, sump pumps, and **backflow prevention devices** in homes and public facilities.
- Increase stormwater utility drainage capacity with **detention and retention basins**, debris removal, an other methods.
- Design roadways, bridges, or utilities with **future flood conditions** incorporated.
- Use **natural bank stabilization** techniques.

Natural Systems Protection

- Adopt **stream and wetland buffers** or **setback** requirements.
- For subdivision and large developments, require a **stormwater management plan** limiting peak runoff for rainfall events, and limiting impacts to downstream channels and floodplains.
- Require or promote the use of **vegetative buffers** around streams, channels, and water sources to sequester and manage runoff.
- Encourage the use of rain gardens, vegetation, landscaping, and other **techniques that sequester and manage stormwater**.

Education and Awareness Programs

- Direct residents to **GIS hazard mapping online** to better understand their risks.
- Identify **transportation solutions** for **vulnerable population** (low- to moderate-income, those living in compromised structures, older adults, individuals with mobility issues, and households with limited English proficiency) in the event of a flood.

Local Plans/Regulations

- Adopt practices that **comply with NFIP floodplain management** requirements.
- Use **transfer of development rights** to allow developers to increase densities on parcels with low flood risk in return for keeping flood-prone areas vacant.
- Analyze for **future conditions** and incorporate anticipated conditions into present-day development regulation.
- Collaborate with other jurisdictions to incorporate **integrated flood management** approaches that consider entire **basins** or **watersheds** into local plans.
- Adopt **cumulative substantial improvement** policy.
- Adopt **stormwater management regulations** to promote sequestration of rainwater where it lands.
- Create **incentives** that discourage developers to **limit or eliminate development** in flood-prone or critical upland storage areas.

Structure and Infrastructure

Natural Systems Protection

Education and Awareness Programs

Local Plans/Regulations

- Build **levees or earthen dikes** around flood-threatened **critical public facilities**.
- Adopt **building codes** and establish a program of plans and building inspection.
- Implement program of regular **maintenance of levees and dams**.
- Implement a **safe room program** to disincentivize use of basements in SFHA.

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