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**ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT FOR
ALL-NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2024 CALENDAR YEAR
FOR UNINCORPORATED LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Prepared By: Lake County Planning, Building and Development (PBD) Department

Prepared For: Lake County Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee (PBZE) and
Lake County Board

June 4, 2025

INTRODUCTION

This 2024 Annual Evaluation Report (Report) assesses the implementation of goals described in the 2022 All-Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (ANHMP) for the unincorporated areas of Lake County, Illinois.

This Report was prepared by the Lake County Planning, Building and Development Department (PBD) and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC). This Report will be presented to the Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee (PBZE) and submitted to the Lake County Board for informational purposes only. A Press Release will be issued for this report following adoption by the Lake County Board. The 2022 ANHMP can be found here: [2022 Lake County All-Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan \(PDF\)](#) and the previous year (2023) Annual Evaluation Report can be found here: [2023 Annual Evaluation Report \(PDF\)](#).

The Lake County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC), which includes Lake County departments and agencies, Lake County municipalities and other stakeholders, meets annually to review the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation actions, assess emerging hazards, and determine if actions should be modified or discontinued based on new developments. The progress for the unincorporated areas of Lake County, Illinois is documented in this Report, which is submitted to the County Board and municipal councils annually.

GOAL ASSESSMENT

Public Outreach

The PBD Department prepares an annual Repetitive Loss Area Mailing, which targets Repetitive Loss Properties and their surrounding repetitive loss area, and offers information on preparing for flooding, permanent flood protection measures, financial assistance, and flood insurance. The SMC also provides public outreach on flood related topics described above to the public through email messages, newsletters, and on social media. SMC also holds a workshop (every other year) for Homeowners Associations (HOA's) and homeowners on maintaining stormwater management features, flood prevention, and available resources, including grant funding opportunities. The last workshop was held on September 12, 2024.

Remove High Risk Structures from Floodplain or Protect High Risk Structures

The PBD Department approved one (1) permitted project for elevating the finished floor of an existing structure to be above the regulatory floodplain elevation and four (4) permitted projects for elevating utilities and/or adding foundation openings to bring the structures into compliance with the Lake County Unified Development Ordinance ("UDO") in 2024.

Mitigate All Repetitive Loss Structures Identified by FEMA

LCSMC pursues grant funding annually for projects that reduce flood damages and the risk of flooding. The LCPBD Department continually monitors repetitive loss properties identified by FEMA and works with homeowners to mitigate these structures when they are identified as substantially improved or substantially damaged. The LCSMC staff coordinates with the LCPBD Department to seek grant funding for homeowners interested in participating in the voluntary flood-prone property buyout program.

Improve Capacity of Drainage Systems

The LCPBD Department works tirelessly with citizens and coordinates with other agencies such as the Township Highway Commissioners and LCSMC staff to respond to drainage complaints affecting private properties.

In 2021, SMC received \$60 million dollars from the \$122 million dollars appropriated to Lake County through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for projects that reduce flood damages and the risk of flooding in Lake County, Illinois. The following projects were completed by SMC in 2024 for the unincorporated areas of Lake County.

- **Wildwood Area Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements:** Design engineering and construction (including materials, labor, paving/concrete, construction management, excavation, and site restoration) of stormsewer system upgrades and drainage system enhancements in the Wildwood subdivision in unincorporated Warren Township. The project area is near Valley Lake, and straddles Almond Road, south of Gages Lake Road. The project will benefit more than 210 properties.
- **Talbot Avenue Drainage Improvements:** Design engineering and construction (including materials, labor, paving/concrete, construction management, excavation, and site restoration) of stormwater swale to replace undersized stormsewer and overland flow path between Talbot Avenue and Atkinson Road, west of Illinois Route 43 and north of Illinois Route 176 in unincorporated Shields Township. This neighborhood has a long history of flooding in the roadways, nuisance flooding and residences have flooded along Talbot Avenue. This project will provide flood mitigation benefits for 2 roadways and 14 properties along Talbot Avenue and Atkinson Road.

SMC's Annual Watershed Management Board (WMB) and Stormwater Infrastructure Repair Fund (SIRF) cost-share grant programs help fund local stormwater projects. The highest funding priority is flood damage prevention/mitigation, but other project benefits are also included in funding decisions. SMC approved funding for the following projects which were completed in 2024 and located in unincorporated Lake County.

- **Almond Rd to Shawnee Ave Project - Pinewood Creek Trail Homeowners Association:** The project involves installing two catch basins, adding beehives to existing and new inlets, and installing rip-rap to reduce flooding at two residential properties.
- **Brookside Village HOA Phase II - Brookside Village Neighborhood Association:** The applicant proposes installing four underground drains, modifying/repairing three catch basins, and installing two rain gardens (155 square feet total).
- **Shoreline Eurasian Milfoil Management - Friends of Catherine and Channel Lakes (FOCCL):** The proposed project scope of work includes hiring a Certified Pro Specialist ProcettaCOR contractor to perform survey work on the lakes to identify locations, coverage of plant beds, and recommendations of applications and dosage strategies. The total area of treatment is approximately 53 acres.
- **Harnett Park Shoreline Restoration Project - Highland Lake Property Owners' Association:** The proposed project scope of work includes approximately 120 linear feet of riprap installation and removal of threatened trees and invasives species. There is also extensive in-land vegetative overgrowth on the park property that will be cleared by members of the Highland Lake community with strips along lake shores, stream banks, and wetlands. Applicants may also choose to adopt an ordinance banning the use of fertilizers and detergents containing phosphorus.
- **Lake Napa Suwe Improvement Project - Lake Napa Suwe Association:** The amount requested from WMB is \$9,350. The proposed project scope of work includes shoreline stabilization and regrading of approximately 100 linear feet of Lake Napa Suwe. The scope also includes replacing the boards for the existing water control structure as well as removing phragmites and other invasive species and introducing native species in their place.
- **Talbot Avenue Drainage Improvement Project - Shields Township:** The project included the design, engineering and construction of a stormwater swale to replace an undersized storm sewer and overland flow path between Talbot Avenue and Atkinson Road, west of IL Route 43 and north of IL Route 176 in unincorporated Shields Township. Work included excavating and exposing

approximately 100 linear feet of piped storm sewer and expanding 189 feet of an existing stormwater channel.

Implement Maintenance Programs for Drainage Systems

The PBD Department enforces the Lake County Code of Ordinances when reviewing and approving development plans. The Code requires all new drainage systems be maintained within drainage easements by a designated responsible party, and a Stormwater Management, Monitoring, and Maintenance Plan is required for systems involving a detention basin.

Reduce Inflow and Infiltration and Sewer Backups

The Lake County Department of Public Works (LCPW) is committed to reducing sanitary sewer overflows caused by system inflow and infiltration. The annual Capacity Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) program investigates and addresses inflow and infiltration, allowing the LCPW to take corrective measures and increase the capacity of the sanitary system when it is most needed, during critical rain events. LCPW takes corrective action as necessary, and considers data from field inspections, flow monitoring, sanitary sewer evaluation studies, including smoke testing, dye testing, manhole inspections, and sanitary sewer main line televising and analysis.

In 2024, LCPW continued televising and cleaning sanitary sewers and performing preventative maintenance on the sanitary sewer system to ensure peak system capacity can be accommodated. During this time period, several wastewater infrastructure capital improvement projects have continued to progress. Examples include rehabilitation of an aged sanitary sewer drop chamber structure and adjacent 42-inch sanitary sewer pipes, as well as modernization of the Supervisory Controls and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system in the Northwest Sewer System near the Chain O' Lakes. More than \$15 million is being invested in the three water reclamation facilities owned and operated by LCPW, thanks to the County Board's allocation American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Maintain Compliance with NFIP

The PBD Department has maintained its status as a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community, while maintaining its status as a Class 6 Community in the NFIP Community Rating System (CRS), resulting in up to a 20 percent reduction in flood insurance premiums for unincorporated residents.

Recommendations and Revisions

The PBD Department will continue to maintain CRS status and will continue to work to reduce flood damages within unincorporated Lake County, Illinois, enforcement of floodplain regulations on individual permits, and completion of public outreach projects. The LCPW will continue to monitor sanitary sewer infrastructure and will work to address inflow and infiltration and sewer backups. The SMC plans to pursue funding on an annual basis to continue to purchase flood-prone properties throughout the County.