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**ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT FOR
ALL-NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2023 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

October 30, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The 2023 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.

The Report was prepared by the Lake County Planning, Building and Development Department (PBD) and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC). The Report was presented to the Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee (PBZE), on October 4, 2023 and submitted to the Lake County Board for informational purposes only. A Press Release was also issued on January 8, 2024. The 2022 ANHMP can be found here: [2022 Lake County All-Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan \(PDF\)](#) and the 2022 Annual Evaluation Report can be found here: [2022 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 one (1) permitted project for elevating utilities and/or adding foundation openings to bring the structures into compliance with the Lake County Unified Development Ordinance ("UDO") in 2023.

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 2023 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.
- **Oak Spring Lane Storm Sewer Bypass:** Engineering design and construction (including materials, labor, paving/concrete, construction management, excavation, and site restoration) of storm sewer bypass to alleviate flooding affecting four subdivisions in unincorporated Libertyville Township west of St. Mary's Road to the Des Plaines River. Currently, residences in Countryside Manor, Timber Lane Estates, Terra Fair and Oak Spring Subdivisions, all of which were constructed prior to modern stormwater regulations, are affected by flooding from a small stream drainage. This project will construct a storm sewer bypass along Oak Spring Lane to relieve the source of flooding and is expected to benefit more than 35 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 were completed in 2023 and located in unincorporated Lake County.

- **The Fox River Watershed:** The Manitou Creek Drainage District Beaver Conflict Management project mitigates beaver-related flooding by installing two non-lethal beaver flow management devices in unincorporated Lake County locations.
- **The North Branch Chicago River Watershed:** The LCSMC Talbot Avenue Drainage Improvements project will alleviate flooding by daylighting a storm pipe and expanding an existing drainage channel in unincorporated Knollwood.

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 Public Works Department (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 2023, LCPW finalized the Sunset Gravity Sewer Replacement project, which replaced 1,550-feet of sanitary sewer near the Round Lake area. More than 1,600-feet of sanitary sewer was rehabilitated by lining the sewer pipes with a cured in place pipe (CIPP) liner; the rehabilitated pipes are located in unincorporated Grayslake (Linden Avenue) and unincorporated Deerfield (Inverrary Lane and Ash Street). LCPW continues to televise and clean sanitary sewers and perform preventative maintenance on pertinent portions of the sanitary sewer system to ensure the peak system capacity can be accommodated.

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.