

Kane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Annual Report for 2011

City of St. Charles, Illinois

The City of St. Charles has adopted by ordinance the Kane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The goals, guidelines and action items of the plan are listed below.

Goals:

1. Protect the lives and health of the citizens of St. Charles from the effects of natural hazards.
2. Encourage self-help and self-protection measures to mitigate the effects of natural hazards on private property.
3. Protect critical facilities and public infrastructure with public funds.
4. Identify specific projects to mitigate damage where cost-effective and affordable.
5. Reduce the number of repetitively damaged existing structures.

Guidelines:

1. Focus natural hazards mitigation efforts on tornadoes, floods, thunderstorms and winter storms.
2. Encourage people to assume some responsibility for their own protection.
3. New developments should not create new exposures to damage from natural hazards.
4. Local initiatives should focus on protecting citizens and public property.
5. Seek county, state, and federal support for special projects.
6. Preserve open space in hazardous areas, especially where there are sensitive natural areas and agricultural lands.
7. Be consistent with existing plans.

Action Items:

1. Building Code Improvements

- The City has adopted the per Ordinance Number 2010-M-42 the 2009 International Building Code (Multi-Family/Commercial) and per Ordinance Number 2010-M-43 the 2009 International Residential Code (Single Family)

2. Improved Code Enforcement

- No items to report

3. Review of Plans and Development Regulations

- The City of St. Charles Engineering Design and Inspection Policy Manual was adopted in October 2009 and updated as of January 2010. This manual contains the specification the installation of utilities and roadway, as well as inspection procedures. Erosion control details are now referenced to those provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as published in the Illinois Urban Manual, most current edition.

4. Facility Audits

- No items to report

5. Retrofitting Incentives

- The City of St. Charles continued to offer residents a program to reimburse them up to 50% of the cost, up to \$2,500 total, to install backflow prevention on their sewer service. This program is meant to help residents that have experienced past problems with sewerage backups. There were 2 residents that took advantage of the program in 2011.

6. Repetitive Loss Projects

- The City of St. Charles has one repetitive loss property per data received from FEMA for damage claims before August 31, 2009. The property, which is located along the Fox River, filed claims for flood damage in August of 2007 and September of 2008. Based upon field data obtained during the August 2007 flood, the City delineated 12 other homes along the river are within Repetitive Loss Area No. 1. This represents the only repetitive loss area currently within the City.

7. Drainage Maintenance

- The City first adopted a Stormwater Management Program Plan (SMPP) in 2009. The current version is considered effective as of January 1, 2010. The purpose of the SMPP is to meet the minimum standard required by the USEPA under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II program.
- Ongoing monitoring of all open channels within the City. Cleanup of debris as needed.

Drainage Maintenance, cont.

- Ongoing monitoring of 7th Avenue Creek at Illinois, 8th and 9th Avenues, and at Tyler Road. These areas experienced extensive flooding from the September 2008 rain event
- Detention basin inspections, both public and private, were conducted through the Community Development Department.
- 770 storm sewer structures were cleaned in calendar year 2011
- “No Dumping in Stream” signs are in place at various waterway locations waterways within the City. There are plans to add additional signage as new areas of illegal dumping are discovered.

8. Urban Forestry

- The City has an ongoing program to remove trees on public property that are found infected with Emerald Ash Borer. The City’s GIS system is kept up to date with data related to the species of trees, which aids in the inspection process. For the year 2011, 674 diseased trees were removed.

9. Flood Threat Recognition

- The August 2007 Fox River flood was predominantly caused by extensive rain in the northern reaches of the Fox River watershed. River gauges north of the City can be accessed on line to predict how extensive the flooding will be in St. Charles. A link will be available on the City’s floodplain page to gage in Algonquin, IL. Monitoring this gage gives the City and residents time to respond to flooding along the river.

10. Improved Emergency Response

- 72 Members of Public Works participated in National Incident Management System (NIMS) training offered through the FEMA Emergency Management Institute.

11. Flood Control Projects

- As part of the Walnut Drive Phase Two project in the fall of 2011, the City replaced 738 feet of undersized 12” dia. storm sewer with 18” dia. sewer.
- Continuing through 2011, the City has been in contact with the FEMA and their contractors to verify the status of the remodeling of the existing FIS from the Fox River to Tyler Road. A new flood insurance study for 7th Avenue Creek from the Fox River to Kirk Road is anticipated to become effective in 2013.

12. Hazard Mitigation Materials

- During 2011, two information brochures were made available to the public through the Public Works Engineering Division, and the Building and Code Enforcement office. These are “Selecting a Contractor, Flood Damage” and “Floodplain Information”. Topics from the Floodplain Information brochure are regularly published in the resident newsletter.

13. Outreach Projects

- The City has created and continued to add content to a “floodplain page”. All elevation certificates on file are now available through the City’s website, as well as FEMA Letters of Map Change. Also, there are numerous links to resources to help residents with drainage concerns.

14. Property Protection Measures

- The most current Flood Insurance Study and mapping for the City of St. Charles is on file with the St. Charles Public Library. A number of FEMA publications have also been provide to the library by the City. These publications available can be searched on line at the St. Charles Public Library website, <http://www.st-charles.lib.il.us/>

15. Plan Adoption

- The City previously adopted the Kane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan per Resolution No. 2003-58. A resolution adopting the updated plan was passed in early 2011 per Resolution No. 2011-30

16. Mitigation Coordinating Committee

- No items to report

17. Community Rating System

- The City of St. Charles is a participant in the Community Rating System. Extensive work has been done throughout 2010 and 2011 to better document activities and community outreach to improve the City’s rating number. As of October of 2011 the City’s CRS rating number has improved from a level 8 to a level 5.