

Flood Plan Goals and Objectives Comparison

Thurston County Flood Plan (Final 2013)

Goals

- 1. Foster all sectors of the community working together to create a flood-hazard-resilient community.**
- 2. Ensure that local and state government entities have the capabilities to develop, implement and maintain effective floodplain management programs in the Thurston region.**
- 3. Ensure that the communities in the Thurston region collectively maintain the capacity to initiate and sustain emergency operations during and after a flood disaster.**
- 4. Ensure that local government operations are not significantly disrupted by flood hazard events.**
- 5. Reduce the vulnerability to flood hazards in order to protect the life, health, safety and welfare of the community's residents and visitors.**
- 6. Reduce the adverse impact on critical facilities and infrastructure from flood hazard events within the Thurston region.**
- 7. Increase public awareness of vulnerability to flood hazards and preparation for floods.**
- 8. Maintain, enhance, and restore the natural environment's capacity to deal with the impacts of flood hazard events.**

Objectives (in no order)

1. Eliminate or minimize disruption of local government operations caused by flood hazard events.
2. Maintain a regionally coordinated warning and emergency response program that can detect the flood threat and provide timely warning.
3. Utilizing best available data and science, continually improve understanding of the location and potential impacts of flood hazards, the vulnerability of building types and community development patterns, and the measures needed to protect life safety.
4. Continually provide state, county and local agencies with updated information about flood hazards, vulnerabilities and mitigation initiatives.

5. Establish partnerships among all levels of government and the business community to improve and implement regionally consistent floodplain management practices such as prevention, property protection, public education and awareness, natural resource protection, emergency services, and capital improvements.
6. Develop or improve early warning emergency response systems and evacuation procedures for flood hazard events.
7. Work to lower emergency service response times, including through improvement to transportation facilities.
8. Consider the impacts of flood hazards in all planning processes that address current and future land uses within the planning area.
9. Evaluate the risks to public safety and existing development e.g., critical facilities, infrastructure, and structures in flood hazard areas.
10. Sponsor and support public outreach and education activities to improve awareness of flood hazards, and recommend roles that property owners can take to prepare, respond, recover and protect themselves from the impacts of these events.
11. Consider the impacts that future development will have on the environment's capacity to withstand the impacts of flood events and the opportunities this development may create for environmental restoration.

Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region, 3rd Edition adoption pending

Goals and Objectives

1. Protect life

- a. Design, build, operate, and maintain disaster resistant communication systems that provide emergency notifications and instructions.
- b. Decrease the impacts of hazards on at risk individuals or special needs populations¹.
- c. Address emergency evacuation needs, prioritizing areas of the community where mitigation strategies are ineffective or cost prohibitive.
- d. Train and equip emergency service providers to effectively respond to hazard events.

2. Protect infrastructure

- a. Maintain and upgrade roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure and services to withstand the effects of hazards without prolonged operational disruptions.
- b. Maintain and upgrade utility systems and services to withstand the effects of hazards.
- c. Maintain or replace public buildings such as offices, schools, and other facilities to withstand the effects of hazards.
- d. Strengthen or relocate critical facilities or create protective spaces or infrastructure around them so they are not significantly affected by the effects of hazards.

3. Protect property

- a. Minimize the number of properties that are situated in hazard prone locations.
- b. Protect and preserve vital records, data, information technology systems, and facility contents.
- c. Safeguard objects or places that have cultural or historical significance.

4. Protect the environment

- a. When possible, use mitigation strategies that preserve ecological functions of natural systems.
- b. Consider mitigation actions that restore natural systems that provide protective measures to surrounding properties.
- c. Continue evaluating the effectiveness of Critical Areas Ordinances and development regulations and revise as necessary to ensure development does not occur in areas prone to hazards or changing environmental conditions that threaten public safety.

¹ Special Needs Populations: Populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; who live in institutionalized settings; who are elderly; who are children; who are from diverse cultures; who have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking; or who are transportation disadvantaged. Glossary, National Response Framework.

- d. Support efforts to increase local jurisdictions' abilities to appropriately respond to hazardous material releases.

5. Sustain the economy

- a. Develop and maintain efforts to prepare recovery plans.
- b. Focus on mitigation strategies that protect medical treatment centers, employment centers, commercial districts, and schools.
- c. Coordinate with regional, state, and federal agencies to identify and prioritize continuity of operations on lifeline transportation corridors and systems.
- d. Strengthen public-private partnerships to reinforce or establish redundancy for critical supply systems.
- e. Develop and maintain continuity of operations plans for essential public safety services.

6. Build community support

- a. Coordinate and provide leadership in the hazard mitigation planning process among local, tribal, state, and federal government entities.
- b. Engage residents, businesses, employers, medical centers, utility companies, subject matter experts, community, and faith-based organizations as partners to help identify opportunities to strengthen the region's hazard resilience.
- c. Update the region's Hazards Mitigation Plan every five years, or sooner if necessary to respond to emerging threats.

7. Expand understanding of hazards

- a. Monitor and evaluate precipitation, groundwater, and stream flow levels, and survey flood high water marks.
- b. Partner with state and federal agencies, colleges, universities, and nongovernmental organizations to participate in modeling programs to map high risk hazard areas.
- c. Participate in regional or statewide disaster scenario exercises to assess mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capacities, and apply lessons learned to mitigation activities.
- d. Develop a better understanding of the location and mitigation needs of vulnerable and special needs populations within the communities.
- e. Document, share, and act on lessons learned following disaster events.

8. Implement effective mitigation strategies

- a. Focus mitigation efforts on the region's greatest risks and vulnerabilities.
- b. Integrate adopted mitigation strategies into other planning documents such as response plans, comprehensive plans, strategic plans, Critical Areas Ordinances, Capital Facility Plans, zoning code, and development regulations.
- c. Apply for federal mitigation assistance grants and leverage other funding sources to finance mitigation projects.

9. Increase public awareness

- a. Develop and sustain ongoing communication campaigns with residents, customers, businesses, and other stakeholders about the known risks of hazard events and the actions that community members or organizations can take to prevent or minimize losses.
- b. Conduct broad outreach activities to engage all sectors of the community in the hazards mitigation planning process.

Pierce County Rivers Flood Hazard Management Plan 2013

Goals

- 1. Reduce risks to life and property from river flooding and channel migration;**
- 2. Identify and implement flood hazard management activities in a cost-effective and environmentally-sensitive manner;**
- 3. Support compatible human uses, economic activities, and improve habitat conditions in flood-prone and channel migration areas; and**
- 4. Develop a long-term and flexible funding strategy for river flood hazard management.**

Objectives (in no order):

1. Evaluate the risks to public safety and existing development e.g., critical facilities, infrastructure, and structures in flood-prone and channel migration hazard areas;
2. Examine alternatives to reduce risk to life and property, while reducing economic and environmental impacts of flood hazard management actions and programs;
3. Regulate new development in flood-prone and channel migration hazard areas to minimize risks to life, property, and habitat, and strive for consistency of regulations among affected local governments;
4. Identify current and establish future “Levels of Service” for existing and new flood risk reduction facilities;
5. Maintain, repair and modify necessary existing flood risk reduction facilities in a cost-effective manner that makes the facilities less susceptible to future damage, reduces impacts on aquatic and riparian habitat, and ensure consistency with public law PL 84-99, or similar federal, tribal and state laws and programs;
6. Identify repetitive-loss properties and properties needed for future flood risk reduction facilities;
7. Prioritize projects and programs based on the level of risk, benefit, cost effectiveness over the life of the plan or facility, and adverse effects on habitat;
8. Provide for the participation of stakeholders in the assessment of acceptable risks, evaluation and ranking of alternatives, natural resource management issues and development of recommendations;
9. Coordinate among Pierce County departments, other agencies and governments cities, tribes, adjacent counties to seek consistency in flood hazard management and flood disaster response and recovery;

10. Implement a County-wide public education and outreach program to improve flood awareness that includes actions people can take to reduce risks e.g., flood insurance, flood proofing;
11. Identify possible funding sources for implementing the recommended flood hazard management activities;
12. Examine the connections between flood hazard management, river corridors, salmon recovery, aquatic and riparian habitat, water quality, open space, public access and agricultural resources to take advantage of efficiencies in addressing multiple objectives;
13. Remove or modify existing flood risk reduction facilities to protect, restore, or enhance critical riparian or instream habitat that benefits threatened or endangered species;
14. Identify important riparian, aquatic, fish and wildlife habitat;
15. Protect and enhance natural systems that prevent flooding;
16. Adaptively manage implementation to learn from successes, develop long-term cost-effective approaches and reduce the need for costly solutions;
17. Incorporate a science-based approach in developing and evaluating alternatives and to monitor implementation;
18. Increase our understanding and incorporate information about climate change including potential increases in rainfall, glacial retreat and changes in sediment transport into flood hazard management decision-making; and
19. Cooperate with regional agencies in maintaining a network of accurate stream flow and weather gauges, and water quality data.

King County Flood Hazard Management Plan (2006, updated 2013)

Goals

- 1. To reduce the risks from flood and channel migration hazards.**
- 2. To avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of flood hazard management.**
- 3. To reduce the long-term costs of flood hazard management.**

Objectives

1. Evaluate the risks to existing development in flood hazard areas and identify actions to reduce risks to life and property.
2. Manage land uses in hazardous areas in order to prevent creation of new flood risks.
3. Identify and map flood and channel migration hazard areas and make maps readily available to the public.
4. Maintain a regionally coordinated flood warning and emergency response program in a state of readiness to be activated in the event of a flood.
5. Maintain, repair, or retrofit existing flood protection facilities in a manner that addresses public safety, is cost-effective and makes the facilities less susceptible to future damage.
6. Acquire vulnerable properties, with a special emphasis on those that have been repeatedly damaged by floods, when acquisition opportunities arise.
7. Remove or retrofit existing river facilities or modify maintenance practices to protect, restore or enhance riparian habitat and to support recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act.
8. Prioritize flood hazard management project and program recommendations based on level of risk, cost-effectiveness over the long term, and consistency with regional natural resource management protocols.
9. Sponsor and support public outreach and education activities to improve awareness of flood hazards, and recommend actions that property owners can take to reduce risks to themselves and to others.
10. Manage activities in rivers and floodplains in a manner compatible with multiple and sometimes competing uses, including existing and proposed urban development within cities, flood and channel migration risk reduction, agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, open space, recreation, water supply and hydropower.
11. Promote the economic and ecological sustainability of river corridors.

12. Coordinate across King County departments and with other jurisdictions to provide consistency in flood hazard management and disaster response activities.
13. Identify appropriate funding sources for implementing the recommended flood hazard management activities, and pursue opportunities to use these funds in a timely and efficient manner.
14. Update the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan regularly and employ adaptive management strategies within King County's River and Floodplain Management Program in order to take full advantage of scientific and technological advances, and to use the best available floodplain management practices, principles and information.