

8 Plan Maintenance

Requirement §201.6(c)(4): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

Implementation and maintenance of the plan is critical to the overall success of hazard mitigation planning. This section discusses how the Mitigation Action Plans will be implemented by participating jurisdictions and outlines the method and schedule for monitoring, updating, and evaluating the plan. This section also discusses incorporating the plan into existing planning mechanisms and how the public will continue to be involved in the planning process. It consists of the following three subsections:

- 8.1 Implementation
- 8.2 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Enhancement
- 8.3 Continued Public Involvement

8.1 IMPLEMENTATION

Each jurisdiction participating in this plan update is responsible for implementing specific mitigation actions as prescribed in their Mitigation Action Plan (found in Section 7). In each Mitigation Action Plan, every proposed action is assigned to a specific local department or agency to ensure responsibility and accountability and increase the likelihood of subsequent implementation. This approach enables individual jurisdictions to update their own unique mitigation action list as needed without altering the broader focus of the regional plan.

In addition to the assignment of a local lead department or agency, an implementation timeline or a specific implementation date or window has been assigned to each mitigation action to help assess whether reasonable progress is being made toward implementation. The participating jurisdictions will seek outside funding sources to implement mitigation projects in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environments. When applicable, potential funding sources have been identified for proposed actions listed in the Mitigation Action Plan.

An important implementation mechanism that is highly effective and low-cost is incorporation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan recommendations and their underlying principles into other plans and mechanisms. Where possible, plan participants will use existing plans and/or programs to implement the Mitigation Action Plan. It will be the responsibility of the HMPC representatives from each participating jurisdiction to determine and pursue opportunities for integrating the requirements of this plan with other local planning documents and ensure that the goals and strategies of new and updated local planning documents for their jurisdictions or agencies are consistent with the goals and actions of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and will not contribute to increased hazard vulnerability in the Plan Area. Methods for integration may include:

- ▶ Monitoring other planning/program agendas;
- ▶ Attending other planning/program meetings;
- ▶ Participating in other planning processes; and
- ▶ Monitoring community budget meetings for other community program opportunities.

Table 8.1 details each jurisdiction's integration of the 2015 Wake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan into other local planning efforts as well as any identified opportunities for integration of this plan update.

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Table 8.1 – Integration Efforts

Jurisdiction	Integration of 2015 plan	Intended integration of this plan update
Wake County	No integration occurred	Integration will be pursued as opportunities arise.
City of Raleigh	Raleigh has used the 2015 plan to identify frequent flood prone areas during disasters, including Hurricane Florence most recently. The plan aids as a notification strategy for vulnerable populations living in these locations	Plan update will continue to be used prominently during disasters.
Town of Apex	No integration occurred	Apex will have the opportunity to integrate the plan update with updates to the Transportation Plan and Bike & Pedestrian Plan
Town of Cary	Plan was generally integrated with the Comprehensive Plan	Integration will be pursued as opportunities arise.
Town of Fuquay-Varina	No integration occurred	Integration will be pursued as opportunities arise.
Town of Garner	Plan was integrated with the Unified Development Ordinance, Long-Range Land Use and Transportation Plans, and the Wake County Emergency Operations Plan.	Garner will continue to pursue implementation with these plans and ordinances.
Town of Holly Springs	No integration occurred	Integration will be pursued as opportunities arise.
Town of Knightdale	Plan was integrated with the Comprehensive Plan	Knightdale will have the opportunity to integrate this plan with the update of the Unified Development Ordinance and development of a Comprehensive Transportation Plan in future years.
Town of Morrisville	No integration occurred	Integration will be pursued as opportunities arise.
Town of Rolesville	No integration occurred	Integration will be pursued as opportunities arise.
Town of Wake Forest	No integration occurred	Integration will be pursued as opportunities arise.
Town of Wendell	No integration occurred	Wendell will seek to integrate this plan update with updates to the Comprehensive Plan, Greenway Plan, and Transportation Plan.
Town of Zebulon	No integration occurred	Zebulon will seek to integrate this plan update with upcoming updates to the Transportation Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Emergency Operations Plan.

Opportunities to integrate the requirements of this Plan into other local planning mechanisms shall continue to be identified through future meetings of the HMPC and through the five-year review process described herein. Although it is recognized that there are many possible benefits to integrating components of this plan into other local planning mechanisms, the development and maintenance of this stand-alone Hazard Mitigation Plan is deemed by the HMPC to be the most effective and appropriate method to implement local hazard mitigation actions at this time.

8.2 MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ENHANCEMENT

8.2.1 Role of HMPC in Implementation, Monitoring and Maintenance

With adoption of this plan, each jurisdiction will be responsible for the implementation and maintenance of their mitigation actions. Wake County will take the lead in all plan monitoring and update procedures. As such, the County, led by the Director of Emergency Management, agrees to continue its relationship with the HMPC and:

- ▶ Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- ▶ Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- ▶ Pursue the implementation of high-priority, low/no-cost recommended actions;
- ▶ Ensure hazard mitigation remains a consideration for community decision makers;
- ▶ Maintain a vigilant monitoring of multi-objective cost-share opportunities to help the community implement the plan's recommended actions for which no current funding exists;
- ▶ Monitor and assist in implementation and update of this plan;
- ▶ Report on plan progress and recommended revisions to the County Board of Commissioners; and
- ▶ Inform and solicit input from the public.

The HMPC's primary duty moving forward is to see the plan successfully carried out and report to the County Board of Commissioners, Town and City Councils, NCEM, FEMA, and the public on the status of plan implementation and mitigation opportunities. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals, considering stakeholder concerns about flood mitigation, passing concerns on to appropriate entities, and provide relevant information for posting on the County and local community websites (and others as appropriate).

Simultaneous to these efforts, it will be important to maintain a constant monitoring of funding opportunities that can be leveraged to implement some of the costlier recommended actions. This will include creating and maintaining a bank of ideas on how to meet local match or participation requirements. When funding does become available, the County and participating jurisdictions will be positioned to capitalize on the opportunity. Funding opportunities to be monitored include special pre- and post-disaster funds, state and federal earmarked funds, benefit assessments, and other grant programs, including those that can serve or support multi-objective applications.

8.2.2 Maintenance Schedule

Plan maintenance implies an ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate plan implementation and to update the plan as progress, roadblocks, or changing circumstances are recognized. The Wake County Emergency Manager will be responsible for convening the HMPC and initiating regular reviews. Regular maintenance will take place through quarterly conference calls and an annual meeting of the HMPC. The HMPC will also convene to review the plan after significant hazard events. If determined appropriate or as requested, an annual report on the plan will be developed and presented to local governing bodies of participating jurisdictions to report on implementation progress and recommended changes.

The five-year written update to this plan will be submitted to the NCEM and FEMA Region IV, unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) require a change to this schedule. With this plan update anticipated to be adopted and fully approved by 2020, the next plan update for Wake County will be completed by 2025.

8.2.3 Maintenance Evaluation Process

Evaluation of progress can be achieved by monitoring changes in vulnerabilities identified in the plan. Changes in vulnerability can be identified by noting:

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- Decreased vulnerability as a result of implementing recommended actions;
- Increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions; and/or
- Increased vulnerability as a result of new development (and/or annexation).

Updates to this plan will:

- Consider changes in vulnerability due to project implementation;
- Document success stories where mitigation efforts have proven effective;
- Document areas where mitigation actions were not effective;
- Document any new hazards that may arise or were previously overlooked;
- Incorporate new data or studies on hazards and risks;
- Incorporate new capabilities or changes in capabilities;
- Incorporate growth and development-related changes to County inventories; and
- Incorporate new project recommendations or changes in project prioritization.

In order to best evaluate any changes in vulnerability as a result of plan implementation, the HMPC will follow the following process:

- ▶ The HMPC representatives from each jurisdiction will be responsible for tracking and reporting on their mitigation actions. Jurisdictional representatives should provide input on whether the action as implemented met the defined objectives and/or is likely to be successful in reducing vulnerabilities.
- ▶ If the action does not meet identified objectives, the jurisdictional representatives will determine what additional measures may be implemented and will make any required modifications to the plan.
- ▶ All monitoring and implementation information will be reported to the full HMPC, led by the Wake County Emergency Manager, during quarterly meetings. An annual plan maintenance report may be drafted as deemed necessary.

Changes will be made to the plan as needed to accommodate for actions that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review of their consistency with established criteria, time frame, community priorities, and/or funding resources. Actions that were not ranked high but were identified as potential mitigation activities will be reviewed during the monitoring and update of this plan to determine feasibility of future implementation. Updating of the mitigation action plans will be by written changes and submissions, as is appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the appropriate jurisdiction's local governing body.

Following a disaster declaration, the plan will be revised as necessary to reflect lessons learned, or to address specific issues and circumstances arising from the event. It will be the responsibility of Wake County Emergency Management to reconvene the HMPC and ensure the appropriate stakeholders are invited to participate in the plan revision and update process following declared disaster events.

Criteria for Quarterly Reviews in Preparation for 5-Year Update

The criteria recommended in 44 CFR 201 and 206 will be utilized in reviewing and updating the plan. More specifically, quarterly reviews will monitor changes to the following information:

- ▶ Community growth or change in the past quarter.
- ▶ The number of substantially damaged or substantially improved structures by flood zone.
- ▶ The renovations to public infrastructure including water, sewer, drainage, roads, bridges, gas lines, and buildings.
- ▶ Natural hazard occurrences that required activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and whether the event resulted in a presidential disaster declaration.

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- ▶ Natural hazard occurrences that were not of a magnitude to warrant activation of the EOC or a federal disaster declaration but were severe enough to cause damage in the community or closure of businesses, schools, or public services.
- ▶ The dates of hazard events descriptions.
- ▶ Documented damages due to the event.
- ▶ Closures of places of employment or schools and the number of days closed.
- ▶ Road or bridge closures due to the hazard and the length of time closed.
- ▶ Assessment of the number of private and public buildings damaged and whether the damage was minor, substantial, major, or if buildings were destroyed. The assessment will include residences, mobile homes, commercial structures, industrial structures, and public buildings, such as schools and public safety buildings.
- ▶ Review of any changes in federal, state, and local policies to determine the impact of these policies on the community and how and if the policy changes can or should be incorporated into the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Review of the status of implementation of projects (mitigation strategies) including projects completed will be noted. Projects behind schedule will include a reason for delay of implementation.

8.3 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Continued public involvement is imperative to the overall success of the plan's implementation. The quarterly review process will provide an opportunity to solicit participation from new and existing stakeholders and to publicize success stories from the plan implementation and seek additional public comment. Efforts to involve the public in the maintenance, evaluation and revision process may include:

- ▶ Advertising HMPC meetings in the local newspaper, public bulletin boards and/or City and County office buildings;
- ▶ Designating willing citizens and private sector representatives as official members of the HMPC;
- ▶ Utilizing local media to update the public of any maintenance and/or review activities;
- ▶ Utilizing City and County websites to advertise any maintenance and/or review activities;
- ▶ Maintaining copies of the plan in public libraries or other appropriate venues;
- ▶ Posting annual progress reports on the Plan to City, County and Town websites;
- ▶ Heavy publicity of the plan and potential ways for the public to be involved after significant hazard events, tailored to the event that has just happened;
- ▶ Keeping websites, social media outlets, etc. updated;
- ▶ Drafting articles for the local community newspapers/newsletters;
- ▶ Utilizing social media accounts (e.g. Twitter, Facebook).

Public Involvement for Five-year Update

When the HMPC reconvenes for the five-year update, they will coordinate with all stakeholders participating in the planning process—including those that joined the committee since the planning process began—to update and revise the plan. In reconvening, the HMPC will be responsible for coordinating the activities necessary to involve the greater public, including disseminating information through a variety of media channels detailing the plan update process. As part of this effort, public meetings will be held and public comments will be solicited on the plan update draft.