

City of Dunedin
***FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN/
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY
ANNUAL REPORT***

September, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

In August of 1997, the City of Dunedin adopted a Floodplain Management Plan. This plan detailed the existing Special Flood Hazard Area, defined six repetitive loss areas and examined the numerous ways the City could alleviate and mitigate the negative effects of flooding. The first Annual Report was issued in September of 1998. The conclusions of the initial Annual Report lead to a revised Floodplain Management Plan being adopted in December of 1998.

In early 1998, the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs requested that “Pinellas County and its municipalities develop a unified, community-wide local mitigation strategy [or LMS]...aimed at the skyrocketing costs of disaster.” This LMS is “intended to provide a unified and consistent course of action needed to eliminate or reduce the impact of disasters that threaten Pinellas County and its municipalities.” Dunedin staff worked with other cities and the County throughout 1998 and into 1999 developing an LMS that was acceptable to all local governments. The LMS was approved by Resolution 99-12 by the City Commission on May 6, 1999. Pursuant to revisions in the Community Rating System’s procedures, the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) was submitted as a replacement to the Floodplain Management Plan in August of 2000.

In 2004, Pinellas County began an update to the LMS. This update was designed not only to revise the information to reflect existing conditions but also to meet the changes in requirements for the LMS. When the City adopted the LMS by resolution not only in support of the countywide efforts but also as the Floodplain Management Plan, it added two sections: the first described the mitigation strategies available; the second listed the approaches the City should take in an action plan.

A copy of the adopted Floodplain Management Plan may be obtained from the City of Dunedin Department of Planning & Development, 737 Loudon Avenue, Dunedin, FL, 34698. Or the reader may call 298-3198 to obtain a copy.

EVALUATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The most effective method of determining the success of the implementation of the Floodplain Management Plan would be to list each task found in the Action Plan and present the manner in which each was addressed during the previous year.

► Preventive Activities

- Continue the extensive use of open space throughout the City and particularly within the floodplain. This includes Hammock Park, Fisher Field and the Dunedin Country Club and St. Andrews Links.
 - ▷ Timetable: Ongoing
 - ▷ Evaluation Criteria: Number of acres of open space within the floodplain.
 - ▷ Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Parks & Recreation Department

▷Evaluation: Approximately 1,365 acres of open space was estimated in 2006. While there have been land use changes to several parks, they were made to Recreation/Open Space in order to further constrain any development from occurring on the parcels. In late 2008, the City acquired a 5 acre parcel of open space, known as the Weaver Property. This acquisition parcel is to be used for passive parkland. With the acquisition, there are approximately 1,370 acres of open space within the floodplain.

- Continue the enforcement of Chapter 122 of the *Uniform Development Code* entitled “Stormwater Management,” particularly as it relates to the construction of systems regulating stormwater runoff.

▷Timetable: Ongoing

▷Evaluation Criteria: Most recent information on number of new developments (both residential and non-residential) installing stormwater control systems; amount of funds generated by the stormwater utility fee.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Public Works Department

▷Evaluation: During FY 06/07 five developments were under construction before the end of the fiscal year and all are now complete. Four required retention and all appeared to have it. According to the *Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Adopted Annual Operating and Capital Budgets*, approximately \$1,618,880 in stormwater utility fees are anticipated to be collected by the end of this fiscal year.

- Continue the maintenance of the City’s drainage system. This includes routine inspection, removal of debris, repairs, top and slope mowing, and aquatic maintenance.

▷Timetable: Annually

▷Evaluation Criteria: Most recent information on the total number of inspections and maintenance performed; most recent information on the total amount of funds expended on maintenance.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Public Works Department

▷Evaluation (for period between March 1, 2007 and February 28, 2008, the most recent information available):

Debris Collected: 445 tons

Structures Cleaned: 1,145

Structures Repaired: 77

Ditch Cleaning: 99 bags collected

Ditch Inspections: 4,320 linear feet

Ditch Mowing: 293,736 linear feet

Aquatic Treatments: 12

Stormwater Utility Division Operating Budget for FY 08/09:
\$1,666,538

▶Property Protection Activities

- Continue the mail-out of flood proofing information to the residents of each repetitive loss area.

▷Timetable: Annually

▷Evaluation Criteria: Number of packages sent to repetitive loss area residents.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Planning & Development Department

▷Evaluation: In September of 2009, 277 packages were sent to all residents within the Repetitive Loss Areas. Information included newsletters describing flood insurance, preparation for emergency situations and flood proofing data.

•Encourage the elevation/retrofitting of structures to FEMA requirements through the enforcement of the 50% rule, through the distribution of information to repetitive loss areas, and through obtaining federal funds for such structural work.

▷Timetable: Annually

▷Evaluation Criteria: Number of structures elevated due to the 50% rule; number of packages sent to repetitive loss area residents; amount of federal assistance secured for structural work.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Planning & Development Department

▷Evaluation: In September 2009, 277 packages were sent to all residents within the Repetitive Loss Areas. Information included newsletters describing flood insurance, preparation for emergency situations and flood proofing data. Between August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2009, there appeared to be no improvements meeting the 50% rule. Also, during this same period, No Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) agreements were signed. Additionally, in early 2008, two FMAP applications and one Repetitive Flood Claim (RFC) application were submitted to the State of Florida.

•Continue providing information on the “dry flood proofing barrier” for use in repetitive loss areas.

▷Timetable: Annually

▷Evaluation Criteria: Number of packages sent to repetitive loss area residents.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Planning & Development Department

▷Evaluation: In September 2009, 277 packages were sent to all residents within the Repetitive Loss Areas. These packages included information on the installation of a “dry flood proofing barrier.”

▶Natural Resource Protection Activities

•Determine the necessity and most efficacious manner of stabilizing the Edgewater Drive Shoreline.

▷Timetable: By December 31, 2008

Evaluation Criteria: Current progress of the study.

- ▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Public Works Department and Planning & Development Department
 - ▷Evaluation: The Public Works Department has collected information and has begun to evaluate the feasibility of such a study. Due to funding availability, though, this project will need to be pushed back, perhaps by several years.
- Continue to apply the Recreation/Open Space land use designation on all of Caladesi Island and on the vast majority of Honeymoon Island.
 - ▷Timetable: Ongoing
 - Evaluation Criteria: Number of acres on the barrier islands with the Recreation/Open Space land use designation.
 - ▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Planning & Development Department
 - ▷Evaluation: The combined acreage of the undeveloped portions of Caladesi Island and Honeymoon Island total 1,039.
- ▶Emergency Services Measures
 - Continue the cooperative implementation of the Comprehensive Emergency Plan with Pinellas County.
 - ▷Timetable: Annually
 - ▷Evaluation Criteria: The tasks performed to ensure that the City is consistent with county, state and federal guidelines.
 - ▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Fire Department
 - ▷Evaluation: The Fire Department has ensured that its disaster procedures are consistent with county, state and federal guidelines in the past year through updating of the City Disaster Preparedness Plan and attending Disaster Advisory Committee meetings.
 - Send letters to owners of structures or facilities which produce, use or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic and/or water-reactive materials. These letters should encourage the owners or operators to follow proper procedures in the event of an impending disaster.
 - ▷Timetable: Annually
 - ▷Evaluation Criteria: The number of letters sent to owners of structures or facilities which produce, use or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic and/or water-reactive materials.
 - ▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Planning & Development Department
 - ▷Evaluation: Twelve letters were sent in September 2009 to the identified critical facilities.
 - Continue the annual distribution of the *All Hazards Guide* or *Hurricane Guide* for as long as it is produced and made available to residents and local governments.
 - ▷Timetable: Annually

▷Evaluation Criteria: Locations in the City where the *All Hazards Guide* or *Hurricane Guide* is made available (e.g., City Hall, Library, Sheriff's Office).

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Citywide

▷Evaluation: Copies of Pinellas County's 2009 *Surviving the Storm* were made available at City Hall, Planning & Development, Municipal Services, the Hale Senior Activity Center, and the Community Center.

•Continue advising the Florida Department of Transportation of the critical nature of the Alternate US 19/Curlew Road intersection. Request that some type of improvement to the elevation conditions at this location be made.

▷Timetable: Ongoing

▷Evaluation Criteria: Letters or other contacts with FDOT and their responses.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Planning & Development Department

▷Evaluation: Curlew Road was recently resurfaced but the project stopped just east of the Alternate US 19 intersection. The roadway was slated for a multi-lane improvement in the future, however this project was removed from the FDOT's Five Year Work Program.

►Structural Projects

•Continue the permitting of erosion protection projects as outlined in Article VIII of Chapter 98 of the *Uniform Development Code*.

▷Timetable: Ongoing

▷Evaluation Criteria: Linear feet of erosion protection permitted to be installed or repaired during the previous year.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Public Works Department

▷Evaluation: According to the Building Permit data, an estimated 1,571 linear feet of retaining walls on private or public property were installed or repaired during FY 2007/08. Since all of these were near water bodies, they could be considered as possibly related to flood protection.

•Continue the enforcement of Chapter 122 of the *Uniform Development Code* entitled "Stormwater Management," particularly as it relates to the construction of systems regulating stormwater runoff.

▷Timetable: Ongoing

▷Evaluation Criteria: Number of new developments (both residential and non-residential) installing stormwater control systems, including storm sewers.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Public Works Department

▷Evaluation: During FY 06/07 five developments were under construction before the end of the fiscal year and all were completed. Four required retention and all appeared to have it.

► Public Information Activities

- Continue to provide the Map Determination Service, including the publicizing of the service.
 - ▷ Timetable: Ongoing
 - ▷ Evaluation Criteria: Number of announcements sent publicizing the service; number of map determinations provided.
 - ▷ Budget: Staff time, postage (operating funds): Planning & Development Department
 - ▷ Evaluation: In September 2009, 134 announcements were sent to insurance companies, real estate firms and financial institutions. This included businesses in Dunedin and out of state. Between October 1, 2008, and August of 2009, 12 map determinations were provided.
- Continue to develop and send flyers and reproducible forms to real estate agencies regarding information relating to flood hazards of property.
 - ▷ Timetable: Annually
 - ▷ Evaluation Criteria: Flyers and reproducible forms developed
 - ▷ Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Planning & Development Department
 - ▷ Evaluation: In September 2009, 23 real estate offices within the City of Dunedin were each sent a reproducible hazard disclosure form for distribution to their clients. These forms included information on the hazards of locating within the floodplain and the availability of flood insurance.
- Continue to maintain and publicize the Flood Library documents available at the Dunedin Public Library.
 - ▷ Timetable: Ongoing
 - ▷ Evaluation Criteria: Number and type of documents available at the Dunedin Public Library.
 - ▷ Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Library
 - ▷ Evaluation: There are 18 documents available in the reference section at the library. Subjects covered include retrofitting, elevating, floodplain management, flood proofing, insurance, and reducing losses due to flooding.
- Continue to provide technical assistance where possible on flood issues.
 - ▷ Timetable: Ongoing
 - ▷ Evaluation Criteria: Estimated number of times some type of technical assistance was provided to Dunedin residents or businesses.
 - ▷ Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Public Works Department; Planning & Development Department
 - ▷ Evaluation: Public Works estimates that technical assistance was provided on more than 100 separate occasions during the last year (“several a week”). This included information relating to elevation requirements, breakaway walls, the substantial improvement (50%) rule and other drainage issues.

•Continue to publish, update and make available the *Urban Stormwater Improvement Guidance* booklet.

▷Timetable: Ongoing

▷Evaluation Criteria: Availability of the *Urban Stormwater Improvement Guidance* booklet.

▷Budget: Staff time (operating funds): Public Works Department

▷Evaluation: The *Urban Stormwater Improvement Guidance* booklet remained available at the Engineering Section offices at 737 Loudon Avenue.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In 2009, the City has implemented its Floodplain Management Plan and continues to support all the tasks in the Community Rating System. With the exception of the Edgewater Drive Shoreline study and the elimination of the Curlew Avenue improvement project, all Community Rating System tasks were accomplished this year.

Dunedin continues as a Class 7 community, allowing for a fifteen percent premium discount on all National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies.