



Mecklenburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Progress Report – Unincorporated Mecklenburg County

1 Introduction

To maintain the Community Rating System (CRS) status within the National Flood Insurance Program, the **Mecklenburg County** is required to provide an annual status update of the implementation of each of the mitigation actions the county proposed in the Mecklenburg County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The objective of this annual status evaluation is to ensure that there is a continual planning process that will keep the HMP plan dynamic and responsive to the needs and capabilities of the community.

The HMP was developed in response to requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The initial version was completed in 2005 and, since then, there have been updates every five years. The current version of the plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on December 1, 2020 and approved by FEMA on December 8, 2020. A copy of the current HMP is available online via the link below:

<https://www.charlottenc.gov/files/sharedassets/city/public-safety/em/documents/2020-mecklenburg-county-mjhmp-final.pdf>

2 Implementation

The hazard mitigation planning process involves setting goals and objectives, reviewing community vulnerabilities and capabilities, and developing mitigation actions that would make the community more resilient during natural hazards. The goals and objectives of the 2020 plan includes:

- Identify and implement hazard mitigation projects designed to reduce the impact of future hazard events on existing critical facilities and infrastructure as well as public and private property.
- Conduct education and outreach activities intended to better inform people about hazards and encourage personal responsibility for preparedness and mitigation.
- Improve emergency preparedness and response capabilities.
- Enact planning and policy measures to reduce the impacts of identified hazards and make future development more resilient to hazards.

The implementation status of individual mitigation actions outlined in Section 7 of the plan is summarized in a tabular format in Section 6 (Review of Mitigation Actions) of this report.

3 Recommendations

Implementation and maintenance of the plan is critical to the overall success of hazard mitigation planning. The CRS Coordinator will work closely with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office (CMEMO) and others to monitor activities and update procedures as needed to meet CRS requirements.

4 Justice40: The Need

The Justice40 promise seeks to create an equitable recovery for Americans facing challenges created by aging infrastructure, a frayed social safety net, natural disasters, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Justice40 must address inequities that hinder a sustainable, just society, and that disproportionately harm low-income and communities of color across America.

<https://www.thejustice40.com/>

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_equity-webinar-final_8-17-21.pdf

5 Dissemination

This Progress Report will be made available to the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners by November 22, 2023. The report will also be made available online to the general public at <https://www.charlottenc.gov/Public-Safety/Emergency-Information/Emergency-Management>.

Additionally, copies are available at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Storm Water Services office located at 2145 Suttle Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28208. For more information, please call (980) 314-3236.

6 Review of Mitigation Actions

Action#	Mitigation Action	2023 Implementation Status Update
Mecklenburg- 1	Seek grant funding to retrofit critical facilities and County-owned facilities for improved resilience to all hazards with the use of the latest building materials and technology. This could include, but is not limited to: wind retrofits, low water consumption fixtures, leak detectors, backup generators, ignition-resistant materials, 320 or 361 compliant safe rooms, lightning protection, hail resistant roofing, and anchoring fixed building equipment.	Identified specific locations for improvements. Retrofits not yet completed due to competing priorities.
Mecklenburg- 2	Maintain continued compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through implementation and periodic evaluation of the following higher regulatory standards (in addition to basic required compliance actions): a) Development standards linked to Community Floodplain (Future Conditions) b) Require critical facilities protection to 500-year flood levels c) Require parking lots to be elevated (no more than six inches deep in any parking space during Community Flood event) d) Require dry land access for new or substantially improved buildings (above Community Flood BFE) e) Levee restrictions f) Cumulative substantial damage improvement provision g) Prohibit basements below flood level on filled lots	Higher standards maintained. No ordinance updates or revisions made during the previous reporting period.
Mecklenburg- 3	Continue participation in the NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) with the goal of increasing CRS credit points to become a Class 5 community or better within five years.	Complete. Mecklenburg County has maintained participation in the CRS and improved from a Class 6 to a Class 5 rating effective April 1, 2021.
Mecklenburg- 4	Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps to provide most accurate depiction of flood risk.	Mecklenburg County, as current Cooperating Technical Partner with FEMA, maintains a LOMC processing agreement so that revision requests are processed locally and so that local standards for floodplain management are upheld. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services is exploring the use of 2D hydraulic modeling for future Countywide FIRM updates as well as regulatory floodway modeling. A pilot 2D flood modeling study of Little Sugar and Briar Creek watersheds started at the beginning of 2023 and is currently underway.

Mecklenburg- 5	Identify, fund, and implement eligible flood mitigation projects. FEMA-defined and locally verified “repetitive loss properties” to receive high priority.	Mecklenburg County continues to implement mitigation actions identified in the Flood Risk Assessment and Risk reduction Plan. From July 2022 to September 2023, (ten) 10 flood-prone buildings were acquired and demolished at a cost of \$4.3 M (75.1% local / 18.8% federal / 6.1% state funding). Three (3) elevation projects were completed at a cost of \$403.7k (100% local / 0% federal / 0% state funding). There are two (2) active FEMA grants open and two (2) FEMA grants pending.
Mecklenburg- 6	Research possibility of using new hydrologic & hydraulic to provide flood forecasting in the Flood Information Notification System (FINS). Research capability of FINS system to provide inundation mapping based on results of new models and explore alternate methods and expansion into other locations.	Mecklenburg County in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security – Science and Technology Directorate implemented a real-time flood inundation mapping system to complement the existing Flood Information Notification System (FINS). The inundation mapping system is based on data developed from the hydrologic & hydraulic models and a network of lower-cost flood sensors deployed to nearly 90 new locations along creeks. As the system is refined, it will improve flood disaster response and recovery. Storm Water Services is exploring forecasting options for the inundation mapping to provide added lead time in deploying resources and evacuating citizens.
Mecklenburg- 7	<p>As determined necessary and upon request from municipal jurisdictions, provide informative presentations and/or work sessions for newly elected officials and new appointees to planning commissions and appeals/variance boards to provide an overview of floodplain management, the importance of participating in the NFIP, and the implications of failing to enforce the requirements of the program or failing to properly handle variance requests.</p> <p>On an annual basis, coordinate with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management on a widespread public outreach activity to provide information on all natural hazards facing the area to local residents, including methods for mitigating and preventing damages from hazardous conditions and how to respond when an imminent hazard threatens.</p> <p>On an annual basis, coordinate with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management to provide information on all natural hazards facing the area to local planning staff and elected officials. This should be combined with an annual progress report on the status of local mitigation actions as identified in the Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p>	<p>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management hosted a meeting on September 21, 2023 for Emergency Management staff, Storm Water Services Staff, Local Community Representatives, and other emergency services parties. Agenda included Situation Reports, Emergency Management Updates, FINS updates, and CRS-related Hazard Mitigation Plan updates.</p> <p>Multiple agencies were present at the Health and Safety Fair which was held at the Charlotte Convention Center in September 2023.</p>
Mecklenburg- 8	Install back-up emergency generators at the following critical facilities/emergency shelters: Tuckaseegee Recreation Center, Grady Cole Center, Naomi Drennan Recreation Center.	Achieved. All Tier 1 shelters have back-up generators.