

LOUISVILLE / JEFFERSON COUNTY
KENTUCKY
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
PLAN
2004 PROGRESS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2004

Background: During 1999 and 2000, a group of stakeholders came together in a series of sessions to develop the Louisville/Jefferson County Floodplain Management Plan under the leadership of the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and the Louisville Metro Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The Community Rating System (CRS) program requires a floodplain management plan for communities with 10 or more repetitive loss properties. Both the former City of Louisville and Jefferson County adopted the 2000 Floodplain Management Plan in early 2001.

On-going Community Participation – Stakeholders from the Louisville and Jefferson County Floodplain Management Plan Advisory Committee continue to meet on a quarterly basis. Over 30 members participate and represent flood-related agencies, government, businesses, neighborhoods, and citizens on the committee. Following is a sample of the organizations represented:

- ▶ Louisville Metro Emergency Management Agency,
- ▶ Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District,
- ▶ American Red Cross,

Floodplain Management Plan

Mission Statement

The mission of the Louisville Metro Community Rating System (CRS) program is to develop a process to guide the community in a coordinated effort to reduce flood damages to life and property and protect the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain. The overall goal of the Floodplain Management Plan is to guide the community in a holistic, coordinated effort to raise the consciousness of the community to the risks of flooding.

- ▶ U. S. Army Corps of Engineers,
- ▶ National Weather Service,
- ▶ Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA),
- ▶ Environmental businesses & citizens,
- ▶ Jefferson County Public Schools,
- ▶ Public Works,
- ▶ Planning Commission,
- ▶ University of Louisville,
- ▶ U.S. Geological Survey.

2004 Progress Report –This fourth annual Progress Report for the Floodplain Management Plan outlines the status of the five-year Action Plan and describes projects and activities taken by various agencies and organizations to reduce or mitigate flood losses. Many of the flood-reduction activities itemized in the five-year Action Plan are ongoing while others maybe completed as scheduled. The entire FPMP and the five-year Action Plan can be viewed at <http://www.msdlouky.org/programs/crssite/index.html>.

All Hazards Planning and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000: Due to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, local communities are required to address all natural hazards in the community. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 focuses on “pre-disaster mitigation” rather than “post-disaster responses” and requires an All Natural Hazards Mitigation plan to be submitted to FEMA and the State and be adopted by the local governing body.

During May 2004, an Advisory Committee began serving as stakeholders and partners in planning efforts to address the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. In addition, a 20-member Planning Team of emergency related-agencies and organizations oversees the all hazard process and will ensure actions are incorporated in their representative agencies for hazard mitigation. The Advisory Committee and Planning Team will continue to meet throughout 2004 and into 2005 on a regular basis as they review the hazards, vulnerabilities, and to develop mitigation activities for Louisville Metro. The Louisville Metro All Hazards Mitigation Plan is scheduled for public review in January 2005 and will be submitted to Metro Council for adoption in June 2005.

Map Modernization Update: FEMA awarded 1.4 million dollars and approval of the Map Modernization program to digitize floodplain maps (DFIRM, digital-Flood Insurance Rate Map) for the Louisville Metro area last year. The Map Modernization Program is a substantial addition to the progress and should have positive effects on many metro activities.

- ▶ The countywide DFIRM project has progressed rapidly. Redelineation of 276 miles of effective flood data on new topography is nearing completion.
- ▶ Other studies, leveraged primarily from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Louisville District studies along Floyds Fork, Harrods Creek, Pennsylvania Run, and Little Goose Creek, have also been incorporated into the countywide hazard data.
- ▶ The new detailed study models (67 miles) for Pond Creek Watershed streams, South Fork Beargrass Creek, and other flooding sources are now being calibrated and prepared for mapping. Post-preliminary processing will follow, once the DFIRM has been through the Independent Technical Review. Look for this to begin early in 2005 or sooner. These newly defined flood zones may qualify for CRS credit.

Online Map Determinations: Beginning in late 2003, MSD converted the map determination service into a digital web-based service. The service has proven to be invaluable to inquirers who can receive an immediate map determination rather than waiting for MSD staff to make a manual floodplain determination. Realtors, Lenders, Insurers and citizens can now go through MSD's website to receive a quick determination. Go to MSD's HomePage: <http://www.msdlouky.org> and click on "Floodplain Information".

Floodplain Management Plan Five-year Action Plan: The Floodplain Management Plan and associated Five-Year Action Plan addresses specific flood-related issues, hazards, activities, and projects. Following is a summary of the 2004 accomplishments for completing the 5-year Action Plan.

- I. **Regulations and Preventive Measures:** The 5-year action plan recommends fourteen (14) issues for Regulations and Preventive Measures. Issues include: five revisions to the Louisville and Jefferson County Floodplain Ordinances and two changes to the Haz-Mat Ordinance. Projects also include ensuring uniformity in maintaining repetitive loss information and enforcing floodplain regulations. In addition, actions call for reviewing programs for water quality in karst areas, foundation protection standards, and deed restriction policies.
 - ▶ **Floodplain Ordinance:** The primary focus of this work group has been addressing the inconsistencies between city and county floodplain ordinances, especially due to the merger of the city and county governments. The two major issues that need resolution relate to developing consistent definitions of Cumulative Substantial Improvement and Cumulative Substantial Damage. The Advisory Committee approved the Ordinance revisions in 2003 and the Jefferson County Attorney's Office developed a draft Ordinance. The Metro Council is currently reviewing the draft Ordinance.

- II. **Property Protection and Structural Projects:** The 5-year Action Plan recommends eleven (11) projects: two relating to FEMA/NFIP compliance, five projects specific to resolving flooding in chronic areas, as well as reviewing floodproofing standards and programs.
 - ▶ **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** funding for acquisition of several floodway properties was approved in 2003: Approximately 50 of the 67 structures approved in the grant have been acquired and demolished during the past year. Once acquired, all properties become greenspace and are deed-restricted so no further development can take place on the property. The HMGP is near 100% in participation by qualified property owners and the remaining properties are currently being pursued.
 - ▶ **Repetitive loss property list:** Distribution of the repetitive loss property list to relevant permitting agencies assists in tracking substantial improvement and damage.
 - ▶ **Existing programs continue,** such as the basement Backflow Prevention Program, USACE/MSD partnership for flood protection projects, and MSD response to flooding/drainage requests and Project DRI.
 - ▶ **Potential HMGP funding:** Kentucky Emergency Management is currently considering MSD for another potential HMGP application for approximately \$850,000 in federal funding. The mitigation of these proposed properties may result in additional CRS credit for repetitive loss acquisition, open space, and deed restrictions.

- III. **Emergency Services and Public Outreach:** The 5-year Action Plan recommends thirty (30) activities related to public outreach and emergency services. The public outreach projects include numerous information dissemination activities on pre- and post-disaster preparedness directed towards the public, media, neighborhoods, elected officials, homebuilders, and response agencies. The emergency service projects include resource plans/training, and reviewing communication capabilities in disaster situations.
- ▶ **Certified Emergency Response Team:** Progress this year includes a \$60,000 grant to strengthen the CERT program and for hiring a fulltime staff coordinator. The “Train-the-Trainer” program has trained 15 instructors in neighborhoods. In addition, two new communities, Meadowview and Lyndon, have arranged for a CERT class in 2004.
 - ▶ **Reprint of 12,000 “Disasters: What You Can Do to protect Yourself”.** The 12-page emergency preparedness booklet is available throughout the library system, at City Hall, and at fire and police stations. The booklet is produced by the Louisville Metro EMA and Louisville Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and sponsored by LG&E, and Ford Motor Co.
 - ▶ **Potential HMGP funding:** Due to Presidentially declared disasters in Kentucky during 2004, HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) funding is available for mitigation projects. The Louisville Metro EMA submitted applications for three projects. Kentucky Emergency Management is currently considering projects from all counties and will decide priorities soon.
 - ▶ **CERT program:** Requested additional funding for the CERT program to enhance the program
 - ▶ **Sirens:** Requested four (4) siren projects for Louisville Metro
 - ▶ **Real-Time Telemetry Stream Gauges,** which would update the flood warning system. The project would be under the management of USGS.
- IV. **Natural Resource Protection:** The 5-year Action Plan recommends seven (7) projects including, maximizing open space, establishing a watershed master plan, and promoting water quality through the enforcement of the EPSC (Erosion Protection and Sediment Control) ordinance and program.
- ▶ **Existing programs continue:** Progress includes the integration of water quality BMPs into several projects throughout the county, assessment of open space practices and definitions, and continued enforcement of the EPSC ordinance and water quality monitoring.