

CRS Activity 510

Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Date this Report was Prepared: October 7, 2022

Name of Community: City of Laurel, MD

Name of Plan: Prince George's County & the City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Date of Adoption of Plan:

Prince George's County & the City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Adoption by Prince George's County Council Resolution on July 17, 2018

Adoption by City Council Resolution on November 13, 2017

Approved by FEMA on October 23, 2018

City of Laurel, Maryland Flood Hazard Addendum

Adoption by City Council Resolution on June 8, 2020

Approved by FEMA on August 26, 2020

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: July 17, 2023

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:

A copy of the original Prince George's County & the City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan Update can be obtained from the Prince George's County Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Management at 7915 Anchor Street, Landover, Maryland 20785. A digital copy of the plan can be accessed on the City of Laurel's website at

<https://www.cityoflaurel.org/system/files/files/pglaurelhazardmitigationplan2017approvedcopy.pdf> and it was also transmitted to ISO reviewer with this 2022 Progress Report.

A copy of the City of Laurel, Maryland Flood Hazard Addendum can be obtained from the City of Laurel's Office of Emergency Management Office at 8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707. A digital copy of the plan was also transmitted to ISO reviewer with this 2022 Progress Report.

2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

This Progress Report was prepared by staff of the City of Laurel's Office of Emergency Management, which participated in the development of the Prince George's County & the City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan Update through the Prince George's County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). This committee oversees implementation of the hazard mitigation plan.

The LEPC reviewed the County's Progress Report and submitted it to the governing body in the Spring of 2020. The 2017 Prince George's County & the City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan Update provides that the County will coordinate an annual meeting to review action items and provide an annual report to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) detailing annual progress on mitigation actions.

The City's Flood Prevention Planning Committee which developed the City of Laurel, Maryland Flood Hazard Addendum will review and approve the Progress Report on October 7, 2022 and submit it to the governing body. The City's Flood Hazard Addendum provides that the City will coordinate an annual meeting to review action items and provide an annual report to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) detailing annual progress on mitigation actions.

The City will post this Progress Report on the Office of Emergency Management's website and release it to the media via a press release.

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

Action# City – 1: Continue to partner with FEMA/MDE to promote use of Updated Flood Hazard Maps. Updated Mapping will continue to inform Risk Reduction and mitigation of at-Risk Buildings such as repetitive loss structures.

The City to partners with FEMA/MDE and USACE on use of updated flood hazard maps. This action item is on-going.

Action# City – 2: Integrate mitigation plan requirements and actions into other appropriate planning mechanisms such as comprehensive plans and capital improvement plans.

We have a comprehensive integrated mitigation plan and actions are ongoing such as; the Patuxent River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Project which includes USACE, FEMA, and other State and local partners.

Action# City - 3: Support mitigation projects that will result in protection of public or private property from natural hazards. Eligible projects include but are not limited to: 1. Acquisition of flood-prone property 2. Elevation of flood-prone structures 3. Minor structural flood control projects 4. Relocation of structures from hazard prone areas 5. Retrofitting of existing buildings, facilities and infrastructure 6. Retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities for shelter 7. Critical infrastructure protection measures 8. Stormwater management improvements 9. Advanced warning systems and hazard gauging system (weather radios, reserve-911, stream gauges, I-flows) 10. Targeted hazard education. 11. Wastewater and water supply system hardening and mitigation.

The City has worked with SAIA Motor Freight to retrofit and ensure minor structural flood control at an existing trucking terminal that was vacant for over a decade. The work that was completed was the construction of a 3,850 addition for office space, installation of a fuel tank, repaving the site and adding a fence. Since the property is located within the floodplain the gas tanks were constructed on a concrete slab and secured by bollards to prevent floatation or lateral movement. In addition, all tank inlets and/or vents will be above the base flood elevation, all in accordance with Section 20-38.11 of the City of Laurel Unified Land Development Code.

The City is working on the process to obtain funding to purchase (12) low cost flood warning gauges to install along the Patuxent River and contributing branches. The City is working on a partnership with Prince George's County and Maryland Emergency Management Agency for this project.

Action# City - 4: Seek mitigation solutions for City facilities including: the flood-prone municipal swimming pool; Department of Public Works flood-prone buildings and the City of Laurel Police Department Building. Determine pro-active preventive mitigation actions and seek grant funds for permanent solutions.

The City purchased flooding barriers for the City of Laurel Police Department Building and deploys them when a forecast of heavy rain/flooding is projected.

Action# City - 5: After flood events, the City of Laurel will evaluate whether to pursue funding to implement flood mitigation projects.

After flooding event April 2020, the City began working with Maryland Environmental Services (MES) to plan and complete a stream rehabilitation project along a portion of Walker Branch to include removing a damaged low level dam. This project has been coordinated with Prince George's County and progress has been made to contact residents near the area.

Flooding occurred on June 2020, the City contacted Prince George's County DOE and conducted a walk thru and scheduled both an initial cleaning of debris from the waterway and PG DOE has put Crow Branch on the 2021 schedule for a complete walk thru maintenance. The City is also working with PG DOE to get the natural portion of upper Crow Branch on the County's stream restoration project queue.

Due to Bear Branch flooding, with the coordination of the City and County the County has just started a 2 year project to conduct a complete restoration of the upper portion of Bear Branch. This project is in progress.

Action# City - 6: Pursue participation in the FEMA Community Rating System to reduce the cost of the National Flood Insurance Policy premiums.

As of April 2022, the City is part of the FEMA Community Rating System.

Action# City - 7: Continue to support regional drought response and Planning.

This project has been removed from the regional projects.

Action# City - 8: Continue to support regional drought response and planning by continuing the City's commitment and participation with MWCOG and WSSC when drought awareness responses are activated. Examine appropriate water conservation measures for City office buildings.

There has been no recent drought concerns for the City to support, plan for, or address water conservation measures.

Action# City – 9: The new notification procedures must be tested and exercised within the City of Laurel and Prince George's County to identify any shortfalls or procedures that need to be amended. Expanded floodplain areas must be addressed in relationship to areas effected by a release of water from the dams.

Shortfalls have been identified by the City and County. In a partnership the City and County are working towards an entirely new system.

Action# City – 10: Continue outreach efforts to promote recently completed bilingual Citizens Emergency Preparedness Guide.

The City's bilingual Citizens Emergency Preparedness Guide was promoted in various events throughout the City such as; Touch –a- Truck on 7/14/19, National Night Out on 8/9/19, Back to School Event on 8/17/19, Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management Preparedness Expo on 9/12/19, Trick or Treat

on Main Street 10/24/19, Health Fair on 1/26/20, and City's Open House on 3/1/20. All other events have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

The City plans on updating this guide in 2023.

Action# City – 11: Work with City closed circuit television network to produce seasonal hazard awareness and topical mitigation programming.

The City frequently airs seasonal hazard awareness and tropical mitigation shows on their closed circuit television network, LaurelTV to include topics such as; floodplain information, flood insurance policies, Turn Around, Don't Drown, and flooding hazard/safety. Most of the materials aired are from Ready.gov.

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

Per the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, the timeframe for performance of Action Items City 1-6, City 9 and 11 are on-going. Action Items City 7-8 will be addressed as drought becomes an issue for the region.

The County and City are in the process of updating the 2017 Prince George's County & the City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan.

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

No new projects or revised recommendations are suggested at this time for the County or City.