Mitigation Strategies Report

Guilford County

Strategy: ES-1   **Priority: High**   **Status: Future**

Develop a Flood Response Plan to address the specific response to flooding events within the county.

Annual Updates:

2021   Little progress has been made on this action. The county will continue to research opportunities to implement this action.

Strategy: ES-2   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

Offer additional training to law enforcement officers regarding civil disturbance and provide necessary equipment to officers.

Annual Updates:

2021   The Sheriff's Office Civil Disorder Unit is in operational status and continues to train monthly.

Strategy: P-1   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

Maintain Geographic Information System (GIS) to maintain current cadastral (building/parcel) data for purposes of conducting more detailed hazard risk assessments and for tracking permitting and land use patterns.

Annual Updates:

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2021   The county continues to maintain appropriate layers and has installed cloud-based data access paths. These pathways are continually being expanded, so this action will remain in place.

Strategy: P-2   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

Regularly calculate and document the amount of flood prone property that is preserved as open space for additional credit points under the Community Rating System (CRS).

Annual Updates:

2021   : The Guilford County Planning Department continues to calculate and document the amount of flood prone property that is preserved as open space for additional CRS points.

Strategy: P-3   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: On Going**

Identify the county's most at-risk vital-critical facilities, and evaluate the potential mitigation techniques for protecting each facility to the maximum extent possible.

Annual Updates:

2021   The county frequently attempts to update its list of vital/critical facilities, including through the update of this plan. Through these processes, the county attempts to identify potential mitigation actions to reduce risk to these facilities. The county will continue to carry out the update process going forward.

Strategy: P-4   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: On Going**

Monitor grant opportunities for funding to establish a local reserve fund for repairing and/or incorporating hazard mitigation measures for public facilities and infrastructure damaged by natural hazards.

Annual Updates:

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2021   The county frequently attempts to update its list of vital/critical facilities, including through the update of this plan. Through these processes, the county attempts to identify potential mitigation actions to reduce risk to these facilities. The county will continue to carry out the update process going forward.

Strategy: P-5   **Priority: High**   **Status: Completed**

Augment enforcement of the State Building Code and related County ordinances by encouraging wind-resistant design techniques for new residential construction during the county's permit process.

Annual Updates:

2021   No change (2018 NC Building Code Effective January 1, 2019 remains current and in effect). Wind load design criteria for Guilford County remains 115 mph.

Strategy: P-6   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

Invest in cyber security equipment and training to mitigate future cyber incidents.

Annual Updates:

2021   The County carried out major security updates by implementing cybersecurity awareness training combined with a simulated phishing attack. We also moved from Sonic firewall to FortiGate's next-generation firewall to build a high-performance, ultra-scalable, and ultra-fast end-to-end security-driven network. At the end 2021, the County implemented a network threat prediction solution that combines artificial intelligence and deep learning to protect against the increasing potential for vulnerabilities.

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Strategy: PEA-1   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

Promote the availability of flood insurance to County and City property owners.

Annual Updates:

2021   The County makes efforts to promote the availability of flood insurance to property owners, especially those located in the floodplain or other flood prone areas. The County provides insurance info in annual letters to property owners in areas of Repetitive Loss, and to property owners, real estate agents and consultants when inquiries are requested on properties in or near floodplains.

Strategy: PEA-2   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

As new Repetitive Loss Properties are identified within the County and municipalities, contact all owners and inform them of the assistance available through the federal flood assistance programs, in additional to other flood protection measures.

Annual Updates:

2021   Guilford County has relatively few Repetitive Loss (RL) properties and continues to send annual letters to the RL area properties with information regarding federal flood assistance programs and flood protection measures.

Strategy: PEA-3   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

Maintain an all-hazards public education program to educate and prepare residents for all hazards identified in Guilford County.

Annual Updates:

2021   Guilford County Emergency Management preformed several preparedness presentations virtually in 2021. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severally limited these opportunities.

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Strategy: PEA-4   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: On Going**

Develop outreach program to local school administrators to help them identify sheltering areas for all schools.

Annual Updates:

2021   Guilford County works with stakeholders in the school system to keep them informed of best practices in the industry and to coordinate and educate on critical matters related to disaster preparedness. Further coordination will take place going forward.

Strategy: PEA-6   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: On Going**

Re-Certify as a StormReady Community through the National Weather Service.

Annual Updates:

2021   Guilford County was re-certified as a Storm Ready Community effective February 28th, 2020. This will expire February 28th, 2023. At this time, the county will again aim to re-certify.

Strategy: PP-1   **Priority: High**   **Status: On Going**

Continue to acquire and preserve parcel land subject to repetitive flooding from willing and voluntary proper owners. The county will also consider other residential mitigation projects such as elevation and mitigation reconstruction.

Annual Updates:

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2021   The County continues to update the Repetitive Loss (RL) properties list and include those properties on the mailings regarding federal flood assistance and flood protection measures. The County has applied for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants to acquire parcels, including 2 demo & property acquisition projects under Hurricane Florence HMGP. NCEM is awaiting contractor proposals for the 2 projects and hope to begin demo & acquisition work in 2022.

Strategy: PP-2   **Priority: High**   **Status: In Progress**

Research and implement, if feasible, zoning regulations for critical facilities (schools and/or other vulnerable population facilities) located near hazardous materials and pipeline locations.

Annual Updates:

2021   The Planning & Development Department, Information Services, and Emergency Management have not yet collaborated on the specifically proposed regulations; therefore, the action will remain in the plan with the goal of implementing any feasible regulations in 2025.

Strategy: PP-3   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: Future**

Research and implement, if feasible feasible, residential sprinkler code in Guilford County.

Annual Updates:

2021   The latest building code for residential sprinkler systems in the county has not been updated. Research and implementation still need to take place, so this action will remain in the plan.

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Strategy: PP-4   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: In Progress**

Research and create a Historic Preservation Plan

Annual Updates:

2021   The Historic Preservation procedures and regulations were updated to comply with the State's Model Ordinance and NC Statute 160.D within the Unified Development Ordinance adopted in November 2019. However, a Historic Preservation Plan has not yet been completed.

Strategy: PP-5   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: Completed**

Based on the March 6, 2014 Ice Storm Disaster Declaration, Guilford County applied under the Post Disaster Mitigation Grant program to relocate EMS Base 1.

Annual Updates:

2021   EMS Base 1 has been collocated with the newly built Greensboro Fire Department Station 7.

Strategy: PP-6   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: Future**

Research grant funding opportunities for alternate power sources for critical facilities.

Annual Updates:

2021   Little progress has been made on this action as grant opportunities have not been available. The county will continue to research opportunities to implement this action.

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Strategy: SP-1   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: Future**

Research safe room grant opportunities to construct safe rooms in schools and vulnerable population locations.

Annual Updates:

2021   : Little progress has been made on this action since the last plan update as grant opportunities have not been available. The county will continue to research opportunities to implement this action.

Strategy: SP-2   **Priority: Medium**   **Status: Future**

Research and implement, if feasible, a local building code that requires new and modified commercial buildings to install communication repeaters/amplifiers within the structure to augment public safety radio systems.

Annual Updates:

2021   The latest building code for did not include a requirement for repeaters/amplifiers within structures to augment public safety radio systems. Research and implementation still need to take place.