

## **Kane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan**

Annual Report for 2014

September 18, 2015

Amended: December 16, 2015

City of St. Charles, Illinois

The City of St. Charles has adopted by ordinance the Kane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The goals, guidelines and action items of the plan are listed below.

### **Goals:**

1. Protect the lives and health of the citizens of St. Charles from the effects of natural hazards.
2. Encourage self-help and self-protection measures to mitigate the effects of natural hazards on private property.
3. Protect critical facilities and public infrastructure with public funds.
4. Identify specific projects to mitigate damage where cost-effective and affordable.
5. Reduce the number of repetitively damaged existing structures.

### **Guidelines:**

1. Focus natural hazards mitigation efforts on tornadoes, floods, thunderstorms and winter storms.
2. Encourage people to assume some responsibility for their own protection.
3. New developments should not create new exposures to damage from natural hazards.
4. Local initiatives should focus on protecting citizens and public property.
5. Seek county, state, and federal support for special projects.
6. Preserve open space in hazardous areas, especially where there are sensitive natural areas and agricultural lands.
7. Be consistent with existing plans.

### **Action Items:**

#### **1. Building Code Improvements**

- The City has adopted the per Ordinance Number 2010-M-42 the 2009 International Building Code (Multi-Family/Commercial) and per Ordinance Number 2010-M-43 the 2009 International Residential Code (Single Family)

## **2. Improved Code Enforcement**

- No items to report

## **3. Review of Plans and Development Regulations**

- The City of St. Charles Engineering Design and Inspection Policy Manual was adopted in October 2009 and was updated in late December 2013. This manual contains the specification the installation of utilities and roadway, as well as inspection procedures. Erosion control details are now referenced to those provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as published in the Illinois Urban Manual, most current edition.

## **4. Facility Audits**

- Work in continuing on establishing emergency safe zones in City buildings. This project is ongoing.

## **5. Retrofitting Incentives**

- The City of St. Charles continued to offer residents a program to reimburse them up to 50% of the cost, up to \$2,500 total, to install backflow prevention on their sewer service. This program is meant to help residents that have experienced past problems with sewerage backups. There were no residents that took advantage of the program in 2014.

## **6. Repetitive Loss Projects**

- No items to report

## **7. Drainage Maintenance**

- The City first adopted a Stormwater Management Program Plan (SMPP) in 2009. The current version is considered effective as of January 1, 2010. The purpose of the SMPP is to meet the minimum standards required by the USEPA under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II program. The annual NPDES submittal was sent to the IEPA in June of 2014.
- Ongoing inspection and monitoring of all open channels within the City. Cleanup of debris as needed.
- Ongoing monitoring of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Creek at Illinois, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

### **Drainage Maintenance, cont.**

- Detention basin inspections, both public and private, were conducted through the Community Development Department. Letters were sent to property owners if pond maintenance was required.
- A total of 3,089 storm sewer structures were cleaned and a total of 2,377 feet of storm sewer mains were televised in 2014.
- “No Dumping in Stream” signs are maintained at various waterway locations within the City.

### **8. Urban Forestry**

- The City has an ongoing program to remove trees on public property that are diseased or found to be infected with Emerald Ash Borer. The City’s GIS system is kept up to date with data related to the species of trees, which aids in the inspection process. For the year 2014, 252 dead and/or diseased trees were removed.

### **9. Flood Threat Recognition**

- The August 2007 Fox River flood was predominantly caused by extensive rain in the northern reaches of the Fox River watershed. River gauges north of the City can be accessed on line to help predict how extensive the flooding will be in St. Charles. A link has been made available on the City’s floodplain page to the gauge in Algonquin, IL. Monitoring this gauge gives the City and residents time to respond to flooding along the river.

### **10. Improved Emergency Response**

- As part of emergency preparedness, the City was certified as a Storm Ready Community in 2014.

### **11. Flood Control Projects**

- As part of the 2014 MFT program the City replaced 33 storm sewer structures and installed 4 new storm structures.
- As part of the 2014 MFT program the City replaced 1,422 feet of storm sewer and installed 226 feet of new storm sewer.
- 2,544 feet of storm sewer were televised in 2014.
- 3,089 storm sewer structures were cleaned in 2014.

### **Flood Control Projects, cont.**

- During 2014 the City reconstructed the municipal campus parking lot between City Hall and the Police Department. As part of the project a green corridor has been provided along the river and the storm drainage system has been improved.
- During 2014 the City continued the process of developing a concept plan for 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Creek and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Creek Tributary. The goal of the concept plan is to address recurring flooding along the creek and tributary, minimize stream erosion, improve stream ecology, and identify options that will improve aesthetics and revitalize the neighborhood along the project corridor.
- Continuing through 2014, the City has been in contact with FEMA and their contractors to verify the status of the remodeling of the existing flood insurance study from the Fox River to Kirk Road. A new flood insurance study and related mapping for 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Creek from the Fox River to Kirk Road is anticipated to become effective in late 2016 or early 2017.

### **12. Hazard Mitigation Materials**

- During 2014, two information brochures were made available to the public through the Public Works Engineering Division, and the Building and Code Enforcement Office. These are “Selecting a Contractor, Flood Damage” and “Floodplain Information”. These are updated on an as needed basis. Topics from the Floodplain Information brochure are regularly published in the resident newsletter.

### **13. Outreach Projects**

- The City has created and continued to add content to a “floodplain page”. Elevation certificates on file are available through the City’s website, as well as FEMA Letters of Map Change. Also, there are numerous links to resources to assist residents with drainage concerns.
- The City mailed outreach letters to floodplain and repetitive loss property owners in 2014.
- The City mailed outreach letters to local lenders, real estate and insurance offices in 2014.

#### **14. Property Protection Measures**

- The most current Flood Insurance Study and mapping for the City of St. Charles is on file with the St. Charles Public Library. A number of FEMA publications have also been provide to the library by the City. These publications available can be searched on line at the St. Charles Public Library website, <http://www.st-charles.lib.il.us/>

#### **15. Plan Adoption**

- The City previously adopted the Kane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan per Resolution No. 2003-58. A resolution adopting the updated plan was passed in early 2011 per Resolution No. 2011-30

#### **16. Mitigation Coordinating Committee**

- No items to report

#### **17. Community Rating System**

- The City of St. Charles is a participant in the Community Rating System. The annual recertification in 2014 has maintained the City's current rating of Class 5.