

Chapter 4

Mitigation Plan Goals, Action Items, and Public Participation

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Mitigation Plan Goals, Action Items, and Public Participation

This chapter provides information on the process used to develop goals and action items addressed in the mitigation plan. It also describes the framework that focuses the plan on developing successful mitigation strategies. The framework is made up of two parts: Goals and Action Items.

Goals

The plan goals describe the overall directions that Beaverton departments, organizations, and citizens can take to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The goals are guiding principles for the specific recommendations that are outlined in the action items.

Action Items

The action items are detailed recommendations for activities that city departments, citizens and others could engage in to reduce risk.

Mitigation Plan Goals

The plan goals help to guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards. The goals listed here serve as checkpoints as agencies and organization begin implementing mitigation action items.

Meetings with the project steering committee, stakeholder interviews, a household and business survey, as well as a focus group served as methods to obtain input and identify priorities in developing goals for reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards in Beaverton.

Beaverton's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan goals are based on the goals established by Washington County in their Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The City's project steering committee reviewed the county's goals and made recommendations during a meeting on February 11, 2003, for adapting them to the City's needs. The following are the resulting goals for the City of Beaverton's Natural Hazards Mitigation plan.

Goal 1: Develop and Implement Activities to Protect Human Life, Commerce, Property, and Natural Systems From Natural Hazards

1. Reduce insurance losses and repetitive claims for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.
2. Evaluate applicable city guidelines, codes, and permitting processes regarding how they address natural hazard mitigation.
3. Link watershed planning, natural resource management, and land use planning with natural hazard mitigation activities to protect vital habitat and water quality.
4. Preserve and rehabilitate natural systems to serve natural hazard mitigation functions.

5. Continuously develop and update natural hazard related datasets.

Goal 2: Improve Partnerships for Communication and Coordination

1. Develop and implement natural hazard education and outreach programs to increase awareness among citizens; local, city, and regional agencies; non-profit organizations; and businesses.
2. Strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, and businesses working in natural hazard risk reduction.

Goal 3: Enhance Emergency Services

1. Strengthen emergency operations by increasing communication, collaboration and coordination among public agencies, non-profit organization, and businesses.
2. Coordinate natural hazard mitigation activities, where appropriate, with emergency operations plans and procedures.

Goal 4: Ensure Implementation of Mitigation Activities

1. To implement natural hazard mitigation activities, develop and continue partnerships and promote leadership within local and regional public agencies; citizens; non-profit organizations; and businesses.
2. Ensure consistency between city, county, regional, and state mitigation activities.
3. Consistently, seek diverse funding and resource partnerships for future mitigation efforts.

Mitigation Plan Action Items

The mitigation plan identifies short and long-term action items developed through data collection and research, along with the public participation process. Mitigation plan activities may be considered for funding through state and federal grant programs, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program, as funds are made available. Action items address both multi-hazard (MH) and hazard specific issues for the hazards addressed in this plan. To facilitate implementation, each action item includes information on timeline, coordinating and partner organizations, ideas for implementation, and plan goals addressed.

Coordinating Organization. The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The coordinating organization for all action items within the Beaverton plan will be the City of Beaverton.

Internal Partners: Internal partner organizations are departments within the City that may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the coordinating organization.

External Partners: External partner organizations can assist the City in implementing the action items in various functions and may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private sector organizations.

The internal and external partner organizations listed in the Mitigation Plan are potential partners recommended by the project steering committee, but not necessarily contacted during the development of the plan. The coordinating organization should contact the identified partner organizations to see if they are capable of and interested in participation. This initial contact is also to gain a commitment of time and or resources towards completion of the action items.

(Revised 09/2010) **Timeline.** In the initial NHMP, action items were identified as being short-term or long-term and included an estimate of the timeline for implementation. Short-term action items (ST) were activities that city departments may implement with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. Long-term action items (LT) may require new or additional resources and/or authorities, and may take between one and five years to implement.

During the initial plan cycle, the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Steering Committee reclassified the Action items into four categories:

- **On-going - Action Items are being worked on; but are not to the point where they are fully incorporated into City operations, plans, or regulations.**
- **Current Plan Cycle - Action Items that could be accomplished during the 5 years before the next scheduled plan revision.**
- **Future Plan Cycle - Action Items that are not likely to be started or accomplished in the 5 year before the next scheduled plan revision**
- **Completed - Action Items that have been completed**

(Revised 09/2010) **Possible Actions** (previously called Ideas for Implementation). Each action item includes ideas for implementation and potential resources. This information offers a transition from theory to practice. These possible actions serve as a starting point for this plan. This component of the action items is dynamic as some ideas may be not feasible and new ideas can be added during the plan maintenance process. (For more information on how this plan will be implemented and evaluated, see Chapter 5). These possible actions are only suggestions for ways to implement the plan goal. Some of these items may prove to be unrealistic and others more refined ideas may be identified and added to the plan. Possible actions include things such as collaboration with relevant organizations, grant programs, tax incentives, human resources, education and outreach, research, and physical manipulation of buildings and infrastructure. A list of potential resources outlines what organization or agency will be most qualified and capable to perform the implementation strategy. Potential resources often include utility companies, non-profits, schools, and other community organizations.

Plan Goals Addressed. The plan goals addressed by each action item are identified as a means for monitoring and evaluating how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals following implementation.

Public Participation

Public participation during the development of the mitigation plan assisted in creating plan goals. Focus groups held on April 16 and 21, 2003 resulted in public ranking of generic plan goals as well as implementation strategies. Appendix D contains the full results of the focus group process including the prioritization of general plan goals and implementation strategies. The fourteen participants that took part in the focus groups were individual citizens. This public process generated ideas for action items. Participants emphasized the importance of education and outreach as well as working with existing organizations within the community.

Continued Public Involvement (New 09/2010)

Public participation was maintained in the review and revision process for this update of the plan.

- Four members from the public were added to the Steering Committee; two from the Beaverton Committee for Citizen Involvement (BCCI) and two from the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.
- A mitigation survey was conducted on-line using questions from the original household survey that was used during the development of the original plan. There were 106 respondents as of September 27, 2010, and their responses validated the plans goals and priorities. (See Appendix H for additional information)
- A copy of the NHMP has been available for review on the City's website since it was originally created. The website also provides the public with the opportunity to submit questions and comments regarding the plan. The site has experienced over 3000 hits since October 2008, when we implemented a new website format.

Picture 4.1. City of Beaverton Webpage for NHMP (new 09/2010)

The screenshot shows the City of Beaverton Emergency Management website. At the top, there are navigation tabs for Departments, City Programs, About Beaverton, City Contacts, and City News / Events. Below this is the City of Beaverton, Oregon logo and the Emergency Management title. A search bar and a language selection dropdown are visible. A secondary navigation bar includes links for EM Home, About Us, Current Conditions, CERT, Preparedness, When Emergencies Happen, and Resources. The main content area is titled "About Us" and lists various links. The "Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan" section is highlighted, containing text about the plan's adoption in 2003 and its purpose. A photograph of a flooded residential area is included. The text explains that the plan was approved by FEMA, making the city eligible for federal grant funds. It also mentions a 2005 grant for upgrading City Hall. A note states the plan is under review and update, and invites public input through a survey or email to the Emergency Manager at emergmngmail@ci.beaverton.or.us. A link for the "Mitigation and Preparedness Survey" is provided at the bottom.

- When the process to revise and update the plan was started, information on the update and solicitation for comment were posted on the Home Page of the City's website and published in the "Your City" newsletter, which gets distributed to every residence and business in the City. Information on how to submit comments and proposed changes were included in the information. Links to the on-line survey were also provided in the "Your City" article and on the City's Home Page.

The City of Beaverton is dedicated to continuing with the public's involvement the continual reshaping and updating of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The updated plan will continue to be maintained on the City's website along with information on how community members, partners, businesses, stakeholders and others can provide additional comments and recommendations.