



**City of Lakeland  
Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report  
October 2013**

The City of Lakeland adopted the Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) which serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan under the Community Rating System (CRS). Under CRS Activity 510 the City is required to complete a Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report and provide it to the public. This document serves as that report.

**Adoption of the LMS / Updates**

The Polk County LMS was originally adopted on June 15, 2005 and the five year update was adopted by the City of Lakeland on September 20, 2010 via Resolution 4856.

**Purpose and Objectives of the LMS**

The purpose of the LMS is to develop a unified approach for dealing with identified hazards and hazard management problems, including flooding. The LMS serves as a tool to direct the City of Lakeland in its ongoing efforts to reduce vulnerability to the impacts produced by both natural and man-made hazards. The LMS also helps establish funding priorities for currently proposed mitigation projects and develops priority mitigation projects to be completed when funding becomes available.

**The primary objectives of the LMS are to:**

- Improve the community's resistance to damage from known natural, technological and societal hazards;
- Place City of Lakeland in a position to compete more effectively for pre- and post- disaster mitigation funding;
- Reduce the cost of disasters at all levels; and
- Speed community recovery when disasters occur.

**Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group**

The City of Lakeland participates in the Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) which was established to review and make recommendations concerning the LMS. The LMSWG consists of representatives from Polk County municipalities, local organizations and County government and is coordinated by staff of the County Emergency Management Division. The LMSWG met on August 21, 2009 to finalize the LMS update including revisions to the Prioritized Projects List (PPL) of projects eligible for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding.

## **Capital Improvements Plan**

The City of Lakeland, through the approval of the City Commission, plans and implements a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan for stormwater and drainage improvement projects. These projects are planned to reduce flooding and for maintaining the drainage facilities within the City.

The attached is the Fiscal Year 2013-2023 CIP projects list that the City is currently implementing.

## **CRS Program Participation**

The LMS references the importance and benefit of City of Lakeland's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS). As a participant, the City established flood protection measures and educational opportunities beyond the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These efforts have allowed City of Lakeland to achieve a "Class 7" certification resulting in a 15% discount on flood insurance premiums for properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area within the city limits.

Florida State Emergency Management Division completed their Community Assistance Visit (CAV) in March 2010 regarding the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and CRS program.

The City receives CRS credit points from a variety of activities that promote flood protection and education. These activities are conducted by various departments within the city. The following is a summary of these ongoing activities and the departments or divisions that perform the activity that results in credit points for the CRS program:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Department(s)/Division(s)</b>	<b>CRS Activity #</b>
Maintain elevation certificates, make copies of certificates available to the public	Building Inspection Division	310
Provide Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information, maintain updated FIRM panels	Building Inspection Division	320
Provide pamphlets to lenders, insurance agents and real estate offices regarding City services	Community Development/ Public Works Depts.	320
Provide outreach to community/ Flood protection information	Lakes & Stormwater/ Building Inspection Division	330
Provide credited hazard disclosure measures; information on recorded plats	Community Development/ Public Works Depts.	340

Provide flood protection materials at public library and City website	City Library System/ Building Inspection Division	350
Provide flood protection assistance to residents in community	Building Inspection Division	360
Preserve floodplain in open space through zoning / Comprehensive Plan Land Use / public acquisition	Community Development Planning Division	420
Review new development for compliance with flood protection regulations	Community Development Dept./ Public Works Department	430
Track substantial improvements / permitting to meet current requirements	Building Inspection/ Planning Division	430
Maintain and update flood data	Public Works Dept.	440
Enforcement of regulations for stormwater management	Building Inspection Div/Public Works Dept.	450
Floodplain management planning	Community Development Dept./ Public Works Dept.	510
Maintain drainage systems through a regular program and CIP plan	Construction & Maintenance Division	540
Enforce stream dumping regulations	Code Enforcement Division/ Lakes & Stormwater Division	540
Provides outreach material about flood warning and safety measures	Communications Department	610

### **Community Outreach**

The City routinely engages in outreach as part of the ongoing effort to educate and inform citizens about flooding and flood protection. Some of these include:

- Participating in the annual Public Works Week which included information to assist citizens to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. We discussed flooding and flood related issues caused by both natural and man-made sources including storms, poor drainage, and illegal dumping in streams, ditches, and drainage structures.
- Placing signs in flood prone areas which indicate that flooding is likely during large storms and providing its estimated depth.
- Providing educational materials for local organizations to discuss potential or current flooding concerns relative to their industry.

- Attending City sponsored meetings where flooding is or may be a concern. Information is provided to citizens through the Communications Department.
- Developing and maintaining Flood Prevention and Floodplain Management pages on the City's website to provide information and resources intended to help citizens make educated flood-related decisions.
- Three Certified Floodplain Managers in the Building Inspections Customer Service area are available to answer permitting questions and concerns as they pertain to development in the floodplain and to provide flood protection assistance.
- Spanish version of materials related to flooding is included on the City's website.
- Providing a library of informative flood related brochures available to both the public and City of Lakeland staff.
- Maintaining a series of FEMA publications regarding flood protection and mitigation in the City library.

### **Certified Floodplain Manager Program**

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has established a national program for professional certification of floodplain managers. The program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers. Four city staff members have achieved the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) designation. This reflects City of Lakeland's continued commitment to professional service in implementing the floodplain management plan.

### **Comprehensive Plan Infrastructure Sub-Element**

The City of Lakeland Comprehensive Plan 2010-2020 was adopted by the City Commission on August 16, 2010 and was found in compliance by the Department of Community Affairs (currently known as Florida Department of Economic Opportunity) in October of 2010. The Infrastructure Sub-Element of the Comprehensive Plan establishes objectives and policies for maintaining level of service of stormwater systems and protecting property from flood hazards.

### **Summary**

The review of the LMS and Prioritized Projects List (PPL), which serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan under the CRS, was recently completed by the LMS Working Group as part of the five-year update to the overall LMS. The five year update was adopted by the City on September 20, 2010, via Resolution 4856.

City of Lakeland has achieved a “Class 7” certification under the CRS, primarily due to its significant outreach activities and projects undertaken by various City Departments. This “Class 7” rating results in substantial discounts to flood insurance premiums.

The City’s Comprehensive Plan 2010-2020 Update, which includes objectives and policies to maintain level of service of stormwater systems and to protect property from flood hazards, is complete. A copy of the City’s Comprehensive Plan is available to the public on the City’s website.

The City continues to implement drainage improvement projects through Capital Improvement Plan to reduce flooding within the city.

The City has established a public website to provide information regarding flood prevention, flood protection and flood insurance. The general public can visit <http://www.lakelandgov.net/publicworks/PublicWorks/FloodPrevention.aspx> to obtain such information and a copy of this report.