



**City of Lakeland**  
**Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report November 2019**

The City of Lakeland adopted the Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) that 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**

On August 18, 2015, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 15-098 that approved the County's designated portion of the Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy. The subsequent five year LMS update was adopted on September 21, 2015 by City of Lakeland Resolution No. 15-067.

**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 on-going 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 the 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
- Expedite 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) that 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 last met on October 21, 2019, to discuss the progress of the LMS update, including revisions to the Prioritized Projects List (PPL) of projects eligible for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. The new LMS is due to be finalized in February 2020.

### **Capital Improvements Plan**

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

Attached is the Fiscal Year 2019-2029 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. 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 the 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.

The Florida State Emergency Management Division completed their Community Assistance Visit (CAV) October 9, 2013, on the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and CRS program. The next visit is scheduled for November 20, 2019.

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 table summarizes the on-going activities; the departments or divisions that perform the activities, and the resulting in credit points to 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/ Lakes & Stormwater Division	320
Provide pamphlets to lenders, insurance agents and real estate offices regarding City services	Community Development/ Public Works Department	320
Provide outreach to community/ Flood protection information	Lakes & Stormwater Division/ Building Inspection Division	330
Provide credited hazard disclosure measures; information on recorded plats	Community Development/ Public Works Department	340
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/ Public Works Department	430
Track substantial improvements / permitting to meet current requirements	Building Inspection Division/ Planning Division	430
Maintain and update flood data	Public Works Department	440
Enforcement of regulations for stormwater management	Building Inspection Division/ Public Works Department	450
Floodplain management planning	Community Development/ Public Works Department	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 public outreach as part of the on-going effort to educate and inform citizens about flooding and flood protection. Some of these efforts include:

- Participating in the annual Public Works Week event that allows staff to personally disseminate important information that assists Lakeland's citizens in their preparation efforts for the upcoming hurricane season; flooding and flood related issues caused by natural and man-made sources - including storms, poor drainage, and illegal dumping in streams, ditches, and drainage structures.
- Placing signs in flood prone areas that indicate flooding is likely during large storms, and providing the estimated depth of floodwaters.
- 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 that provides information and resources intended to help citizens make educated flood-related decisions.
- Staffing two (2) Certified Floodplain Managers in the Building Inspections Customer Service area who are available to answer permitting questions and concerns, as they pertain to development in the floodplain, and to provide flood protection assistance. Two more are staffed in the Lakes & Stormwater Division and Engineering Division as well, to provide those services.
- Providing Spanish version of materials related to flooding is also 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. Five city staff members have achieved the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) designation. This reflects the 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 Comprehensive Plan was subsequently updated effective December 21, 2015. 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.

## **Higher Regulatory Standards**

Ordinance No. 5615 was adopted by the City Commission December 19, 2016. This ordinance established various technical amendments to the *Florida Building Code, Residential*. These amendments include: raising the freeboard requirement for new buildings to two (2) feet above base flood elevation, or, to the design flood elevation (whichever is higher); modifying the definition of substantial damage to include two flood-related instances within a ten-year period that equal, or exceed 25 percent of the market value of the structure, prior to the damage occurring. These amendments further protect Lakeland citizens from future flood damage, and increase our participation in CRS Activity 430.

## **Summary**

Under CRS Activity 510, the City is required to complete a Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report and provide it to the public. This annual report update serves as meeting that requirement. Additionally, this report provides a summary of CRS activities, and provides a list of stormwater related capital improvement projects that reduce flooding within the City of Lakeland.