



**City of Lakeland
Floodplain Management Annual Progress
Report April 2024**

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 maintain a Floodplain Management Planning Program and to complete a Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report that must then be provided 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 which approved the County's designated portion of the Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy. The County approved the most recent update to this document on September 1, 2020. This update was approved on April 19, 2021 by the City of Lakeland Resolution No. 5673. The LMS can be found on the Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy website, <https://polkcountylms.org/>.

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 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.

- 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) 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 last met on January 18, 2024 to discuss grant funding opportunities and evaluate programs enacted to deal with the Hurricane Idalia aftermath.

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.

The attached is the Stormwater 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 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) determination and the results were made effective on April 1, 2021, regarding the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and CRS program. The City's point total increased from the previous cycle visit; it went from 1629 points to 1707 points resulting in remaining in our current class. The next cycle visit will occur in 2024.

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 some of these ongoing activities and the departments or divisions that perform the activity that results in credit points for the CRS program:

Activity	Department(s)/Division(s)	CRS Activity
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 ongoing effort to educate and inform citizens about flooding and flood protection. Some of these include:

- Participating in the annual planned events 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 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 to provide information and resources intended to help citizens make educated flood-related decisions.
- Staffing two Certified Floodplain Managers in the Lakes & Stormwater Division as well as one in Engineering who are available to answer permitting questions and concerns as they pertain to development in the floodplain and to provide flood protection assistance. There is also interest in the Building Division in obtaining certifications within their department as well.
- Providing for 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. Three 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 was originally adopted in 1991, the

Lakeland Comprehensive Plan has been updated for the planning horizon of 2030. This update follows requirements of Chapter 163.177 of Florida Statutes and provides assessment of projected growth and demand for services for the coming decade. 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. The City is currently operating under the 2020-2030 plan, information on it can be found on the following website:

<https://www.lakelandgov.net/departments/community-economic-development/planning-zoning/comprehensive-plan/>

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 2 feet above base flood elevation or to the design flood elevation (whichever is higher) and 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 our 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 this requirement. This report provides a summary of CRS activities, and provides a list of stormwater related capital improvement projects to reduce flooding within the City of Lakeland. This report will be reflected in the meeting minutes and will be made available on the City's website:

<https://www.lakelandgov.net/departments/public-works/lakes-stormwater/flood-prevention/>

	FY23 Revised	FY24 Proposed	FY25 Projected	FY26 Projected	FY27 Projected	FY28 Projected	FY29 Projected	FY30 Projected	FY31 Projected	FY32 Projected	FY33 Projected
Revenue											
General Revenue											
Stormwater Fees - Commercial/Municipal	3,544,000	3,698,000	3,790,000	3,885,000	3,982,000	4,082,000	4,184,000	4,289,000	4,396,000	4,506,000	4,619,000
Stormwater Fees - Residential	4,453,000	4,677,000	4,794,000	4,914,000	5,037,000	5,163,000	5,292,000	5,424,000	5,560,000	5,699,000	5,841,000
Stormwater Fees - Interfund	123,000	126,000	129,000	132,000	135,000	138,000	141,000	145,000	149,000	153,000	157,000
Bad Check Charges		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Citations / Fines	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest on Pooled Investments	158,000	178,000	183,000	188,000	194,000	200,000	206,000	212,000	218,000	225,000	232,000
Local Grants											
Aquatic Harvester	75,000										
Special Assessments-Sewers		24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Heatherpoint Stormwater Sewer Repair											
Unappropriated Surplus	5,739,089	2,698,004	1,208,764	560,833	307,831	159,814	73,924	(179,804)	(116,595)	11,724	26,856
Total Revenue	14,092,089	11,413,004	10,140,764	9,715,833	9,691,831	9,778,814	9,932,924	9,926,196	10,242,405	10,630,724	10,911,656
Expense											
Operating Expense											
Non-Departmental	254,365	45,000									
Lakes and Environmental	2,271,331	2,872,777	2,681,000	2,748,000	2,816,000	2,886,000	2,958,000	3,032,000	3,107,000	3,184,000	3,263,000
Unspecified											
SWFMD Lake Parker Restoration	140,619										
Emergency Protective Measures	476										
Florida Taxable Pension Liability Reduction Note, Series 2020	29,961										
Emergency Manager	764	1,925	844	865	887	909	932	955	979	1,003	1,033
Contrib to Other Funds											
Lake Bonnet Drainage Improvement CBDG-MIT Grant		116,485	152,356	188,571	224,786	261,741	68,087				
Retiree Bonus			918		918		918		918		918
Florida Taxable Pension Liability Reduction Note, Series 2020		30,325	30,668	31,033	31,400	31,766	32,131	32,519	18,554	21,888	16,805
Radio Replacement 2011	2,251	2,251	2,251								
Lake Bonny											
Lake Bonny Watershed Management Plan & Projects	362,691	150,000	250,000	250,000	50,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Lake Gibson											
Water Quality Improvement Project	60,000	110,000	50,000	50,000	5,000	5,000	50,000	50,000	5,000	50,000	25,000
Lake Hollingsworth											
Lake Hollingsworth TMDL Program	679,529	300,000	200,000	50,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	50,000
Hunter/Beulah/Wire Watershed											
Lake Hunter - Watershed Management	156,171	200,000	200,000	100,000	50,000	10,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	200,000	200,000
Lake Parker											
Lake Parker TMDL Project - WQ Treatment	810,086	500,000	550,000	300,000	350,000	350,000	150,000	200,000	150,000	50,000	150,000
Miscellaneous											
Install / Maintain Pollution Control Devices	73,731	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Southern Landings Repairs	10,000	10,000	10,000		10,000					10,000	10,000
Stormwater Management Master Plan	160,599	450,000							50,000		
Drainage Maintenance Operations	1,220,295	957,897	860,000	860,000	910,000	910,000	920,000	970,000	970,000	970,000	1,020,000
Environmental Code Enforcement Officer	57,487	49,658	66,076	68,719	71,467	74,326	77,299	80,390	83,605	86,949	90,000
Highlands Hills Ditch Maint & Repairs	97,658										
CLMP - 2016 Update							350,000				
Upgrades to Office	50,000	50,000									
Drainage Capital Equipment	63,442	203,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Crystal Lake											
SWFMD Crystal Lake Water Quality Improvement Study Q178	75,048										
Crystal Lake TMDL	431,679	100,000	150,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	15,000	10,000	10,000
Lake Morton											
Water Quality Improvement Project	606,051	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Unappropriated Surplus:											
Beginning Balance	7,813,828	2,074,739	(623,265)	(1,832,029)	(2,392,862)	(2,700,693)	(2,860,507)	(2,934,431)	(2,754,627)	(2,638,032)	(2,649,756)
Sources / (Uses)	(5,739,089)	(2,698,004)	(1,208,764)	(560,833)	(307,831)	(159,814)	(73,924)	179,804	116,595	(11,724)	(26,856)
Ending Balance	2,074,739	(623,265)	(1,832,029)	(2,392,862)	(2,700,693)	(2,860,507)	(2,934,431)	(2,754,627)	(2,638,032)	(2,649,756)	(2,676,612)