



# St. Johns County Emergency Management

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## St. Johns County Floodplain Management Plan Annual Progress Report October 2019

### Community Rating System (CRS) Activity 510 Floodplain Management

The purpose of this document is to provide an annual progress report of activities associated with St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy. This document incorporates information that may benefit public officials, businesses, and the residents of St. Johns County.

The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) serves as the County's Floodplain Management Plan for the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Under CRS Activity 510, the County is required to complete a Floodplain Management Plan annual progress report. This document serves as that report.

#### **Annual Progress Report**

This document was prepared by the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy Chairperson, Kelly Wilson, and subsequently reviewed by the County Floodplain Manager Westly Woodward and the St. Johns County LMS Working Group for accuracy and completeness. The referenced staff routinely conducts meetings to ensure that CRS 510 program activities are managed and completed throughout the year.

This report will be presented to the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners in October 2019 via email. This progress report is for informational purposes only and does not require action by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

The Annual Progress Report will be made available on the St. Johns County Emergency Management website [www.sjcemergencymanagement.com](http://www.sjcemergencymanagement.com) and released by the St. Johns County Communications Division as a media release.

#### **Adoption of the LMS / Updates**

The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy was adopted by *Resolution No. 2015-90* by the Board of County Commission on April 21, 2015. The LMS is required to be updated every five years and will not be due for an update until May 2020, but is updated as changes become necessary due to projects being completed and additional projects added.

## **Purpose and Objectives of the LMS**

The primary objective of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is to remove if possible and otherwise to limit, the losses of life and property due to a disaster. The LMS was approved by State of Florida and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and then adopted by each local jurisdiction. The most current LMS received its five year approval from the State of Florida and FEMA in May 2015.

Since the initial creation of the first Local Mitigation Strategy, St. Johns County has worked continuously to maintain and update the LMS as needed and to add new mitigation initiatives as new projects are initiated. The St. Johns County LMS Working Group meets quarterly to review the LMS. These meetings are announced in the St. Augustine Record 10 days prior to the meeting date and all interested individuals are invited to attend. The St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy is available online at [www.sjcemergencymanagement.org](http://www.sjcemergencymanagement.org).

The primary hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and guiding principles of the LMS are to:

1. Protect the lives of the residents of St. Johns County and its Municipalities.
2. Protect property to ensure that its intrinsic value is preserved.
3. Protect infrastructure so that it is available during and after a disaster.
4. Protect business activities so that they continue to provide economic strength to the community.
5. Protect the environment to ensure that quality of life and economic wellbeing are preserved.

## **St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group**

In 1998 an LMS Working Group was organized from a broad cross-section of the County including elected officials, County Staff, representatives from the cities of St. Augustine, Hastings, St. Augustine Beach, Flagler Estates Road and Water District, local businesses and residents. The LMS Working Group, now led by St. Johns County Emergency Management, has been responsible for developing all work products for the Local Mitigation Strategy including the development of a set of guiding principles, identification of potential hazards affecting the community; identification of people and infrastructure which are vulnerable to hazards; identification of critical facilities which are necessary for maintaining health, safety and welfare of residents before, during, and after a disaster; and the development of a prioritized list of pre and post hazard mitigation initiatives (projects) eligible for funding.

The Working Group will continue to regularly review and revise its List of Mitigation Initiatives that are eligible for federal and state funding, i.e. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, etc.

## **Mitigation Initiatives / Project List**

The LMS Working Group has established a list of Mitigation Initiatives, also known as the Project List. The list contains projects that mitigate each of the potential hazards, including the flood hazard, of St. Johns County and are eligible for HMGP, FMA, PDM and other federal, state and local funding.

New projects are recommended by Working Group Members at the quarterly meetings. The members then vote on the project, and, if accepted, the project is then rated according to a Guiding Principles ranking system developed by the Working Group. The ranking system ranks items using criteria such as: availability of funds, viability of project, good of the community, and increased safety for citizens

Unfortunately some project deadlines and objectives are not met due to, in large part, a lack of funding availability. St. Johns County mitigation needs and objectives may evolve with changing priorities and funding; and as a result, ranked projects are occasionally removed or lowered in priority status.

Attached you will find a current list of all ranked mitigation initiatives for St. Johns County. The Project List also includes the responsible jurisdiction for the project, the status of the project, what hazard the project mitigates along with other informational items. All projects on the list have a status listed as of September 2019.

### **Summary**

This 2019 Floodplain Management Plan Annual Report continues to support the requirements described in the Community Rating System, Activity 510 Floodplain Management requirement. The County effectively and efficiently continues to meet and exceeds CRS requirements. CRS Activities were performed successfully by the County due to the familiarity, professional experience and knowledge of all involved staff. The continued support by the County Commission and Administration also plays a critical role in the success of the program.

St. Johns County is proud to have achieved a Class 5 certification under the Community Rating System. Activities are undertaken by various County departments on an ongoing basis to retain the CRS certification, which results in substantial discounts to flood insurance premiums for the residents of St. Johns County.

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