



2016 ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION Action Item Evaluation Report Of the July 2015 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)

City of Savannah, Georgia
Development Services Department

512.a. Floodplain management planning (FMP)

Documentation for FMP Provided by the Community

(2) With each annual recertification,

A copy of the annual evaluation report as specified in Step 10. The report must review each action item, describe what was implemented (or not implemented), and recommend changes to the action plan as appropriate. If not in the evaluation report document, the recertification submittal must also include the minutes of the committee meeting(s) (if getting credit for Step 10(b)) and a description of how the report was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public.

How the City provided the Report to the media and public:

1. The City of Savannah provided the report to the media through a press release by the City's Public Information Office.
2. The Report is posted on the City's Flood Protection Information Web Page.
3. Copies of the report are available at the City's Development Service Department,

ID	2014 Action	Related to Goal	Address Current Development	Address Future Development	Continued Compliance with NFIP	Mitigation Category	2016 Comments
Existing Mitigation Actions Carried Forward from 2010 Plan							
1	Comprehensive evaluation of drainage system and implementation of selected projects.	4	✓	✓		Structural Projects	Strategic plan to advance this goal is to perform basin studies in proper detail to evaluate and conceptualize 100 year improvements for each basin, prioritized by risk of structural flooding. Individual projects remain unfunded to date.
2	Enhance Drainage system maintenance program to unclog storm drains/ clear drainage channels and a public education component on proper yard waste disposal and eliminate brush disposal in canals.	1, 4	✓	✓		Prevention, Natural Resource Protection, Public Information and Outreach	Staff provided Stormwater education presentations for the Lion's Club, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals District 8, the Episcopal Diocesan of Georgia, the Georgia and South Carolina Forestry Commissions, Jacob G Smith Elementary School 4th Grade, and 8 other public school 5th grades. Currently, Stormwater efforts have been redirected toward keeping grass cut, while diverting resources from cleaning ditches. Additionally, creeping environmental regulations (WOTUS and state of Georgia stream buffer requirements) are potentially making maintaining ditches an activity requiring environmental permitting in advance of activity
3	Ensure the City's new zoning code limits development in floodplains and wetlands to low density, and that a certain percentage of land remains protected as open space to provide a natural buffer from water bodies.	4	✓	✓		Prevention, Natural Resource Protection	The third edition of New Zoning Ordinance Dated Oct 2014 (www/newzo.org) has yet to be adopted. Tom Thomson is retiring as the Director of MPC, but Charlotte Moore, AICP is the Project Coordinator. Over the past year Unincorporated Chatham County and COS have added new language to their respective ordinances.
4	Reserve vacant low-lying/flood-prone/wetland areas for open space through acquisition or regulation	4	✓	✓		Prevention, Natural Resource Protection	New draft flood plain maps are incrementally removing low lands from floodplains as BFE's are lowered, making the goal harder to achieve, without writing new regulations.

5	Evaluate FEMA-purchased properties for the highest use in floodwater/stormwater storage.	4	✓	✓		Prevention, Property Protection	The City did use FEMA purchased property to reduce flooding in the Bacon Park neighborhood (Betty Drive Drainage project). Continue to evaluate open space. Additionally, the City plants trees on the property that contribute in absorbing saturated ground water.
6	Require in the revision of the Subdivision Ordinance that all new subdivisions dedicate 20% of land as green space.	4	✓	✓		Prevention, Property Protection	City has adopted the Coastal Stormwater Supplement to the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual by reference in its Stormwater ordinance.
7	Designate GDOT properties that are unused as areas for flood storage.	4	✓	✓		Prevention, Property Protection	No action this year. Will continue use consider GA DOT properties as a possible solution option when evaluating flooded areas.
8	Reduce future vulnerability of Valambrosa area through acquisition or regulation.	2, 4	✓	✓		Prevention, Property Protection	Vallambrosa Plantation is currently being developed toward a natural and hunting preserve by its owner. Draft Flood maps add property that may be developed in this area of concern, without additional development regulations.
9	Add additional higher regulations to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that will prohibit enclosures of areas of greater than 300 square feet below the BFE.	4	✓	✓	✓	Prevention, Floodplain Management Regulatory Property Protection	In Summer of 2017 the COS will adoption Preliminary FIRM that are now undergoing the 90 day appeal process phase (July 19 - Oct 16, 2016). At that time the COS will review the change.
10	Continue acquisition/demolition of high-risk flood-prone properties.	2, 4	✓			Prevention, Property Protection	David Keating, Director of Real Property Department, administers the acquisition program. In 2015 to date the COS has acquired ten (10) structures. Three of the structures are in FEMA's RLA Database. 1108 East Waldburg St, 1312 Eleanor St, 12430 Deerfield Rd, 410 Montclair Blvd, 1310 Eleanor St, 202 Chatham St, 1715 Delesseps Ave, 12411 Woodley Rd, 16 Paradise Dr, and 1320 Eleanor St,

11	Evaluate the feasibility of a floodproofing program for homes where acquisition is not an option – especially historic structures.	2, 4	✓			Prevention, Property Protection	The COS continues to promote homeowners to contact City staff for "on site visit" through the annual community outreach. When contacted, City staff provided retrofitting advice. In 2015-2016 City staff were contacted and provided advice John Seaman (Montgomery at West Hall St) and Mr. Gillman at 2013 W Waldburg.
12	Target repetitive loss structures by conducting a detailed study as outlined in the RLAA.	2	✓			Prevention, Property Protection	In 2015 to date the COS has acquired ten (10) structures. Three structures are in FEMA's RLA Database: 12430 Deerfield Rd_202 Chatham St_1715 Delesseps Ave,
13	Target critical facilities for flood mitigation.	3	✓			Prevention, Property Protection, Emergency Services	Critical facilities continuing to be checked for compliance with the Flood Prevention Ordinance. This year several properties for fire and police stations were rejected because the property or access routes fall within the 500 year floodplain.
14	Post flood mitigation information at libraries, post offices, heavily trafficked municipal buildings and community centers. Develop and post "potential high water mark" signs.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	The City continues to provide updated flood information in the library and Development Services buildings. I organized to have Ms. Lynn Keating of FEMA Region IV to present a presentation about FEMA' Highwater Mark at the Local Coastal CRS user Group meeting. I forward the information to the City's Emergency Manager for his input.
15	Continue to enhance newly implemented City website "flood protection information" webpage.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	The City's Flood Protection Information web page (savannahga.gov) has been greatly enhanced to provide flooding information, FMP 2015, Historic FIRMs, Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Elevation Certificates, LOMA, river gages, alternative street flooding routes, pertinent web links and 2016 Preliminary Maps.
16	Continue coordination with CEMA, NWS and USGS to enhance flood warning system.	4	✓		✓	Emergency Services	CEMA continues to update the warning system and other promotional products through Federal grants. CEMA now has an App "ChathamEMA" that they forward NWS weather alerts.
17	Continue flood preparedness and outreach activities at local community events	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	Continued to be done. GIS day: Wednesday November 18, 2015. Earth Day: Saturday - April 16, 2016 & Home Depot Day: Saturday - May 21, 2016

18	Mail information to all structures in the floodplain promoting flood insurance and sound floodplain management practices.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	Complete
19	Organize public information campaign and organize public cleanups to reduce litter/debris in storm drains.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach, Natural Resource Protection	Staff organized the annual river clean up in conjunction with the statewide River's Alive effort. In addition a bill insert was included in the utility bills for 78,000 customers and in the community newspaper outreach. The theme was "If it is on the ground, it is in the water" highlighting the importance of pet waste cleanup and natural or no fertilizer application. In 2016 Staff will implement an anti-litter campaign focused on a tributary of the Vernon River.
20	Conduct public outreach and direct technical assistance – particularly targeting repetitive loss properties and discussion of potential funding.	1, 2	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	One of the ways to reach parents is through their children. COS has provided several educational presentation in the school system to include Heard Elementary school, Jacob G Smith Elementary School 4th Grade, and 8 other public school 5th grade. Additional presentations include the Lion's Club, Episcopal Diocesan of Georgia, and Savannah Realtors. City Staff held neighborhood meeting for areas that flood such as Bacon Park and Liberty City
21	Establish program aimed at providing flood protection assistance to owners of flood-prone properties, including site visits and advice on retrofitting and other flood mitigation measures.	1,2	✓		✓	Property Protection, Public Information and Outreach	The City has set up a program to provide the information through the three annual written outreaches (community newspaper insert, mailer to the SFHA flyer, and letters to the RLA). The publications also include informational topics addressing potential funding sources. Additionally, as part of the program, the City participates at the annual Hurricane Expo and Earth Day events.
22	Educate the public on the use of permeable concrete paving and establishment of rain gardens to reduce flash flooding impacts.	1	✓	✓	✓	Public Information and Outreach	Staff assisted Jacob G Smith Elementary School install two demonstration rain gardens in 2016. Staff is working on designs for the new municipal building on Liberty Street. The City has Bi weekly Site Plan Review meeting for engineers and developers. During the meeting the attendees are informed of permeable products they can utilize in their development.

23	Interview and coverage on local news, in newspaper articles and through advertisement to promote flood mitigation.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	We will probably have to lead this, as only time news media want to talk about this is when we have a storm approaching, and cannot divert resources to media contacts.
24	Provide flood mitigation update and outreach to neighborhood groups and other interested parties via an email group address.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	No progress
25	Organize annual/semi-annual single focus public workshops/meetings to discuss flood mitigation.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	We conduct project focused meetings with the public as our projected. July 19 April 27, 2016 for the Casey canal. March 23, 2-15 Leedsgate Neighborhood.
26	Provide flood protection assistance to vulnerable populations (elderly, disabled and low-income individuals) so they can purchase flood insurance.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	No change at this time
27	Strategically focus SPLOST funds toward identified drainage improvement projects.	4	✓	✓		Structural Projects	Over \$300 M in improvements have been identified and remain unfunded
28	Complete AW-501 forms for acquired Repetitive Loss properties to remove from FEMA Repetitive Loss Property list (or classify each as "mitigated").	2	✓		✓	Prevention, Property Protection	* 12430 Deerfield Rd (HMGP 1973) * 202 Chatham St & 1715 Delesseps Ave. (PDM 2011) and * 404 E 58TH ST Private owner.
29	Promote flood insurance through community notification to citizens and business personnel by newspapers, letters, and public outreach.	1	✓		✓	Public Information and Outreach	Newspaper publication in Sunday's paper October 25, 2015. Outreach to the SFHA completed on December 4, 2015

30	Document drainage improvements in SFHAs and request revisions to the applicable FIRM maps to reflect new conditions through the FEMA LOMR process.	4		✓	✓	Prevention	Funding request for LOMA for Abercorn/Deerfield area remains unfunded. The Pipe Maker's Canal received a LOMR 16-1717P. Although it the LOMR pertains to the City of Pooler, GA the canal effects Savannah.
New Mitigation Actions							
1	Remove building code/insurance disconnect through education of builders/realtors and modification of technical review checklist (cross-check NFIP/Insurance/Ordinance/IBC).	4		✓	✓	Prevention, Property Protection	This year COS conducted three training session: * January 12, 2016 for the Homebuilders Association (HBA) of Savannah. * November 5, 2015 and August 25, 2016 for the Savannah Area Board of Realtors (SABOR). The training was conducted by Tom McDonald and Michael Blakely. Some of the topics covered included backfill material in the SFHA, no petition walls or separate rooms in the enclosure area, hydrostatic venting, The 50% Rule, job-site trailers, swimming pools, elevators in the SFHA, and Coastal A-Zones
2	Develop outreach strategy to educate building community on new flood maps.	1		✓	✓	Public Information and Outreach	The COS has set up a program to promote the new FIRM through community meetings and publications. COS conducted several training sessions to include the Community Public meetings on July 19, 2016 and September 22, 2016, Homebuilders Association (HBA) of Savannah on January 12, 2016, the Savannah Area Board of Realtors (SABOR) on November 5, 2015 and August 25, 2016, and the Commercial Realtor Alliance on September 22, 2016. Additional strategy includes adding the promotional information in the newspaper outreach to the community, flyers to the SFHA, and letter to the RLA.
3	Modify Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to include LiMWA criteria.	4		✓	✓	Prevention, Property Protection	In Fall of 2017 the COS will adoption Preliminary FIRM that are now undergoing the 90 day appeal process phase (July 19 - Oct 16, 2016). At that time the COS will review the change.

4	Prioritize CIP projects to address flooding in the following areas: Victory Drive, Skidaway & 41 st , 37 th MLK, Montgomery & 52 nd , Abercorn & 65 th , Springfield Canal, Cloverdale, Detention Pond @ 52 nd Derenne, Bilbo basin and Placentia basin.	2, 4				Structural Projects	The majority of the projects named deal with street or nuisance flooding. Over \$300 M of improvements focused upon structural flooding remain unfunded. However, the COS will continue to be aware that these locations need to be monitored and eventually eliminate to prevent the potential of emergency vehicles being delayed during a storm event or a citizen's car damaged due to flooding.
5	Complete a study to evaluate the effectiveness of a stormwater utility based on impervious area and its impact on the typical homeowner.	4	✓	✓		Structural Projects	A concept study created in 2008-10 could be updated for this purpose for approximately \$50K
6	Chatham County Emergency Management (CEMA) will provide a prioritized list of critical facilities.	3	✓			Property Protection, Emergency Services	We should consider removing 500 year protection for ingress/egress for critical facilities due to low topography within the City. This should be weighed against CRS points in play.
7	The City of Savannah will adopt the CEMA Post-Disaster Mitigation Plan and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.	4	✓			Emergency Services	From: Tom McDonald To: Kate Busbee; Dustin Hetzel Subject: Savannah Dates. Good morning, I was wondering if you have the dates the City adopted your two plans. As part of the City's CRS 510 Plan update, I need to provide the dates. The City of Savannah will adopt the CEMA Post-Disaster Mitigation Plan and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan." Thank you for your help. Tom McDonald,
8	Consider expanding riparian impervious surface setbacks including a 25' setback on coastal marshland and wetlands.	4		✓		Prevention, Natural Resource Protection	** Completed ** The State of Georgia requires a 25 foot setback to coastal marshland and all streams.

9	Support the Chatham County-Savannah MPC Greenway Plan and coordinate with the MPC on the Plan as needed.	4		✓		Prevention, Natural Resource Protection	We are working with Chatham County to achieve flood protection mitigation for the Truman Linear Trail Project. Several COS staff are on the Greenway Steering Committee
10	Consider participation in FEMA's high water mark initiative.	1			✓	Public Information and Outreach	The COS and UCC organized for Ms. Lynn Keating of FEMA Region IV to provide a webinar about FEMA' Highwater Mark at the Local Coastal CRS user Group meeting. I forward the information to the City's Emergency Manager for his input.
11	Coordinate with the Chatham County Resource Protection Land to acquire lands vulnerable to flooding through SPLOST funds.	4		✓		Prevention, Natural Resource Protection	With over \$300 M in unfunded drainage projects, resources other than SPLOST may have to be leveraged.
12	Create a Natural Floodplain Functions Plan and a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis	2, 4	✓	✓	✓	Property Protection, Natural Resource Protection	** Completed** The Natural Floodplain Functions Plan was completed in July 2015. The Repetitive Loss Area Analysis was completed and adopted by COS on August 6, 2015. Both Plans are on the City's Flood Protection Information Web page, savannahga.gov.
13	Develop a Watershed Master Plan for the City	2, 3, 4	✓	✓		Prevention, Property Protection, Natural Resource Protection	We have watershed plans for both the Savannah and Vernon Rivers. The first step to a masterplan is to study the individual basins. The basin studies remain unfunded.