



## Memorandum

**Date:** April 16, 2024

**To:** City of Bonita Springs Mayor and City Council

**From:** Christopher Campbell, Neighborhood Services Project Manager

**Subject:** Floodplain Management Plan FY 22-23 Annual Progress Report

One of the requirements for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is that the City must provide an annual progress report on the City's Floodplain Management Plan. Per City of Bonita Springs Resolution No. 22-31, the City's Flood Management Plan is the adopted *Lee County Emergency Management 2022 Joint Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)*. This memorandum serves as the required annual progress report and will be published on the City's website for public viewing.

### **Background**

The LMS is an extension of the *Lee County Emergency Management Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (2022, Version 2) report* and a companion document to the *Lee County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*, which is also the comprehensive emergency management plan of the County's political subdivisions and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The LMS sets forth the mitigation framework for Lee County, its political subdivisions, and FGCU, and establishes a vision, mission, and set of priorities for mitigation activities in the area. Moreover, the strategy identifies core mitigation capabilities and describes short- and long-term mitigation strategies and activities. In addition to setting mitigation goals and objectives, the strategy delineates community actions that will reduce hazard risks. A copy of the LMS is available at the Lee County website: [www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement](http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement).

This version of the LMS supersedes previous versions, including the *2017 Joint Unified Local Mitigation Strategy*. In consultation with the Working Group and government leadership (County and municipal), Emergency Management is authorized to update and revise this strategy without additional approval from the aforementioned elected governing bodies.

Since the adoption of the *2017 Joint Unified Local Mitigation Strategy*, Lee County has implemented numerous activities which benefit and meet the floodplain management goals of Bonita Springs: added several public shelters, developed and improved stakeholder coordination, implemented ordinance and code enforcement for development in coastal areas, and engaged the public in hazard awareness campaigns. Lee County and its political subdivisions, including Bonita Springs, have developed and improved alert and warning capabilities, reviewed and revised community hazard assessments, and incorporated short-term mitigation activities as part of response operations to tropical cyclone and pandemic events.

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The Mitigation Status Action Report is attached (Attachment 1), and includes a status update for each of the mitigation initiative action items located within the City of Bonita Springs that support the updated goals and objectives of the *LMS* (Attachment 2).

### **Annual Progress Report Preparation, Distribution and Availability**

This report was prepared by Christopher Campbell, Neighborhood Services Project Manager, and Elly McKuen, Senior Project Manager for the City of Bonita Springs. The annual progress report is made available to the City Council, the media, and the public via the City of Bonita Springs website. A copy of the report is sent annually to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Office of Floodplain Management (NFIP Coordinator) via email.

### **Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Chairperson coordinates and communicates with Working Group members to monitor progress of the Mitigation Action Plan and the Mitigation Project List. The Chairperson maintains a database that tracks data related to action and project implementation, progress, and conclusion. At least once a quarter, the Chairperson contacts members of the Working Group to receive progress reports. In instances where project actions involve coordination with stakeholders not participating in the Working Group, the Chairperson works with those tasked with managing such coordination to receive similar progress reports.

At least once a quarter, the Chairperson will distribute to the Working Group a Mitigation Action Plan Progress Report and a Mitigation Project List Progress Report. At each quarterly meeting of the Disaster Advisory Council (DAC), the Working Group discusses the progress reports and any needed or recommended changes to the *LMS*. As Lee County and its political subdivisions maintain a continual assessment of the community and its risk and vulnerability reduction needs, the Working Group adds new mitigation actions and/or projects to the *LMS* as needs are identified or opportunities present themselves. The Working Group also considers any recent public input on mitigation during each quarterly DAC meeting.

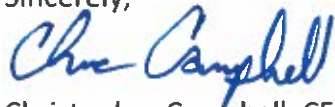
### **Community Involvement**

The Working Group works with each participating jurisdiction to engage with the community on mitigation issues. Engagement includes soliciting community feedback during outreach activities, as well as providing mechanisms for general public input (e.g., community-wide surveys).

### **Conclusion**

This concludes the City of Bonita Springs FY22-23 Floodplain Management Plan Annual Progress Report. Should you have any questions regarding this document, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



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**ATTACHMENT 1  
MITIGATION ACTION STATUS REPORT  
FY2023-2024**

**1. East Terry Street Stormwater Improvement Project**

- a. **Scope:** East Terry Street is approximately 2.5 miles long and is bound on the west by Old 41 Road and on the east by Bonita Grande Drive. The project's focus is to improve stormwater management conditions to significantly reduce or eliminate future flooding along the corridor. All improvements will be constructed within the existing right-of-way. Additional project components include but are not limited to enclosed stormwater systems, curb and gutter, intersection improvements, multi-use path, sidewalks, bike lanes, pavement and signage improvements, streetlighting, landscaping and irrigation, and I-75 overpass pedestrian improvements/or separate pedestrian bridge.
- b. **Project Cost:** \$16,833,197
- c. **Grant Award:**
  - i. \$16,833,197 – CDBG-MIT (Hurricane Irma funds) – Florida Commerce
- d. **Project Status:** Active contract with FloridaCommerce. City hired Rummel, Klepper & Kehl, LLC (RK&K) in December 2023 to design construction improvements to include a hydraulic and hydrologic study, opinion of probable costs, bid specifications, project cost analysis and construction plans.

**2. Pine Lake Preserve Water Retention/Flood Improvement Project**

- a. **Scope:** The project redirects stormwater flows from lands located to the north and eastern portion of the City of Bonita Springs. Sheet flows are collected into stormwater ditches along the north boundary of East Terry Street and along the western boundary of Bonita Grande Drive. The flows are directed from the collection ditches onto the Pine Lake Preserve property, via the construction of berms, lake enhancements and overland flow-ways.
- b. **Project Cost:** \$950,000
- c. **Grant Award:**
  - i. \$580,000 – US Environmental Protection Agency (319-h funding) pass through state funding with Florida Environmental Protection
  - ii. \$370,000 – City match
- d. **Project Status:** Stormwater improvements completed May 2021. City is in monitoring phase. Due to a lack of rainfall for water sampling, the City is working with FDEP to extend the contract. This project is ongoing and anticipated to be completed by the end of 2025.

### **3. IBE/Quinn/Downs/Dean West of Imperial Parkway Voluntary Home Buyout Program**

- a. **Scope:** The buyout program targets neighborhoods located in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) of the City. The focus is to purchase homes and relocate the homeowners to areas that are not flood prone. Once the properties are acquired the City will demolish the structure and all appurtenances. The vacant land remains in the City's ownership in perpetuity. Limited land uses are available for the vacant land (i.e., open space, limited recreational uses and stormwater management).
- b. **Project Cost:** \$7,600,000
- c. **Grant Award:**
  - i. \$5,000,000 – CDBG-DR (Hurricane Irma) HUD pass through to FloridaCommerce
  - ii. \$2,600,000 – City General Funds (no matching funds required – City supports buyout program)
- d. **Project Status:** City purchased thirteen (13) houses to date. 11 houses have been demolished and the remaining 2 houses are currently in the permit process for demolition.

### **4. IBE/Quinn/Downs/Dean West of Imperial Parkway Infrastructure Project**

- a. **Scope:** The project consists of a combination of 3 dry retention ponds and stormwater conveyance pipes in the neighborhood. Parcels have been identified for purchase for the retention ponds. The City is working with the property owners to purchase the properties.
- b. **Project Cost:** \$11,021,919
- c. **Grant Award:**
  - i. \$11,021,919 – CDBG-MIT (Hurricane Irma) HUD pass through funds to FloridaCommerce.
- d. **Project Status:** City working with consultant engineer to design project. 90% construction plans submitted to City for review and comment. Consultant engineer working to submit Environmental Resource Permit with the South Florida Water Management District.

### **5. Spring Creek/Bonita Springs Golf Course Stormwater Management Project**

- a. **Scope:** The City entered into a purchase and construction agreement for approximately fifty-five (55) acres of stormwater treatment ponds and interconnective stormwater conveyance structures on a defunct golf course. This private/public partnership addresses chronic neighborhood flooding and allows for modest infill development on the abandoned 111 acre abandoned golf course site. The stormwater improvements have been modeled and designed to provide improved flood protection for a 100-year 72-hour storm event.

- b. **Project Cost:** \$19,141,024
- c. **Grant Award:**
  - i. \$ 5,400,000 – Legislative award FY 24-25
  - ii. \$ 210,000 – HMGP Phase 1 Hurricane Irma Funds
  - iii. \$13,531,024 – City Funds
- d. **Project Status:** The landowner has completed approximately 75% of the stormwater pond improvements. The outfall structure is complete. The installation of the interconnecting pipes between the lakes is under construction.

**6. Goodwin Street Stormwater Drainage and Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project**

- a. **Scope:** Goodwin Street is located in one of the oldest neighborhoods in the City. The right of way is narrow with limited access. The project limits are Old 41 Road on the west and Matheson Street on the east. The project scope for the Goodwin Street Stormwater Drainage and Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project will include the acquisition of additional right-of-way in order to realign and reconstruct the Goodwin Street corridor. The project includes a closed stormwater drainage system that will provide land for a multi-use pathway and new buffered sidewalks with pavement and signage improvements, streetlighting, landscaping and irrigation.
- b. **Project Cost:** \$7,600,467
- c. **Funding Allocation:**
  - i. \$2,600,000 – Legislative award
  - ii. \$5,000,467 – City funds
- d. **Project Status:** The City hired a consultant engineer to design the proposed improvements. The engineer recently submitted 60% construction plans for the City's review and comments. Acquisition for additional right-of-way is being determined prior to contacting homeowners to acquire the land.

**ATTACHMENT 2  
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

*The Joint Local Mitigation Strategy establishes six goals for Lee County, its political subdivisions, and FGCU to achieve over the next five years. Each goal has several objectives associated with the adoptees of this strategy and their perspective.*

**Goal 1**

**1. Reduce community risk and vulnerability to hazards.**

*1.1. Evaluate and recommend changes to County and municipal codes and ordinances related to structural mitigation.*

*1.2. Identify and develop mitigation actions and/or projects for each participating jurisdiction.*

*1.3. Update and revise the Mitigation Projects List on a quarterly basis.*

*1.4. Update the community and hazard profiles in the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment annually.*

*1.5. Conduct a survey of community vulnerability through established working groups and incorporate results into the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and the Joint Local Mitigation Strategy.*

*1.6. Hazard-proof existing and proposed critical facilities and registered historic structures, with regards to location and construction.*

**Goal 2**

**2. Coordinate and support efforts to reduce or eliminate repetitive loss.**

*2.1. Develop projects and/or actions to acquire/relocate or retrofit repetitive loss properties.*

*2.2. Conduct an examination of enacting development standards for the Wildland Urban Interface.*

*2.3. Develop and implement a program to reduce homeowner insurance policy rates on new construction.*

*2.4. Maintain or improve the Community Rating System score for Lee County and its political subdivisions over the next five years.*

**Goal 3**

**3. Support natural resource protection activities that preserve or maintain natural areas.**

*3.1. Conduct wetland coordinating/evaluation programs with state and water management agencies.*

## LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**3.2. Enforce erosion sedimentation and control regulations that reduce how much sediment enters natural areas when development takes place.**

**3.3. Protect and restore the ecological functions of wetland systems to ensure their long-term environmental, economic, and recreational values include hazard mitigation practices.**

**3.4. Promote the use of agricultural practices that are compatible with the protection of natural systems.**

### **Goal 4**

**4. Improve mitigation through response operations during and after the onset of a hazard.**

**4.1. Incorporate revisions in the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment with preparedness and response activities across all jurisdictions.**

**4.2. Reduce the community's hurricane shelter-space deficit. 4.3. Identify and fund critical facilities in need of improved mitigation.**

**4.4. Increase flood-resistance among critical facilities located in Coastal High Hazard Areas.**

**4.5. Integrate short-term mitigation priorities with comprehensive emergency management plans and recovery plans.**

### **Goal 5**

**5. Improve community coordination for mitigation.**

**5.1. Catalogue mitigation-related ordinances, codes, policies, and plans to ensure up to-date integration of all documents.**

**5.2. Integrate mitigation priorities, goals, and objectives across jurisdictional programs, policies, plans, and procedures.**

**5.3. Incorporate project management guidance and tools into mitigation initiatives and activities.**

**5.4. Engage with additional mitigation partners to develop better relationships, understanding, and communication.**



## LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### **Goal 6**

**6. Coordinate and implement public information programs and activities regarding hazards and mitigation.**

**6.1. Develop and carry out public information programs for hazard mitigation that emphasize its direct benefits to citizens, including the public and private sector.**

**6.2. Send annual information to repetitive loss owners on mitigation principles and improvements.**