

APPENDIX A

DOCUMENTS OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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ADOPTION RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____

WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was signed into law on October 30, 2000, placing new emphasis on state and local mitigation planning for natural hazards and requiring communities to adopt a hazard mitigation action plan to be eligible for pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes; and

WHEREAS, a Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared by the Upper Loup Natural Resources District, with assistance from JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Lincoln, NE.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the mitigation plan was to lessen the effects of disasters by increasing the disaster resistance of the region and participating jurisdictions located within the planning boundary by identifying the hazards that affect _____ and prioritize mitigation strategies to reduce potential loss of life and property damage from those hazards, and

WHEREAS, FEMA regulations require documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of _____ in the form of a resolution and further requesting approval of the plan at the Federal Level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of _____ does herewith adopt the most recent and FEMA-approved version of the Upper Loup NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan Update in its entirety; and

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2024

TITLE: _____

ATTEST

Appendix A: Documents of Public Involvement

UPPER LOUP NRD ADOPTION RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1-2024

WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was signed into law on October 30, 2000, placing new emphasis on state and local mitigation planning for natural hazards and requiring communities to adopt a hazard mitigation action plan to be eligible for pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes; and

WHEREAS, a Hazard Mitigation Plan was prepared by the Upper Loup Natural Resources District, with assistance from JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Lincoln, NE.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the mitigation plan was to lessen the effects of disasters by increasing the disaster resistance of the region and participating jurisdictions located within the planning boundary by identifying the hazards that affect Upper Loup NRD and prioritize mitigation strategies to reduce potential loss of life and property damage from those hazards, and

WHEREAS, FEMA regulations require documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of Upper Loup NRD in the form of a resolution and further requesting approval of the plan at the Federal Level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of Upper Loup NRD does herewith adopt the most recent and FEMA-approved version of the Upper Loup NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan Update in its entirety; and

PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of March, 2024

Chris Higgins

TITLE: UNRD Chairman

Anna Baum

ATTEST

KICKOFF MEETING INVITATION LETTER



PROTECTING LIVES – PROTECTING PROPERTY – PROTECTING THE FUTURE



May 17, 2023

RE: Kick-off Meeting Invitation for the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Dear Hazard Mitigation Planning Team Member:

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District (NRD) is beginning the process to update the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with the assistance of JEO Consulting Group (JEO). HMPs identify vulnerabilities and possible impacts and losses within participating jurisdictions to various natural and man-made hazards (e.g., flood, drought, wildfire, winter storm, dam failure, etc.). The HMP also identifies projects and strategies aimed at enhancing community resilience and preparedness by reducing local vulnerabilities for area-specific hazards. These plans are required to be updated every five years with the current effective plan expiring in 2025.

A representative of your jurisdiction is invited to serve on the Regional Planning Team for the Upper Loup NRD HMP. A Kick-off Meeting and BBQ has been scheduled for Thursday, June 15th at 6:30pm. This meeting is expected to last approximately two hours and dinner will be provided. The meeting will be held behind the Upper Loup NRD office – Learning Center and meeting details are shown below:

HMP Kick-off Meeting
Thursday, June 15th, 2023, 6:30pm – 8:30pm CT
Upper Loup NRD Office – Learning Center
39252 Highway 2
Thedford, NE 69166

The intent and goal of this meeting is to meet with JEO staff and other Planning Team members to discuss the scope of the project, roles and responsibilities of the planning team members, project goals and objectives, general project schedule, and preliminary data used for plan development. We ask that at least one representative from your jurisdiction be in attendance. While discussing the HMP process is the primary reason for this meeting, it's also an opportunity to converse with your neighbors, deepen community connections, and enjoy some barbeque on a summer's evening. Feel free to bring your spouse as well to enjoy the food and fellowship.

Please RSVP by Friday, June 9th, to accommodate the food preparations, by contacting me at (402) 392-9915 or rappleford@jeo.com. For more information, please contact me or Anna Baum at abaum@upperloupnrd.org. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Kick-off Meeting!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Becky Appleford", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Becky Appleford
JEO Project Manager

JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC
JEO ARCHITECTURE INC

p. 402.435.3080 | 2700 Fletcher Avenue | jeo.com
f. 402.435.4110 | Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER



September 7, 2023

RE: Upper Loup Natural Resources District Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Meeting

Hello,

The Upper Loup NRD has begun the process of updating their regional 2018 Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with the assistance of JEO Consulting Group. Your jurisdiction participated in the past plan and FEMA requires plans to be updated every five years.

HMPs identify vulnerabilities and possible impacts and losses across the five-county planning area to various natural and man-made hazards (e.g., flood, wildfire, winter storm, dam and levee failure, etc.). The plan then identifies projects and strategies aimed at enhancing community resilience and preparedness for specific hazards. Participating jurisdictions also become eligible for specific federal grant funding by engaging in the planning process.

A community specific meeting has been scheduled to review and update the existing jurisdictional profile to comply with new regulatory guidance. More importantly, this meeting will provide an opportunity to talk about specific disaster impacts and capacity building strategies to your community. I have attached a copy of the existing profile for your jurisdiction and a project flyer for all the meetings scheduled for this plan update.

Please also share this meeting invitation with others who can provide key input for **Village of Hyannis!**

For more information on this planning effort and to see the past plan, you can visit the project website at <https://www.jeo.com/ulnrhmp> or reach out to me directly at bseachord@jeo.com or (402) 474-8741.

I look forward to speaking with you soon!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brooke Seachord'.

Brooke Seachord, CFM
Project Coordinator

JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC
JEO ARCHITECTURE INC

p: 402.435.3080 | 2000 Q Street, Suite 500 | jeo.com
f: 402.435.4110 | Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER



January 8, 2024

RE: Upper Loup Natural Resources District Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Hello,

This letter is being sent to inform your jurisdiction of a planning effort underway by the Upper Loup NRD to update their regional 2018 Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with the assistance of JEO Consulting Group. The HMP identifies local hazard types and impacts to the NRD planning area which includes Blaine, Logan, Hooker, Grant, and Thomas Counties and all of the communities within them. The plan also lists projects or strategies aimed at enhancing community resilience and preparedness.

As a neighboring jurisdiction to the planning area, your local input and suggestions help guide plan development to build capacity and resiliency across the entire region. Neighboring jurisdictions are encouraged to provide input to the planning process to ensure identified mitigation efforts are regionally appropriate and consistent with those identified within other communities in the region.

Copies of the past FEMA approved HMP are available on the project website (<https://www.jeo.com/ulnrdhmp>). To provide local comments please take our project survey (<https://www.jeo.com/ulnrdhmp>) or reach out to me directly at bseachord@jeo.com or (402) 474-8741.

Thank you!

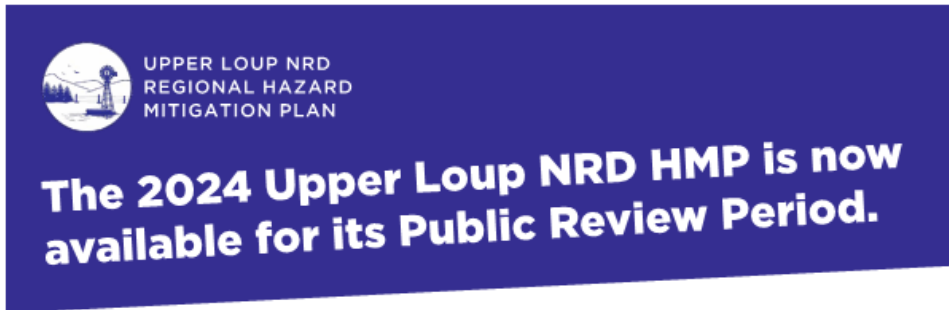
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brooke Seachord'.

Brooke Seachord, CFM
Project Coordinator

JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC
JEO ARCHITECTURE INC

p: 402.435.3080 | 2000 Q Street, Suite 500 | jeo.com
f: 402.435.4110 | Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

PUBLIC REVIEW POSTCARD NOTIFICATION



The plan covers counties, communities, and districts within Blaine, Grant, Hooker, Logan, and Thomas County. **We want your input on the final document!** The plan is available online to download, read, and review.

Please send any comments to JEO by Friday, March 29th, 2024 to ensure all comments will be reviewed and integrated into the final plan.

Visit <https://www.jeo.com/ulnrhdmp> or scan the QR code at right to share your input.



LETTER OF PUBLIC REVIEW NOTIFICATION



February 26, 2024

RE: Upper Loup Natural Resources District HMP – Public Review and Adoption

Hello,

The 2024 Upper Loup NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan has begun its Public Review Period and the current draft of all community or jurisdictional profiles and sections of the plan are now available online. Your jurisdictional profile has been updated based on the discussion at our one-on-one meetings and any other comments or revisions provided to me since. The entire plan is still in draft form and is subject to revision. Digital copies of the plan are available online on the project website (<https://www.jeo.com/ulnrdhmp> or Google - JEO and Upper Loup NRD HMP).

The draft is available for a public comment period between **Monday, March 4th, 2024 and Friday, March 29th, 2024**. At the end of this period, the complete plan will be submitted to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for final approval. **This is your last opportunity to review the plan and submit to JEO any requested changes or corrections, prior to its submission to NEMA and FEMA.**

Please carefully review this draft with your local planning team and verify that the information therein is accurate to the best of your knowledge. Please inform JEO as soon as possible should you desire any changes. To request changes, you can mark up a section, scan it, and email it to JEO. If we do not receive changes from you by the end of the Public Review Period, we will assume that your jurisdiction has reviewed the plan and approves of it as written.

During Public Review Period your jurisdiction is also encouraged to adopt the plan locally. Adoption would apply to the eventual FEMA-approved version of the plan. Attached is an example resolution that you may use or adapt to fit your local needs.

After local adoption and FEMA approval, your jurisdiction will become eligible for FEMA project grant funding to assist with implementation of actions in this plan. The adopted resolution must be returned to JEO Consulting Group for submittal to NEMA and FEMA. Send a copy of the signed, adopted resolution to JEO Consulting Group via email to bseachord@jeo.com; fax it to (402) 435-4110; or mail to:

JEO Consulting Group, Inc.
Attn: Brooke Seachord
2000 Q Street, Suite 500
Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

Thank you for helping us provide your jurisdiction with an accurate and comprehensive hazard mitigation plan!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brooke Seachord'.

Brooke Seachord, CFM
Project Coordinator

JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC
JEO ARCHITECTURE INC

p: 402.435.3080 | 2000 Q Street, Suite 500 | jeo.com
f: 402.435.4110 | Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

PROJECT FLYER



UPPER LOUP NRD REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

OCTOBER 2-6, 2023

You are invited to take part in a roundtable discussion that will directly impact the safety and resilience of your community. Your insights, concerns, and suggestions will be crucial in developing the Upper Loup Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

We encourage you to attend the session closest to you as each meeting is specific to its location. If you cannot attend but still want to provide input, visit forms.office.com/r/EZrUtrtyTg or scan the QR code.



Wednesday, October 4

9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Hyannis 300 S Main Ave Hyannis, NE 69350
2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Logan County/Gandy Logan County Courthouse 317 Main St Stapleton, NE 69163
4:30 PM-6:30 PM	Stapleton Logan County Courthouse 317 Main St Stapleton, NE 69163

Thursday, October 5

9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Halsey Community Center 507 Hwy 2 Halsey, NE 69142
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Brewster 440 Lincoln Ave Brewster, NE 68821
5:00 PM-7:00 PM	Mullen* Mullen Village Clerk Office 111 NW 1st St Mullen, NE 69152

Friday, October 6

9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Upper Loup NRD Upper Loup Natural Resources District 39252 Highway 2 Thedford, NE 69166
11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Regional Schools Upper Loup Natural Resources District 39252 Highway 2 Thedford, NE 69166

* Board Meeting

Monday, October 2

2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Hooker County Hooker County Courthouse 102 N Cleveland Ave Mullen, NE 69152
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Thedford* Thomas County Library 503 Main St Thedford, NE 69166

Tuesday, October 3

9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Thomas County* Thomas County Courthouse Sheriff's Office 503 Main St Thedford, NE 69166
1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Blaine County Blaine County Courthouse 145 Lincoln Ave Brewster, NE 68821
7:30 PM-9:30 PM	Dunning* 311 Jewett Ave Dunning, NE 68833

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2024

Project Contact: Anna Baum, General Manager
Phone: 308-645-2250
Email: abaum@upperloupnrd.org

UPPER LOUP NRD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN KICK-OFF BBQ

The Upper Loup NRD is beginning the process to update their regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with assistance of JEO Consulting Group (JEO). HMPs identify vulnerabilities and possible impacts and losses within communities, fire districts, and school districts to various natural and man-made hazards (e.g., flood, drought, wildfire, winter storm, dam failure, etc.). The HMP also identifies projects and strategies aimed at reducing these impacts, thereby enhancing resilience and preparedness. This plan is required to be updated every five years with the current effective plan expiring in early 2025.

Jurisdictions within the NRD are invited to serve on the Regional Planning Team for the Upper Loup NRD HMP. A project Kick-off Meeting and BBQ has been scheduled with the meeting details listed below. The NRD and JEO will be providing a BBQ dinner during the meeting.

HMP Kick-off Meeting & BBQ

Thursday, June 15th, 6:30pm – 8:30pm CT
Upper Loup NRD Office – Learning Center
39252 Hwy 2, Thedford, NE 69166

The goal of this meeting is for Region Planning Team members to learn about the scope and schedule of the project, discuss goals and objectives, and determine the hazards that will be analyzed in the plan. At least one representative from each jurisdiction should attend this event to learn about the hazard mitigation plan, converse with neighbors, and enjoy some BBQ.

Please RSVP by Friday, June 9th, to accommodate the food preparation, by contacting Becky Appleford with JEO at (402) 392-9915 or rappleford@jeo.com. For more information about the meeting or project, please contact Anna Baum at abaum@upperloupnrd.org. To keep up to date with project and meeting dates you can visit the project website at: <https://www.jeo.com/ulnrdhmp>!

PROJECT WEBSITE



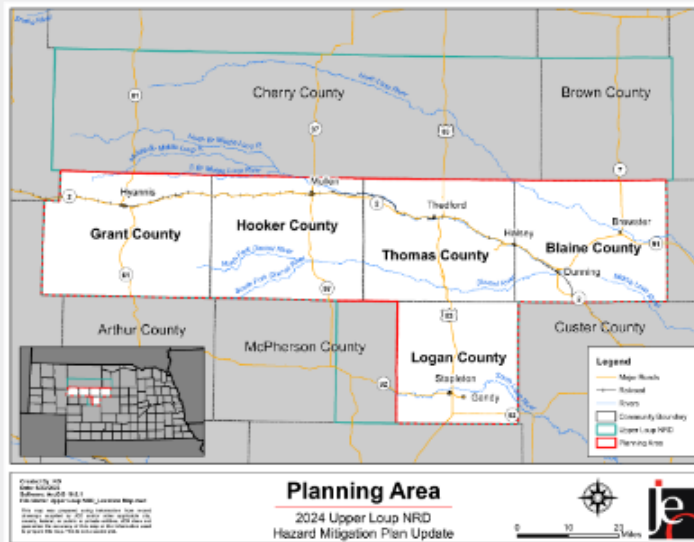
Upper Loup Natural Resources District Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Project Purpose

The Upper Loup Natural Resources District (ULNRD) is beginning the process to update their Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with the assistance of JEO Consulting Group. An HMP is a community-guided document which identifies vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards and mitigation projects to reduce or eliminate such risks. Having an approved HMP is a requirement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for jurisdictions to become eligible for several grant funding options. Having an approved and updated plan enables your community to be stronger and more resilient by:

1. Reducing your community's risk and impacts from disasters;
2. Gaining eligibility for pre- and post-disaster mitigation grants; and
3. Builds partnerships and relationships with stakeholders within your community and region.

Hazard Mitigation Plans are required to be updated and approved every five years. The ULNRD last updated their HMP in 2020. Throughout this planning process, members of the community including school districts, fire departments, airports, hospitals, residents, and business owners are invited to participate by attending public meetings and providing information for the plan.



SIGN IN SHEET – KICK OFF MEETING



Upper Loop NRD
2024 HMP Kick-Off Meeting
Theftford, NE – June 15, 2023, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Name	Title	Jurisdiction Represented	Address	Phone	Email	Signature
Becky Appleford	Project Manager	SED - Omaha	11213 Davenport, Omaha	402-392-9915	rappleford@jso.com	<i>Becky Appleford</i>
Mary Becker	Client Manager	SED Lincoln	7000 G St Lincoln	402-440-3050	mbecker.jso.com	<i>Mary Becker</i>
Cathy Williams	Village of Brewster Park	Blaine County	440 LINCOLN AVE 45492 WILFORD VALLEY RD	308-517-2385	williams@bdsby.com	<i>Cathy Williams</i>
<i>Atkin</i>	Village of Brewster Park	Blaine County	325 LINCOLN AVE	402-210-8799	atkin_beth@jso.com	<i>Beth Atkin</i>
Kyon Neal	Resources Technician	Upper Loop NRD	P.O. Box 265	308-660-6197	kneal@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Kyon Neal</i>
Anna Baum	ULNRD Gen. Mng.	Upper Loop NRD	39752 Hwy 2, Theftford	308-645-2050	baum@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Anna Baum</i>
Chris Higgins	ULNRD Director/Board	Upper Loop NRD	4005 S. Sandwood Dr. Valentin, NE	402-389-1235	chris.higgins@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Chris Higgins</i>
Jay Jones			39401 Hwy 2 Theftford	308-539-5800	jay.jones@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Jay Jones</i>
Bryan Crist	County Comm		PO Box 403	308-546-2714	brcrist@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Bryan Crist</i>
John Krage		NRD Board	35791 Antelope Valley	308-546-7304	john.krage@upperloopnrd.org	<i>John Krage</i>
Rick Burnick	Upper NRD Board	Upper Loop NRD	132 Highway 92	636-5231	rburnick@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Rick Burnick</i>
Tom Johnson	Upper NRD Board	Upper Loop NRD	27 Hwy 92 Stapleton	686-8152	tom.johnson@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Tom Johnson</i>
J.D. Fursaw	Sandhills School Sup		522 E Swing Manna	870-2824	jd.fursaw@sandhills.ky.k12.ky.us	<i>J.D. Fursaw</i>
Lexi Spurlin	Info & Ed Coord.	Upper Loop NRD	39252 Hwy 2	645-2250	lspurlin@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Lexi Spurlin</i>
Martin (Robert) Mills	Village of Theftford	Village of Theftford	403 Maple St.	645-2220	mills@villageoftheftford.com	<i>Martin Mills</i>
John P. Bergquist	Bergquist Welding	Local	39260 Cornice Road Box 207 Theftford NE 68611	645-2636	john.bergquist@bergquistwelding.com	<i>John P. Bergquist</i>
Nathan Hanson	AFMD	USFS Bessey RD	40637 Four Loop, Theftford	308-533-8125	nathan.hanson@usfs.gov	<i>Nathan Hanson</i>
Miles Maccher	ULNRD Board	Thomas County	705 Kuhn Ave, Theftford	508-615-2014	miles@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Miles Maccher</i>
Justin Sprague	ULNRD Resource Tech	Thomas County	83925 Maple St. Theftford	308-458-5766	jsprague@upperloopnrd.org	<i>Justin Sprague</i>

Please Sign In!

Appendix A: Documents of Public Involvement

SIGN IN SHEETS – ROUND 1 ONE-ON-ONES

Upper Loop Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023



Meeting Attended	Name	Title/Position	Preferred Contact (phone #/ email address)
Thomas County 10/3/2023 9:30am ↓	Lewis Herbaugh	Com.	Commissioner 2@thomascountynegov
	Charles Daly	Comm	Commissioner 3@thomascountynegov
	Pamela Moody	Commissioner	Commissioner 1@thomascountynegov
	Lorissa Hartman	Clerk/Assessor	clerk@thomascountynegov
	Andrea Thomas	Treasurer	treasurer@thomascountynegov
" "	Brooke Seechord	JEO-Planner	
<hr/>			
Blaine County 10/3/2023 1:00pm	Michael Peterson	Commissioner	308 872-1070
	Brooke Seechord	JEO-Planner	
	Ann Marie Shinn	treasurer	
	Tim Sireks	Blaine Co Sheriff	308-870-0459

Please Sign In!

Upper Loop Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023



Meeting Attended	Name	Title/Position	Preferred Contact (phone #/ email address)
Hooker County 10/2/23	Brooke Seechord	Planner-JEO	(308) 546-2290 or 9026
	Todd Yost	SHERIFF/E.M.	todd.yost@hookercountynegov
" "	Jessica Hampton	Clerk/Assessor	308-546-2294 jessica.hampton@hookercountynegov
<hr/>			
Village of Theford 10/2/23 7:00pm 	Brooke Seechord	JEO-Planner	
	Waste Weber	Co-Chairman Village of Theford	(308) 520-1141 miller.mennebr@yesh.com
	Robert Mills	Village Maint. Personnel	(308) 445-2201 villageoftheford@gmail.com
	Terry Higgins	Village maint	villageoftheford@gmail.com
	Ronda Haumann	Village Clerk	aandrahaumann@yahoo.com
	Albert Fisher	Chairman Village of Theford	afisher133@gmail.com
	DANIEL WARDAS	Village Board	(308) 539-6202
	Kyle Hinton	"	308-760-4450 khinton69@gmail.com
" "	DARREN RIVESTINE	"	308/645-7389 DARREN.RIVESTINE@ema.lk.com

Please Sign In!

Appendix A: Documents of Public Involvement

Upper Loop Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023



Meeting Attended	Name	Title/Position	Preferred Contact (phone #/ email address)
NRD - Thedford 10/3 - 4:00pm	Anna Baum Brooke Seechord	General Manager JEO - Planner	abaum@upperloopnrd.org
Dunning 10/3/23 7:30pm Larry D Steele	Brooke Seechord Larry D. Steele Alice Springer	JEO-Planner Miller + Associate Engineer Dunning Clerk/Treasurer	lsteale@miller-engineers.com dunning.village@ymail.com
" "	Chet Wales Jill Cadwallader	Board Member Board Member	Phone # 308-750-2520 308-538-2568
Hyannis 10/4/23 9:00am	Brooke Seechord Alison Ferguson	JEO-Planner Clerk/Treasurer	308.458.2770 hyannis6950@gmail.com

Please Sign In!

Upper Loop Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023



Meeting Attended	Name	Title/Position	Preferred Contact (phone #/ email address)
Logan County Stepleton + Gandy 10/4/23 1:00pm	Brooke Seechord	JEO-Planner	
" "	Keyon Jividen Sean Caisson	Mayor - Gandy Sheriff/EM	kejo@ipcom.net EM@logancounty.net
	RICHARD C. COOK	HIGHWAY SUPT	RICHCOOK7@YAHOOP.COM
Halsey 10/5/23 9:30am	Brooke Seechord Dianna Radochka	JEO-Planner Village Clerk	villageofhalsey@outlook.com
Brewster 10/5/23 1:00pm			
10/5/23	Marilyn Rhodes	board member	Marilyn Rhodes / 455 308 547 2210
10/5/23	Heidi Norris	board member	308-547-2272
10/5/2023	Scott Allen	Chairman	402-217-0797 skm-beth@ haha.com
10/5/2023	Cathy Williams	Village Clerk	#308-547-2355
10/5/2023	Scott Allen	board member	308-547-4185
10/5/2023	Scott Allen	board member	308-547-2210

Please Sign In!

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC MEETING MATERIALS AND WORKSHEETS

CONTENTS:

1. Example of Hazard Identification Sheet
2. Example of Community Profile with Questions














EXAMPLE OF HAZARD IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Jurisdiction: _____

UPPER LOUP NRD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



CIRCLE YOUR TOP 5 HAZARDS OF CONCERN

 Animal & Plant Disease	 Dam Failure	 Drought	 Earthquakes	 Other: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
 Extreme Heat	 Flooding	 Hazardous Materials Release	 Severe Thunderstorms	
 Severe Winter Storms	 Terrorism & Civil Disobedience	 Tornadoes & High Winds	 Wildfire	

EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY PROFILE WITH QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY PROFILE

VILLAGE OF THEDFORD



Upper Loup Natural Resources District
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

2024 Update

Appendix B: Public Meeting Materials

Section Seven: Village of Thedford Community Profile

Local Planning Team

Thedford Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Dawn Hansen Bryant	Volunteer Fire Department	Village of Thedford	
Gary Eng	Emergency Manager	Thomas County	

Governance

A community's governance indicates the number of boards or offices that may be available to help implement hazard mitigation actions. Thedford has a number of offices or departments that may be involved in implementing hazard mitigation initiatives. The Village has a five member board and the following offices.

- Village Clerk
- Parks Committee
- Streets Committee
- Trash Committee
- Water/Sewer Board
- Fire Department

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin.

For your jurisdiction, what positions will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update? Include any positions which should be a part of the process.

- ***Position:*** _____
- ***Position:*** _____
- ***Position:*** _____

Please indicate how frequently your jurisdiction intends to review/revise the profile. (circle one)

Every 6 months Annually Bi-annually

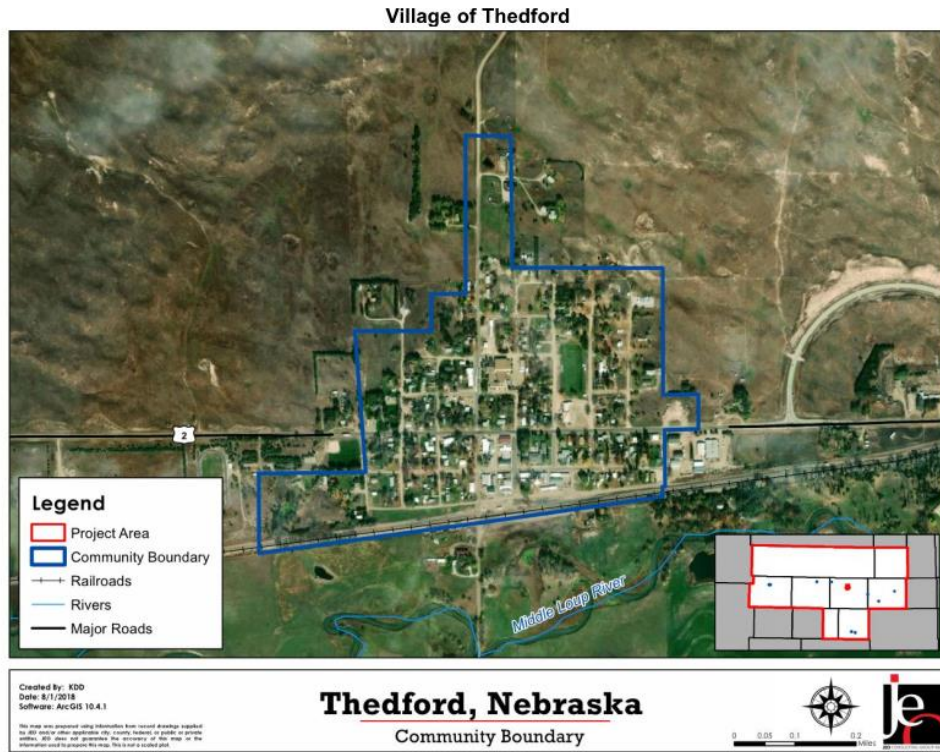
How will your jurisdiction notify and involve the public in the plan review and revision? (For example, social media, website updates, board/council meetings, etc.)

Appendix B: Public Meeting Materials

Section Seven: Village of Thedford Community Profile

Location and Geography

The Village of Thedford is located in central Thomas County. The Village covers an area of 0.23 square miles. The Village is directly north of the Middle Loup River. The Village of Thedford is the county seat of Thomas County.



Appendix B: Public Meeting Materials

Section Seven: Village of Thedford Community Profile

Transportation

Thedford's major transportation corridors include Nebraska Highway 2 which averages 765 vehicles per day and U.S. Highway 83 east of town which averages 1,420 vehicles per day.ⁱ A Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail line is south of the Village. Hazardous materials are regularly transported along the railroad and several chemical spills have occurred in the county, including a derailment in Thedford in 2017. The Thomas County Airport is located near the Village of Thedford. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk to transportation incidents.

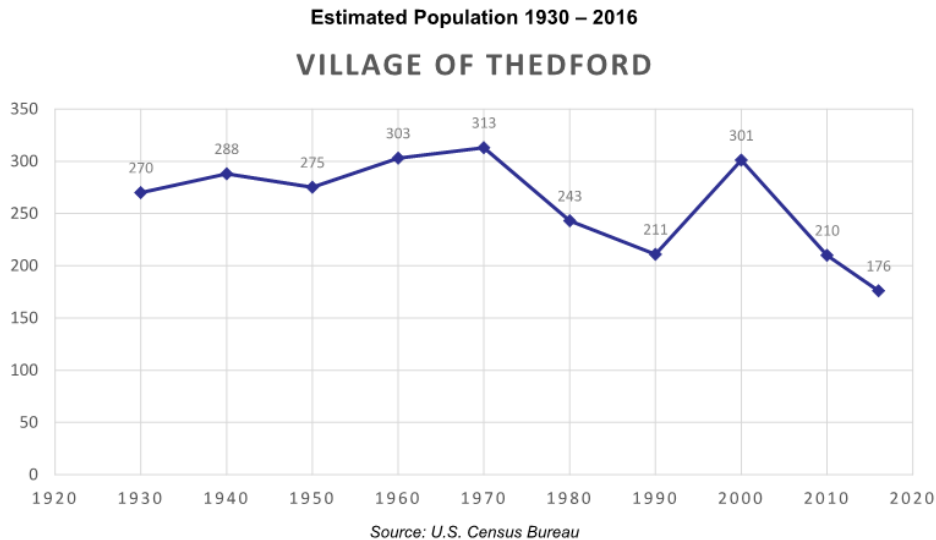
Any new roads, major accidents, road improvements, or other transportation concerns?

Demographics

Thedford's population fluctuated from about 301 people in 2000 to 176 people in 2016. Declining populations make communities more vulnerable to hazards as it leads to more unoccupied or vacant housing units and decreasing tax revenues to pursue mitigation projects. Thedford's population accounted for 26% percent of Thomas County's population in 2016.ⁱⁱ

What changes to population or demographics have occurred?

Section Seven: Village of Thedford Community Profile



The young, elderly, minorities, and poor may be more vulnerable to certain hazards than other groups. In comparison to the County, Thedford’s population was:

- **Older.** The median age of Thedford was 53 years old in 2016, compared with the County average of 42 years. Thedford’s population grew slightly older since 2010, when the median age was 52 years old. Thedford had a smaller proportion of people under 20 years old (15.3%) than the County (25.5%).ⁱⁱⁱ
- **Similar diversity.** Between 2010 (0%) and 2016 (0%), Thedford has no change in Hispanic or Latino population. During that time, the Hispanic population in the County grew from 0.1% in 2010 to 0.6% in 2016.^{iv}
- **More likely to be below the federal poverty line.** The poverty rate in Thedford (7.1% of families living below the federal poverty line) was slightly higher than the County’s poverty rate (6.6%) in 2016.^v

Employment and Economics

The Village’s economic base is a mixture of industries. In comparison to Thomas County, Thedford’s economy had:

- **Same mix of industries.** Thedford and Thomas County’s major employment sectors, accounting for 10% or more of employment each, were Agriculture, Educational Services, and Public Administration in 2016.^{vi}
- **Lower household income.** Thedford’s median household income in 2016 (\$50,417) was about \$3,869 lower than the County (\$54,286).^{vii}
- **Fewer long-distance commuters.** About 84% percent of workers in Thedford commuted for fewer than 15 minutes, compared with about 69% of workers in Thomas County. About 2% of workers in Thedford commute 30 minutes or more to work, compared to about 17% of the County workers.^{viii}

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Major Employers

Thedford Public Schools, Thomas County Courthouse, and Pearson Livestock Equipment are the largest employers in the Village of Thedford. Many other residents work in the agriculture sector in the surrounding area.

Housing

In comparison to Thomas County, Thedford's housing stock was:

- **Less owner-occupied.** About 67.4% of occupied housing units in Thedford are owner occupied compared with 70.8% of occupied housing in Thomas County.^{ix}
- **Older housing stock.** Thedford had a greater share of housing built prior to 1970 than the County (63.2% compared to 54.8%).^x
- **Single family and mobile homes.** The housing stock in Thedford is primarily comprised of single family detached homes (83.2%) and mobile homes (9.6%). Mobile homes are equally dispersed throughout the Village. In comparison, Thomas County has a greater share of single-family homes (88.7%), but a smaller share of mobile and manufactured housing (7.4%).^{xi}

This housing information is relevant to hazard mitigation insofar as the age of housing may indicate which housing units were built prior to state building codes being developed. Further, unoccupied housing may suggest that future development may be less likely to occur. Finally, communities with a substantial number of mobile homes may be more vulnerable to the impacts of high winds, tornadoes, and severe winter storms.

Future Development Trends

The planning team indicated that little has changed in the past five years in the Village of Thedford. According to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates, Thedford's population has declined. The local planning team indicated that the community is heavily tied to the agricultural sector which has an aging population. No new housing developments have been made or are planned at this time, but the local planning team indicated a new bank is coming to the Village.

Any new businesses/homes? Any new projects the village has done?

Structural Inventory and Valuation

The planning team requested GIS parcel data from the County Assessor as of December 2018. This data allowed the planning team to analyze the location, number, and value of property improvements at the parcel level. The data did not contain the number of structures on each parcel. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following table.

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Structural Inventory

Number of Parcels	Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain
234	267	\$7,548,600	0	\$0

Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources

Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, there are four chemical storage sites in Thedford that contain hazardous chemicals. The planning team indicated the Fire Department personnel have hazmat awareness training and are able to call in additional resources for hazardous materials incidents if needed.

Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

Facility Name	Address	In Floodplain (Y/N)
Haake Five Cenex Station	39319 Highway 2	N
Sandhill Oil Company Inc	39397 Highway 2	N
Thomas County Airport	83742 Airport Ln	Y
NDOT Thedford Yard	83880 Highway 83	N

Source: Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality²³

Critical Facilities

Each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA recognized lifelines include: Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material facilities. The following subsections list those community lifelines broken down by type, as identified by the local planning team. United Church is also utilized as a shelter location in Thedford.



Critical Facilities

#	Lifeline	Name	Address	Shelter	Generator
1	Food, Water, Shelter	Bethel Assembly Church	701 Kuhn Ave	Y	N
2	Energy	Custer Public Power Office/Shop	109 Main St	N	N
3	Food, Water, Shelter	Ewoldt's Grocery Store	608 Court St	N	N
4	Safety and Security	Fire Hall	39253 NE-2	N	N
5	Energy	Sandhills Oil Gas Station	39397 NE-2 Thedford NE	N	N

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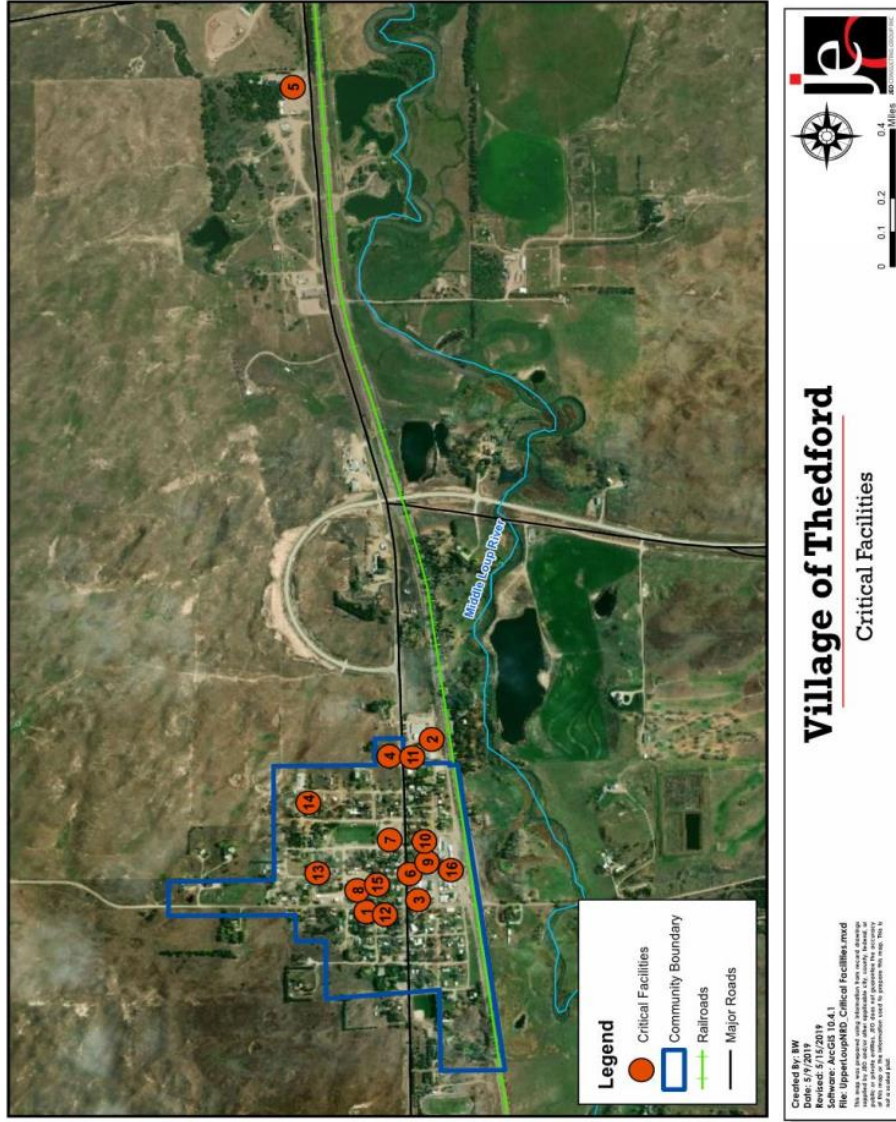
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#	Lifeline	Name	Address	Shelter	Generator
6	Communications	Telephone Switching Station	Walnut St and Hwy 2	N	N
7	Other	Thedford Grade School	407 Court St	N	N
8	Food, Water, Shelter	Thedford High School	304 Maple St	Y	N
9	Safety and Security	Thomas County Courthouse	503 Main St	N	N
10	Food, Water, Shelter	United Church of Christ	403 Main St	Y	N
11	Other	Upper Loup NRD Office	39252 NE-2	N	N
12	Transportation	Village Shop	Maple St and Kuhn Ave	N	N
13	Food, Water, Shelter	Water Tanks	McMillan St	N	N
14	Food, Water, Shelter	Well Pumping Station #1	North McMillan St	N	N
15	Food, Water, Shelter	Well Pumping Station #2	Kuhn Ave	N	N
16	Food, Water, Shelter	Well Pumping Station #3	Railroad St	N	N

***Any new critical facilities to add or remove?
Shelter or Generator changes?***

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Critical Facilities



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Capability Assessment

The capability assessment consisted of a Capability Assessment Survey completed by the jurisdiction and a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and the programs. The survey is used to gather information regarding the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; and educational and outreach capability.

Any changes to capabilities?

Capability Assessment

Survey Components/Subcomponents		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Comprehensive Plan	No
	Capital Improvements Plan	No
	Economic Development Plan	No
	Emergency Operational Plan	County – Yes
	Floodplain Management Plan	No
	Storm Water Management Plan	No
	Zoning Ordinance	No
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	No
	Floodplain Ordinance	No
	Building Codes	No
	National Flood Insurance Program	No
	Community Rating System	No
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planning Commission	Yes
	Floodplain Administration	County
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Chief Building Official	No
	Civil Engineering	Yes (Contractor as needed)
	Local Staff Who Can Assess Community's Vulnerability to Hazards	Yes
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	Capital Improvement Plan/ 1 & 6 Year plan	No
	Applied for grants in the past	No
	Awarded a grant in the past	No
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects	County – Yes
	Gas/Electric Service Fees	No
	Storm Water Service Fees	No
	Water/Sewer Service Fees	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
Other (if any)		

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Survey Components/Subcomponents		Yes/No
Education & Outreach Capability	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. Ex. CERT Teams, Red Cross, etc.	Yes (Service Club, County Fair Board)
	Ongoing public education or information program (e.g., responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Yes (Water Conservation, Fire Safety in schools)
	Natural Disaster or Safety related school programs	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	No
Other (if any)		

Overall Capability	Limited/Moderate/High	2024 Change?
Does your community have the financial resources need to implement mitigation projects?	Limited	
Does your community have the staff/expertise to implement projects?	Limited	
Does your community have the community support to implement projects?	Limited	
Does your community staff have the time to devote to hazard mitigation?	Limited to None	

Social Vulnerability

FEMA's National Risk Index is a new mapping tool that analyzes a community's risk to natural hazards on a scale of 0 (lowest possible value) to 100 (highest possible value). The overall risk for Thomas County, which includes Thedford, is Very Low (0.32). The average for the State of Nebraska is 9.43.¹

- **Social Vulnerability:** Social groups in Thomas County have a Very Low (0.19) susceptibility to adverse impacts of natural hazards when compared to the rest of the U.S.
- **Community Resilience:** Communities in Thomas County have a Relatively Moderate (52.67) ability to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions when compared to the rest of the U.S.

An additional tool developed by Headwaters Economics, the Rural Capacity Index, evaluates rural communities and counties across the country for local capacity. Capacity includes the staffing, resources, and expertise to both apply for funding and fulfill reporting requirements, as well as design, build, and maintain infrastructure products over the long term. Communities lacking local

¹ Federal Emergency Management Agency. "National Risk Index". Accessed July 2022. <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>.

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capacity often have the greatest need for infrastructure investments particularly, rural communities and communities of color. The Rural Capacity Index helps identify communities with limited capacity on a scale of 0 (no capacity) to 100 (high capacity). This index is based on 10 variables that can function as proxies for community capacity. The following table lists the components and scores for the Village of Thedford compared to the county.

Rural Capacity Index

Components of Index	Village of Thedford	Thomas County
County is Metropolitan?	No	No
Has a Head of Planning?	No	No
Has a College or University?	No	No
Adults with Higher Education:	24	24%
Families Below Poverty Level:	0%	4%
Households with Broadband:	91%	89%
People without Health Insurance:	2%	5%
Voter Turnout:	93%	93%
Income Stability Score (0 to 100):	10	24
Population Change (2000 to 2019):	-33	-194
Overall Rural Capacity Index Score	Low Capacity 45 out of 100	Low Capacity 44 out of 100

Source: *Headwaters Economics*²

Plan Integration

The Village of Thedford has an annex to the Thomas County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). The County LEOP identifies roles and responsibilities during an emergency. No other examples of plan integration were identified. There are currently no plans to further integrate existing or future planning mechanisms.

How's the budget?

Any plan updates?

National Flood Insurance Program

Do you participate in the NFIP? **Yes** **No**

If No, why is flooding and/or participation not a priority for you?

Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

For an in-depth discussion regarding area wide hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*. The hazards discussed in detail below were prioritized by the local planning team

² Headwaters Economics. January 2022. "Rural Capacity Map". Accessed July 2022. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/>.

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based on the identification of hazards of greatest concern, hazard history, and the jurisdiction's capabilities.

Hazardous Materials

Is this still a hazard of top concern? Yes No

While no chemical fixed site spills have occurred in the planning area, concerns exist about spills of gasoline, diesel, and fuel oil at service stations. Several critical facilities are located near potential spill locations, including the courthouse and schools. In a chemical spill event, the local volunteer fire department, Thedford Rescue Team, and Thomas County Sheriff would respond, but have the ability to request additional aid from the State Fire Marshal Division and HazMat Response.

Chemical spills are of concern due to the high volume of hazardous chemicals transported via semi-trucks along the two major highways which bisect Thedford and via rail lines. A train derailment of coal in 2017 caused \$150,000 in damages and impacted the railroad crossing in town. The spill also came close to homes and the fire hall. Since 2006, the majority of rail cargo has been coal through the area, however oil, waste products, and agricultural chemicals are all transported. The planning team indicated multiple critical facilities are located along major transportation routes where chemicals are transported, including residential homes, Thomas County Airport, gas stations, the elementary school, the courthouse, the high school, and a national park.

What new events or concerns exist for this hazard?

Have you completed any projects to reduce your risk to this hazard?

What projects are needed in the future to reduce risk to your community?

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Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION		INFRASTRUCTURE HARDENING
DESCRIPTION	Install vehicular barriers and/or fencing to protect critical facilities and key infrastructure at well and water tank sites.	
HAZARD(S)	Chemical Spills (Transportation), Terrorism/Civil Disorder	
ESTIMATED COST	\$5,000-\$15,000	
FUNDING	NDEE, General Funds	
TIMELINE	5+ years	
PRIORITY	High	
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board	
STATUS	This project has not yet been started.	
2024 HMP Status		

MITIGATION ACTION		SHELTERING IN PLACE
DESCRIPTION	Ensure that all critical facilities, businesses, and residents located near major transportation corridors are aware of appropriate procedures to safely shelter in place in the event of a chemical release.	
HAZARD(S)	Chemical Spills (Fixed and Transportation)	
ESTIMATED COST	\$50-\$5,000	
FUNDING	Thomas County EMA, General Funds	
TIMELINE	2-5 years	
PRIORITY	Medium	
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board	
STATUS	This project has not yet been started.	
2024 HMP Status		

Grass/Wildfire

Is this still a hazard of top concern? Yes No

Grass/wildfire is a top concern for the Village due to the high amount of Wildland Urban Interface present. According to the local Planning Team, wildfires in 1999 burned over 75,000 acres in the county and 2012 had a disproportionate number of fires occur. The Thedford Volunteer Fire Department has approximately 28 volunteers in the community. Additional small departments are located in Seneca and Brownlee. The fire departments cover several million acres of land.

What new events or concerns exist for this hazard?

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Have you completed any projects to reduce your risk to this hazard?

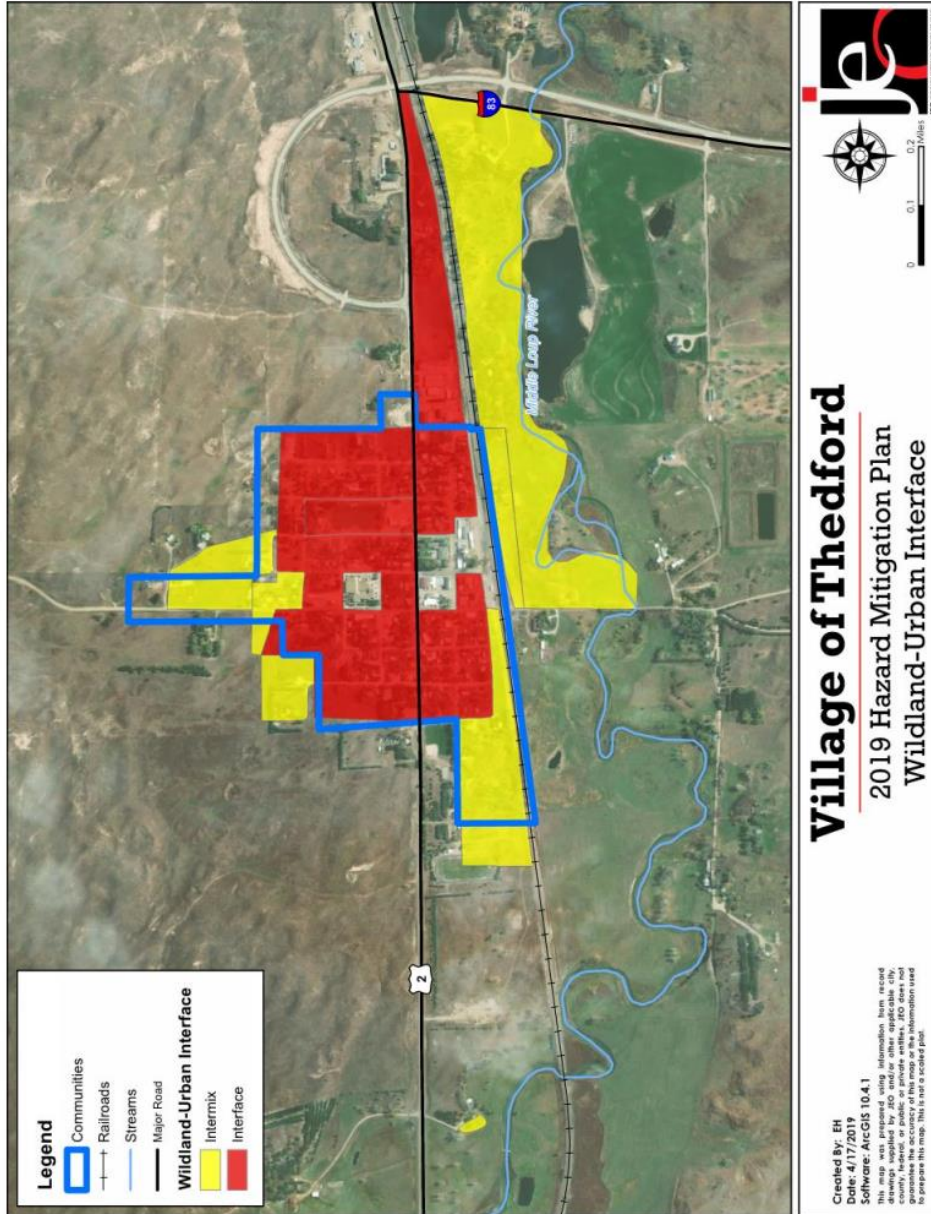
What projects are needed in the future to reduce risk to your community?

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	FIRE WISE DEFENSIBLE SPACE
DESCRIPTION	Work with the Nebraska Forest Service and US Forest Service to become a Fire Wise Communities/USA participant. Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Train land owners about creating defensible space. Enact ordinances and building codes to increase defensible space, improve building materials to reduce structure ignitability, and increase access to structures by responders. Develop and implement brush and fuel thinning projects.
HAZARD(S)	Grass/wildfire
ESTIMATED COST	\$20,000
FUNDING	HMGP, NFS, USFS, ULNRD, NGPC, Rural Fire Assistance, General Funds
TIMELINE	2-5 years
PRIORITY	Medium
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board, Thedford Fire Department, Nebraska Forestry Service
STATUS	The Volunteer Fire Department works with the National Forest Service to train responders in urban/wildland interface and appropriate mitigation measures that can be taken. Additional information needs to be shared with residents.
<i>2024 HMP Status</i>	

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Figure THD.4: Thedford Wildland-Urban Interface



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Severe Thunderstorms

Is this still a hazard of top concern? Yes No

Severe thunderstorms are typically associated with heavy rain, lightning, high winds, and hail. Heavy rains commonly flood residential basements, damage trees, and damage or potentially washout unpaved local and county roads. Currently there are no backup generators or storm shelters identified in the Village. Severe thunderstorms have caused \$69,000 in damages in the county, primarily from high winds.

What new events or concerns exist for this hazard?

Have you completed any projects to reduce your risk to this hazard?

What projects are needed in the future to reduce risk to your community?

Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION	BACKUP GENERATORS
DESCRIPTION	Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies, municipal wells, lift stations, and other critical facilities and shelters.
HAZARD(S)	Tornadoes, high winds, severe thunderstorms, severe winter storms
ESTIMATED COST	\$30,000-\$50,000 per generator
FUNDING	HMGP, PDM, General Funds
TIMELINE	2-5 years
PRIORITY	High
LEAD AGENCY	Village of Thedford, Region 26 EMA
STATUS	This project has not yet been started. There are currently no backup generators located in Thedford. Possible locations include the Fire Hall, Thedford Schools, County Courthouse, lift stations, and well house.
<i>2024 HMP Status</i>	

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MITIGATION ACTION	ENROLL IN NFIP
DESCRIPTION	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
HAZARD(S)	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms
ESTIMATED COST	Unknown
FUNDING	General Funds
TIMELINE	5+ years
PRIORITY	High
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board, NDNR
STATUS	This project has not yet been started.
2024 HMP Status	

Severe Winter Storms

Is this still a hazard of top concern? Yes No

The Village of Thedford experiences severe winter storms every year. Concerns from severe winter storms include power loss from downed or damaged power lines, property damage, agricultural damages, and housing for stranded motorists. The local planning team indicated no facilities in town have backup generators and no power lines are buried in town. The Village Utilities are responsible for removing snow in town. Severe winter storms in the County have caused \$32,000 in property damages.

What new events or concerns exist for this hazard?

Have you completed any projects to reduce your risk to this hazard?

What projects are needed in the future to reduce risk to your community?

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Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION		CONTINUITY OF PLANNING
DESCRIPTION	Work to develop continuity plans for critical facilities and key resources throughout the community.	
HAZARD(S)	All Hazards	
ESTIMATED COST	Unknown	
FUNDING	Unknown	
TIMELINE	Ongoing	
PRIORITY	Medium	
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board, Region 26 EMA	
STATUS	This project has not yet been started.	
2024 HMP Status		

MITIGATION ACTION		EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
DESCRIPTION	Identify and establish an Emergency Operations Center	
HAZARD(S)	All Hazards	
ESTIMATED COST	\$0	
FUNDING	General Funds	
TIMELINE	1 year	
PRIORITY	High	
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board, Region 26 EMA, Fire Department	
STATUS	An officially designated EOC is needed for the Village. Preferably this facility will have a backup generator. Possible locations include the Fire Hall or County Courthouse.	
2024 HMP Status		

Tornadoes and High Winds

Is this still a hazard of top concern? Yes No

Tornadoes pose significant risk of damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure, and agriculture. Currently there are no backup generators or safe rooms located in the Village of Thedford, however the Bethel Assembly Church and Thedford High School have been identified as shelter locations and many residents have basements where they can seek shelter. The local Planning Team indicated that there is one alert siren in the Village, however it is only operating at a minimal level. The siren is not loud enough to inform all residents of an event and only uses one tone, making it impossible to distinguish between tornado or fire alerts. The Village is currently working to replace the siren.

What new events or concerns exist for this hazard?

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Have you completed any projects to reduce your risk to this hazard?

What projects are needed in the future to reduce risk to your community?

Mitigation Actions

ALERT/WARNING SIRENS	
MITIGATION ACTION	
DESCRIPTION	Perform an evaluation of existing alert sirens in order to determine sirens which should be replaced or upgraded. Install new sirens where lacking. Identify locations of weather warning radios.
HAZARD(S)	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
ESTIMATED COST	\$25,000-\$30,000
FUNDING	HMGP, PDM, NFS, General Funds
TIMELINE	1 year
PRIORITY	High
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board, Fire Department
STATUS	This project has not yet been started. A new siren is needed in Thedford which can be heard by all residents.
2024 HMP Status	

PUBLIC AWARENESS/EDUCATION	
MITIGATION ACTION	
DESCRIPTION	Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps and environmental education increase public awareness of natural hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards. In addition, educate citizens on erosion control and water conservation methods. Educate residents on response and rescue plans for all hazard types.
HAZARD(S)	All hazards
ESTIMATED COST	\$500+
FUNDING	HMGP, PDM, General Funds
TIMELINE	Ongoing
PRIORITY	Low
LEAD AGENCY	Village Board, Region 26 EMA, ULNRD
STATUS	This is an ongoing action. The Region 26 Emergency Management Agency regularly shares hazard educational information.
2024 HMP Status	

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Are there other hazards of top concern for the county? What other projects or capacity building measures is the village planning on pursuing?

¹ Nebraska Department of Roads. "Traffic Flow Map of the State Highways: State of Nebraska." [map]. Scale 1"= 20 miles. State of Nebraska: Department of Roads, 2015. <http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/media/2510/2014-statewide-traffic-flow-map.pdf>

² United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: S0101: Age and Sex." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

³ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: S0101: Age and Sex." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁴ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁵ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁶ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁷ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁸ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: S0802: Means of Transportation to Work by Selected Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁹ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

¹⁰ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

¹¹ United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

¹² United States Census Bureau. "2016 American Fact Finder: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

¹³ Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed November 2018. https://deq-iis.ne.gov/tier2/search_faces.

APPENDIX C

GUIDE TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE HMP

Appendix C: Review and Update Plan

PROFILE REVIEW TRACKING

Each participating jurisdiction in the hazard mitigation plan will be responsible for monitoring, evaluation, and updating the plan during its five-year lifespan. During the planning process, participants identified the position(s) that will be responsible for plan maintenance, the frequency of review, and how the public will be involved. This appendix will help guide the review and update process.

Date Reviewed	By Whom	Summary of Changes

EVALUATE YOUR LOCAL PLANNING TEAM

When reviewing the plan, the local planning team should reassess its composition and ask the following questions:

Have there been staffing changes that warrant inviting different members to the local planning team?

Yes No

Comments/Proposed Action:

Are there organizations that have been invaluable to the planning process or to the project implementation that should be represented on the planning team?

Yes No

Comments/Proposed Action:

Are there any representatives of essential departments/organizations who have not fully participated in the planning and implementation of actions? If so, can someone from that department/organization commit to the planning team?

Yes No

Comments/Proposed Action:

Are there ways to better include the public?

Yes No

Appendix C: Review and Update Plan

Comments/Proposed Action:

REVISIT HAZARD PRIORITIZATION

During the planning process, your jurisdiction was asked to prioritize hazards of top concern. When reviewing your profile, the local planning team should look at the hazards identified along with the associated write-up to ensure the information is still accurate. The table below will help track any changes to your hazard prioritization.

Steps	Questions	Yes	No	Comments
Prioritized Hazards	Have your prioritized hazards changed?			If yes, which hazards should be added/removed?
Hazard Write-Ups	Have any new events taken place?			
	Are there new high-risk populations, buildings, or infrastructure?			
	Do any of the write-ups need to be changed?			

EVALUATING MITIGATION PROJECTS

Updating and evaluating the mitigation projects identified in your profile is an important step in the review process. For each mitigation action identified, the lead agency identified on each action can provide an update by filling out the information listed below.

Project Name:

Does the project description need to be updated? Yes No

Does the estimated cost need to be updated? Yes No

Does the timeline need to be updated? Yes No

Does the priority level need to be updated? Yes No

Does the lead agency need to be changed? Yes No

Was the project implemented?

If yes: What were the results?

If no:

- Why not?

- Was there political support for the actions/projects?
Yes No

- Were enough funds available? Yes No

- Was new information discovered about the risks or community that made implementation difficult or no longer sensible?
Yes No

- Were sufficient resources (for example staff and technical assistance) available? Yes No

- Is this project still needed? Yes No

IDENTIFY NEW MITIGATION PROJECTS

When reviewing your jurisdictional profile, you may determine that new mitigation actions are needed based on changes to hazard prioritization, local capabilities, or risk.

Are there new mitigation projects that need to be added to the plan?
 Yes No

If yes, fill out a table for each new mitigation action.

Mitigation Action Name			
Description			
Hazard(s) Addressed			
Estimated Cost			
Local Funding			
Timeline	1 Year	2-5 Years	5+ Years
Priority	High	Medium	Low
Lead Agency			
Status			

Appendix C: Review and Update Plan

Mitigation Action Name			
Description			
Hazard(s) Addressed			
Estimated Cost			
Local Funding			
Timeline	1 Year	2-5 Years	5+ Years
Priority	High	Medium	Low
Lead Agency			
Status			

PLAN UPDATES

Most profile updates do not need to be sent to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) or FEMA. Changes to the local planning team, hazard prioritization, or updates to current mitigation actions can be tracked internally until the next full plan update.

However, if you are adding a new mitigation action, it will need to be sent to NEMA, so it can potentially be eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation grant funding. The template letter below can be used when notifying NEMA of an added mitigation action. Prior to sending the letter, notify the project sponsor so that the plan document can also be updated.

[Date]

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
State Hazard Mitigation Program
2433 NW 24th St
Lincoln, NE 68524

To Whom It May Concern:

The [your jurisdiction] requests the following mitigation action be added to the [hazard mitigation plan name]. This action will be added to [location of your profile (section and profile title)], page [#] and is attached.

(Fill Out Table)

Mitigation Action Name	
Description	
Hazard(s) Addressed	
Estimated Cost	
Local Funding	
Timeline	
Priority	
Lead Agency	
Status	

For questions, I can be reached by email at [email address] or by phone at [phone number].

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Jurisdiction]

APPENDIX D

HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT FUNDING GUIDEBOOK

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1. **Section One: Overview**
2. **Section Two: Hazard Mitigation Project Funding Opportunities**
 - 2.1. **General**
 - 2.2. **Federal Resources**
 - 2.3. **State of Nebraska Resources and Priorities**
 - 2.4. **Alternative Funding Sources**
3. **Section Three: References**
 - 3.1. **Hazard Mitigation Project Funding Opportunities**

SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW

This *Hazard Mitigation Project Funding Guidebook* is provided by JEO Consulting Group, Inc.

The intent of the Guidebook is to provide initial guidance on:

- Hazard mitigation project funding opportunities
- Where to find more information

The information in this Guidebook is consistent with established processes for hazard mitigation planning. However, it is important to note the following in terms of the context for this Guidebook relative to the overall planning process:

Project identification includes identifying all possible options (or alternatives) to address planning objectives; i.e., at this stage, there are no “bad” options. At times, the best option may be to work with other actors in the community to design solutions that are responsive to community values while reducing risk (i.e. a bike path or ball field that can double as a retention area, or the preservation of an animal habitat that also serves as a natural buffer). These types of solutions can often be funded in very innovative ways, including solutions which increase local industry and revenue (i.e. tapping into the entrepreneurial community).

Project identification is followed by a comprehensive evaluation of possible project options to identify viable, preferred option(s) for development of specific implementation strategies. Preferred options may change as different stakeholders come to the table and additional ideas are proposed or funding sources identified. Incremental mitigation projects, in which risk is slowly bought down through a comprehensive range of actions, can be a much more realistic strategy than identifying the one best (and often costliest) solution. Project evaluation criteria include the need for and the availability of funding for specific project options along with technical feasibility, environmental consequences, cost effectiveness, etc.

Even though funding availability is “technically” part of project evaluation, this Guidebook offers information regarding availability of funding in addition to information about identifying projects. The purpose is to reflect the importance of linking project options with potential funding and implementation mechanisms as early as possible to eliminate options with little or no prospects for funding but more importantly, to recognize that successful implementation of the resulting hazard mitigation plan (HMP) will require creative approaches to project funding and the documentation of successful projects. Knowledge of a broader range of funding opportunities and mechanisms beyond federal hazard mitigation grant programs will enable the planning team to keep as many implementation options open as possible, as well as to ensure that some minimal projects can be completed in between plan updates.

SECTION TWO: HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2.1 GENERAL

When the current FEMA hazard mitigation planning program was formulated in the late 1990s as part of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), there was an assumption that federal funding would be provided on a substantial, on-going basis for implementing hazard mitigation projects. While hundreds of millions of dollars have been provided by the federal government over the last decade, primarily through FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs, the level of funding has varied from year to year and future prospects are unclear. Additionally, some communities have not been successful in their pursuit of these grants and have not seen the value of their investment in mitigation planning. As a result, while it is still important to have a grasp of how these legacy federal programs can be used to fund hazard mitigation projects, it is increasingly important to look for other opportunities.

Opportunities for funding and technical assistance exist in other federal agencies or possibly state or local agencies. In addition, alternative funding opportunities can be developed at the regional or local level with private sector businesses, private foundations, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In order to fully map out the range of local and state options it is necessary to undertake a detailed stakeholder analysis – something which has not been done at this time. The following contains a brief overview of federal, state, and local government programs that may include opportunities for hazard mitigation project funding as well as alternatives within the private sector and NGOs.

2.2 FEDERAL RESOURCES

Information about federal hazard mitigation project funding opportunities is organized per the following categories:

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs
- Other FEMA Hazard Mitigation Programs
- Other Federal Agency Programs

2.2.1 FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS

There are three (3) grant programs administered at the federal level by FEMA that are grouped under the umbrella heading of the “Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs” (HMA) including:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) – *To be replaced with Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) in Fall 2020*
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

These programs also have a counterpart agency at the State level. For Nebraska, HMGP and PDM/BRIC are administered at the state level by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The FMA program is managed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). Periodically, FEMA issues guidance covering the administrative elements for all three (3) programs, titled the *Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance*. The most recent guidance was released in 2015.

There are a number of similarities and differences between these programs, but it is important to note three distinctions between HMGP and the other four HMA programs:

- HMGP is only available when authorized under a Presidential major disaster declaration, i.e., post-disaster. The other four HMA programs, when funding is appropriated by Congress, are available pre-disaster.
- Project eligibility under HMGP can be limited by the State as part of the HMGP Administrative Plan developed post-disaster. For example, funding may only be made available for projects that are related to the type of disaster; i.e., HMGP related to a significant flood disaster declaration may only be designated for flood mitigation projects like acquisitions of repetitively flooded properties.

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- Eligible projects can include project types that are not typically funded by FEMA hazard mitigation programs if FEMA authorizes what is referred to as the “5 percent initiative”. Generally reserved for very large disasters, authorizing the 5 percent initiative can make funding available for new, unproven mitigation techniques and technologies where benefits are not proven or not clearly measurable such as back-up generators, disaster warning equipment and systems, hazard identification or mapping efforts, and studies or plans to reduce disaster losses. The current State of Nebraska Administrative Plan for HMGP associated with FEMA 4014-DR-NE identifies the potential use of the 5 percent initiative for that particular disaster event.

Note: Section Three includes individual website URLs for more detailed information on these three HMA programs and the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance.

2.2.2 OTHER FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAMS

Two (2) other FEMA programs include the potential for funding hazard mitigation projects that may be identified:

- Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP) - FMAGP may be applicable to some areas of Nebraska; the Nebraska State HMP identifies Wildfires as the third highest ranked hazard on a state-wide basis. FEMA provides the following overview of the FMAGP program:
- [FMAGP] is available to States, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately-owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.
- Public Assistance (PA) Section 406 Hazard Mitigation Funding – Generally, PA funds are provided post-disaster for the restoration of public infrastructure that has sustained damaged due to a presidentially-declared disaster. The legislation authorizing PA also includes a “*provision for the consideration of funding additional measures that will enhance a facility’s ability to resist similar damage in future events.*” It is important to note that Section 406 funding can only be used on parts of a facility that were actually damaged by the disaster; although in some cases the damages are sufficient that the entire facility must be replaced.
- Therefore, it is often difficult to include the type of specific predictions in a HMP that would lead to identifying Section 406 as a prime option for funding but it should be noted in the HMP and referenced wherever it is potentially applicable. Areas of vulnerability for particular buildings, or building types, identified through the HMP can be a resource for the identification of PA mitigation projects. Additionally, local and state staff should receive training in the successful use of PA.

Additional FEMA programs include: Community Assistance Program which assists states with the NFIP; various post-disaster funds and programs; and Assistance to Firefighter Grants which can assist with the enhancement of response capabilities.

Note: Section Three includes individual website URLs for more detailed information on these two FEMA programs that are also the sources of the quoted passages.

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2.2.3 OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAMS

Although FEMA programs are typically thought of as the primary sources of federal agency hazard mitigation project funding, there are a significant number of agencies with programs relevant to local HMPs and hazard mitigation project implementation. The following indicates some of the federal programs which may be of assistance in funding certain types of hazard mitigation projects – or portions of those projects.

Table 1: Federal Programs

Source	Description	Additional Notes	Website
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	The Preserve America matching-grant program provides planning funding to designated Preserve America Communities to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education, and historic preservation planning.	This funding source may be considered as part of efforts to ensure that historic structures are protected from natural hazards. The City of Lincoln is a Preserve America Community.	http://www.preserveamerica.gov/
National Endowment for the Humanities	The National Endowment for the Humanities manages multiple grant programs which may be relevant.	Programs support educational initiatives and cultural institutions.	http://www.neh.gov/grants
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	USDA administers several programs that are potentially relevant including the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Rural Development, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA).	There are many different NRCS programs which can provide technical assistance and construction of improvements to relieve imminent hazards to life and property from floods and erosion. There are also various rural development programs which can support essential services such as sewer services and assist with fire and police stations. USDA programs also support renewable energy efforts. However, other USDA programs should be examined relative to identified projects to find potential matches with funding and assistance provisions.	http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=GRANTS_LOANS

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Source	Description	Additional Notes	Website
U.S. Department of Commerce	Economic Development Administration (EDA) – EDA primarily provides a variety of grants, loans, and technical assistance to support long-term economic recovery but also has supported grants for upgrades to critical public infrastructure and essential facilities.	There are various programs and resources available through EDA. The National Weather Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have also had programs in the past but are restricted by funding at the moment.	https://www.eda.gov/
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	USACE can provide a broad range of assistance under legislative authority related to flood control for floodplain management planning, stream bank and shoreline protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.	USACE projects generally involve watershed level activities and long project development and implementation timelines but may be applicable to regional considerations.	http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/
U.S. Dept of Education	Grants support LEAs in the development of communitywide approaches to creating safe and drug-free schools and promoting healthy childhood development. Programs are intended to prevent violence and the illegal use of drugs and to promote safety and discipline. Coordination with other community-based organizations (CBOs) is required. This program is jointly funded and administered by the departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services. The appropriation amounts listed above do not include funds appropriated for the departments	This program can be used to work towards safer schools, taking various potential risks into account.	https://www.ed.gov/

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Source	Description	Additional Notes	Website
	of Justice and Health and Human Services.		
U.S Department of Energy (DOE)	DOE undertakes a range of missions related to electricity and energy including improving “ <i>the ability of energy sector stakeholders to prevent, prepare for, and respond to threats, hazards, natural disasters, and other supply disruptions</i> ”. DOE works closely with State and local governments on energy assurance issues and develops products and tools to inform and educate State and local officials to support their energy emergency response activities. DOE also partners with State and local organizations to further assist in these efforts including the National Association of State Energy Officials, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, and at the local level, Public Technology Institute. Recently, DOE created the Local Energy Assurance Program (LEAP) which included more than \$8 million in LEAP grants to 43 cities and towns across the country to develop or expand local energy assurance plans to improve	DOE programs fund weatherization efforts, support renewable energy efforts which can be a portion of an energy assurance effort, and can provide technical assistance through the Nuclear Safety and Environment Program.	http://energy.gov/public-services/funding-opportunities

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Source	Description	Additional Notes	Website
	electricity reliability and energy security in these communities		
US Dept of Health and Human Services	The US Dept of Health and Human Services and its various agencies provide a wide range of grants and technical assistance programs.	Grant programs include technical: assistance and training related to ensuring safe water and wastewater treatment for rural areas; program to provide AEDs; and programs to ensure that rural areas have access to health services.	http://www.hhs.gov/grants/index.html
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD administers the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). CDBG funds have been used in conjunction with other hazard mitigation funding sources, e.g., HMGP, to implement projects including acquisitions and elevation of flood prone properties. However, HUD funding for hazard mitigation projects usually comes via special Congressional appropriations related to specific disaster events.	CDBG funds can play a key role in hazard mitigation.	http://www.justice.gov/business/
US Dept of Justice	The Office of Community Oriented Policing services offers funding to assist with community policing capacity.	This program may be relevant to communities which identify crime, acts of violence and/or terrorism as a hazard.	http://www.justice.gov/business/
US Dept of Labor	National Emergency Grants (NEGs) temporarily expand the service capacity of Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker training and employment programs at the state and local levels by providing funding assistance in response to large, unexpected economic events which cause significant job	Training and temporary jobs can focus on weatherization or possibly mitigation related activities.	https://www.dol.gov/

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Source	Description	Additional Notes	Website
	<p>losses. NEGs generally provide resources to states and local workforce investment boards to quickly reemploy laid-off workers by offering training to increase occupational skills.</p>		
<p>US Dept of the Interior</p>	<p>The National Parks Service has multiple grants allowing for the purchase of land for recreational facilities, the rehabilitation of recreation facilities, and protecting cultural treasures.</p>	<p>These programs could assist with the securing of land which can serve a dual purpose of mitigation and recreation, as well as for protecting some historic sites.</p>	<p>www.nps.gov</p>
<p>US Dept of Transportation</p>	<p>Funds support recreational trails, bridge replacement, safe routes to schools, road projects in rural areas, and other programs.</p>	<p>These funds can be incorporated into multi-objective projects aimed at hazard mitigation.</p>	<p>http://www.dot.gov/grants</p>
<p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p>	<p>In May, 2010, EPA signed a memorandum of agreement with FEMA to <i>“formalize efforts to explore opportunities to incorporate sustainability and smart growth practices into communities’ hazard mitigation planning and long term disaster recovery efforts, and to incorporate hazard resilience into smart growth assistance for communities.”</i> The intent is to coordinate parallel activities within these agencies for an array of policy initiatives that include climate change considerations. For projects that are intended to improve land use planning</p>	<p>EPA programs support efforts to clean up brownfields, support water quality, provide safe drinking water, promote green communities, and watershed protection.</p>	<p>http://www2.epa.gov/home/grants-and-other-funding-opportunities</p>

Source	Description	Additional Notes	Website
	practices, this joint effort could provide valuable technical assistance.		
Small Business Administration (SBA)	SBA Disaster Loan Program (DLP) is a significant source of assistance for homeowners, renters, businesses, and nonprofit organizations in the aftermath of disasters. Although this is a post-disaster funding mechanism, it is important to note that loans can be increased up to 20 percent for mitigation to protect property from future disasters of the same kind that caused the current damage.	Small businesses can use SBA loans for many purposes, before and after a disaster.	https://www.sba.gov/

These are by no means the only non-FEMA, federal agency programs that could have the potential to support hazard mitigation project implementation. Additionally, many of these programs are dependent on yearly funding allocations. However, at this point, it is more important to be aware of the potential for other federal agencies to support a broad array of project types. As needs and potential hazard mitigation project options are identified, more information can begin to be gathered on the range of programs which might be utilized. It will be more efficient to start with project options and then follow-up with the identification of potential matches, working with the full range of available programs and agencies as part of a comprehensive project evaluation process.

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2.3 STATE OF NEBRASKA RESOURCES AND PRIORITIES

There are a number of state agencies and programs with potential applicability to supporting funding and implementation of mitigation projects in addition to the federal hazard mitigation grant programs administered at the state level by NEMA and NeDNR already mentioned above. These agencies will also likely be important in earlier stages of the hazard mitigation planning process by providing current hazard and risk assessment data, including:

- NeDNR – Public outreach and education programs should be incorporated and cross-referenced as part of any corresponding programs recommended as part of HMPs
- Climate Assessment and Response Committee (CARC) – CARC is a committee comprised of other state agencies and other stakeholders including the University of Nebraska and private livestock and crop producers. A primary concern of the CARC appears to be drought mitigation and at a minimum, the CARC should be a good source of technical support for related mitigation actions at the region or local levels.
- Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) – The NFS “administers state and federal grant monies for fuel treatment on private property...for thinning forested tracts and for applying firewise principles to properties.”

Additional Nebraska funding resources include:

- Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) – NET is a state program dedicate to the preservation of Nebraska’s natural resources. Grant applications are accepted annually on or before the first Tuesday after Labor Day in September. <https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/index.html>
- Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) – The WSF is a source of financial support to help local project sponsors achieve the goals set in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-1506. The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NRC) oversees WSF operations including application review, scoring & ranking, and awarding funding to successful applicants. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the WSF fund by initially reviewing the newly filed applications and forwarding those that meet minimum statutory requirements to the NRC. WSF applications are due by July 31st each year with final determination made by the end of the year. <https://nrc.nebraska.gov/water-sustainability-fund-0>

One existing mechanism for agency collaboration, particularly in the area of flooding, is the Nebraska Silver Jackets Program (<http://silverjackets.dnr.ne.gov/>). Silver Jackets teams are active in many states and consist of various state and federal agencies working together in support of flood risk reduction.

Some state agencies which provide technical assistance and other resources include:

- Nebraska Department of Environmental and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Nebraska State Historical Society

In addition to these programs, it is important to always have a sense of the priorities that are identified by other agencies in influential positions regarding future grant funding. For example, the 2012 State of Nebraska Administrative Plan for HMGP, consistent in many ways with aspects of the Nebraska State HMP, identifies eligible project types such as:

- Structural hazard control or protection projects
- Retrofitting of facilities
- Property acquisition or relocation
- Development or improvement of warning systems

- Dead-end storm structures
- Replacement of conductors to T-2 Conductors, e.g., for increased wind resistance for electrical transmission lines

2.4 ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

In recent years, states and communities across the country have sought and developed innovative funding sources as alternatives to traditional government grant programs. This will be important for current and future hazard mitigation planning efforts for several reasons including:

- Decreases in funding for pre-disaster mitigation grant and assistance programs at the federal level and for state agencies - While technical assistance and other related support functions are still actively supported across federal and state agencies, and in some cases are increasing, allocations for “bricks and mortar” pre-disaster hazard mitigation projects will be competing with a broad range of government funding needs. These funds may not completely disappear, but the need will continue to outstrip the supply for the foreseeable future.
- Opportunities to fund projects that might not qualify or align with traditional grant and assistance programs. Funding programs seek solutions that reduce risk for a particular threshold (i.e. 1-percent flood) and meet absolute cost-benefit criteria that the agencies themselves must adhere to. Therefore, these programs, by their basic nature, are not able to support efforts that may help most of the time but don’t meet these thresholds, e.g., a homeowner installed flood wall in a repetitive loss area that prevents annual floods, but not larger magnitude events that come along every few years. There is a related concept that can be referred to as “cumulative risk reduction”. For example, a homeowner with limited resources (and no real access to grant funds) might be willing to spend a little time and money each year getting just a little bit safer.

The following identifies general kinds of alternative funding sources and techniques that have been employed in other communities:

- Local Funding Options
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Private Foundations

2.4.1 LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

Local funding options are just what they sound like, using local funds for local mitigation projects. Local funds are also needed as the non-federal share or “matching funds” for federal grant programs but can also be used independently to fund a range of project types. Local funding options include the following:

- Capital Improvement Programs – On-going civic improvements can include prioritized hazard mitigation projects or mitigation can be included as one aspect of a larger project. For example, improving the hydraulic capacity of a culvert or bridge to prevent upstream flooding while undertaking periodic replacements for end of service considerations is one example. Replacing windows in a school with shatter resistant glass as part of a overall renovation is another example. Capital improvement programs are generally funded with local tax revenues and municipal bonds.
- Permits, Fees, and Developer Contributions- Communities can establish fees, earmark a portion of existing permit and fee structures, and/or establish requirements for developer contributions for new developments in hazard prone areas that can then be used to fund local mitigation projects. The proceeds can be accumulated in what is often referred to as a “Mitigation Trust Fund” and the uses are typically tied to specific project types and/or relationships with projects already identified in specific plans or documents such as an HMP. These types of funds can also be used to create vouchers or other incentives to individual action.
- Force Account / In-Kind Services – Although there is a “cost” associated with activities of public employees, there are a wide range of activities that can be undertaken by local government staff and officials as well as interested parties on their behalf that would yield significant benefits. Some of the obvious examples are public outreach and education for individual property owners, business

and institutions to reduce their risk through correspondingly inexpensive or essentially activities. This would include tapping into available education resources¹, promoting individual action, etc.

- **Property Owners** – For a project that directly benefits one or more specific properties, the property owner can be asked to contribute. Through the HIRA process, property owners can become better aware of their risks and options. Owners that recognize they have a real flood problem may be willing to pay a portion of the cost. In recent years, property owners have voluntarily agreed to pay the non-federal share (up to 25 percent of the total project cost) for FEMA HMA grants in some states. In some cases, the owners have paid even higher percentages of the cost. In addition, after a flood, owners may have cash from insurance claims or disaster assistance that they will be using to repair their homes and properties. By including the right floodproofing and mitigation project components into the repairs, the resilience of the property to future flooding may be improved.
- Having property owners contribute to the project can help stretch available local funds and also gives the property owner an enhanced stake in the outcome of the project and incentive to make sure the property is properly maintained.
- **Individual Participation** – Although mitigation is ultimately intended to benefit individuals, HMPs often neglect to integrate participation of potential beneficiaries into the process. The participation by individuals, including small business owners, is important for making sure the resulting HMP reflects community needs and priorities but it also allows for the planning team to identify measures and options that individuals can take to reduce their own risk at a cost they can afford.

2.4.2 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Developing a “public-private partnership” is a phrase used frequently in a wide range of government programs and for good reason, especially in the context of hazard mitigation. Similar to the point made in the preceding subsection regarding individual participation, participation of private sector organizations in solving their own hazard risk situations can be a low-cost and effective method. The phrase also encompasses finding opportunities for public and private sector partners to share costs equitably for larger projects that require substantial funds to implement. Private sector businesses and organizations have their own cost-benefit calculations to perform but joint efforts may make the balance sheets work for both sides.

2.4.3 PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Cultivating relationships with local, regional, or even national foundations with interests or missions consistent with hazard mitigation, community sustainability, climate change adaptation, and other related topics can yield successful results in terms of funding and other means of support.

There are many local foundations around the State of Nebraska, many of which fund programs that can be utilized for components of hazard mitigation projects. Many of these foundations only support non-profit organizations, so the applicability of these funds to projects depends upon the partners involved.

This approach is not as easy to develop as simply listing grants and funding mechanisms as it involves engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders and employing combinations of funding sources in solving what are increasingly sticky issues related to funding for any public endeavor. However, as noted throughout this guidebook, the reality is that significant federal or state grant allocations for pre-disaster mitigation efforts are not apparent on the immediate horizon and communities will need to be creative, cooperative and proactive to realize risk reduction on a meaningful level.

¹ Several states and agencies have created resources for homeowners, some of which could be readily adapted for use in Nebraska.

SECTION THREE: REFERENCES

3.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT FUNDING

The following includes current websites with more detailed information about several of the programs and documents mentioned in this Guidebook.

- *Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance*. The current version of this guidance document was developed in 2015 and can be found at:
- <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/103279>

In addition, the individual grant programs each have specific websites per the following:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
• <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
• <https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
• <https://www.fema.gov/bric>
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
• <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>
- Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP) -
• <https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program>
- Public Assistance (PA) Section 406 Hazard Mitigation Funding
• <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/184476>

Note: These websites and reference materials are as current as possible. However, one important aspect of grant programs that is not just applicable to hazard mitigation or to government agencies, is that the status, priorities, and administration of funding sources and programs is dynamic, i.e., subject to frequent changes in direction and emphasis. Therefore, it is useful to be familiar with the current information, but it is equally, if not more important, to engage candidate federal and state agencies in a dialog as soon as possible. The intent is to determine the most current information about grant project status and priorities for inclusion in the evaluation of hazard mitigation projects and the development of implementation strategies.

On a related note, it is also recommended to include specific reference in plan maintenance procedures to the monitoring and updating of information regarding grant programs and the agencies or foundations that administer these grants.

There are also a number of documents that include a broad range of project types and how these have been implemented in communities across the country including: Mitigation Best Practices Portfolio <https://www.fema.gov/mitigation-best-practices-portfolio>