

## Table of Contents

<b>LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>VILLAGE OF BRAINARD .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>CITY OF ASHLAND.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>VILLAGE OF CERESCO .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>VILLAGE OF VALPARAISO .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>CASS COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT #1.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>NORRIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS.....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>RAYMOND CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS .....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>WEeping WATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS.....</b>	<b>132</b>

## Natural Resources District Profile



# LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

## Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update

## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION	ENGAGEMENT
MIKE SOUSEK	General Manager	LPSNRD	Profile Development
DAVID POTTER	Assistant General Manager	LPSNRD	Attended meetings, Profile Development
DICK EHRMAN	Water Resources Coordinator	LPSNRD	Profile Development
WILL INSELMAN	Resources Coordinator	LPSNRD	Attended meetings, Profile Development
BRYCE JENSEN	Land & Flood Control Operations Coordinator	LPSNRD	Attended meetings, Profile Development
AL LANGDALE	Operations and Maintenance Coordinator (Former)	LPSNRD	Attended meetings, Profile Development
CRAIG MATULKA	Stormwater/Watershed Specialist	LPSNRD	Attended meetings, Profile Development
DREW RATKOVEC	Projects Coordinator	LPSNRD	Attended meetings, Profile Development

## 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.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this profile as changes occur before or after a major event. The local planning team will include the NRD Manager, Assistant General Manager, or other applicable staff who will review the list of mitigation actions in the plan annually during the budget review. The public will be notified of the plan review and revision through a public notice on the NRD website, through online or print newsletters, and via social media as appropriate.

## Location and Geography

The Lower Platte South NRD (LPSNRD or NRD) is a special conservation jurisdiction located in southeastern Nebraska. The LPSNRD is comprised of significant portions of Lancaster and Cass Counties in addition to portions of Butler, Seward, Saunders, and Otoe Counties. The NRD is bordered by Saline, Gage, and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska and Mills and Fremont Counties in Iowa. The total area of the LPSNRD is about 1,562 square miles. Major water bodies within the NRD include, but are not limited to: Salt Creek, Oak Creek, Platte River, Missouri River, Branched Oak Lake, Pawnee Lake, Wagon Train Lake, and Beaver Lake. Most of the LPSNRD lies in the rolling hills and valley topographic regions<sup>1</sup>, with most of the NRD's land characterized by agricultural fields.

<sup>1</sup> Center for Applied Rural Innovation. "Topographic Regions Map of Nebraska." 2001. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/caripubs/62>.

## Capability Assessment

The NRD has the authority to levy taxes to fund projects and programs that fulfill its statutory obligations. In addition, the NRD seeks out partnerships and alternative funding opportunities (e.g., grants) to accomplish NRD goals and implement mitigation strategies. The NRD also regularly engages in public education and information programs related to hazard mitigation in the area, and routinely works with other counties, cities, and villages within their jurisdictional boundaries.

### Overall Capability Assessment

Overall Capability	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Does the NRD have the financial resources needed to implement mitigation projects?	High	Moderate
Does the NRD have the staff/expertise to implement projects?	High	Moderate
Does the NRD have the community support to implement projects?	High	Moderate
Does the NRD staff have the time to devote to hazard mitigation?	High	Moderate
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	High

The NRD is affected by several changes to capabilities during election years, such as in 2024. Due to these changes, there are areas the NRD may be able to enhance or have identified specific limitations. Staff members new to positions, loss of institutional knowledge from retiring or vacated positions, and an influx of new young staff lend to a larger effort in project ramp-up and implementation. However, these same conditions can enhance enthusiasm and engagement for projects or new strategies for engagement and design.

Available funding to implement projects and/or hire qualified staff to implement/manage projects is the primary limiting factor by the local planning team. Public support to implement projects is heavily tied to the type and political nuance of the project being implemented; however, adequate education or outreach campaigns can influence both support and outcry for projects.

The time to devote to hazard mitigation is heavily tied to available staff capacity. There are some limitations placed on the ability to expand and improve capabilities due to statutory and regulatory requirements. Staff, responsibilities, budget agreements, or other considerations must be reviewed to ensure expansion and growth does not violate such regulations.

### Governance

The LPSNRD is governed by a Board of 21 elected Directors and entrusted with a broad range of responsibilities to protect and enhance Nebraska's many natural resources. The NRD serves both incorporated and unincorporated areas within their district and has the capability to financially and administratively assist villages, cities, and counties with mitigation actions (most commonly flood control and drainage improvements). The following positions may help implement mitigation projects:

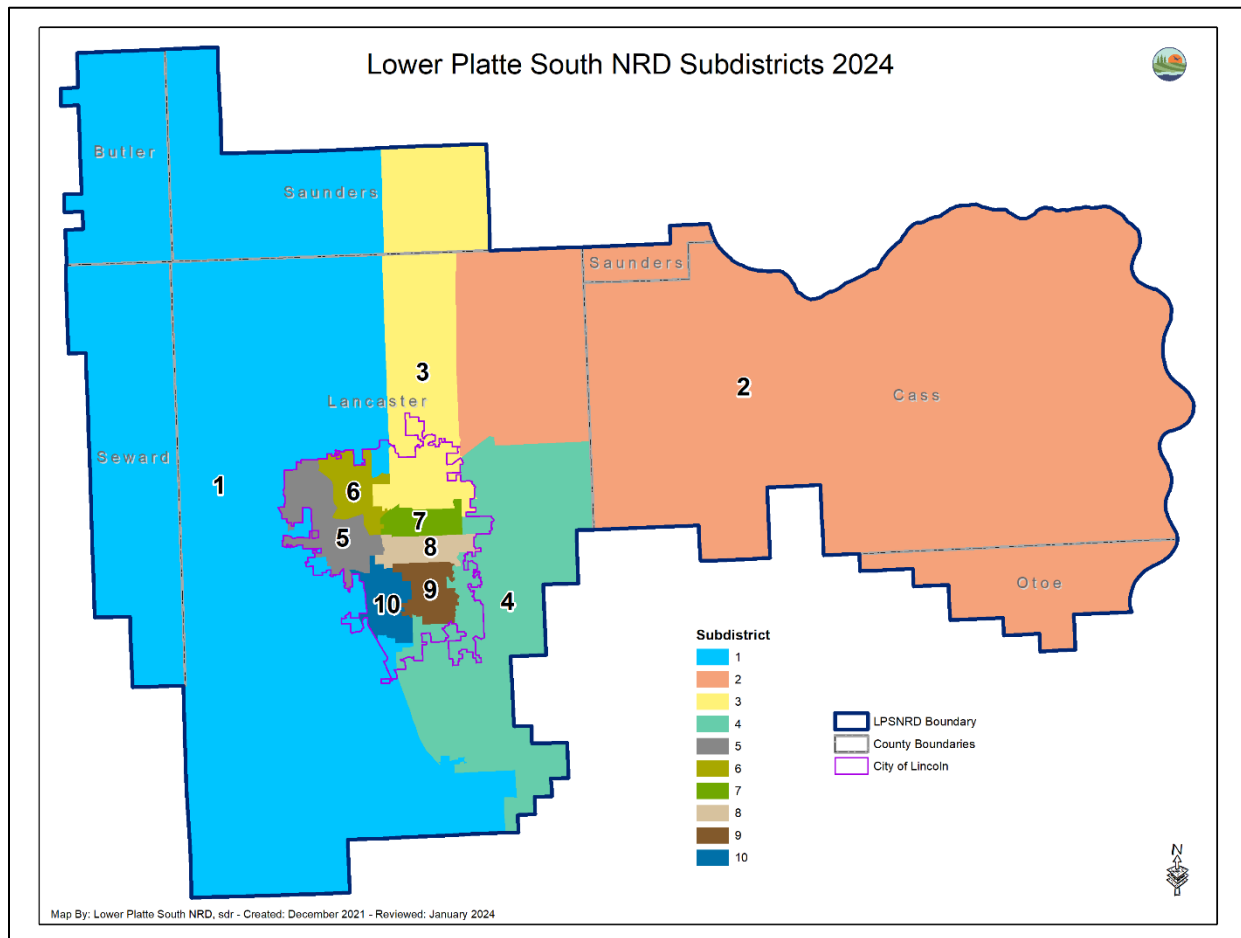
**Lower Platte South NRD Staff and Positions (as of February 2025)**

<b>Administration</b>	
General Manager	Mike Sousek
Assistant General Manager	David Potter
Administration and Finance Manager	Chris Barber
<b>Clerical</b>	
District Office Secretary/Program Assistant	Donna Reid
Receptionist/Secretary	Kathy Hauschild
District Field Office Secretary (Lancaster Co. NRCS Office)	Connie Hansen
District Field Office Secretary (Cass Co. NRCS Office)	Carla Graham
<b>Technical</b>	
Land and Flood Control Operations Coordinator	Bryce Jensen
Operations/Maintenance Technician	Logan Hutt
Resources Technician (Lancaster Co. NRCS Office)	John Albert
Resources Technician (Lancaster Co. NRCS Office)	Bridget McKinley
Resources Technician (Cass Co. NRCS Office)	Lesli Lair
Stormwater/Watershed Specialist	Craig Matulka
Resources Coordinator	Will Inselman
Resources Conservationist	Eric Zach
Communication Coordinator/Adult Environmental Educator	Jodi Delozier
Public Communications Specialist	Samantha Elofson
Water Resources Coordinator	Dick Ehrman
Projects Coordinator	Drew Ratkovec
Information Systems Administrator	Nathan Kuhlman
GIS Specialist	Shaula Ross
Water Resources Technician	Maclane Scott
Operation/Maintenance Technician	Trent Henry
Environmental Educator	Adam Sutton
ENWRA Project Coordinator (with UNL)	Katie Cameron
Water Resources Compliance Specialist	Steve Herdzina
District Engineer	<i>Vacant</i>
Forester (with Nebraska Forest Service)	Aaron Clare
Corrections Crew Supervisor (Dept. of Corrections)	<i>Vacant</i>
Corrections Crew Supervisor (Dept. of Corrections)	Garrett Kramer
Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership (with Lincoln Parks)	Tom Malmstrom
Drinking Water Protection Specialist	Tyler Benal
Land Management Maintenance Technician	Alex Lautenschlager
Land Management Maintenance Technician	Cole Demuth
Land Management Maintenance Technician	Ryker Starr

**Board Subcommittees:**

- Land Resources
- Water Resources
- Urban
- Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife
- Executive
- Finance and Planning
- Information and Education
- Platte River
- MoPac East – Lied Connector
- Salt Creek Flood Resiliency

### NRD Sub-Districts



Source: Lower Platte South NRD

**Table LPSNRD.6: LPSNRD Districts and Directors (as of February 2025)**

Sub-District	Sub-district Director(s)		Town(s)
#1	Don Jacobson	Gary Hellerich	Lincoln, Denton, Pleasant Dale, Malcolm, Garland, Raymond, Brainard, Valparaiso, Hickman, Sprague, Hallam
#2	Seth Hawkins	Mark Spangler	Waverly, Eagle, Alvo, Greenwood, Ashland, South Bend, Louisville, Cedar Creek, Plattsmouth, Murray, Manley, Murdock, Weeping Water, Elmwood, Nehawka, Avoca, Union
#3	Kenneth Vogel	Melissa Baker	Lincoln, Ceresco, Davey
#4	Gary Aldridge	Larry Ruth	Lincoln, Roca
#5	Susan Mealer	John Yoakum	Lincoln
#6	Anthony Schutz	Deborah Eagan	Lincoln
#7	Chuck Hassebrook	Luke Peterson	Lincoln
#8	Christine Lamberty	Tom Green	Lincoln
#9	Lisa Lewis	Bob Andersen	Lincoln
#10	Stephanie Matejka	Susan Seacrest	Lincoln
At-large	David Landis		All communities in District

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## Plans and Studies

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The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District has several plans which integrate the goals, objectives, and projects identified in this HMP.

### Lower Platte South NRD Master Plan

The Lower Platte South NRD 2019 Master Plan goals and objectives, as outlined below, focuses on eleven areas that are indicative of what the NRD strives to accomplish and are consistent with the goals and objectives of this hazard mitigation plan.

- **Sustainable water resources** – Groundwater levels are maintained and quality standards are exceeded or met for all domestic and other uses. Surface waters also meet or exceed water quality standards and minimum streamflows are determined and maintained.
- **Low impact developments** – All developments are compatible with and also conserve natural resources.
- **Minimal flood threat and damage** – Flood damages are reduced or eliminated and the public safety risk from flooding is minimized.
- **Protected natural and unique resource areas** – All remaining natural and unique resource areas are identified, assessed, and sustained, or enhanced.
- **Ample natural resource-based recreation** – The NRD provides diverse, safe, outdoor recreation opportunities across the district.
- **Properly managed agricultural lands** – Owners of all agricultural lands utilize best management practices for water quality and quantity, maintain soils at sustainable levels in accordance with their capabilities and conserve energy.
- **Healthy forests** – The forestry resources of the NRD are diversified and enhanced in urban area. Rural forests are preserved and expanded.
- **People are responsible conservationists** – The NRD is a credible source of information on natural resources for the public and other agencies and works with schools on providing natural resources education.
- **Healthy wildlife habitat** – Diverse, dispersed, and healthy wildlife populations thrive throughout the NRD.
- **Resiliency to changes in climate and clean environment** – Best management practices for energy and conservation are everyday activities for the residents and businesses of the NRD. Local efforts will mitigate and adapt to the changing climate and conservation measures work to protect resources.
- **NRD is a conservation leader** – The Lower Platte South NRD is at the forefront of innovative conservation with its projects and programs.

### Long Range Implementation Plan

The District's current Long-Range Implementation Plan, FY2025-2029, is a five-year spending plan updated annually. The plan is subdivided by subcommittees and further by Program Areas. The Program Areas identified are consistent with the goals and objectives of the hazard mitigation plan and the identified mitigation strategies. The following is a snapshot of some of the identified goals and applicable outcomes for Hazard Mitigation purposes outlined in the plan:

- Sustainable Water Resources
  - Outcomes: areas of interrelated ground and surface water are managed; landowners/public all utilize best management practices

## Section Seven | Lower Platte South NRD Profile

- Low Impact Developments
  - Outcomes: developments are compatible with and conserve the site's natural resources and use "green" BMPs
- Minimal Flood Threat and Damage
  - Outcomes: all floodplains have been accurately mapped; floodplains are regulated under a "no adverse impact" policy; Public safety risk from flooding is minimized; Flood damages are reduced or eliminated
- Protected natural and unique resource areas
  - Outcomes: Natural and unique resource areas are identified, assessed, and sustained or enhanced
- Healthy Forests
  - Outcomes: Urban forests are diversified and enhanced
- People are responsible conservationists
  - Outcomes: Public is knowledgeable on natural resources and environmental issues
- Resiliency to changes in climate and clean environment
  - Outcomes: mitigation of and adaptation to changes in climate

### Drought Response Plan

The LPSNRD's Drought Response Plan, completed in 2015, outlines strategies to respond to and manage the impacts of a multi-year drought. The plan was developed as part of its integrated management plan, with input from communities and stakeholders within the district. The plan includes methods for the NRD, communities, agricultural, and recreational users to reduce demand during times of drought. The Drought Response Plan has not been updated and there are currently no plans to update the plan. The LPSNRD continues to work with the City of Lincoln for raingardens or other drought management practices, as well as rainscaping with property owners outside of Lincoln. Since 2019 the NRD has worked with four landowners.

### Drought Contingency Plan (Lower Platte River Drought Consortium)

The NRD is a key stakeholder in the Lower Platte River Consortium, which is made up of the Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District, City of Lincoln Water System, and NeDNR. The Consortium was developed to search for ways to sustain public water supplies in the basin. The consortium contracted HDR Engineering, Inc., to develop tools and alternatives, evaluations and documentation of drought mitigation plans to enhance water supplies in the lower Platte River. The Consortium worked together to develop a Drought Contingency Plan, approved in December 2019, with the overall goal of sustaining public water supplies in the basin. The plan lists potential drought mitigation measures and drought monitoring techniques for the Consortium to evaluate and, potentially, adopt and implement. The plan was last amended in 2024.

### Ground Water Management Plan

The Ground Water Management Plan, approved in 1995, describes the NRD's overall strategy for ground water management, defines management goals, and details the objectives, programs, and policies designed to meet those goals. The plan is reviewed annually to assess the district's actions, activities, and effectiveness under the Ground Water Rules and Regulations for implementation of the plan and is currently being updated. Anticipated to be completed in 2026.



### **Basinwide Water Management Plan (Lower Platte River Basin Coalition)**

Seven NRDs in the Lower Platte Basin and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources formed a coalition to adopt, implement, and maintain a Basinwide Water Management Plan. The plan focuses on water use policies and practices that contribute to the protection of existing surface water and ground water uses while allowing for future water development. The plan was first developed in 2017 and is reviewed annually.

### **Voluntary Integrated Management Plan**

The NRD's voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) took effect in 2014 and is reviewed annually in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. The last plan annual review was completed in September 2024 and noted a plan update is anticipated to occur between 2025 and 2028. The goal of the update will be to build consistency with the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition between the other Natural Resources Districts. The IMP focuses on integrating the management of all water supplies and uses within the entire district. The three goals of the IMP are to:

1. Achieve a sustainable water supply,
2. Manage the supply and make it available whenever and wherever needed, and
3. Support water use and conservation that optimizes benefits.

With limited surface water sources, variable and discontinuous ground water resources, and the geographic reality of the NRD's downstream location in the river basin, the IMP includes the anticipated need to look outside district boundaries to collaborate and cooperate on future water supply expansion.

### **Water Quality Management Plan**

The district-wide Water Quality Management Plan was first developed in 2019 and was last updated in fall 2024. This plan was prepared to guide the NRD in developing and implementing future projects to improve water quality, hydrology, and aquatic resources with the district. The plan may also serve as a basis for seeking financial support for those projects. The overall purpose of the plan is to ensure *water resources within target areas will be locally managed to restore and/or maintain the quality, diverse uses, and ecosystem services of the streams, lakes, and wetlands for current and future generations using voluntary, economical, and environmentally friendly methods.*

Of note the plan identified priority water bodies and target areas for the NRD. These included Pawnee Reservoir and Middle Creek, East Twin and West Twin Lakes, Decker Creek, Antelope Creek, and Upper Little Salt Creek Watershed (Eastern Saline Wetlands).

Since the 2020 plan, highlighted accomplishments for the NRD include:

#### ***Twin Lakes Watershed Target Area Implementation (56-2082)***

Following the completion of the 2019 WQMP, LPSNRD begin implementation efforts starting in the watershed area of East and West Twin Lakes. The project received Section 319 funding from NDEE in 2021 with the overall intent to implement best management practices (BMPs) in the watershed. These efforts are intended to reduce pollutant loadings (sediment and nutrients) to East and West Twin Lakes, which will improve water quality entering the lakes from the watershed and help protect future in-lake water quality improvements planned for the lakes. This initial phase of the project is intended to only address external pollutant sources, with future phases planned to address internal (in-lake) sources. To facilitate adoption of agricultural BMPs, information and

education efforts have also been undertaken to target stakeholders, area landowners/producers, and the public.

### ***Waverly Wellhead Protection Area Implementation (56-2287)***

The WQMP recognized wellhead protection (WHP) areas as special priority areas due to the influence a WHP Area has on the management needs of source water aquifers and associated public drinking water systems. In the LPSNRD, WHP areas are also referred to as Community Water System Protection Areas (CWSPAs). In 2022, a drinking water protection and management plan (DWMP) was finalized for the Waverly WHP Area, which included a detailed groundwater assessment, focused stakeholder involvement, and outlined key implementation strategies. These two planning efforts complimented each other and helped to bring multiple partners to the table to begin implementation efforts.

The Waverly WHP Area Implementation Project received Section 319 funding from NDEE in 2023. The project is focused on the adoption of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) such as fertilizer and nutrient management, irrigation water management, cover crops, and others. To facilitate the adoption of these practices, this project includes funding for a new staff position with the City of Waverly. This position will expand to work with all wellhead protection areas within the district. The position is leading a focused public outreach and education effort, targeted at key producers and other members of the public, in order to identify barriers to BMP implementation and then overcome them by developing tailored programming to fill potential educational, technical, and monetary gaps. These efforts are building relationships with producers with the goal of increasing adoption of BMPs.

### **Emergency Preparedness Plans**

The NRD developed an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) for the Salt Creek Levee in Lincoln in 2016. The EPP is designed to provide holistic community planning relative to the needs of the levee system. The plan includes risk reduction strategies, emergency preparedness measures, documentation of emergency response activities, telephonic calling trees, and available resources. The NRD noted the EPP should be updated, but is currently cost prohibitive. Ongoing maintenance on the levee system is a priority and must be conducted in coordination with the City of Lincoln for various reaches.

### **High Hazard Dam Emergency Action Plans**

Emergency Action Plans are required for all High Hazard Dams. The NRD also reviews and updates Emergency Action Plans as required for the ten high hazard dams within the district. The NRD regularly hosts dam and levee failure tabletop exercises with key stakeholders. EAPs are planned to be updated throughout 2025.

### **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

The NRD is not eligible to participate in the NFIP and thus does not. However, the NRD is heavily involved in flood mitigation efforts for communities and jurisdictions across the district which can better support NFIP related priorities. This includes pursuing flood resiliency measures related to natural resource management such as streambank stabilizations, open or green space preservation, wetlands conservation, or other related projects.

Of note, the NRD works closely with communities throughout the district to cost-share or implement flood risk reduction strategies, such as with the City of Lincoln in their Salt Creek Feasibility Study. The goal of the study is to identify strategies with a BCR greater than 1.0 and

provide 100-yr level of physical protection on Salt Creek where the flood is contained in the levee system.

## Future Development Trends

The district boundaries of the LPSNRD encompass an area experiencing widespread development, primarily in Lincoln, Waverly, the Interstate 80 corridor, and areas south of the Platte River in northern Cass County. Due to this development, urbanization of the rural landscape around and throughout the district has increased, and the NRD's responsibilities have expanded. In the past five years, the NRD has been involved in numerous developments and projects in the district, including watershed improvements in the Twin Lakes area and the Waverly Wellhead Protection Area. Rehabilitation of two dams was completed in 2021. The Upper Salt Watershed Dam 3-A and Oak-Middle 82-B Dams had upgrades including new concrete reinforced principal spillway pipes, decommissioning of the existing pipes, new auxiliary spillways, increased height and width, and/or other work.

In the next five years, the LPSNRD will continue to facilitate and assist partners in projects throughout the district, especially as it pertains to flood prevention and watershed protection, specifically along Salt Creek. The NRD recently purchased 20 acres to expand operation and maintenance and storage facilities north of Lincoln. In addition, the NRD recently purchased 11 acres in northwestern Lincoln/Lancaster County area for a future district office site.

## Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, 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 lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



### LPSNRD Lifelines

CF #	Name	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
1	Lower Platte South NRD Office (3125 Portia St)	N	Y*	N

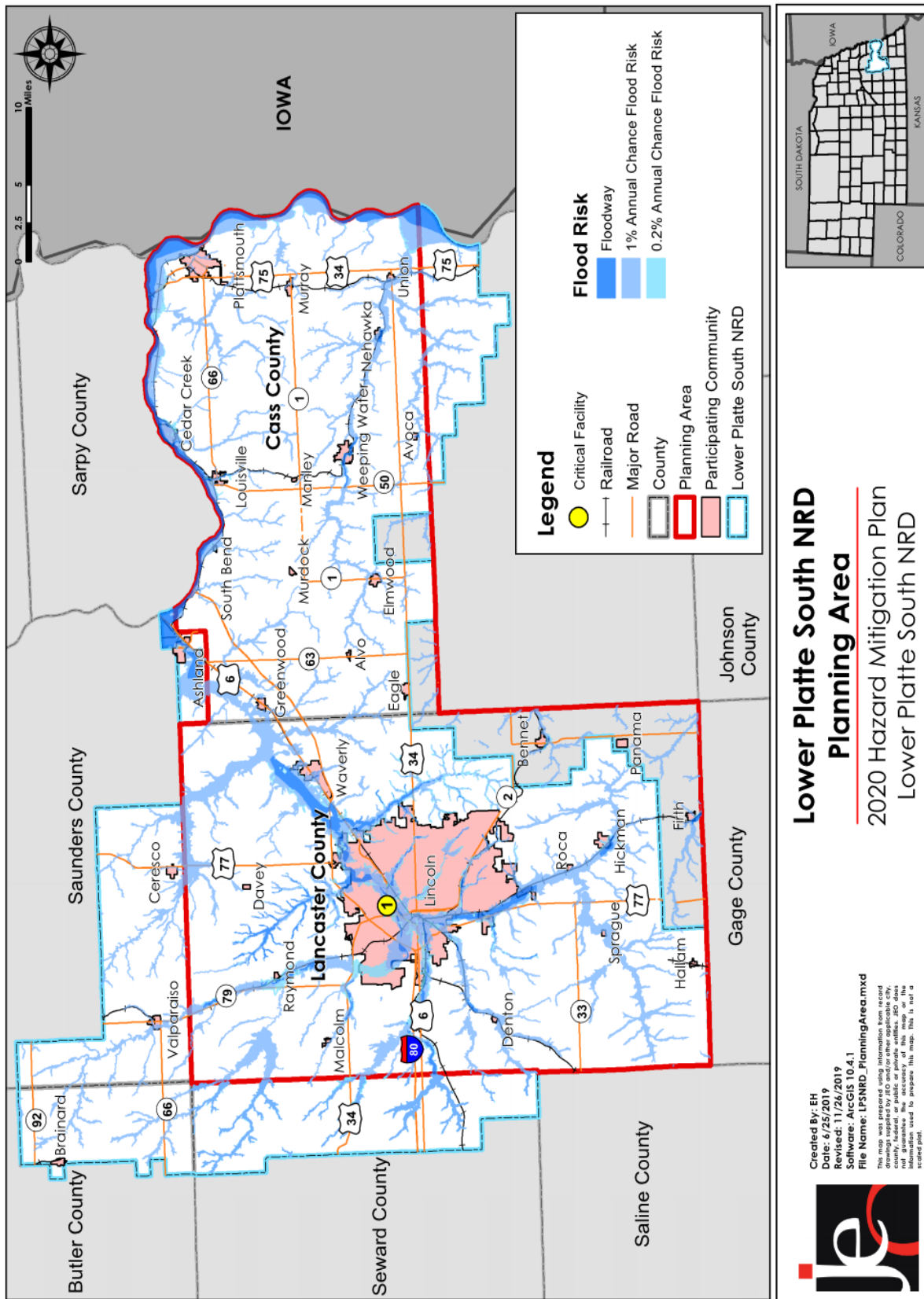
*\*Includes: three Honda 2,000-watt portable generators; one 2,500-watt portable generator; and one 5,000-watt portable generator*

### LPSNRD Other Managed Areas

CF #	Name	General Location	Area Type
2	Lincoln Saline Wetlands Nature Center	Lincoln NE – Capitol Beach	Wetlands
3	Marsh Wren Saline Wetland	Lincoln NE – N 56 <sup>th</sup> St and I-80	Wetlands
4	Whitehead Saline Wetland	Lincoln NE – N 27 <sup>th</sup> St and I-80	Wetlands

## Section Seven | Lower Platte South NRD Profile

CF #	Name	General Location	Area Type
5	Bobcat Prairie Wildlife Management Areas	Denton	WMA
6	Cottontail Wildlife Management Areas	Martell	WMA
7	Little Salt Fork Marsh Preserve Wildlife Management Areas	Between Davey and Raymond	WMA
8	Little Salt Springs Wildlife Management Areas	Between Davey and Raymond	WMA
9	Meadowlark Wildlife Management Areas	Valparaiso	WMA
10	Merganser Wildlife Management Areas	Kramer	WMA
11	Red Cedar Wildlife Management Areas	Brainard	WMA
12	Tanglewood Wildlife Management Areas	Kramer	WMA
13	Timber Point Wildlife Management Areas	Brainard	WMA
14	Wild Plum Wildlife Management Areas	Kramer	WMA
15	Wildwood Wildlife Management Areas	Valparaiso	WMA
16	Homestead Trail	Lincoln	Trail
17	Lied Bridge – Platte River Connection	South Bend	Trail
18	MoPac East Trail	Lincoln	Trail
19	Oak Creek Trail	Brainard	Trail
20	Steifel-Johnson Trailhead	Denton	Conservation Corridor
21	Two Creeks Prairie	Denton	Conservation Corridor
22	Denton Prairie	Denton	Conservation Corridor
23	Kapke Prairie	Denton	Conservation Corridor
24	Honvlez Prairie	Denton	Conservation Corridor



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team prioritized specific hazards of top concern or the Lower Platte South NRD which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the prioritized hazards identified by the NRD. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four* and *Appendix A*.

### Dam Failure

There are over 200 dams located within the LPSNRD, 30 of which are classified by NeDNR as high hazard dams (see table below). While many of the dams across the NRD are privately or locally owned and operated, nine of the 30 high hazard dams are owned and operated by the NRD and one structure is jointly owned with the City of Waverly. The local planning team indicated no significant dam failures have occurred.

The NRD regularly hosts dam failure exercises for high hazard dams in the district. A variety of stakeholders are invited to the exercise to review and test the emergency action plan for the dam. Following the dam failure exercise, an After-Action Report identifies areas for improvement for the dam owner and stakeholders that are critical to an emergency response at the dam. All ten of the LPSNRD High Hazard Dam Emergency Action Plans were reviewed and revised in 2020 through 2022 and are currently being reviewed and updated again in 2025.

Two dams, Upper Salt Watershed Dam 3-A and Oak-Middle 82-B Dam completed rehabilitation to meet higher standards in 2021. The dam projects included upgrades such as new concrete reinforced principal spillway pipe, decommissioning of the existing pipe, new auxiliary spillway, increased height and width to the dam, filling of existing auxiliary spillway, and other work.

### High Hazard Dams in the LPSNRD

City	Name	NIDID	Purpose	Dam Height	Maximum Storage (acre-feet)
Waverly (Lancaster County)	Ash Hollow Dry Dam**	NE08364	Flood Control	33	1,744
Rural Rock Bluff (Cass County)	Beaver Lake Dam	NE00102	Recreation	96	12,760
Rural Ashland (Cass County)	CenturyLink Dam	NE02322	Recreation	44	173
Lincoln (Lancaster County)	Korver Dam	NE02652	Flood Control/Other	35	383
Rural Louisville (Cass County)	Mill Creek Rd Site 7*	NE02399	Flood Control	41	213
Rural Valparaiso (Lancaster County)	N Oak Creek 1-A*	NE01665	Flood Control	48	3,168

City	Name	NIDID	Purpose	Dam Height	Maximum Storage (acre-feet)
Farmstead (Seward County)	Oak-Middle 82-B*	NE00068	Flood Control	35.4	371.4
Plattsmouth (Cass County)	Plattsmouth 10-A	NE00097	Flood Control	40	137
Plattsmouth (Cass County)	Plattsmouth 12-A	NE00099	Flood Control	32	76
Plattsmouth (Cass County)	Plattsmouth 18-A	NE00098	Flood Control	25	117
Plattsmouth (Cass County)	Plattsmouth 4-A	NE01888	Flood Control	25	16
Plattsmouth (Cass County)	Plattsmouth 7-C	NE01889	Flood Control	26	19
Rural Denton (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 10-Yankee Hill	NE01058	Flood Control	54	10,300
Rural Denton (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 12-Conestoga	NE01055	Flood Control	60	15,000
Lincoln (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 13-Twin Lakes	NE01060	Flood Control	55	11,750
Rural Malcolm (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 14-Pawnee	NE01057	Flood Control	70	38,300
Lincoln (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 17-Antelope Creek-Holmes	NE01061	Flood Control	61	7,455
Rural Raymond (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 18-Branched Oak	NE01063	Flood Control	82	122,283
Rural Sprague (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 2-Olive Creek	NE01062	Flood Control	46	8,590
Rural Sprague (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 4-Bluestem	NE01064	Flood Control	59	17,550
Rural Hickman (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 8-Wagon Train	NE01056	Flood Control	52	15,050
Hickman (Lancaster County)	Salt Creek Site 9-Stagecoach	NE01059	Flood Control	48	10,200
Rural Lincoln (Lancaster County)	Stevens Creek A17-1*	NE02757	Flood Control	38	1,127
Rural Lincoln	Stevens Creek A2-1*	NE02756	Flood Control	25	256



## Section Seven | Lower Platte South NRD Profile

City	Name	NIDID	Purpose	Dam Height	Maximum Storage (acre-feet)
(Lancaster County)					
Rural Hickman (Lancaster County)	Upper Salt Creek 10-A*	NE00533	Flood Control	36	1,689
Rural Hickman (Lancaster County)	Upper Salt Creek 35-A*	NE00523	Flood Control	32	450
Rural Sprague (Lancaster County)	Upper Salt Creek 3-A*	NE00505	Flood Control	45	1,400
Lincoln (Lancaster County)	Village Gardens Dam	NE02805	Flood Control	26	51
Lincoln (Lancaster County)	Waterford Estates Dam*	NE02837	Flood Control	38	2,081
Rural Lincoln (Lancaster County)	Wedgewood Lake Dam	NE00527	Recreation	16	236

\*High-hazard dams owned and operated by the LPSNRD; \*\*HHDs owned and operated by the LPSNRD and City of Waverly

Action	Hazard Risk Reduction- DNR Collaborative Dam Improvements
<b>Description</b>	Continue to work with Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to reduce flood hazard risk. Dam hazard updates.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms (pluvial flooding)
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	Varies
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	NRD General Budget
<b>Lead Agency</b>	LPSNRD, County EMA, Community Governments
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	The NRD continues to work alongside NeDNR for dam inspection and rehabilitation efforts. The NRD also works with the City of Lincoln for floodplain easement purchases. Specific dams undergoing improvements include Stevens Creek A 17-1 for vegetation removal and WW 5K is under contract for wave berm and plunge pool rehabilitation.

### Drought

The local planning team indicated the entire district is vulnerable to the impacts of drought. Since 1895, the district has been in drought conditions 28% of all months. Specifically, drought conditions in 2012 negatively impacted the local communities and caused significant damage. The LPSNRD is concerned about the impacts of drought conditions on water quality and quantity throughout the district. Communities throughout the district have implemented water restriction policies following drought events and rely on the NRD to be a local partner and guide in managing water resources during hazard events.



The NRD has developed a Drought Response Plan and was a collaborative member of the Lower Platte River Consortium Drought Contingency Plan, approved in December 2019, which both undergo periodic reviews. The Drought Contingency Plan includes the following partners: Lower Platte North NRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District, City of Lincoln Water System, and NeDNR. The Plan identified several mitigation measures which may improve available water supplies for the region during periods of drought. It is crucial to note that these actions are currently in the evaluation stage and no formal actions have been selected. Actions identified in the Drought Contingency Plan are listed below, with further specific details available in the final plan (<https://www.lpsnrd.org/publications/lpsnrd-plans-studies>). Drought Response Actions can include: implementing Ground Water Allocation measures, coordinating with NeDNR to limit surface water appropriation by junior users, and/or Push/Develop Drought Education Resources.

As the NRD manages groundwater, additional conversations have been held between the NRD, county emergency management, and local fire protection districts to have access to water storage facilities if needed for fire response or suppression. Pump lines have been installed at a few NRD recreation sites including Timber Point and Red Cedar. While these agreements are informal, additional emphasis has been placed on them after significant fire events in Lancaster County.

Action	Drought Feasibility Study
Description	Conduct a feasibility study of potential drought mitigation actions identified in the Drought Contingency Plan.
Hazards Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	Unknown
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget
Lead Agency	LPSNRD
Timeline	2 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not yet started.

Action	Continue & Expand Water Conservation Awareness Programs, such as pamphlets
Description	Improve a program to conserve water use by the citizens during prolonged periods of drought. Potential restrictions on water could include limitations on lawn watering, car washing, or water sold to outside sources. Work with DNR on farm irrigation restrictions.
Hazards Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	\$1,000 +
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget
Lead Agency	LPSNRD
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Low
Status	Not yet started.

Action	Integrated Management Plan (IMP)
Description	Maintain and update Integrated Management Plan to ensure sufficient water supply for the future.
Hazards Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	Varies

Action	Integrated Management Plan (IMP)
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget
Lead Agency	LPSNRD and NeDNR
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Medium
Status	The IMP has been developed as a joint effort by the NRD and NeDNR, and reviews are completed annually. However, identified a need to evaluate hydrologically connected areas. NeDNR is working on new modeling which the NRD may use to review and revise future actions for groundwater allocation and management.

Action	Drought Response Plan and Drought Contingency Plan
Description	Review, update, and implement the two drought plans to reduce impacts of drought across the NRD.
Hazards Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	Varies
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget
Lead Agency	LPSNRD, Papio-Missouri River NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, and other stakeholders
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Completed Drought Response Plan (2015) and Drought Contingency Plan (2019) will be reviewed regularly and updated as needed. The NRD is currently evaluating ways to incorporate drought design considerations into future flood control structures. Key actions have been identified from plan such as removing cedar trees, but other actions to be evaluated after final plan approved by board.
Ongoing Actions for LPSNRD from State Drought Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost share on soil and water conservation – the NRD will assist landowners with the planning, design, and cost of installing soil and water conservation practices on their property.</li> <li>• Take well measurements every spring – the NRD takes well measurements every spring to determine if any GWRs need to go into Phase II or III management.</li> <li>• Require meters on all wells and will issue allocation if needed – the NRD requires all wells that pump over 50 gallons per minute to have a meter. If water meters are showing more usage than normal the NRD is able to put allocations on the GWR to reduce usage.</li> <li>• Work with private well owners – the NRD will work with private well owners to either drill the current well deeper or find a new well that does not have quality or quantity issues.</li> <li>• NRD encourage indoor and outdoor conservation of water – the NRD encourages residents in the district to conserve water.</li> </ul>
Encouraged Actions for LPSNRD from State Drought Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rain barrels for homeowners – the NRD encourages residents in the district to buy a rain barrel to capture rain to water plants with.</li> <li>• Encourage landowners to join NeRain</li> <li>• Provide educational materials to landowners about water conservation measures and effective irrigation management techniques</li> </ul>

Action	Drought Response Plan and Drought Contingency Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with health department to remove standing water – remove standing water to prevent mosquitoes with the West Nile Virus from breeding.</li> <li>• Work with communities to develop list of large, industrial, independent water users in the LPSNRD</li> <li>• Water Resources Subcommittee should start a conversation and work with municipalities and large, independent users to implement water conservation.</li> </ul>

## Flooding

Flooding is a significant concern for the district, especially as extensive flooding impacted the areas in 2011, 2015, and 2019. The NCEI reported 106 flood events between 1996 and 2024 which have caused over \$120 million in property damages. There are nearly 200,000 acres across Lancaster and Cass Counties located within the 100-yr floodplain and over 7,000 acres within the 500-yr floodplain. Flooding significantly damages property, recreational areas, utilities, rail lines and transportation corridors, hindering travel for emergency response and putting people at risk. The Lower Platte South NRD is a key partner in many flood risk resiliency projects across the planning area, as well as a critical partner in broad multi-jurisdictional flood risk resiliency projects.

Currently a large priority for the NRD includes evaluating flood risk reduction measures along Salt Creek. A Salt Creek Floodplain Resiliency Study was completed in 2020 and the NRD and City of Lincoln are currently working collaboratively on a feasibility study to determine which alternatives can be implemented as identified through the study. The NRD also works collaboratively with numerous communities to achieve flood risk reduction.

For example:

- As of 2024 Beaver Lake Homeowner Association in Cass County is looking into a dam study to evaluate potential problems. Anticipated completion of the study is by end of year 2025.
- Cost share with the City of Weeping Water for a stream bank analysis. Currently in the design phase with a final review by the NRD anticipated for completion in summer 2025. This would specifically be focused on the Weeping Water park to help avoid erosion problems by controlling stream channel and putting it back to the original flow.
- Private lands cost share program with the NRD started in 2023. The NRD will provide 75% of cost up to \$10,000 for habitat restoration projects. This could include restoration of grasslands, invasive species removal, prescribed fire, timber stand improvement, or other projects. Landowners adjacent to public access areas or the NRD holds a conservation easement on the properties. As of summer 2024 two projects were in application review.
- WFPO projects – over 500 projects have been submitted for approval, such as improvements for Little Salt Creek to improve flood resiliency, wetland functions, and flood storage capacity.

It is extremely likely flooding will continue to occur across the district and impact communities, recreational areas, and infrastructure.

Action	Preserve Floodplain
Description	Preserve natural and beneficial functions of floodplain land through measures such as retaining natural vegetation, restoring streambeds, and preserving open space in the floodplain.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding
Estimated Cost	Varies on location and cost of land.
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget, grant funds as available (NRCS grant funds)
Lead Agency	LPSNRD and City Governments
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	High
Status	In Progress - The NRD has helped with or approved floodplain and conservation easements which has converted many acres to woodlands, wetlands, and/or prairies. NRD has purchased conservation easements in Denton (two near Haines Branch) and NW Lincoln (Arnold Heights/9 mile prairie). Current focus is on the Little Salt Creek, the Prairie Corridor at Haines Branch, or Rock Creek (Saline Wetlands).

Action	Green Mitigation
Description	Educate the public and business owners regarding rain gardens, green roofs, and other minor mitigation measures.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms (pluvial flooding)
Estimated Cost	Varies
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget
Lead Agency	LPSNRD
Timeline	1 year
Priority	Low
Status	The NRD has built partnerships with UNL extension offices and cost share opportunities with communities. The NRD identified the need to emphasis education on the local side and collaboratively sharing developed information. NRD will work collaboratively with communities to showcase efforts such as WaterWise, Lincoln Salt Creek Resiliency Feasibility Study, and/or trail corridor improvements.

Action	Dead Mans Run Flood Reduction Project
Description	Work to reduce flooding risks along Deadmans Run and remove properties from the 1% Annual Chance Floodplain.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$35 Million
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget
Lead Agency	NRD Board, City of Lincoln
Timeline	1 year design, 2-5 years construction
Priority	High
Status	In Progress – currently in the design phase. The NRD and City of Lincoln has hired an engineering firm to complete a study. The goal of the study would be to remove an estimated 500 homes and businesses from the 100-yr floodplain. The project was originally proposed and led by the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and expected to cost \$25.5 million. USACE planned to invest \$10 million and the City and LPSNRD planned to split \$15.5 million for the project. Due to increased design costs, material prices, and rising interest rates, the original cost of the project escalated to \$60 million in 2024. Therefore, the City and

Action	Dead Mans Run Flood Reduction Project
	LPSNRD updated the plan with the USACE no longer involved in the project. The City and LPSNRD have hired an engineering consultant and are funding the project by splitting costs evenly.

ACTION	Property Acquisition, Elevation or Floodproofing
Description	Assist in the acquisition, elevation, floodproofing and/or demolition of properties located in the floodplain or flood risk hazard areas.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding
Estimated Cost	Varies by structure and need
Potential Local Funding	General Fund – local cost share match to FMA or SWIFT Grant
Lead Agency	Lower Platte South NRD Support from Cass County and NeDNR
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	High
Status	The Lower Platte South NRD is working as a lead sponsor for flood risk reduction for properties in the district in collaboration with Cass County and NeDNR. One residential property is located near the Village of South Bend and is exploring elevation as a method of floodproofing, with the need for additional funding or cost share options.

### Levee Failure

Levee failure is a concern for the local planning team due to the likelihood of damage to infrastructure and danger to residents in the district. There are 11 federal levees and five non-federal levees located within the district. However, nine of the 16 levees are sponsored or co-sponsored by the LPSNRD. The tables below describe only the LPSNRD-sponsored levees within the district, as reported in the Army Corps of Engineers National Levee Database. Note that a single levee system may include multiple segments, which are separated in the tables below. While the Clear Creek Levee System in Saunders County is co-sponsored by the Lower Platte North NRD (LPNNRD) and LPSNRD, the lead sponsor is the LPNNRD as most of the system is located in the LPNNRD district and only the extreme southern section, notably the fuse plug portion, is within the jurisdiction of the LPSNRD. For a full list of levees in the planning area, see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

In 2016, the NRD developed an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) for the Salt Creek Levee in Lincoln. The EPP conveys procedures and processes that address levee emergency situations based on pre-identified triggers. The plan outlines stakeholder's roles and responsibilities, risk awareness communication, flood-related warnings, evacuation protocols and routes, emergency levels and activations, flood fighting techniques and resources, and notification processes. Following the development of the EPP, the NRD hosted levee stakeholders at a levee failure tabletop exercise to ensure emergency activations and stakeholder roles and responsibilities were properly outlined in the plan. The NRD will continue to host tabletop exercises in the future.

The March 2019 event caused significant damage to numerous levees across the district and eastern Nebraska. In particular, the Cedar Creek levee was damaged, and the LPSNRD assisted local entities with repairs. Furthermore, the Clear Creek Levee System, located along the right bank of the Platte River in eastern Saunders County, was breached near Camp Ashland, which is a Nebraska National Guard training site. It also protects portions of the City of Lincoln's wellfield. Both Camp Ashland and the wellfield were heavily damaged during the flood.

The Cedar Creek Levee System was damaged from flooding events 2024 and repair efforts are currently being negotiated. The Lower Platte South NRD plans to serve as the local sponsor for repairs, while the Omaha Fish and Wildlife will be financially responsible for repairs. Repairs are anticipated to be completed by end of 2025 and are in the design phase.

Action	Emergency Action Plans and Exercises
<b>Description</b>	Maintain NRD Emergency Action Plans to ensure safety of dams in the NRD. Conduct regular tabletop exercises to implement EAPs and ensure ability to respond effectively to dam failure events.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Dam Failure, Levee Failure
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$1,000 +
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	NRD General Budget
<b>Lead Agency</b>	LPSNRD
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	This is an ongoing action, as the LPSNRD updates ten Emergency Action Plans for High Hazard Dams every five years. All EAPs were reviewed or updated 2020-2022. A TTX was held for Ash Hollow dry dam in March 2023.  The next dam has not yet been determined for a TTX.

Action	Hazard Education
<b>Description</b>	Increase public awareness of vulnerability and risk reduction measures through hazard education.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	All Hazards – specifically Flooding, Dam Failure, Levee Failure
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$0 - \$1,000
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	NRD General Budget
<b>Lead Agency</b>	LPSNRD
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	Hazard education is an ongoing effort for the NRD. They sponsor High Hazard Dam workshops every four years, share information related to drought response, levee safety workshops, and participate in the Salt Creek Flood Resiliency Committee meetings. The NRD has found project specific open houses and outreach to be successful, but general information has been difficult to disperse.  The NRD is taking additional IAP2 public participation steps as part of the Salt Creek Flood Resiliency Feasibility Study which will include a stakeholder advisory committee and public advocacy regarding dams, levee systems, and flooding.



## Section Seven | Lower Platte South NRD Profile

### LPSNRD Sponsored Levees

Name	Sponsor	Location	River	Length (miles)	Type of Protection	Protected Area (sq miles)	Risk Level	USACE?
Salt Creek LB & Haines RB	LPSNRD	Lincoln, Lancaster County	Salt Cr, Haines Cr	1.25	Urban	0.19	Low	Y
Salt Creek RB	LPSNRD	Lincoln, Lancaster County	Salt Creek	4.71	Urban	1.33	Moderate	Y
Salt Creek LB & Haines LB & Middle Cr RB	LPSNRD	Lincoln, Lancaster County	Salt Cr, Haines CR	2.49	Urban	0.47	Low	Y
Salt Creek LB & Middle Creek LB	LPSNRD	Lincoln, Lancaster County	Salt Cr, Middle Cr	1.5	Urban	0.47	Moderate	Y
Salt Creek LB & Oak Creek LB	LPSNRD	Lincoln, Lancaster County	Salt Cr, Oak Cr	1.72	Urban	0.45	Low	Y
Salt Creek RB to Dead Man's Run	LPSNRD	Lincoln, Lancaster County	Salt Creek	1.62	Urban	0.44	Low	Y
Salt Creek RB & Dead Man's Run RB	LPSNRD	Lincoln, Lancaster County	Salt Creek	1.6	Urban	0.38	Low	Y
Cedar Creek (Omaha F&W) – Platte RB*	Omaha Fish & Wildlife Club and LPSNRD (co-sponsors)	Cedar Creek, Cass County	Platte River	1.56	Residential	0.38	Not Screened	N
Clear Creek – Platte River RB	LPNNRD and LPSNRD (co-sponsors)	Wann, Saunders County	Plate River	12.25	Urban	28.04	Not Screened	Y

Source: Army Corps of Engineers National Levee Database and LPSNRD

\*Cedar Creek Omaha F&W is not a USACE Sponsored Levee – included here with available information

### Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms were identified as a hazard due to their frequency and the high likelihood of damage. Severe thunderstorms include heavy rain, high winds, lightning, and hail, and are a common occurrence across Nebraska. The NCEI reported 961 severe thunderstorm events in the planning area between 1996 and 2024, which caused over \$6 million in property damages and nearly \$17 million in crop damages. The planning area's economy is heavily tied to the agricultural market, which is significantly impacted by heavy rains associated with severe thunderstorms. The LPSNRD manages numerous public recreation areas which experience tree damage after storms. Wildwood Wildlife Management Area, one of the most heavily used recreation areas owned by the NRD, has two enclosed restroom structures that can serve as sheltering locations, but they are not FEMA certified.

Action	Storm Shelters
<b>Description</b>	Design and construct storm shelters and safe rooms in highly vulnerable areas such as public recreation areas which have restrooms and picnic areas.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Hail, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$250 per sf
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	NRD General Budget
<b>Lead Agency</b>	LPSNRD
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Low
<b>Status</b>	New community park facility at 2180 Arbor Rd will need to include some sheltering facility. Additional concerns exist for storm shelter and protection for unhoused populations which move across various parks or recreation areas.

Action	Hazardous Tree Removal
<b>Description</b>	Educate public on appropriate tree planning, assist in removing hazardous trees and assist in efforts to augment tree stock.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Agricultural Plant Disease, Grass/Wildfire, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	Unknown
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	NRD General Budget
<b>Lead Agency</b>	LPSNRD, Nebraska Forest Service
<b>Timeline</b>	2-5 years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	<p>In Progress - the NRD currently assists in removing hazardous trees and has programs in place to replace removed trees. Additional emphasis is needed on removing ash trees which are at high mortality risk due to emerald ash borer (EAB). Both Lancaster and Cass Counties have had confirmed cases of EAB.</p> <p>The NRD is also working with a forester to evaluate all trails systems for hazardous trees requiring replacement. MoPac trail has been completed, others are on the list. Trees to evaluate include dying and damaged Elm, Ash, and Easter Red Cedar. Pervasive drought conditions over the past several years have increased tree stress or mortality.</p>



**Other Capacity or Resiliency Based Actions**

Action	Infrastructure Hardening
Description	Install vehicular barriers to prevent accidental, or purposeful, vehicular impacts to critical facilities and key infrastructure such as wells, trails, recreation areas, etc.
Hazards Addressed	Terrorism – Property Protection
Estimated Cost	\$5,000 +
Potential Local Funding	NRD General Budget
Lead Agency	LPSNRD
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Low
Status	The NRD has monitoring wells located across the district which are gated off from public vehicles and cattle. Other trails have bollards and signage to protect them as the NRD is required to use sites to test water quality. Additional barricade materials are needed to protect gate structures or other NRD properties.

**Completed/Removed Mitigation Actions**

Action	Backup Generators
Description	Provide backup power systems to provide redundant power supply to critical facilities and key infrastructure.
Hazards Addressed	Extreme Temperatures, Severe Thunderstorms, Flooding, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Status	Completed – purchased a new generator.

Action	Incorporate Hazards in Planning Mechanisms
Description	Incorporate known hazards into existing planning mechanisms as appropriate.
Hazards Addressed	All Hazards
Status	Completed - Integrating hazards into various planning mechanisms is an ongoing effort, which is detailed in the Plan Integration section of this profile.

Action	Utilize low impact development practices and green infrastructure to reduce flood risk
Description	Low impact development practices and green infrastructure can reduce runoff and result in a reduction in stormwater-related flooding.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms (pluvial flooding)
Reason for Removal	Removed – this is part of standard operation for the NRD owned properties, but this action is outside the regulatory authority of the NRD to require in other areas.

## **Community Profile**

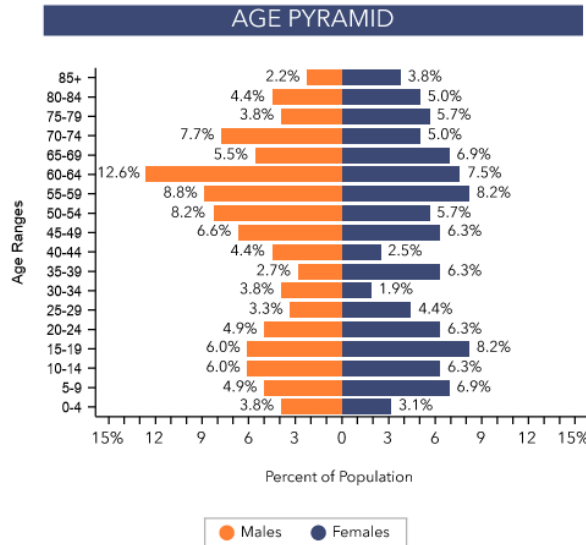
# **Village of Brainard**

## **Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update**

# Community Summary Fact Sheet

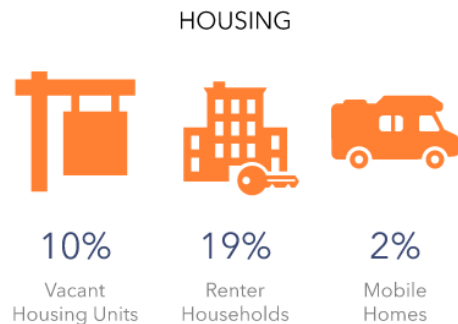
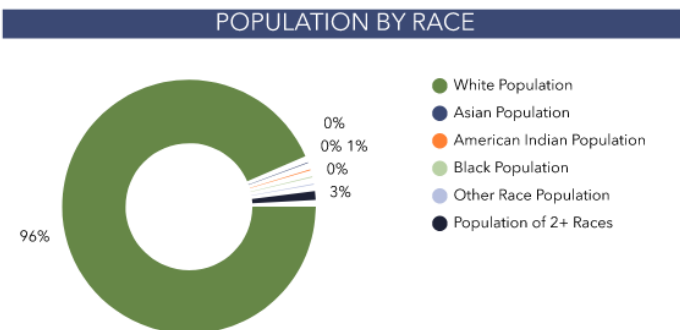
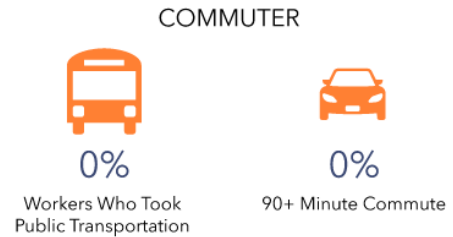
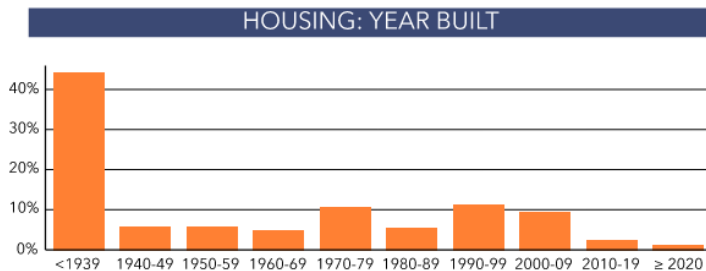
Brainard Village, NE  
Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025

341 Population      50.5 Median Age      \$86,446 Median Household Income      \$169,118 Median Home Value      0.5% Unemployment Rate      10% Households Below the Poverty Level



### TOTAL POPULATION

2023 Total Population (Estimate)	341
2020 Total Population (U.S. Census)	336
2010 Total Population (U.S. Census)	331
2000 Total Population (U.S. Census)	384



Source: Esri, U.S. Census, ACS. Esri forecasts for 2023, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2017-2021, 2028.

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## Local Planning Team

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### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction
Carla Sander	Clerk & Treasurer	Village of Brainard

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## Plan Maintenance

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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.

The Village Clerk and Board Chairperson will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. The Village of Brainard will review the plan annually and the public will be notified during village board meetings and required public notice postings.

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## Location and Geography

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The Village of Brainard is in the central portion of Butler County and the northernmost community in the Lower Platte South NRD. Brainard is approximately 10 miles north of the Lancaster County line and 15 miles south of the Platte River. The Village covers an area of 0.33 square miles. There are two bodies of water near the town. The biggest is the North Oak Creek Reservoir 6B, 1.45 miles east of town. The other is the Middle Oak Creek, which flows west-to-east about two miles east of town.

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## Capability Assessment

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The planning team assessed the Village of Brainard's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning and regulatory capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal capabilities, and education and outreach capabilities.

**Capability Assessment**

<i>Capability/Planning Mechanism</i>		<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Planning &amp; Regulatory Capability</i>	Comprehensive Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	No
	Economic Development Plan	No
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes, County
	Floodplain Management Plan	No
	Storm Water Management Plan	No
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	No
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	No
	Wellhead Protection Plan	No
	National Flood Insurance Program	No
	Community Rating System	No
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
<i>Administrative &amp; Technical Capability</i>	Planning Commission	Yes
	Floodplain Administrator	No
	GIS Capabilities	No
	Chief Building Official	No
	Civil Engineering	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	
<i>Fiscal Capability</i>	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	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	Yes
	Gas/Electric Service Fees	Yes
	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)	
<i>Education &amp;</i>	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection,	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Outreach Capability	Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	No
	Natural Disaster or Safety Related School Programs	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	Yes
	Other (if any)	

### Brainard Overall Capability

Capability	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	High	High
Public Support to Implement Projects	High	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	High	High
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Moderate

### National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The Village of Brainard is not a part of the National Flood Insurance Program. Due to the low risk to flooding and limited floodplain areas, participation is not a priority for the Village. There is no intention to join the NFIP at this time; however, Brainard may revisit its decision if flood risk hazard maps are updated by Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

### Parcel Improvements and Valuation

The planning team requested GIS parcel data from the County Assessor as of September 2024. 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. Several structures in Brainard have been removed from the floodplain via LOMA. A summary of LOMAs identified for Brainard can be found in the table below.

### Parcel Improvements and Value in the Floodplain

Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain	Percentage of Improvements in Floodplain
198	\$27,295,930	0	0	-

Source: County Assessor, 2024

**Flood Map Products**

Type of Product	Product ID	Effective Date	Details
<b>FIRM Panels</b>	31023CIND0A	08/16/2011	Current FIRM Panels
<b>FIRM Panels</b>	31023C0260C	08/16/2011	Current FIRM Panels
<b>FIRM Panels</b>	31023C0270C	08/16/2011	Current FIRM Panels
<b>FIRM Panels</b>	31023C0290C	08/16/2011	Current FIRM Panels

*Source: Flood Map Service Center*

**Plans and Studies**

Brainard has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or how it contains hazard mitigation principles. When the Village updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the plan update.

**Comprehensive Plan**

The Village of Brainard has a Comprehensive Plan that was last updated in 2018. The plan does not discuss natural hazards but does include future land use maps, goals and objectives aimed at safe growth and encourages infill development.

**Ordinances and Regulations**

The Village's zoning ordinance outlines where and how development should occur in the future and the subdivision regulations govern the division of land from one or more larger parcels into smaller lots. Brainard's Zoning Ordinance and Building Codes are updated annually and discourage development in industrial areas, outline proper sump pump installation, require insurance on community owned facilities, and will have all new powerlines buried.

**Building Codes**

The building code sets standards for constructed buildings and structures. Brainard implements Butler County's building codes which are the 2018 International Building Code. Enforcement of the code and inspection is done through County Zoning after the Village handles the initial permitting process.

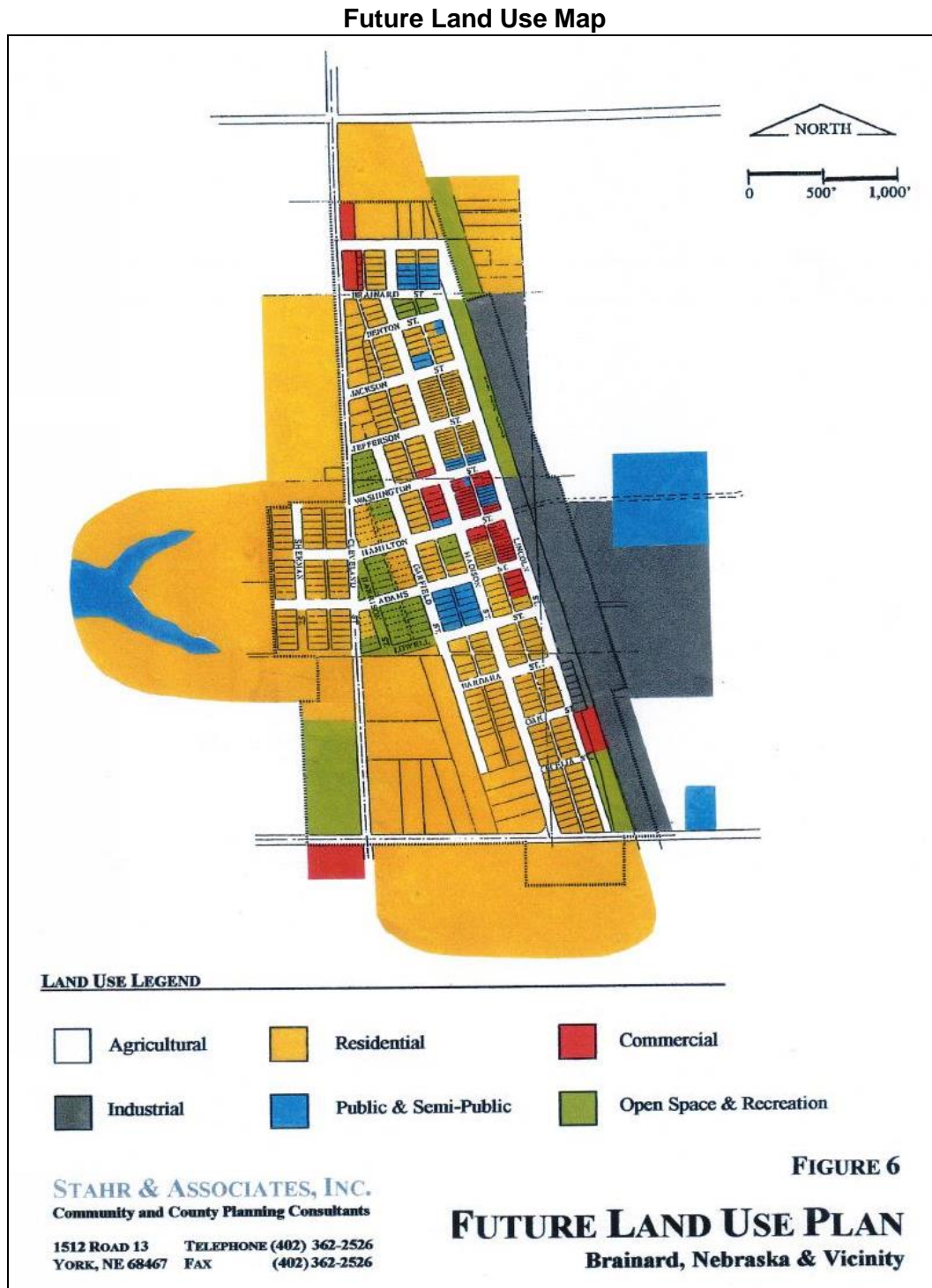
**Southeast Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020)**

The purpose of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to provide a tool for effectively managing fire and hazardous vegetative fuels and to bolster collaboration and communication among the various agencies and organizations who manage fire in Southeast Nebraska. The entire county lies within the upland tallgrass prairie vegetation zone. Agriculture crop fields, hay land, and grazing lands cover much of the county. The Platte River forms the north county line. The area's most at-risk from wildfire are the lands surrounding municipalities and recreational and residential areas along the rivers where there are heavy fuels and limited access. The Rising City Fire Department identified Summit Township, Adamy Addition and all along the south bluffs of the Platte River Valley east of Adamy Addition as areas of particular concern due to multiple structures, difficult access, rough terrain, one way in/out, heavy fuels, and lack of water within effective distance.



## Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, Frontier Co-op has expanded their capacity with more storage space. The village has added 13 new homes in a new development on the west sides of town. More new housing is planned for a development along the southern boundary of the village. Brainard's population has remained stable, with families drawn to the area by the school and swimming pool.





## Community Lifelines

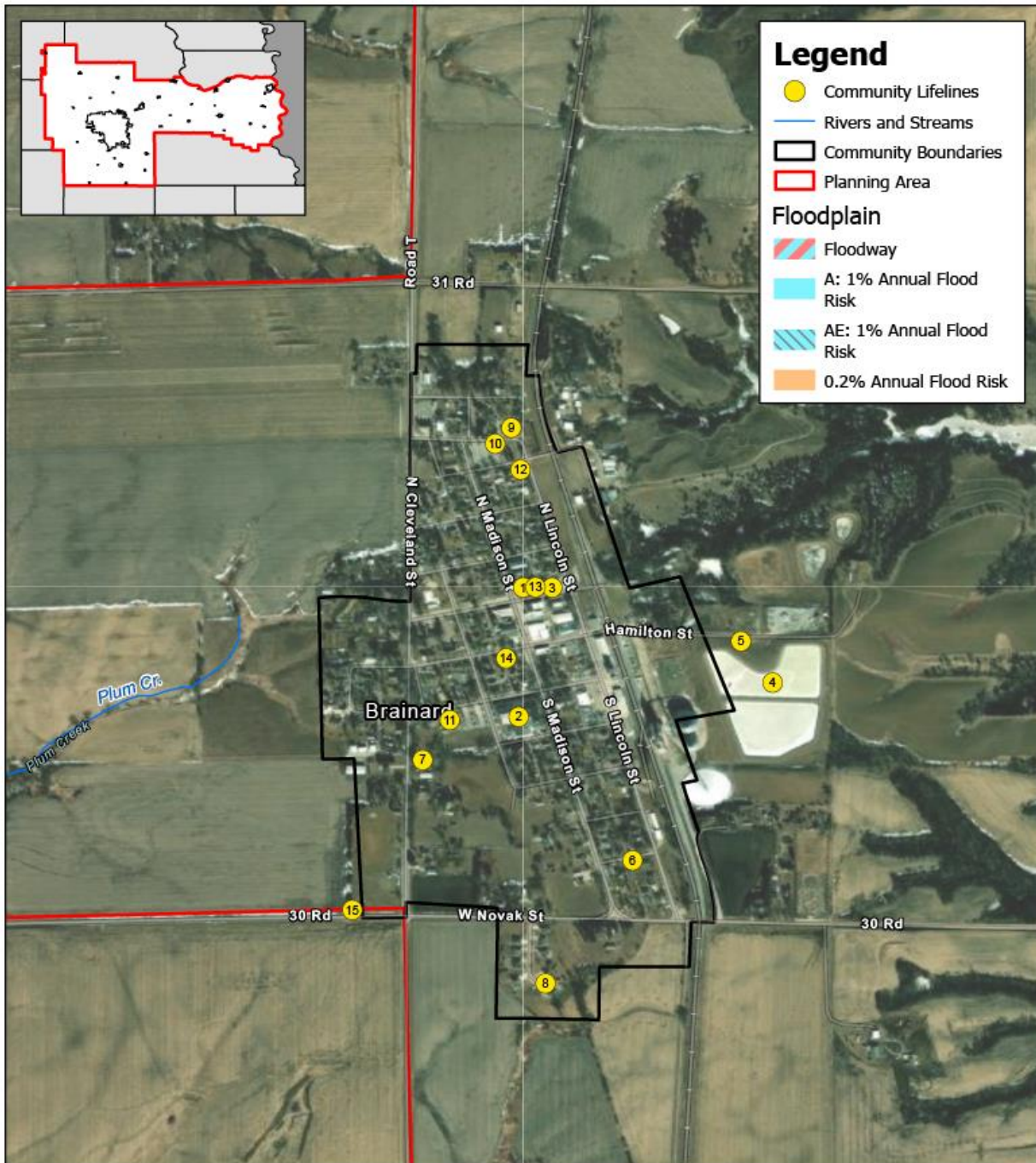
As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



### Brainard Community Lifelines

CF #	Lifeline	Name	Generator	Shelter	Floodplain
1	Safety and Security	City Hall	N	N	N
2	Other	East Butler Schools and Siren	Y	Y	N
3	Safety and Security	Fire Department	N	N	N
4	Food, Water, Shelter	Lagoons	N	N	N
5	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #1	N	N	N
6	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #2	N	N	N
7	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #3	N	N	N
8	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #4	N	N	N
9	Food, Water, Shelter	Parish Hall	N	Y	N
10	Communications	Siren (North)	N	N	N
11	Other	Storage	N	N	N
12	Safety and Security	Village Office/Maintenance	N	N	N
13	Food, Water, Shelter	Water Tower, Well #1, & Siren (City Hall)	N Well - Portable	N	N
14	Food, Water, Shelter	Well #2	Portable	N	N
15	Food, Water, Shelter	Well #4	Portable	N	N

## Section Seven | Village of Brainard Community Profile

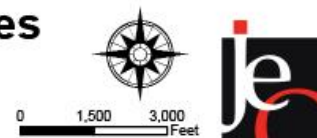


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Date: 8/22/2024  
Software: ArcGIS Pro  
File: Lower Platte South NRD.aprx

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### Brainard Community Lifelines

Lower Platte South NRD  
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team prioritized specific hazards of top concern for Brainard which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the prioritized hazards identified by the Village of Brainard. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four* and *Appendix A*.

### Severe Thunderstorm

Brainard's Fire Hall replaced its roof in the spring of 2019 after it was substantially damaged by quarter-sized hail. The new roof is made of hail resistant materials. This same storm damaged private property throughout the village. This magnitude of event has happened several times in the last 10 years. All critical facilities are insured against hail damage, and the American Legion Hall has a metal roof that is hail resistant. There was some localized flooding during a spring storm, but the water drained within two hours. Power outages during storms are a concern, so that a full-sized generator is needed for the Fire Hall. Approximately 50% of the village's power lines are buried and will continue to be buried on new construction and as lines are repaired. Power surge arrestors are being installed as power lines are buried.

Action	Alert Sirens
Description	Replace emergency alert sirens
Hazards Addressed	High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$75,000
Potential Local Funding	General fund
Lead Agency	Utility Superintendent
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	High
Status	The current need for new sirens is currently being evaluated.

Action	Backup Power
Description	Provide backup power systems to provide redundant power supply
Hazards Addressed	All hazards
Estimated Cost	Varies
Potential Local Funding	General fund
Lead Agency	Utility Superintendent
Timeline	1 year
Priority	High
Status	Not yet started. Backup generators are needed at the Fire Hall and primary well.

Action	Storm Shelters
Description	Identify, design, and develop storm shelters to protect communities and critical facilities.
Hazards Addressed	All hazards
Estimated Cost	\$200-300/sf stand alone; \$150-200/sf addition/retrofit

## Section Seven | Village of Brainard Community Profile

Action	Storm Shelters
Potential Local Funding	General fund, grants
Lead Agency	Village Board
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Could be included in new maintenance building, to be constructed across from the swimming pool in an empty lot.

### Completed/Removed Mitigation Actions

Action	Bury Main Power Lines
Description	Bury electric, power, and service lines
Hazards Addressed	All hazards
Status	Complete – development code requires new development to be buried or buried on an as needed basis.

Action	Drought Education
Description	Increase public awareness of vulnerability and risk reduction measures through drought education
Hazards Addressed	Drought
Status	Removed – not currently a priority for the village.

## **Community Profile**

# **City of Ashland**

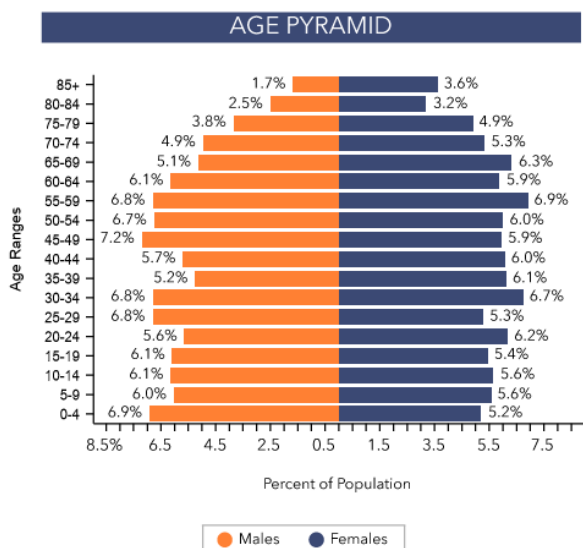
## **Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update**

# Community Summary Fact Sheet

Ashland City, NE  
Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025

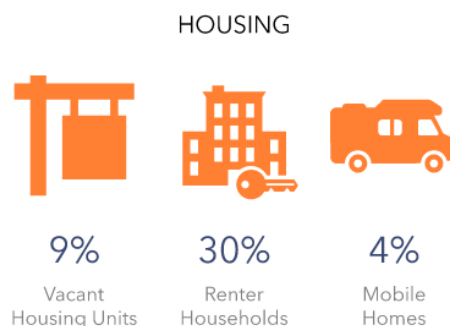
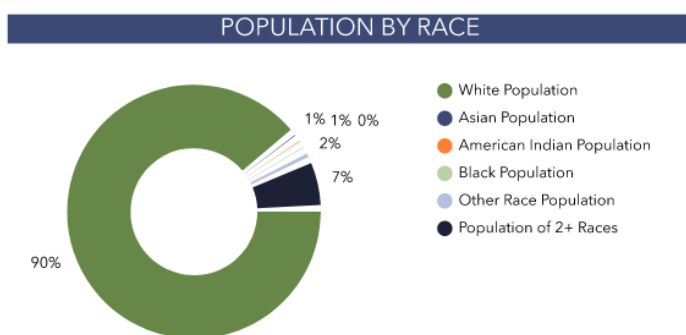
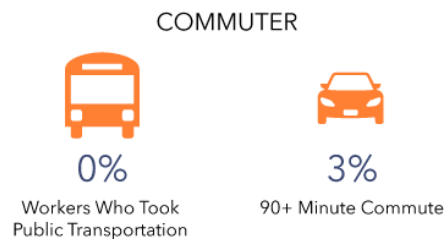
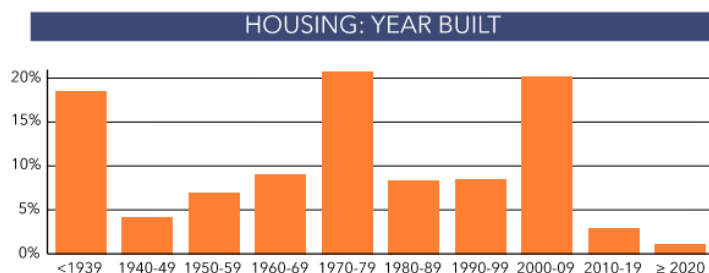
3,203      41.9      \$70,145      \$196,036      4.1%      10%

Population      Median Age      Median Household Income      Median Home Value      Unemployment Rate      Households Below the Poverty Level



### TOTAL POPULATION

2023 Total Population (Estimate)	3,203
2020 Total Population (U.S. Census)	3,086
2010 Total Population (U.S. Census)	2,576
2000 Total Population (U.S. Census)	2,383



Source: Esri, U.S. Census, ACS. Esri forecasts for 2023, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2017-2021, 2028.



## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Jessica Quady	City Administrator	City of Ashland	Profile Development; Attended Meetings
Jim Anderson	Mayor	City of Ashland	Profile Development; Attended Meetings
Bill Krejci	Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector	City of Ashland	Profile Development; Attended Meetings

## 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.

The City Administrator and the Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. The City of Ashland will review the plan annually and the public will be notified through website updates and/or social media.

## Location and Geography

The City of Ashland is in the southeast corner of Saunders County, approximately 1.6 miles west of Lancaster County line and 2.5 miles southwest of the Platte River. Ashland is located in the Platte River Valley, with an altitude of 1,095 feet. The City covers an area of 1.13 square miles. The area east of Ashland consists of high bluffs overlooking the Platte River. There are three creeks near the town that form a confluence less than a mile northeast of town that flows into the Platte River. The largest, and main stem, waterway is the Salt Creek, which flows west-to-east. Salt Creek is to the south and east of the heart of Ashland. The Salt Creek is responsible for a large portion of floodway and floodplain which lies within and around Ashland's jurisdiction. The largest tributary branch is the Wahoo Creek, which flows north of the town to the east. The smallest tributary and northernmost branch of the Clear Creek.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the City of Ashland's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning and regulatory capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal capabilities, and education and outreach capabilities.

### Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory	Comprehensive Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Economic Development Plan	Yes

<i>Capability/Planning Mechanism</i>		<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Capability</i>	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes – County
	Floodplain Management Plan	Yes
	Storm Water Management Plan	Yes
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	Yes
	Wellhead Protection Plan	Yes
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	Yes
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	Municipal Codes
<i>Administrative &amp; Technical Capability</i>	Planning Commission	Yes
	Floodplain Administrator	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Civil Engineering	Yes – contracted
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes (Fire & Rescue, Police)
	Other (if any)	-
<i>Fiscal Capability</i>	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects	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	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<i>Education &amp; Outreach Capability</i>	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	Yes
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g.,	Yes



Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	
	Natural Disaster or Safety Related School Programs	Yes
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	Yes
	Other (if any)	-

**Ashland Overall Capability**

Capability	2020 Plan Limited/Moderate/High	2025 Plan Limited/Moderate/High
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	High	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate	Moderate
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	Moderate	Moderate

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

NFIP Overview	
Date of NFIP Participation:	11/3/1982
Floodplain Administrator:	William Krejci
Is Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	10
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$9,127
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$2,674,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	57
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$533,829
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	3
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	1
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Both

Floodplain Development Permits are issued as needed which are the most recent from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). Local floodplain regulations are enforced by the zoning administrator. The FEMA Map Service Center and NeDNR website are digital tools used by the Floodplain Administrator. The Zoning Administrator identifies substantially damaged structures after a flood event. Identification and review of substantially improved structures are done with County Assessor records for value. There are no known barriers to running the NFIP

effectively or any areas of flood risk in the community that have limited NFIP Policy Coverage. Education to property owners and other stakeholders about the importance of flood insurance is done through loaning institutions. Letters of Map Change are issued with permit number and filed with the floodplain permits.

### Parcel Improvements and Valuation

The planning team requested GIS parcel data from the County Assessor as of September 2024. 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. Several structures in Ashland have been removed from the floodplain via LOMA. A summary of LOMAs identified for Ashland can be found in the table below.

#### Parcel Improvements and Value in the 100 Year Floodplain

Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain	Percentage of Improvements in Floodplain
903	\$166,426,109	55	\$19,340,491	6.1%

#### Parcel Improvements and Value in the 500 Year Floodplain

Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain	Percentage of Improvements in Floodplain
903	\$166,426,109	17	\$3,092,303	1.9%

*Source: County Assessor, 2024*

### Flood Map Products

Type of Product	Product ID	Effective Date	Details
FIRM Panels	31155CIND0B	08/03/2016	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31155C0535D	04/05/2010	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31155C0545D	04/05/2010	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31155C0555D	04/05/2010	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31155C0565D	04/05/2010	Current FIRM Panels
LOMA	15-07-0124A-310196	12/04/2014	Current LOMA
LOMA	18-07-1988A-310196	08/09/2018	Current LOMA
LOMA	19-07-1319A-310196	06/13/2019	Current LOMA
LOMA	19-07-1934A-310196	11/26/2019	Current LOMA
LOMA	22-07-0459A-310196	02/24/2022	Current LOMA
LOMA	22-07-0927A-310196	07/21/2022	Current LOMA

*Source: Flood Map Service Center*

### Plans and Studies

Ashland has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or how it contains hazard mitigation principles. When the city updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the plan update.

## **Comprehensive Plan**

The comprehensive plan is designed to guide the future actions and growth of the City. The city's plan was last updated in 2014 and is currently in the process of being updated and is anticipated to be completed in 2026. There are plans to incorporate components of the hazard mitigation plan into the updated comprehensive plan. The current plan limits development in areas adjacent to hazardous areas such as the floodplain and floodway.

Numerous goals in the Comprehensive Plan address hazard mitigation principals including:

- Housing Goal 2 Objective 12 – new residential development should be discouraged in areas of environmental concern, including floodplain corridors.
- Environmental Goal 1 Objective 6 – Continue participation in the FEMA NFIP to prevent flood-caused loss of life and property, by applying identified mapped areas showing the floodplain and floodway
- Environmental Goal 1 Objective 7 – Restrictions on land uses within the floodplain that are open and undeveloped, including forestry, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational areas should be established.
- General Land Use Goal 1 Objective 8 - The city should work with FEMA and NEMA to eliminate structures, in the floodplain, when they become damaged by flooding or other natural disasters.

## **Capital Improvement Plan**

The capital improvement plan outlines projects the city would like to pursue and provides a planning schedule and financing options. Ashland annually updates the capital improvement plan with the budget and allocates funds to improve stormwater drains and streets. The City is working on a study of its wastewater plant and potentially the main line to assess needs. Wells are repaired annually and the City is currently engineering a new well.

## **Ordinances and Regulations**

The City's zoning ordinance outlines where and how development should occur in the future and subdivision regulations govern the division of land from one or more larger parcels into smaller lots. The City's floodplain ordinance outlines requirements for structures and developments located in the 100-year floodplain. By having a floodplain ordinance, the City promotes public health, safety, and welfare by minimizing losses due to floods. It also helps to ensure eligibility of purchasing flood insurance for property owners. There is a plan to update these documents once the comprehensive plan update is completed in 2026. These documents limit development in the floodplain, limit development in the wildland urban interface, and control development in the ETJ. Structures developed in the floodplain are required to be one foot above Base Flood Elevation.

## **Building Codes**

The building code sets standards for constructed buildings and structures. Ashland has adopted the 2012 International Building Code with no amendments made to the Code. Enforcement of the building code is handled by the building inspector.

## **Wellhead Protection Plan**

The purpose of wellhead protection plans is to protect the public drinking water supply wells from contamination. It includes identifying potential sources of groundwater contamination in the area and managing the potential contaminant sources. Ashland last updated its wellhead protection plan in February 2022.

### **Southeast Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020)**

The purpose of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to provide a tool for effectively managing fire and hazardous vegetative fuels and to bolster collaboration and communication among the various agencies and organizations who manage fire in Southeast Nebraska. The entire county lies within the upland tallgrass prairie vegetation zone. Agriculture crop fields, hay land, and grazing lands cover much of the region. The Platte River forms the north and east county boundaries. Most of the county's woodlands are located along the river and its tributaries. Locations of special concern for Saunders County include population centers adjacent to wildlands, croplands, and wooded areas along the rivers and streams. Fire departments in the county identified many residence sections as at-risk due to multiple structures, high home density, difficult access, rough terrain, one way in/out, heavy fuels, and/or lack of water within an effective distance.

### **Saunders County Local Emergency Operations Plan**

The Saunders County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) was last updated in 2020. The LEOP incorporates hazard mitigation through the following: addresses hazards of top concern; assigns specific responsibilities to individual communities; identifies scenarios that would require evacuation; identifies sheltering locations; and provides clear assignment of responsibility during an emergency. Several departments are familiar with the County LEOP including fire departments and city staff.

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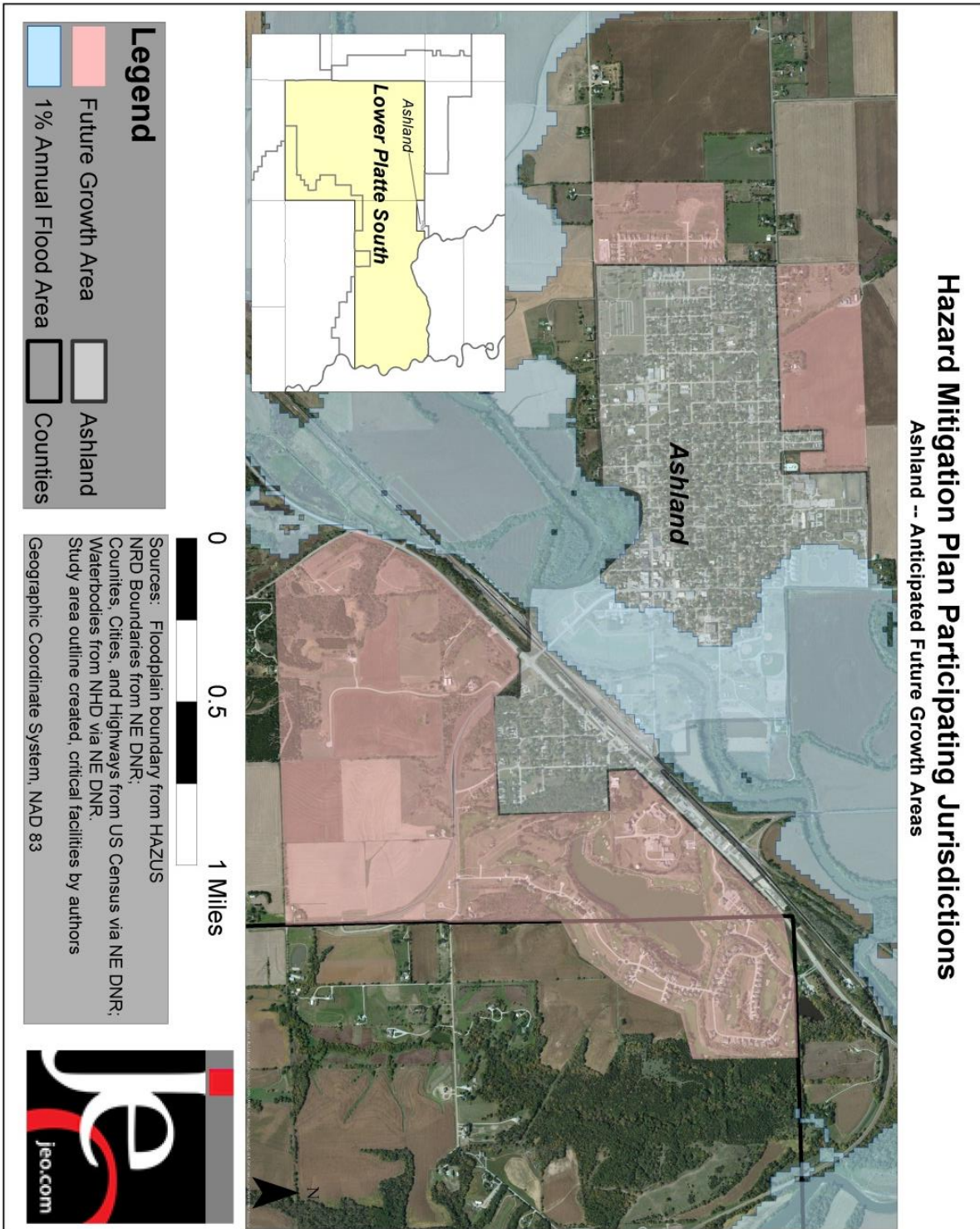
## **Future Development Trends**

Over the past 10 years the City of Ashland has seen several changes, including the development of two new subdivisions and additional residential homes. The Silver Street bridge was redesigned and replaced in 2018. The new bridge is designed to help prevent debris accumulation during heavy flow periods. During the 2019 flood event the bridge performed as designed and reduced damage risks for the City. Commercially there are new businesses downtown, a new Bryan Health clinic site, and four new restaurants have opened along Highway 6 or will be opening within the next year. A primary school and a middle school have been built in the northern part of the City which have contributed to the addition of turn lanes on Highway 66 and Blue Jay Way. A new housing subdivision has started west of the new school complex that will include some commercial use that is under development. Fiber internet has been installed by Allo. Two apartment complexes are planned to be developed in the next year and new phases in two existing subdivisions have been built out or are starting to be built out. A modular roundabout was installed at the Highway 6 and 66 intersection in 2023. Three homes have been demolished, and new homes or development has been built or is planned on being built on those lots. There are new city streets in residential developments. The rural Fire Board has purchased 10 acres to build a new fire/rescue building in the near future. The population of Ashland has grown over the past five years. Local mitigation planners attribute this to Ashland's convenient location between Omaha and Lincoln and the small-town environment.

The Future Land Use Map below illustrates where anticipated growth will be for Ashland. Within the next five years additional housing divisions on both the north edge and southern end of the City are expected. These potential new developments would be outside of the floodplain. Although there are no specific businesses or industries currently planned, city officials have designated certain areas for commercial redevelopment and several key buildings and businesses are transitioning management.



## Future Land Use Map



## Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, 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 lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.

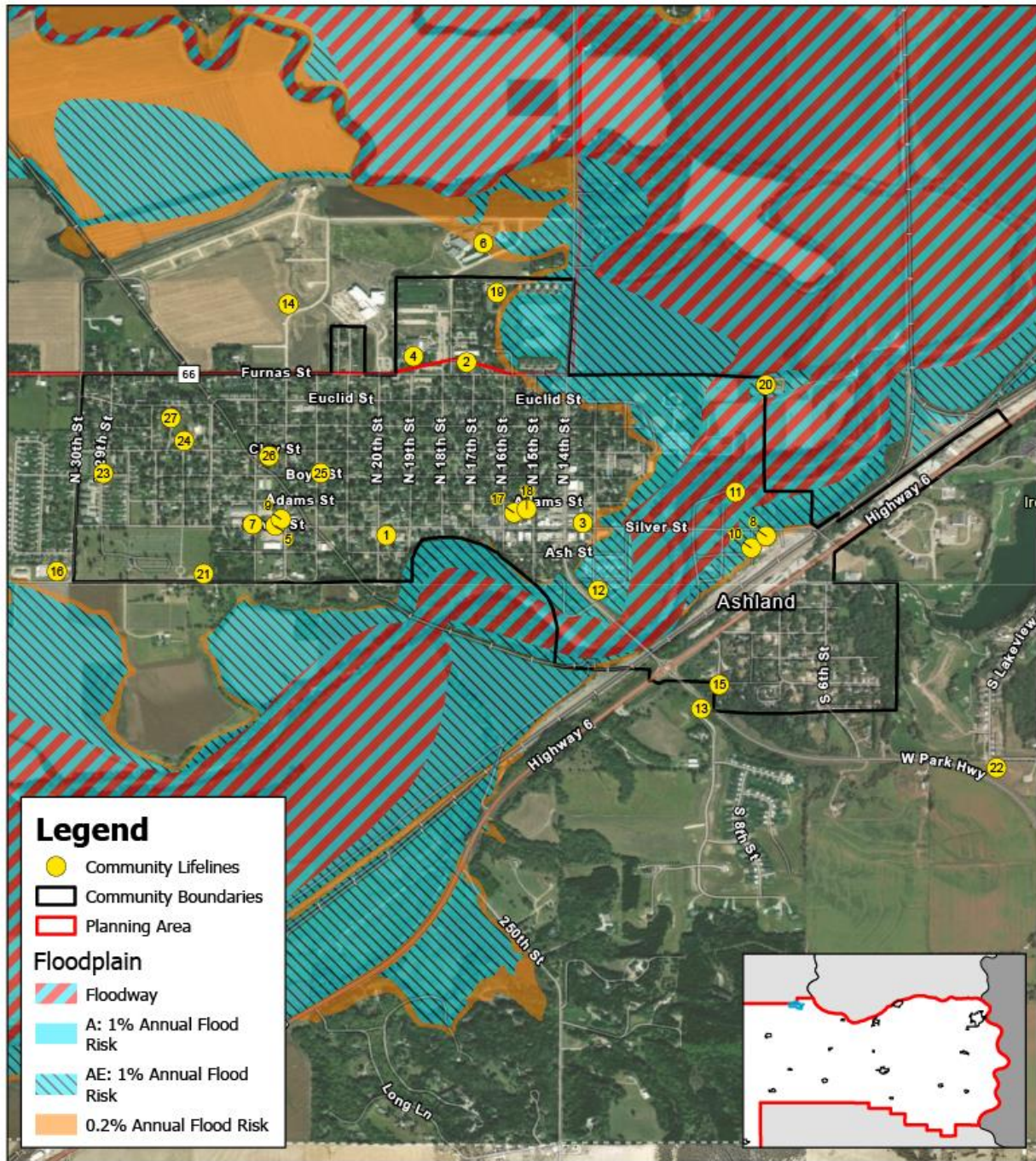


### Ashland Community Lifelines

CF #	Lifeline	Name	Generator	Shelter	Floodplain
1	Other	American Lutheran Church	N	N	N
2	Health	Ashland Care Center	Y	N	N
3	Food, Water, Shelter	Ashland Community Resource Center	N	Y	N
4	Food, Water, Shelter	Ashland Middle School	Y	Y	N
5	Safety and Security	Ashland Police Department	Y	N	N
6	Other	Ashland Primary School	Y	N	Y
7	Safety and Security	Ashland Rescue Squad & Fire Department	Y	N	N
8	Energy	Booster Station (changed name)	N	N	Y
9	Safety and Security	City Clerk Office	Y	N	N
10	Other	City Storage and Dog Kennel	N	N	Y
11	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #1	N	N	Y
12	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #2 (Sabre Heights)	N	N	N
13	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #3 (Whitetail)	N	N	N
14	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #4 (Icehouse Ridge)	N	N	N
15	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station #5 (Dennis Dean)	N	N	N
16	Energy	OPPD Station	N	N	N
17	Energy	OPPD Station	N	N	N
18	Energy	OPPD Station	N	N	N
19	Health	Oxbow Assisted Living Facility	Y	N	N
20	Food, Water, Shelter	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Y	N	Y

CF #	Lifeline	Name	Generator	Shelter	Floodplain
21	Food, Water, Shelter	Water Tower	N	N	N
22	Food, Water, Shelter	Water Tower #2	N	N	N
23	Food, Water, Shelter	Well #5	N	N	N
24	Food, Water, Shelter	Well House	N	N	N
25	Food, Water, Shelter	Well House	N	N	N
26	Food, Water, Shelter	Well House	N	N	N
27	Food, Water, Shelter	Well House (Clay and 25 <sup>th</sup> )	N	N	N



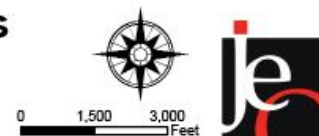


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## Ashland Community Lifelines

Lower Platte South NRD  
 Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team prioritized specific hazards of top concern for Ashland which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the prioritized hazards identified by the City of Ashland. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four* and *Appendix A*.

### Drought

Drought is a major concern to the City of Ashland, particularly in regards to water quantity for residents and infrastructure. While Ashland did not implement water restrictions, the 2012 drought depleted local water supplies. Locally, drought is defined as a lack of normal water supplies and is defined by the City Administrator, City Council, and Utilities Superintendent. Currently the City does not have any drought triggers to activate drought response procedures outlined. City residents have water meters installed and the City monitors overall water consumption and supply levels. Areas surrounding Ashland have experienced high nitrate levels, but the City has not. However, in times of drought nitrates may pose a larger risk to the City. The City is in the process of planning a new well field to the north and west scheduled to start in the future. Ashland is working on the engineering and installation of its fifth well and is expected to be completed in 2025. In 2023, Ashland enacted voluntary water restrictions on lawns. The City will continue to monitor water levels and regulate water usage where possible and continue making progress on the well field.

Action	Wellfield Improvements
<b>Description</b>	Evaluate, design, and construct wellfield with reinforced, elevated, and hardened infrastructure.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Drought, Flooding, Extreme Temperatures
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$10,000+
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	Utility Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Utility Department
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	High
<b>Status</b>	Not Yet Started

### Flooding

Flooding is a primary concern for the City, particularly riverine flooding. The areas around Salt Creek and Wahoo Creek are the most prone to flooding. The majority of these areas are owned by either the City or LPSNRD and house the wastewater treatment facility, ball fields, and concession stands. The ball field concessions and water treatment facility have been elevated to above base flood elevation. During the 1980's the City and the Lower Platte South NRD performed an extensive buy-out and relocation project on Silver Street from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. In total, 28 homes and five businesses were either demolished or relocated. Two mobile home parks were also removed from the area and distributed to other areas in the City.

There have been three significant flooding events locally that impacted the City of Ashland. In 2011 riverine flooding resulted in expensive debris removal that was contracted out. The Silver Street bridge caused a debris clog and was replaced in 2017/2018. In 2015 riverine flooding wiped



out a limestone trail and caused damage to the ball field and wastewater treatment facility. There was also a required debris removal process which was costly to the local tax base. Finally, during the March 2019 flood event water approached the city limits but did not catastrophically impact the city. There were some damages to the trail, ballfields, and the wastewater treatment facility. The Lincoln wellfield located outside of Ashland was severely inundated during the March event; however, the damages in 2015 were much more extensive than during the March 2019 flood event. Flood control upstream on Salt Creek and or Wahoo Creek are projects identified to mitigate the impacts of future floods.

Action	City Wide Master Plan
Description	Complete a City-Wide Master Plan to prioritize all flood related projects. Stormwater master plans can be conducted to perform a community-wise stormwater evaluation, identify multiple problem areas, and potentially multiple drainage improvements for each area.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding
Estimated Cost	\$10,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Funds
Lead Agency	Public Works Department
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not Yet Started

Action	Stormwater System and Drainage Improvements
Description	Undersized systems can contribute to localized flooding. Stormwater system improvements may include pipe upsizing and additional inlets. These improvements can serve to more effectively convey runoff, preventing interior localized flooding. Retention and detention facilities may also be implemented to decrease runoff rates while also decreasing the need for other stormwater system improvements.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$200,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Levy
Lead Agency	City Administrator
Timeline	1-5+ years
Priority	Medium
Status	In Progress - The City requires retention and detention facilities for all new developments and continue to evaluate main storm lines. Erosion remediation and drainage improvements along Salt Creek is needed.

Action	Utilize Low-Impact Development and Green Infrastructure
Description	Low impact development practices and green infrastructure can reduce runoff and result in a reduction in stormwater related flooding.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding
Estimated Cost	Varies by need
Potential Local Funding	General Funds
Lead Agency	Building and Zoning
Timeline	1-5+ years
Priority	Medium

Action	Utilize Low-Impact Development and Green Infrastructure
Status	In Progress - The City continues to build and improve on its knowledge and regulations in this area. A review of applicable ordinances and codes is needed for improvement.

### Levee Failure

The City of Ashland does not have a Corps-certified levee and relies on a berm on the west side of the Salt Creek along the Silver Street bridge which overtopped in 2015. The berm is mowed regularly by the City and there are three drains underneath it which are regularly cleared out. The 2015 flood event washed away the limestone trail on top of the berm but did not cause significant structural damage to the berm itself. The trail was replaced after the event but was damaged again during the 2019 flood event. If the berm were to fail it would impact downtown, houses near the berm, an empty lot owned by the city, and a private campground located in the floodplain. The City has several concerns regarding flooding, notably the lack of certification for the berm. City officials only discovered the uncertified levee due to repairs on the Silver Street bridge. The Clear Creek – Platte River Right Bank levee to the northeast of the City is USACE authorized and protects 1,801 buildings, 2,496 people, and an estimated \$600 million in property value according to the 2023 USACE National Structure Inventory. There has been one historical occurrence of the levee overtopping and extreme damages from the 2019 floods.

Action	Evacuation Planning
Description	Develop an evacuation plan to be prepared for any disaster.
Hazards Addressed	Civil Disorder, Dam Failure, Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Release, High Winds and Tornadoes, Levee Failure, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Potential Local Funding	General Funds, Saunders County Funds
Lead Agency	City Administrator, Saunders County
Timeline	1 year
Priority	Medium
Status	In Progress – currently working with Saunders County and NEMA on the City's local emergency operations plan.

### High Winds and Tornadoes

While no recent tornado events have impacted the City, concerns exist for tornadoes due to the potential for catastrophic damage. The City was heavily impacted by the wind storm on July 31, 2024. City Hall, the Police Department, all four city wells, the grocery store, and many residents were without power for up to 48 hours. The City Hall/Police Department acquired a generator in 2022 and were able to continue operations after the event. There were many downed trees across the community and the City spent approximately \$30,000 in the first week chipping debris. There is much debris to be dealt with currently along with fees to pay to trim and/or remove damaged limbs and trees. There was minimal damage to structures from downed trees. Local municipal records for accounting and billings are backed up on a cloud system in the case of power failure or equipment damage, while other city records are kept on a separate hardware backup. Tree trimming and removing dead or damaged trees is regularly done on City-owned properties and letters are sent out to property owners to remove dead trees. The alert sirens in Ashland are operated by Saunders County dispatch but can also be operated by the local fire department in emergencies. While the newest developments in Ashland do not have outdoor warning sirens,

the City is currently working to require future developments to require sirens. A new alert siren has been installed for the Iron Horse development and a siren is currently in development for the Whitetail development on the south side of town. There are no FEMA certified safe rooms in Ashland, but the American Legion Hall and residential basements are used as shelter locations. Saunders County Emergency Management offers text alerts for severe weather. The City has mutual aid agreements in place with local fire departments and Saunders County.

Action	Promote Use of Higher Codes and Standards
Description	Promote the use of higher codes and standards, such as the Fortified for Safer Living Standard, in order to provide greater protection for any new construction or building retrofits.
Hazards Addressed	Agricultural Disease, Dam Failure, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Release, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$5,000+
Potential Local Funding	City Levy, General Funds
Lead Agency	Building and Zoning
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not Yet Started

Action	Backup Generators
Description	Provide portable and stationary source of backup power for critical facilities.
Hazards Addressed	Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Release, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$15,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Funds, Utility Funds
Lead Agency	Public Works, Utilities Superintendent
Timeline	1-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	In Progress - A generator was installed at City Hall/police department. Working on installing another at a city well that would be stationary to free up the mobile generator.

### Other Capacity Building Mitigation Actions

Action	Shelter-in-Place Training
Description	Ensure that all critical facilities, businesses, and residents located near major transportation corridors are aware of how to safely shelter in place in the event of a chemical incident.
Hazards Addressed	Chemical Spills (Transportation)
Estimated Cost	\$1,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Funds, Saunders County Funds
Lead Agency	Public Safety Department
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not Yet Started

**Completed Mitigation Action**

Action	Alert Sirens
Description	Evaluate and improve current warning systems. Obtain/Upgrade warning system equipment and methods. Conduct evaluation of existing alert sirens for replacement or placement of new sirens.
Hazards Addressed	Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfire, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Status	This mitigation action is completed.

Action	Preserve Natural and Beneficial Functions
Description	Utilize low impact development practices and green infrastructure to reduce flood risk
Hazards Addressed	Flooding
Status	Completed – part of standard procedure for every development within the City.

Action	Water Conservation Awareness
Description	Improve and/or develop a program to conserve water use by the citizens during elongated periods of drought. Potential restrictions on water could include limitations on lawn watering, car washing, or water sold to outside sources. Work with DNR on farm irrigation restrictions.
Hazards Addressed	Drought
Status	Complete - The City had voluntary water restrictions in 2023 and 2024 and will continue to monitor it.

## **Community Profile**

# **Village of Ceresco**

## **Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update**



# Community Summary Fact Sheet

Ceresco Village, NE  
Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025

858

Population

42.5

Median Age

\$74,314

Median Household  
Income

\$194,615

Median Home  
Value

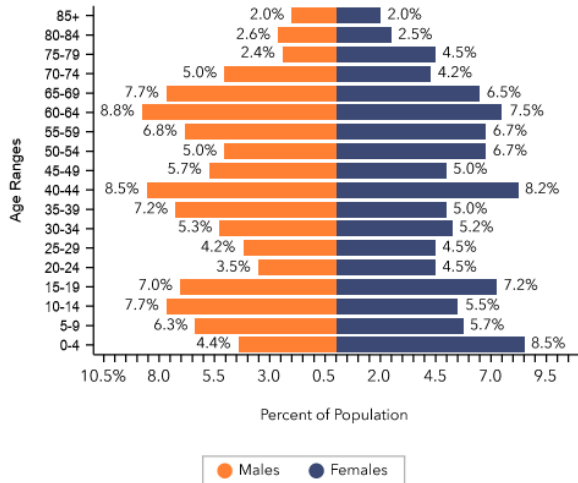
3.5%

Unemployment  
Rate

4%

Households Below  
the Poverty Level

## AGE PYRAMID



## TOTAL POPULATION

2023 Total Population (Estimate)	858
2020 Total Population (U.S. Census)	919
2010 Total Population (U.S. Census)	936
2000 Total Population (U.S. Census)	907

## AT RISK POPULATION



103

Households With  
Disability



169

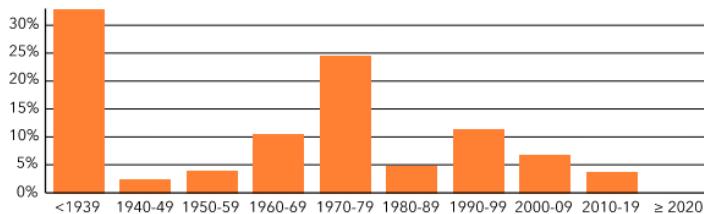
Population 65+



5

Households  
Without Vehicle

## HOUSING: YEAR BUILT



## COMMUTER



0%

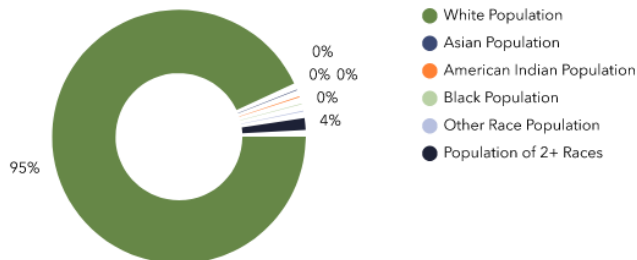
Workers Who Took  
Public Transportation



0%

90+ Minute Commute

## POPULATION BY RACE



## HOUSING



4%

Vacant  
Housing Units



11%

Renter  
Households



1%

Mobile  
Homes



Source: Esri, U.S. Census, ACS. Esri forecasts for 2023, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2017-2021, 2028.

\*The local planning team noted the local population as of 2024 was 919 persons.

## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Jody Anderson	Office Assistant	Village of Ceresco	Profile Development
Joan Lindgren	Clerk/Treasurer	Village of Ceresco	Profile Development

## 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.

The Village Clerk, Board Chairperson, and Utilities will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. The Village of Ceresco will review the plan annually and the public will be notified during village board meetings and required public notice postings.

## Location and Geography

The Village of Ceresco is in the south of Saunders County, approximately one mile north of the Lancaster County line and 3.5 miles west of the Jack Sinn Memorial State Wildlife Management Area. The Village covers an area of 0.42 square miles. There is one major waterway near the town, the Rock Creek, which flows west-to-east one mile south of town.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Village of Ceresco's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning and regulatory capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal capabilities, and education and outreach capabilities.

### Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Comprehensive Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	Yes
	Economic Development Plan	No
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes
	Floodplain Management Plan	Yes
	Storm Water Management Plan	No
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Wellhead Protection Plan	Yes
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	No
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planning Commission	Yes
	Floodplain Administrator	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	No
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Civil Engineering	No
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects	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	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	No
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	Yes
	Natural Disaster or Safety Related School Programs	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	Yes
	Other (if any)	

### **Ceresco Overall Capability**

<b>Capability</b>	<b>2020 Plan</b>	<b>2025 Plan</b>
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	High	High
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Limited

### **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

<b>NFIP Overview</b>	
Date of NFIP Participation:	11/8/1974
Floodplain Administrator:	Jody Anderson
Is Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	No
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	1
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$586
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$216,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	1
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$-
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Both

The Village of Ceresco has a floodplain ordinance which requires permits for development within flood risk hazard areas. The village clerk serves as the Floodplain Administrator and is responsible for reviewing and approving all floodplain permits. Flood maps from the FEMA Flood Map Service Center are reviewed to determine if the property is located in a floodplain or floodway. The village enforces local floodplain regulations with the help from the county or state. The local floodplain ordinance requires a base flood elevation of 1-ft.

Specifically the Village's floodplain ordinance states: New construction or substantial improvement of any residential structure shall not be approved unless the lowest floor, including basement, has an elevation 1 foot above the base flood elevation.

New construction or substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or other non-residential structure shall have either the lowest floor, including basement, elevated 1 foot above the base flood elevation or, together with attended utility and sanitary facilities, be flood-proofed so that below the base flood elevation the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy.

### **Parcel Improvements and Valuation**

The planning team requested GIS parcel data from the County Assessor as of September 2024. 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. Several structures in Ceresco have been removed from the floodplain via LOMA. A summary of LOMAs identified for Ceresco can be found in the table below.

#### Parcel Improvements and Value in the 100 Year Floodplain

Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain	Percentage of Improvements in Floodplain
396	\$64,304,836	6	\$962,563	1.5%

#### Parcel Improvements and Value in the 500 Year Floodplain

Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain	Percentage of Improvements in Floodplain
396	\$64,304,836	0	-	-

Source: County Assessor, 2024

#### Flood Map Products

Type of Product	Product ID	Effective Date	Details
FIRM Panels	31109CIND0B	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31155CIND0B	08/03/2016	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31109C0070G	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31109C0090G	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31155C0500D	04/05/2010	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31155C0525D	04/05/2010	Current FIRM Panels
LOMA	11-07-0577A-310197	01/28/2011	LOMA
LOMA	13-07-1604A-310197	05/30/2013	LOMA

Source: Flood Map Service Center

## Plans and Studies

Ceresco has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or how it contains hazard mitigation principles. When the Village updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the plan update.

#### Comprehensive Plan

The Village of Ceresco is looking to update their Comprehensive Plan which was last updated in 2001. New updates will focus on making identified goals and actions consistent with hazard mitigation planning. The plan also directs development away from the floodplain, identifies areas in need of emergency shelters, and includes future land use maps. As of this plan development, an updated version of the Comprehensive Plan was not available for review.

#### Ordinances and Regulations/Building Codes

The Village's Zoning Ordinance and Building Codes were last updated in 2019. The Village currently uses the 2012 International Building Code. The ordinance discourages development in the floodplain, requires a base flood elevation of one foot or greater in the floodplain, prohibits filling wetlands, and limits density in the floodplain. The updated ordinance and codes also discourages development near chemical storage sites, discourage development along major

transportation routes, limit development in the ETJ, and will consider the wildland-urban interface when developing.

### **Capital Improvements Plan**

The Capital Improvements Plan is updated annually and identifies numerous projects which are consistent with the goals and actions identified in this hazard mitigation plan. The CIP includes storm water projects, maintenance for the storm sewer system, bridge improvements, backup generators for critical facilities, critical facility improvements, and transportation corridor expansions.

### **Southeast Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020)**

The purpose of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to provide a tool for effectively managing fire and hazardous vegetative fuels and to bolster collaboration and communication among the various agencies and organizations who manage fire in Southeast Nebraska. The entire county lies within the upland tallgrass prairie vegetation zone. Agriculture crop fields, hay land, and grazing lands cover much of the region. The Platte River forms the north and east county boundaries. Most of the county's woodlands are located along the river and its tributaries. Locations of special concern for Saunders County include population centers adjacent to wildlands, croplands, and wooded areas along the rivers and streams. Fire departments in the county identified many residence sections as at-risk due to multiple structures, high home density, difficult access, rough terrain, one way in/out, heavy fuels, and/or lack of water within an effective distance.

### **Saunders County Local Emergency Operations Plan**

The Saunders County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) was last updated in 2020. The LEOP incorporates hazard mitigation through the following: addresses hazards of top concern; assigns specific responsibilities to individual communities; identifies scenarios that would require evacuation; identifies sheltering locations; and provides clear assignment of responsibility during an emergency. Several departments are familiar with the County LEOP including fire departments and city staff.

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## **Future Development Trends**

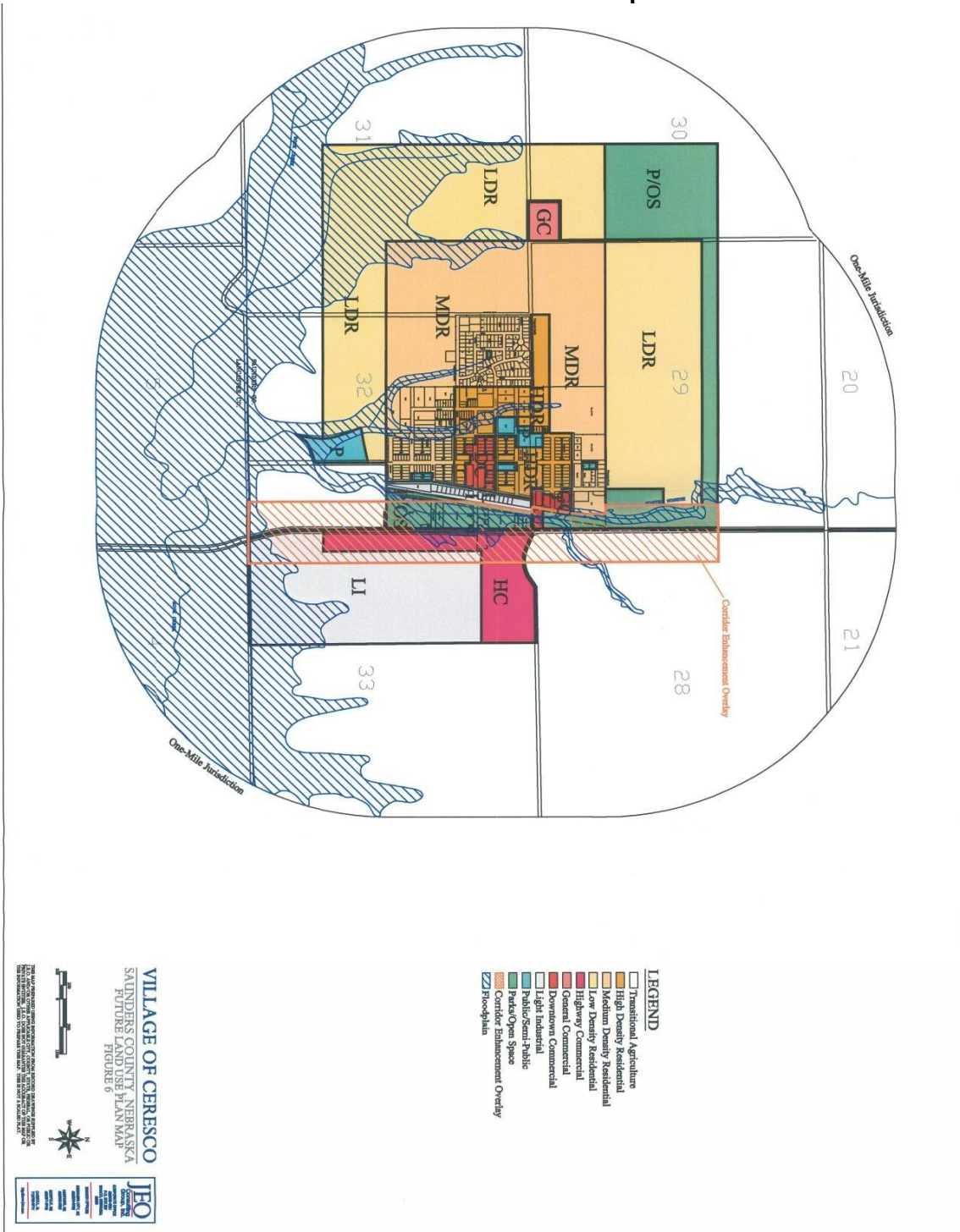
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The Village of Ceresco has had several changes over the past five years. Several new homes and a new duplex have been constructed in town and a previously commercial building and three residential homes have been demolished. The Village has annexed the property to the north of the school. There are 21 new houses with one additional buildable lot in that area. There are also 3 new houses in other areas in town. There were 2 accessory building demolished and replaced. There is a new restaurant and coffee shop in town there is a new subdivision being annexed that will allow for 36 buildable lots.

Ceresco's population is relatively stable which the local planning team attributes to its close proximity to both Lincoln and Omaha for employment, but residents prefer to live in a smaller community. There is a need for additional housing in town and an additional development is planned for north of the elementary school. Additionally, a restaurant, bar, and possibly a bakery are expected within the next five years.



### Future Land Use Map





## Community Lifelines

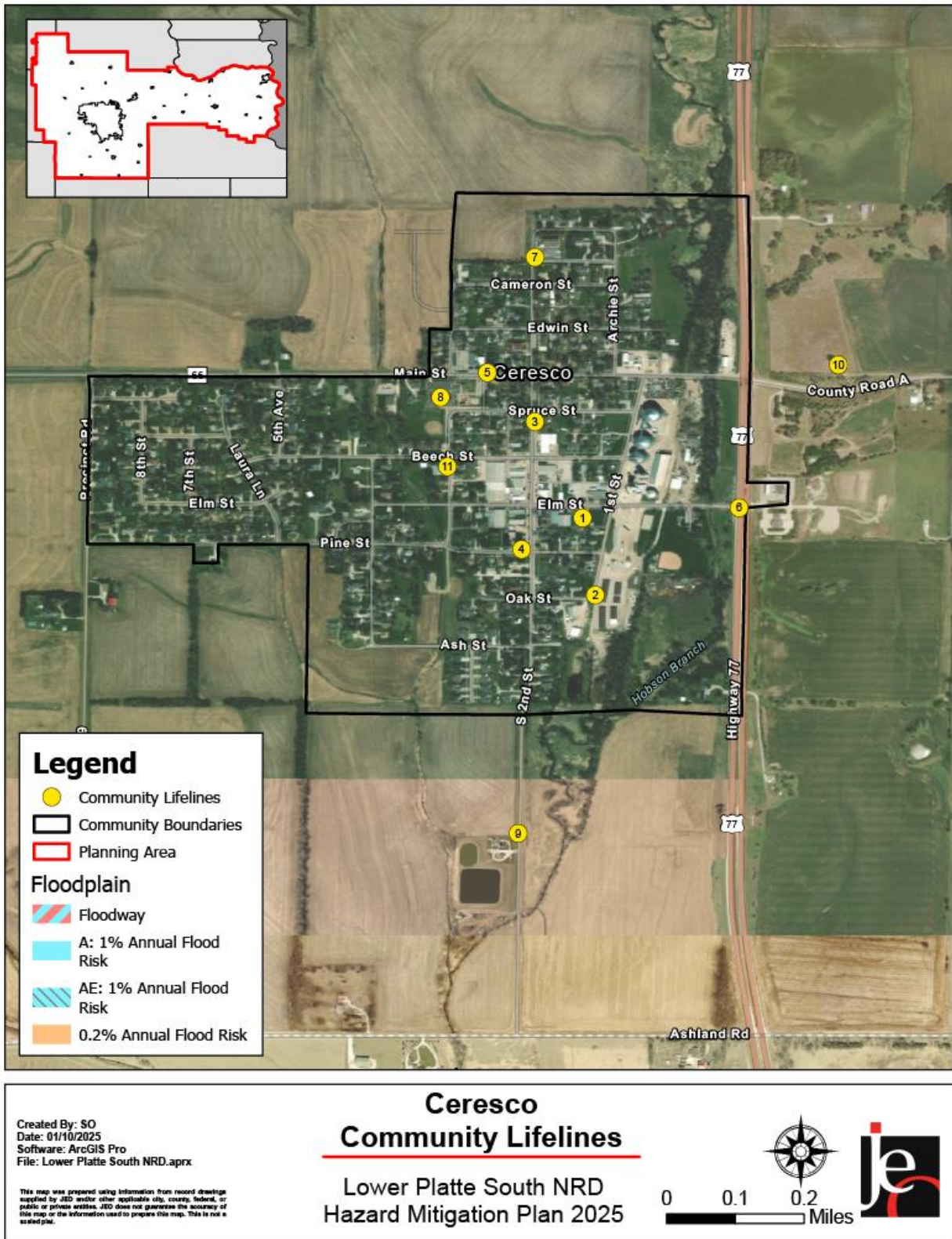
As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



### Ceresco Community Lifelines

CF #	Lifeline	Name	Generator	Shelter	Floodplain
1	Other	American Legion	N	N	N
2	Safety and Security	City Maintenance Yard Building	N	N	N
3	Safety and Security	Community Center / Village Office/Fire & Rescue	Y	Y	N
4	Food, Water, Shelter	Evangelical Covenant Church and Daycare	N	N	N
5	Food, Water, Shelter	Immanuel Lutheran Church	N	Y	N
6	Food, Water, Shelter	Lift Station	N	N	N
7	Food, Water, Shelter	Methodist Church	N	N	N
8	Other	Raymond Central Elementary School at Ceresco	N	N	N
9	Food, Water, Shelter	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Y	N	N
10	Food, Water, Shelter	Water Tower, Well House, & Wells #5 & #6*	N	N	N
11	Communication	Windstream Telephone / Maintenance Building	N	N	N

\*A generator is located at the well house for wells #5 and #6. A new well #4 is planned for construction.



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team prioritized specific hazards of top concern for Ceresco which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the prioritized hazards identified by the Village of Ceresco. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four* and *Appendix A*.

### Hazardous Materials Release (Fixed Site)

The Village of Ceresco has several fixed site chemical storage facilities storing hazardous materials including anhydrous ammonia, propane, diesel fuel, and gasoline. Chemical spills are a concern due to the proximity to the Co-Op, local park, lift station, emergency well, American Legion Hall, Masonic Lodge, Village Office, Community Center, Fire Department, and ballfields. The Ceresco Fire Department averages five to six calls per year related to hazardous materials. In 2018, an anhydrous ammonia tank was tampered with during a community event and in 2019 a baseball game was cancelled due to a leak. Local response resources include the Fire Department and Lincoln Fire Department. Local emergency planners noted a need for enhanced site security at the sites such as fencing and more accurate emergency contact information.

Action	Education Program for Chemical Releases
Description	Develop education program to inform residents of risks related to chemical releases (including direct outreach to residents living in the immediate vicinity of chemical storage sites).
Hazards Addressed	Chemical Fixed Sites
Estimated Cost	\$3,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Maintenance Department
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not yet started.

Action	Emergency Exercise: Hazardous Spill
Description	Utilize an exercise to prepare for potential explosions or hazardous spills. Ensure that nearby businesses and residents have appropriate plans in place.
Hazards Addressed	Chemical Fixed Sites
Estimated Cost	\$5,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Fire Department, Village Board
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not yet started.

Action	Vehicular Barriers
Description	Install vehicular barriers to protect CFs and key infrastructure where possible, specifically where hazardous material tanks are stored.
Hazards Addressed	Hazardous Materials, Terrorism

Action	Vehicular Barriers
Estimated Cost	Varies
Potential Local Funding	Village of Ceresco, Saunders County Emergency Management
Lead Agency	Village Board, Maintenance Department
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not yet started. These structures will be located around anhydrous ammonia and propane tanks.

### High Winds and Tornadoes

In 2008 a tornadic event impacted the Village. This caused damage to the community center, village hall, maintenance shops, library, as well as some form of damage to every building in town. There are three sirens in the area which can be activated by county emergency management or the local fire department. There are no FEMA-certified safe rooms and private residences are the only alternative. Saunders County has AlertSense emergency notification and additional public outreach could be used to ensure adequate signups. There are no educational outreach activities in the area. There is a mutual aid agreement signed with other local fire departments.

Action	Emergency Alert Signups
Description	Ensure residents are aware of and are signed up for Saunders County AlertSense alerts to receive emergency alerts, severe weather warnings, and/or community notifications.
Hazards Addressed	High Winds and Tornadoes, Extreme Heat, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Hazardous Material Release
Estimated Cost	N/A
Potential Local Funding	N/A
Lead Agency	Village Clerk
Timeline	1 year
Priority	Medium
Status	The village has posted information on the local website. Additional notification or reminders at local events could be used to spread awareness.

### Severe Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are an annual occurrence to the area. The Village of Ceresco experienced significant storms in 2014 that damaged the library roof, the community building's roof, a local shop and a lightning strike that started a house fire. The community does not use hail resistant building materials on critical facilities, but they are insured. In 2015 the community well was also hit by lightning. Critical records are not protected by surge protectors and such protections are needed for the village office, shop, or other village facilities. There are three facilities with backup generators: the community center, the fire department, and the wells. There is a need for generators at the sewer/lagoons and lift stations. Very few power lines in town are buried and concerns exist of dying or damaged trees causing downed power lines.

Action	Backup Generators
Description	Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies, municipal wells, lift stations, and other CFs and shelters.
Hazards Addressed	Tornados and high winds, severe winter storms, severe thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$15,000-\$30,000 per generator
Potential Local Funding	General Fund



Action	Backup Generators
Lead Agency	Village Board
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	A generator is already available at the fire hall and wastewater treatment facility. Additional generators are needed at the wells and lift station or a portable generator can be stored at the maintenance shed.

### Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms are commonly associated with heavy snow, ice accumulation, and/or blizzards that can result in power outages, car wrecks, and road closures. Although there has been no specific damage to critical facilities, water pipes routinely freeze and cause damage to residential homes. Very few power lines in town are buried and concerns exist of dying or damaged trees causing downed power lines. There are no designated snow routes, but the Village can call snow emergencies to get vehicles off the road. The community does not use snow fences. Maintenance staff are in charge of removing snow from the streets, but residents are responsible for their sidewalks. Snow removal resources are considered sufficient and includes shovels, snowblowers, a pickup with a blade, two dump trucks, a skid loader, front end loader and have the option to contract removal.

Action	Hazardous Tree Removal
Description	Identify and remove hazardous limbs and/or trees. Added emphasis is needed on Village owned Ash trees which may be vulnerable to disease
Hazards Addressed	Agricultural Plant and Animal Disease, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$200+ per tree
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Village Board, Tree Board
Timeline	1 year
Priority	Medium
Status	Not yet started. Numerous Ash trees are located around town and by the scout hall which should be removed.

### Completed/Removed Mitigation Actions

Action	Comprehensive Village Disaster/ Emergency Response Plan
Description	Update Comprehensive Village Disaster and Emergency Response Plan
Hazards Addressed	Tornados and high winds, severe winter storms, severe thunderstorms
Status	Complete - This is an ongoing action and plans are reviewed regularly. Ceresco is also included in the county LEOP.

Action	Backup Municipal Records
Description	Purchase an off-site data backup system for all Village documents and data
Hazards Addressed	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Status	Complete - The village has implemented a battery backup of the server and installed surge protectors on computers.

Action	Surge Protectors
Description	Purchase and install surge protectors on sensitive equipment in critical facilities.
Hazards Addressed	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds

Action	Surge Protectors
Status	Complete - The village has implemented a battery backup of the server and installed surge protectors on computers.

Action	Stormwater System and Drainage Improvements
Description	Ceresco can utilize stormwater systems comprising of ditches and culverts to convey runoff. Undersized systems can contribute to localized flooding. Drainage improvements may include ditch upsizing, ditch cleanout and culvert improvements. These improvements can serve to more effectively convey runoff within villages, preventing interior localized flooding.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding
Status	Complete - Improvements were made to Laura Lane and a new sewer drain was included. Clearing out and replacing culverts is an ongoing process. No other specific areas have been identified.

## **Community Profile**

# **Village of Valparaiso**

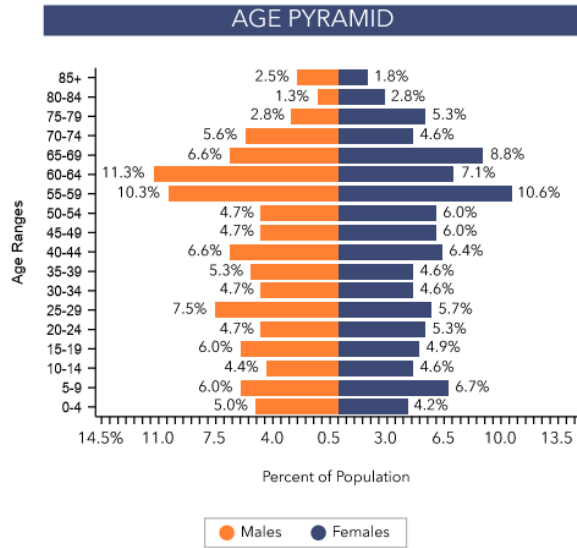
## **Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update**



# Community Summary Fact Sheet

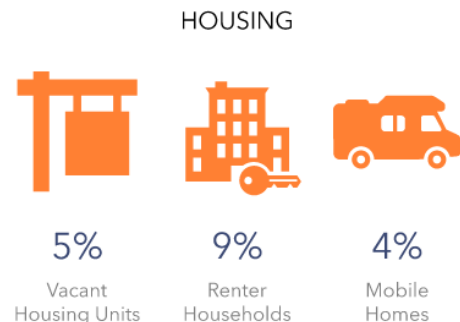
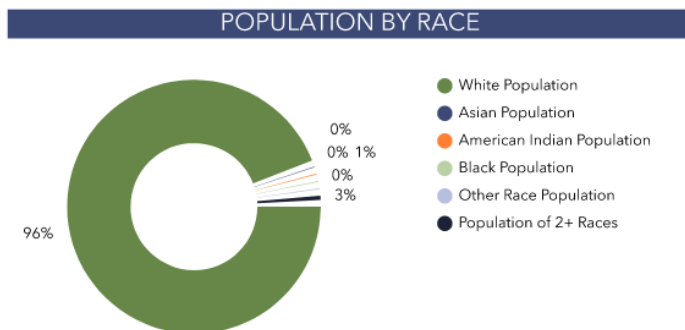
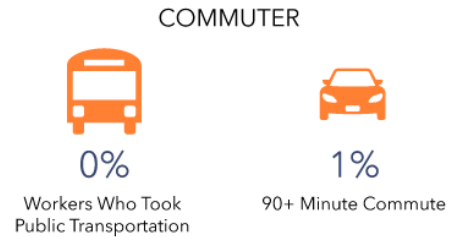
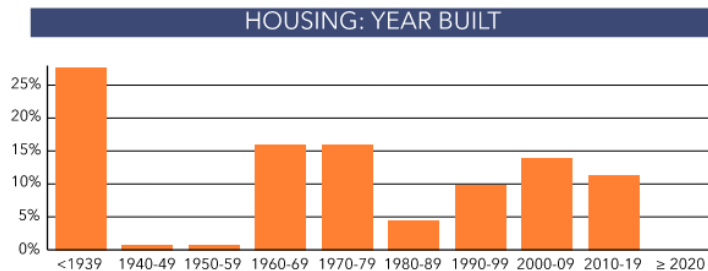
Valparaiso Village, NE  
Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025

**602** Population      **46.3** Median Age      **\$59,091** Median Household Income      **\$203,125** Median Home Value      **0.5%** Unemployment Rate      **7%** Households Below the Poverty Level



### TOTAL POPULATION

2023 Total Population (Estimate)	602
2020 Total Population (U.S. Census)	595
2010 Total Population (U.S. Census)	617
2000 Total Population (U.S. Census)	624



Source: Esri, U.S. Census, ACS. Esri forecasts for 2023, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2017-2021, 2028.

## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Greg Bouc	Utility Superintendent (former)	Village of Valparaiso	Profile Development
Nick Sanders	Utility Superintendent	Village of Valparaiso	Profile Development; Attend Meeting
Dan Homes	Village Board Chair	Village of Valparaiso	Profile Development; Attend Meetings

## 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.

The Village Clerk, Board Chairperson, and Utilities staff will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. The Village of Valparaiso will review the plan annually and the public will be notified during village board meetings and required public notice postings.

## Location and Geography

The Village of Valparaiso is in the southwest corner of Saunders County, approximately 2.4 miles north of the Lancaster County line and three miles north of Wildwood Lake State Wildlife Management Area. The Village covers an area of 0.56 square miles. There are three major waterways that form a confluence just outside of town. The main stem is the North Oak Creek, which flows north-to-south through the west end of town. The largest tributary is the Bates Branch and the smallest is an unnamed stream. Both flow north-to-south before merging with the main stem on the northwest side of town.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Village of Valparaiso's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning and regulatory capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal capabilities, and education and outreach capabilities.

### Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
Planning & Regulatory Capability	Comprehensive Plan	Yes
	Capital Improvements Plan	No
	Economic Development Plan	No
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes, County
	Floodplain Management Plan	No
	Storm Water Management Plan	No

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	No
	Building Codes	Yes
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	Yes
	Wellhead Protection Plan	Yes
	National Flood Insurance Program	No
	Community Rating System	No
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Administrative & Technical Capability	Planning Commission	Yes
	Floodplain Administrator	No
	GIS Capabilities	No
	Chief Building Official	No
	Civil Engineering	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	No
	Other (if any)	
Fiscal Capability	1- & 6-Year Plan	No
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects	Yes
	Gas/Electric Service Fees	No
	Storm Water Service Fees	No
	Water/Sewer Service Fees	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	Yes
	Other (if any)	
Education & Outreach Capability	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	No
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	Yes

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Natural Disaster or Safety Related School Programs	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	No
	Other (if any)	

### Valparaiso Overall Capability

Capability	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited	Limited
Public Support to Implement Projects	Limited	Limited
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Limited

### National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

NFIP Overview	
Date of NFIP Participation:	11/8/1974
Floodplain Administrator:	Nick Sanders
Is Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	2
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$1,450
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$279,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	0
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$-
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	0
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Both

All issues concerning the floodplain and construction in the floodplain must be approved by the Village Board. Floodplain regulations are enforced by first notifying the property owners if there is an issue and follow through with fines if in violation of the regulations. The Village Board checks with the Department of Natural Resources about all applications. The Floodplain Administrator utilizes the digital tools available to the county. There has not been an issue where Valparaiso has had to identify substantially damaged or improved structures after a flood event.

Public awareness and additional support from the DNR are issues the local planning team has identified when it comes to effectively running NFIP. To educate property owners about the importance of flood insurance, applicable property owners were required to attain a floodplain permit and attend a monthly Village Board meeting. The Village tracks Letters of Map Change, which can also be found on the FEMA Map Service Center website.

## Parcel Improvements and Valuation

The planning team requested GIS parcel data from the County Assessor as of September 2024. 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. Several structures in Valparaiso have been removed from the floodplain via LOMA. A summary of LOMAs identified for Valparaiso can be found in the table below.

### Parcel Improvements and Value in the 100 Year Floodplain

Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain	Percentage of Improvements in Floodplain
301	\$47,289,032	28	\$3,645,087	9.3%

### Parcel Improvements and Value in the 500 Year Floodplain

Number of Improvements	Total Improvement Value	Number of Improvements in Floodplain	Value of Improvements in Floodplain	Percentage of Improvements in Floodplain
301	\$47,289,032	0	0	-

Source: County Assessor, 2024

## Flood Map Products

Type of Product	Product ID	Effective Date	Details
FIRM Panel	31155CIND0B	08/03/2016	Current FIRM Panel
FIRM Panel	31155C0475D	04/05/2010	Current FIRM Panel

Source: Flood Map Service Center

## Plans and Studies

Valparaiso has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or how it contains hazard mitigation principles. When the village updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the plan update.

### Comprehensive Plan

The Village of Valparaiso has a Comprehensive Plan that was last developed and updated in the early 2000's. The local planning team identified updating the comprehensive plan is needed, however local resources are limited in this capacity. The Comprehensive Plan includes future land use maps, identifies areas that have or are lacking emergency shelters, and encourages preservation of open space in hazard prone areas. There are currently limits on the amount of homes which can be built per block, minimizing the potential for development clustering.

### Ordinances and Regulations

The Village's Zoning Ordinance was last updated in 2000. The zoning ordinance should be updated to prohibit development in the floodplain or high hazard areas. The Village's Building Code also needs to be updated to meet International Building Code (IBC) standards.

### Wellhead Protection Plan

Valparaiso's Wellhead Protection Plan was developed with the assistance of the Lower Platte South NRD and approved in the 1990's. There are signs in the community to alert community

members of the area, a zoning ordinance is in place for a wellhead protection district, and Valparaiso has a Water Drought Emergency Ordinance in place for both voluntary and mandatory water restrictions and drought triggers based on the water table level.

### **Southeast Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020)**

The purpose of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to provide a tool for effectively managing fire and hazardous vegetative fuels and to bolster collaboration and communication among the various agencies and organizations who manage fire in Southeast Nebraska. The entire county lies within the upland tallgrass prairie vegetation zone. Agriculture crop fields, hay land, and grazing lands cover much of the region. The Platte River forms the north and east county boundaries. Most of the county's woodlands are located along the river and its tributaries. Locations of special concern for Saunders County include population centers adjacent to wildlands, croplands, and wooded areas along the rivers and streams. Fire departments in the county identified many residence sections as at-risk due to multiple structures, high home density, difficult access, rough terrain, one way in/out, heavy fuels, and/or lack of water within an effective distance.

### **Saunders County Local Emergency Operations Plan**

The Saunders County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) was last updated in 2020. The LEOP incorporates hazard mitigation through the following: addresses hazards of top concern; assigns specific responsibilities to individual communities; identifies scenarios that would require evacuation; identifies sheltering locations; and provides clear assignment of responsibility during an emergency. Several departments are familiar with the County LEOP including fire departments and city staff.

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## **Future Development Trends**

In the last 10 years several changes have occurred in Valparaiso including the loss of the grocery store, the sale of Shanaban Mechanical to IES Mechanical, and the construction of a new fire station. Additionally, a new large operation chicken farm which houses approximately 240,000 birds has been built outside the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the Village. The local planning team indicated buildings are only demolished on an as-needed basis, with no activity in the last several years. Valparaiso's population has remained relatively stable, which is attributed to proximity to Lincoln for both work and groceries, the presence of the elementary school, and many retired farmers choosing to live in town. While no new housing developments are planned at this time, there is a commercial wine tasting operation that has opened within the last five years. A future storage facility for PoolTechs is slated to be developed in the floodplain.



## Community Lifelines

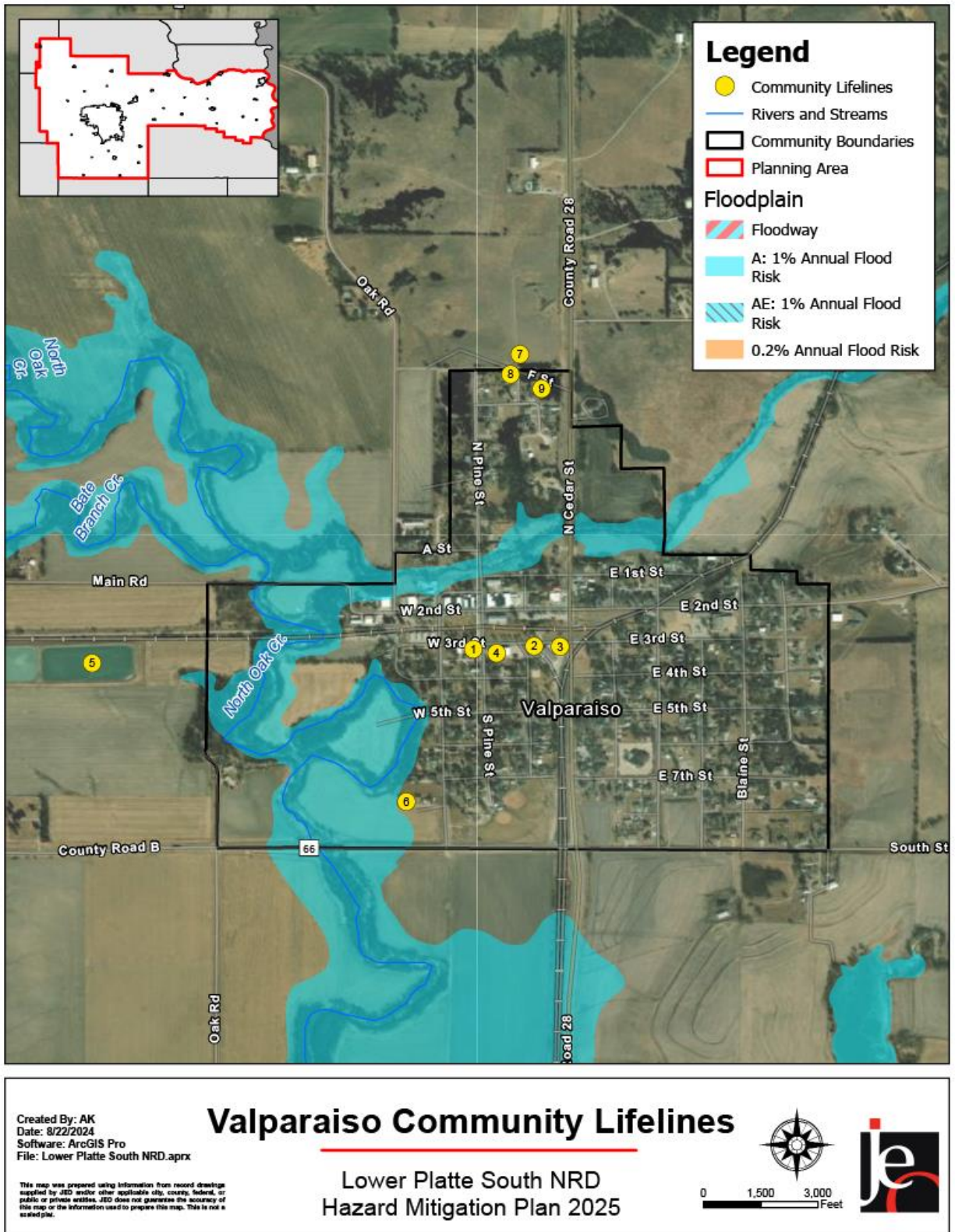
As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



### Valparaiso Community Lifelines

CF #	Lifeline	Name	Generator	Shelter	Floodplain
1	Safety and Security	Community Hall and Village Maintenance Hall	N	N	N
2	Transportation	County Maintenance Shed	N	N	N
3	Safety and Security	New Fire Station/Siren	Y	Y	N
4	Other	Old Fire & Rescue Station – Equipment Storage	N	N	N
5	Food, Water, Shelter	Village Lagoon	N	N	Y
6	Food, Water, Shelter	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Y	N	N
7	Food, Water, Shelter	Well 1	N	N	N
8	Food, Water, Shelter	Well 2	N	N	N
9	Food, Water, Shelter	Well House / Water Tower	Y	N	N

## Section Seven | Village of Valparaiso Community Profile



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team prioritized specific hazards of top concern for Valparaiso which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the prioritized hazards identified by the Village of Valparaiso. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four* and *Appendix A*.

### Flooding

A major flood in 1963 is the most significant event on record for the Village of Valparaiso. Heavy rains caused water to overtop the local roads and highways. Several families were evacuated, and three fatalities occurred in association with this flood event. The village wells are at risk of contamination or damage as they are all located within 1,000 feet of each other. The local planning team indicated agriculture irrigation is the major use for water in the area. The Village has experienced issues with high nitrates in available water resources in the past. With the assistance of the Lower Platte South NRD the Village has added terraces to reduce infiltration, capped and decommissioned abandoned wells, provided cost-share vadose zone testing around wells, and developed a Wellhead Protection Plan. Through the range of best management practices, the Village has seen a decline in nitrates from approximately 10 mg/L (the maximum contaminant level as regulated by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy) to approximately 2 mg/L. The terraces located upstream of the Village have significantly improved the flood risk for the Village of Valparaiso as they slow the water flow as it travels through or around the Village.

The March 2019 flooding event did not cause significant damage to critical facilities, but several homes in town experienced basement flooding. The Village is responsible for clearing culverts and ditches of debris, which are done on an as-needed basis. Culverts are required by the local code to be a minimum of 12 inches. In 2005-06 a new storm drain system was installed through the downtown area which has also reduced flood risk for the Village. A similar storm drain system is needed for the rest of the community. The Village has verbally communicated with homeowners about ditches and drainage issues in the community. Future plans and projects include continuing communication with the community on culvert upgrades and drainage issues along with possibly removing trees at Raccoon Creek.

Action	Hazardous Tree Inventory
Description	Conduct tree inventory Develop tree maintenance/trimming program Implement tree maintenance/trimming program Remove hazardous limbs and/or trees
Hazards Addressed	Grass/Wildfire, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes
Estimated Cost	\$50-\$5,000
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Utility Superintendent
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Status	Not yet started. The local planning team indicated Great Plains Nursery may be able to provide assistance identifying species and trees of hazardous potential.

Action	Improve Construction Standards and Building Survivability
Description	Ensure that all facilities which will house vulnerable populations are placed in the least vulnerable areas of the community. Evaluate building standards/codes/requirements; Implement new or improved building standards/codes/requirements; Promote use of higher codes and standards, such as fortified for Safer Living Standard, in order to provide greater protection for any new construction or building retrofits
Hazards Addressed	Floodings, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$0
Potential Local Funding	General Fund, Saunders County
Lead Agency	Village Board
Timeline	1 year
Priority	High
Status	Not yet started. Updates to the local building code and ordinance are needed to prohibit development in the floodplain and other hazardous areas.

Action	LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS
Description	Improve infrastructure at local lift station to hookup backup generator permanently. This would include installing wiring and transfer switch infrastructure to provide power in case of outages. Lift station located near 8 <sup>th</sup> and Oak St.
Hazards Addressed	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$25,000
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Utilities Superintendent
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

### Hazardous Materials Release (Transportation)

Chemical transportation spills are a major concern for the local planning team due to the prominent location of the Union Pacific rail line through the center of town and the high volume of semi-trucks traveling through town which can carry various forms of hazardous materials. If a train derailment were to occur, access to each side of town could be disrupted. In particular, the local elementary school and fire station are on opposite sides of the train tracks. If a train were approaching town from the south and derailed, the local planning team indicated the detour to reach the other side of the tracks would take an additional 25 to 30 minutes. While no derailment events have occurred recently, an incident in the 1970s caused damage to a fire hydrant and the local depot.

The Village has an evacuation plan that had been developed in the last 15 years, however the contact list and calling trees are out of date rendering it non-functional. There is an ongoing effort to update the local contact list for vulnerable areas and work with the local resources for shelter-in-place training. Enhancing public communication efforts is a future project identified by the local planning team.

Action	Vulnerable Population Assistance Database
Description	Develop a database of vulnerable populations and supporting organizations. Work with stakeholders to develop a database of vulnerable populations and organizations which support them
Hazards Addressed	Hazardous Materials, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Extreme Temperatures
Estimated Cost	Staff Time
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Utility Superintendent, Village Board
Timeline	1 year
Priority	High
Status	Not yet started. The local planning team has identified the local school, daycare, and trailer park as vulnerable areas but local calling trees for emergency response need to be updated.

Action	Shelter-In-Place Training
Description	Provide shelter in place training to facilities housing vulnerable populations (nursing homes, childcare facilities, schools, etc.)
Hazards Addressed	Chemical Spills (Transportation)
Estimated Cost	\$1,000 +
Potential Local Funding	General Funds, School funds, Saunders County
Lead Agency	Utility Superintendent, Fire Department, School
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not yet started. The local Fire Department and school should work together to develop a shelter-in-place exercise in the case of a chemical spill. Additional plans may be developed as part of this exercise including school evacuation and reunification plans.



## **Special District Profile**

# **Cass County Rural Water District #1**

## **Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update**



## Local Planning Team

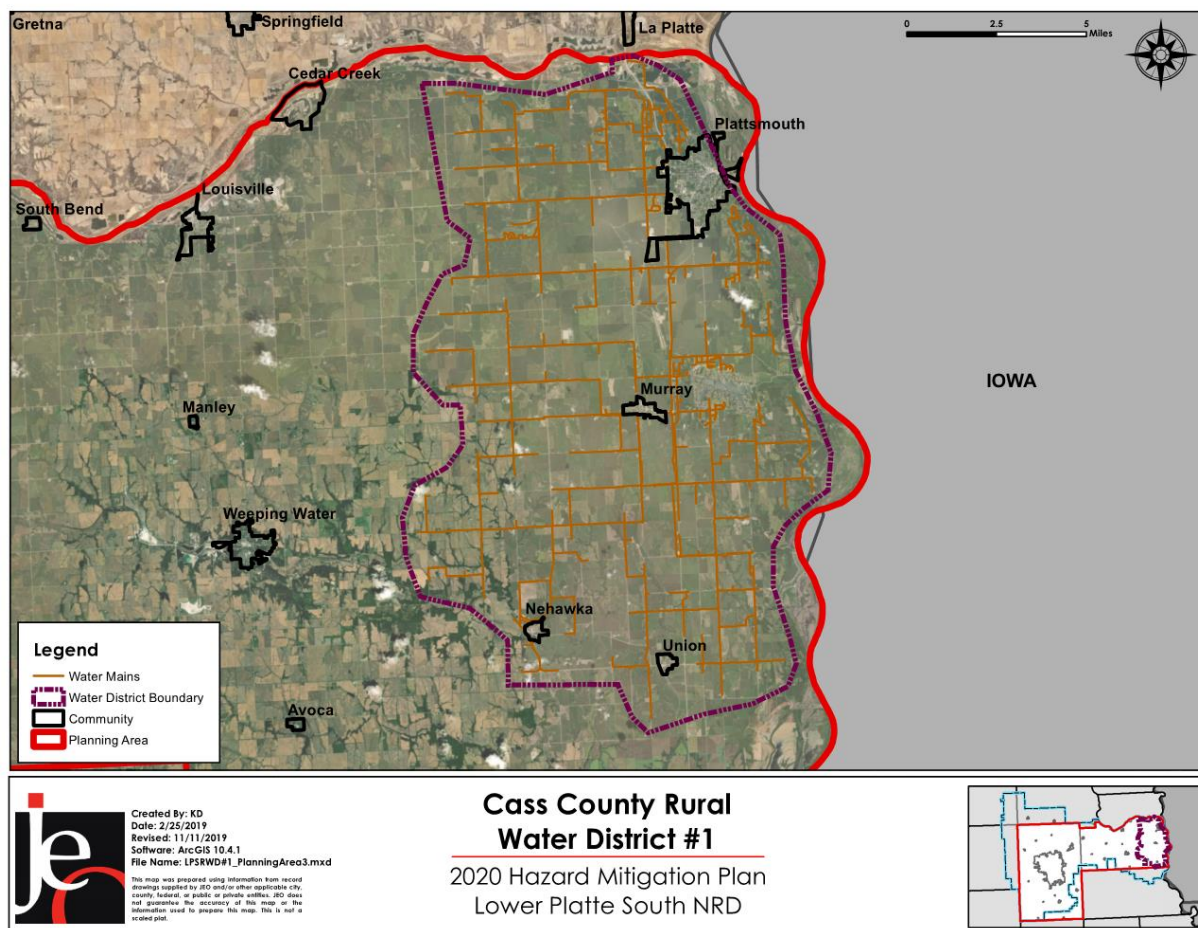
### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Gary Hellwig	General Manager	Cass County Rural Water District #1	Attended R1 meetings, profile development
Justin Stine	RWD Engineer	JEO Consulting Group	Profile Development
Chad Korte	Emergency Manager	Cass County	Profile Development; Attended Meetings
Michael Jensen	CFM Zoning Administrator	Cass County	Profile Development; Attended Meetings
Jeff Clymer	District Rep	Cass County RWD 2	Profile Development; Attended Meetings

## Location and Geography

Rural Water Districts (RWDs) are special districts primarily in rural areas that own, operate, and maintain complex 'long pipe' distribution systems. The Cass County RWD #1 office is located in Murray NE in Cass County, but the district services approximately roughly one-third of eastern Cass County. The district borders extend to Iowa on the east, Sarpy County to the north, Otoe County to the south, and Lancaster County to the west. Cass County RWD #1's service area includes the Villages of Nehawka and Murray as well as to rural agricultural users in the surrounding area. The District can also provide services through mutual aid to other surrounding communities such as Plattsmouth and Union. The RWD sells water wholesale to communities, but also provides water to over 3,000 residents across eastern Cass County.

## Section Seven | Cass County RWD #1 Profile



### Demographics

The RWD does not collect the demographic information of the district's population, nor does the U.S. Census Bureau recognize the RWD as a distinct unit. As a result, there is no population data generated specifically for the RWD, however Cass County's total estimated population in 2017 was 25,767. The following table shows the number of meters the district records. The RWD uses a factor of 2.5 residents per meter to estimate total population.

2008 Population by Meter	2013 Population by Meter	2019 Population by Meter	2024 Population by Meter
1,200	1,228	1,216	3,250

Source: Rural Water District

### Future Development Trends

The Cass County RWD #1 is actively and consistently making improvements to the water system. The district has put in new wells on Bay Road just east of Buccaneer Bay and expanded and relocated lines along Highway 75 from Plattsmouth to Murray. The RWD is currently in the process of developing a lead service line inventory to comply with EPA requirements and will include pipe replacement for any lines identified as lead in the next ten years. Other potential future projects

may include building new wells, other storage towers, and expanding the current water sources used for their supply.

---

## Transportation

Many of the water lines the RWD owns and operates run alongside or under major transportation routes throughout Cass County. Primarily Nebraska State Highways 75 and 34 experience the greatest volume of traffic. Major transportation incidents run the risk of damaging RWD infrastructure. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the district, as well as areas more at risk to transportation incidents.

---

## Governance

Local governance indicates the number of boards or offices that may be available to help implement hazard mitigation actions. Cass County RWD #1 has a number of offices that may be involved in implementing hazard mitigation initiatives. The Cass County RWD #1 has nine board members and has the ability to charge hook-up fees and water service fees.

- Field Service Technicians/Operators
- Office Administrator
- General Manager

---

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Rural Water District's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning and regulatory capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal capabilities, and education and outreach capabilities.

### Cass County RWD #5 Overall Capability

Capability	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	High	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	High	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Moderate

## Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, 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 lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.

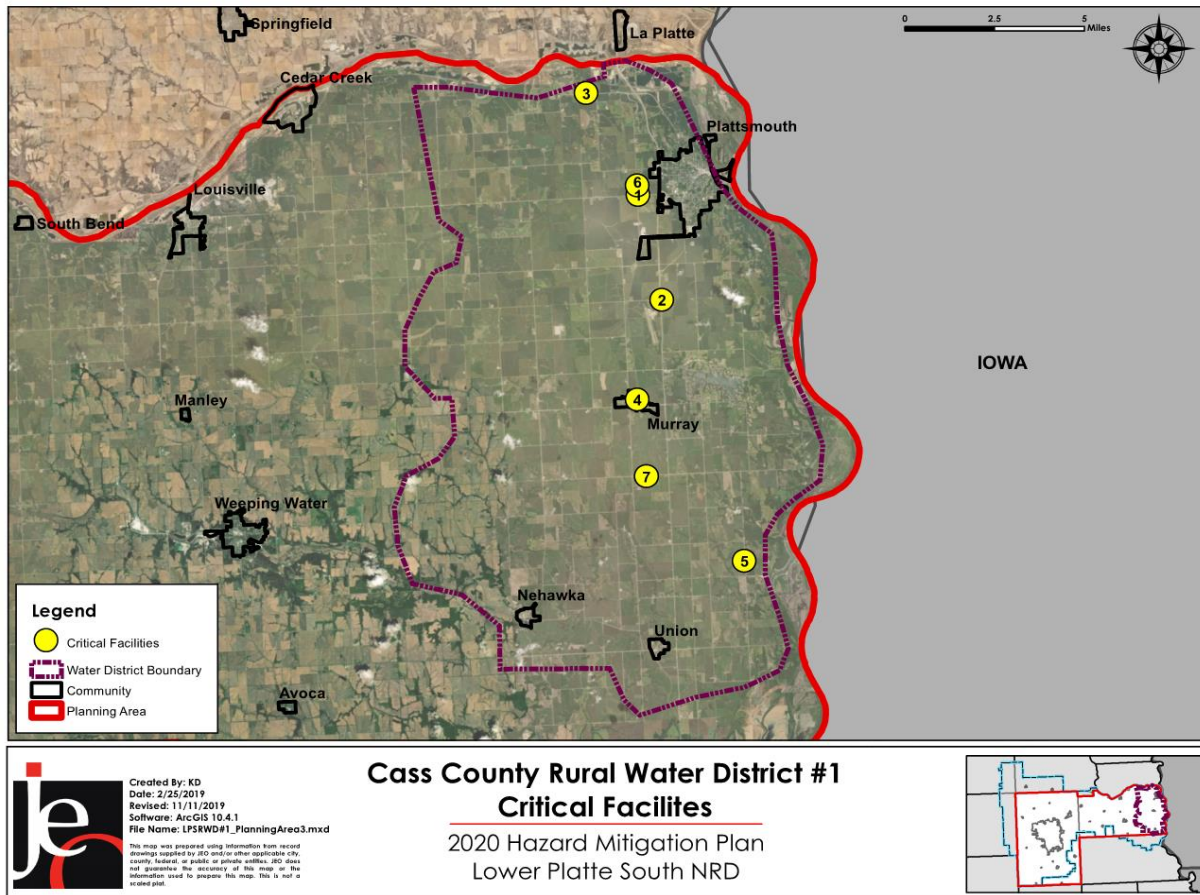


Backup generators at the south booster stations only has the capacity to run lights and secondary systems, but not the pumps themselves. Additionally, there are two water towers at the south water tower location – one which holds 500,000 gallons and one which holds 100,000 gallons.

CF #	Name	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
1	Booster Station North	N	Y	N
2	Booster Station South	N	Y	N
3	North Well House	N	Y	?
4	RWD Office & Shop	N	Y	N
5	South Well Houses*	N	Y	N
6	Water Tower North	N	N	N
7	Water Tower South (have two 500k and 100k towers)	N	N	N

\*two well houses are located at the south station with two wells at one well house and one well at a second well house

^one well house is located at the north station with two wells



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

For additional discussion regarding area wide hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*. The hazards discussed in detail below were selected by the local planning team from the regional hazard list as the relevant hazards for the jurisdiction. The selected hazards were prioritized by the local planning team based on historical hazard occurrences, potential impacts, and the district's capabilities.

### Drought

The local planning team defines drought at the local level as an extended period of time with no rain or precipitation. All residential water usage is metered within the district, but the primary concern for the local planning team is the inability to maintain an adequate water supply during periods of drought. During such periods, consumers may have a higher water usage than during non-drought conditions. The RWD does have a drought management and response plan which does identify both mandatory and voluntary water restrictions for users during periods of drought. There have been no problems with high nitrates in the area which can be exacerbated by drought conditions.



Mitigation Action	Water Conservation Awareness
Description	Implement a Water Conservation Awareness Program to conserve water use by the citizens during elongated periods of drought. Potential restrictions on water could include limitations on lawn watering, car washing, or water sold to outside sources.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Drought
Estimated Cost	\$1,000+
Potential Funding	General Fund, HMA
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Lead Agency	RWD #1
Status	Water restrictions for even/odd days and voluntary/mandatory restrictions are defined in the drought management plan; however, additional efforts should be taken to educate residents outside of periods of drought.

## Flooding

Flooding has been a major concern for the Cass County RWD. The district is bordered by the Platte River to the north and the Missouri River to the east. The flood event in 2019 threatened wells on Bay Rd south of the Platte River. Both flash and riverine flooding are a concern for the local planning team with areas along the river and creek crossings throughout the district most prone to flooding.

A supplemental flooding concern exists in the circumstance a surrounding levee system were overtopped due to heavy rainfall or failure. There are several levees located throughout the district including YMCA Camp Kitaki, Cedar Creek, and Lake WaConDa federal USACE levees. The local planning team indicated primary concerns about levee failure are centered on the Platte River which borders the district on the north. If levees along the river were to fail, drinking water wells may be at risk to damage, loss, or contamination. The mitigation actions to address flooding would also address specific concerns from levee-related flood events.

Mitigation Action	Elevate Infrastructure
Description	Elevate infrastructure to above the 100- or 500-year base flood elevation to prevent future flood damage.
Hazard(s) Addressed	Flooding
Estimated Cost	Varies by scope
Potential Funding	General Fund, State Revolving Fund, HMA
Timeline	1 year
Priority	High
Lead Agency	RWD #1
Status	This is a new mitigation action. The generators and wellheads need to be elevated.

## Removed Mitigation Actions:

Mitigation Action	Hazard Education
Description	Increase public awareness of vulnerability and risk reduction measures through hazard education.
Hazard(s) Addressed	All hazards



Status	Removed – ongoing efforts. More specific information included in the Water Conservation Awareness action related to drought specifically.
<b>Mitigation Action</b>	<b>Green Mitigation</b>
Description	Educate the public and business owners regarding rain gardens, green roofs, and other minor mitigation measures
Hazard(s) Addressed	All hazards
Status	Removed – ongoing efforts. More specific information included in the Water Conservation Awareness action related to drought specifically.

**School District Profile**

**Conestoga Public Schools**

**Lower Platte South NRD  
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan  
2025 Update**

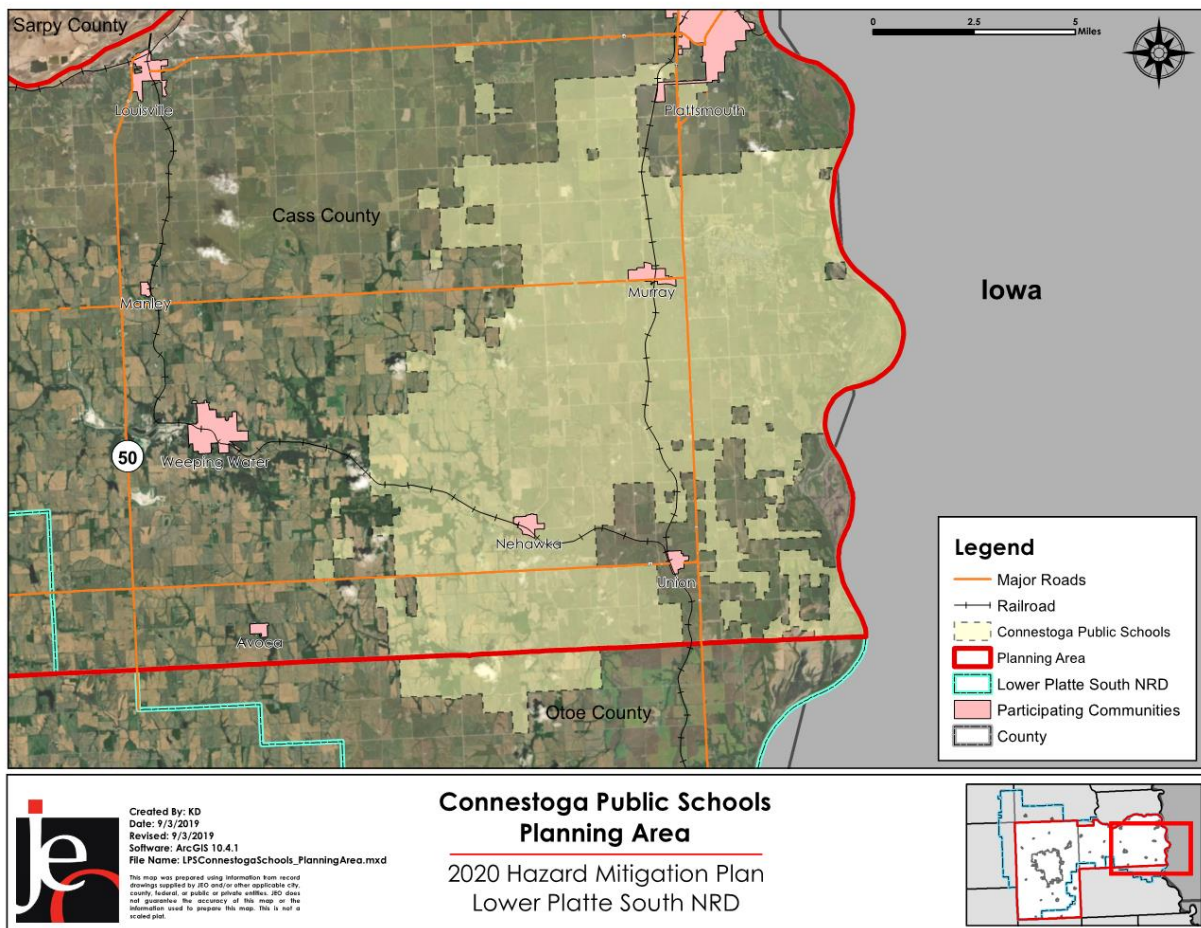
## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Michael Apple	Superintendent	Conestoga Public Schools	Profile Development

## Location and Geography

Conestoga Public Schools is in the Village of Murray in Cass County and serves two schools: Conestoga Elementary and Conestoga Junior Senior High School. The school district spans approximately 198 square miles across Cass and Otoe Counties and provides services to Nehawka, Murray, Beaver Lake, Lake WaConDa, Union, and the surrounding rural area. The schools district primarily serves English speaking students, with a very small percentage of Spanish speaking.



## 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

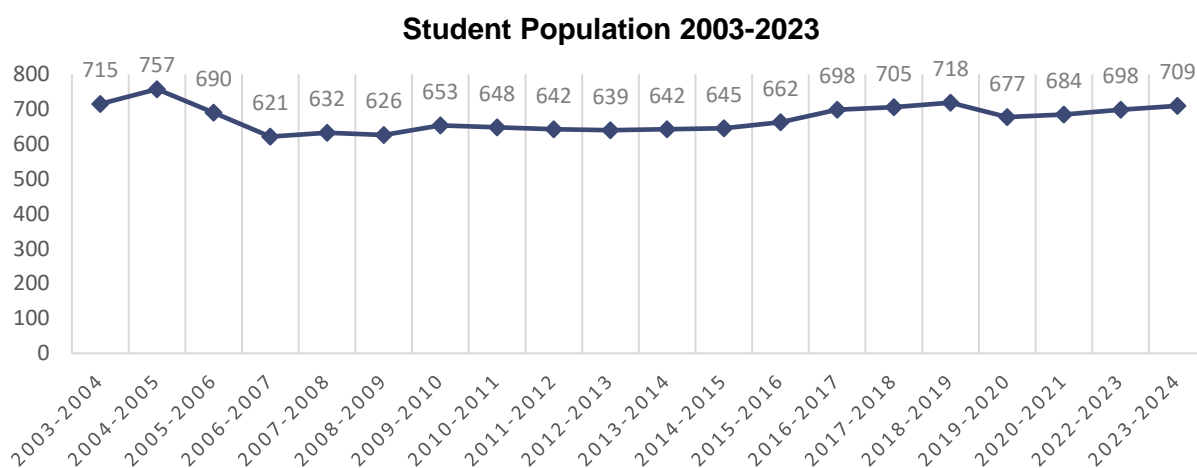
## Section Seven | Conestoga Public Schools Profile

Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin.

The Superintendent will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. Conestoga Public Schools will review the plan bi-annually and the public will be notified during the Board meetings and via social media.

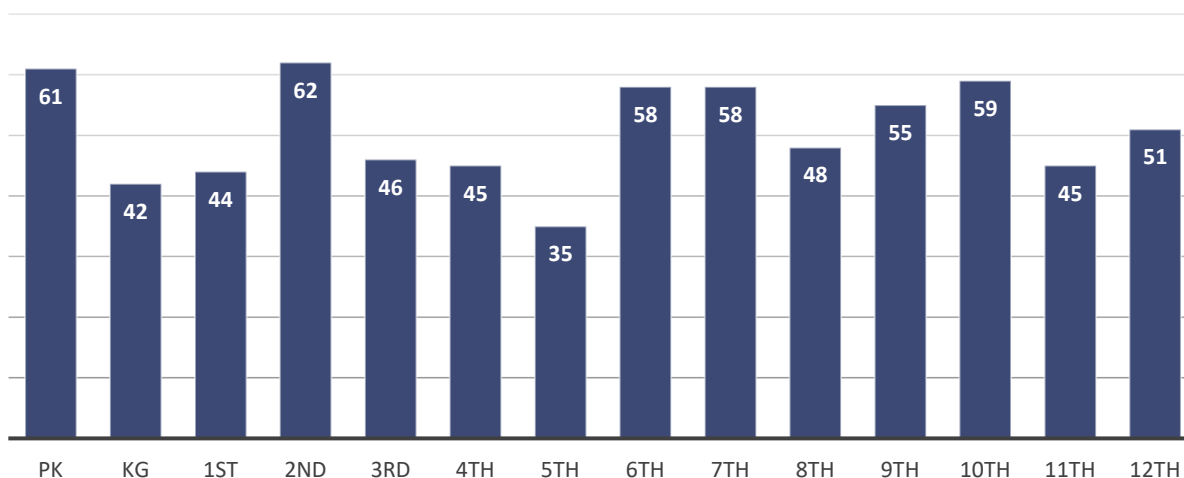
### Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2003-04 school year and ending with the 2012-23 year. It indicates that the student population has maintained a relatively steady rate since the mid-2000s, with a slight increasing trend in student body population since the 2019-2020 school year. There are 709 students currently enrolled in Conestoga Public Schools.<sup>2</sup>



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

### Number of Students by Grade, 2022-2023



<sup>2</sup> Nebraska Department of Education. August 2023. "2022-2023 Education Profile for District: Conestoga Public Schools." <https://nep.education.ne.gov/Districts/Index/13-0022-000?DataYears=20172018>.

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, followed closely by PK, 10<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The lowest population of students are in 5<sup>th</sup>. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 26% of students received either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2022-23 year. This is lower than the state average of 50%. Additionally, 16.45% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Student Statistics, 2022-2023

	SCHOOL DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
<b>FREE/REDUCED PRICED MEALS</b>	25.67%	49.69%
<b>SCHOOL MOBILITY RATE</b>	3.4%	5.5%
<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS</b>	N/A	8.37%
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS</b>	15.74%	16.45%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education<sup>3</sup>

## Future Development Trends

In the past decade the school district has constructed new football concessions and restrooms which can be used as a shelter location during severe weather events. While these facilities are not rated for tornado safe rooms, they do help provide additional protection for parents, staff, and students at extracurricular events. In the next five years the school district will be focusing on expanding education services and capacity to accommodate an increasing population. Both the Elementary school in Murray and the High School on Hwy 1 will have additions in the next five years.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the school district's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing existing policies, plans, and programs related to hazard mitigation. The following tables summarize the district's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

### Capability Assessment

CAPABILITY/PLANNING MECHANISM		YES/NO
<b>PLANNING CAPABILITY</b>	Facility Improvements Plan	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	No
	Crisis Response Plan	No
	Strategic Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; TECHNICAL CAPABILITY</b>	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>FISCAL CAPABILITY</b>	Applied for grants in the past	No
	Awarded grants in the past	No
	Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes such as mitigation projects	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
	Approved bonds in the past	No

<sup>3</sup> Nebraska Education Profile. "School Report Card." Accessed October 2024. <http://nep.education.ne.gov/Home/>.

CAPABILITY/PLANNING MECHANISM		YES/NO
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	-
<b>EDUCATION &amp; OUTREACH CAPABILITY</b>	Local school groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, Crisis Response Teams, etc.)	No
	Hazard education or information program	No
	Other (if any)	-
<b>DRILLS</b>	Fire	Monthly
	Tornado	3/ School Year
	Intruder	Monthly
	Bus evacuation	Annually
	Evacuation	Annually
	Other (if any)	-

### School District's Overall Capability

Capability	2025 Plan	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate	Limited
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate	Moderate
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Limited

### School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts the following drills with their staff and students:

- Fire – monthly
- Bus Evacuation – annually
- Tornado – three to four times a year
- Shelter in Place – monthly
- Intruder – monthly

The school district conducts regular emergency procedure training for staff with a primary emphasis on intruder drills. The Crisis Go application is used to assist the district in hazard events and training. The application also allows concerns to be submitted anonymously and can notify all staff members immediately of an emergency. In the case of school closures or hazard events, parents and staff are notified via an automated call system, social media posts, and the school district website. The District has an application called Parent Square where parents can opt-in for specific alerts. Additional safety information is available via the school newsletter.

### Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, 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 lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.





### Conestoga Schools Critical Facilities

CF #	Name	Address	# of Students	# of Staff	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
1	Conestoga Elementary	104 E High St, Murray	393	58	Y	N	N
2	Conestoga Middle/High School and Maintenance	8404 42 <sup>nd</sup> St, Murray	316	44	Y	N	N
3	District Office	8404 42 <sup>nd</sup> St, Murray	0	5	N	N	N

### Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the county, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Conestoga Public Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past significant local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by Conestoga Public Schools. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review, analysis, and full list of historical hazard events, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

#### Hazardous Materials (Transportation)

A BNSF railroad is located in close proximity to the Elementary School in the Village of Murray and the High School is situated alongside Highway 1 which sees a large volume of semi-trucks transporting hazardous chemicals. While no chemical transportation spills incidents have occurred or impacted the school, concerns exist for student and staff safety if such an event were to occur. In 2012 a buried propane tank leaked near the high school and prompted evacuations and required fire department and hazmat response. This event emphasized the concern for the district to identify appropriate chemical incident protocols. If an event were to occur students would shelter in place at the stadium, Cougar Den (weight room), and local churches in Murray.

ACTION	Continuity Planning
<b>Description</b>	Develop continuity plans for critical school services.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Dam Failure, Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfires, Hazardous Materials, High Winds and Tornadoes, Levee Failure, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Terrorism
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$0, Staff Time
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund

ACTION	Continuity Planning
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	This action has not yet been started. The district has a reunification plan for students and parents. The neighboring Village of Murray has water supply shut off problems which can disrupt services at the school facilities.

## High Winds and Tornadoes

High wind events have caused significant roof damage for school facilities, especially as the High School is located on top of a hill. The facility has had to replace the roof due to severe wind damage. The new roof has wind vents to help reduce future damages. Powerlines are all overhead to the schools. OPPD provides power to the Elementary School, while NPPD provides power to the High School. There are several large trees located on each campus but the school maintenance department cares and maintains them to prevent hazardous limbs from endangering staff, students, or parents.

Tornadoes are a hazard of top concern due to their potential to cause catastrophic damage to property and significant injury to staff and students. The bathrooms, locker rooms, and bottom floors with no windows serve as shelter locations. School officials receive weather alerts via weather radios in the new buildings or via cell phone alerts. The alert siren located in the Village of Murray is not loud enough to reach the high school. An additional siren is needed on the high school campus.

ACTION	Alert Siren
Description	Evaluate and improve current warning systems. Obtain/Upgrade warning system equipment and methods. Conduct evaluation of existing alert sirens for replacement or placement of new sirens
Hazards Addressed	Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$15,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Fund, HMA
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	This action has not yet been started. An alert siren is needed at the high school as the one located in the Village of Murray cannot be heard on campus.

ACTION	Storm Shelters
Description	Identify, design, and develop storm shelters to protect community members, students, and staff during severe weather events
Hazards Addressed	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes and High Winds
Estimated Cost	\$200-250/sf
Potential Local Funding	General Fund, HMA
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Timeline	5+ years

ACTION	Storm Shelters
Priority	Medium
Status	This action has not yet been started. Storm shelters are needed at both school facilities. A specific location at the high school has been identified which can house all students but additional funding is needed.

### Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms are a common occurrence for the planning area and across the State and are commonly accompanied by strong winds, hail, heavy rain, and lightning strikes. The school district's primary concern for severe thunderstorms is the potential for power loss. Most of the electrical lines that serve the school campus are above ground. There are no generators located at any school facilities to aid in providing power. Past severe thunderstorm events have produced hail and wind which damaged roofs and property and lightning strikes which caused power surges and damaged school computers. The school district now has surge protectors in place. However, there are no lightning rods on the school facilities, prompting concerns for the local planning team. The bathrooms, locker rooms, and bottom floor areas with no windows are used as shelter locations. Trees receive annual maintenance to remove dead or dying limbs that could pose a hazard to property or people.

ACTION	Public Education
Description	Increase public awareness of vulnerability and risk reduction measures through hazard education.
Hazards Addressed	Dam Failure, Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfires, Hazardous Materials, High Winds and Tornadoes, Levee Failure, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Terrorism
Estimated Cost	\$1,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Funds
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Medium
Status	This action has not yet been started. The district regularly sends information through the newsletters to staff and parents about safety procedures.

### Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms can include blizzards, extreme cold, ice accumulation, and winter weather conditions. The school district is primarily concerned with loss of power to provide heat to the facilities and limited or blocked transportation routes from heavy snow for school buses. No school facilities have a backup generator. The District contracts with their bus provider and provides services to students in the surrounding rural area with unpaved roads. Ice accumulation and heavy snow can make accessing these areas hazardous. Roads around Beaver Lake can be particularly hazardous during icy conditions. Snow removal for the school is done by the maintenance department.

ACTION	Backup Generators
Description	Provide portable or stationary source of backup power to school facilities or other critical facilities. Additional generator is needed to

ACTION	Backup Generators
	provide heat during winter power loss events and assist in designating school as a community shelter location.
Hazards Addressed	Hazardous Materials, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, High Winds and Tornadoes, Terrorism, Extreme Temperatures, Grass/Wildfire, Flooding
Estimated Cost	\$250,000
Potential Local Funding	General Fund, HMA
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	This action has not yet been started. Both school facilities need backup generators.

## Terrorism

While no terrorism events have occurred which impacted the Conestoga Public School District, the safety of staff and students is a top priority. The elementary school has several access points which have been fitted with exit only doors and prevent entry. All entries are funneled through the main entrance to be screened by the main office. However, the high school has several doors that need to be reinforced or have secure access. The high school also has two main entrances which require guests to be buzzed in by a staff member. The District has identified improved school entry security measures in their Building Improvements Plan. Additionally, the district has upgraded security cameras on both campuses within the last few years.

ACTION	Vehicular Barriers
Description	Install vehicular barriers to protect critical facilities and key infrastructure where possible.
Hazards Addressed	Terrorism
Estimated Cost	\$5,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Fund, HMA
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Low
Status	This action has not yet been started. Barriers are needed at both facilities. The elementary school has identified a need for barriers along High St. The high school is still in need of an evaluation for where to locate barriers.

**School District Profile**

**Lincoln Public Schools**

**Lower Platte South NRD  
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan  
2025 Update**

## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
<b>Scott Wieskamp</b>	Director of Operation	Lincoln Public Schools, District 1	Attend Meetings, Profile Development
<b>Brooke Hay</b>	Assistant Director of Operations	Lincoln Public Schools, District 1	Profile Development
<b>Tim Loseke</b>	Assistant Supervisor of Maintenance	Lincoln Public Schools, District 1	Profile Development
<b>Anthony Meints</b>	Environmental Coordinator	Lincoln Public Schools, District 1	Profile Development
<b>Dr. Paul Gausman</b>	Superintendent	Lincoln Public Schools, District 1	Profile Development

## Location and Geography

Lincoln Public Schools primarily serves the City of Lincoln NE in Lancaster County. The district includes 76 public schools across the city of Lincoln. Lincoln Public Schools provides opt-in services to students in the following areas: Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools, Crete Public Schools, East Butler Public Schools, Freeman Public Schools, Johnson County Central Public Schools, Malcolm Public Schools, Milford Public Schools, Norris School District, Omaha Public Schools, Palmyra District O R 1, Raymond Central Public Schools, Seward Public Schools, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Schools, Wahoo Public Schools, Waverly School District 145, and Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools.

Other than English, the school district speaks and provides translation for 133 different languages. The top seven languages are 1) Spanish, 2) Arabic, 3) Vietnamese, 4) Karen, 5) Russian, 6) Farsi/Dari/Pashto, and 7) Kurdish/Kurmanji.

## 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.

The Director of Operations, Assistant Director of Operations, and Environmental Coordinator will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. Lincoln Public Schools will review the plan bi-annually and the public will be notified during the District 1 School Board/Committee meetings, LPS Communications, and on the website.

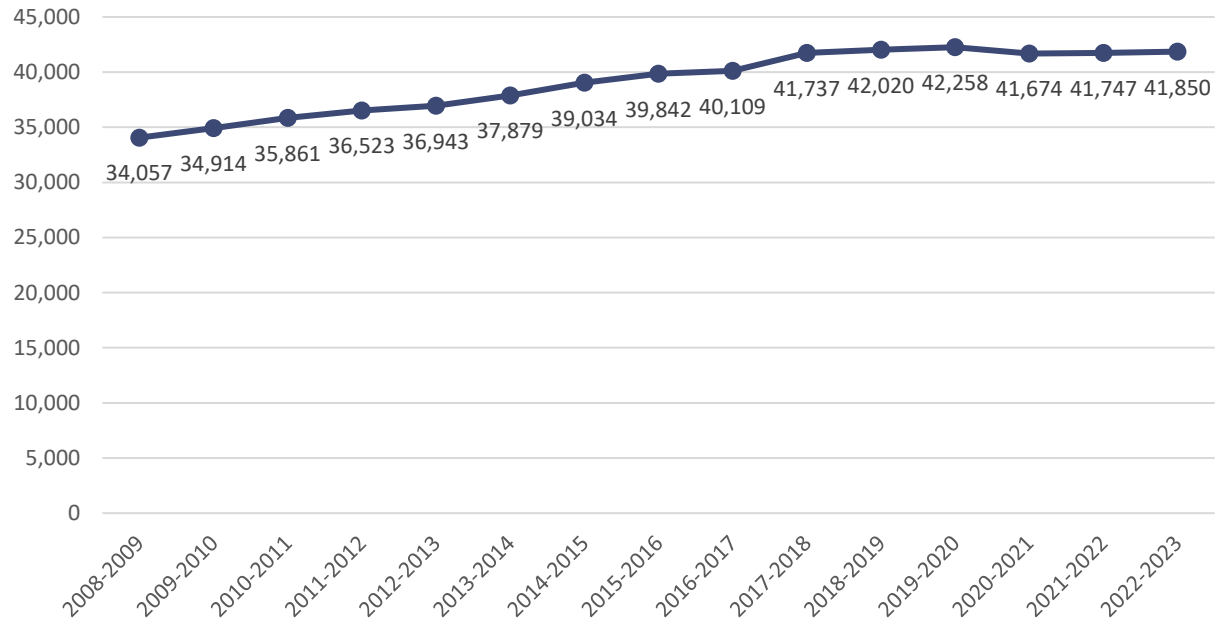
## Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2008-2009 school year and ending with the 2022-23 year. It indicates that the student population has increased until the 2018-2019 school year and then has a slight decrease in the last four school



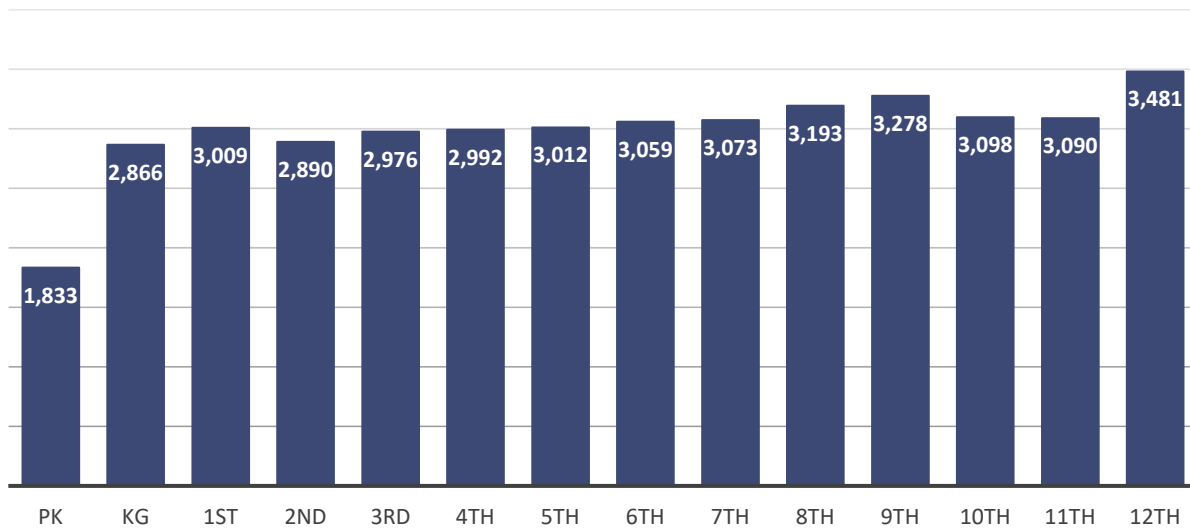
years. Currently there are 41,850 students enrolled in Lincoln Public Schools.<sup>4</sup> The school district anticipates a slight decline in enrollment through the 2028-29 school year, which is consistent with the Lincoln/Lancaster County growth projections.

**Student Population 2008-2023**



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

**Number of Students by Grade, 2022-2023**



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

<sup>4</sup> Nebraska Department of Education. August 2023. "2022-2023 Education Profile for District: Raymond Central Public Schools." <https://nep.education.ne.gov/Districts/Index/55-0161-000?DataYears=20222023>

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The lowest population of students are in Pre-Kindergarten. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), almost 47% of students received either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2022-23 year. This is lower than the state average of 50%. Additionally, about 17% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

**Student Statistics, 2022-2023**

	SCHOOL DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
<b>FREE/REDUCED PRICED MEALS</b>	46.6%	49.69%
<b>SCHOOL MOBILITY RATE</b>	7.7%	5.5%
<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS</b>	6.62%	8.37%
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS</b>	16.57%	16.45%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education<sup>5</sup>

## Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, student enrollment has leveled off, two new high schools and an elementary school were constructed, additions and interior renovation upgrades and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Projects were done to several different existing facilities. Additional staff were hired with the increase of district square feet. Artificial turf has been installed as play areas at smaller elementary schools and district-wide upgrades were made to play equipment. The district has been upgrading infrastructure with the 2019 bond and continues to work on a “Long Range Plan” which includes infrastructure and facilities. Over the next several years, a new Student Support Program Facilities is planned to be built with a completion date of January 1, 2027. Possible upgrades and renovations are expected in the future.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the school district’s hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing existing policies, plans, and programs related to hazard mitigation. The following tables summarize the district’s planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

### Capability Assessment

CAPABILITY/PLANNING MECHANISM		YES/NO
<b>PLANNING CAPABILITY</b>	Facility Improvements Plan	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Crisis Response Plan	No
	Strategic Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; TECHNICAL CAPABILITY</b>	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>FISCAL CAPABILITY</b>	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes

<sup>5</sup> Nebraska Education Profile. “School Report Card.” Accessed August 2019. <http://nep.education.ne.gov/Home/>.

CAPABILITY/PLANNING MECHANISM		YES/NO
	Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes such as mitigation projects	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	Yes
	Approved bonds in the past	Yes
	Flood Insurance	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>EDUCATION &amp; OUTREACH CAPABILITY</b>	Local school groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, Crisis Response Teams, etc.)	Yes
	Hazard education or information program	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>DRILLS</b>	Fire	10 / School Year
	Tornado	2 / School Year
	Intruder	2 / School Year
	Bus evacuation	2 / School Year (Bus Riders) 3 / School Year (Early Childhood)
	Evacuation	10 / School Year
	Other (if any)	-

#### School District's Overall Capability

Capability	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	High
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	High
Public Support to Implement Projects	High
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	High
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	High

#### Administration

The school district has a superintendent, 66 principals, 68 assistant principals, and supportive staff. The school board is made up of a 7-member panel. The district also has a number of additional departments and staff that may be available to implement hazard mitigation initiatives. Additional offices and committees which will assist with hazard mitigation related activities include Operations, Safety and Security, and Environmental.

#### School Drills and Staff Training

Administration is trained annually on how to respond using the school district's Incident Response Guide (IRG) located in their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The district supplies scenarios for administration to use monthly that can also be shared with staff. Staff and students drill 16 times during the year and are shown a video before each drill to teach/re-teach expectations. Staff also watch the main video to start the school year and complete a quiz over the protocols. The Threat Assessment Team also conducts annual training and has set up Threat Assessment Training 101 and 201 over the past three years, which is focused more directly on teaching staff.

All emergency response procedures can be found on the district's internal website under "Standard Response Protocols," and includes all videos and teaching materials. There is also a

website link to the “ILoveUGuys” Foundation that has additional materials. Each time a school goes into protocol, a message to families is sent to find the district response protocols. Notifications are also sent to families when schools conduct drills with the exception of evacuation drills which is only messaged after the first evacuation drill of each semester. All messaging is translated along with all protocol information.

## Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, 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 lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communications; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



CF #	Name	Address	# of Students	# of Staff	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
1	Adams Elementary School	7401 Jacobs Creek Dr, Lincoln, NE 68512	758	75	N	Y	N
2	Arnold Elementary School	5000 Mike Scholl St, Lincoln, NE 68524	388	91	N	Y	N
3	Arts and Humanities Focus Program	643 S 25th St #9, Lincoln, NE 68510	80-90	8	N	Y	N
4	Bay High Focus Program	2005 Y St, Lincoln, NE 68503	45-50	8	N	N	N
5	Beattie Elementary School	1901 Calvert St, Lincoln, NE 68502	350	50	N	Y	N
6	Belmont Elementary School	3425 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68521	788	104	N	Y	N
7	Brownell Elementary School	6000 Aylesworth Ave, Lincoln, NE 68505	335	46	N	Y	N
8	Bryan Community School / High School Student Support Program	300 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68510	125-145	30	N	Y	N
9	Calvert Elementary School	3709 S 46th St, Lincoln, NE 68506	336	49	N	Y	N
10	Cambell Elementary School	2200 Dodge St, Lincoln, NE 68521	649	87	N	Y	N
11	Cavett Elementary School	7701 S 36th St, Lincoln, NE 68516	561	58	N	Y	N
12	Clinton Elementary School	1520 N 29th St, Lincoln, NE 68503	419	67	N	Y	N
13	Culler Middle School	5201 Vine St, Lincoln, NE 68504	679	108	N	Y	N
14	Dawes Middle School	5130 Colfax Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504	395	72	N	Y	N

## Section Seven | Lincoln Public Schools Profile

CF #	Name	Address	# of Students	# of Staff	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
15	Donald D Sherrill Education Center	330 N 56th St, Lincoln, NE 68504	0	67	N	Y	N
16	Early Childhood at Northwest High School	4901 W Holdrege St, Lincoln, NE 68516	27	N/A	N	Y	N
17	Early Childhood at Standing Bear High School	11100 S 70 <sup>th</sup> St, Lincoln, NE 68516	18	N/A	N	Y	N
18	Eastridge Elementary School	6632 Taylor Park Dr, Lincoln, NE 68510	279	35	N	Y	N
19	ECSE – Homebased	300 S 48 <sup>th</sup> St, Lincoln, NE 68510	510	16	N	-	N
20	Educare of Lincoln	3435 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68521	137	53	N	Y	N
21	Elliot Elementary School	225 S 25th St, Lincoln, NE 68510	382	71	N	Y	N
22	Everett Elementary School	1123 C St, Lincoln, NE 68502	413	80	N	Y	N
23	Fredstrom Elementary School	5700 NW 10th St, Lincoln, NE 68521	435	56	N	Y	N
24	Goodrich Middle School	4600 Lewis Ave, Lincoln, NE 68521	852	116	N	Y	N
25	Hartley Elementary School	730 N 33rd St, Lincoln, NE 68503	333	55	N	Y	N
26	Hill Elementary School	5230 Tipperary Trail, Lincoln, NE 68512	396	55	N	Y	N
27	Holmes Elementary School	5230 Sumner St, Lincoln, NE 68506	387	51	N	Y	N
28	Humann Elementary School	6720 Rockwood Ln, Lincoln, NE 68516	506	63	N	Y	N
29	Huntington Elementary School	2900 N 46th St, Lincoln, NE 68504	358	66	N	Y	N
30	Infant Toddler at Bryan Community School	300 S 48 <sup>th</sup> St, Lincoln, NE 68510	8	N/A	N	Y	N
31	Infant Toddler at Lincoln High School	2229 J St, Lincoln, NE 68510	7	N/A	N	Y	N
32	Infant Toddler at Lincoln Northeast High School	2635 N 63 <sup>rd</sup> St, Lincoln, NE 68507	2	N/A	N	Y	N
33	Irving Middle School	2745 S 22nd St, Lincoln, NE 68502	827	102	N	Y	N
34	Kahoa Elementary School	7700 Leighton Ave, Lincoln, NE 68507	436	48	N	Y	N
35	Kloefkorn Elementary School	6601 Glass Ridge Dr, Lincoln, NE 68526	495	50	N	Y	N
36	Kooser Elementary School	7301 N 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68521	898	89	N	Y	N
37	Lakeview Elementary School	300 Capitol Beach Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68528	392	58	N	Y	N
38	Lefler Middle School	1100 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68510	610	87	N	Y	N
39	Lincoln East High School	1000 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68510	2,073	207	N	Y	N

## Section Seven | Lincoln Public Schools Profile

CF #	Name	Address	# of Students	# of Staff	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
40	Lincoln High School	2229 J St, Lincoln, NE 68510	2,118	237	N	Y	N
41	Lincoln Northeast High School	2635 N 63rd St, Lincoln, NE 68507	1,769	211	N	Y	N
42	Lincoln Southeast High School	2930 S 37th St, Lincoln, NE 68506	1,878	198	N	Y	N
43	LPS Career Academy	8800 O St, Lincoln, NE 68520	700-800	16	N	-	N
44	LPS Graduation Pathways Program	8800 O St, Lincoln, NE 68520	125	7.5	N	-	N
45	Lux Middle School	7800 High St, Lincoln, NE 68506	806	96	N	Y	N
46	Maxey Elementary School	5200 S 75th St, Lincoln, NE 68516	665	72	N	Y	N
47	McPhee Elementary School	820 Goodhue Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68508	274	54	N	Y	N
48	Meadow Lane Elementary School	7200 Vine St, Lincoln, NE 68505	549	70	N	Y	N
49	Mickle Middle School	2500 N 67th St, Lincoln, NE 68507	702	82	N	Y	N
50	Moore Middle School	8700 Yankee Woods Dr, Lincoln, NE 68526	760	73	N	Y	N
51	Morley Elementary School	6800 Monterey Dr, Lincoln, NE 68506	363	43	N	Y	N
52	North Star High School	5801 N 33rd St, Lincoln, NE 68504	1,913	215	N	Y	N
53	Northwest High School	4901 W Holdrege St, Lincoln, NE 68528	902	126	N	Y	N
54	Norwood Park Elementary School	4710 N 72nd St, Lincoln, NE 68507	254	46	N	Y	N
55	Middle School Student Support Program / Nuernberger Education Center	1801 S 40th St, Lincoln, NE 68506	150-170	30	N	Y	N
56	Park Middle School	855 S 8th St, Lincoln, NE 68508	784	109	N	Y	N
57	Pershing Elementary School	6402 Judson St, Lincoln, NE 68507	436	65	N	Y	N
58	Pound Middle School	4740 S 45th St, Lincoln, NE 68516	719	86	N	Y	N
59	Prescott Elementary School	1930 S 20th St, Lincoln, NE 68502	506	78	N	Y	N
60	Pyrtle Elementary School	721 Cottonwood Dr, Lincoln, NE 68510	450	55	N	Y	N
61	Randolph Elementary School	1024 S 37th St, Lincoln, NE 68510	450	65	N	Y	N
62	Riley Elementary School	5021 Orchard St, Lincoln, NE 68504	276	42	N	Y	N
63	Robinson Elementary School	1350 N 102nd St, Lincoln, NE 68527	348	51	N	Y	N
64	Roper Elementary School	2323 S Coddington Ave, Lincoln, NE 68522	851	95	N	Y	N
65	Rousseau Elementary School	3701 S 33rd St, Lincoln, NE 68506	558	64	N	Y	N

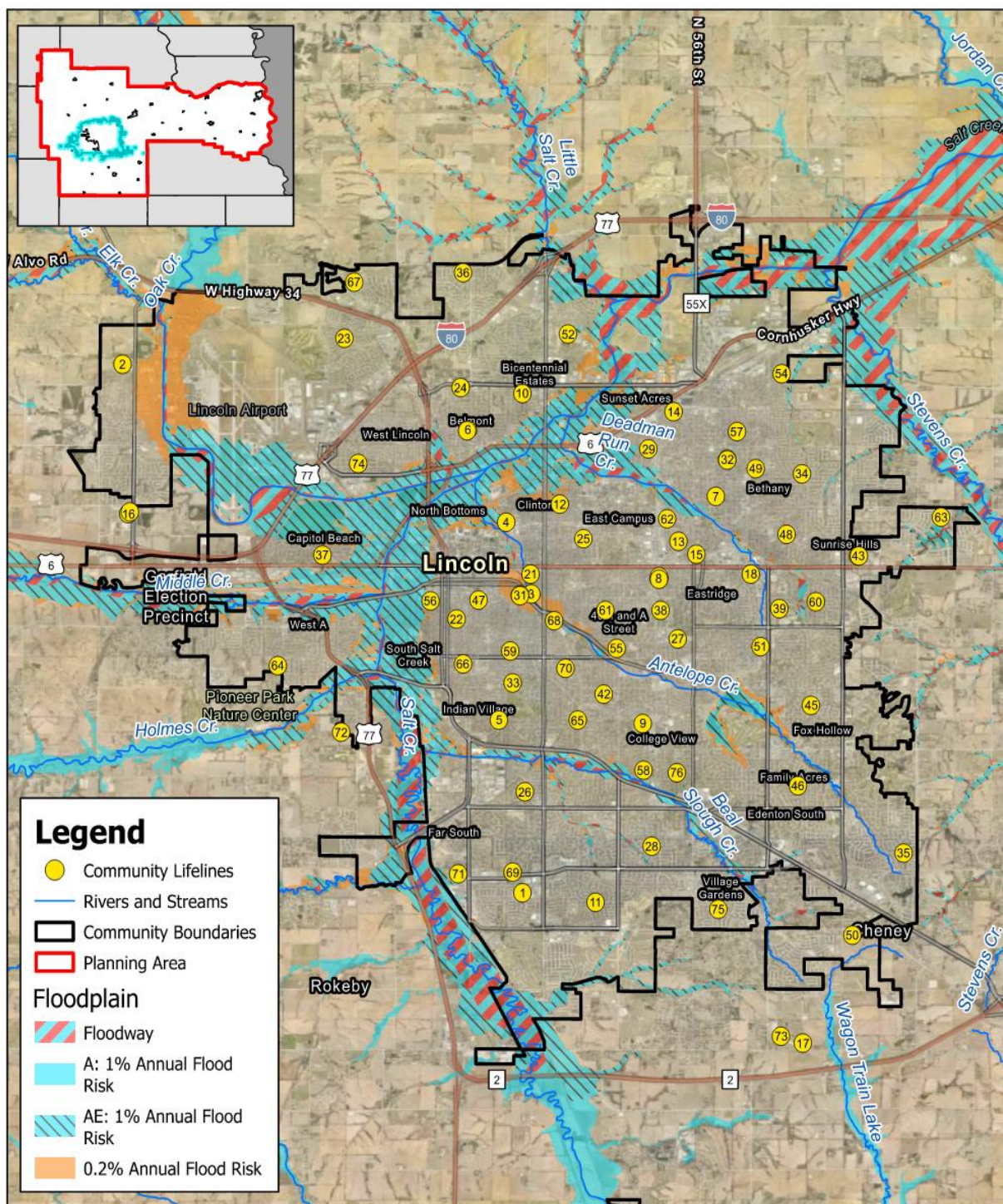


## Section Seven | Lincoln Public Schools Profile

CF #	Name	Address	# of Students	# of Staff	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
66	Saratoga Elementary School	2215 S 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68502	225	45	N	Y	N
67	Schoo Middle School	700 Penrose Dr, Lincoln, NE 68521	926	108	N	Y	N
68	Science Focus Program	1222 S 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68502	85-95	8	N	N	N
69	Scott Middle School	2200 Pine Lake Rd, Lincoln, NE 68512	1,102	114	N	Y	N
70	Sheridan Elementary School	3100 Plymouth Ave, Lincoln, NE 68502	372	46	N	Y	N
71	Southwest High School	7001 S 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68512	317	188	N	Y	N
72	Special Ed Yankee Hill Program	865 W Burnham St, Lincoln, NE 68522	70-85	25	N	Y	N
73	Standing Bear High School	11100 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68516	317	71	N	Y	N
74	West Lincoln Elementary School	630 W Dawes Ave, Lincoln, NE 68521	466	63	N	Y	N
75	Wysong Elementary	7901 Blanchard Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68516	734	68	N	Y	N
76	Zeman Elementary School	4900 S 52nd St, Lincoln, NE 68516	379	48	N	Y	N

*\*All schools may be used as a shelter location if necessary for students and staff. High School facilities may be used as a community shelter during disaster events.*

## Section Seven | Lincoln Public Schools Profile



Created By: SO  
Date: 12/30/2024  
Software: ArcGIS Pro  
File: Lower Platte South NRD.aprx

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### Lincoln Public Schools Community Lifelines

Lower Platte South NRD  
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025



0 1.3 2.6  
Miles

## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

For additional discussion regarding area wide hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*. The hazards discussed in detail below were selected by the local planning team from the regional hazard list as the relevant hazards for the jurisdiction. The selected hazards were prioritized by the local planning team based on historical hazard occurrences, potential impacts, and the district's capabilities.

### High Winds and Tornadoes

High winds and tornadoes are a concern for the school district due to their potential to cause catastrophic damage to property and injury to staff and students. Downed trees and damage to fencing were reported from a tornado event in summer of 2024. The planning team has identified upsizing and increasing fence post gauge to limit potential damage from future tornadic and high wind events.

ACTION	Increase Fence Post Gauge
Description	Improve and/or replace fencing gauge posts surrounding school facilities to reduce damages, prevent flying debris, and reduce snow drifting.
Hazards Addressed	High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	Varies by facility
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Maintenance
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Low
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

### Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms are a common occurrence in the planning area, and are commonly accompanied by strong winds, hail, heavy rain, and lightning strikes. The school district is primarily concerned with hail damage, especially as there are multiple sites that can lead to extreme exposure throughout the City of Lincoln. Lincoln Public Schools has reduced the number of equipment and skylights to limit potential damages and is investigating high impact roof systems to reduce future risks.

ACTION	Lightning Rods
Description	Evaluate existing infrastructure for all school facilities. Install lightning rods in strategic locations at high points.
Hazards Addressed	Severe Thunderstorms
Estimated Cost	\$2,500+
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Administration, Maintenance
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Medium
Status	This is a new mitigation action.



<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Hail Resistant Roofing</b>
<b>Description</b>	Install hail resistant roofing for school facilities.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Severe Thunderstorms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	Varies by facility
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	Facilities Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Administration, Maintenance
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	This is a new mitigation action.

### Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms are a concern for the school district as they can cause roof damage. Drifting on roads and associated leaks from severe winter weather have occurred to facilities in Lincoln Public Schools. The school district has not completed projects to reduce the risk from severe winter storms. The Superintendent is authorized to close public schools in the case of severe winter weather and will notify local news and update the district's social media. Households can sign up for personal messaging to notify parents and guardians of school closures due to weather.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Backup Generators</b>
<b>Description</b>	Evaluate backup generator status for all school facilities and update or upsize generators as needed.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Hazardous Materials Release, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$15,000-\$30,000+
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Administration
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	This is a new mitigation action.

## **School District Profile**

# **Norris Public Schools**

## **Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update**

## Local Planning Team

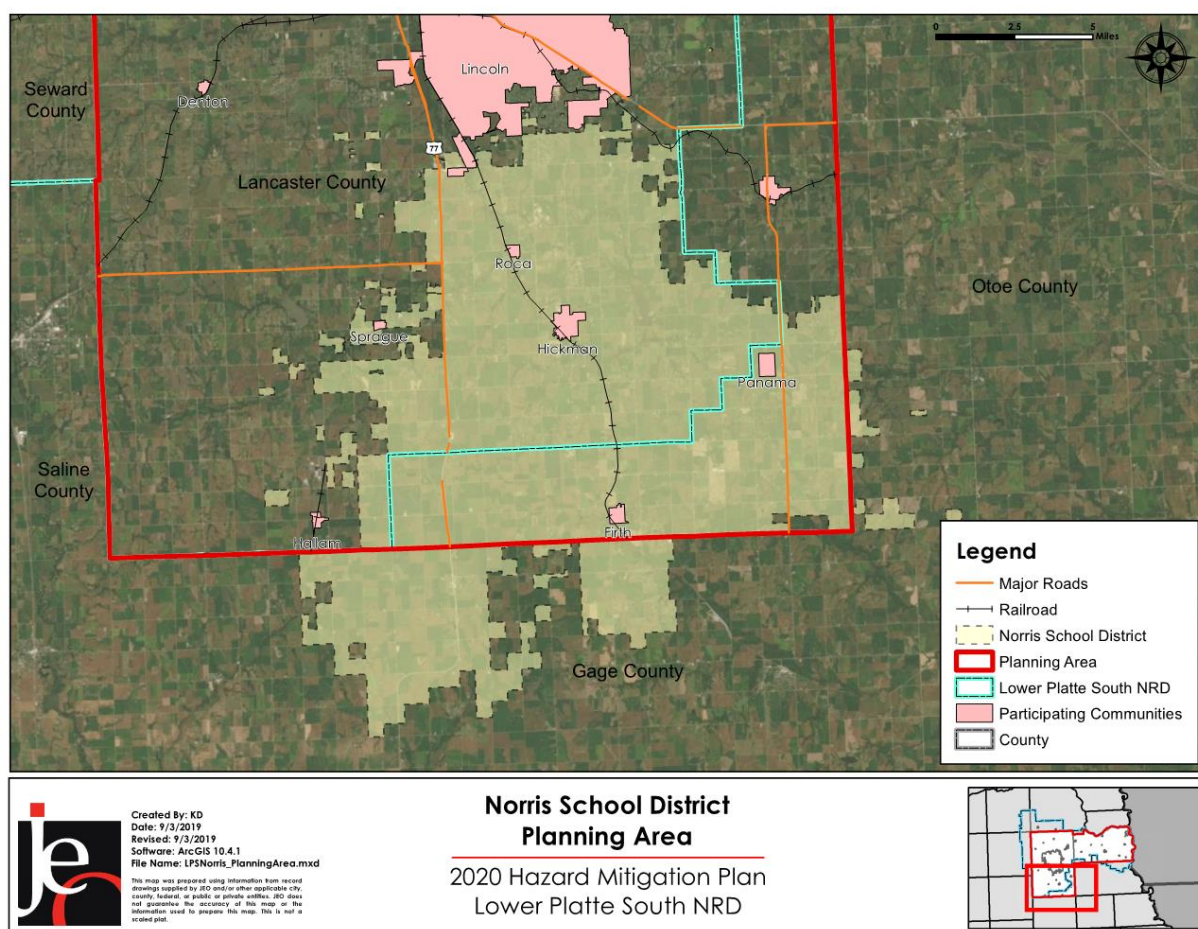
### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Sean Molley	Assistant Superintendent	Norris Public Schools	Profile Development
Derrick Joel	Superintendent	Norris Public Schools	Profile Development

## Location and Geography

Norris Public Schools is based in the Village of Firth in Lancaster County and serves one elementary school, one intermediate school, one middle school, and one high school in Firth. The school district provides services to students in Hickman, Firth, Cortland, Panama, Roca, Princeton, and Holland and spans approximately 168 square miles in Lancaster, Otoe, and Gage Counties. There are no other major changes to the communities Norris School District serves or provides services to.

### Norris Public Schools District





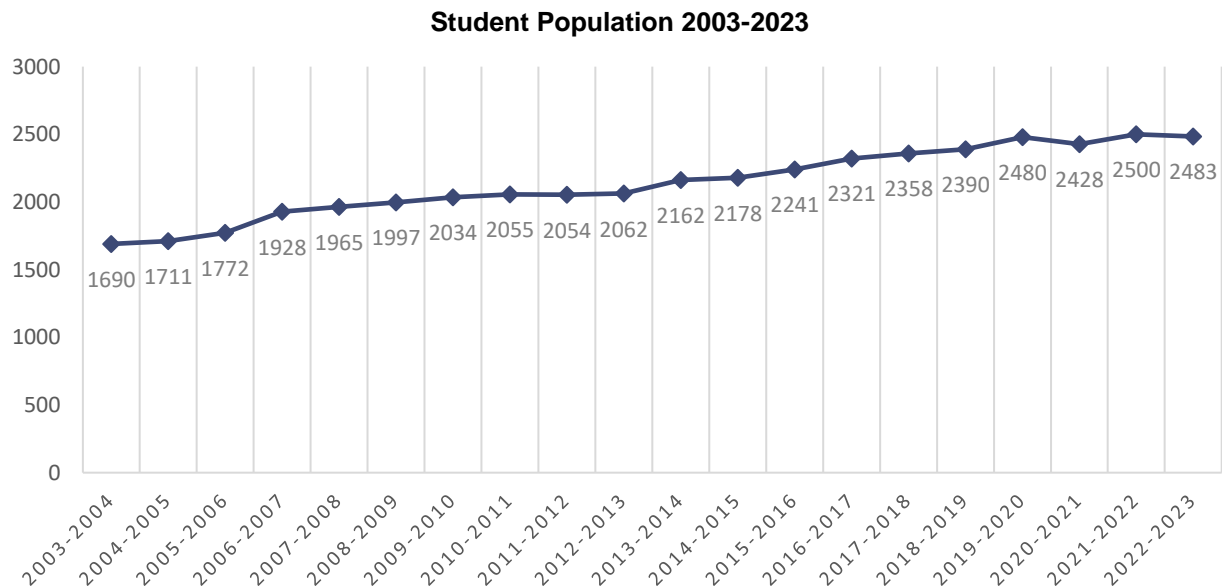
## Plan Maintenance

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.

The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Maintenance, Director of Grounds, and Building Principals will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. Norris School District will review the plan bi-annually and the public will be notified during the open session of a local school board meeting.

## Demographics

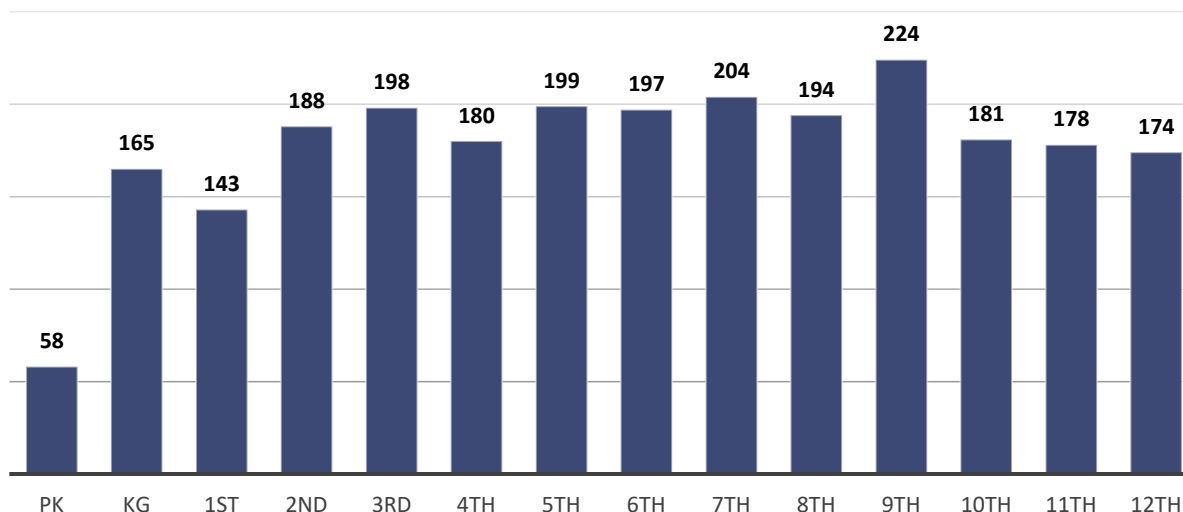
The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2003-04 school year and ending with the 2022-23 year. It indicates that the student population has been increased gradually since the early 2000s. Currently, there are 2,483 students enrolled in Norris Public Schools.<sup>6</sup> On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Robert Schwartz, RSP presented the findings of the Enrollment Analysis to the Board of Education. The analysis forecasted little student population growth in the near future.



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

<sup>6</sup> Nebraska Department of Education. December 2023. "2022-2023 Education Profile for District: Waverly Public Schools." <https://nep.education.ne.gov/snapshot.html#55-0145-000>.

Number of Students by Grade, 2022-2023



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by 7<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The lowest population of students are in Pre-Kindergarten. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 11% of students received either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2022-23 year. This is lower than the state average of 50%. Additionally, about 8% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

Student Statistics, 2022-2023

	SCHOOL DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
FREE/REDUCED PRICED MEALS	11.4%	49.69%
SCHOOL MOBILITY RATE	2.19%	5.5%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	0.7%	8.37%
SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS	7.84%	16.45%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education<sup>7</sup>

## Future Development Trends

There have been no new major developments for the school district in the last five years. Some staffing changes have occurred due to retirements, attrition, etc. Regarding facilities, improvements to HVAC systems are on-going. The school district is currently in the process of adding tennis courts and a baseball field to our campus, which is the result of a lease purchase and donations. Administration and the Board of Education are in the early stages of discussing a potential future bond. The bond would assist the district in creating new classroom spaces, secured entrances, and other miscellaneous facility updates. Currently, Norris School District is interviewing architects/engineers as part of a RFP process. The hope is the architectural firm selected will assist the district in cost estimating for the potential future bond.

<sup>7</sup> Nebraska Education Profile. "School Report Card." Accessed August 2019. <http://nep.education.ne.gov/Home/>.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the school district's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing existing policies, plans, and programs related to hazard mitigation. The following tables summarize the district's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

### Capability Assessment

CAPABILITY/PLANNING MECHANISM		YES/NO
PLANNING CAPABILITY	Facility Improvements Plan	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Crisis Response Plan	Yes
	Strategic Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
ADMINISTRATION & TECHNICAL CAPABILITY	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	
FISCAL CAPABILITY	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes such as mitigation projects	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	Yes
	Approved bonds in the past	Yes
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
EDUCATION & OUTREACH CAPABILITY	Local school groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, Crisis Response Teams, etc.)	Yes
	Hazard education or information program	No
	Other (if any)	
DRILLS	Fire	Monthly
	Tornado	Twice a Year
	Intruder	Quarterly
	Bus evacuation	Twice a Year
	Evacuation	Annually
	Other (if any)	

### Norris Public Schools Overall Capability

Capability	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate	Moderate
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Moderate

### School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts the following drills with their staff and students:

- Fire – monthly

## Section Seven | Norris Public School District Profile

- Tornado – twice a year
- Bus Evacuation – twice a year
- Active Shooter/Crisis – quarterly

The school district conducts regular trainings for the Administration team through ALICE, safety workshops, and internal assessments. All teachers have received ALICE training, attend annual safety trainings, and are part of the Safe Schools program. Information about safety procedures are shared with students, parents, and staff through the school newsletter, district website, and regular drills. Parents are notified of emergency events via letters, emails, or text message alerts.

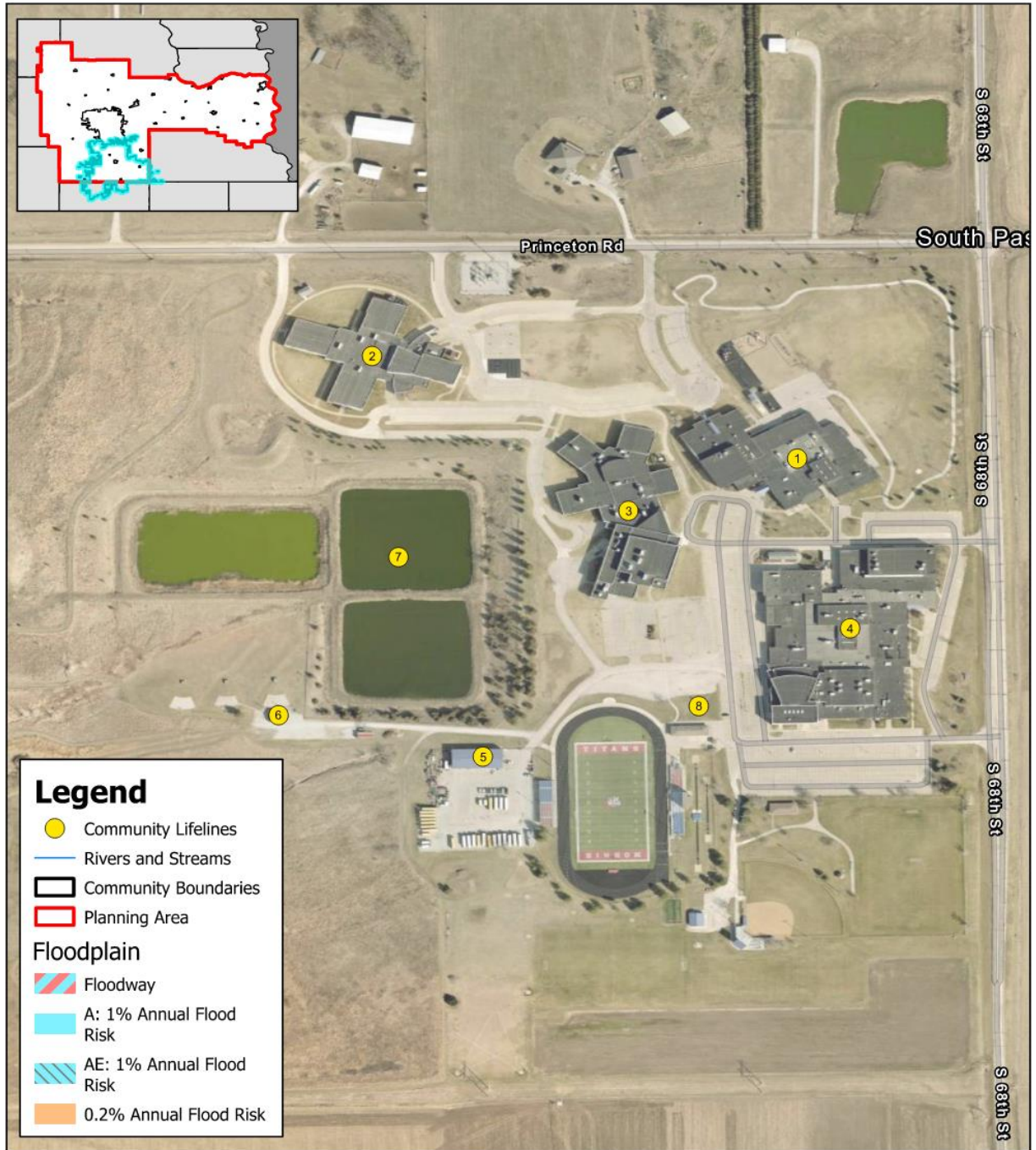
### Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, 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 lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



### Norris Schools Critical Facilities

CF #	NAME	ADDRESS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF STAFF	SHELTER	GENERATOR	FLOODPLAIN
1	Norris Elementary	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	554	68	N	N	N
2	Norris Intermediate	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	577	55	Y	Y	N
3	Norris Middle	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	595	54	Y	Y	N
4	Norris High	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	757	65	N	N	N
5	Bus Barn	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	0	0	N	N	N
6	Equipment Shed	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	0	0	N	N	N
7	Lagoons	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	0	0	N	N	N
8	Siren	25211 South 68 <sup>th</sup>	0	0	N	N	N

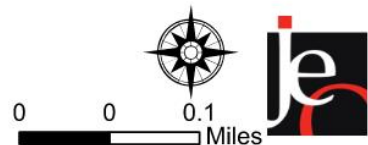


Created By: SO  
Date: 12/30/2024  
Software: ArcGIS Pro  
File: Lower Platte South NRD.aprx

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## Norris Public Schools Community Lifelines

Lower Platte South NRD  
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025





## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the county, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Norris Public Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past significant local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by Norris Public Schools. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review, analysis, and full list of historical hazard events, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

### Flooding

While flooding is not a prominent concern on the school campus, surrounding roads are at risk to washouts or hazardous conditions during flood events. Approximately 20-25% of students who rely on bus services live in rural areas or along unpaved roads. Flooding has blocked transportation routes to pick up and drop off students. The school district utilizes upwards of 30 buses per day. Hazardous roads or blocked transportation routes can cause damage to the bus fleet. The surrounding areas are at risk of flash flooding, primarily from agricultural runoff. There is a retention pond on school grounds to help divert heavy rains away from campus. The lagoons are located approximately 20 feet below grade and have not experienced any flooding events.

ACTION	Staff Safety Training
Description	Ensure all staff are trained to respond to hazard events.
Hazards Addressed	Hazardous Material Release, Flooding, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	Varies by scope and training
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Safety Director
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	Not yet started.

### High Winds and Tornadoes

High winds have caused significant damage to the school district in the past, primarily to the roof and siding. A past tornado event with straight-line winds caused major damage. Power lines on campus are all buried to reduce the risk of power loss and a power substation is located on the school campus. The substation is owned and operated by Norris Public Power District. The Middle and Elementary schools have backup generators and the Middle School is identified as a primary Mass Care Facility for Lancaster County. Students and staff are all able to take shelter in school facilities from extreme high winds.

On Saturday, May 22, 2004 a F4 tornado impacted southeast Nebraska, traveling over 52 miles in total and, at its peak, spanning 2.5 miles in width. The tornado is known as the Hallam tornado for the primary community impacted and hit the Norris Public Schools campus. The Middle School experienced significant damage with the auditorium destroyed and multiple walls caved in. The tornado hit the day after school had been released for the summer, thus no students or staff were harmed during the event. Property damages from the tornado surpassed \$35 million for the school, but reconstruction allowed classes to commence in the fall.



The reconstructed school facilities were built to withstand another significant tornado event which may impact the school district. The rebuilt high school and elementary school and newly constructed middle and intermediate schools were designed with additional safety measures. Two FEMA certified tornado safe rooms are located in the high school as the fitness center and instrumental music room and one FEMA certified safe room is in the middle school as the computer lab. The intermediate school's computer lab and primary hallway are also built to withstand heavy wind events. There is also a siren located on school grounds, as the campus is not located near an incorporated community. The continued safety of students and staff is a top priority for school administration.

May 2004 Tornado Damage



Source: Lincoln Journal Star, 2013<sup>8</sup>

ACTION	Safety Action Plan
<b>Description</b>	Identify and evaluate current hazards, response plan and procedures. Review, update, and/or develop school safety plans. These plans may address all natural and man-made hazards, identify shelter locations, identify evacuation routes, and work alongside County Emergency Management to coordinate response actions.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	All hazards
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$10,000
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Safety Director
<b>Timeline</b>	2-5 years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	

### Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms are a common occurrence for the school district and can include impacts from strong winds, heavy rain, hail, and lightning strikes. School facilities have experienced lightning strikes which have damaged electronics; however, surge protectors are installed on all facilities and all school records are backed up to geographically diverse locations. The high school has two safe rooms, the middle school has one safe room, and the intermediate school has a reinforced auditorium and hallways. Students in the elementary school can see shelter from

<sup>8</sup> Lincoln Journal Star. May 2013. "At Norris, record tornado led to safer schools." [https://journalstar.com/news/local/at-norris-record-tornado-led-to-safer-schools/article\\_4dc8316f-d9da-5bbe-abfa-fbc1974f6716.html](https://journalstar.com/news/local/at-norris-record-tornado-led-to-safer-schools/article_4dc8316f-d9da-5bbe-abfa-fbc1974f6716.html).

extreme weather events in restrooms and basement classrooms. A primary concern for severe thunderstorms is the potential to damage exposed HVAC units and other rooftop utilities.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Hail Resistant Roofing</b>
<b>Description</b>	Retrofit or ensure hail resistant roofing materials are utilized for all new construction to protect roofs and utilities.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Severe Thunderstorms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$2.50+ per sq. ft.
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	Building Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Maintenance Director
<b>Timeline</b>	2-5 years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	Not yet started.

### **Severe Winter Storms**

Severe winter storms can include impacts from blizzards, extreme cold, ice accumulation, or other hazardous winter weather. The primary concern regarding severe winter storms for the school district is the ability to transport students via bus to and from school. Many students live in surrounding rural areas or in Beaver Lake where icy roads can become very hazardous for school buses. Snow removal on campus is the responsibility of the Maintenance Department which currently has sufficient resources. The majority of trees on campus are young and do not pose a risk of dropping hazardous limbs or causing property damage.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Facilities Analysis/Assessment</b>
<b>Description</b>	Evaluate all school facilities for vulnerabilities and retrofits.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	Varies by scope and training
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent
<b>Timeline</b>	1 year
<b>Priority</b>	High
<b>Status</b>	Norris School District is currently in the RFP process to obtain the services of an architectural firm/engineer. The architectural firm will assist the district in determining facility needs/areas of improvement.

**School District Profile**

**Raymond Central Public  
Schools**

**Lower Platte South NRD  
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan  
2025 Update**

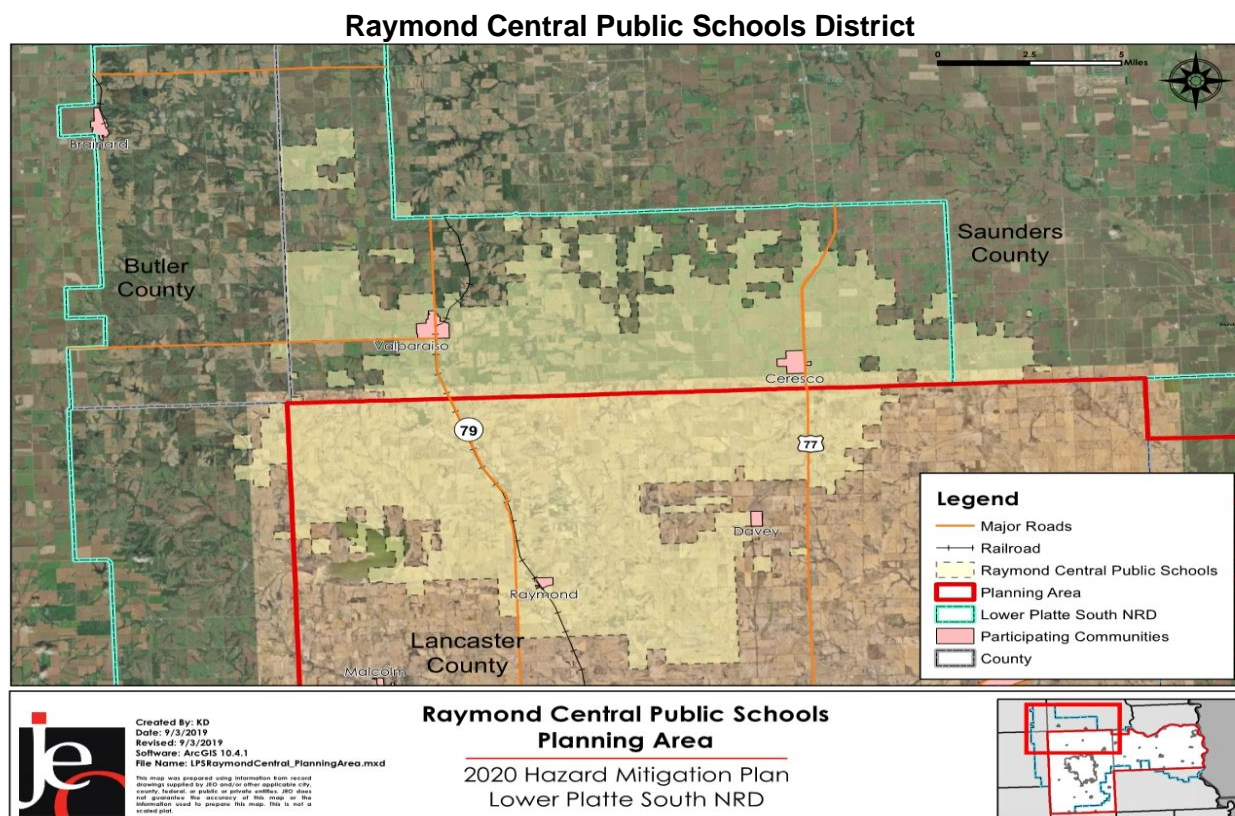
## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Bryon Hanson	Superintendent	Raymond Central Public Schools	Profile Development, Attended Meetings
Troy Lurz	Principal	Raymond Central High School	Profile Development
Jared Shannahan	Director of Maintenance	Raymond Central Public Schools	Profile Development
Deputy Brian Pitz	Deputy Sherrif - SRO	Lancaster County Sherrif Department	Profile Development

## Location and Geography

Raymond Central Public Schools operates three schools throughout the district: one school in Valparaiso (K-5), one school in Ceresco (K-5), and one secondary (6-12) school and one preschool at the Raymond Central main campus. The school district spans approximately 142 square miles across Lancaster, Butler, and Saunders Counties. The district provides services to residents in Davey, Raymond, Agnew, Ceresco, and Valparaiso. Raymond Central's district boundaries overlap with several neighboring school districts including Malcolm, Ashland-Greenwood, Waverly, Wahoo, and East Butler. Raymond Central is the largest in the area. The primary language in the district is English, however with population changes in the surrounding areas the local planning team indicated that additional languages may become more common in the future.



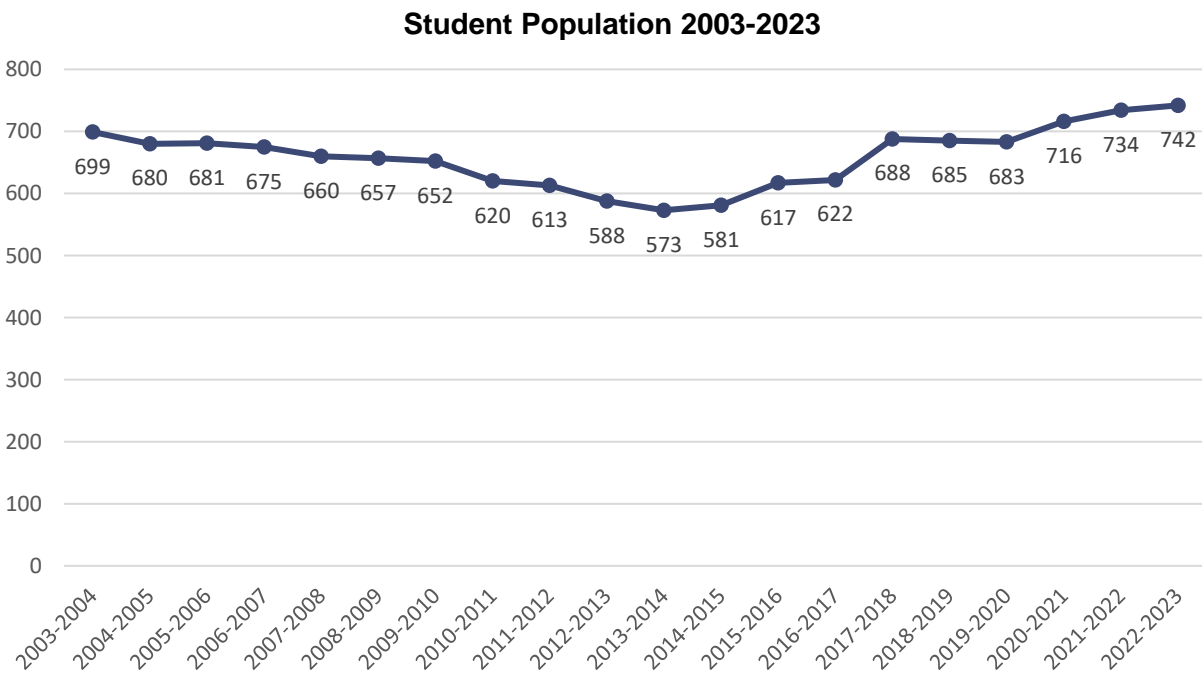
## Plan Maintenance

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.

The Superintendent, Director of Maintenance, and Head Principals will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. Raymond Central Public Schools will review the plan annually and the public will be notified during the open session of a local school board meeting.

## Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2003-04 school year and ending with the 2022-23 year. It indicates that the student population has increased during the previous decade. There are 742 students currently enrolled in Raymond Central Public Schools.<sup>9</sup> The school district is expecting a slight increase over the next five years at roughly 2% per year.

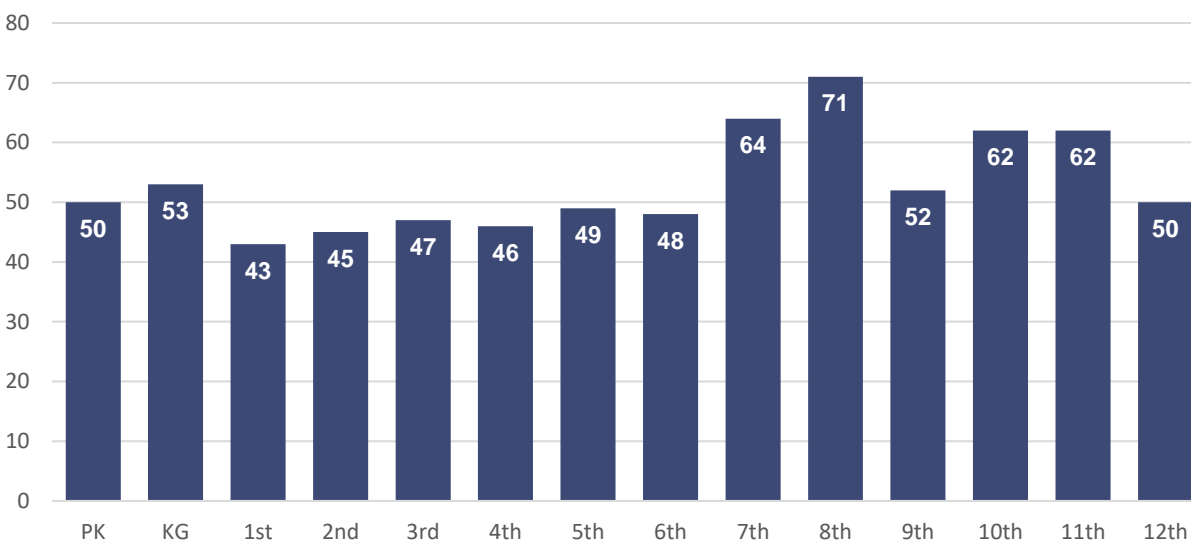


Source: Nebraska Department of Education

<sup>9</sup> Nebraska Department of Education. August 2023. "2022-2023 Education Profile for District: Raymond Central Public Schools." <https://nep.education.ne.gov/Districts/Index/55-0161-000?DataYears=20172018>



**Number of Students by Grade, 2022-2023**



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The lowest population of students are in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), almost 19% of students received either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2022-23 year. This is lower than the state average of 46.69%. Additionally, nearly 14% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

**Student Statistics, 2022-2023**

	School District	State of Nebraska
Free/Reduced Priced Meals	18.87%	49.69%
School Mobility Rate	3.47%	5.5%
English Language Learners	N/A	8.37%
Special Education Students	13.73%	16.45%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education<sup>10</sup>

## Future Development Trends

Raymond Central Public Schools has expanded greatly over the last several years. A new addition has been added to the main Raymond Central campus which houses Pre-Kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The addition is attached to the main building and administration on the south side. A new playground and basketball court were also added during the expansion. In 2018 the school district purchased and installed security cameras which are updated or repaired annually. In 2011 fiberoptic was installed throughout the junior/senior high school. The district has been awarded a grant to update several school buses to electric buses. In the future, Raymond Central Public Schools expects to perform regular facility maintenance. The district has experienced moderate growth of roughly 2% per year over the last five years. As its student population continues to grow, the district will be looking to either build new facilities or add on to current facilities.

<sup>10</sup> Nebraska Education Profile. "School Report Card." Accessed October 2024. <http://nep.education.ne.gov/Home/>.



## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the school district's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing existing policies, plans, and programs related to hazard mitigation. The following tables summarize the district's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

### Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
<b>Planning Capability</b>	Facility Improvements Plan	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Crisis Response Plan	Yes
	Strategic Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	
<b>Administration &amp; Technical Capability</b>	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	
<b>Fiscal Capability</b>	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes such as mitigation projects	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	Yes
	Approved bonds in the past	Yes
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	
<b>Education &amp; Outreach Capability</b>	Local school groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, Crisis Response Teams, etc.)	Yes
	Hazard education or information program	No
	Other (if any)	
<b>Drills</b>	Fire	Monthly
	Tornado	Twice a Year
	Intruder	Lockdown – Twice a Year Lockout – Twice a Year
	Bus evacuation	Twice a Year
	Evacuation	Once Per Year
	Other (if any)	-

### Raymond Central Public Schools Overall Capability

Capability	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Limited	Limited
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Limited

### School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts the following drills with their staff and students:

- Fire – monthly
- Bus Evacuation – twice a year
- Tornado – twice a year
- Lockdown – twice a year
- Lockout – twice a year

The school district conducts regular training for all staff on emergency procedures. During the summer all staff members have a full training with the safety committee. The Safety Committee meets regularly during the school year as well to address issues and update plans and procedures appropriately. The District additionally has a third-party consultant do regular safety walkthroughs for the school facilities to identify gaps or security concerns. There is a Safety Resource Office who rotates between school facilities throughout the week.

The Student Handbook outlines some safety procedures for parents and students. The District uses an automatic notification system to alert parents via text, call, email, or website of school closings or other pertinent information. Raymond Central Public Schools has a mutual aid agreement with Educational Service Unit 2 for crisis situations.

Raymond Central Emergency Protocols

# IN AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU HEAR IT, DO IT.

## LOCKOUT! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

### STUDENTS

Return inside  
Business as usual

### TEACHER

Bring everyone indoors  
Lock outside doors  
Increase situational awareness  
Business as usual  
Take attendance



## LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

### STUDENTS

Move away from sight  
Maintain silence  
Do not open the door

### TEACHER

Lock interior doors  
Turn out the lights  
Move away from sight  
Do not open the door  
Maintain silence  
Take attendance



## EVACUATE! To the announced location.

### STUDENTS

Bring your phone  
Leave your stuff behind  
Follow instructions

### TEACHER

Lead evacuation to location  
Take attendance  
Notify if missing, extra or injured students



## SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

### STUDENTS

Hazard	Safety Strategy
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

### TEACHER

Lead safety strategy  
Take attendance



## HOLD! In your classroom. Clear the halls.

### STUDENTS

Remain in the classroom until  
the "All Clear" is announced

### TEACHER

Close and lock classroom door  
Business as usual  
Take attendance



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## Community Lifelines

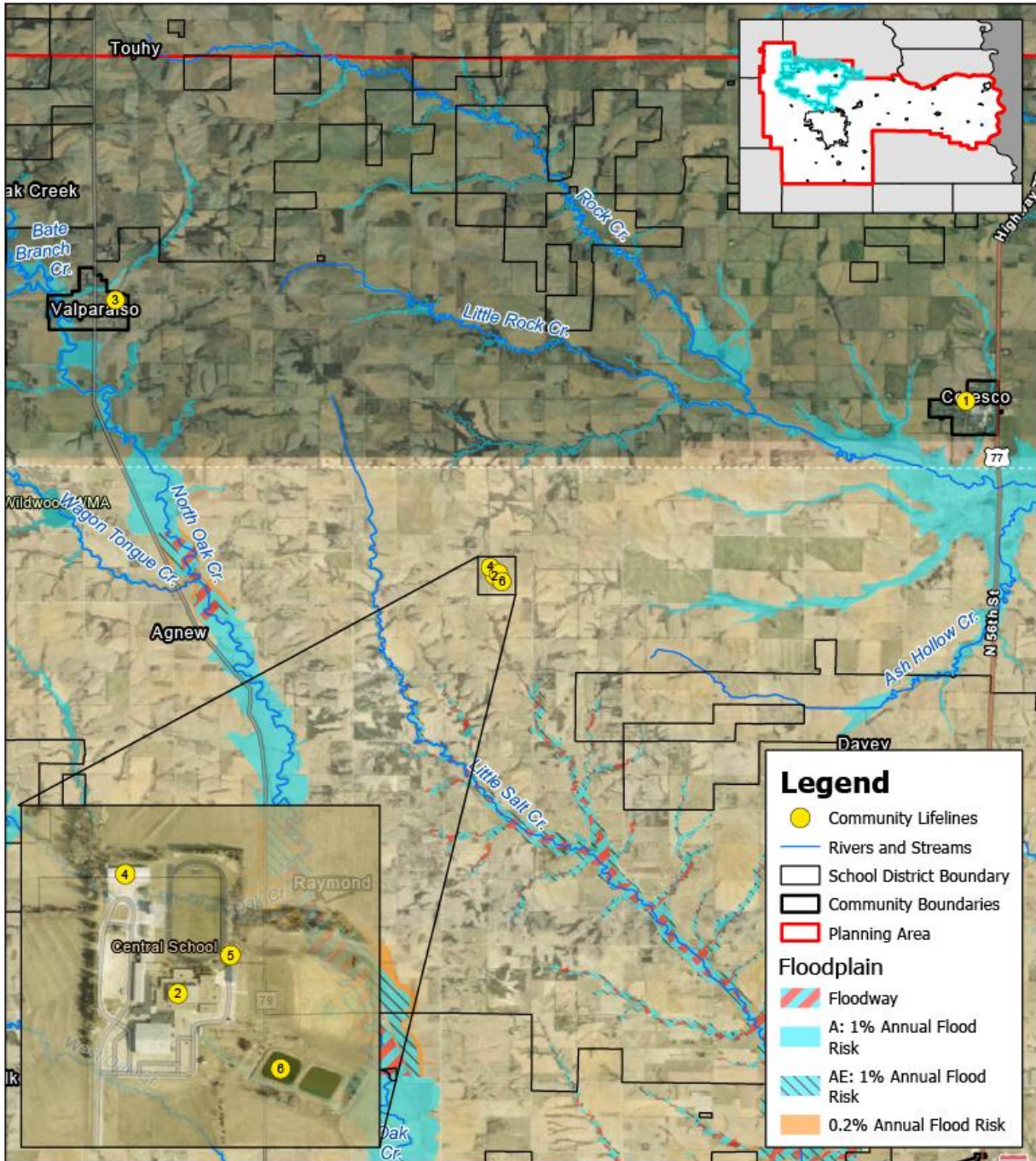
As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



**Raymond Central Schools Critical Facilities**

CF #	Name	Address	# of Students	# of Staff	Shelter	Generator	Floodplain
1	Ceresco Elementary School	114 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, Ceresco	145	27	N	N	N
2	Raymond Central High / Pre-school	1800 W Agnew Rd, Raymond	385	45	N	Y – two	N
3	Valparaiso Elementary / Intermediate	406 E 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, Valparaiso	145	40	N	N	N
4	Bus Barn	1800 W Agnew Rd, Raymond	0	0	N	Y	N
5	Equipment Storage	1800 W Agnew Rd, Raymond	0	0	N	N	N
6	Lagoon	1800 W Agnew Rd, Raymond	0	0	N	N	N



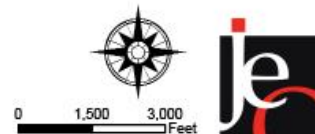


Created By: SO  
Date: 12/16/2024  
Software: ArcGIS Pro  
File: Lower Platte South NRD.aprx

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## Raymond Central Public Schools Community Lifelines

Lower Platte South NRD  
Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the county, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Raymond Central Public Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past significant local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by Raymond Central Public Schools. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review, analysis, and full list of historical hazard events, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

### Grass/Wildfire

Grass/wildfire is a hazard of top concern for the Raymond Central junior and senior high due to its isolated location surrounded by agricultural fields. The campus is also placed on top of a hill, exacerbating wind impacts on fires. While the building itself is primarily constructed of brick, metal, and glass with some fire protection, the campus is served by the Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department which may take 10-15 minutes to respond to a fire call. There is an interior sprinkler system, but there are no exterior sprinklers. The school does have its own water supply system which may be hooked up to exterior hoses to provide additional protection. The water system also has its own backup generator which will run the system in the case of power failure. Raymond Central School District is in the process of planning a secondary entrance/exit from the junior and senior high school along Agnew Road which will provide backup or emergency access to the building.

Action	New Secondary Entrance/Exit
<b>Description</b>	Raymond Central is adding a second entry/exit point to the 6-12 campus. This will allow us an access point if our main access point is not available due to an emergency. This will allow emergency vehicles to enter the property or individuals to leave the property if one of our access points is not accessible. This will alleviate concerns for many of the hazards listed above.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Civil Disorder/Terrorism, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfire, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$700,000
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	Bonds, General Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Superintendent
<b>Timeline</b>	1 year
<b>Priority</b>	High
<b>Status</b>	In Progress – the access point will be off Agnew Road.

### High Winds and Tornadoes

High wind events have caused significant roof damage for school facilities, particularly the Raymond Central main campus which is located on top of a hill. The gymnasium is the tallest building and has a reinforced metal roof and rooftop utilities. Past significant events included a 1992 storm which prompted the District to slant some roofs to reduce potential damages and a 2008 storm with straight-line winds and heavy hail that damaged all facilities. Powerlines are all overhead from main power station to the schools. However, once on school grounds the powerlines are buried. The school district is in the process of having structural analysis done on its roofs. As the district updates the roofs, it understands that having the ability to withstand major



storms is important. When building new structures, the district will build them to act as a school and a community storm shelter. The school district is adding a secondary entrance/exit that will allow for multiple access points to the junior and senior high school building in case of storm damage or debris. Additionally, the district is looking to add a facility that will have community access and will meet storm shelter regulations.

Tornadoes are a major hazard of concern due to their potential to cause catastrophic damage and significant threat to health and safety. There have been no historical tornadic events which have impacted Raymond Public School facilities, however the 1992 event with 100 mph straight-line winds caused over \$100,000 in roof damage. There are sirens located in Ceresco, Valparaiso, and on Raymond Central campus to warn of hazardous events. Students take shelter in locker rooms and restrooms. In the past, Raymond Central campus has been considered as a shelter location within the Lancaster County LEOP, however, the designation was not completed. As the campus has a backup water supply system, full kitchen, restrooms, and large gymnasium, it should be considered in the future to be added to the county plan as a shelter location.

Action	Constructing an Academic, Activity, and Athletic Facility
Description	The Raymond Central School District is building an academic, activity, and athletic facility just to the south of the main campus. This building will have community access and can be used by the school and community during events as a storm or tornado shelter if needed.
Hazards Addressed	Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$750,000
Potential Local Funding	Bonds, General Fund, Private Donations
Lead Agency	Superintendent
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	In Progress – construction has begun for the athletic fields.

### Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms can be widespread and numerous, causing potential damages to all school facilities across the district. Thunderstorms are commonly associated with heavy rain, strong winds, and lightning strikes. All school facilities have surge protectors in case of lightning strikes and school records are backed up on a cloud system. Loss of power is a major concern for the school district as each school is serviced by a separate power utility: Raymond Central main campus is served by Norris Public Power District, Valparaiso Elementary is served by Butler Public Power District, and Ceresco Elementary is serviced by Omaha Public Power District. Another main concern affiliated with severe thunderstorms are heavy rains which can washout or flood local roads throughout the district. Many students which attend Raymond Central schools are located in the surrounding rural areas which may become inaccessible during heavy rain events. The March 2019 flooding event did not impact Raymond Central school facilities; however, classes were cancelled because muddy roads were too hazardous for buses to pick up students. Structural analysis is currently being done to facility roofs in the district. In the future, new buildings and structures will be constructed in a manner that will provide for school and community storm shelters.

Action	Backup Generators
Description	Provide portable or stationary source of backup power to school facilities or other critical facilities. Additional generator is needed to provide heat during winter power loss events and assist in designating school as a community shelter location.
Hazards Addressed	Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
Estimated Cost	\$250,000
Potential Local Funding	Bonds, General Fund
Lead Agency	Maintenance and Utilities
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	Medium
Status	In Progress – an additional backup generator or larger capacity generator is need at the Junior/Senior High School.

### Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms are a common hazard which the school district faces annually. Severe winter storms include impacts from heavy snow, blizzards, ice accumulation, and extreme cold. The primary concern for the district is transportation access to pick up and drop off students, especially in the surrounding rural areas. The district overlaps the borders of five counties which each county prioritizing snow removal within their respective communities and central locations before rural county roads within the school district boundary. Past severe winter storms in the 2018-2019 winter caused significant wear and tear on school vehicles. Snow removal is contracted out at Ceresco Elementary and Valparaiso Elementary. Raymond Central Junior/Senior High School is responsible for clearing its own campus. Loss of power is another top concern for the district as the heater and furnace system at Raymond Central is not connected to the generator. An additional generator or larger capacity generator would be needed to power heat for the school. Heat pumps need to be updated at the elementary schools. Continual updates and additions to equipment will need to be done to reduce the risk of this hazard.

*Mitigation Actions – this hazard is addressed by the Backup Generators and Constructing an Academic, Activity, and Athletic Facility actions.*

### Terrorism

While no past terrorism events have impacted the Raymond Central Public School District, school safety is a top concern for the local planning team. The school district practices extensive drills and training for staff and students. The Lancaster County Sheriff provides law enforcement for Raymond Central, while Ceresco and Valparaiso are serviced by Saunders County Sheriff. There are underground diesel and gas tanks and above ground propane tanks at the schools. All propane tanks are at least 50 feet from school facilities to reduce risk of exposure if damaged or tampered. The district adds cameras to school grounds annually, as well as repairs damaged pieces as appropriate. Security cameras and badge entry doors have been added to make buildings more security. Continued security measures are needed to reduce the risk to this hazard.

Mitigation Actions – this hazard is addressed by the **New Secondary Entrance/Exit** action.

**Completed/Removed Mitigation Action**

Action	Facility Security
Description	Install metal detectors on main entry doors to school facilities.
Hazards Addressed	Terrorism
Status	No Longer Needed – metal detectors have been added on main entry doors to school facilities.

**School District Profile**

**Weeping Water Public  
Schools**

**Lower Platte South NRD  
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan  
2025 Update**

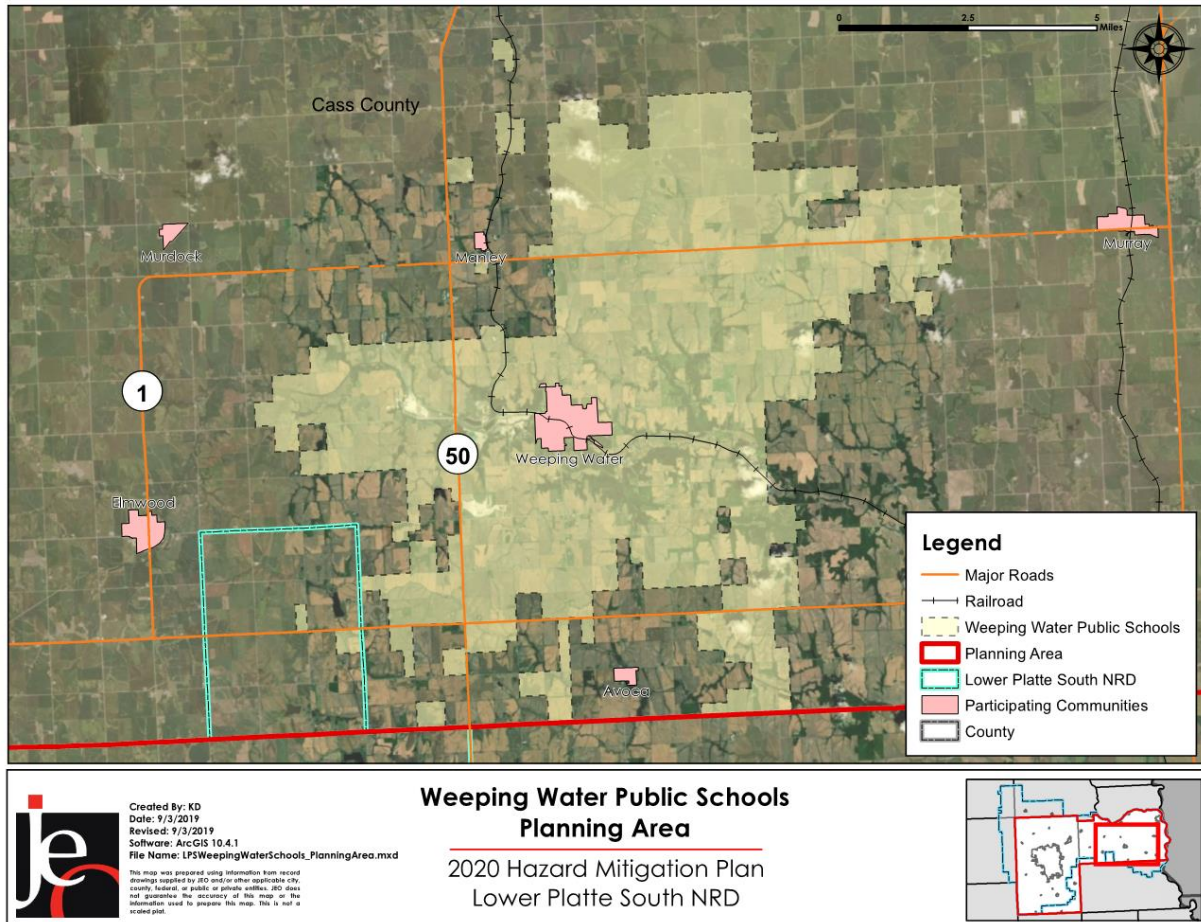
## Local Planning Team

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Kevin Reiman	Superintendent	Weeping Water Public Schools	Attend Meetings, Profile Development

## Location and Geography

Weeping Water Public Schools is in the City of Weeping Water in Cass County and serves three schools: Weeping Water Elementary, Weeping Water Middle, and Weeping Water High School. The school district spans approximately 225 square miles entirely within Cass County and services students in Weeping Water, Avoca, and Manley. The primary language in the district is English, with approximately 1% of the student population as English as a Second Language (ESL).





### School District Boundary by School



**WEeping WATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



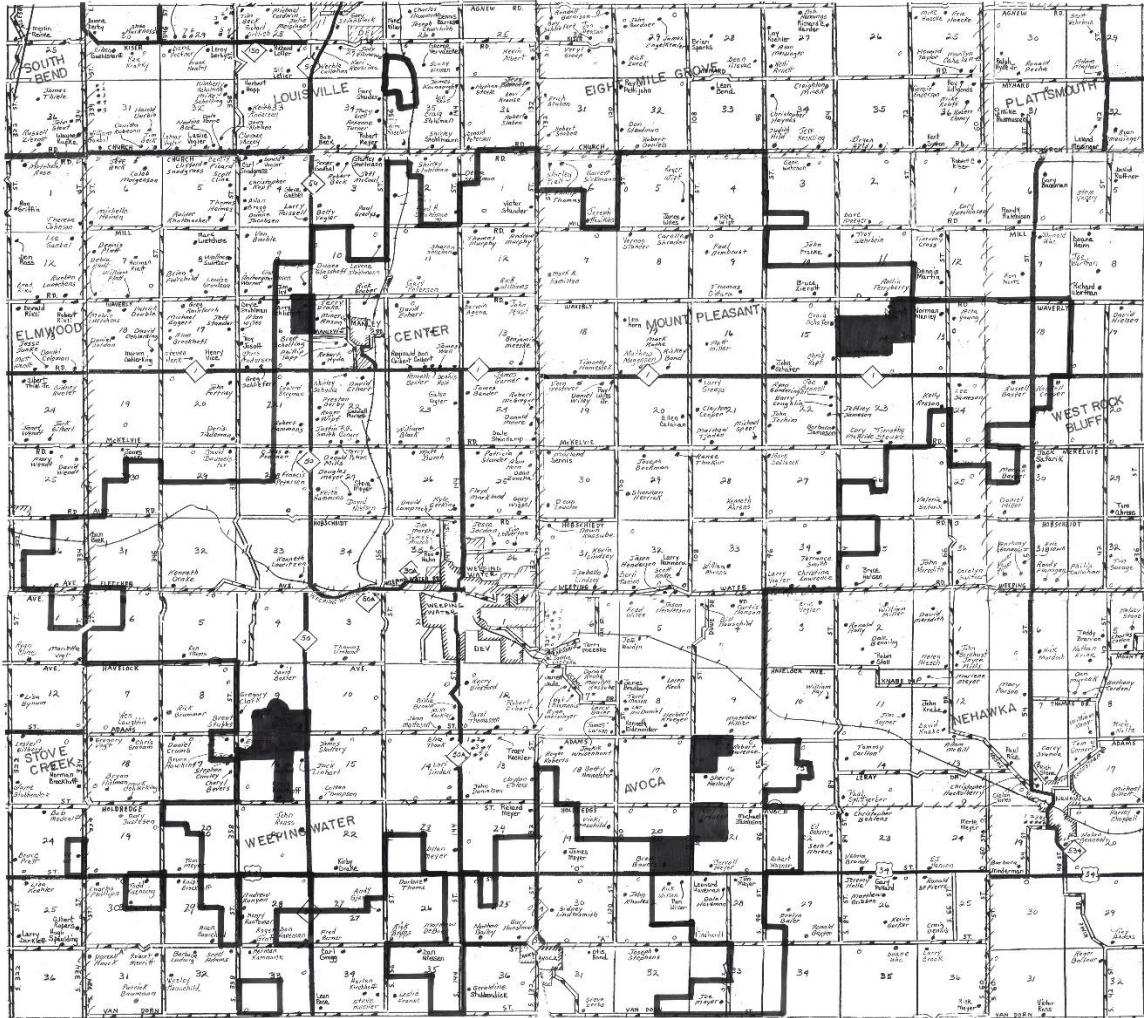
**WEeping WATER, NEBRASKA**

**AVOCA WEeping WATER**

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| No. 1              | No. 13              |
| 1. Elementary      | 13. Central         |
| 2. High School     | 14. Central         |
| 3. Early Childhood | 15. Early Childhood |
| 4. Early Childhood | 16. Early Childhood |
| 5. Early Childhood | 17. Early Childhood |



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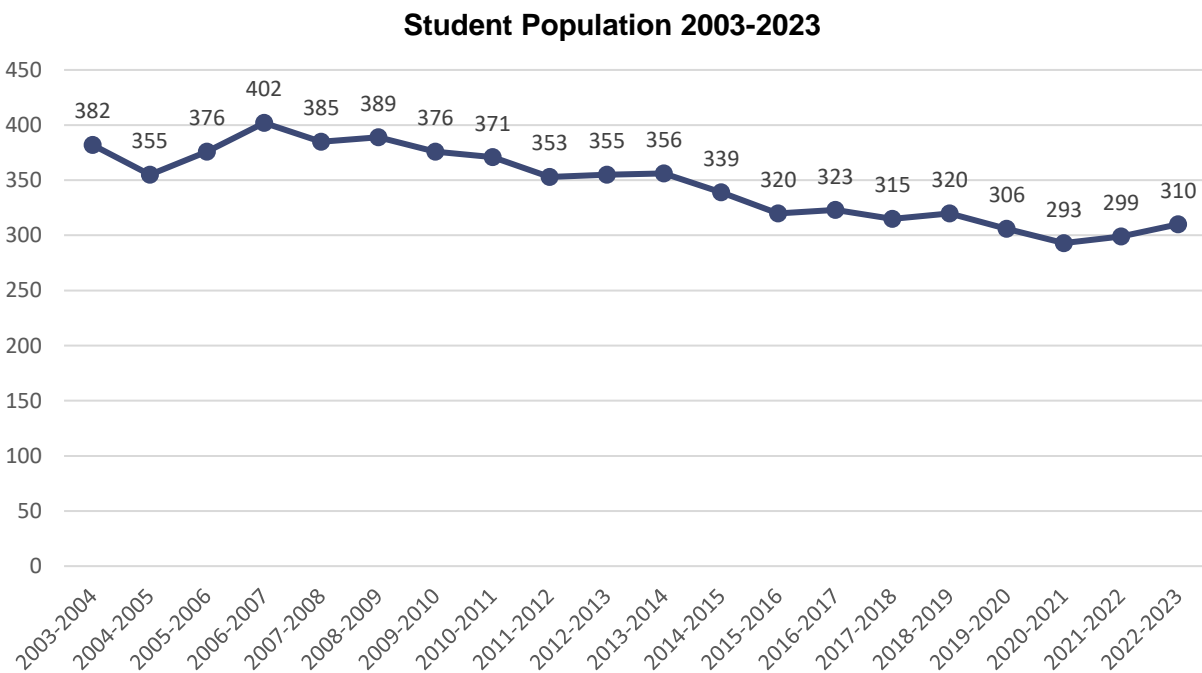
## Plan Maintenance

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.

The Superintendent will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. Weeping Water Public Schools will review the plan bi-annually and the public will be notified on social media and website updates.

## Demographics

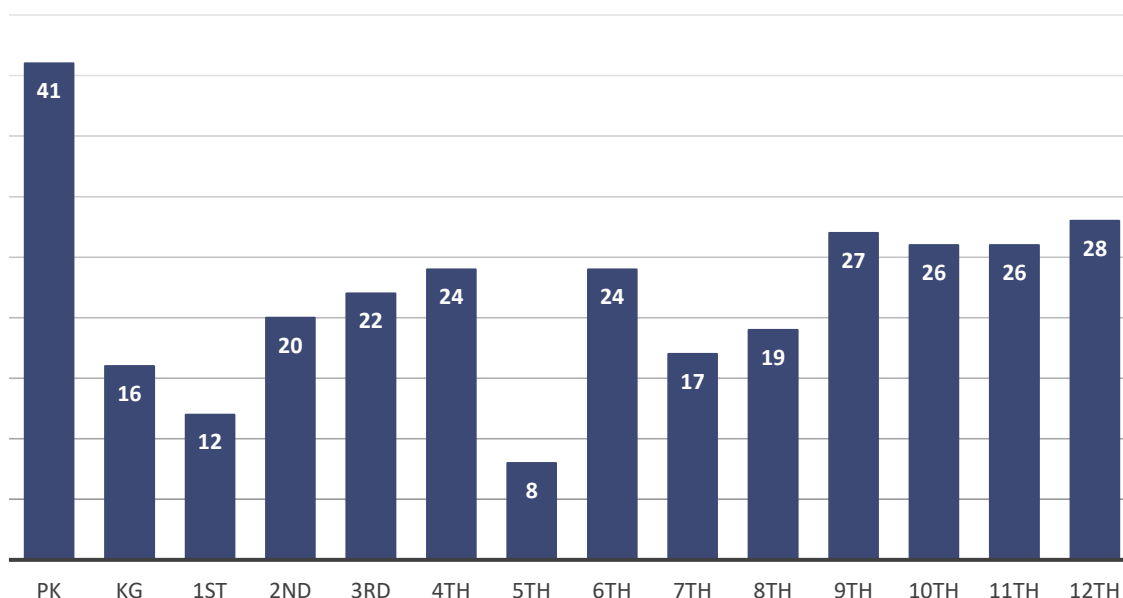
The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2003-04 school year and ending with the 2022-23 year. It indicates that the student population has maintained a relatively steady rate, with a slight declining trend. There are 310 students currently enrolled in Weeping Water Public Schools.<sup>11</sup> The school district anticipates an increase in student population based on prekindergarten and childcare enrollment numbers.



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

<sup>11</sup> Nebraska Department of Education. August 2023. "2022-2023 Education Profile for District: Weeping Water Public Schools." <https://nep.education.ne.gov/Districts/Index/13-0022-000?DataYears=20222023>

## Number of Students by Grade, 2022-2023



Source: Nebraska Department of Education

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in Pre-Kindergarten, followed by 12<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The lowest population of students are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 36% of students received either free or reduced priced meals at school in the 2022-23 year. This is lower than the state average of 50%. Additionally, nearly 18% of students are in the Special Education Program. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

## Student Statistics, 2022-2023

	SCHOOL DISTRICT	STATE OF NEBRASKA
FREE/REDUCED PRICED MEALS	35.16%	49.69%
SCHOOL MOBILITY RATE	5.83%	5.5%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	NA	8.37%
SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS	17.84%	16.45%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education<sup>12</sup>

## Future Development Trends

In the past 10 years the Weeping Water School District has added an entire new facility to campus which included a new gymnasium, weight room, locker rooms, and several classrooms. The expansion replaced numerous modular classrooms, improving safety and security access for school rooms. The new gymnasium is used as a shelter location, as well as the locker rooms for storm shelters. The expansion also included updated and reinforced rooftop utilities. Additionally, the school district has updated their district wide webpage and purchased some weather radios for the new buildings. In the next five years the district intends to focus on updating and improving academic and athletic programs along with updating the HVAC system. Weeping Water

<sup>12</sup> Nebraska Education Profile. "School Report Card." Accessed August 2019. <http://nep.education.ne.gov/Home/>.

anticipates an increase in enrollment in the future based on prekindergarten and childcare registration.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the school district's hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing existing policies, plans, and programs related to hazard mitigation. The following tables summarize the district's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

### Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
<b>Planning Capability</b>	Facility Improvements Plan	Yes
	Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes
	Crisis Response Plan	Yes
	Strategic Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	Yes
<b>Administration &amp; Technical Capability</b>	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>Fiscal Capability</b>	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded grants in the past	Yes
	Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes such as mitigation projects	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	Yes
	Approved bonds in the past	Yes
	Flood Insurance	No
	Other (if any)	-
<b>Education &amp; Outreach Capability</b>	Local school groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access, and functional needs populations, etc. (Ex. Parent groups, Crisis Response Teams, etc.)	Yes
	Hazard education or information program	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>Drills</b>	Fire	Monthly
	Tornado	Twice a Year
	Intruder	Twice a Year
	Bus evacuation	Twice a year
	Evacuation	Twice a year
	Other (if any)	-

### Weeping Water Public Schools Overall Capability

Capability	2020 Plan	2025 Plan
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Limited-Moderate	Limited
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	High	Limited
Public Support to Implement Projects	High	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Limited	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Limited

## School Drills and Staff Training

The school district conducts the following drills with their staff and students:

- Fire – monthly
- Bus Evacuation – twice a year
- Tornado – twice a year
- Safety Drills (including lockdown and evacuation) – twice a year
- Sniffer Dogs (drugs, alcohol, munitions) – four random times a year

The school district conducts regular professional development sessions for emergency procedures. Teachers and staff have emergency preparedness training modules that are completed monthly. Monthly walkthroughs of the building are conducted with administration and a revolving group of staff who may identify any new safety concerns. Outdoor areas and playgrounds have weekly walkthroughs for safety issues; however, staff may submit concerns to administration at any time. The school district also has an outside security consultant who comes through and provides guidance and recommendations for security measures. In the case of school closures or hazard events, parents and staff are notified via an automated call system, social media posts, and the school district website. The district is currently expanding its social media presence and utilizes the district website, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and a mobile app to share information. Weeping Water Public Schools has a mutual aid agreement with American Red Cross.

## Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, 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 lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



### Weeping Water Schools Critical Facilities

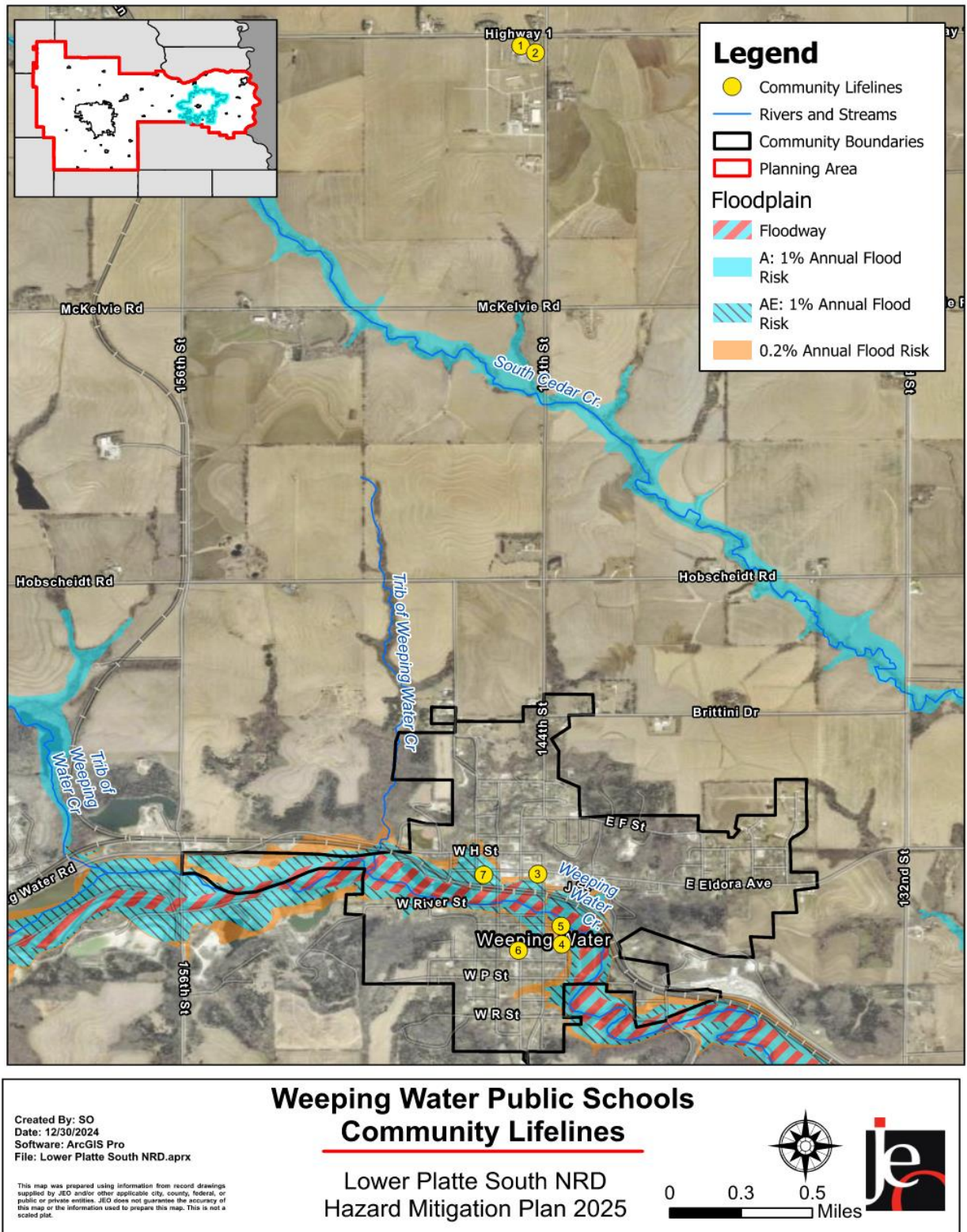
CF #	Name	Address	Number of Students	Number of Staff	Shelter (Y/N)	Generator (Y/N)	Located in Floodplain (Y/N)
1	Cass County Emergency Management	144 <sup>th</sup> & NE-1	0	2	N	Y	
2	Cass County Fairgrounds	144 <sup>th</sup> & NE-1	0	0	N	N	
3	City of Weeping Water	101 W. Eldora Ave	0	12	Y	N	N
4	Equipment Shed	199 E N St	0	0	N	N	Y

## Section Seven | Weeping Water Public Schools Profile

CF #	Name	Address	Number of Students	Number of Staff	Shelter (Y/N)	Generator (Y/N)	Located in Floodplain (Y/N)
5	Maintenance Garage	199 E M St	0	0	N	N	Y
6	Weeping Water Schools	204 W O St	310	70	Y	N	N
7	Weeping Water Volunteer Fire Department	313 Eldora Ave	0	35	N	N	Y



## Section Seven | Weeping Water Public Schools Profile





## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the county, communities, and other participants. However, during the planning process, the local planning team identified specific hazards of top concern for Weeping Water Public Schools which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past significant local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the hazards of top concern identified by Weeping Water Public Schools. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review, analysis, and full list of historical hazard events, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

### High Winds and Tornadoes

Tornadoes are a hazard of top concern due to their potential to cause catastrophic damage to property and significant injury to staff and students. The school gymnasium serves as a shelter location for students Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and would also be open to nearby residents if needed during a tornado event. The pre-school and daycare on-site use a basement shelter under the west side of the building as a shelter location during tornado events. School officials receive weather alerts via weather radios in the new buildings or via cell phone alerts. The district conducts drills to ensure students and staff know how to respond during tornadoes. New weather radios are needed in the older sections of campus which lack radios. Third party funding is needed to provide early warning devices at the school as the current prices for this mitigation tool are unfeasible.

ACTION	Early Warning Systems
Description	Purchase online early weather service from Perry weather would provide information on incoming storms.
Hazards Addressed	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes
Estimated Cost	\$2,500 upfront, \$1,000 annual fee
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Administration, Maintenance
Timeline	2-5 years
Priority	High
Status	Not Yet Started – This would provide accurate weather to all employees so they can make the best decision possible about incoming weather.

### Severe Thunderstorms

Severe thunderstorms are a common occurrence for the planning area and across the State and are commonly accompanied by strong winds, hail, heavy rain, and lightning strikes. The school district's primary concern for severe thunderstorms is the potential for power loss. Most of the electrical lines that serve the school campus are buried, however there is still the risk of power loss in the surrounding area. OPPD is the power supplier for the district and surrounding communities. There are no generators located at any school facilities to aid in providing power. During a recent renovation and expansion of school facilities, the rooftop utilities were upgraded and are protected for hail or strong winds. Past severe thunderstorm events have produced hail which damaged roofs and property. However, there are no lightning rods on the school facilities, prompting concerns for the local planning team. Additionally, the school campus is surrounded by trees which were trimmed in August 2019 to remove hazardous limbs. Trees receive annual maintenance to remove dead or dying limbs that could pose a hazard to property or people. The

school district continually conducts drills to ensure students and staff know how to respond during severe thunderstorms. Third party funding is needed to provide early warning devices at the school as the current prices for this mitigation tool are not feasible.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Lightning Rods</b>
<b>Description</b>	Install lightning rods in strategic locations at high points.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Severe Thunderstorms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$2,500+
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Administration, Maintenance
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	Not Yet Started – Need to install lightning rods at high points on school grounds.

### **Severe Winter Storms**

Severe winter storms can include blizzards, extreme cold, ice accumulation, and winter weather conditions. The school district is primarily concerned with limited or blocked transportation routes from heavy snow during severe winter storms. The school district provides services to students in the surrounding rural area with unpaved roads. Ice accumulation and heavy snow can make accessing these areas hazardous. The local planning team also identified blocked transportation routes as a concern due to the high number of staff members who live in surrounding communities. Snow removal for the school is done by a local contractor. Loss of power is an additional concern during severe winter storm events and no school facilities have a backup generator. During hazardous conditions, the school district cancels classes to mitigate risks for staff and students.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Backup Generators</b>
<b>Description</b>	Provide portable or stationary source of backup power to school facilities or other critical facilities.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Hazardous Materials Release, High Winds and Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$15,000-\$30,000+
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Administration
<b>Timeline</b>	5+ years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	Not Yet Started – Backup generators still needed at the school.

### **Terrorism**

While no terrorism events have occurred which impacted the Weeping Water Public School District, the safety of staff and students is a top priority. There is controlled access to the building during school hours. Open doors during the morning to allow students into the buildings are always monitored by a staff member. The school district performs lockdown or active shooter drills twice a year and has open communication lines with the County Sheriff and local volunteer fire department. Safety procedures and protocol signs are posted in each classroom and all staff members have monthly training modules to review safety procedures. Before drills the school district provides educational handouts to parents. While some doors have automatic locks during

the school day, most require a staff member to manually lock them. Additionally, the local planning team identified an additional need for security cameras around the perimeter of the school campus.

ACTION	IMPROVE SECURITY MEASURES
Description	Evaluate and implement additional security measures such as cameras and perimeter sensors to ensure adequate safety for staff and students.
Hazards Addressed	Terrorism
Estimated Cost	\$20,000+
Potential Local Funding	General Fund
Lead Agency	Administration
Timeline	5+ years
Priority	Medium
Status	This is a new mitigation action.

#### Completed/Removed Mitigation Actions

ACTION	Facility Monitoring
Description	Install security cameras in/around school facilities.
Hazards Addressed	Terrorism
Status	No Longer Needed

ACTION	Facility Security
Description	Install automatic locks on entry doors to school facilities.
Hazards Addressed	Terrorism
Status	No Longer Needed

ACTION	Upgrade Security Software
Description	Install/upgrade security software programs to manage resources and protocols during evacuation or emergency events.
Hazards Addressed	Terrorism
Status	No Longer Needed

ACTION	Weather Radio
Description	Conduct an inventory of weather radios at schools and school facilities and provide new radios as needed.
Hazards Addressed	Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Tornadoes
Status	No Longer Needed