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## County Profile

# Rock County

## Region 24 Emergency Management
## Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

## 2021

# Local Planning Team

**Table RCK.1: Rock County Local Planning Team**

| Name | Title | Jurisdiction |
|---|---|---|
| **Glen May** | Commissioner / Deputy Emergency Manager | Rock County |
| **Jim Stout** | Commissioner | Rock County |
| **TJ Ellermeier** | Planning / Zoning | Rock County |

# Location, Geography, and Climate

Rock County is located in north-central Nebraska and is bordered by Keya Paha, Brown, Loup, Holt, and Boyd Counties. The total area of Rock County is 1,012 square miles. The largest community and county seat is the City of Bassett. Rock County also contains the Village of Newport.

The county is composed of four physiographic regions. The Holt Table, in the northern one-fifth of the county, is predominantly a gently rolling plain altered by hilly sand dunes in the west and the Niobrara River terrace in the North. Fifteen percent of the county south of the Holt Table is classified as prairie plains. The southern two thirds of the county is classified as the Sandhills region, with the rest of the county lying in the Niobrara River Valley. The Calamus and Elkhorn rivers travel through the county and the Niobrara River forms the northern boundary.

## Climate

The table below compares climate indicators with those of the entire state. Climate data is helpful in determining if certain events are higher or lower than normal. For example, if the high temperatures in the month of July are running well into the 90s, high heat events may be more likely which could impact vulnerable populations.

**Table RCK.2: Rock County Climate**

| | Rock County | State of Nebraska |
|---|---|---|
| **July Normal High Temp[1]** | 85.5 | 87.4 |
| **January Normal Low Temp[1]** | 10.4 | 13.8 |
| **Annual Normal Precipitation[2]** | 24.2 | 23.8 |
| **Annual Normal Snowfall[2]** | 41.8 | 25.9 |

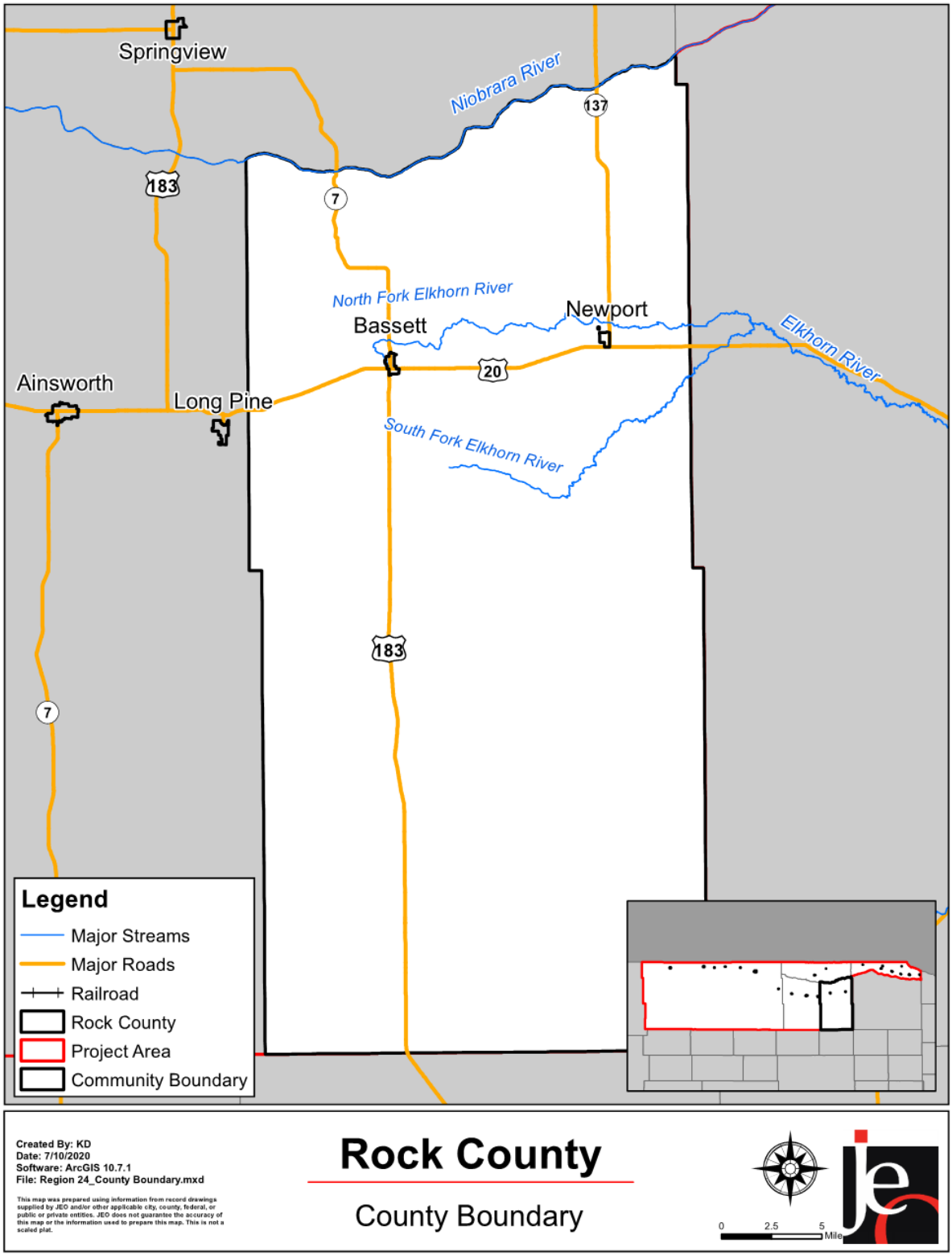
*Source: NCEI Climate Normals[1], High Plains Regional Climate Center[2]*
*Precipitation includes all rain and melted snow and ice.*

# Transportation

Rock County's major transportation corridors include US Highways 20 and 183 and Nebraska State Highways 7 and 137. Highways 20 and 183 are of most concern to the local planning team as they are heavily traveled and regularly carry bulk fuel and fertilizer. There are no rail lines in the county. The county has one air landing strip located near the City of Bassett. No major accidents or large chemical spills have occurred in the county. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

1 National Centers for Environmental Information. "1981-2010 U.S. Climate Normals." Accessed July 2020. https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools.
2 High Plains Regional Climate Center. "Monthly Climate Normals 1895-2018 – Newport NE." Accessed July 2020. http://climod.unl.edu/.

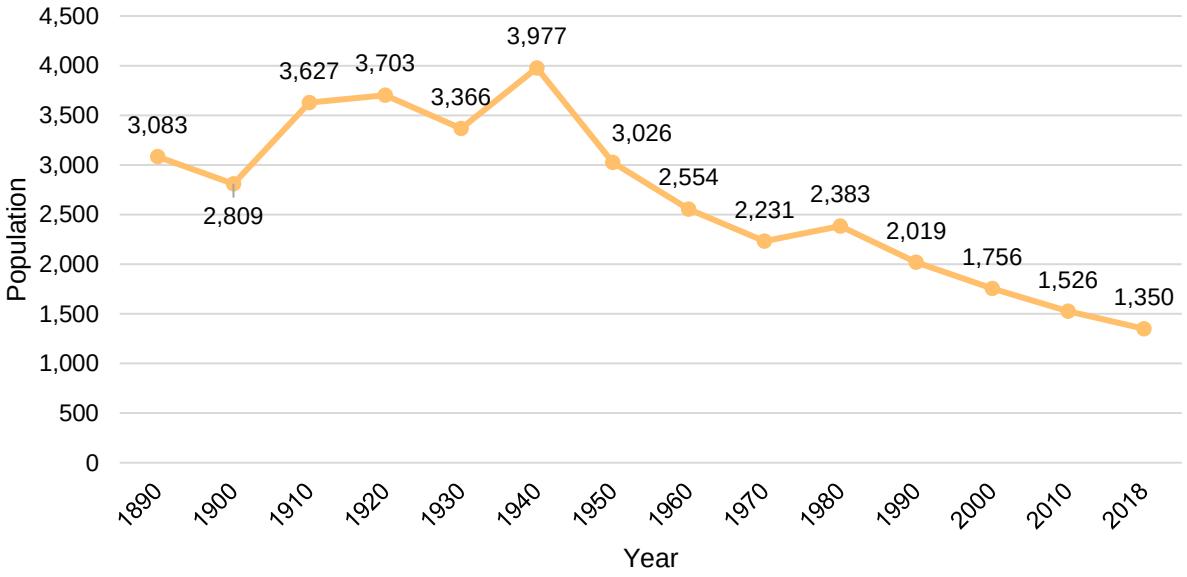
**Figure RCK.1: Rock County**



## Demographics, Economics, and Housing

The following figure displays the historical population trend from 1890 to 2018.[3] This figure indicates that the population of Rock County has been decreasing since 1980. A declining population can lead to more unoccupied housing that is not being maintained and is then at risk to high winds and other hazards. Furthermore, with fewer residents, there is decreasing tax revenue for the county, which could make implementation of mitigation projects more fiscally challenging.

**Figure RCK.2: Population 1890 - 2018**




*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

The following table indicates Rock County has a lower percentage of people under the age of five and a higher percentage over the age of 64. This is relevant to hazard mitigation because the very young and elderly populations may be at greater risk from certain hazards than others. For a more elaborate discussion of this vulnerability, please see Section Four: Risk Assessment.

**Table RCK.3: Population by Age**

| Age | Rock County | State of Nebraska |
|---|---|---|
| **<5** | 5.4% | 6.9% |
| **5-64** | 67.4% | 78.1% |
| **>64** | 27.2% | 15.0% |
| **Median** | 50.9 | 36.4 |

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau[3]*

The following table indicates that median household income for the county is lower than the State of Nebraska, but the per capita income is higher. Median home value and rent are both lower than the rest of the state. These economic indicators are relevant to hazard mitigation because they indicate the relative economic strength compared to the state as a whole. Areas with economic indicators which are relatively low may influence a county's level of resilience during hazardous events.

3 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "S0101: Age and Sex." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.

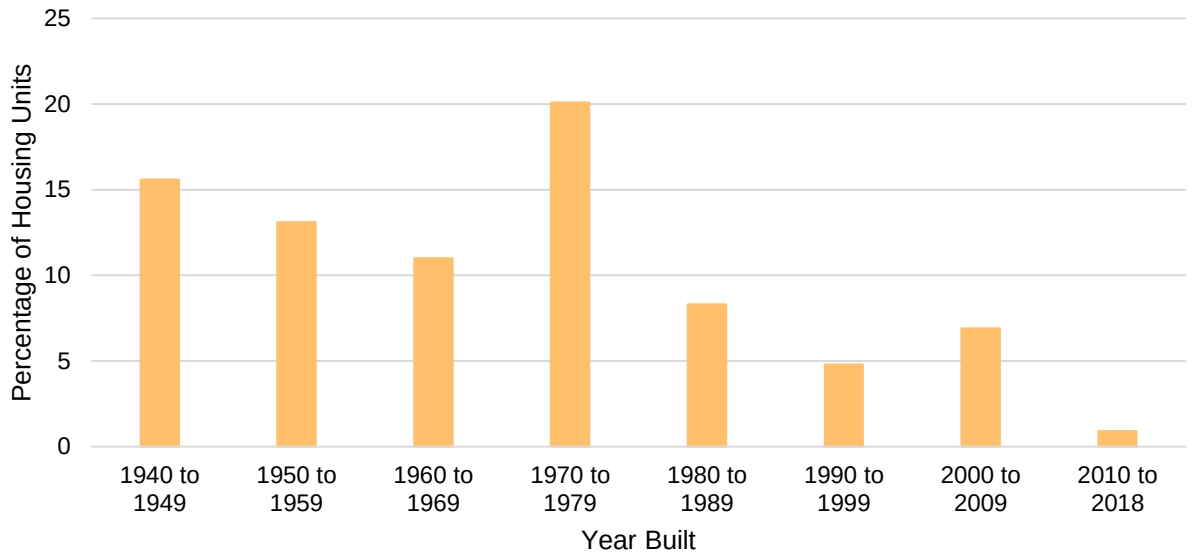
**Table RCK.4: Housing and Income**

| | Rock County | State of Nebraska |
|---|---|---|
| **Median Household Income** | $52,604 | $59,116 |
| **Per Capita Income** | $34,441 | $31,101 |
| **Median Home Value** | $78,300 | $147,800 |
| **Median Rent** | $555 | $803 |

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau[4],[5]*

The following figure indicates that the majority of housing in Rock County was built between 1970 and 1979 (20.1%). According to 2018 ACS 5-year estimates, the county has 881 housing units with 71.1 percent of those units occupied. There are approximately 79 mobile homes in the county. Housing age can serve as an indicator of risk, as structures built prior to the development of state building codes may be at greater risk. Finally, residents that live in mobile homes may be more vulnerable to the impacts of high winds, tornadoes, and severe winter storms if not anchored correctly.

**Figure RCK.3: Housing Units by Year Built**




*Source: U.S Census Bureau[4]*

**Table RCK.5: Housing Units**

| Jurisdiction | Total Housing Units | | | | Occupied Housing Units | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Occupied | | Vacant | | Owner | | Renter | |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| **Rock County** | 626 | 71.1% | 255 | 28.9% | 457 | 73% | 169 | 27% |
| **Nebraska** | 754,063 | 90.8% | 76,686 | 9.2% | 498,567 | 66.1% | 255,496 | 33.9% |

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau[4]*

## Major Employers

According to 2016 Business Patterns Census Data, Rock County had 53 business establishments. The following table presents the number of establishments, number of paid employees, and the annual payroll in thousands of dollars.

4 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.
5 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.

**Table RCK.6: Business in Rock County**

| | Total Businesses | Number of Paid Employees | Annual Payroll |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total for All Sectors** | 53 | 333 | $12,250,000 |

*Source: U.S Census Bureau* [6]

Agriculture is important to the economic fabric of the State of Nebraska. Rock County's 142 farms cover 107,703 acres of land, about 16.6% of the county's total area. Crop and livestock production are the visible parts of the agricultural economy, but many related businesses contribute to agriculture by producing, processing and marketing farm products. These businesses generate income, employment and economic activity throughout the region.

**Table RCK.7: Agricultural Inventory**

| | Agricultural Inventory |
|---|---|
| **Number of Farms with Harvested Cropland** | 142 |
| **Acres of Harvested Cropland** | 107,703 |

*Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, 2017* [7]

## Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, there have been no housing developments, new businesses, or industry in the unincorporated parts of the county. According to the 2018 American Community Survey estimates, Rock County's population is declining. The local planning team attribute this to a lack of industry and transportation. In the next five years, there is are no planned housing developments or businesses.

## Parcel Improvements and Valuation

The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor to analyze the location, number, and value of property improvements (e.g. buildings, garages, sheds etc.) 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.

**Table RCK.8: 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 the Floodplain |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,012 | $55,740,450 | N/A | N/A | N/A |

*Source: County Assessor, 2018*
*N/A: The community does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known how many improvements are in the floodplain.*

## Community Lifelines

### Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are a total of two chemical storage sites throughout Rock County. The following table lists the name, location, and whether they are in the floodplain. There are very few vulnerable populations located near fixed chemical sites. Any residents located nearby are educated about the threat of a spill. Local response resources are sufficient and have appropriate gear and training for spill response.

6 United States Census Bureau. "2016 County Business Patterns and 2016 Nonemployer Statistics" [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.

7 U.S. Department of Agriculture. "2017 Census of Agriculture." https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/.

**Table RCK.9: Chemical Storage Fixed Sites**

| Facility Name | Nearest Community | In Floodplain (Y/N) |
|---|---|---|
| Farmers/Ranchers Co-op Assn | Bassett | N/A |
| Rock County Agronomy Services | Bassett | N/A |

*Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, 2019*[8]
*N/A: The county does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known if the facilities are located in the floodplain.*

## Critical Facilities

Each participating jurisdiction identified critical facilities vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as part of this plan update. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction.

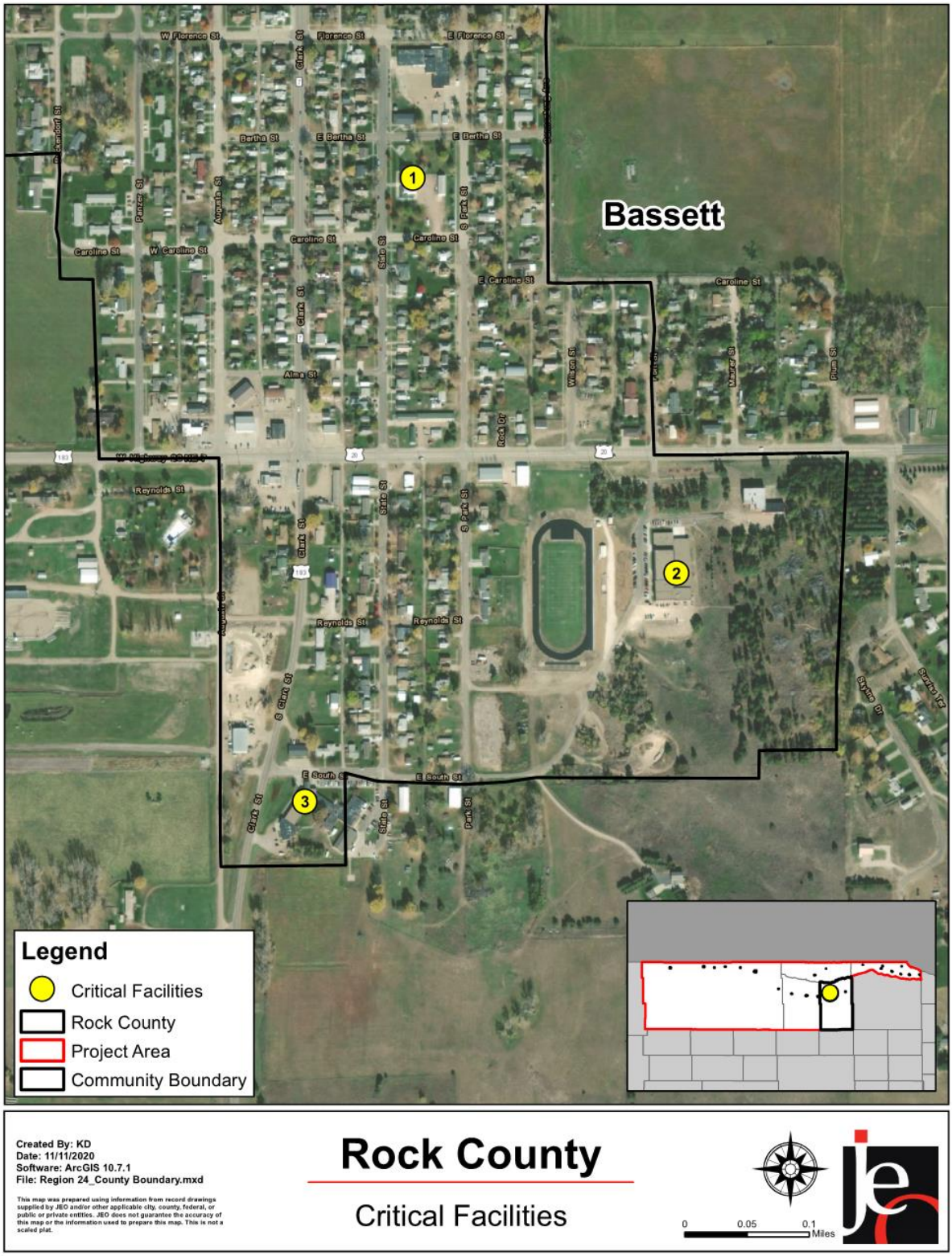
**Table RCO.10: Critical Facilities**

| CF Number | Name | Community Shelter (Y/N) | Generator (Y/N) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Courthouse/Sheriff | N | Y | N/A |
| **2** | High School | Y | N | N/A |
| **3** | Hospital | N | Y | N/A |

*N/A: The county does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known if the facilities are located in the floodplain.*

8 Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. "Search Tier II Data." Accessed July 2020. https://deq-iis.ne.gov/tier2/tier2Download.html.

**Figure RCK.4: Critical Facilities**



## Historical Occurrences

The following table provides a statistical summary for hazards that have occurred in the county. The property damages from the NCEI Storm Events Database (January 1996 – March 2020) should be considered only as broad estimates. Crop damages reports come from the USDA Risk Management Agency for Rock County between 2000 and June 2020.

**Table RCK.11: County Hazard Loss History**

| Hazard Type | | Count | Property Damage | Crop Damage[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agricultural Disease | Animal Disease[1] | 10 | 60 animals | N/A |
| | Plant Disease[2] | 1 | N/A | $2,392 |
| Chemical and Radiological Hazards (Fixed Site)[3] | | 0 | $0 | N/A |
| Chemical and Radiological Hazards (Transportation)[4] | | 1 | $330 | N/A |
| Civil Disorder | | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| Dam Failure[5,6] | | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Drought[7] | | 432 of 1,502 months | $1,000,000 | $942,715 |
| Earthquakes[17] | | 2 | $0 | N/A |
| Extreme Heat[8] | | Avg. 6 days a year | N/A | $1,667,222 |
| Flooding[9] | Flash Flood | 3 | $350,000 | $65,161 |
| | Flood | 4 | $395,000 | |
| Grass/Wildfires[10] | | 77 | 9,190 acres | $974 |
| Hail[9]<br>Average: 1.24 inches<br>Range: 0.75 – 4.25 inches | | 211 | $778,000 | $5,781,024 |
| High Wind[9]<br>Average: 52 mph<br>Range: 40 – 63 mph | | 19 | $20,000 | $931,527 |
| Landslides[15] | | 0 | $0 | N/A |
| Levee Failure[16] | | 0 | $0 | N/A |
| Public Health Emergency | | 2 | N/A | N/A |
| Severe Thunderstorms[9] | Thunderstorm Wind<br>Average: 69 mph<br>Range: 58 – 119 mph | 35 | $620,000 | $6,017,413 |
| | Heavy Rain | 2 | $0 | |
| | Lightning | 4 | $46,850 | |
| Severe Winter Storms[9] | Blizzard | 13 | $51,000 | $639,853 |
| | Extreme Cold/Wind chill | 12 | $0 | |
| | Heavy Snow | 4 | $0 | |
| | Ice Storm | 1 | $0 | |
| | Winter Storm | 39 | $9,000 | |
| | Winter Weather | 0 | $0 | |
| Terrorism[14] | | 0 | $0 | N/A |
| Tornadoes[9]<br>Average: EF0<br>Range: EF0 – EF2 | | 12 | $1,075,000 | $0 |
| Auto[11] | | 266 | N/A | N/A |

| Hazard Type | | Count | Property Damage | Crop Damage[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Transportation Incidents | 6 Fatalities, 72 Injuries | | | |
| | Aviation[12] 2 Injuries | 11 | N/A | N/A |
| | Highway Rail[13] 1 Injury | 2 | $8,000 | N/A |
| **Total** | | **730** | **$4,353,180** | **$16,048,281** |

*N/A: Data not available*
*1 - NDA, 2014 – March 2020*
*2 - USDA RMA, 2000 – June 2020*
*3 - NRC, 1990 – February 2020*
*4 - PHSMA, 1971 – June 2020*
*5 - Stanford NPDP, 1890 – 2018*
*6 – DNR Dam Inventory, July 2020*
*7 - NOAA, 1895 – May 2020*
*8 – NOAA Regional Climate Center, 1893 – May 2020*
*9 – NCEI, 1996 – March 2020*
*10 – NFS, 2000 – April 2020*
*11 – NDOT, 2006 – 2018*
*12 – NTSB, 1962 – June 2020*
*13 – DOT FRA, 1975 – 2020*
*14 – University of Maryland, 1970 – 2018*
*15 – University of Nebraska, 1960 – 2013*
*16 – USACE NLN, 1900 – June 2020*
*17 – USGS, 1900 – June 2020*

The following table provides a summary of hazards that have or have the potential to affect each participating jurisdiction in Rock County. Each jurisdiction was evaluated for previous hazard occurrence and the probability of future hazard events on each of the 20 hazards profiled in this plan. The evaluation process was based on data collected and summarized in Table RCK.11; previous impacts or the potential for impacts to infrastructure, critical facilities, people, and the economy; and the proximity to certain hazards such as dams and levees.

**Table RCK.12: Rock County and Community Hazard Matrix**

| Hazard | Rock County | City of Bassett | Village of Newport | Rock County Public Schools |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ag. Disease | X | X | X | |
| Chemical (Fixed Site) | X | X | | X |
| Chemical (Transportation) | X | X | X | X |
| Civil Disorder | X | X | X | X |
| Dam Failure | X | | | |
| Drought | X | X | X | X |
| Earthquakes | X | X | X | X |
| Extreme Heat | X | X | X | X |
| Flooding | X | X | X | X |
| Grass/Wildfires | X | X | X | X |
| Hail | X | X | X | X |
| High Wind | X | X | X | X |
| Landslides | X | X | X | X |
| Levee Failure | | | | |
| Public Health Emergency | X | X | X | X |
| Severe Thunderstorms | X | X | X | X |
| Severe Winter Storms | X | X | X | X |
| Terrorism | X | X | X | X |
| Tornadoes | X | X | X | X |
| Transportation Incidents | X | X | X | X |

## County Hazard Prioritization

The hazards discussed in detail below were either identified in the previous HMP and determined to still be of top concern or were selected by the local planning team from the regional list as relevant hazards for the county. The selected hazards were prioritized by the local planning team based on historical hazard occurrences, potential impacts, and the county's capabilities. For more information regarding regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

### Extreme Heat

Rock County Officials indicated a concern with extreme heat, especially in terms of it impacts on property and the economy. The county does not have cooling centers available. The county uses radio and social media to announce public meetings and event cancellations. The county did indicate that there were concerns with the power supply during heat events which tax the existing utility infrastructure. The senior center, AARP, and Senior Health Information Program are also local groups which can assist the elderly with this hazard.

### Grass/Wildfires

Rock County Officials indicated a concern with grass and wildfires, especially in terms of its impact on property. Specific areas of concern include the wooded bluffs and canyons along the Niobrara River and the Pine Creek corridor. These areas have seen encroachment from eastern redcedars and can be difficult to access. Wildfires in Rock County and surrounding counties in 2012 increased public awareness of the impacts of wildfires. There are three fire departments in the county: Bassett, Newport, and Gracy. The fire departments have performed several controlled burns in the last five years. The county does not have a Wildland Urban Interface code. There are no incentive programs for landowners to use ignition resistant material for construction. The Nebraska Forest Service currently conducts the only education initiatives related to this hazard and works with the local fire departments.

### High Winds

High wind events are an annual occurrence in the county. Past high wind events have caused damage to trees, structures, and power lines. The courthouse roof has also been damaged from past high wind events. Power loss occurs two or three times a year in the county. In the event of power loss, backup power generators are located at the courthouse, Bassett fire hall, hospital, emergency operations center, and at the repeater in Bassett. Shelter locations include church basements and the high school basement.

### Severe Winter Storms

Rock County officials indicated a concern with severe winter storms, especially in terms of it impacts on property. Past events have caused power outages in rural areas. KBR provides power throughout Rock County and works with the county road department to clear roads for their vehicles. The county road department is in charge of clearing snow and ice from the roads. The county does not presently use snow fences or snow routes. The Bassett fire hall, courthouse, and hospital all have a backup power source. For education programs, Region 24 maintains a Facebook page and also uses the radio and newspaper to educate the public about this hazard. The county recently implemented CodeRed and Page My Cell to help notify the public and emergency responders.

## Governance

The county's governmental structure impacts its capability to implement mitigation actions. Rock County is governed by a board of commissioners. The county also has the following offices and departments:

- County Clerk
- County Assessor
- County Treasurer
- County Attorney
- Emergency Manager
- Highway Superintendent
- Planning & Zoning
- Weed Superintendent
- Sheriff
- Surveyor

## Capability Assessment

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the county's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

**Table RCK.13: Capability Assessment**

| Survey Components/Subcomponents | | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| **Planning & Regulatory Capability** | Comprehensive Plan | Yes |
| | Capital Improvements Plan | No |
| | Economic Development Plan | Yes |
| | Local Emergency Operations Plan | Yes |
| | Floodplain Management Plan | No |
| | Storm Water Management Plan | No |
| | Zoning Ordinance | Yes |
| | Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance | No |
| | Floodplain Ordinance | No |
| | Building Codes | No |
| | National Flood Insurance Program | No |
| | Community Rating System | No |
| | Other (if any) | Community Wildfire Protection Plan |
| **Administrative & Technical Capability** | Planning Commission | Yes |
| | Floodplain Administration | No |
| | GIS Capabilities | Yes |
| | Chief Building Official | No |
| | Civil Engineering | Yes |
| | Local Staff Who Can Assess County's Vulnerability to Hazards | Yes |
| | Grant Manager | Yes |

| Survey Components/Subcomponents | | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| | Mutual Aid Agreement | Yes |
| | Other (if any) | - |
| **Fiscal Capability** | Capital Improvement Plan/ 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 | No |
| | Development Impact Fees | No |
| | General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds | No |
| | 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. Ex. CERT Teams, Red Cross, etc. | Yes |
| | 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 | Yes |
| | StormReady Certification | No |
| | Firewise Communities Certification | No |
| | Tree City USA | No |
| | Other (if any) | - |

| Overall Capability | Limited/Moderate/High |
|---|---|
| **Financial resources to implement mitigation projects** | Moderate |
| **Staff/expertise to implement projects** | Moderate |
| **Public support to implement projects** | High |
| **Time to devote to hazard mitigation** | Moderate |

## Plan Integration

Rock County 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. In addition, the county has a zoning ordinance, but it has not been integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. The county will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

### Comprehensive Plan (2017)
The comprehensive plan is designed to guide the future actions of the county. It contains goals and objectives aimed at safe growth, directs development away from chemical storage facilities, directs housing and vulnerable populations away from major transportation routes, encourages infill, encourages clustering of development, identifies areas that need emergency shelters, and encourages the preservation of open space in known hazard-prone areas.

### North Central Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020)
The purpose of the North Central Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to help effectively manage wildfires and increase collaboration and communication among organizations who manage fire. The CWPP discusses county specific historical wildfire occurrences and impacts, identifies areas most at risk from wildfires, discusses protection capabilities, and identifies wildfire mitigation strategies. This document is updated every five years and has been integrated with the current hazard mitigation plan.

### Rock County Local Emergency Operations Plan (2017)
The local emergency operations plan establishes standardized policies, plans, guidelines and procedures for emergency resources and governmental entities to respond and recover when a disaster event occurs. It contains information regarding, direction and control, communications and warning, damage assessment, emergency public information, evacuation, fire services, health and human services, law enforcement, mass care, protective shelters, and resource management. This plan is updated every five years.

## Mitigation Strategy

### New Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action Name | Ditch Improvements |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Install risers in road ditches along three roadways. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | Flooding |
| **Estimated Cost** | $200,000 |
| **Local Funding** | General Budget |
| **Timeline** | 2-5 Years |
| **Priority** | High |
| **Lead Agency** | Highway Superintendent, County Board of Commissioners |
| **Status** | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Transportation Drainage Improvements |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Raise sections of roads that are regularly flooded with water in wet years. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | Flooding |
| **Estimated Cost** | $750,000 |
| **Local Funding** | General Budget |
| **Timeline** | 2-5 Years |
| **Priority** | High |
| **Lead Agency** | Highway Superintendent, County Board of Commissioners |
| **Status** | Not Started |

## Continued Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Alert/Warning Sirens |
|---|---|
| Description | Perform an evaluation of existing alert sirens in order to determine sirens which should be replaced or upgraded. Install new sirens where lacking and remote activation. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $40,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 1 Year |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Backup and Emergency Generators |
|---|---|
| Description | Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies, county wells, lift stations, and other critical facilities and shelters. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $15,000 - $30,000 per generator |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Year |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Region 24 Emergency Management Agency, Local Fire Districts |
| Status | Planning Stage. The county is currently looking for matching funds. |

| Mitigation Action | Civil Service Improvements |
|---|---|
| Description | Improve emergency rescue and response equipment and facilities by providing additional or updating existing emergency response equipment. This could include fire equipment, ATVs, water tanks/truck, snow removal equipment, pumps, etc. This would also include developing backup systems for emergency vehicles, identifying and training additional personnel for emergency response, or continuing educational opportunities for current personnel. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Varies |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Region 24 Emergency Management Agency, Local Fire Districts |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Continuity Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Develop continuity plans for critical community services. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $500 - $1,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Region 24 Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Manager |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Drought Monitoring Plan and Procedures |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Develop and implement a plan/program to monitor the effects of drought. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | Drought |
| **Estimated Cost** | Staff Time |
| **Funding** | Staff Time |
| **Timeline** | 5+ Years |
| **Priority** | Medium |
| **Lead Agency** | County Board of Commissioners |
| **Status** | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Emergency Communications |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Establish an action plan to improve communication between agencies to better assist residents and businesses during and following emergencies. Establish inner-operable communications. A radio tower is needed in the southwest portion of the county. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | All Hazards |
| **Estimated Cost** | $10,000+ |
| **Funding** | General Budget |
| **Timeline** | 2-5 Years |
| **Priority** | Medium |
| **Lead Agency** | County Board of Commissioners, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency, Local Fire Districts |
| **Status** | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Expand Water Storage Capacity / Emergency Water Supplies / Dry Hydrants |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Evaluate the need to expand water storage capacity through a new water tower, standpipe, etc. to provide a safe water supply for the community and additional water for fire protection. Establish emergency water supplies such as dry hydrants and individual or community cisterns for defending structures from wildland fires. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | Drought, Extreme Heat, Grass/Wildfires |
| **Estimated Cost** | $30,000+ |
| **Funding** | CDBG, General Budget |
| **Timeline** | 5+ Years |
| **Priority** | High |
| **Lead Agency** | County Board of Commissioners, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| **Status** | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Firewise Community |
|---|---|
| Description | Work with communities to become a Firewise Community/USA participant through the Nebraska Forest Service and US Forest Service in order to educate homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire. The Firewise Communities approach emphasizes community responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response, and individual responsibility for safer home construction and design, landscaping, and maintenance. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Grass/Wildfires |
| Estimated Cost | $20,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners, Nebraska Fire Service |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Groundwater/Irrigation/Water Conservation Management Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Develop and implement a plan/ best management practices to conserve water use and reduce total use (high water use to low water use) and consumption of groundwater resources by citizens and irrigators of agricultural land during elongated periods of drought. Identify water saving irrigation projects or improvements such as sprinklers or soil moisture monitoring. Potential restrictions on water could include limitations on lawn watering, car washing, farm irrigation restrictions, or water sold to outside sources. Implement BMPs through water conservation practices such as changes in irrigation management, education on no-till agriculture and modified crop selection and use of xeriscaping in communities. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Drought |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Hazardous Fuels Reduction |
|---|---|
| Description | The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) Forest Fuels Reduction Program creates strategically located corridors of thinned forests across the landscape, reduces fire intensity, improves fire suppression effectiveness, increases firefighter safety, and better protects lives and property. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Grass/Wildfire |
| Estimated Cost | $300 per acre |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Region 24 Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Forest Service, County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | In Progress. Currently working with the NFS to thin forests. |

| Mitigation Action | Hazardous Tree Removal |
|---|---|
| Description | Identify and remove hazardous limbs and/or trees. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Winter Storms |
| Estimated Cost | $20,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | In Progress. The county is currently working with private landowners to remove hazardous trees. |

| Mitigation Action | Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program |
|---|---|
| Description | Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | Staff Time |
| Funding | Staff Time |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Power, Service, Electrical, and Water Distribution Lines |
|---|---|
| Description | Communities can work with their local Public Power District or Electricity Department to identify vulnerable transmission and distribution lines and plan to bury lines underground, upgrade, or retrofit existing structures to be less vulnerable to storm events. Electrical utilities shall be required to use underground construction methods where possible for future installation of power lines. Rural Water Districts can work with their County or NRD to identify vulnerable distribution lines near river crossings or creek beds and plan to place lines underground to reduce vulnerability from storm events and erosion. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Winter Storms, Severe Thunderstorms, Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $50,000 - $70,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners, KBR |
| Status | In Progress. KBR has installed some underground lines with their projects. |

| Mitigation Action | Promote First Aid |
|---|---|
| Description | Promote first aid training for all residents. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $500+ |
| Funding | General Budget, Corporate Donations, Volunteer Time |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Emergency Manager, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Public Awareness/Education |
|---|---|
| Description | Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps and environmental education increase public awareness of natural hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards. Also, educate citizens on water conservation methods, evacuation plans, etc. In addition, purchasing education equipment such as overhead projectors and laptops. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $5,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium-High |
| Lead Agency | Region 24 Emergency Management Agency, County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Safe Rooms and Storm Shelters |
|---|---|
| Description | Assess, design and construct fully supplied safe rooms in highly vulnerable urban and rural areas such as mobile home parks, campgrounds, schools, and other such areas throughout the planning area. Assess the adequacy of current public buildings to be used as safe rooms. Construct safe rooms in areas of greatest need, either as new construction or retrofitting. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms |
| Estimated Cost | $200 - $300 per square foot |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Region 24 Emergency Management Agency, County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started. Currently waiting on funds. |

| Mitigation Action | Source Water Contingency Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Villages and cities can evaluate and locate new sources of groundwater to ensure adequate supplies to support the existing community and any additional growth which may occur. Also, identify and develop water sources for fire protection. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Drought, Wildfire |
| Estimated Cost | $5,000+ |
| Funding | CDBG, State Revolving Fund, General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners, Local Fire Districts |
| Status | Not Started. Looking at funding options. |

| Mitigation Action | Stabilize/Anchor Fertilizer, Fuel, and Propane Tanks |
|---|---|
| Description | Anchor fuel tanks to prevent movement. If left unanchored, tanks could present a major threat to property and safety in tornado or high wind event. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds |
| Estimated Cost | $1,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Stormwater System and Drainage Improvements |
|---|---|
| Description | Undersized systems can contribute to localized flooding. Stormwater system improvements may include pipe upsizing and additional inlets. Smaller communities may utilize stormwater systems comprising of ditches, culverts, or drainage ponds to convey runoff. Drainage improvements may include ditch upsizing, ditch cleanout and culvert improvements. Retention and detention facilities may also be implemented to decrease runoff rates while also decreasing the need for other stormwater system improvements. Bridges typically serve as flow restrictions along streams and rivers. Cleanout and reshaping of channel segments at bridge crossing can increase conveyance, reducing the potential for flooding. Replacement or modification of bridges and other flow restrictions may be necessary to provide greater capacity, maintain or improve structural integrity during flood events, and eliminate flooding threats and damages. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000 - $100,000+ |
| Funding | CDBG, General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Stream Bank Stabilization / Grade Control Structures / Channel Improvements |
|---|---|
| Description | Stream bank/ bed degradation can occur along many rivers and creeks. Stabilization improvements including rock rip rap, vegetative cover, j-hooks, boulder vanes, etc. can be implemented to reestablish the channel banks. Grade control structures including sheet-pile weirs, rock weirs, ponds, road dams, etc. can be implemented and improved to maintain the channel bed. Channel stabilization can protect structures, increase conveyance and provide flooding benefits. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $50,000 - $100,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | In Progress. Short pine bridge and road completed. |

| Mitigation Action | Vulnerable Populations Support Database |
|---|---|
| Description | Work with stakeholders to develop a database of vulnerable populations and the organizations which support them. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Staff Time |
| Funding | Staff Time |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Warning Systems |
|---|---|
| Description | Improve city cable TV interrupt warning system and implement telephone interrupt system such as Reverse 911. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | In Progress. Code Red and texting system has been implemented. |

| Mitigation Action | Weather Radios |
|---|---|
| Description | Conduct an inventory of weather radios at schools and other critical facilities and provide new radios as needed. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $50 per radio |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Windbreaks / Living Snow Fence |
|---|---|
| Description | Installation of windbreaks to increase water storage capacity in soil. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Drought |
| Estimated Cost | $2,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | County Board of Commissioners |
| Status | Not Started |

## Removed Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Mitigation Education |
|---|---|
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Reason for Removal | This action will be integrated into the public awareness/education mitigation action. |

## Community Profile

# City of Bassett

## Region 24 Emergency Management
## Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

## 2021

## Local Planning Team

**Table BST.1: Bassett Local Planning Team**

| Name | Title | Jurisdiction |
|---|---|---|
| **Kristy Beard** | Clerk / Treasurer / Floodplain Administrator | City of Bassett |
| **Doug Fox** | Director | Region 24 EMA |

## Location and Geography

The City of Bassett is in northwestern Rock County and covers an area of 284 acres. The community of Bassett lies in an area of plains. Plains are flat lying land, above the valley and made up of stream-deposited silt, clay, sand and gravel overlain by loess. The watershed flows generally from the west to the east. The land use surrounding the community is mainly ranching with some agricultural crops.

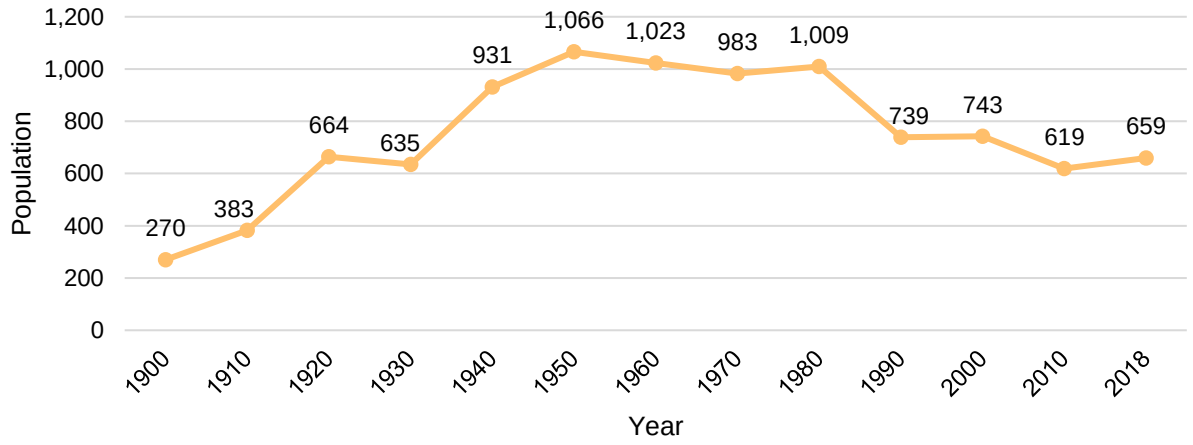
## Transportation

Bassett's major transportation corridors include State Highway 7 and US Highways 20 and 183. The most traveled route is Highway 20 with an average of 3,590 vehicles daily, 440 of which are trucks.[9] The city does not have a rail line traveling through or near the community, however, the Rock County Airport is located two miles southwest. The three highways are the transportation routes of most concern due to the high amounts of traffic. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

## Demographics

The City of Bassett's population has increased since 2010 to about 659 people. Increasing populations are associated with increased hazard mitigation and emergency planning requirements for development. Increasing populations can also contribute to increasing tax revenues, allowing communities to pursue additional mitigation projects. Bassett's population accounted for 48.8% of Rock County's population in 2018.[10]

**Figure BST.1: Population 1900 - 2018**

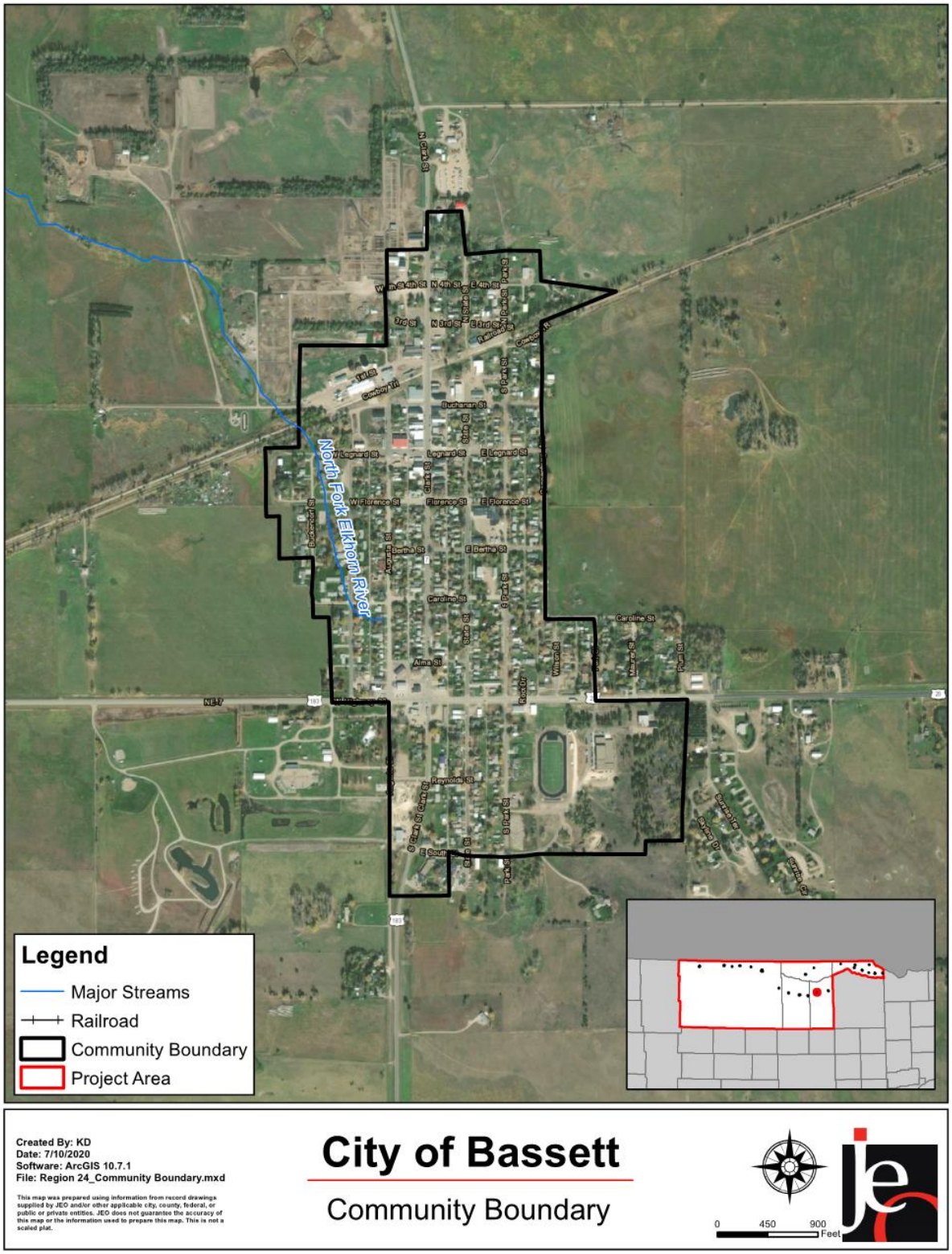



*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

9 Nebraska Department of Roads. 2018. "Interactive Statewide Traffic Counts Map." [map]. https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bb00781d6653474d945d51f49e1e7c34.

10 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP05: Demographic and Housing Estimates [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.

**Figure BST.2: City of Bassett**



The young, elderly, minority, and low-income populations may be more vulnerable to certain hazards than other groups. In comparison to the county, Bassett's population was:

- **Older.** The median age of Bassett was 53.2 years old in 2018, compared with Rock County's median of 50.9 years. Bassett's population grew older since 2010, when the median age was 51.9 years old.[10]
- **Equally ethnically diverse**. Since 2010, Bassett grew slightly more ethnically diverse. In 2010, 1.7% of Bassett's population was non-white. By 2018, about 1.8% was non-white. During that time, the non-white population in the county grew slightly from 1.6% in 2010 to 1.9% in 2018.[10]
- **More likely to be below the federal poverty line.** The poverty rate in the City of Bassett (9.1% of people living below the federal poverty line) was higher than the county's poverty rate (7.4%) in 2018.[11]

## Employment and Economics

In comparison to Rock County, Bassett's economy had:

- **Similar mix of industries.** Bassett's major employment sectors, accounting for 10% or more of employment each, were: agriculture, retail trade, education, and entertainment.[11]
- **Similar median household income.** Bassett's median household income in 2018 ($51,719) was about $900 lower than the county ($52,604).[11]
- **Similar amount of long-distance commuters.** About 61.7% of workers in Bassett commuted for fewer than 15 minutes, compared with about 62.4% of workers in Rock County. About 17% of workers in Bassett commuted 30 minutes or more to work, compared to about 17% of county workers.[12]

### Major Employers

Major employers in Bassett include Rock County Public Schools, Rock County Hospital, Bassett Livestock, and Rock County Agronomy. The local team estimates that 20% of residents commute to Ainsworth for employment.

## Housing

In comparison to Rock County, Bassett's housing stock was:

- **Older.** Bassett had a larger share of housing built prior to 1970 than the county (70.1% compared to 59.1%).[13]
- **Less mobile and manufactured housing.** The City of Bassett had a smaller share of mobile and manufactured housing (5.6%) compared to the county (9%).[13]
- **More renter-occupied**. About 289% of occupied housing units in Bassett were renter-occupied compared with 27% of occupied housing in Rock County.[13]
- **More occupied.** Approximately 17.1% of Bassett's housing units were vacant compared to 28.9% of units in Rock County.[13]

The age of housing may indicate which housing units were built prior to the development of state building codes. Vacant housing stock may also be more vulnerable to hazard events if it is poorly

11 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.
12 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "S0802: Means of Transportation to Work by Selected Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.
13 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.

maintained. Unoccupied housing may also suggest that future development may be less likely to occur. Communities with a substantial number of mobile homes may be more vulnerable to the impacts of high winds, tornadoes, and severe winter storms if those homes are not anchored correctly. There are no mobile home parks in the community. A few individual mobile homes are located to the north of the Methodist church. Renter-occupied housing depends on the initiative of landlords for proper maintenance and retrofitting to be resilient to disasters. They are less likely than homeowners to have flood insurance, or to know their risks to flooding and other hazards.

## Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, Bassett has been buying dilapidated homes and demolishing them for new housing. According to the 2018 American Community Survey estimates, Bassett's population is growing. The local planning team attributes the growth to the school system and hospital in the community. In the next five years, the city be doing a duplex housing project and building a new lift station. No new businesses or industry is planned at this time. Bassett's future land use map (Figure BST.3) shows commercial will be located along the highways, with medium to high density residential making up most of the community.

## Parcel Improvements and Valuation

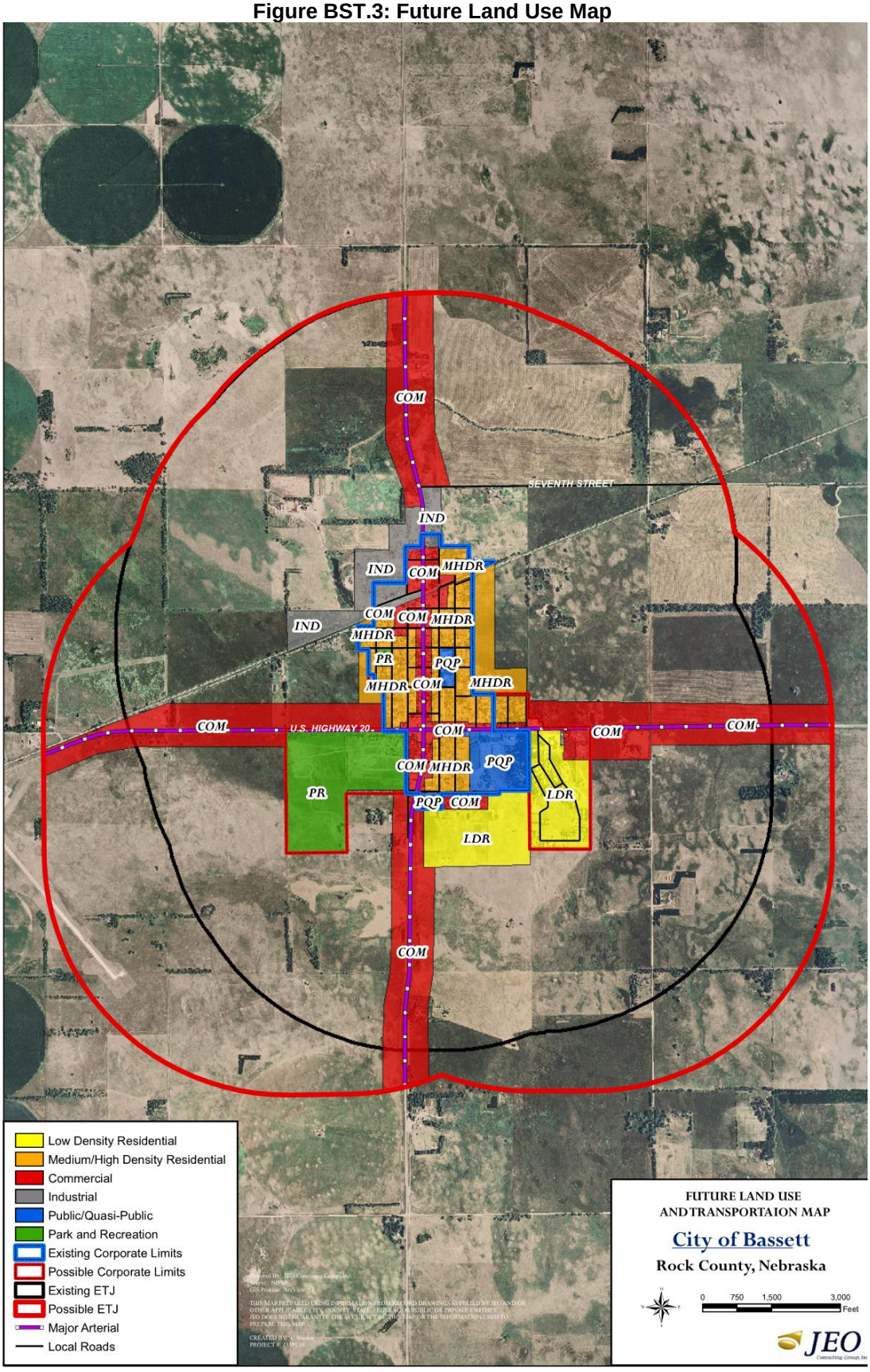
The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor to analyze the location, number, and value of property improvements (e.g. buildings, garages, sheds etc.) at the parcel level. The data did not contain the number of structures on each parcel. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following table.

**Table BST.2: 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 the Floodplain |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **462** | $22,798,665 | N/A | N/A | N/A |

*Source: County Assessor, 2019*
*N/A: The community does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known how many improvements are in the floodplain.*

**Figure BST.3: Future Land Use Map**



# Community Lifelines

## Critical Facilities

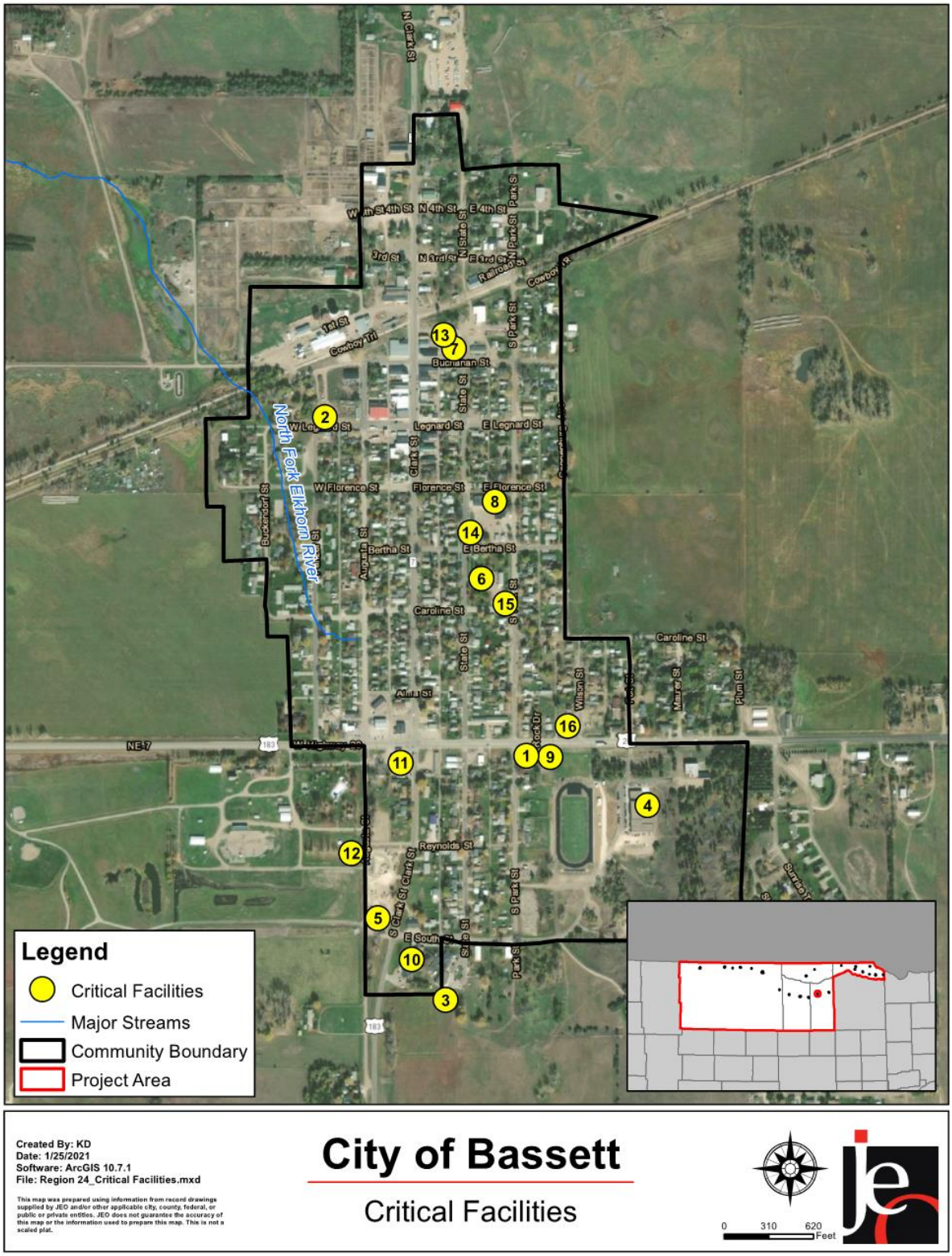
Each participating jurisdiction identified critical facilities vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as part of this plan update. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction.

**Table BST.3: Critical Facilities**

| CF Number | Name | Community Shelter (Y/N) | Generator (Y/N) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | City Hall | N | Y | N/A |
| 2 | City Shop | N | Y | N/A |
| 3 | City South Well | N | Y | N/A |
| 4 | County High School | Y | N | N/A |
| 5 | County Road Department | N | Y | N/A |
| 6 | Courthouse & LE | N | Y | N/A |
| 7 | Fire Department | N | Y | N/A |
| 8 | Grade School | Y | N | N/A |
| 9 | NW Central RC&D Hospital | N | N | N/A |
| 10 | Rock County Hospital | N | Y | N/A |
| 11 | Scotts - Gas Station | N | N | N/A |
| 12 | Sub Station | N | N | N/A |
| 13 | Water Tower | N | N | N/A |
| 14 | Well #1 | N | N | N/A |
| 15 | Well #2 | N | N | N/A |
| 16 | Well #3 | N | N | N/A |

*N/A: The community does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known if any facilities are in the floodplain.*

**Figure BST.4: Critical Facilities**



## Historical Occurrences

See the Rock County profile for historical hazard events, including the number of events, damage estimates, and any fatalities or injuries.

## Hazard Prioritization

The hazards discussed in detail below were either identified in the previous HMP and determined to still be of top concern or were selected by the local planning team from the regional list as relevant hazards for the community. The selected hazards were prioritized by the local planning team based on historical hazard occurrences, potential impacts, and the community's capabilities. For more information regarding regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

### Flooding

Bassett identified flash flooding risks as a concern for the community. During the March 2019 flood event, flooding occurred north of the community and impacted the northern parts of the city. The north and west parts of Bassett are the area most prone to flooding. Bassett participates in the NFIP and has a dedicated flood management program in order to maintain its continued compliance. The city is currently going through a wetland delineation project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### High Winds

High wind events, especially in terms of debris, can pose a threat to people and property in Bassett. It has also caused localized power outages in the past. The city has data backup systems in place for important municipal records. Text alerts for severe weather are available through Region 24 Emergency Management Agency.

### Severe Winter Storms

Bassett is frequently impacted by severe winter storms. Snow removal on state highways is done by the state and on county roads it is done by the county. Bassett handles all other routes in the city. The local planning team indicated that updated snow removal equipment is needed as many of the current resources are aging.

## Governance

A community's governance indicates the number of boards or offices that may be available to help implement hazard mitigation actions. The City of Bassett is governed by a city council; other governmental offices and departments are listed below.

- Clerk/Treasurer
- Floodplain Administrator
- Attorney
- Planning and Zoning
- Chief of Police
- Water & Sewer Commissioner
- Engineer
- City Economic Development Director

## Capability Assessment

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the community's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

**Table BST.4: Capability Assessment**

| Survey Components/Subcomponents | | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| **Planning & Regulatory Capability** | Comprehensive Plan | Yes |
| | Capital Improvements Plan | No |
| | Economic Development Plan | No |
| | Local Emergency Operations Plan | Yes |
| | Floodplain Management Plan | No |
| | Storm Water Management Plan | No |
| | Zoning Ordinance | Yes |
| | Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance | Yes |
| | Floodplain Ordinance | No |
| | Building Codes | Yes |
| | National Flood Insurance Program | Yes |
| | Community Rating System | No |
| | Other (if any) | Housing Study |
| **Administrative & Technical Capability** | Planning Commission | Yes |
| | Floodplain Administration | Yes |
| | GIS Capabilities | No |
| | Chief Building Official | Yes |
| | Civil Engineering | No |
| | Local Staff Who Can Assess Community's Vulnerability to Hazards | Yes |
| | Grant Manager | Yes |
| | Mutual Aid Agreement | Yes |
| | Other (if any) | - |
| **Fiscal Capability** | Capital Improvement Plan/ 1- & 6-Year Plan | 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 | No |
| | 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) | - |

| Survey Components/Subcomponents | | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| **Education & Outreach Capability** | Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. Ex. CERT Teams, Red Cross, etc. | No |
| | 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) | - |

| Overall Capability | Limited/Moderate/High |
|---|---|
| **Financial resources to implement mitigation projects** | Limited |
| **Staff/expertise to implement projects** | Limited |
| **Public support to implement projects** | Limited |
| **Time to devote to hazard mitigation** | Limited |

## Plan Integration

The City of Bassett 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. The city also has a zoning code that was last updated in 2009. It has yet to be integrated with the hazard mitigation plan. Floodplain regulations for the city are currently under development and will discuss requirements for structures in the floodplain. No other plans were identified during this process. The city will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

### Building Code (2010)

The building code sets standards for constructed buildings and structures. The city has adopted the 2010 International Building Codes and have not made any amendments to it.

### Comprehensive Plan & Subdivision Regulations (2009)

The comprehensive plan is designed to guide the future actions of the city. It contains goals aimed at safe growth, directs development away from chemical storage facilities, encourage infill development, and encourages clustering of development. There are plans to update this document in the next couple of years if funding is available.

### Rock County Local Emergency Operations Plan (2017)

Bassett is an annex in the Rock County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). The LEOP establishes standardized policies, plans, guidelines and procedures for emergency resources and governmental entities to respond and recover when a disaster event occurs. It contains information regarding, direction and control, communications and warning, damage assessment, emergency public information, evacuation, fire services, health and human services, law

enforcement, mass care, protective shelters, and resource management. This plan is updated every five years.

## Mitigation Strategy

Bassett's municipal funds are limited to maintaining current facilities and systems and have stayed the same over recent years. With a large portion of funds already dedicated to construction of a new lift station, the city will likely need assistance from grants to help pay for many of the actions listed below. The city would also benefit from partnerships with the county, state, and Region 24 Emergency Management Agency.

### Completed Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Tree City USA |
|---|---|
| Description | Work to become a Tree City USA through the National Arbor Day Foundation in order to receive direction, technical assistance, and public education on how to establish a hazardous tree identification and removal program in order to limited potential tree damage and damages caused by trees in a community when a storm event occurs. The four main requirements include: 1) Establish a tree board; 2) Enact a tree care ordinance; 3) Establish a forestry care program; 4) Enact an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Winter Storms |
| Status | The city is now a Tree City USA member. |

### Continued Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Alert/Warning Sirens |
|---|---|
| Description | Perform an evaluation of existing alert sirens in order to determine sirens which should be replaced or upgraded. Install new sirens where lacking and remote activation. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $15,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Backup and Emergency Generators |
|---|---|
| Description | Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies, county wells, lift stations, and other critical facilities and shelters. Bassett would like to install a generator at the high school. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $15,000 - $30,000 per generator |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Business Continuity Plans |
|---|---|
| Description | Educate local businesses on the value of continuity planning. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Staff Time |
| Funding | Staff Time |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Civil Service Improvements |
|---|---|
| Description | Improve emergency rescue and response equipment and facilities by providing additional or updating existing emergency response equipment. This could include fire equipment, ATVs, water tanks/truck, snow removal equipment, pumps, etc. This would also include developing backup systems for emergency vehicles, identifying and training additional personnel for emergency response, or continuing educational opportunities for current personnel. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Varies |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Rock Bounty Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Continuity Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Develop continuity plans for critical community services. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $500 - $1,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Regional 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Drainage Study / Stormwater Master Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Preliminary drainage studies and assessments can be conducted to identify and prioritize design improvements to address site specific localized flooding/drainage issues to reduce and/or alleviate flooding. Stormwater master plans can be developed to help identify stormwater problem areas and potential drainage improvements. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000 - $100,000+ |
| Funding | CDBG, General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council |
| Status | In Progress. Working with the Army Corps of Engineers on a wetland delineation project. |

| Mitigation Action | Emergency Communications |
|---|---|
| Description | Establish an action plan to improve communication between agencies to better assist residents and businesses during and following emergencies. Establish inner-operable communications. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Expand Water Storage Capacity / Emergency Water Supplies / Dry Hydrants |
|---|---|
| Description | Evaluate the need to expand water storage capacity through a new water tower, standpipe, etc., to provide a safe water supply for the community and additional water for fire protection. Establish emergency water supplies such as dry hydrants and individual or community cisterns for defending structures from wildland fires. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Drought, Extreme Heat, Grass/Wildfire |
| Estimated Cost | Varies |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Floodplain Management |
|---|---|
| Description | Improve floodplain management practices such as adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (regulation of construction in SFHAs), floodplain identification and mapping (local requests for map updates), description of community assistance and monitoring activities, Community Rating System participation, and participation in FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners Program to increase local involvement in the flood mapping process. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | Staff Time |
| Funding | Staff Time |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Floodplain Administrator |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Groundwater/Irrigation/Water Conservation Management Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Develop and implement a plan/ best management practices to conserve water use and reduce total use (high water use to low water use) and consumption of groundwater resources by citizens and irrigators of agricultural land during elongated periods of drought. Identify water saving irrigation projects or improvements such as sprinklers or soil moisture monitoring. Potential restrictions on water could include limitations on lawn watering, car washing, farm irrigation restrictions, or water sold to outside sources. Implement BMPs through water conservation practices such as changes in irrigation management, education on no-till agriculture and modified crop selection and use of xeriscaping in communities. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Drought |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | City Council |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Hazardous Fuels Reduction |
|---|---|
| Description | The Nebraska Forest Service Forest Fuels Reduction Program creates strategically located corridors of thinned forests across the landscape, reduces fire intensity, improves fire suppression effectiveness, increases firefighter safety, and better protects lives and property. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Grass/Wildfires |
| Estimated Cost | Varies |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council, NFS |
| Status | In Progress. Some fuels reduction has been done but additional reduction is needed. |

| Mitigation Action | Improve Snow/Ice Removal Program / Snow Fence |
|---|---|
| Description | Revise and improve the snow and ice removal program for streets. Revisions should address situations such as plowing snow, ice removal, parking during snow and ice removal, and removal of associated storm debris. This would include updating the emergency routes, acquiring equipment that is needed, paving routes, and ordinances as necessary. Consider purchase of snow fence at critical areas and installation of living snow fence. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Severe Winter Storms |
| Estimated Cost | $20,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Install Vehicular Barriers |
|---|---|
| Description | Install vehicular barriers to protect critical facilities and key infrastructure where possible. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Transportation Incidents, Terrorism, Civil Disorder |
| Estimated Cost | Varies |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Water Department, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Power, Service, Electrical, and Water Distribution Lines |
|---|---|
| Description | Communities can work with NPPD to identify vulnerable transmission and distribution lines and plan to bury lines underground, upgrade, or retrofit existing structures to be less vulnerable to storm events. Electrical utilities shall be required to use underground construction methods where possible for future installation of power lines. Rural Water Districts can work with their County or NRD to identify vulnerable distribution lines near river crossings or creek beds and plan to place lines underground to reduce vulnerability from storm events and erosion. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Winter Storms, Severe Thunderstorms, Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $50,000 - $70,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Promote First Aid |
|---|---|
| Description | Promote first aid training for all residents. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $500+ |
| Funding | General Budget, Corporate Donations, Volunteer Time |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Health Services |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Promote Higher Codes |
|---|---|
| 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. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Staff Time |
| Funding | Staff Time |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Safe Rooms and Storm Shelters |
|---|---|
| Description | Assess, design and construct fully supplied safe rooms in highly vulnerable urban and rural areas such as mobile home parks, campgrounds, schools, and other such areas throughout the planning area. Assess the adequacy of current public buildings to be used as safe rooms. Construct safe rooms in areas of greatest need, either as new construction or retrofitting. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms |
| Estimated Cost | $200 - $300 per square foot |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Region 24 Emergency Management Agency |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Source Water Contingency Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | They city can evaluate and locate new sources of groundwater to ensure adequate supplies to support the existing community and any additional growth which may occur. Also, identify and develop water sources for fire protection. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Drought, Grass/Wildfire |
| Estimated Cost | $5,000+ |
| Funding | CDBG, State Revolving Fund, General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Water Department |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Stabilize/Anchor Fertilizer, Fuel, and Propane Tanks |
|---|---|
| Description | Anchor fuel tanks to prevent movement. If left unanchored, tanks could present a major threat to property and safety in tornado or high wind event. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms |
| Estimated Cost | $1,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | City Council, County Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Stormwater System and Drainage Improvements |
|---|---|
| Description | Undersized systems can contribute to localized flooding. Stormwater system improvements may include pipe upsizing and additional inlets. Smaller communities may utilize stormwater systems comprising of ditches, culverts, or drainage ponds to convey runoff. Drainage improvements may include ditch upsizing, ditch cleanout and culvert improvements. Retention and detention facilities may also be implemented to decrease runoff rates while also decreasing the need for other stormwater system improvements. Bridges typically serve as flow restrictions along streams and rivers. Cleanout and reshaping of channel segments at bridge crossing can increase conveyance, reducing the potential for flooding. Replacement or modification of bridges and other flow restrictions may be necessary to provide greater capacity, maintain or improve structural integrity during flood events, and eliminate flooding threats and damages |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000 - $100,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget, CDBG |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council, Street Department |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Weather Radios |
|---|---|
| Description | Conduct an inventory of weather radios at schools and other critical facilities and provide new radios as needed. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $50 per radio |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | City Council |
| Status | Not Started |

## Removed Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Floodplain Regulation Enforcement |
|---|---|
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Reason for Removal | While the city will continue to enforce all local regulations, this project is considered an ongoing action. |

| Mitigation Action | Maintain Good Standing with National Flood Insurance Program |
|---|---|
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Reason for Removal | While the city will continue to participate and maintain compliance in the NFIP, this project is considered an ongoing action. |

## Community Profile

# Village of Newport

## Region 24 Emergency Management
## Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

## 2021

## Local Planning Team

**Table NWP.1: Newport Local Planning Team**

| Name | Title | Jurisdiction |
|---|---|---|
| **Brenda Dobrovolny** | Ex-Board Chairperson | Village of Newport |
| **Tammy Cline** | Board Chairperson | Village of Newport |
| **Kristine Cornell** | Clerk | Village of Newport |

## Location and Geography

The Village of Newport is in northeastern Rock County and covers an area of 203 acres. The North Branch Elkhorn River runs west to east and is located approximately one mile north of Newport. Compared to other communities in the planning area, Newport has a notable tree canopy.

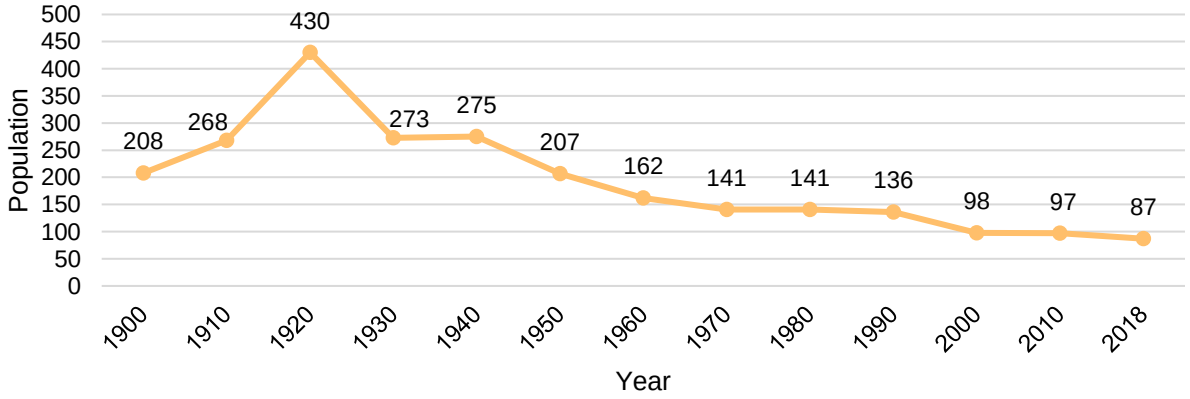
## Transportation

Newport's major transportation corridors include State Highway 137 and US Highway 20. The most traveled route is Highway 20 with an average of 2,455 vehicles daily, 360 of which are trucks.[14] Both highways carry various fuels and agricultural chemicals. No large spills have occurred in or near the community. In 2019 damaged bridges from flooding caused detours to Highway 137, which increased traffic going by the community. The village does not have a rail line traveling through or near the community. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk of transportation incidents.

## Demographics

The Village of Newport's population has declining since 1940 to about 87 people. A declining population can lead to more unoccupied housing that is not being maintained and is then at risk to high winds and other hazards. Furthermore, with fewer residents, there is decreasing tax revenue for the community, which could make implementation of mitigation projects more fiscally challenging. Newport's population accounted for 6.4% of Rock County's population in 2018.[15]

**Figure NWP.1: Population 1900 - 2018**

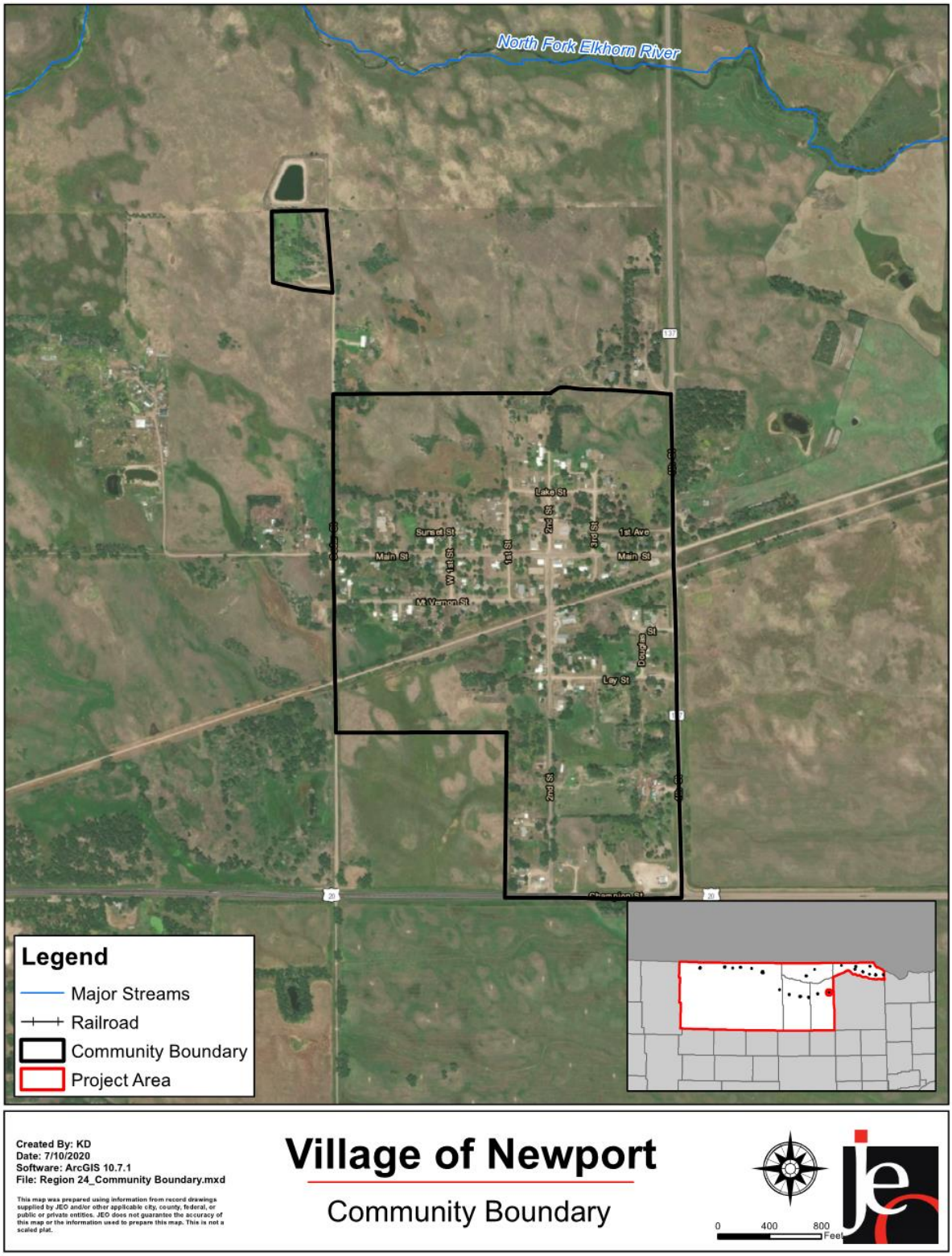



*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

14 Nebraska Department of Roads. 2018. "Interactive Statewide Traffic Counts Map." [map]. https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bb00781d6653474d945d51f49e1e7c34.

15 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP05: Demographic and Housing Estimates [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.

**Figure NWP.2: Village of Newport**



The young, elderly, minority, and low-income populations may be more vulnerable to certain hazards than other groups. In comparison to the county, Newport's population was:

- **Older.** The median age of Newport was 53.1 years old in 2018, compared with Rock County's median of 50.9 years. Newport's population grew older since 2010, when the median age was 48.5 years old.[15]
- **Less ethnically diverse**. Since 2010, Newport became less ethnically diverse. In 2010, 2.1% of Newport's population was non-white. By 2018, about 0% was non-white. During that time, the non-white population in the county grew slightly from 1.6% in 2010 to 1.9% in 2018.[15]
- **Less likely to be below the federal poverty line.** The poverty rate in the Village of Newport (5.7% of people living below the federal poverty line) was lower than the county's poverty rate (7.4%) in 2018.[16]

## Employment and Economics

In comparison to Rock County, Newport's economy had:

- **Similar mix of industries.** Newport's major employment sectors, accounting for 10% or more of employment each, were: agriculture, education, and other services.[16]
- **Similar median household income.** Newport's median household income in 2018 ($53,125) was about $500 higher than the county ($52,604).[16]
- **Similar amount of long-distance commuters.** About 48.5% of workers in Newport commuted for fewer than 15 minutes, compared with about 62.4% of workers in Rock County. About 17.1% of workers in Newport commuted 30 minutes or more to work, compared to about 17% of county workers.[17]

### Major Employers

There are no major employers in the community. The local planning team indicated most workers commute to Bassett or Ainsworth for employment.

## Housing

In comparison to Rock County, Newport's housing stock was:

- **Older.** Newport had a larger share of housing built prior to 1970 than the county (61.1% compared to 59.1%).[18]
- **Larger amounts of mobile and manufactured housing.** The Village of Newport had a larger share of mobile and manufactured housing (14.8%) compared to the county (9%).[18]
- **Less renter-occupied**. About 4.7% of occupied housing units in Newport were renter-occupied compared with 27% of occupied housing in Rock County.[18] The local planning team indicated that there are no longer any rental houses in the community.
- **More occupied.** Approximately 20.4% of Newport's housing units were vacant compared to 28.9% of units in Rock County.[18]

16 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.
17 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "S0802: Means of Transportation to Work by Selected Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.
18 United States Census Bureau. 2018. "DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. https://data.census.gov/cedsci/.

The age of housing may indicate which housing units were built prior to the development of state building codes. Vacant housing stock may also be more vulnerable to hazard events if it is poorly maintained. Unoccupied housing may also suggest that future development may be less likely to occur. Communities with a substantial number of mobile homes may be more vulnerable to the impacts of high winds, tornadoes, and severe winter storms if those homes are not anchored correctly. Renter-occupied housing depends on the initiative of landlords for proper maintenance and retrofitting to be resilient to disasters. They are less likely than homeowners to have flood insurance, or to know their risks to flooding and other hazards.

## Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, one new home was built, and two unoccupied houses were demolished. No new businesses or industries were constructed. According to the 2018 American Community Survey estimates, Newport's population is declining. The local planning team indicated that this was due to the age of current residents and a lack of employment opportunities. In the next five years, there are no plans for new businesses or housing developments.

## Parcel Improvements and Valuation

The planning team acquired GIS parcel data from the County Assessor to analyze the location, number, and value of property improvements (e.g. buildings, garages, sheds etc.) 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.

**Table NWP.2: 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 the Floodplain |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **94** | $2,103,900 | N/A | N/A | N/A |

*Source: County Assessor, 2018*
*N/A: The community does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known how many improvements are in the floodplain.*

## Community Lifelines

### Critical Facilities

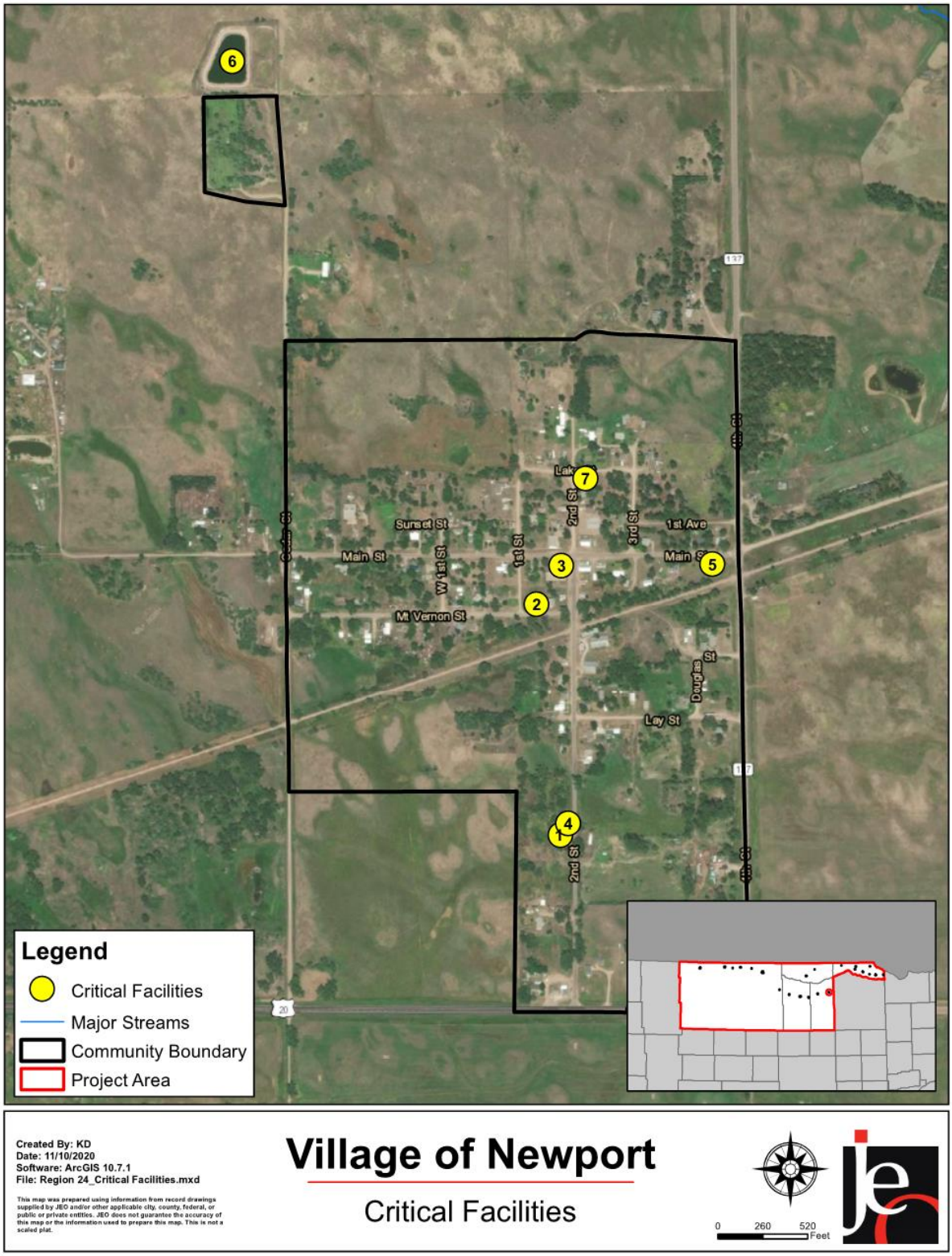
Each participating jurisdiction identified critical facilities vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as part of this plan update. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction.

**Table NWP.4: Critical Facilities**

| CF Number | Name | Community Shelter (Y/N) | Generator (Y/N) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | City Shop | N | N | N/A |
| 2 | Communications Tower | N | N | N/A |
| 3 | Fire Department | N | N | N/A |
| 4 | Lift Station | N | Y | N/A |
| 5 | Substation | N | N | N/A |
| 6 | Wastewater Lagoon | N | N | N/A |
| 7 | Well | N | Y | N/A |

*N/A: The community does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known if critical facilities are located in the floodplain.*

**Figure NWP.3: Critical Facilities**



## Historical Occurrences

See the Rock County profile for historical hazard events, including the number of events, damage estimates, and any fatalities or injuries.

## Hazard Prioritization

The hazards discussed in detail below were either identified in the previous HMP and determined to still be of top concern or were selected by the local planning team from the regional list as relevant hazards for the community. The selected hazards were prioritized by the local planning team based on historical hazard occurrences, potential impacts, and the community's capabilities. For more information regarding regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

### Flooding

While a rare event, Newport indicated that is does have drainage issues west of 2nd street and south of Main Street. In March 2019 high amounts of rainfall and increased snow melt caused standing water in the area west of 2nd Street and south of Main Street. The culverts near the Main Street and Cedar Street intersection had to be scooped out by hand to improve drainage. No critical facilities have been damaged from flooding. To help improve drainage in the southwest corner of Newport, the culvert under the Cowboy Trail has been cleaned out. The village has also put in a request to the county to upsize culverts. There are plans to deepen the road ditch along Cedar Street and put in a culvert to direct water flow to the south.

### High Winds

During the planning process, the planning team identified high winds as one of the hazards of greatest risk for Newport. Property vulnerability was the greatest concern related to this hazard. Newport has mobile homes and a campground which may be more vulnerable to this hazard. The local planning team indicated that approximately one percent of power lines are buried in the community. This makes for an increased risk of power loss from downed tree limbs and power poles. The village has backup power generators at the municipal well and lift station.

### Severe Thunderstorms

During the planning process, the planning team identified severe thunderstorms as one of the hazards of greatest risk for Newport. Although there has not been a significant storm in the past five years, property vulnerability and the impact on the economy are the greatest concern related to this hazard. There is an alert siren at the fire hall, located near Mt. Vernon and 2nd Streets.

## Governance

A community's governance indicates the number of boards or offices that may be available to help implement hazard mitigation actions. The Village of Newport is governed by a village board; other governmental offices and departments are listed below.

- Clerk/Treasurer
- Attorney
- Planning Commission
- Sewage Plant Operator
- Street Commissioner
- Sewer Commissioner
- Water Commissioner
- Engineer

## Capability Assessment

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the community's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects.

**Table NWP.5: Capability Assessment**

| Survey Components/Subcomponents | | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| **Planning & Regulatory Capability** | Comprehensive Plan | No |
| | Capital Improvements Plan | No |
| | Economic Development Plan | No |
| | Local Emergency Operations Plan | Yes |
| | Floodplain Management Plan | No |
| | Storm Water Management Plan | No |
| | Zoning Ordinance | No |
| | Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance | No |
| | Floodplain Ordinance | No |
| | Building Codes | No |
| | National Flood Insurance Program | No |
| | Community Rating System | No |
| | Other (if any) | - |
| **Administrative & Technical Capability** | Planning Commission | No |
| | Floodplain Administration | No |
| | GIS Capabilities | No |
| | Chief Building Official | No |
| | Civil Engineering | No |
| | Local Staff Who Can Assess Community's Vulnerability to Hazards | No |
| | Grant Manager | Yes |
| | Mutual Aid Agreement | No |
| | Other (if any) | - |
| **Fiscal Capability** | Capital Improvement Plan/ 1- & 6-Year Plan | No |
| | Applied for grants in the past | No |
| | Awarded a grant in the past | No |
| | Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects | No |
| | 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) | - |

| Survey Components/Subcomponents | | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| **Education & Outreach Capability** | Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. Ex. CERT Teams, Red Cross, etc. | No |
| | 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 | No |
| | Other (if any) | - |

| Overall Capability | Limited/Moderate/High |
|---|---|
| **Financial resources to implement mitigation projects** | Limited |
| **Staff/expertise to implement projects** | Moderate |
| **Public support to implement projects** | Moderate |
| **Time to devote to hazard mitigation** | Limited |

## Plan Integration

The Village of Newport does not have any formal planning documents. However, it is an annex in the 2017 Rock County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). The LEOP establishes standardized policies, plans, guidelines and procedures for emergency resources and governmental entities to respond and recover when a disaster event occurs. It contains information regarding, direction and control, communications and warning, damage assessment, emergency public information, evacuation, fire services, health and human services, law enforcement, mass care, protective shelters, and resource management. This plan is updated every five years. The village is currently working with a consultant to create a comprehensive plan for the community. No other planning documents were identified in this process. The village will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current HMP into other planning mechanisms and updates.

## Mitigation Strategy

Newport's municipal funds are limited to maintaining current facilities and systems and have decreased over recent years. The village will likely need financial assistants from grants to implement many of the mitigation actions listed below. No grant applications have been submitted in the last five years, and Newport would likely need assistance from the county or state agencies.

## Continued Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Alert/Warning Sirens |
|---|---|
| Description | Perform an evaluation of existing alert sirens in order to determine sirens which should be replaced or upgraded. Install new sirens where lacking and remote activation. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms |
| Estimated Cost | $15,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Backup and Emergency Generators |
|---|---|
| Description | Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies, county wells, lift stations, and other critical facilities and shelters. Newport presently has generators at the lift stations and municipal well. Newport would like to replace the both of these generators |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $15,000 - $30,000+ per generator |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Sewer Department, Water Department |
| Status | Not started due to funding limitations. |

| Mitigation Action | Civil Service Improvements |
|---|---|
| Description | Improve emergency rescue and response equipment and facilities by providing additional or updating existing emergency response equipment. This could include fire equipment, ATVs, water tanks/truck, snow removal equipment, pumps, etc. This would also include developing backup systems for emergency vehicles, identifying and training additional personnel for emergency response, or continuing educational opportunities for current personnel. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Varies |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Drainage Study / Stormwater Master Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Preliminary drainage studies and assessments can be conducted to identify and prioritize design improvements to address site specific localized flooding/drainage issues to reduce and/or alleviate flooding. Stormwater master plans can be developed to help identify stormwater problem areas and potential drainage improvements. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000 - $100,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget, CDBG |
| Timeline | 1 Year |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not Started. Currently awaiting funding. |

| Mitigation Action | Expand Water Storage Capacity / Emergency Water Supplies / Dry Hydrants |
|---|---|
| Description | Evaluate the need to expand water storage capacity through a new water tower, standpipe, etc. to provide a safe water supply for the community and additional water for fire protection. Establish emergency water supplies such as dry hydrants and individual or community cisterns for defending structures from wildland fires. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Drought, Extreme Heat, Grass/Wildfires |
| Estimated Cost | $30,000+ |
| Funding | CDBG, General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Water Department |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Hazardous Tree Removal |
|---|---|
| Description | Identify and remove hazardous limbs and/or trees. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Severe Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Winter Storms |
| Estimated Cost | $20,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program |
|---|---|
| Description | Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | Staff Time |
| Funding | Staff Time |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Power, Service, Electrical, and Water Distribution Lines |
|---|---|
| Description | Communities can work with their local Public Power District (KBR) or Electricity Department to identify vulnerable transmission and distribution lines and plan to bury lines underground, upgrade, or retrofit existing structures to be less vulnerable to storm events. Electrical utilities shall be required to use underground construction methods where possible for future installation of power lines. Rural Water Districts can work with their County or NRD to identify vulnerable distribution lines near river crossings or creek beds and plan to place lines underground to reduce vulnerability from storm events and erosion. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Winter Storms, Severe Thunderstorms, Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $50,000 - $70,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Public Awareness/Education |
|---|---|
| Description | Through activities such as outreach projects, distribution of maps and environmental education increase public awareness of natural hazards to both public and private property owners, renters, businesses, and local officials about hazards and ways to protect people and property from these hazards. Also, educate citizens on water conservation methods, evacuation plans, etc. In addition, purchasing education equipment such as overhead projectors and laptops. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | Varies |
| Funding | Tax |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Safe Rooms and Storm Shelters |
|---|---|
| Description | Assess, design and construct fully supplied safe rooms in highly vulnerable urban and rural areas such as mobile home parks, campgrounds, schools, and other such areas throughout the planning area. Assess the adequacy of current public buildings to be used as safe rooms. Construct safe rooms in areas of greatest need, either as new construction or retrofitting. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms |
| Estimated Cost | $200 - $300 per square foot |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | Not started due to funding limitations. |

| Mitigation Action | Stormwater System and Drainage Improvements |
|---|---|
| Description | Undersized systems can contribute to localized flooding. Stormwater system improvements may include pipe upsizing and additional inlets. Smaller communities may utilize stormwater systems comprising of ditches, culverts, or drainage ponds to convey runoff. Drainage improvements may include ditch upsizing, ditch cleanout and culvert improvements. Retention and detention facilities may also be implemented to decrease runoff rates while also decreasing the need for other stormwater system improvements. Bridges typically serve as flow restrictions along streams and rivers. Cleanout and reshaping of channel segments at bridge crossing can increase conveyance, reducing the potential for flooding. Replacement or modification of bridges and other flow restrictions may be necessary to provide greater capacity, maintain or improve structural integrity during flood events, and eliminate flooding threats and damages. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000 - $100,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget, CDBG |
| Timeline | 1 Year |
| Priority | High |
| Lead Agency | Village Board |
| Status | In Progress. Stalled due to a lack of funding. |

## School District Profile

# Rock County Public Schools

## Region 24 Emergency Management
## Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

**2021**

## Local Planning Team

**Table RPS.1: Rock County Public Schools Local Planning Team**

| Name | Title | Jurisdiction |
|---|---|---|
| **Mark Otten** | Superintendent | Rock County Public Schools |

## Location

Rock County Public Schools covers most of Rock County and serves two schools. The school district provides services to students in the rural areas of Rock County and the communities of Bassett and Newport.

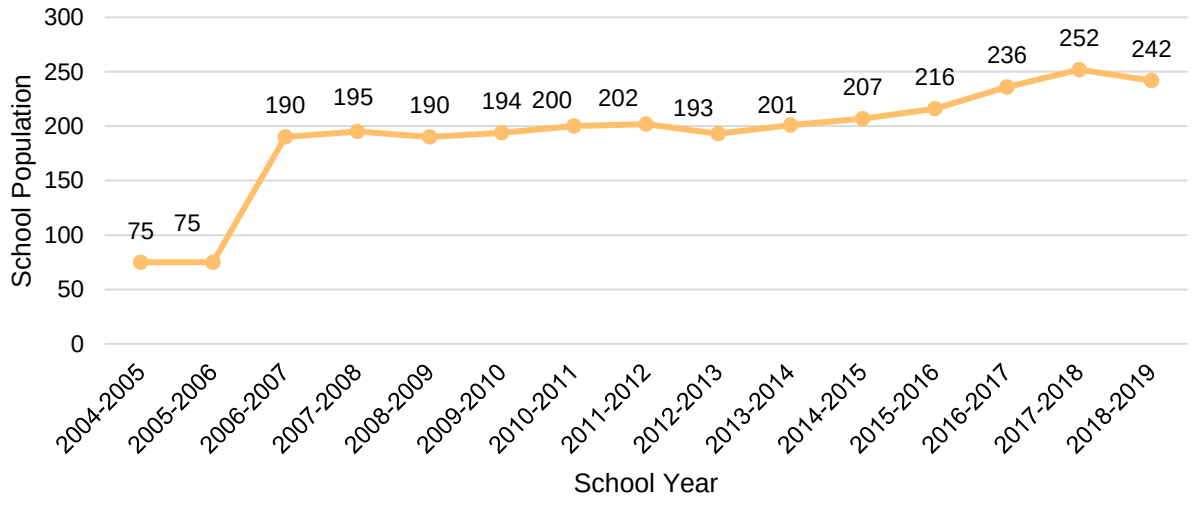
## Transportation

Four major transportation corridors intersect near the district's schools: US Highways 20 and 183 and Nebraska State Highways 7 and 137. The most travel route is Highway 20 with a total annual average of 2,860 vehicles daily, 370 of which are trucks. [19] There are no rail lines in the district. Highway 20 and the intersection to turn into the high school parking lot are the transportation routes of most concern due to heavy traffic and increased risk of accidents. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans because it suggests areas more at risk of transportation incidents. The district owns two buses, but they are used strictly for activities. No students are bussed to and from the schools.

## Demographics

The following figure displays the historical student population trend starting with the 2004-05 school year and ending with the 2018-19 year. It indicates that the student population has been declining since 2018. There are 242 students enrolled in the district.[20] The district anticipates little change in the student population in the coming years. English is the only language spoken in the district.

**Figure RPS.1: Student Population 2004-2019**




*Source: Nebraska Department of Education*

19 Nebraska Department of Roads. 2018. "Interactive Statewide Traffic Counts Map." https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bb00781d6653474d945d51f49e1e7c34.

20 Nebraska Department of Education. August 2020. "2018-2019 Education Profile for District: Rock County Public Schools." https://nep.education.ne.gov/snapshot.html#75-0100-000.

**Figure RPS.2: Rock County Public Schools**

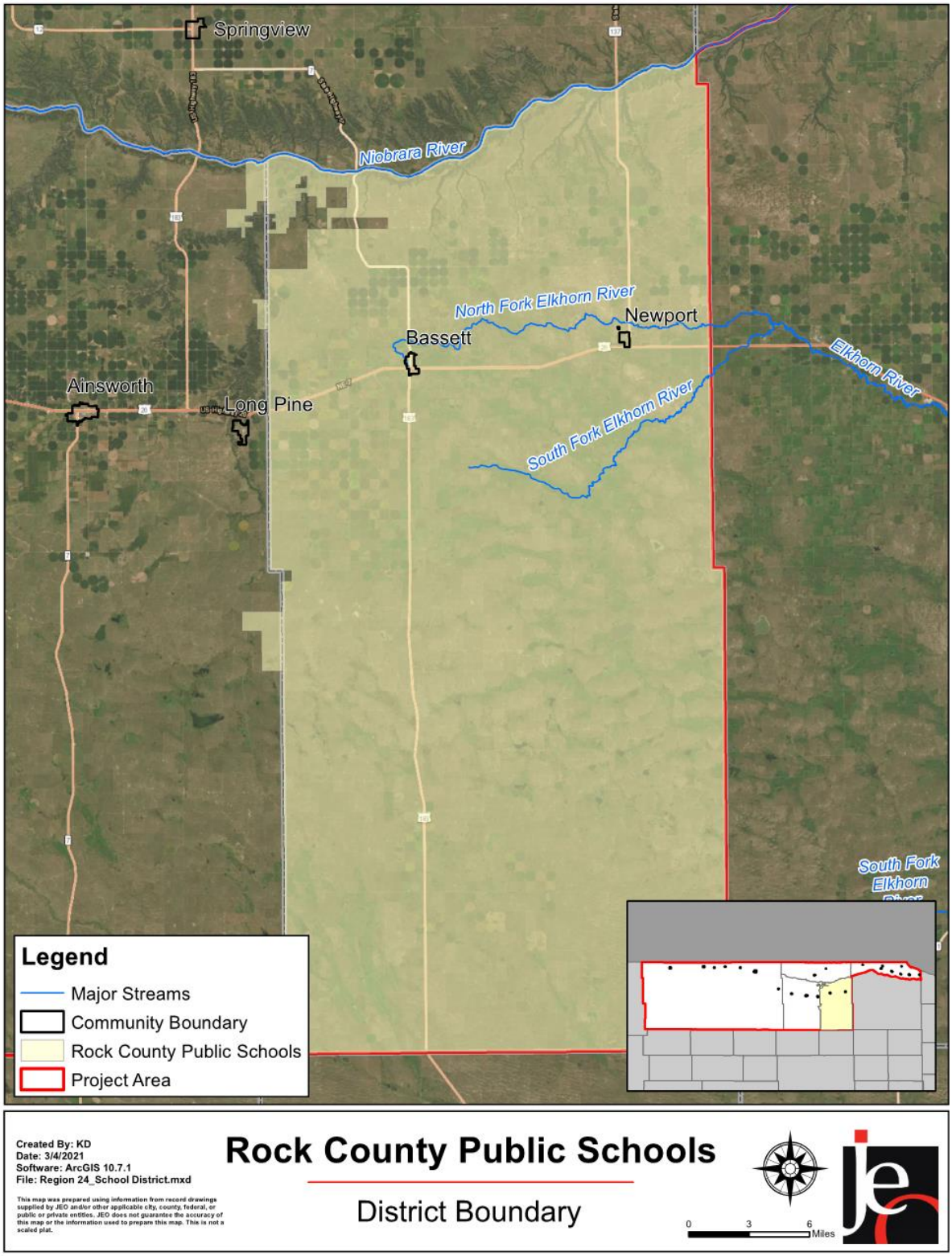
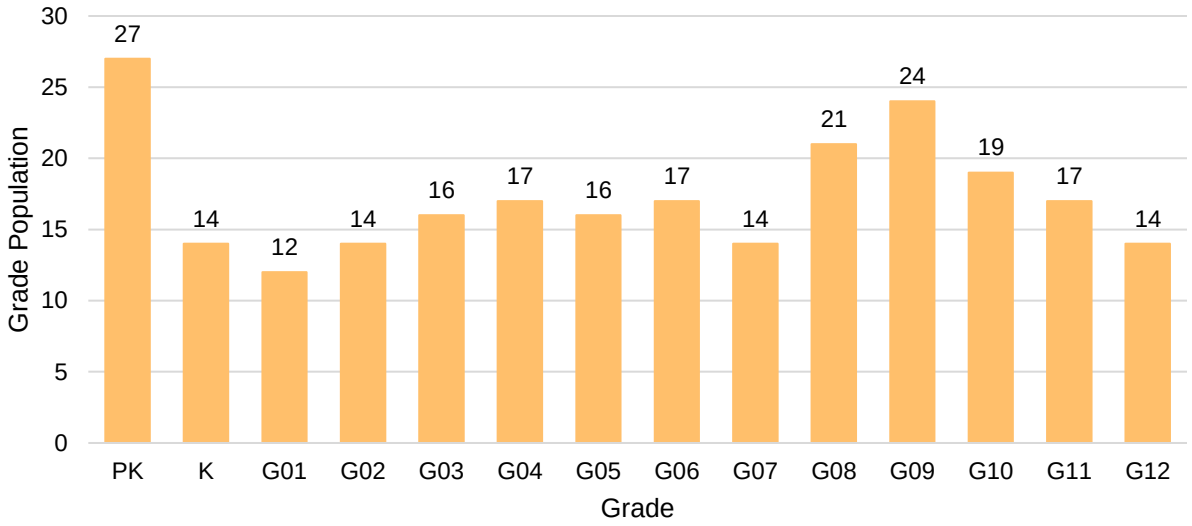


**Figure RPS.3: Number of Students by Grade, 2018-2019**




*Source: Nebraska Department of Education*

The figure above indicates that the largest number of students are in the pre-kindergarten, 8th, and 9th grades. The lowest population of students are in the 1st grade. According to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), 42.2% of students receive either free or reduced priced meals at school. This is lower than the state average of 45.2%. Additionally, nearly 13.5% of students are in the Special Education Program and less than 10 students are English Language Learners. These students may be more vulnerable during a hazardous event than the rest of the student population.

**Table RPS.2: Student Statistics, 2018-2019**

| | School District | State of Nebraska |
|---|---|---|
| **Free/Reduced Priced Meals** | 42.2% | 45.2% |
| **School Mobility Rate** | 11.2 | 10.3% |
| **English Language Learners** | N/A | 7.2% |
| **Special Education Students** | 13.5% | 15.5% |

*Source: Nebraska Department of Education*[21]
*N/A: Data is not given if there are less than 10 students.*

## Future Development Trends

Over the past five years, the district demolished the old high school building on the hill and built a new bus barn at the high school site. There are no plans for any new construction, but renovations could be occurring at both the high school and grade school buildings in the summer of 2022.

21 Nebraska Education Profile. "School Report Card." Accessed August 2020. http://nep.education.ne.gov/Home/.

# Community Lifelines

## Critical Facilities

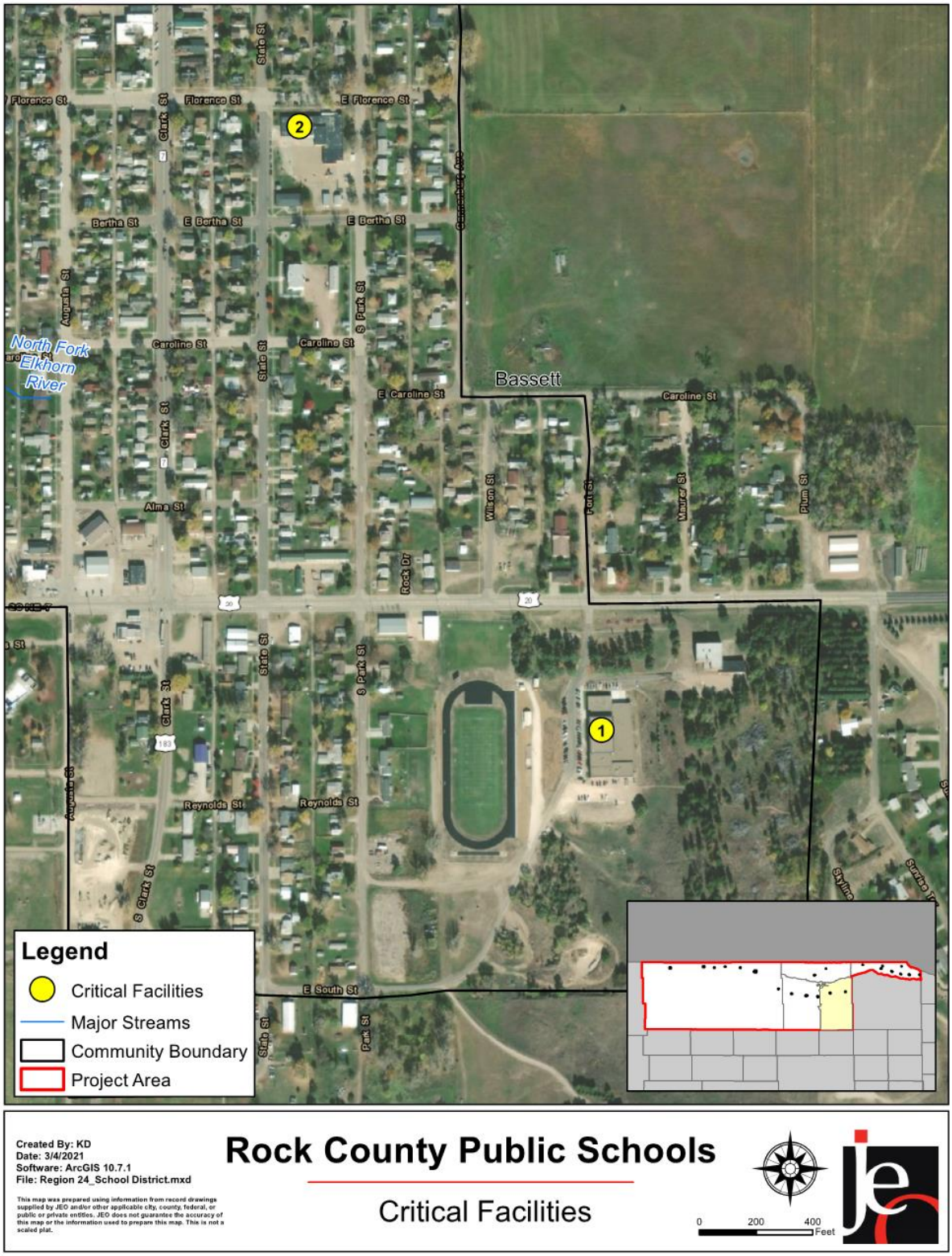
Each participating jurisdiction identified critical facilities vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction's functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as part of this plan update. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the school. The district also owns a bus barn that is located at the high school address. None of the buildings have weather radios.

**Table RPS.3: Critical Facilities**

| CF Number | Name | # of Students | # of Staff | Community Shelter (Y/N) | Safe Room (Y/N) | Generator (Y/N) | Floodplain (Y/N) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Rock County High School | 110 | 24 | Y | N | N | N/A |
| **2** | Bassett Grade School | 130 | 21 | N | N | N | N/A |

*N/A: The county does not have a mapped floodplain, so it is not known if the facilities are located in the floodplain.*

**Figure RPS.4: Critical Facilities**



## Historical Occurrences

See the Rock County profile for historical hazard events, including the number of events, damage estimates, and any fatalities or injuries.

## Hazard Prioritization

The hazards discussed in detail below were either identified in the previous HMP and determined to still be of top concern or were selected by the local planning team from the regional list as relevant hazards for the district. The selected hazards were prioritized by the local planning team based on historical hazard occurrences, potential impacts, and the district's capabilities. For more information regarding regional hazards, please see *Section Four: Risk Assessment*.

### Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms are a regular occurrence in the district. Rock County Schools indicated the main concern with this hazard includes power outages and damages to its facilities' roofs. Power lines to the schools are above ground, which makes them more susceptible to power loss from downed trees and branches. Snow removal in the district is handle by the city, county, and state. On school property custodians and administration remove snow using scoops, a snow blower, 4-wheeler with a blade, and garden tractor with a blade. If transportation routes or weather conditions are dangerous the district superintendent can make the decision to close the schools. The district has updated the phone system and website with an application that has the capabilities of putting out mass communications to various agencies simultaneously.

### Tornadoes

During the planning process, Rock County Schools indicated it was most concerned with tornadoes, specifically regarding potential damage and student and staff safety. Tornadoes have occurred within the district, but none have impacted the schools. During a tornado warning the shelter location for the high school are the basement locker rooms and bathrooms for the grade school. The district performs one tornado drill each school year.

## Administration

The school district has a superintendent and a principal. The school board is made up of a six-member panel. Other departments and positions that may be involved in hazard mitigation projects are listed below.

- Communications
- Curriculum/Assessment
- Facilities
- Finance Department
- Human Resources
- Learning Coaches
- Library/Media Services
- PARA Education
- Technology
- Transportation

## Capability Assessment

The capability assessment consisted of a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and programs with hazard mitigation capabilities. The following tables summarize the community's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; educational and outreach capability; and overall capability to implement mitigation projects. Staff is trained on emergency procedures through in-service trainings and drills. Students are families are educated on emergency procedures through the district handbook that is available on the website.

**Table RPS.4: Capability Assessment**

| Survey Components/Subcomponents | | Yes/No |
|---|---|---|
| **Planning Capability** | Capital Improvements Plan/Long-Term Budget | Yes |
| | Continuity of Operations Plan | No |
| | Disaster Response Plan | Yes |
| | Other (if any) | - |
| **Administration & Technical Capability** | GIS Capabilities | No |
| | Civil Engineering | No |
| | Local staff who can assess district's vulnerability to hazards | Yes |
| | Grant Manager | No |
| | Mutual Aid Agreement | No |
| | Other (if any) | - |
| **Fiscal Capability** | Applied for grants in the past | No |
| | Awarded grants in the past | No |
| | Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes such as mitigation projects | Yes |
| | Development Impact Fees | No |
| | General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds | No |
| | Approved bonds in the past | No |
| | 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, hazard mitigation boards, etc.) | Yes |
| | Ongoing public education or information program (Ex. Responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education, etc.) | Yes |
| | StormReady Certification | No |
| | Other (if any) | - |
| **Drills** | Fire | 9 / year |
| | Tornado | 1 / year |
| | Intruder | 1 / year |
| | Bus evacuation | 1 / year |
| | Evacuation | 1 / year |
| | Other (if any) | - |

| Overall Capability | Limited/Moderate/High |
|---|---|
| **Financial resources to implement mitigation projects** | Low |
| **Staff/expertise to implement projects** | Moderate |
| **Public support to implement projects** | High |
| **Time to devote to hazard mitigation** | Low |

## Plan Integration

Rock County's Disaster Response Plan is reviewed annual and covers staff and student response to evacuations, intruders, tornadoes, and fire. No other planning documents were identified in this process. The district will seek out and evaluate any opportunities to integrate the results of the current hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms and updates.

## Mitigation Strategy

District funds are currently limited but could possibly be used for new projects in the future. Funds from capital improvement dollars have decreased over recent years. The district will likely need assistance from grants to help pay for many of the projects listed below. The district will continue to benefit from partnerships with the Region 24 EMA, Rock County, and the state.

### Continued Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Backup and Emergency Generators |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | All Hazards |
| **Estimated Cost** | $15,000 - $30,000+ per generator |
| **Funding** | General Budget |
| **Timeline** | 5+ Years |
| **Priority** | Medium |
| **Lead Agency** | School Superintendent, School Board |
| **Status** | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Emergency Communications |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Establish an action plan to improve communication between schools and other government agencies to better assist residents and businesses during and following emergencies. Establish inner-operable communications. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | All Hazards |
| **Estimated Cost** | $10,000+ |
| **Funding** | General Budget |
| **Timeline** | 5+ Years |
| **Priority** | High |
| **Lead Agency** | School Superintendent |
| **Status** | In Progress. The district has updated the phone system and website with an application that has the capabilities of putting out mass communications to various agencies simultaneously. |

| Mitigation Action | Power, Service, Electrical, and Water Distribution Lines |
|---|---|
| Description | Schools / School Districts can work with their NPPD to identify vulnerable transmission and distribution lines on school property and plan to bury lines underground, upgrade, or retrofit existing structures to be less vulnerable to storm events. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Winter Storms, Severe Thunderstorms, Flooding |
| Estimated Cost | $50,000 - $70,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 5+ Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | School Board |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Promote First Aid |
|---|---|
| Description | Promote first aid training for all staff. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $500+ |
| Funding | General Budget, Corporate Donations, Volunteer Time |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Low |
| Lead Agency | School Board |
| Status | In Progress. This is done every school year. |

| Mitigation Action | School Continuity Plan |
|---|---|
| Description | Develop continuity plans for critical services to increase resiliency after a hazardous event. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $500 – $1,000 |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | School Board, Superintendent |
| Status | Not Started |

| Mitigation Action | Warning Systems |
|---|---|
| Description | Implement telephone interrupt system such as Reverse 911, emergency text messaging warning system, etc. |
| Hazard(s) Addressed | All Hazards |
| Estimated Cost | $10,000+ |
| Funding | General Budget |
| Timeline | 2-5 Years |
| Priority | Medium |
| Lead Agency | School Superintendent |
| Status | In Progress. The district has an application with mass communication capabilities. |

| Mitigation Action | Weather Radios |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Conduct an inventory of weather radios at schools and school facilities and provide new radios as needed. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | All Hazards |
| **Estimated Cost** | $50 per radio |
| **Funding** | General Budget |
| **Timeline** | 5+ Years |
| **Priority** | Medium |
| **Lead Agency** | School Superintendent |
| **Status** | Not Started |

## Removed Mitigation Actions

| Mitigation Action | Safe Rooms and Storm Shelters |
|---|---|
| **Description** | Assess, design and construct fully supplied safe rooms in school facilities. |
| **Hazard(s) Addressed** | Tornadoes, High Winds, Severe Thunderstorms |
| **Reason for Removal** | Both schools have identified shelter locations. |