

2020 LOWCOUNTRY Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan - Goals and Strategies

According to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all counties in the State of South Carolina. The plan “is the representation of the jurisdiction’s commitment to reduce the risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards.” Moreover, it must meet the requirements of Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6 for FEMA approval and eligibility to apply FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

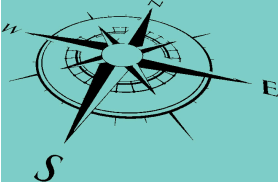
The 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update of the 2015 Beaufort County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the 2015 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan which includes Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties. The result is the first fully multi-jurisdictional plan for all the counties in the Lowcountry region, including Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper. The plan provides a profile of the most common natural hazards in the region, including historic locations and past occurrence data, probability of future occurrence, and loss information. The plan also includes social vulnerability indicators for identifying populations at greatest risk from the effects of natural hazards. Finally, the plan identifies the mitigation actions to save lives and to prevent major property damage and other losses caused by natural disasters in the Lowcountry region. The plan was prepared by the Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG). [Submitter's Note: This StratML rendition includes the goals and strategies outlined in the plan.]

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DEMONSTRATION ONLY



Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCG)

Stakeholder(s):

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Beaufort County

City of Beaufort

Town of Bluffton

Town of Hilton Head Island

Town of Port Royal

Colleton County

Town of Cottageville

Town of Edisto Beach

Town of Lodge

Town of Smoaks

City of Walterboro

Town of Williams

Hampton County

Town of Brunson

Town of Estill

Town of Furman

Town of Gifford

Town of Hampton

Town of Luray

Town of Scotia

Town of Varnville

Town of Yemassee

Jasper County

City of Hardeeville

Town of Ridgeland

Vision

Risks from natural hazards are reduced

Mission

To serve as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards

1. Structures, Utilities, Facilities & Systems

Protect Structural Projects, Utilities, and other Critical Facilities and Systems from Natural Hazards

1.1. Facilities & Services

Continue to protect critical facilities both public and private (roads, bridges, water, sewer, electricity, and others) and critical services (fire, rescue, medical, and others) from natural hazard threats.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

1.2. Buildings & Equipment

Continue to identify and schedule repairs and other improvements needed to ensure buildings are in adequate condition and with adequate equipment to function in the event of a disaster.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

1.3. Utilities

Inspect and assess utilities' capability and vulnerability to ensure they can handle natural disasters.

Stakeholder(s):

Utilities

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

1.4. Dams, Levees, Seawalls, Basins, Channels, Retaining Walls & Storm Sewers

Ensure integrity of dams, levees, seawalls detention/retention basins, channel modification, retaining walls, and storm sewers.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

1.5. Communications Infrastructure

Determine adequacy of current regional communications infrastructure and address needed improvements.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

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2. Education & Awareness

Enhance of Public Education and Awareness of Natural Hazards

Stakeholder(s)

The Public

2.1. Communications & Education

Develop an ongoing public communications and education program including a website, pamphlets, informational packets, and articles in the local media.

Stakeholder(s):

Local Media

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

2.2. Information

Include information on how to respond to natural hazard threats including mitigation techniques, protective measures, and evacuation preparedness that businesses and homeowners can take.

Stakeholder(s):

Businesses

Homeowners

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

2.3. TV, E-Mail & Social Media

Incorporate the use of local television channels, email, and social media, including Facebook™ and Twitter™ to ensure that as many segments of the population as possible are reached.

Stakeholder(s):

TV Stations

Facebook

Social Media

Twitter

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

3. Policies & Standards

Improve Policies and Standards to Reduce the Impacts of Natural Hazards

3.1. Plans, Codes & Zoning

Continue efforts to revise, update, and improve plans, codes, zoning, and other mechanisms to address natural hazard mitigation, and expand on present policies to further protect the counties and incorporated municipalities (floodplains, repetitive loss areas, and others).

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

3.2. Enforcement

Continue to enforce policies and ordinances for zoning, floodplains, flood damage prevention, stormwater management, building codes, beach renourishment, and others.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

3.3. Flood Insurance

Encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and work toward the lowering of the CRS rating.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

3.4. Grants

Continue to seek grant funding for hazard mitigation related projects and programs.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

3.5. Construction

Consider more rigorous standards for hazard-resistant construction, increased regulation of construction in hazard-prone areas as well as enhanced enforcement of existing regulations.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

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4. Emergency Services

Enhance of Emergency Services through Sustained System and Technology Improvements

4.1. Plan

Continue to update the Emergency Operation/Response Plan on an annual basis including information on responsible parties and contact information.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

4.2. Equipment & Training

Maintain sufficient and up to date equipment and training for EMS, police, fire, and other departments to ensure the prompt responses and the safety of residents.

Stakeholder(s):

EMS Departments

Fire Departments

Police Departments

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

4.3. Systems, Planning & Training

Maintain warning systems, evacuation planning, and emergency response training.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

4.4. Evacuation Routes

Maintain safe and efficient evacuation routes – continue to cooperate with each other and SCDOT on highways connecting the counties.

Stakeholder(s):

SCDOT

Counties

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

4.5. Shelters

Maintain sufficient and safe shelters for potential needs - should be able to accommodate all members of the area’s population, including those with special medical or other needs.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

4.6. IT Capabilities

Maintain the IT capabilities of local governments to ensure continuity of operations in the event of disaster, including supporting the use of centralized technology, located as far inland as possible, and developing a hosted (for instance, the “cloud”) storage system.

Stakeholder(s):

Local Governments

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

4.7. Coordination

Coordinate with the county and regional offices of the various state human services departments.

Stakeholder(s):

State Human Services Departments

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

4.8. Working Relationships

Maintain and enhance working relationships among local governments.

Stakeholder(s):

Local Governments

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

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5. Properties & Resources

Protect Properties and Resources

5.1. Construction

Encourage use of innovative hazard-resistant construction techniques/materials (reinforced, impact-resistant doors, storm-resistant windows, hurricane shutters, and others).

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

5.2. Retrofitting

Advise/assist property owners in retrofitting homes, businesses, and institutional facilities.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

5.3. Trees & Branches

Monitor and maintain trees and branches, in public areas, at risk of breaking or falling during hazards incidents (heavy rain, wind, storm etc.) and damaging property.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

5.4. Flooding & Sea Level

Utilize currently available information and mapping to help determine the areas and magnitude of impacts from flooding and sea level rise.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

5.5. Grants

Seek grants for protective measures – include elevation and property acquisition for flooding mitigation.

Performance Indicators

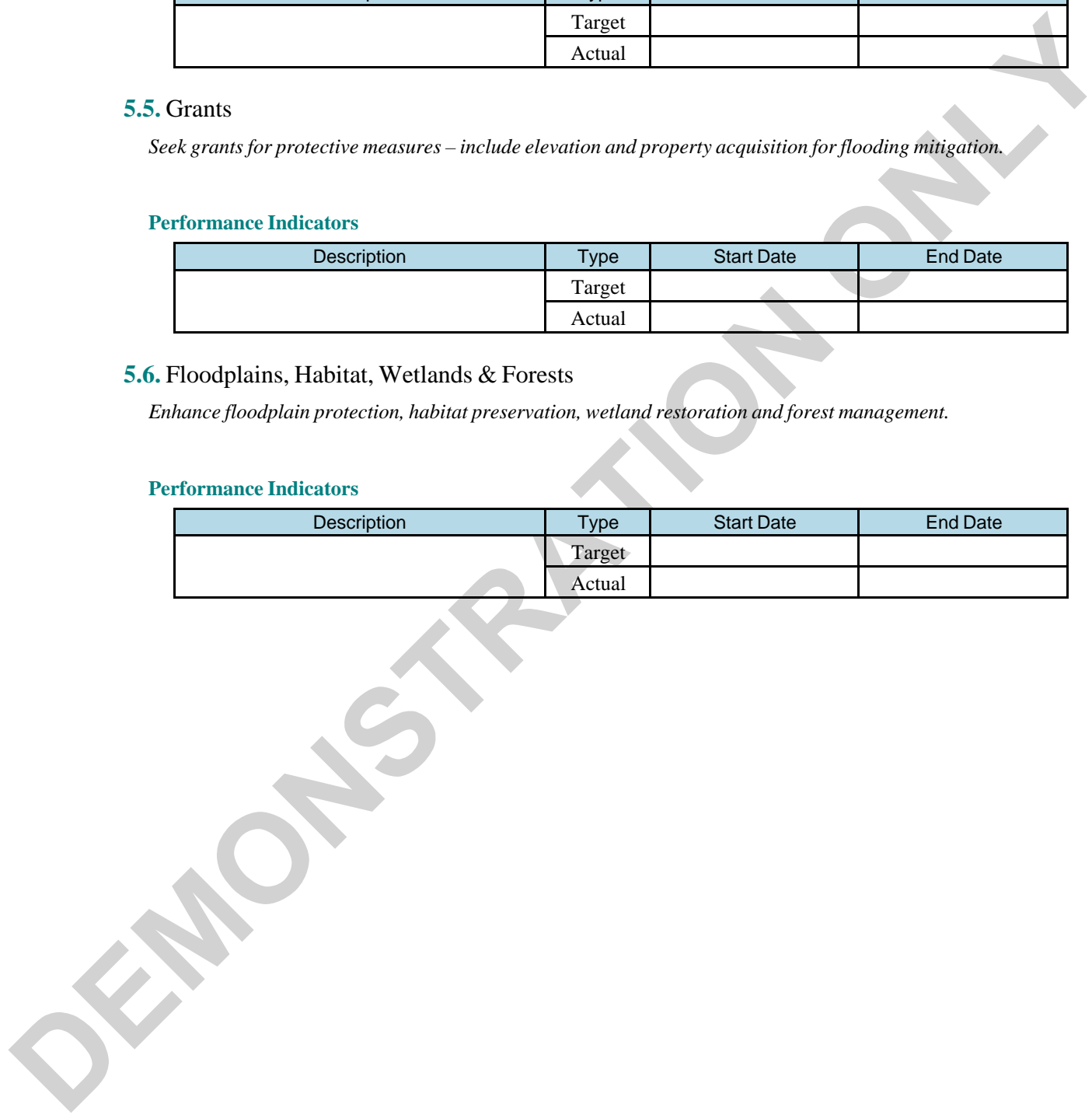
Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

5.6. Floodplains, Habitat, Wetlands & Forests

Enhance floodplain protection, habitat preservation, wetland restoration and forest management.

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		



6. Vulnerable Populations

Assist Targeted Vulnerable Populations

6.1. Outreach

Undertake outreach campaign to low-income, elderly, and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations.

Stakeholder(s):

Low-Income Population

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Population

Elderly Population

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

6.2. Training

Promote volunteer involvement in emergency preparedness and response through education training program.

Stakeholder(s):

Volunteers

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

6.3. Preparedness & Response

Continue to provide emergency preparedness and response through Area Agency on Aging (AAA), local councils, and relevant agencies.

Stakeholder(s):

Area Agency on Aging

Performance Indicators

Description	Type	Start Date	End Date
	Target		
	Actual		

Administrative Information

Start Date:

End Date:

Publication Date: 2021-05-13

Source: [https://cms.revize.com/revize/lowcountrysc/2020%20Lowcountry%20Natural%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan%20\(Revision%20per%20FEMA\).pdf](https://cms.revize.com/revize/lowcountrysc/2020%20Lowcountry%20Natural%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan%20(Revision%20per%20FEMA).pdf)

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