

Mitigation Strategy

1. CHAPTER OVERVIEW

This chapter is intended to identify common mitigation strategies for each of the hazards reviewed in this plan and potential funding sources for carrying out mitigation activities. The bulk of the chapter is devoted to listing goals, objectives, and policies along with projects or activities that apply broadly to the county and special projects or activities that apply to one or more of the municipalities.

2. TYPES OF POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Mitigation strategies can be grouped into six broad categories:

- ◆ Prevention
- ◆ Property protection
- ◆ Public education and awareness
- ◆ Natural resource protection
- ◆ Emergency services
- ◆ Structural projects

Examples are listed below for each of the natural hazards addressed in this plan.

Dam Failure

- ◆ Remove dams that don't serve a useful purpose
- ◆ Require the preparation of emergency action plans
- ◆ Ensure that emergency action plans are current
- ◆ Ensure that dam inspections are conducted as required by state law
- ◆ Include a dam failure in emergency planning exercises
- ◆ Minimize the level of development in a dam's hydraulic shadow in an effort to minimize damage resulting from a dam failure

Flooding

- ◆ Continue to enforce floodplain regulation and strengthen requirements when appropriate
- ◆ Limit development in the floodplain through local floodplain regulations or zoning
- ◆ Provide dryland access through flood-prone areas
- ◆ Retrofit legal nonconforming buildings that do not meet floodplain regulations (e.g., elevating, floodproofing)
- ◆ Purchase repetitive loss properties and remove structures (i.e., demolition or relocation)
- ◆ Raise the surface of local roads above 50-year flood elevations and arterials above 100-year flood elevations
- ◆ Enlarge the cross-section of culverts and bridges when they do not adequately carry anticipated flood flows
- ◆ Prohibit basements in new subdivisions where flooding from stormwater could be problematic
- ◆ Clean drainageways to allow a free flow of water
- ◆ Minimize the amount of impervious surfaces in a watershed so that stormwater can soak into the ground rather than contributing to flood water

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- ◆ Maintain appropriate water rescue equipment
- ◆ Develop and implement appropriate evacuation procedures in flood-prone area
- ◆ Install gaging stations to better understand surface water flow regimes
- ◆ Construct stormwater facilities (e.g., detention and retention basins) to help manage stormwater
- ◆ Take steps to upgrade the National Flood Insurance Program requirements
- ◆ Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs.
- ◆ Encourage and incentivize land management practices that encourage infiltration such as no till farming, cover crops, rotational grazing, and native prairie establishment.
- ◆ Encourage enrollment into land retirement programs on the most environmentally sensitive cropland.
- ◆ Expand landowner/farmer outreach programs which will increase the number of conservation practices that will retain water.
- ◆ Increase cost share funding for flood mitigation practices.
- ◆ Utilize modeling, including the Erosion Vulnerability Assessment for Agricultural Lands (EVAAL) tool, to identify priority areas for conservation and mitigation practices and projects.
- ◆ Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of best management projects, which could include smaller dam structures, berms, swales, terraces, prairie buffers and other practices to retain water on the landscape.
- ◆ Collaborate with county, city, and village government to expand cost-sharing program of rain gardens and other storm water retention practices.
- ◆ Utilize conservation easements to protect environmentally sensitive portions of parcels from development – they do not restrict all land use, rather they direct development to areas of land that are not environmentally sensitive.

Fog

- ◆ Identify those roadways where fog is localized and install appropriate signage
- ◆ Install automated visibility warning systems to detect reduced visibility conditions

Tornado / High Winds

- ◆ Construct storm shelters in campgrounds and mobile home parks
- ◆ Bury electrical and telephone lines and other utility cables
- ◆ Continue to enforce building codes and strengthen requirements when appropriate
- ◆ Include safety strategies for severe weather events in driver education classes
- ◆ Promote the construction of safe rooms when residential buildings are placed slab on grade

Key Terms in This Chapter

Community Rating System (CRS) – A voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Programs requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from qualified community actions.

Goal – A statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. A goal is often broad in scope, not easily measurable, and long-term in nature.

Objective – A specific and usually measurable intermediate end that is achievable and make progress toward a goal.

National Flood Insurance Program – A Federal program created in 1968 under which flood-prone areas are identified and flood insurance is made available to the owners of the property in participating communities.

Policy – A predetermined course of action or specific rule that an organization adopts and uses in decision-making and which when applied will help to achieve one or more of its goals or objectives.

Repetitive loss community – A community with one or more repetitive loss properties.

Repetitive loss property (RLP) – For purposes of the Community Rating System, a property for which two or more National Flood Insurance Program losses of at least \$1,000 each have been paid within any 10-year rolling period since 1978.

Severe residential loss (SRL) property – A residential property (1) that has at least four NFIP claim payments over \$5,000 each, when at least two such claims have occurred within any ten-year period, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000; or (2) or which at least two separate claims payments have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the value of the property, when two such claims have occurred within any 10-year period.

Safe room – An above ground room within a building (most often homes) that is specifically designed to withstand high winds and provides occupants a safe refuge from tornadoes, hurricanes, or other high-wind events.

Strategy – An action or a group of actions intended to achieve a goal or objective.

Severe Storms/Hail

- ◆ Encourage property owners to use building products (e.g., roofing, siding) resistant to hail damage

Snow Storms

- ◆ Bury electrical and telephone lines and other utility cables
- ◆ Install temporary snow fences along road ways that have experienced blowing and drifting snow
- ◆ Continue to enforce building codes and strengthen requirements when appropriate
- ◆ State and local governments can produce and distribute information to motorists relating to severe winter weather hazards
- ◆ Include safety strategies for severe weather events in driver education classes

Temperature Extremes

- ◆ Establish heating and cooling centers for vulnerable populations including the elderly and homeless
- ◆ Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme heat or cold.

Drought

- ◆ Adopt local ordinances for prioritizing water usage during drought emergencies
- ◆ Develop public wells in deep aquifers
- ◆ Maintain enough water storage capacity in public water systems
- ◆ Protect wetlands from development
- ◆ Encourage the use of water-saving devices in homes and other places where water is used
- ◆ Encourage farmers to take out crop insurance
- ◆ Protect important aquifer recharge areas from inappropriate development
- ◆ Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs.
- ◆ Encourage and incentivize the installation of agricultural conservation practices that promote soil health, preserve soil moisture, and help to minimize loss of crops and topsoil in the event of a drought. Such practices may include planting crop field windbreaks, planting cover crops, no-till farming, rotational grazing, and contour farming to help reduce evaporation and/or promote infiltration.
- ◆ Promote the use of drought-resistant landscaping practices using native plantings.
- ◆ Encourage and increase cost share assistance for the installation of farm drought management strategies including Irrigation Water Management Systems and expanded use of Wisconsin Irrigation Scheduling Program (WISP).
- ◆ Encourage multi-agency approaches to drought planning, water conservation, drought prediction, and stream and groundwater monitoring.

Contamination and Loss of Water Supply

- ◆ Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs.
- ◆ Encourage and incentivize the installation of agricultural conservation practices that promote soil health, preserve soil moisture, and help to minimize loss of crops and topsoil in the event of a drought. Such practices may include planting crop field windbreaks, planting cover crops, no-till farming, rotational grazing, and contour farming to help reduce evaporation and/or promote infiltration.
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- ◆ Encourage multi-agency approaches to drought planning, water conservation, drought prediction, and stream and groundwater monitoring.

Wildland Fire

- ◆ Maintain appropriate fire fighting equipment to effectively respond to wildland fires
- ◆ Ensure that new homes are well protected from wildland fires and have multiple routes of ingress and egress
- ◆ Provide homeowners with information on how to create a defensible space around structures
- ◆ Bury electrical and telephone lines and other utility cables
- ◆ Institute measures to reduce soil erosion following a wildland fire event
- ◆ Local governments in rural areas can require the issuance of burn permits
- ◆ Encourage property owners to conduct controlled burns as a means of controlling fuel buildup

3. EXISTING MITIGATION STRATEGIES

FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES

Under authority granted by Public Law 566, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Services constructed three flood-control dams and a multipurpose reservoir in the headwaters of Honey Creek, northwest of Plain, to control flooding. A reach of Honey Creek near Plain was channelized as part of the same project.

Other dams in Sauk County have minimal flood control potential. Seeley Lake decreases downstream discharges somewhat, due to the increase in evaluation needed to pass large flood discharges over the dam. No additional flood-protection structures are planned.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

In 1968, the United States Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)¹ to identify and map flood-prone communities and provide flood insurance to those property owners within a community that has adopted floodplain management regulations that meet minimum requirements. The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), administers this federal program. Over 21,000 communities across the United States and its territories now participate in the NFIP.

Sauk County participates in the NFIP along with all of the cities and villages listed in Table 7-1. Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between local communities and the federal government. If a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risks to new construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas, the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses.

¹ The National Flood Insurance Program was created with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968.

Table 7-1. Local Participation and Compliance with NFIP Requirements: 2024**City of Baraboo****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 17 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 08/01/79**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 11/20/13**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**City of Reedsburg****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 650 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 03/04/85**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 10/02/15**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**City of Wisconsin Dells [1]****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 20 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 12/18/84**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 05/16/16**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Village of Cazenovia [1]****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 95 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 12/18/09**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 12/08/16**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Village of Ironton****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** not posted online**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 03/07/01**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 11/20/13**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Village of Lake Delton****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 68 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 09/04/85**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 11/20/13**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Village of La Valle****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Ordinance No 13-10**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 09/19/84**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 11/20/13**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector

Table 7-1. Local Participation and Compliance with NFIP Requirements: 2024

Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP: Comprehensive plan to help guide future development

Village of Lime Ridge

NFIP Status: Participating

Floodplain Ordinance: not posted online

Adoption of Initial FIRM: 09/01/87

Adoption of Latest FIRM: 11/20/13

Designated Agency/Department: Zoning administrator

Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions: Local building Inspector

Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP: Comprehensive plan to help guide future development

Village of Loganville

NFIP Status: Participating

Floodplain Ordinance: Adopted, but unnumbered

Adoption of Initial FIRM: 02/15/85

Adoption of Latest FIRM: 11/20/13

Designated Agency/Department: Zoning administrator

Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions: Local building Inspector

Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP: Comprehensive plan to help guide future development

Village of Merrimac

NFIP Status: Participating

Floodplain Ordinance: Chapter 185 of the municipal code

Adoption of Initial FIRM: 03/07/01

Adoption of Latest FIRM: 11/20/13

Designated Agency/Department: Zoning administrator

Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions: Local building Inspector

Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP: Comprehensive plan to help guide future development

Village of North Freedom

NFIP Status: Participating

Floodplain Ordinance: Chapter 18 of the municipal code

Adoption of Initial FIRM: 09/19/84

Adoption of Latest FIRM: 11/20/13

Designated Agency/Department: Zoning administrator

Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions: Local building Inspector

Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP: Comprehensive plan to help guide future development

Village of Plain

NFIP Status: Participating

Floodplain Ordinance: Chapter 19 of the municipal code

Adoption of Initial FIRM: 09/30/88

Adoption of Latest FIRM: 11/20/13

Designated Agency/Department: Zoning administrator

Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions: Local building Inspector

Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP: Comprehensive plan to help guide future development

Village of Prairie du Sac

NFIP Status: Participating

Floodplain Ordinance: Title 10, chapter 2

Adoption of Initial FIRM: 03/07/01

Adoption of Latest FIRM: 10/02/15

Designated Agency/Department: Zoning administrator

Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions: Local building Inspector

Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP: Comprehensive plan to help guide future development

Village of Rock Springs

NFIP Status: Participating

Floodplain Ordinance: Chapter 14 of the municipal code

Adoption of Initial FIRM: 09/18/85

Adoption of Latest FIRM: 11/20/13

Designated Agency/Department: Zoning administrator

Table 7-1. Local Participation and Compliance with NFIP Requirements: 2024**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Village of Sauk City****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 345 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 03/07/01**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 10/02/15**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Village of Spring Green****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** No specific number; adopted October 2, 2015**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 02/01/86**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 10/02/15**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Village of West Baraboo****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 19 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 09/19/84**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 11/20/13**Designated Agency/Department:** Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future development**Sauk County****NFIP Status:** Participating**Floodplain Ordinance:** Chapter 9 of the municipal code**Adoption of Initial FIRM:** 09/17/80**Adoption of Latest FIRM:** 10/02/15**Designated Agency/Department:** Conservation, Planning and Zoning Committee and Zoning administrator**Primary Responsible Party for Substantial Damage Provisions:** Local building Inspector**Floodplain Mgmt. Efforts Contributing to Continued Compliance with NFIP:** Comprehensive plan to help guide future developmentSource: Federal Emergency Management Agency <https://www.fema.gov/cis/WI.pdf> Accessed October 1, 2024

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county

Because Sauk County and each of the cities and villages participate in the NFIP, property owners are able to purchase flood insurance, including those not located within a mapped floodplain area. Flood insurance pays even when no state or federal disaster is declared. Historically, federal disaster declarations have been issued in less than 50 percent of the flooding incidents.

There are two types of flood insurance. The first is a policy that insures the physical structure and the second is a policy that covers the content of the building. The standard flood insurance policy provides coverage for one building per policy. The only exception is 10 percent coverage for a detached garage. However, the total payment for flood damage to the detached garage and the house together cannot exceed the building policy limit. For coverage to apply, the garage can only be used for parking and storage. All other buildings on the premises need separate coverage. The maximum allowable limits are \$250,000 for residential properties and \$500,000 for commercial properties.

Contents are not automatically included. If contents coverage is desired, a specific amount must be named and a separate premium charged. Contents coverage limits are \$100,000 for residential policies and \$500,000 for commercial policies.

Building property coverage includes:

- ◆ The insured building and its foundation
- ◆ The electrical and plumbing systems
- ◆ Central air conditioning equipment, furnaces, and water heaters
- ◆ Refrigerators, cooking stoves, and built-in appliances such as dishwashers
- ◆ Permanently installed carpeting over an unfinished floor
- ◆ Permanently installed paneling, wallboard, bookcases, and cabinets.
- ◆ Window blinds
- ◆ Detached garages (up to 10 percent of building property coverage)
- ◆ Debris removal

Personal property coverage includes:

- ◆ Personal belongings such as clothing, furniture, and electronic equipment
- ◆ Curtains
- ◆ Portable and window air conditioners
- ◆ Portable microwave ovens and portable dishwashers
- ◆ Carpets not included in building coverage (see above)
- ◆ Clothes washers and dryers
- ◆ Food freezers and the food in them
- ◆ Certain valuable items such as original artwork and furs (up to \$2,500)

***Federal disaster declarations
are issued in less than 50
percent of the flood events.***

The cost of an annual regular flood insurance policy varies depending on the site location, age of the building, design of the building, and elevation of the building if located in a flood hazard area.

Sanitary sewer backups are not covered. However, many homeowners policies do have riders to cover sewer back-ups. Sewer back-up riders can cost as little as \$30 per year.

While flood insurance coverage can significantly reduce the potential economic loss to a landowner in case of a flood disaster, flood insurance also helps reduce the cost of disaster aid to the general public. It has been shown that every \$3 paid in flood insurance claims saves \$1 in disaster assistance payments.

In 2024, there were 137 insurance policies in effect in Sauk County (Table 7-2). Roughly one-third of all of the policies were for property in the city of Baraboo and Reedsburg. Countywide, coverage totaled more than \$32.5 million and premiums totaled \$139,600 for those policies.

Table 7-2. Flood Insurance Policies: 2024

City	Policies	Total Coverage	Total Written Premiums + FPF	Total Annual Payment
Baraboo	10	\$3,177,000	\$10,840	\$13,856
Reedsburg	36	\$9,675,000	\$48,603	\$59,071
Wisconsin Dells [1]	0	0	0	0
Village				
Cazenovia [1]	0	0	0	0
Ironton	1	\$175,000	\$320	\$619
Lake Delton	2	\$420,000	\$918	\$1,341
La Valle	8	\$1,617,000	\$8,173	\$10,452
Lime Ridge	0	0	0	0
Loganville	0	0	0	0
Merrimac	1	\$350,000	\$860	\$1,256
North Freedom	2	\$500,000	\$3,061	\$3,645
Plain	0	0	0	0
Prairie du Sac	2	\$560,000	\$1,548	\$1,860
Rock Springs	4	\$1,105,000	\$6,611	\$8,092
Sauk City	4	\$1,300,000	\$4,551	\$6,111
Spring Green	0	0	0	0
West Baraboo	0	0	0	0
Unincorporated Sauk County	67	\$13,693,000	\$54,115	\$71,939
Total	137	\$32,572,000	\$139,600	\$178,242

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency <https://nfipservices.floodsmart.gov/reports-flood-insurance-data>
 Report title: "Policy Information by State and Community"; data as of September 30, 2024

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county; data is for the entire municipality

Key:

Policies in Force is the number of policies as of the date of the report.
 Total Coverage is the total building and contents coverage for the policies in force.
 Total Written Premium + FPF is the sum of the premium and FPF (federal policy fee) for the policies in force.
 Total Annual Payment is the sum of submitted written premium, discounts, fees, assessments and surcharge

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Because flood risk has been reduced, policy holders in participating communities enjoy lower flood insurance premiums than those located in a community that is not part of CRS. Flood insurance premium rates are discounted as shown in Table 7-3 based on a community's rating. A Class 1 community receives a 45 percent premium discount, while a Class 9 community receives a 5 percent discount. A Class 10 community is not participating in CRS and receives no discount. The CRS classes for local communities are based on 18 activities, organized under four categories: (1) public information, (2) mapping and regulations, (3) flood damage reduction, and (4) flood preparedness. Nationwide, 5 percent of the eligible communities are part of the CRS.

Sauk County and all of the cities and villages have a CRS rating of 10 (Table 7-4). Given the potential cost savings, the county and municipalities should investigate the feasibility of and support for lowering their CRS class rating.

Table 7-3. Insurance Premium Reductions for Communities in the Community Rating System

CRS Rating	Special Flood Hazard Area	Non-Special Flood Hazard Areas
1	45%	10%
2	40%	10%
3	35%	10%
4	30%	10%
5	25%	10%
6	20%	10%
7	15%	5%
8	10%	5%
9	5%	5%
10	0	0

Table 7-4. Community Rating System Rating of Jurisdictions; Sauk County: 2024

Municipality	CRS Rating
City	
Baraboo	10
Reedsburg	10
Wisconsin Dells [1]	10
Village	
Cazenovia [1]	10
Ironton	10
Lake Delton	10
La Valle	10
Lime Ridge	10
Loganville	10
Merrimac	10
North Freedom	10
Plain	10
Prairie du Sac	10
Rock Springs	10
Sauk City	10
Spring Green	10
West Baraboo	10
Sauk County	10

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency <https://www.fema.gov/cis/WI.pdf>
Accessed October 1, 2024

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county; rating is for the entire municipality

PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND STRUCTURE REMOVAL

In some situations, certain properties are eligible for voluntary acquisition. Once acquired the structures are demolished or otherwise removed. Following the flooding in 2008, four municipalities received funding for property acquisition involving both residential and commercial properties. Table 7-5 lists the properties acquired to date and what funding was used in the purchase.

Table 7-5. Acquired Flood-Prone Properties: 1996 through 2024

Year	Municipality	Description	Funding Source
2010	Town of Spring Green	28 residential properties	HMGP, FEMA-DR-1768
2010	City of Reedsburg	2 commercial and 18 residential properties	FEMA-DR-1768
2010	Village of Rock Springs	1 commercial and 19 residential properties	FEMA-DR-1768
2010	Town of Excelsior	1 residential property	FEMA-DR-1768

Source: Sauk County Emergency Management
Key: PDM – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
HMGP – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
FMA- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program
WDNR – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
CDBG – Community Development Block Grant

STORMREADY

StormReady is a national voluntary program, administered through local National Weather Service offices, that encourages communities to take a proactive approach in developing plans to improve local hazardous weather operations and public awareness for all types of local severe weather threats². It is intended to give communities the skills and education needed to cope with and manage potential weather-related disasters, before and during the event. By participating in StormReady, local agencies can earn recognition for their jurisdiction by meeting criteria established by the National Weather Service in partnership with federal, state, and local emergency management professionals.

The program does not replace any of the various federally or state-funded hazard mitigation programs, rather, it compliments them. The entire community - from the mayor, emergency managers, to business leaders and civic groups - can take the lead on becoming StormReady.

Education and communication are a key part of the StormReady program. The Wisconsin StormReady Advisory Board, comprised of National Weather Service personnel and state, regional, and county emergency managers, reviews applications and visits the jurisdictions to verify the steps made in the process to become StormReady. The designation is only valid for two years.

As of 2024, there were 19 counties, 14 communities, and 6 universities in Wisconsin that were StormReady certified (Table 7-6).

Sauk County, the City of Reedsburg, and the Village of Lake Delton became StormReady certified in the last five years.

² More information about StormReady is available from the Milwaukee/Sullivan Weather Service Forecast office. www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/?n=stormready-mkx

Table 7-6. StormReady Jurisdictions; Wisconsin: 2024

Counties	Communities	Universities
Brown	Bayside	University of Wisconsin
Calumet	Belleville	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Eau Claire	Cedarburg	University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
Fond du Lac	Dousman	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Iowa	Elm Grove	University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
La Crosse	Hillsboro	University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
Lincoln	Lake Delton	
Manitowoc	Lake Mills	
Monroe	New Berlin	
Oneida	Reedsburg	
Outagamie	Stevens Point School Area District	
Ozaukee	Viroqua	
Racine	Waupaca	
Sauk	Whitewater	
St. Croix		
Taylor		
Vernon		
Washburn		
Wood		

Source: National Weather Service, <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/wi-sr>, Accessed October 1, 2024

NOAA WEATHER RADIO

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information direct from a nearby National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day. It is also used to broadcast warning and post-event information for all types of hazards - both natural events (e.g., severe weather, flooding) and man-made events (e.g., Amber Alerts, toxic, chemical, and biological releases, terrorist attacks). The radios can be programmed to receive information specific to a certain geographic area and sound an alarm to alert users of approaching dangerous weather. NWR is the primary actuator of the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The Milwaukee/Sullivan Weather Service Forecast office is located in the Town of Sullivan and serves 20 counties in south-central and southeast Wisconsin. NOAA Weather Radios are available through retail stores that sell electronic appliances, marine supply stores, truck stops, cable shopping networks, mail order catalogs, and the Internet.

The NOAA Weather Radio network provides authoritative weather and emergency information to the public.

The Sauk County Emergency Management Office has promoted the use of National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) weather radios as a cost-effective solution. These radios are a primary means of alerting the public to the imminent danger of hazardous weather. The office would like to see use of this reasonably-priced product increase, especially among facilities in which large numbers of people congregate and/or which have populations with special needs (e.g., schools, hospitals, industry).

During the goal-setting exercise, the ad hoc working group indicated a preference of promoting the use of weather radios rather than deploying additional sirens.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE WEBSITE

The Sauk County Emergency Management Office has been working to create a comprehensive website where citizens can access personal preparedness information, threat bulletins, and other emergency management information keyed to their community. This ongoing project is led by the County Emergency Management Office and is funded through the regular departmental budget. The Office would like to expand the current website to include bulletins from the American Red Cross, Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. County Emergency Management also plans to utilize various media outlets monitored by the public to publicize this resource to the community.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

New urban development brings with it increases in impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, and streets. As areas develop into urban land uses, there is an increase in both volume and rate of runoff. To control the rate of runoff and potential downstream increases in peak flood elevations, some communities require detention of stormwater.

Sauk County has adopted a stormwater management ordinance and each of the cities and villages have an ordinance as well.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ORDINANCES

Sediment from construction sites can deposit in local streams causing blockages that can result in potentially higher flood elevations during storm events. To control construction site erosion from construction sites, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce has adopted construction site erosion control regulations through the state Uniform Building Code. State erosion control regulations are enforced through the local building inspectors.

Sauk County does not have a stormwater and erosion control ordinance but is evaluating whether to do so.

Under Sauk County Chapter 26 Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management ordinance, all pastures and land where crops or feed are grown shall be managed to meet the tolerable soil loss. Chapter 26 applies to all land located within unincorporated areas of Sauk County. Best management practices must be implemented to control sheet, rill, and wind erosion. Chapter 26 is enforced through Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning the department; however, landowner compliance is dependent on a requirement to offer at least 70% cost share assistance. Availability of cost share funding is limited.

SHORELAND ZONING

Under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115, counties are required to adopt a shoreland zoning ordinance that controls development within the shoreland³ of lakes and streams. The shoreland-zoning ordinance establishes minimum lot sizes—10,000 square feet on public sanitary sewer and 20,000 square feet on private sanitary systems. Buildings must be setback 75 feet from the ordinary high-water mark and comply with local floodplain zoning ordinances. The ordinance regulates the cutting of trees and shrubbery within 35 feet of the ordinary high-water mark and prohibits more than 30 feet of every 100 feet to be removed. These development standards follow land when it is annexed into a city or village, unless the municipality has adopted an ordinance as strict as the county ordinance. Sauk County has adopted an ordinance consistent with state requirements.

SHORELAND WETLAND ZONING

Under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115, counties are required to adopt a shoreland wetland zoning ordinance that creates a shoreland wetland zoning district to control the development of wetlands that are two acres or more in size within the shoreland area. Permitted uses in the shoreland wetland district are limited to:

- ◆ recreation (hiking, fishing, hunting, swimming, and boating)
- ◆ agriculture
- ◆ public roadways and railroad lines
- ◆ public utilities
- ◆ non-residential building used for aquaculture

These development standards follow land when it is annexed into a city or village, unless the municipality has adopted an ordinance as strict as the county ordinance. Sauk County has adopted an ordinance consistent with state requirements.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

In 1999, the Governor signed legislation that created a new framework for comprehensive planning in Wisconsin. By January 1, 2010, any community wanting to regulate land use must have an adopted comprehensive plan that meets

³ A shoreland is defined as land within the following distances from the ordinary high-water mark of navigable waters: 1000 feet from a lake, pond, or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream or the landward side of the floodplain, whichever is greater. (NR 115.03 (8))

minimum state requirements. Although state requirements do not require that natural hazard planning be a part of a comprehensive plan, communities do have an opportunity to consider natural hazards when devising land use plans and goals, objectives, and policies relating to land use and environmental management.

TORNADO SIRENS

Warning sirens are located throughout Sauk County but are primarily located in more urban areas. For example, there are five sirens in the city of Baraboo. Given the cost related to the installation and on-going maintenance costs, the County is promoting the use of NOAA weather radios as a more cost-effective solution.



ROADWAY CLOSURES DURING FLOOD EVENTS

In some of the larger flood events, roadways in the county are blocked with water. This can create a potentially dangerous scenario for drivers, limit access to areas within the county, or cause travel delays. To deal with roadway closings, there are two categories of alternatives. The first are alternatives to modify the roadway (e.g. bridge replacement and elevate roadway) to prevent flooding. The second category includes maintenance of a system to actively close roadways when flooding occurs and identify alternate routes for emergency traffic.

Bridge Replacement. In some cases, an alternative to road inundation may be to increase the hydraulic opening of the bridges to minimize the backwater on the upstream side of the bridge. When bridges are scheduled for replacement due to age or roadway expansion, the bridge designers should look at the effect of the bridge design on the roadway overtopping. If feasible, the new bridge should be replaced with a structure that would meet the criteria outlined in Table 7-7.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) provides design criteria for structure crossings a stream in the Facilities Development Manual, Procedure 13-10-1. Major structures, such as bridges and box culverts, are designed using a process of selecting a design frequency which best produces a balance between structure costs and the cost of potential flood-related damages or risks. Structures in new locations are generally designed to accommodate the 100-year event without increasing the upstream flood stages over existing conditions. Replacement structures are generally designed not to increase the headwater elevation from existing conditions.

In some situations, structure sizes may be increased to reduce the upstream flood elevations. In those cases, if the existing structure is causing upstream flood storage, the flows will need to be re-evaluated to determine if the new structure will increase downstream flows and stages. Under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 116, if a new bridge results in upstream or downstream increases in the flood elevation greater than 0.01 feet, easements from the affected landowners are required. Where feasible, roadway surfaces should be designed to provide emergency access during flood events. The recommended criterion for flood protection, based on roadway classification, is outlined in Table 7-7.

Table 7-7. Recommended Roadway Flood Protection Level

Roadway Classification	Recommended Protection Level
Interstate and railroads	100-year flood
State & county highway	50-year flood
Local arterial	50-year flood
Minor and collector street	10-year flood

Elevation of Roadways An alternative to roadway inundation is to raise the pavement surface to above the regional flood elevation. Placing additional fill along the roadway corridor would raise the road surface. While this alternative would help maintain public access, the raising of the road surface may increase flood elevations upstream of the fill. The fill would need to be structurally designed to withstand the hydraulic pressures of the floodwaters. As with bridge replacement, wide-scale elevation of roadway surfaces is not recommended at this time. As roadway maintenance is scheduled, the designers should consider the alternative of roadway elevation. Roadways should only be raised where the project is cost effective.

Road Closures During Flooding Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. During flood events, the depth of the water over road surfaces is difficult to predict. Many drivers

enter water they think is a few inches deep, only to find themselves in the center of a flowing stream. For years, Sauk County and the local municipalities have closed and barricaded roadways that are flooded. A coordinated system between Sauk County Emergency Management, the Sauk County Sheriff's Department, and local municipalities is in place to close flooded roads and reroute traffic.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Information is one of the most important tools in helping people mitigate the potential impacts of hazards, particularly natural disasters. To be effective, information needs to be available from several sources and be offered on an on-going basis.

By way of example, Exhibit 7-1 outlines the roles of the various organizations involved in public education with regards to floodplain issues. In an effort to keep state residents informed about natural hazards, Wisconsin Emergency Management sponsors a number of public awareness campaigns, including:

- ◆ Tornado & Severe Weather Week
- ◆ Rip Current Awareness Week
- ◆ Heat Awareness Day
- ◆ Lightning Safety Week proclamations

Exhibit 7-1. Organizations and Their Roles in Distributing Public Information Regarding Floodplain Management

Organization / Activities
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)◆ Provides training to insurance industry on implementation of NFIP◆ Provides technical information on flood mitigation activities◆ Maintains a national library of floodplain maps
Wisconsin Emergency Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides information and training in emergency management including preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)◆ Provides technical information on flood mitigation activities◆ Maintains a state library of floodplain maps and flood profile models◆ Provides training to local zoning administrators on implementation of floodplain zoning ordinances
Sauk County Zoning Department <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Maintains local library of floodplain maps◆ Provides information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)◆ Provides information on county floodplain regulations
Local Insurance Agents <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
Local Lending Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Flood insurance is required on federally-backed mortgages for properties located in a floodplain.
Real Estate Agents <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)◆ Required by state law to notify buyers whether or not a structure is located in a regulatory floodplain

4. FUNDING SOURCES

AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency administers a number of programs that fund mitigation activities at the local and state level.

The **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)** program provides mitigation grants to state and local government, and Tribal Nations, for all-hazards mitigation planning and to implement cost-effective mitigation projects that support resiliency to infrastructure and community lifelines.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA ended this program in the 2020 Federal Fiscal Year, but grants were provided in 2016-2019 to Wisconsin communities.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act (NFIRA) of 1994 with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA provides FMA funds to assist States and communities implement measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. PDM grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds.

Repetitive Flood Claims Program The Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) grant program was authorized by the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, which amended the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. Up to \$10 million is available annually for FEMA to provide RFC funds to assist States and communities reduce flood damages to insured properties that have had one or more claims to the National Flood Insurance Program. Eligible activities include acquisition of properties, and either demolition or relocation of flood-prone structures, where the property is deed restricted for open space uses in perpetuity.

Severe Repetitive Loss Program The Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) grant program was authorized by the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, which amended the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide funding to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Eligible flood mitigation project activities include floodproofing (historical properties only), location, elevation, acquisition, mitigation reconstruction (demolition rebuild), and minor physical localized flood control projects.

FUNDING RECEIVED

Since 1965, Sauk County and municipalities have received almost \$30 million in federal funding for mitigation activities (Appendix I).

5. REVIEW OF CAPABILITIES

This multi-jurisdictional plan covers the unincorporated area of Sauk County and 17 municipalities. They all have different levels of resources and personnel that could be made available in the implementation of this plan (Table 7-9).

Table 7-9. Summary of Staff Capabilities: 2024

City	Administrator	Emergency Management Staff/Manager	Community Planner
Baraboo	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reedsburg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin Dells [1]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Village			
Cazenovia [1]	Yes	No	No
Ironton	Yes	No	No
Lake Delton	Yes	Yes	Yes
La Valle	Yes	No	Yes
Lime Ridge	Yes	No	No
Loganville	Yes	Yes	Yes
Merrimac	Yes	No	No
North Freedom	Yes	Yes	No
Plain	Yes	Yes	No
Prairie du Sac	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rock Springs	Yes	No	No
Sauk City	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spring Green	Yes	No	No
West Baraboo	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sauk County	Yes	Yes (2.0 FTE)	Yes (3.0 FTE)

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county

By in large, all of the cities and villages in Sauk County have been facing serious budget constraints for years, exacerbated by state-imposed levy limits. The outlook is not expected to change. As a result, each of the communities is heavily dependent on grant funding. These conditions limit each jurisdiction's ability to expand or improve its mitigation capabilities.

6. AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

As set forth in state statutes, municipalities in the state are given the authority to adopt and enforce various regulations controlling land development and use. All municipalities in Sauk County have elected to do so (Table 7-10). All of the municipalities in the county also enforce building codes.

Table 7-10. Summary of Authority to Control Development: 2024

City	Floodplain Zoning	General Zoning	Land Division Regulations
Baraboo	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reedsburg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin Dells [1]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Village			
Cazenovia [1]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ironton	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lake Delton	Yes	Yes	Yes
La Valle	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lime Ridge	Yes	Yes	Yes
Loganville	Yes	Yes	Yes
Merrimac	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Freedom	Yes	Yes	Yes
Plain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prairie du Sac	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rock Springs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sauk City	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spring Green	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Baraboo	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sauk County	Yes	Yes	Yes

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county

7. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND ACTIVITIES

This section builds off of the previous parts of the plan and presents a unified plan of action to mitigate the effects of natural hazards on property, people, and assets. It lists goals, objectives, and policies that will guide decision-makers and other officials. Goals are intended to describe an end state, usually in general terms. In contrast, objectives describe an end state in measurable and specific terms. Policies give clear direction on what will be done to help achieve a goal and the objectives.

Following the listing of goals, objectives, and policies, a chart lists specific action items along with an estimated implementation cost and potential funding sources. Responsible entities are listed for each so that implementation is well defined.

The activity charts are a work in progress. As items are completed, they will be deleted and as new opportunities or issues arise, items will be added. Further, depending on available resources, including funding and staff time, priorities may change.

Activities are prioritized as low, medium, or high based on the STAPLE+E approach. Exhibit 7-2 lists each of the criteria used to identify the priority. The mitigation actions with the highest priority were deemed to be the most cost effective and most compatible with the community's social and cultural values.

Cost estimates are provided to help formulate funding priorities. When a project is to be undertaken, a more detailed budget should be prepared to assess a project's cost. At that time a benefit cost analysis should be completed to show how the benefits of the project compare to anticipated costs. Federal funding for mitigation activities can only be obtained when benefits clearly outweigh the costs.

Exhibit 7-2. STAPLE+E

Criteria	Description
S – Social	Mitigation actions are acceptable to the community if they do not adversely affect a particular segment of the population, do not cause relocation of lower income people, and if they are compatible with the community's social and cultural values.
T – Technical	Mitigation actions are technically most effective if they provide long- term reduction of losses and have minimal secondary adverse impacts.
A – Administrative	Mitigation actions are easier to implement if the jurisdiction has the necessary staffing and funding.
P – Political	Mitigation actions can truly be successful if all stakeholders have been offered an opportunity to participate in the planning process and if there is public support for the action.
L – Legal	It is critical that the jurisdiction or implementing agency have the legal authority to implement and enforce a mitigation action.
E – Economic	Budget constraints can significantly deter the implementation of mitigation actions. Hence, it is important to evaluate whether an action is cost-effective, as determined by a cost benefit review, and possible to fund.
E – Environmental	Sustainable mitigation actions that do not have an adverse effect on the environment, that comply with Federal, State, and local environmental regulations, and that are consistent with the community's environmental goals, have mitigation benefits while being environmentally sound.

As part of the 2010 update, significant changes were made to this section of the plan. Those goals, objectives, policies, and activities that were added as part of the 2010 plan update are so noted, along with those that have been revised. Those that ensure continued compliance with the National Flood Insurance are also so designated. Minor revisions were made in the most recent update.

The Steering Committee reviewed the goals, objectives, and policies included in the following pages and made minor changes.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LOCAL PLANNING EFFORTS

It is strongly recommended that these goals and actions be adopted as part of local comprehensive planning efforts where appropriate, especially in areas where existing problems can be corrected and to prevent problems from occurring in newly developed areas.

As of this date, Sauk County and none of the participating municipalities have updated their comprehensive plans as related to this hazard mitigation plan.

Exhibit 7-3. Summary of Changes to Goals, Objectives, and Policies in 2019 Plan

Goal	Objectives	Policies
Goal 1. Public Education and Communication	No change	Revisions
Goal 2. Information and Technology Systems	No change	No change
Goal 3. Early Warning System	No change	No change
Goal 4. Flooding and Dam Failure	No change	No change
Goal 5. Storm Events	No change	No change
Goal 6. Temperature Extremes	No change	Minor revisions
Goal 7. Drought	No change	No change
Goal 8. Wildland Fire	No change	No change
Goal 9. Hazardous Materials Incidents	No change	No change

PRIORITIZATION OF GOALS AND ACTIONS

Goals and actions have been prioritized based on (1) the potential risk associated with each particular hazard, (2) the ability of the proposed action to have a positive impact upon minimizing or eliminating the risk from the hazard, (3) overall cost of associated with the proposed action, and (4) the availability of resources to fund and implement the action in a timely manner.

COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR GOALS AND ACTIONS

Specific cost benefit reviews will occur for each action in each participating jurisdiction during annual budget scenarios. Most identified actions are programmatic and not capital expenditures. The impact and cost of each program will be determined on an as needed basis prior to implementation. The information provided with each action is intended to assist in the cost benefit evaluation of each action. Cost estimates, funding sources, schedules, and responsible parties are preliminary and subject to change based on fiscal conditions.

COMMUNITY LIFELINES

Community lifelines are essential services and infrastructure that enable the sustained operation of a community and support its resilience, especially in the face of disasters (Exhibit 7-4). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identifies seven key community lifelines:

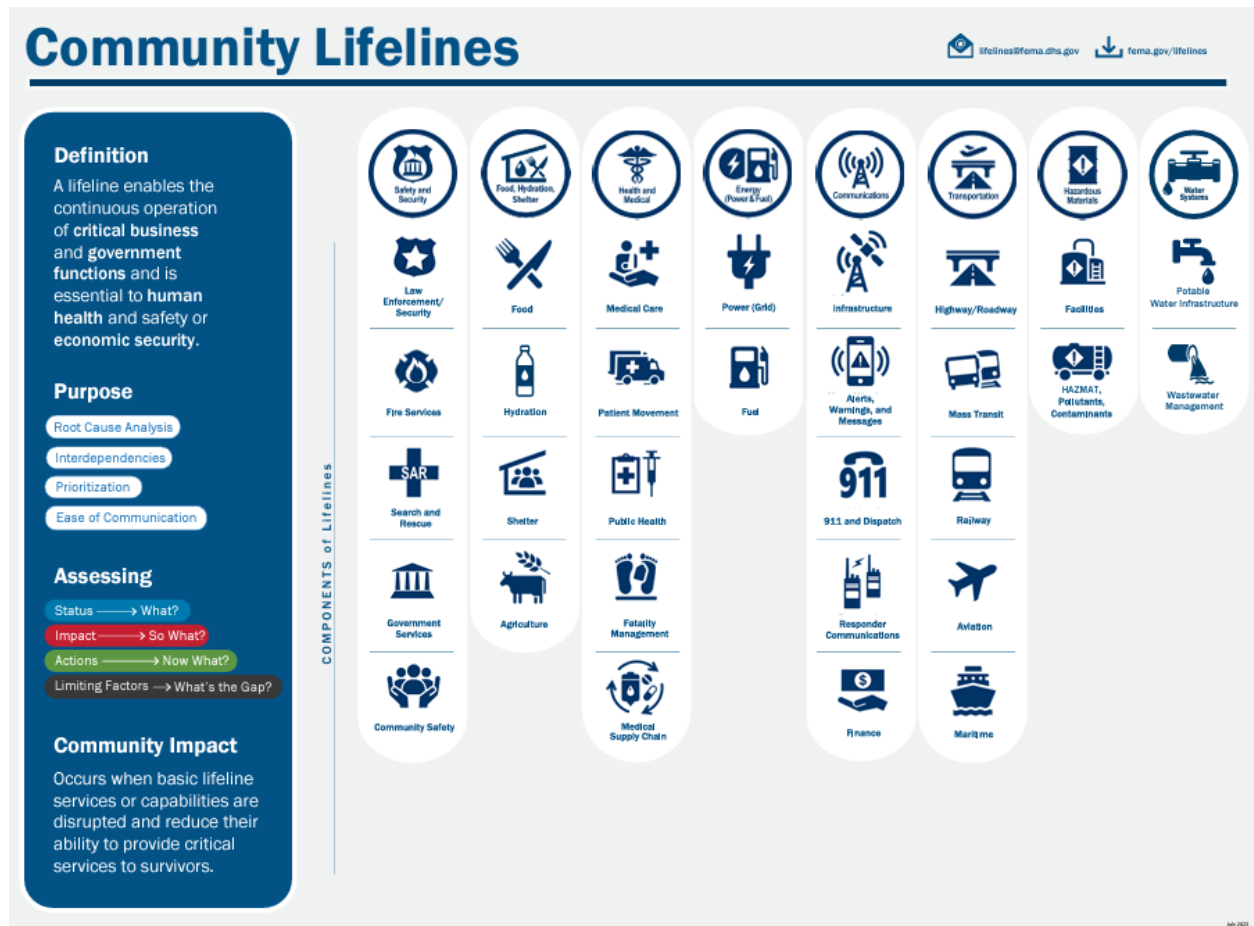
1. **Safety and Security** – Law enforcement, emergency services, and general public safety.
2. **Food, Water, and Shelter** – Access to food, potable water, sanitation, and housing.
3. **Health and Medical** – Medical care, health resources, and public health services.
4. **Energy (Power and Fuel)** – Electricity, gas, and fuel for transportation and heating.
5. **Communications** – Internet, cell networks, and other communication systems.
6. **Transportation** – Roads, bridges, airports, and public transportation.
7. **Hazardous Materials** – Management and containment of hazardous substances.
8. **Water Systems** – Potable water and wastewater management.

In hazard mitigation planning, community lifelines guide strategies to reduce the risks and impacts of natural hazards. By focusing on these lifelines, communities can prioritize protecting the critical infrastructure that supports essential

functions, thereby strengthening community resilience. Some mitigation activities, like the following, can promote Community Lifelines:

1. installing community safe rooms,
2. floodproofing critical infrastructure like water and wastewater facilities,
3. installing backup generator at government facilities, and
4. providing emergency shelters.

Exhibit 7-4. Community Lifelines



Source: Community Lifelines Poster, July 26, 2023

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The following goals, objectives, and policies were derived based on the risk assessment. They have been updated in each of the plan updates.

Goal 1. Public Education and Communication

Provide the public with the information they need to adequately prepare for and respond to natural hazards including dam failure, flooding, ice shoves, dense fog, tornadoes, hailstorms, thunderstorms, winter storms, temperature extremes, drought, and wildland fire.

Objectives

1. Strengthen emergency service preparedness and response by enhancing public education throughout the county.
2. Increase the number of households that have prepared a family emergency plan.
3. Increase the number of multi-language public outreach materials.
4. Increase the number of municipalities and critical facilities with emergency plans.

Policies

1. Work with non-governmental organizations, such as youth, service, professional, and religious organizations, to promote mitigation education and awareness.
2. Look for multiple and varied opportunities to disseminate educational information to county residents and business owners.
3. Improve communication between the county and local units of government when disasters occur or are likely to occur.
4. Work to develop information aimed at foreign visitors and hospitality workers in the Lake Delton region. To be effective, such information should be presented in their languages to be effective. (Note: Depending on the time of year, there could be up to 75 different languages spoken.)

Goal 2. Information and Technology Systems

Utilize the full range of information systems and digital technology in mitigation planning.

Objectives

1. Increase the amount of information that is available on the county's website relating to natural and manmade hazards

Policies

1. Post information on the county's website that may be of interest to county residents and local officials.
2. Develop on-line tools as may be needed to provide cost-effective services.

Goal 3. Early Warning System

Develop and utilize an early warning system to provide the affected public with as much advance warning as possible.

Objectives

1. Maintain the geographic coverage of emergency sirens in the county.
2. Increase the number of homes, large businesses, schools, health care facilities, and other facilities that utilize National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios.
3. Identify options for mass notification/warning notification utilizing current technologies (e.g., cellular, text messaging, e-mail).

Policies

1. Evaluate the need for establishing additional sirens in those areas of the county that do not have coverage.
 2. Promote the increased use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios, especially among facilities of special concern especially in those areas of the county not currently covered by warning sirens.
 3. Continue to support the efforts of severe weather spotters.
 4. Provide information about warming/cooling shelters in advance of potential extreme temperature events.
-

Goal 4. Flooding and Dam Failure

Lessen the impact that floods have on people, property, and the environment.

Objectives

1. Minimize the impact of flooding on potentially affected structures.
2. Decrease the number of structures currently located in the 100-year floodplain that are not properly flood-proofed.
3. Minimize the amount of impervious surface in new development projects to allow more infiltration of stormwater into the ground.
4. Increase public awareness of flooding.
5. Maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.
6. Encourage and incentivize land management practices that encourage infiltration such as no till farming, cover crops, rotational grazing, and native prairie establishment.

Policies

1. Continue to enforce floodplain regulations to ensure that future development in the 100-year floodplain meets established standards.
 2. Support the identification and conservation of land with high flood mitigation value (e.g., wetlands, upland storage, and infiltration areas).
 3. Support land acquisition and other management strategies to preserve open space for flood mitigation purposes.
 4. Ensure that governmental officials and employees, county residents, and real estate agents are aware of floodplain regulations.
 5. Ensure that people owning property in the 100-year floodplain and other flood-prone areas, and their agents, notify buyers when selling their property.
 6. Adopt standards to control the proportion of a site that can be covered with impervious surfaces.
 7. Locate public infrastructure outside of the 100-year floodplain. When infrastructure needs to be located in the 100-year floodplain, it should be flood proofed or otherwise protected from flood water.
 8. Design and properly size new stream crossings so that floodwaters do not overtop the road and a significant back-water effect is not created.
 9. Continue to enforce stormwater management regulations.
 10. Update flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) when it can be shown that they are substantially inaccurate.
 11. Ensure that all large dams in the county have emergency action plans and that they are up to date.
 12. Undertake such activities as may be required to remain compliant with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.
 13. Discourage and/or limit development within the 100-year floodplain and other flood-prone areas through comprehensive plans that may be prepared or amended.
 14. The County Board supports the preparation of grant applications for the preparation of emergency action plans.
 15. Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs.
 16. Encourage and incentivize land management practices that encourage infiltration such as no till farming, cover crops, rotational grazing, and native prairie establishment.
 17. Encourage enrollment into land retirement programs on the most environmentally sensitive cropland.
 18. Expand landowner/farmer outreach programs which will increase the number of conservation practices that will retain water.
 19. Increase cost share funding for flood mitigation practices.
 20. Utilize modeling, including the Erosion Vulnerability Assessment for Agricultural Lands (EVAAL) tool, to identify priority areas for conservation and mitigation practices and projects.
 21. Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of best management projects, which could include smaller dam structures, berms, swales, terraces, prairie buffers and other practices to retain water on the landscape.
 22. Collaborate with county, city, and village government to expand cost-sharing program of rain gardens and other storm water retention practices.
 23. Utilize conservation easements to protect environmentally sensitive portions of parcels from development – they do not restrict all land use, rather they direct development to areas of land that are not environmentally sensitive.
-

Goal 5. Storm Events (Tornadoes, Wind Events, Storms, Hail, and Dense Fog)

Lessen the effects of a storm event to the extent feasible and speed recovery following an event.

Objectives

1. Increase public education and awareness of the potential severity of storm events.
2. Minimize the amount of time that businesses and government facilities, such as schools, damaged by a storm event are not operational.
3. Minimize the amount of time it takes to rebuild or restore dwellings damaged by a storm event.
4. Prevent injuries and death from storm events.
5. Minimize response time needed to respond to storm events.

Policies

1. Bury overhead power and utility lines where feasible as a way to reduce power outages during all types of storm events.
2. Ensure that adequate tornado shelters are available to county residents especially those living in mobile/manufactured home parks.
3. Include redevelopment objectives in smart growth comprehensive plans to support post-disaster development activities.
4. Encourage home builders and others to incorporate wind-resistant features into new home construction.
5. Work with utility companies to assess and to improve, when necessary, electric service reliability.
6. Work with public and private utility companies to ensure that trees are properly trimmed near utility lines.
7. Promote home safety measures such as the construction of safe rooms.
8. Continue to ensure that new development meets applicable development standards, such as zoning, stormwater management, shoreland zoning, and shoreland/wetland zoning.
9. Encourage the use of tie-downs on mobile homes and manufactured homes.
10. Encourage the use of snow fences where needed.
11. Promote winter hazards awareness, including home and travel safety measures, such as avoiding travel during winter storms.

Goal 6. Temperature Extremes

Protect county residents from the effects of temperature extremes.

Objectives

1. Prevent deaths and injuries due to temperature extremes.
2. Increase public education and awareness.

Policies

1. Encourage volunteers to look after vulnerable individuals, especially the elderly, during times of extreme heat and cold.
 2. Open county and other public facilities with heating and/or air conditioning, as appropriate, for public access during periods of extreme temperatures.
 3. Ensure that county residents are aware that there are different forms of assistance to help qualified individuals to help pay their winter heating costs.
-

Goal 7. Drought

Protect the public health, safety, and welfare of county residents during periods of drought.

Objectives

1. Decrease water use during periods of drought.
2. Minimize the economic impacts of drought on the local economy.

Policies

1. Encourage water conservation during periods of drought.
2. Impose water use restrictions during periods of extreme drought.
3. Work with appropriate agencies to conserve water, provide drought prediction, and provide stream and groundwater monitoring.
4. Work with local, state, and federal agencies that can assist with and promote soil health, preserve soil moisture and help to minimize the loss of the crops and topsoil in the event of a drought.
5. Monitor groundwater levels to identify the status of groundwater resources and trends.
6. Work with state and federal agencies to develop appropriate regional strategies to address drought conditions.
7. Provide information to farmers in times of drought.
8. Inform farmers about purchasing crop insurance.
9. Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs.
10. Encourage and incentivize the installation of agricultural conservation practices that promote soil health, preserve soil moisture, and help to minimize loss of crops and topsoil in the event of a drought. Such practices may include planting crop field windbreaks, planting cover crops, no-till farming, rotational grazing, and contour farming to help reduce evaporation and/or promote infiltration.
11. Promote the use of drought-resistant landscaping practices using native plantings.
12. Encourage and increase cost share assistance for the installation of farm drought management strategies including Irrigation Water Management Systems and expanded use of Wisconsin Irrigation Scheduling Program (WISP).
13. Encourage multi-agency approaches to drought planning, water conservation, drought prediction, and stream and groundwater monitoring.

Goal 8. Wildland Fire

Protect structures and people in Sauk County from uncontrolled wildfires.

Objectives

1. Decrease the number of wildland fires occurring in the county.
2. Decrease the number of acres burned from wildland fires.
3. Increase public education.

Policies

1. Support the use of controlled burns as a way of reducing the threat of dangerous wildland fires.
 2. Enhance emergency services to increase the efficiency of wildfire response and recovery activities.
 3. Encourage local fire departments to work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource to provide training to their personnel on fighting large wildland fires.
 4. Continue to provide outreach efforts to homeowners on protecting homes and structures from wildfires including information about fire-resistant construction.
 5. Continue cooperation through mutual aid agreements.
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Goal 9. Hazardous Materials Incidents

Protect people and natural resources from the adverse effects of hazardous materials incidents.

Objectives

1. Decrease the number of incidents involving hazardous materials.
2. Increase the effectiveness of local emergency response crews.
3. Increase awareness and information related to safe handling procedures.
4. Increase awareness and education efforts concerning proper certification and identification for transporting hazardous materials.
5. Minimize the negative effects of hazardous material spills. (**added 2005 plan**)

Policies

1. Encourage local enforcement of state compliance standards for safe handling and storage of hazardous materials.
 2. Include local emergency response entities when appropriate in the development and maintenance of local emergency plans, off-site facility plans, SARA plans, and Tier 3 plans.
 3. Continue coordination relating to the implementation of the Brown Route alternative route.
 4. Ensure that facilities storing or using hazardous materials are not located near residential areas and/or residential care facilities such as nursing homes and the like.
 5. Ensure that emergency response crews have proper training (e.g., recognize USDOT labels for hazardous materials).
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8. MITIGATION PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A number of major accomplishments have been achieved by Sauk County and municipalities (Table 7-10).

Table 7-10. Major Accomplishments: 2010-2024
<div><div>1.</div><div>Developed dam break analysis and Emergency Action Plans for County dams.</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>Completed annual certifications for emergency action plans for major power dams impacting Sauk County.</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>Completed a database of bridges/culverts on a county or state road.</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>City of Baraboo constructed a floodwall to protect the city shop from flooding.</div></div> <div><div>5.</div><div>Completed a debris management plan, including short- and long-term disposal.</div></div> <div><div>6.</div><div>Revised Sauk County’s emergency operations plan to address temperature extremes (i.e., cold and heat).</div></div> <div><div>7.</div><div>EAP and IOM Plans have been completed for three dams owned by Sauk County.</div></div> <div><div>8.</div><div>EAP and IOM Plans are currently being completed for three dams owned by Sauk County (Plain Honey Creek Dams 2, 3, and 4)</div></div> <div><div>9.</div><div>Mitigation work has been done on Clark Creek based on the Clark Creek study (2008)</div></div> <div><div>10.</div><div>Village of Lime Ridge installed an outdoor warning siren in 2019</div></div> <div><div>11.</div><div>Improvements to relocate and elevate sewer lift station on County V in City of Reedsburg (2020)</div></div> <div><div>12.</div><div>Relocated City of Reedsburg’s city shop out of the floodplain (2021)</div></div> <div><div>13.</div><div>Backup generator installed at ambulance service in City of Reedsburg (2023)</div></div> <div><div>14.</div><div>Sauk County became NWS StormReady recertified (2024)</div></div> <div><div>15.</div><div>The City of Reedsburg became NWS StormReady recertified (2024)</div></div> <div><div>16.</div><div>The Village of Lake Delton became NWS StormReady recertified (2024)</div></div> <div><div>17.</div><div>City of Baraboo installed a river gauge using grant funding from DR-4402</div></div> <div><div>18.</div><div>Sauk County initiated a flood study of the Baraboo River using grant funding from DR-4402</div></div> <div><div>19.</div><div>Conducted work on Lake Redstone Dam (2021)</div></div> <div><div>20.</div><div>Conducted work on Hemlock Dam (completed in 2024)</div></div> <div><div>21.</div><div>Sauk County adopted Erosion Control and Stormwater Management regulations (Ch. 51) (2022)</div></div> <div><div>22.</div><div>Rock Springs river gauge upgraded/replaced in 2024</div></div> <div><div>23.</div><div>Village of Merrimac Village installed a backup generator at the Village Hall/Public Works building in December 2024.</div></div> <div><div>24.</div><div>Village of Merrimac Village signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sauk Prairie School District in September of 2023, agreeing to provide shelter and assistance to students and staff evacuated during emergency situations. The shelter is located at 100 Cook Street, which is our Village Hall.</div></div> <div><div>25.</div><div>La Valle replaced the municipal well in 2024 following flooding</div></div>

FUTURE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The following are specific projects and activities to be undertaken in the next 5 and 10 years subject to necessary resources, including staff time and funding.

Goal 1. Public Education and Communication

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Public Education and Communication	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. Develop and implement education programs aimed at mitigating natural hazards and reducing the risk to citizens, public agencies, private property owners, businesses, and schools. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	\$10,000	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
2. Create displays for use at public events such as the county fair and wellness fairs. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time and cost of supplies	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
3. Work with the public and private schools within the county to promote hazard mitigation awareness and to create plans. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
4. Continue to promote informational campaigns about severe weather, such as Winter Awareness Week in November, Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in April, Heat Awareness Day in June, Flood Awareness in March, and Preparedness Week in September. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
5. Continue offering information regarding insurance to farm operators for potential crop losses due to weather-related damage. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk UW-Extension
6. Provide more hazard-related information in multiple languages (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Health Department
7. Add information to the village's website about natural disasters and mitigation efforts and flooding (Status 2024 - done)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Village of North Freedom

Goal 2. Information and Technology Systems

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Information and Technology Systems	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. Continue to add/update links on the existing department web sites (e.g., ARC, FEMA, WEM), especially focusing on preparedness bulletins, including a link to the stream gauge web site maintained by the National Weather Service. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management
2. Develop and maintain a geographic database of natural hazard events that have occurred in the county, including location, event conditions, and resulting damage. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Land Information Department
3. Develop and maintain a webpage relating to mitigation planning and activities, to include the posting of the countywide natural hazards mitigation plan. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management
4. Add links on websites maintained by local jurisdictions to the Sauk County Emergency Management website. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
5. Update and maintain the database of critical facilities that was provided to the county as part of the 2010 plan update project. (Completed for recent plan update)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management

Goal 3. Early Warning System

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Early Warning System	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. Explore alternatives to increase public warning options (e.g., sirens, mass notification system). (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management
2. Analyze the current coverage of outdoor sirens and prepare a schedule for placing additional sirens in the county. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
3. Continue to update and/or monitor the countywide public early warning system and network. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
4. Continue to apply for federal funding to purchase NOAA weather radios for county residents. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
5. Continue to host classes for severe weather spotters and maintain a network of spotters in the county. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
6. Develop an early warning system to monitor river levels and related flooding for the Baraboo River (using RTU) (New 2018, 2024 status – ongoing effort)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management
7. Install a new siren in the community. (2024 status – Completed)	\$10,000	Capital budget, grants, and other sources	Medium	X		Village of Lime Ridge

Goal 4. Flooding and Dam Failure

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Flooding and Dam Failure	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. Initiate a program to work with owners of property in the 100-year floodplain and other flood-prone areas relating to mapped flood storage areas and identification of pumping stations. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X	X	Sauk County Planning & Zoning Department, Sauk County Land Conservation Department, Mapping Department
2. Continue to survey floodplain property owners for a voluntary buyout or relocation project. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Varies	Departmental budget	High	X	X	Sauk County Planning & Zoning Department, Sauk County Emergency Management, individual local jurisdictions
3. Municipalities facing significant growth should develop, update or maintain a stormwater management plan to address stormwater control issues within their borders and meet new EPA/DNR regulations. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget; state and federal grants	High	X	X	Sauk County Planning & Zoning and Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
4. Identify and analyze feasible mitigation options for those properties which are designated as a repetitive loss property. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
5. Apply for funding through the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program as well as any other resources that may be available to help flood proof repetitive loss sites or other flood-prone properties or remove them through voluntary acquisition with demolition or relocation. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
6. Design and construct stormwater management facilities consistent with adopted stormwater management plans than have been or will be prepared / amended. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
7. Identify and upgrade those culverts and bridges that are undersized or are otherwise unable to handle expected flood flows. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Highway and Public Works Department; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Flooding and Dam Failure	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
8. Prepare a strategy to prioritize road improvements for public roadways that are susceptible to flooding. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Highway and Public Works Department; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
9. Re-evaluate and update the county ordinances as may be required and adopt a county-wide stormwater management and erosion control ordinance. (2024 status – completed in 2022)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Land Resources and Environment
10. Distribute National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) information to the public. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo.
11. Evaluate the support for and the feasibility of becoming part of the Community Rating System (CRS) to lower flood insurance premiums for property owners. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Land Resources and Environment; Cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo.
12. Work with property owners with land that has been delineated as flood storage areas on the flood insurance rate maps to protect them from inappropriate development. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Land Resources and Environment; Cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
13. Work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to ensure that an emergency action plan is prepared for large dams and that they are periodically updated. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Flooding and Dam Failure	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
14. Ensure that privately-owned large dams are inspected consistent with state law. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management
15. Ensure that publicly-owned large dams are inspected consistent with state law. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
16. Conduct a study to determine feasible and cost-effective solutions to minimize flooding along streams and rivers experiencing flooding in the last five years. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Unknown	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Land Resources and Environment; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
17. Relocate Reedsburg's city shop out of the floodplain (2024 status – completed)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		City of Reedsburg
18. Re-evaluate the area along Highway 60 and Old Bluff Trail to verify extent of floodplain (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		Town of Prairie du Sac
19. Elevate Barbara Ann Drive and replace adjacent boardwalk as a sidewalk and replace box culvert (2024 status – ongoing work)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		City of Reedsburg
20. Relocate and elevate electric substation on Railroad Street (2024 status – ongoing work)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		City of Reedsburg
21. New ambulance generator (2024 status – completed in 2023)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		City of Reedsburg
22. New flood protection levee in Downtown Reedsburg (2024 status – The Army Corps of Engineers did a study and additional evaluation is forthcoming)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		City of Reedsburg
23. Elevate W Main St (State HWY 33) (2024 status – remove as a task, not feasible)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		City of Reedsburg
24. Relocate and elevate sewer lift station on County V (2024 status – Completed 2020)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	Medium	X		City of Reedsburg

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Flooding and Dam Failure	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
25. Relocate existing Village hall, library, and fire station out of the floodplain (New 2018, 2024 status – work has not started yet)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	High	X	X	Village of La Valle
26. Relocate municipal public utility infrastructure that is vulnerable to flooding out of the floodplain (New 2018, 2024 status – ongoing effort)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	High	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
27. Develop a plan to relocate downtown Rock Springs to a location outside of the floodplain (New 2018)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	High	X	X	Village of Rock Springs
28. Apply for funding through the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program as well as any other resources that may be available to remove flood-prone properties through voluntary acquisition with demolition or relocation. (2018 status – new for West Baraboo, 2024)	Unknown	Capital budget and other sources	High	X	X	Village of West Baraboo
29. Evaluate the potential expansion and development of additional stormwater retention ponds. (New 2018)	Unknown	Departmental budgets and other sources	High	X	X	City of Wisconsin Dells
30. Evaluate the potential expansion and development of additional stormwater retention ponds. (New 2018, 2024)	Unknown	Departmental budgets and other sources	High	X		Village of Prairie du Sac
31. Conduct a study to determine feasible and cost-effective solutions to minimize flooding (New 2018, 2024)	Unknown	Departmental budgets and other sources	High	X		Village of Spring Green
32. Conduct a study to determine feasible and cost-effective solutions to minimize flooding (New 2018)	Unknown	Departmental budgets and other sources	High	X		Village of Sauk City

Goal 5. Storm Events (Tornadoes, Wind Events, Storms, Hail, and Dense Fog)

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Storm Events (Tornadoes, Wind Events, Storms, Hail, and Dense Fog)	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. Promote lightning awareness (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Low	Departmental budget	Low	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
2. The County and local units of government should identify buildings that will provide protection to the public in the event of a tornado. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Low	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management
3. Upon identifying existing building that could provide protection, the County and local units of government should identify areas that are deficit in tornado shelters. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Low	Departmental budget	High	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
4. Identify and pursue funding opportunities to develop and implement local and county mitigation activities. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
5. Periodically assess whether there are enough storm shelters to house displaced persons. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; American Red Cross
6. Study the feasibility of and support for adopting a local regulation which would require new mobile home/manufacture home parks and future expansions of existing parks to provide for a tornado shelter for residents. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
7. Install storm shelters near or in existing mobile home parks and high occupancy campgrounds. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Project dependant	Private funds and grants	Medium	X		Mobile home park operators and campground operations; Sauk County Emergency Management
8. Work with the local chapter of the American Red Cross to update its shelter evaluation assessment. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; American Red Cross
9. Investigate the need for standby generators at government buildings, especially public safety facilities. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Storm Events (Tornadoes, Wind Events, Storms, Hail, and Dense Fog)	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
10. Evaluate the cost/benefit of establishing a storm shelter(s) for Blackhawk Mobile home park (New 2018)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		City of Baraboo
11. Evaluate the cost/benefit of establishing a storm shelter(s) for campground/mobile home park (New 2018)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Village of Lake Delton

Goal 6. Temperature Extremes

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Temperature Extremes	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. Develop a directory of public buildings that would be open to the public during extended heat waves. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Health Department
2. Call a meeting of public and non-profit organizations that may be able to mobilize a volunteer corps of individuals willing to assist vulnerable people during periods of extreme heat or cold. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Health Department
3. Investigate the possibility of establishing a database of individuals who are vulnerable to temperature extremes and who have voluntarily placed their name on a call list. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	High	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Health Department; American Red Cross
4. Publicise available programs that help low-income residents pay for their utility expenses. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; Sauk County Health Department; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo

Goal 7. Drought

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Drought	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. The County should encourage farmers that irrigate to use the Wisconsin Irrigation Scheduling Program (WISP). (2024 status, ongoing strategy)	Low	Departmental budget	Low	X	X	Sauk County Land Conservation Department
2. Develop a program to communicate with farmers during times of drought. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Low	Departmental budgets	Low	X		Sauk County Land Conservation Department and Sauk County UW Extension
3. Provide a crop insurance educational program. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Low	Departmental budgets	Low	X	X	Sauk County Land Conservation Department and Sauk County UW Extension
4. Adopt local regulations to control the use of water during drought conditions. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Municipalities with public water systems
5. Develop procedures for water distribution during drought to those in need. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management

Goal 8. Wildfire

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Wildfire	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. The County and DNR should continue to make outreach efforts to homeowners on protecting their homes and structures from wildfires. (2024 status – no action due to low priority)	Low	Departmental budget	Low	X	X	Sauk County Planning & Zoning Department and Sauk County Emergency Management
2. Work with local jurisdictions to encourage adequate access for emergency vehicles, including 30 ft. minimum distance between structures and safe design/locations for driveways. (2024 status– ongoing strategy)	Low	Departmental budget	Low	X	X	Sauk County Planning & Zoning Department and the Sauk County Emergency Management
3. Apply for federal and state grants to enhance the capability of local fire departments. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Local fire departments
4. Provide education to county and municipal personnel about federal cost-share and grant programs, fire protection agreements, and other related federal programs so the full array of assistance available to local agencies is understood. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Low	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; cities of Baraboo, Reedsburg, and Wisconsin Dells; and the villages of Ironton, Lake Delton, La Valle, Lime Ridge, Loganville, Merrimac, North Freedom, Plain, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, Sauk City, Spring Green, and West Baraboo
5. Develop a digital database to keep track of wildfire events in the county. (2024 status – ongoing effort)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X		Sauk County Emergency Management; local fire departments

Goal 9. Hazardous Materials Incidents

Implementation Projects and Activities Related to Hazardous Materials Incidents	Cost Estimate (2024)	Potential Funding Source	Priority	Schedule		Responsible Entity
				2025 - 2029	2030 - 2034	
1. The County should prevent or reduce hazardous material exposure by separation and buffering between industrial areas and other land uses (2024 status - ongoing effort)	Moderate	Departmental budget	High	X	X	Sauk County Planning and Zoning Department
2. Continue to identify and record locations of all properties where hazardous materials are used or stored. (2024 status - ongoing)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
3. Establish a formal procedure to promptly notify those people affected by an uncontrolled release of hazardous materials. (2024 status - ongoing)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
4. Develop a coordinated training procedure involving police departments and fire departments to respond to uncontrolled releases of hazardous materials. (2024 status - ongoing)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
5. Identify truck routes where transporting of hazardous materials is permitted and incorporate that information into comprehensive plans and other planning projects. (2024 status - ongoing)	Staff time	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management
6. Conduct periodic emergency response training exercises. (2024 status - ongoing)	\$5,000 per training exercise	Departmental budget	Medium	X	X	Sauk County Emergency Management

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

In addition to the above, each of the participating municipalities were asked to complete a survey identifying potential mitigation projects and activities. Their responses are included below as submitted along with information for some of the school districts.

Additional Mitigation Projects and Activities

Town of Bear Creek (Sheila Carver)

Stormwater & Flooding: Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc.

Other: Ongoing tree trimming to prevent downed trees on roads during storms.

Town of Delton (Mark Schauf)

Severe Weather: (1) Install backup generators at a critical facility (2) Post information on the town's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (3) Post information on the town's website related to emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc. (4) Host a free emergency preparedness training or post free training information on the town's website (5) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans (6) Develop and implement appropriate evacuation procedures in flood-prone areas;

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris-related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc. (2) Designate a storm debris collection point and / or create a debris management plan. (3) Remove debris and downed trees along streams and waterways to help improve stream flow.

Wildfire: (1) Ensure new developments have adequate ingress and egress routes; (2) Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires.

Climate Adaptation: (1) Incorporate natural hazard information into the town's comprehensive plan. (2) Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures (3) Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs.

Other: (1) Town is working to remove dead or damaged trees within and adjacent to the ROW of Town roads, including working with residents and private contractors. (2) The Town is working toward a full generator back up for the Marshal Memorial Town Hall and looking into portable generator application at the Town Shops on Xanadu Road. (3) The Town now has a web page and is in the processing of developing links for citizens to include hyperlinks to Sauk County EM and General Government as a means to communicate with the community. (4) Development of Cooperative Agreements with neighboring jurisdictions for response in the time of emergency and resource management. Included mutual aid agreements, resource sharing and availability in times of disaster as well as staff to manage items such as debris removal event response. (5) Develop a resource plan for emergency items like fuel during a crisis with Sauk EM/ local providers. (6) Applied for Agricultural Road Improvement grant for the bridge/ structure under Lage Rd, vulnerable in time of flooding. (7) The addition of digital placement on the web site has had a review of codes including building and storm water management to ensure compliance in new building projects. (8) Hiring of a Code Enforcement officer to reduce the debris conditions prior to any significant weather and work to educate community members. Additionally, ensuring compliance with zoning and placement of multifamily residences and at risk businesses to ensure proper responses. (9) Recent change in garbage and recycling provider gave committed resource such as dumpsters in time of need by the Township. (10) Working with WI DNR on dredging and on-going maintenance at Mirror Lake State Park inclusive of supporting their logging and cleaning up the area to help prevent wild fires.

Town of Excelsior (Kurt Muchow)

Severe Weather: (1) Evaluate existing outdoor sirens and coverage add or upgrade as needed (2) Post information on the town's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (3) Post information on the town's website related to, emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc. (4) Host a free emergency preparedness training or post free training information on the town's website (5) Develop and implement appropriate evacuation procedures in flood-prone areas (6) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans (7) Bury electrical and other utility lines to prevent service outages during weather events.

Stormwater & Flooding: Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc.

Wildfire: (1) Provide information to property owners on creating a defensible space around structures (2) Ensure new developments have adequate ingress and egress routes

Climate Adaptation: (1) Incorporate natural hazard information into the town's comprehensive plan. (2) Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures (3) Expand landowner/farmer outreach programs which will increase conservation efforts

Dams: (1) Ensure that dam inspections are conducted as required by state law (2) Review any local dam emergency action plans

Other: Tree trimming and/or removal along town roads

Additional Mitigation Projects and Activities

Comments: Increased rail traffic and train speed on the Wisconsin Southern Railroad (WSOR) may create traffic safety hazards at road crossings. The WDOT and WSOR should evaluate and upgrade road intersections to ensure appropriate warning devices are in place. Hazardous materials hauled by rail could create a potential safety hazard in the event of accidents and/or derailment events. An appropriate hazard mitigation plan should be created to address this potential hazard.

Town of Franklin (Jospeh Prem)

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Install backup generators at a critical facility (2) Post information on the town's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.)

Other: Emergency Generator at Town Shop\Office

Town of Freedom (Dennis Rehr)

Severe Weather: (1) Evaluate existing outdoor sirens and coverage, add or upgrade as needed. (2) Post information on the town's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Develop a plan / pursue funding to modify any bridges/culverts in your jurisdiction that are not able to handle floodwaters. (2) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc.

Wildfire: Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires.

Climate Adaptation: (1) Expand landowner/farmer outreach programs which will increase conservation efforts (2) Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs.

Dams: Ensure that dam inspections are conducted as required by state law

Other: (1) Remove dead ash trees that may fall into roadways (2) Replace failing culverts and ditch to aid in water flow (3) Replacement of a bridge deemed at its lifespan end

Town of Ironton (Jerry White)

Severe Weather: (1) Post information on the town's website related to, emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc. (2) Post information on the town's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (3) Encourage local businesses, churches, schools, etc. to utilize NOAA All Hazards Weather Radios as a way to keep the public safe during dangerous weather events. (4) Host a free emergency preparedness training or post free training information on the town's website (5) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Apply for grant to purchase flood-prone properties (2) Develop a plan / pursue funding to modify any bridges/culverts in your jurisdiction that are not able to handle floodwaters. (3) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc. (4) Designate a storm debris collection point and / or create a debris management plan (5) Remove debris and downed trees along streams and waterways to help improve stream flow.

Wildfire: (1) Consider requirement of burn permits; Encourage controlled burns as a means of controlling fuel buildup (2) Ensure new developments have adequate ingress and egress routes (3) Provide information to property owners on creating a defensible space around structure (4) Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires.

Climate Adaptation: (1) Incorporate natural hazard information into the Town's comprehensive plan. (2) Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures (3) Promote the use of drought-resistant landscaping practices using native plantings. (4) Expand landowner/farmer outreach programs which will increase conservation efforts (5) Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs

Other: Plans to create a website this year and use it to inform residents of hazardous situations that may arise

Comments: The Town of Ironton is 100% rural, surrounded by three small villages. While many of the items listed do not apply, creating a relationship with these villages for use of shelters, etc. could be a worthwhile possibility

Town of Prairie du Sac (Adam Weiss)

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Develop a plan / pursue funding to modify any bridges/culverts in your jurisdiction that are not able to handle floodwaters (2) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc. (3) Remove debris and downed trees along streams and waterways to help improve stream flow.

Other: Couple culverts need to be replaced over the next couple of years. A few spots need to have brush/debris cleared to help drainage.

Town of Spring Green (Dave Radel)

Additional Mitigation Projects and Activities

Severe Weather: (1) Install backup generators at a critical facility (2) Post information on the town's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (3) Host a free emergency preparedness training or post free training information on the town's website

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Apply for grant to purchase flood-prone properties (2) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris-related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc. (3) Remove debris and downed trees along streams and waterways to help improve stream flow

Wildfire: Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires

Climate Adaptation: Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures

Other: The town of Spring Green along with the village of Spring Green and Sauk county have and will continue to apply for grants to address the eastern basin flooding issues. After major flooding in 2008 the town of Spring Green and Tri County Airport have completed two drainage projects. The third project that still needs to be completed is called the eastern basin. This project will protect the ag land to the north of the Village of Spring Green and protect the Village of Spring Green's future growth. This will also protect the town of Spring Green's Hwy 14 business corridor.

Comments: Along with updating the plan there needs to be an easier reporting system when seeking recovery of costs associated with hazard clean-up. It seems that after all the time municipalities put into completing documentation to only find out there "is no money" to cover reimbursements.

Town of Winfield (Teresa Bass)

Severe Weather: (1) Post information on the town's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (2) Post information on the town's website related to emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc.

Other: None

Comments: None

Village of Ironton (Jennifer Ferguson)

Severe Weather: Update zoning to require community safe rooms in new or expanding mobile home parks and campgrounds

Stormwater & Flooding: Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc.

Other: Currently no community shelter or building available for use (add funding permitting)

Village of La Valle (Lori Dee)

Severe Weather: Install backup generators at a critical facility

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Build or reinforce levees, floodwalls and berms (2) Remove debris and downed trees along streams and waterways to help improve stream flow (3) Upgrade storm sewer systems

Other: (1) Purchase generator to power lift station if power goes out. (2) Install storm sewer along LaValle Street to catch rain/snow thaw and connect to Main Street storm sewer. (3) Install a berm along area near the 400 Trail to direct flow of floodwater away to protect homes along South and S. East Streets. (4) Clear the Baraboo River of debris and downed trees to improve the river flow.

Village of Lake Delton (Eric Thunberg)

Severe Weather: (1) Install backup generators at a critical facility (2) Evaluate existing outdoor sirens and coverage, Add or upgrade as needed. (3) Post information on the village's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.); (4) Post information on the village's website related to, emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc. (5) Host a free emergency preparedness training or post free training information on the village's website (6) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans

Wildfire: (1) Consider requirement of burn permits (2) Encourage controlled burns as a means of controlling fuel buildup (3) Ensure new developments have adequate ingress and egress routes (4) Provide information to property owners on creating a defensible space around structures (5) Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires (6) Complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Other: Increasing partnership/collaboration with local business (resorts especially), to enhance our ability to respond to and prevent hazardous incidents. Partnering with VLD EM, DFD and adding staff positions specifically to develop and enhance our ongoing community training and response.

Additional Mitigation Projects and Activities

Comments: Two full-time LDPD sworn staff to develop and maintain a business and community liaison to address the unique economics and demographics in Lake Delton. Encompasses the J1 program, Emergency management, development of the RTF concept for EMS and annual FSE for public safety, the community and schools.

Village of Merrimac (Jennie Klecker)

Severe Weather: (1) Install backup generators at a critical facility (2) Bury electrical and other utility lines to prevent service outages during weather events (3) Become a NWS Storm Ready Community (4) Host a free emergency preparedness training or post free training information on the village's website (5) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans (6) Post information on the village's website related to, emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc. (7) Post information on the village's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (8) Encourage the construction of safe rooms in new residential buildings (9) Explore grant opportunities for community safe rooms / storm shelters in municipal buildings, campgrounds and mobile home parks (10) Encourage local businesses, churches schools, etc. to utilize NOAA All Hazards Weather Radios as a way to keep the public safe during dangerous weather events. (11) Develop and implement appropriate evacuation procedures in flood-prone areas

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Raise road surfaces to mitigate flood chances (2) Implement critical facility flood protection measures. (wastewater treatment plant, police station, municipal building) (3) Upgrade storm sewer systems (4) Develop a plan / pursue funding to modify any bridges/culverts in your jurisdiction that are not able to handle floodwaters. (5) Designate a storm debris collection point and / or create a debris management plan (6) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc.

Wildfire: (1) Encourage controlled burns as a means of controlling fuel buildup (2) Ensure new developments have adequate ingress and egress routes (3) Institute measures to reduce soil erosion following a wildland fire event

Climate Adaptation: (1) Apply to become part of the Tree City USA program or adopt an urban forest management plan to mitigate high heat extremes during the summer (2) Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures (3) Adopt a climate action plan.; Promote the use of drought-resistant landscaping practices using native plantings. (4) Expand landowner/farmer outreach programs which will increase conservation efforts (5) Encourage farm operators to evaluate the economics of crop insurance programs. (6) Incorporate natural hazard information into the village's comprehensive plan. (7) Establish local heating and cooling centers for vulnerable populations (8) Adopt local ordinances for prioritizing water usage during periods of drought

Dams: (1) Review any local dam emergency action plans (2) Include a dam failure in emergency planning exercises

Other: The Village is working collaboratively with Green Merrimac, a newly formed local environmental group, to enact changes in the Merrimac area that help protect the environment through education and active citizen participation.

Village of North Freedom (Nicki Breunig)

Severe Weather: (1) Install backup generators at a critical facility (2) Evaluate existing outdoor sirens and coverage, Add or upgrade as needed. (3) Post information on the village's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (4) Encourage local businesses, churches, schools, etc. to utilize NOAA All Hazards Weather Radios as a way to keep the public safe during dangerous weather events. (5) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans (6) Develop and implement appropriate evacuation procedures in flood-prone areas

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Upgrade storm sewer systems (2) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc. (3) Designate a storm debris collection point and / or create a debris management plan (4) Remove debris and downed trees along streams and waterways to help improve stream flow

Wildfire: Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires

Climate Adaptation: Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures

Village of Plain (Sheila Carver)

Severe Weather: (1) Post information on the village's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (2) Post information on the village's website related to, emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc.

Other: None

Village of Sauk City (Heidi Koch)

Severe Weather: (1) Bury electrical and other utility lines to prevent service outages during weather events. (2) Explore grant opportunities for community safe rooms / storm shelters in municipal buildings, campgrounds and mobile home parks (3) Post information on the village's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (4) Post information on the village's website related to emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc. (5) Review / update Emergency Operating

Additional Mitigation Projects and Activities

Plans (6) Encourage local businesses, churches schools, etc. to utilize NOAA All Hazards Weather Radios as a way to keep the public safe during dangerous weather events. (6) Install backup generators at a critical facility

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Development of stormwater retention ponds (2) Upgrade storm sewer systems (3) Consider establishing a stormwater utility as a means to fund needed stormwater improvement projects (4) Assess tree trimming projects that would mitigate storm debris-related damage and hazards such as blocked critical roadways, storm water drainage, power outages, etc. (5) Initiate the creation of a stormwater management plan

Wildfire: (1) Ensure new developments have adequate ingress and egress routes (2) Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires. (3) Provide information to property owners on creating a defensible space around structures

Climate Adaptation: (1) Apply to become part of the Tree City USA program or adopt an urban forest management plan to mitigate high heat extremes during the summer (2) Promote the use of drought-resistant landscaping practices using native plantings. (3) Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures

Dams: (1) Ensure that dam inspections are conducted as required by state law (2) Include a dam failure in emergency planning exercises

Other: Lead water service line replacements

Village of Spring Green (Adam Reno)

Severe Weather: (1) Evaluate existing outdoor sirens and coverage, add or upgrade as needed. (2) Install backup generators at a critical facility (3) Encourage the construction of safe rooms in new residential buildings.

Stormwater & Flooding: Upgrade storm sewer systems

Wildfire: Assess fire district equipment needs and capabilities to effectively respond to wildland fires

Climate Adaptation: Adopt local ordinances for prioritizing water usage during periods of drought

Other: The village is in full support of the River Valley School District installing a new storm facility shelter for public use. The village is also looking into redoing our emergency sirens as well as adding another to cover section of the village. Another project to note is adding a generator the public works building so we have full access to equipment during long durations of power outages.

City of Reedsburg (Josh Kowalke)

Severe Weather: (1) Evaluate existing outdoor sirens and coverage, Add or upgrade as needed (2) Explore grant opportunities for community safe rooms / storm shelters in municipal buildings, campgrounds and mobile home parks (3) Update zoning to require community safe rooms in new or expanding mobile home parks and campgrounds (4) Post information on the city's website related to emergency warning systems, importance of NOAA weather radios and resident sign up for CodeRED (Sauk County's emergency notifications.) (4) Post information on the city's website related to emergency preparedness planning, the safe operation of generators, and space heaters, winter weather driving, tornado safety etc. (5) Encourage local businesses, churches schools, etc. to utilize NOAA All Hazards Weather Radios as a way to keep the public safe during dangerous weather events. (6) Host a free emergency preparedness training or post free training information on the city's website (7) Develop and implement appropriate evacuation procedures in flood-prone areas (8) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans

Stormwater & Flooding: (1) Build or reinforce levees, floodwalls and berms (2) Raise road surfaces to mitigate flood chances (3) Implement critical facility flood protection measures. (wastewater treatment plant, police station, municipal building) (4) Development of stormwater retention ponds (5) Upgrade storm sewer systems (6) Develop a plan / pursue funding to modify any bridges/culverts in your jurisdiction that are not able to handle floodwaters. (7) Remove debris and downed trees along streams and waterways to help improve stream flow

Climate Adaptation: Encourage local residents to contact friends, neighbors, and other family members during periods of extreme temperatures

Dams: (1) Ensure that dam inspections are conducted as required by state law (2) Review any local dam emergency action plans (3) Include a dam failure in emergency planning exercises

Other: Create storm shelters in our mobile home parks in the City including The Courtyards.

River Valley School District (Mr. Loren G. Glasbrenner)

Severe Weather: (1) Explore grant opportunities for community safe rooms / storm shelters in municipal buildings, campgrounds and mobile home parks (2) Develop and implement appropriate evacuation procedures in flood-prone areas (3) Review / update Emergency Operating Plans

Stormwater & Flooding: Development of stormwater retention ponds

Climate Adaptation: Establish local heating and cooling centers for vulnerable populations

Other: The District is actively investigating a FEMA BRIC grant to provide the community of Spring Green with expanded access to an community safe room / emergency shelter on campus.

Additional Mitigation Projects and Activities

Baraboo School District

Apply for grant funding for a storm shelter/community safe room as may be approved by the School Board.

Reedsburg School District

Apply for grant funding for a storm shelter/community safe room as may be approved by the School Board.

Sauk Prairie School District

Apply for grant funding for a storm shelter/community safe room as may be approved by the School Board.

Weston School District

Apply for grant funding for a storm shelter/community safe room as may be approved by the School Board.

Wisconsin Dells School District

Apply for grant funding for a storm shelter/community safe room as may be approved by the School Board.

Sauk County Land Resources (Will Christensen)

Stormwater & Flooding: Review / update Emergency Operating Plans

Dams: Ensure that dam inspections are conducted as required by state law

Comments: We primarily deal with floodplain regulation. Our parks department does oversee several dams and their operation/safety.

Source: Community Survey conducted in 2025