



City of Wharton Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report January 2024

The City of Wharton adopted the Wharton County, Texas Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) which serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan under the Community Rating System (CRS). Under CRS Activity 510 the City is required to maintain a Floodplain Management Planning Program and to complete a Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report that must then be provided to the public. This document serves as that report.

Adoption of the HMP / Updates

On February 23, 2004, the City of Wharton City Council adopted Resolution 2004-014 which approved the City's designated portion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City approved the most recent update to this document on January 10, 2022. This update was approved by City of Wharton Resolution No. 2022-07. The HMP can be found on the City of Wharton Floodplain Management & Information website, https://www.cityofwharton.com/page/code_enforcement_floodplain%20management%20and%20information .

Purpose and Objectives of the HMP

The purpose of the HMP is to develop a unified approach for dealing with identified hazards and hazard management problems, including flooding. The HMP serves as a tool to direct the City of Wharton in its ongoing efforts to reduce vulnerability to the impacts produced by both natural and man-made hazards. The HMP also helps establish funding priorities for currently proposed mitigation projects and develop priority mitigation projects to be completed when funding becomes available.

The primary objectives of the HMP are to:

- Improve the community's resistance to damage from known natural, technological, and societal hazards.
- Place the City of Wharton in a position to compete more effectively for pre- and post- disaster mitigation funding.
- Reduce the cost of disasters at all levels.

- Expedite community recovery when disasters occur.

Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Wharton, with the approval of the City Council, plans and implements a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for stormwater and drainage improvement projects. These projects are planned to reduce flooding and to maintain the drainage facilities within the City.

CRS Program Participation

The HMP references the importance and benefit of City of Wharton's participation in the Community Rating System. As a participant, the City established flood protection measures and educational opportunities beyond the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These efforts have allowed the City of Wharton to achieve a "Class 9" certification resulting in a 5% discount on flood insurance premiums for properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area within the city limits.

Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) completed their Community Assistance Visit (CAV) determination, and the results were made effective on April 29, 2020, regarding the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and CRS program. The City participates in annual recertification and the next on site certification visit will occur in 2025.

The City receives CRS credit points from a variety of activities that promote flood protection and education. These activities are conducted by various departments within the city. The following is a summary of some of these ongoing activities and the departments or divisions that perform the activity that results in credit points for the CRS program:

Activity	Department(s)/Division(s)	CRS Activity
Maintain elevation certificates, make copies of certificates available to the public	Building Department	310
Provide Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information, maintain updated FIRM panels	Building Department/Planning & Development Department	320
Provide pamphlets to lenders, insurance agents and real estate offices regarding City services	Building Department/ Public Works Department/Planning & Development Department	320
Provide outreach to community/ Flood protection information	Building Department/ Planning & Development Department	330
Provide credited hazard disclosure measures; information on recorded plats	Planning & Development Department	340
Provide flood protection assistance to residents in community	Building Department	360
Preserve floodplain in open space through parks / Comprehensive Plan Land Use / public acquisition	Planning & Development Department	420
Review of new development for compliance with flood protection regulations	Planning & Development Department/ Public Works Department/ Building Department	430
Track substantial improvements / permitting to meet current requirements	Building Department/ Planning & Development Department	430
Maintain and update flood data	Building Department/ Planning & Development Department	440
Enforcement of regulations for stormwater management	Public Works Department	450
Floodplain management planning	Planning & Development Department	510
Maintain drainage systems through a regular program and CIP plan	Public Works Department	540
Provides outreach material about flood warning and safety measures	Building Department	610

Community Outreach

The City routinely engages in public outreach as part of the ongoing effort to educate and inform citizens about flooding and flood protection. Some of these include:

- Participating in the annual planned events include information to assist citizens to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. We discussed flooding and flood related issues caused by both natural and man-made sources including storms, poor drainage, and illegal dumping in streams, ditches, and drainage structures.

- Providing educational materials for local organizations to discuss potential or current flooding concerns related to their industry.
- Attending City sponsored meetings where flooding is or may be a concern. Information is provided to citizens through the Planning & Development Department and Building Department.
- Developing and maintaining Flood Prevention and Floodplain Management pages on the City's website to provide information and resources intended to help citizens make educated flood-related decisions.
- Staffing a Certified Floodplain Manager in the Planning & Development Department who is available to answer permitting questions and concerns as they pertain to development in the floodplain and to provide flood protection assistance. There is also interest in the Building Department in obtaining certifications within their department as well.
- Providing a library of informative flood-related brochures available to both the public and City of Wharton staff.
- Maintaining a series of FEMA publications regarding flood protection and mitigation in the City library.

Certified Floodplain Manager Program

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has established a national program for professional certification of floodplain managers. The program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers. One city staff member has achieved the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) designation. This reflects the City of Wharton's continued commitment to professional service in implementing the floodplain management plan.

Comprehensive Plan Infrastructure Sub-Element

The City of Wharton Comprehensive Plan was originally adopted by the City Council in 2018, the City of Wharton Comprehensive Plan has been designated for the planning horizon of 2028. The City is currently operating under the 2018-2028 plan, with an update planned in 2025 due to the current success in implementation of the plan and information on it can be found on the following website: <https://www.cityofwharton.com/page/Planning%20and%20Development>

Higher Regulatory Standards

Ordinance No. 2006-06 was adopted by the City Council March 13, 2006. This ordinance established various ordinance requirements including raising the freeboard requirement for new buildings to 1 foot above base flood elevation or to

the design flood elevation (whichever is higher). This requirement further protects our citizens from future flood damage and increases our participation in CRS Activity 430.

Summary

Under CRS Activity 510 the City is required to complete a Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report and provide it to the public. This annual update serves as meeting this requirement. This report provides a summary of CRS activities, and provides a list of stormwater related capital improvement projects to reduce flooding within the City of Wharton. This report is provided to the City Council and will be made available on the City's website:

https://www.cityofwharton.com/page/code_enforcement_floodplain%20management%20and%20information