



May 2, 2023

**City of New Port Richey, Florida  
Local Mitigation Strategy Plan  
Progress Report 2023 (120232 NIFP Community Number)**

The State of Florida, Department of Community Affairs, and the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) entered into a Contractual Services Agreement on April 7, 1998, to develop the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). On July 14, 1998, the BCC approved subcontracts with the cities of Dade City, New Port Richey, Port Richey, San Antonio, St. Leo and Zephyrhills to develop a single, unified Local Mitigation Strategy. The purpose of the LMS is to establish an ongoing process that will make hazard mitigation part of the daily functioning of the entire community. The objective of this LMS is to make Pasco County and the City of New Port Richey a safer, more disaster-resistant community.

The LMS was developed and approved by the overall Hazard Mitigation Committee (HMC) by establishing a planning schedule, establishing goals and objectives for the LMS, identifying the hazards, analyzing mitigation policies and programs. The HMC will reconvene annually in January to review and amend (as necessary) the LMS. City Resolution 2015-01, dated October 7, 2014, adopted the August 2014, Revision of the Local Mitigation Strategy.

Mitigation Responsibilities:

- City Clerk: The City Clerk records and documents all official action taken and emergency decisions made by the City Council during and after disaster operations.
- City Manager: The City Manager acts as the Executive Director to the City Council for all disaster operations including natural disaster planning and the training of all designated City departments.
- Development Department: The Development Department addresses actions to be taken and policies to be developed before a disaster, in order to reduce damage to buildings and property and conducts damage assessment surveys after an incident to ensure proper disposition of unsafe or damaged structures. The Development Department also provides information to help Pasco County maintain the City's GIS database and manage the City's Repetitive Loss Program.
- Finance Department: The Finance Department enters into agreements with other locations for backup support data functions and financial records and maintains financial records in support of any natural disaster.
- Fire Department: The Fire Department develops the concept, identifies resources, coordinates procedures and conducts operations to provide fire suppression, emergency medical services and search and rescue and plans and organizes the needs assessment effort for determining the impact of damage occurring during and after a disaster.
- Parks & Recreation Department: The Recreation and Aquatic Center was built in 2007 and is the designated City Emergency Operations Center in disaster situations.
- Police Department: The Police Department develops procedures for evacuation and early warning of citizens in areas of potential danger and establishes traffic control and maintains law and order throughout a disaster situation.
- Public Works Department: The Public Works Department plans, coordinates and manages various duties including debris clearance and repair of City streets and evacuation routes and maintenance of water and wastewater production and distribution equipment and facilities. The Public Works facility was built to exceed the 130 mile an hour wind load, per Florida Building Code 2004.

Community Guiding Principles:

The City continues to work toward fulfilling the goals/objectives of the LMS Guiding Principles, with these efforts:

- Increase public awareness through outreach project mailings, hand-outs, and flood hazard section in the library and on City website and participation in the annual Hurricane Exposition;
- Offer flood services to insurance agents, citizens, and realtors and advertise this service;
- Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with all applicable regulations;
- Regulate all new development and redevelopment to reduce property damage caused by flooding;
- Regulate on-site management of stormwater run-off;
- Require all new development and redevelopment projects to regulate stormwater run-off and not allow infill without drainage study/report;
- Maintain and improve existing stormwater and drainage facilities;
- Inform citizens and assist in flood mitigation assistance grant projects for mitigation of repetitive loss properties within the City;
- Develop, implement, and update the Stormwater Master Drainage Plan;
- Provide evacuation and shelter information to citizens;
- Encourage purchase of flood insurance through outreach projects;
- Administer business continuity plan to minimize post-disaster business interruptions and apply for grant assistance to develop a Post-disaster Redevelopment Plan and Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance;
- Continue to participate in a statewide mutual aid agreement;
- Participate in the annual review and update of the Local Mitigation Strategy as a member of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee;
- Update and coordinate the local Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Land Development Code (LDC), and local ordinances;
- Continue to identify and pursue available grant funds and other funding sources for hazard mitigation activities;
- Use the LDC and Comprehensive Plan to encourage protection of natural resources and resolution of stormwater quantity and quality problems; and
- Enforce building codes to require wind load structural design standards for new construction.

Repetitive Loss Areas:

The City of New Port Richey documented 46 Repetitive Loss properties from 2022-2023. It is the City's policy to encourage property owners to mitigate Repetitive Loss properties through demolition or elevation.

Implementation and Maintenance of the LMS:

The City continues to work on drainage improvements and pursue FEMA mitigation grants to elevate homes as ways to mitigate flooding problems in the City. In order to ensure public awareness, the City continues its outreach efforts through its newsletters, mailings, and hand-outs available at City Hall.

Mitigation Project/Programs:

None at this time

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Recommendations:

The City should continue to work toward the goals and objectives of the LMS Guiding Principles. It should determine feasible projects and improvements, and continue to work with Pasco County to identify and pursue available grant fund and other funding sources to assist in accomplishing mitigation efforts. It should continue outreach efforts to increase public awareness of stormwater issues, local hazards, and types of assistance currently available.

This report is being sent to the local media. Copies of the report and the LMS Plan are available for review at City Hall, Development Department, 5919 Main Street. A notice of its availability will be posted on the City's website and at City Hall. This Progress Report was presented to, and accepted by, the City Council of the City of New Port Richey, Florida this 2nd day of May 2023.

ATTEST:

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Judy Meyers, City Clerk

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Alfred C. Davis, Mayor