



SECTION 2. PLANNING PROCESS

2022 HMP Changes

- All aspects of the planning process were updated for the 2022 HMP.
- Public outreach was enhanced to reach a broader audience by using additional media outlets (Facebook, Twitter) and attending already-scheduled planning process meetings.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings and workshops were not held. Virtual workshops and webinars were held for the Planning Partnership, along with one-on-one calls with the County and municipalities to update their annexes.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the 2016 Gloucester County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved. To ensure that the plan meets requirements of the DMA 2000 and that the planning process would have the broad and effective support of the participating jurisdictions, regional and local stakeholders, and the public, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following goals:

- The HMP is multi-jurisdictional and considers natural and human-caused hazards facing Gloucester County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in the DMA 2000.
- Gloucester County invited all municipalities in the County to join with them in the preparation of the Gloucester County HMP. The County and all municipalities are participating in the HMP as indicated in Table 2-1 below.
- The HMP was developed following the process outlined by the DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and prevailing FEMA and NJOEM guidance. Following this process ensures all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

Table 2--1. Participating Gloucester County Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions		
Gloucester County		
Clayton (B)	Logan (Twp)	Swedesboro (B)
Deptford (Twp)	Mantua (Twp)	Washington (Twp)
East Greenwich (Twp)	Monroe (Twp)	Wenonah (B)
Elk (Twp)	National Park (B)	West Deptford (Twp)
Franklin (Twp)	Newfield (B)	Westville (B)
Glassboro (B)	Paulsboro (B)	Woodbury (C)



Jurisdictions		
Greenwich (Twp)	Pitman (B)	Woodbury Heights (B)
Harrison (Twp)	South Harrison (Twp)	Woolwich (Twp)
	Rowan University	

The Gloucester County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from local and regional agencies and staff, as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The HMP Steering and Planning Committees, together called the Planning Partnership, solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain hazards and past historical events, as well as considering planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, County residents and stakeholders.

This section describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Organization of the Planning Process; (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (3) Public Participation; (4) Incorporation of Existing Data, Plans, and Technical Information; (5) Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs; and (6) Continued Public Involvement.

2.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Many parties supported the preparation of this HMP update: County officials, municipal officials, the Steering Committee, Planning Partnership, stakeholders and planning consultant. This planning process does not represent the start of hazard risk management in the County; rather it is part of an ongoing process that various State, County and local agencies and individuals have continued to embrace. A summary of the past and ongoing mitigation efforts is provided in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy), as well as in Volume II Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes), to give an historical perspective of the County and local activities implemented to reduce vulnerability to hazards in the planning area.

This section of the HMP identifies how the planning process was organized with the many “planning partners” involved and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this HMP update.

2.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Recognizing the need to manage risk within the County, and to meet the requirements of the DMA 2000, the Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management led the update to the 2016 Gloucester County HMP. On March 18, 2020, Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management signed the Grantee-Subgrantee Agreement (PDMC-PL-02-NJ-2018-008) between the State of New Jersey and Gloucester County for funds to update the Gloucester County HMP. The period of performance for this grant is from October 1, 2018 and ending April 1, 2022.



Project management and grant administration has been the responsibility of the Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management. The County has been proactive in supporting natural hazard mitigation. This update supported implementation of projects, provided the basis of the initial mitigation strategy update, and formed problem statements to focus efforts on identifying high priority mitigation projects to reduce vulnerability to hazards of concern for the planning area.

The County selected a contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech Inc. – Parsippany, NJ) to guide the County and participating jurisdictions through the HMP update process. A contract between Tetra Tech Inc. (Tetra Tech) and the County was executed in March 2021. Specifically, Tetra Tech, the “contract consultant”, was tasked with:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering Committee and Planning Partnership.
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program.
- Data collection.
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Steering Committee, Planning Partnership, stakeholder, public and other).
- Review and update of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment.
- Assistance with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives.
- Assistance with the review of progress of past mitigation strategies.
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions.
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions.
- Authoring of the draft and final HMP documents.

On April 21, 2021, Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management notified all municipalities within the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Municipalities were provided with a copy of the Planning Partner Expectations and asked to formally notify the County of their intent to participate [via a Letter of Intent to Participate (LOIP)] and to identify a primary and secondary planning point of contact to serve on a Planning Committee and represent the interests of their respective community. In addition, each municipal Floodplain Administrator (FPA) was identified in the LOIP and requested to actively participate in the planning process. Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and Appendix B (Participation Documentation) detail contributions provided by the FPA. All jurisdictions returned their LOIP; refer to Appendix B for copies of their LOIPs.

To facilitate HMP development, with support from their contract planning consultant, Gloucester County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the planning effort, and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. The Steering Committee consisted of county and local officials (refer to Table 2-2 for a list of Steering Committee members). All municipalities participating in the plan update authorized the Steering Committee to perform certain activities on their behalf, via the LOIP. Specifically, the Steering Committee was charged with:

- Providing guidance and overseeing the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership.



- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings.
- Establish a timeline for completion of the plan;
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
- Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern,
- Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program,
- Assuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available
- Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals and objectives,
- Identification and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities; and
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA.
- Ensure that the plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000, FEMA, and NJOEM guidance.
- The organizational structure was successfully implemented for the 2022 HMP updated consistent with the development of the initial 2016 planning process. The Steering Committee representation of non-municipal organizations was greatly expanded for the 2022 HMP. The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area.

The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area. The members of the Steering Committee worked to maintain continuity of the process throughout the process, to overcome the issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2-2. Gloucester County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee

Organization	Name	Title
Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management	Dennis McNulty	OEM Director
	Charles Murtaugh	OEM Deputy Coordinator
	Jack DeAngelo	OEM Coordinator
	Joe Ward	GIS
Gloucester County Department of Buildings and Grounds	Peter Scirrotto, Sr.	Director
Gloucester County Department of Economic Development	Tom Bianco	Director
Gloucester County Department of Public Works	Vincent M. Voltaggio	Director
Gloucester County Department of Public Works – Planning Division	Theresa Ziegler	Principal Planner
	Nick Cressman	GIS
	Jackie Huston	Planner
Gloucester County Improvement Authority	Kelly Baker	Director
	Joe Baker	Project Manager
Gloucester County Utilities Authority	John Vinci	Director
	Vern Marino	Assistant Executive Director
Gloucester County Cooperative Extension Services	Michelle Infante- Casella	Director



As part of the initial outreach to each municipality, the County outlined the planning partner expectations that outlined the responsibilities of the participants and asked each municipality to complete a LOIP if they chose to participate. By submitting the LOIP to Gloucester County, each municipality authorized the Steering Committee to represent the municipality in the completion of certain portions of the planning elements. All municipalities in the County agreed to participate. Table 2-3 lists the current members of the Planning Partnership (Steering Committee and Planning Committee), at the time of this HMP’s publication. Please note that Steering Committee members are also part of the overall project Planning Partnership, fulfilling these responsibilities on behalf of Gloucester County. This planning partnership (Steering and Planning Committees) were charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process and assure participation expectations are met by their community.
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works).
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data.
- Support and promote the public involvement process.
- Report on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable.
- Identify, develop, and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives.
- Report on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations.
- Develop and author a jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction.
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update when requested.
- Adopt, implement, and maintain the plan update.

Table 2-3. Gloucester County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership (Steering Committee and Planning Committee)

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA	Steering Committee
Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management	Dennis McNulty	OEM Director	X			X
	Charles Murtaugh	OEM Deputy Coordinator		X		X
	Jack DeAngelo	OEM Coordinator				X
	Joe Ward	GIS				X
Gloucester County Department of Buildings and Grounds	Peter Scirrotto, Sr.	Director				X
Gloucester County Department of Economic Development	Tom Bianco	Director				X
Gloucester County Department of Public Works – Planning Division	Vince Voltaggio	County Engineer & Director of Public Works				X
	Theresa Ziegler	Principal Planner				X
	Nick Cressman	GIS				X



Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA	Steering Committee
	Jackie Huston	Planner				X
Gloucester County Improvement Authority	Kelly Baker	Director				X
	Joe Baker	Project Manager				X
Gloucester County Utilities Authority	John Vinci	Director				X
	Vern Marino	Assistant Executive Director				X
Gloucester County Cooperative Extension Services	Michelle Infante-Casella	Director				X
Clayton (B)	Sam Teague, Jr.	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Sue Miller	Administrator		X		
Deptford (Twp)	Thomas Newman, Jr.	Township Manager/ Deputy OEM Coordinator	X			
	Michael DiVito	Deputy OEM Coordinator		X		
	Christian Romano	Construction Official			X	
East Greenwich (Twp)	Kyle Messick	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Anthony Rossett	Public Works Manager		X		
	James Sabetta	Construction Official			X	
Elk (Twp)	Ed Selb	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Kevin Keen	1st Deputy OEM Coordinator		X		
	Tony Dariano	Construction Official			X	
Franklin (Twp)	Matthew DeCesari	OEM Coordinator	X			
Glassboro (B)	Cpl. Jack Manning	OEM Director	X			
	Craig Rawles	Deputy OEM Coordinator		X		
Greenwich (Twp)	Robert S. Schoch Jr.	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Kirk Fairley	Deputy Coordinator		X		
	Joseph Giordano	Floodplain Administrator			X	
Harrison (Twp)	Brian Bartholomew	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Frank Rodgers	Deputy OEM Coordinator		X		
	Dennis McNulty, PE	Township Engineer			X	
Logan (Twp)	Capt. Joseph V. Flatley	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Robert Taylor	Deputy OEM Coordinator		X		
	Ron Snyder	Construction Official			X	
Mantua (Twp)	Capt. Brian Grady	OEM Coordinator	X			
Monroe (Twp)	Sgt. Ryan Borkoswki	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Det. Don Darcangelo	Deputy OEM Coordinator		X		
	Tara Nelms	Zoning			X	
National Park (B)	Joseph Conboy	OEM Coordinator				
	Joy Gunn	Clerk				
Newfield (B)	Michael Carlino	OEM Coordinator				
Paulsboro (B)	Gary Stevenson	Mayor/OEM Coordinator				
Pitman (B)	Jim Foley	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Michael Mollet	OEM Deputy		X		
	Jonathon Bryson, PE	Borough Engineer			X	
South Harrison (Twp)	Celeste Brennen	Clerk	X			
	Tom Luchay	OEM		X		
Swedesboro (B)	Eric Voight	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Lois Elder	Clerk		X		
Washington (Twp)	Chief Patrick Gursick	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Richard Black	OEM Coordinator	X			
Wenonah (B)	John Dominy	Mayor		X		
	Susan Mayer	Councilwoman		X		



Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA	Steering Committee
	Dave Kreck	Borough Engineer			X	
West Deptford (Twp)	LeeAnn DeHart	Township Administrator	X			
	William Gigliotti	Public Works Manager / OEM Coordinator		X		
Westville (B)	Kathleen Carroll	Deputy Clerk		X		
	Ryan Giles	Borough Administrator	X			
	Anthony Darriano	Construction Official			X	
Woodbury (C)	Joe Buono	Deputy Coordinator/ Fire Marshall	X			
	John Leech	Zoning		X		
Woodbury Heights (B)	John Witasick	OEM Coordinator	X			
	Jolyn Gregoria	Clerk		X		
Woolwich (Twp)	Det. Sgt. Chris Beckett	OEM Coordinator	X		X	
	Joe Morgan	Dep. Chief		X		
Rowan University	Steve Rolando	Asst EMC	X			
	Mike Kantner	EMC		X		

The jurisdictional LOIP identifies the above “Planning Partner Expectations” as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. The jurisdictions in Gloucester County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, and further have differing exposure and vulnerability to the hazard risks being considered in this plan. Gloucester County’s intent was to encourage participation by all-inclusive jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of plan participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee and engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the planning process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and to provide additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex (chapter) of the HMP (Section 9) wherein the jurisdictions have identified their planning points of contact, evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern, identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, and identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their natural hazard risk; and eventually by the adoption of the updated plan via resolution.

Appendix B (Participation Documentation) identifies those individuals who represented their jurisdictions during this planning effort and indicates how they contributed to the planning process. This matrix is intended to give a broad overview of who attended meetings and when input was provided. All participants were encouraged to attend the Kick-off Meeting, Risk Assessment Meeting, and Mitigation Action Workshop. During the planning process the planning consultant contacted each participant to offer support, explain the process, meet individually to collect updated information and to facilitate the submittal and review of critical documents.



All municipalities actively participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and have designated NFIP Floodplain Administrators (FPA). All known FPAs were informed of the planning process, were provided the opportunity to review the plan including the jurisdictional annex and provide direct input to the plan update. Local FPAs are identified in the Points of Contact and Administrative and Technical portions of the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

2.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the Planning Partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan and supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

A summary of committee meetings (Steering Committee and Planning Partnership) held and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in Table 2-4 that also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (e.g., agendas, sign-in sheets, meeting notes) are in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Table 2-4 identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development and does not reflect all planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, there was a great deal of communication between the County, committee members, and the contract consultant through individual local meetings, electronic mail (email), and by phone.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Partnership as described in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance). The Planning Partnership is responsible for reviewing the HMP and soliciting and considering public comment as part of the five-year mitigation plan update.

This table summarizes a list of mitigation planning activities and meetings and their respective participants. A more detailed list of participants for each meeting is provided in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Refer to DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) for details on each of the planning requirements (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1524-20490-1790/dma2000.pdf>).

Table 2--4. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities & Efforts

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	CRS Activity 510 Step	Description of Activity	Participants
October 1, 2018	2	-	County receives sub-grant agreement from FEMA to update the HMP	Gloucester County OEM



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	CRS Activity 510 Step	Description of Activity	Participants
March 3, 2021	N/A	-	Pre-Kick Off Meeting with County: Plan timing and administration; Data needs and sharing; Hazards of concern; Dates and next steps	Gloucester County Department of Emergency Response, Tetra Tech
April 21, 2021	2	1	All municipalities invited to participate in the planning process.	Gloucester County OEM, all municipal governments
April 21, 2021	1b, 1c, 2, 3a, 4a	1, 2, 3	<u>Steering Committee #1</u> : Review of mitigation; Review of Steering Committee guidelines; Project schedule and data request; Hazards of concern review and updated; Stakeholders identified; Outreach was discussed (social media, website, brochures); Review of goals and objectives.	Gloucester County Emergency Response, Gloucester County Utilities Authority, GCIA, Gloucester County GIS, Gloucester County Planning Division, NJOEM
May 5, 2021	1b, 2, 3a-c, 3e, 4a, 4b	1, 2	<u>Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting – open to the public</u> : Importance of mitigation and HMP; Participation Requirements; Review of Steering Committee decisions on June 24; Hazards of concern identification and previous events discussion.	Gloucester County Emergency Response, Gloucester County Planning Division, Gloucester County Utilities Authority, Borough of Clayton, Township of Deptford, Township of East Greenwich, Township of Elk, Township of Franklin, Borough of Glassboro, Township of Greenwich, Township of Harrison, Township of Logan, Township of Mantua, Township of Monroe, Borough of National Park, Borough of Pitman, Township of South Harrison, Township of Washington, Borough of Wenonah, Township of West Deptford, Borough of Westville, City of Woodbury, Borough of Woodbury Heights, Township of Woolwich, NJOEM
May 18, 2021	2, 4a, 4b, 4c	-	<u>Annex Guidance Webinar</u> – Municipal representatives were trained on how to provide data and information to fill out the capability assessment portion of their municipal annexes, identify problem areas, and update progress on previous actions.	Gloucester County Emergency Response, Gloucester County Planning Division, Gloucester County Deputy County Clerk, Borough of Clayton, Township of Deptford, Township of Elk, Borough of Glassboro, Township of Greenwich, Township of Harrison, Township of Logan, Township of Mantua, Township of Monroe, Borough of National Park, Borough of Pitman, Borough of Swedesboro, Borough of Wenonah, Township of West Deptford, Borough of Westville
May 20, 2021	2, 4a, 4b, 4c	-	<u>Annex Guidance Webinar</u> – Municipal representatives were trained on how to provide data and information to fill out the capability assessment portion of their municipal annexes, identify problem areas, and update progress on previous actions.	Township of East Greenwich, Borough of Wenonah, City of Woodbury, Borough of Woodbury Heights
June 23, 2021	1b, 2, 3a, 4a	6	<u>Steering Committee #2</u> : Project status update; risk assessment and hazard ranking; confirmation of goals.	Gloucester County Office of Emergency Response, Gloucester County Planning, NJOEM
June 30, 2021	1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e	4	<u>Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting</u> – Presentation of preliminary hazard ranking, introduction of SWOO	Gloucester County, Borough of Clayton, Township of Deptford, Township of East Greenwich, Township of Elk, Borough of Glassboro, Township of Loga, Township



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	CRS Activity 510 Step	Description of Activity	Participants
				of Mantua, Township of South Harrison, Borough of Swedesboro. Township of Washington, Borough of Wenonah, Township of West Deptford, Borough of Westville, Borough of Woodbury Heights, NJOEM
August 26, 2021	1b, 2, 4a, 4b, 4c	5, 7	<u>Planning Partnership Mitigation Strategy Workshop</u> – Review of project schedule, Review of survey responses; Review of FEMA and State mitigation strategy requirements; Mitigation strategy update process; Review of Mitigation action types; Review of Mitigation Action Worksheets	Gloucester County Planning, Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management, NJOEM, Borough of Clayton, Borough of Wenonah, Township of Mantua, Township of Deptford, Township of Greenwich, Township of East Greenwich, Rowan University, Township of Logan, City of Woodbury, Township of West Deptford, Township of Elk, Township of Franklin, FEMA
November 18, 2021	1b, 2	2, 3, 7, 8	<u>Planning Partnership Draft Plan Review Meeting</u>	TBD
November 19, 2021	1b, 2	8	Draft HMP posted to public project website All plan participants were notified and asked to assist with the public outreach including social media. Neighboring counties and stakeholders were notified of the posting as well.	Public and Stakeholders
TBD	2	-	HMP submitted to NJOEM and FEMA Region II	NJOEM, FEMA Region II
Upon plan approval by FEMA	1a	-	Plan adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating municipalities	All plan participants

Notes:

Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures

5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

Each number in column 3 identifies specific CRS 510 Plan requirements, as follows:

- 1 – organize to prepare the plan
- 2 – involve the public
- 3 – coordinate with other agencies
- 4 – assess the hazard
- 5 – assess the problem
- 6 – set goals
- 7 – review possible activities
- 8 – draft an action plan



2.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders are the individuals, agencies, and jurisdictions that have a vested interest in the recommendations of the HMP, including all planning partners. Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Planning Partnership. Stakeholder outreach was performed early on, and continually throughout the planning process. This HMP update includes information and input provided by these stakeholders where appropriate, as identified in the references.

This subsection discusses the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this HMP update, and how these stakeholders participated and contributed. This summary listing cannot possibly represent the total of stakeholders that were aware of and/or contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process:

- All Planning Partnership meetings were open to the public and advertised via the Gloucester County HMP website (<https://www.gloucestercountynjhmp2021.com/>).
- Municipalities were provided outreach materials to post on their websites, social media platforms, and distribute printed materials.
- Distributed a stakeholder survey and neighboring county survey to provide input regarding vulnerabilities, capabilities and mitigation projects.
- Held one-on-one teleconference meetings with stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the work and projects they do in Gloucester County.
- Posted draft plan on the Gloucester County HMP website and advertised using social media platforms.
- Email correspondence to regional stakeholders and neighboring counties to review the draft HMP and provide input.

2.3.1 Federal, State, and County Agencies

The following describes the various departments and agencies that were involved during the planning process.

Federal Agencies

Please see Appendix B (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding federal agency participation. All responses to the stakeholder surveys may be found in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).



FEMA Region II: Provided updated planning guidance; provided summary and detailed NFIP data for planning area; attended meetings and presented at the August 2021 Mitigation Strategy Workshop; and conducted plan review.

Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this plan update were requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:

- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

State Agencies

Please see Appendix B (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding state agency participation. All responses to the surveys may be found in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM): Administered the planning grant; provided updated planning guidance; attended the April 2021 Steering Committee Meeting, the May 2021 Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting, June 2021 Risk Assessment Meeting, August 2021 Mitigation Strategy Workshop, and November 2021 Draft Plan Presentation; and provided review of the draft HMP update.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection: Provided the Community Assistance Visit dates and associated NFIP information for all jurisdictions.

New Jersey Pinelands Commission: The New Jersey Pinelands Commission (the Commission) is an independent state agency whose mission is to "preserve, protect, and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands National Reserve, and to encourage compatible economic and other human activities consistent with that purpose."

On June 9, 2021, the Commission was contacted to participate as a stakeholder in the planning process. The Commission responded on June 17, 2021 to provide details on services they provided to Gloucester County municipalities. The role of the Pinelands Commission is, in part, to assure that any ordinances adopted by municipalities within the Pinelands (Monroe Township and Franklin Township in Gloucester County) conform



to the standards of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). Any amendments to municipal master plans or ordinances in those municipalities must be approved by the Pinelands Commission before they take effect. Any hazard mitigation steps directed by the updated County hazard mitigation plan (HMP) for Monroe Township and Franklin Township should, therefore, also conform to the standards of the CMP. Since the primary natural hazards in the Pinelands Area are wildfire and/or riverine flooding, the CMP addresses these to a large extent by limiting development in wetlands (or stream) buffers and near areas of high or extreme wildfire susceptibility.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC): On June 10, 2021, a representative for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) met with Tetra Tech staff to discuss the Commission's capabilities, prior planning efforts partnered with local municipalities, and potential projects to include in the County's mitigation strategy. The Commission has provided various assistance to municipalities in the past including Natural Resource Inventories, sidewalk inventories, trail mapping, and Community Forestry Management Plans. The Commission has developed guidance for the Municipal Management of Extreme Heat, completed an assessment of planning tools for climate change resiliency in the Delaware Valley.

The Commission has developed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is a regionally agreed-upon list of priority transportation projects. The TIP lists all projects that intend to use federal funds, along with all non-federally funded projects that are regionally significant and State funded capital projects relating to transportation improvements of rail, highway, public transportation, and pedestrian pathways.

County Departments

Several county departments were represented on the Steering Committee and involved in the HMP update planning process. Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies. All responses to the stakeholder surveys are in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach). Refer to Section 5 (Capability Assessment) for details on each department and their roles during the HMP update and their overall responsibilities in Gloucester County.

- Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management
- Gloucester County Department of Public Works
- Gloucester County Department of Public Works – Planning Division
- Gloucester County Utilities Authority
- Gloucester County Department of Buildings and Grounds
- Gloucester County Department of Economic Development
- Gloucester County Improvement Authority
- Gloucester County Cooperative Extension Services



2.3.2 Regional and Local Stakeholders

All Planning Partnership meetings were announced on the Gloucester County HMP project website and posted on social media to invite residents and stakeholders. In addition, the County and municipal representatives emailed regional and local stakeholders requesting their participation in stakeholder sector-specific surveys to provide input on vulnerable assets, capabilities, and current/potential future mitigation projects; and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. Refer to Appendix C (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agency attendance at meetings and Appendix D for additional details on the public and stakeholder outreach, including responses received to the surveys.

Emergency Services

Numerous Municipal OEM Coordinators participated as points of contact for municipalities and contributed to the plan. Emergency services stakeholders were contacted directly by Gloucester County and participating municipalities to take a stakeholder survey which included capabilities, vulnerabilities and mitigation projects/actions. The following completed the survey:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers - Philadelphia

Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities

Hospitals and healthcare facilities that serve the County were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. No responses were received.

Transportation and Public Works

Many municipal public works departments participated as points of contact for municipalities and contributed to the plan. In addition, municipal, county and state transportation and public works departments were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. No responses were received.

Utilities

Utility providers for the County were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. The following completed the survey:

- Mantua Township Municipal Utilities

Business and Commerce

Businesses and commercial industries were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. No responses were received.



Academia

Schools, universities and other academia institutions were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. The following completed the survey:

- Rowan University

Adjacent Counties

Gloucester County has made an effort to keep surrounding counties and municipalities apprised of the project and allowed the opportunity to provide input to this planning process. Specifically, the following adjoining and nearby county representatives were contacted in June 2021 to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents, and surveys, and to invite them to provide input to the planning process. None of the adjacent counties took the survey.

- Delaware County, PA
- Philadelphia County, PA
- Salem County, NJ

Other Identified Stakeholders

The following additional stakeholders completed the survey:

- New Jersey Pinelands Commission

2.3.3 Stakeholder Survey Summary

The following provides a summary of the results and feedback received by stakeholders who completed the survey. Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and integrated where appropriate in the plan.

Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder survey was designed to help identify general needs for hazard mitigation and resiliency within Gloucester County from its perspective, as well as to identify specific projects that may be included in the mitigation plan. It was distributed to identified stakeholders, including the various county and municipal departments and agencies in the county. As of November 5, 2021, 4 stakeholders completed the survey, 50% of which in the academic/research category, and 50% in utility services.

Hazard and Damage Identification

Two-thirds of respondents said the buildings/facilities/structures they have worked in and/or are responsible for have been impacted by a hazard. Both respondents identified storms as being the event that caused damage, as they caused flooding of parking lots and a residence hall, and an extended power outage. Similarly,

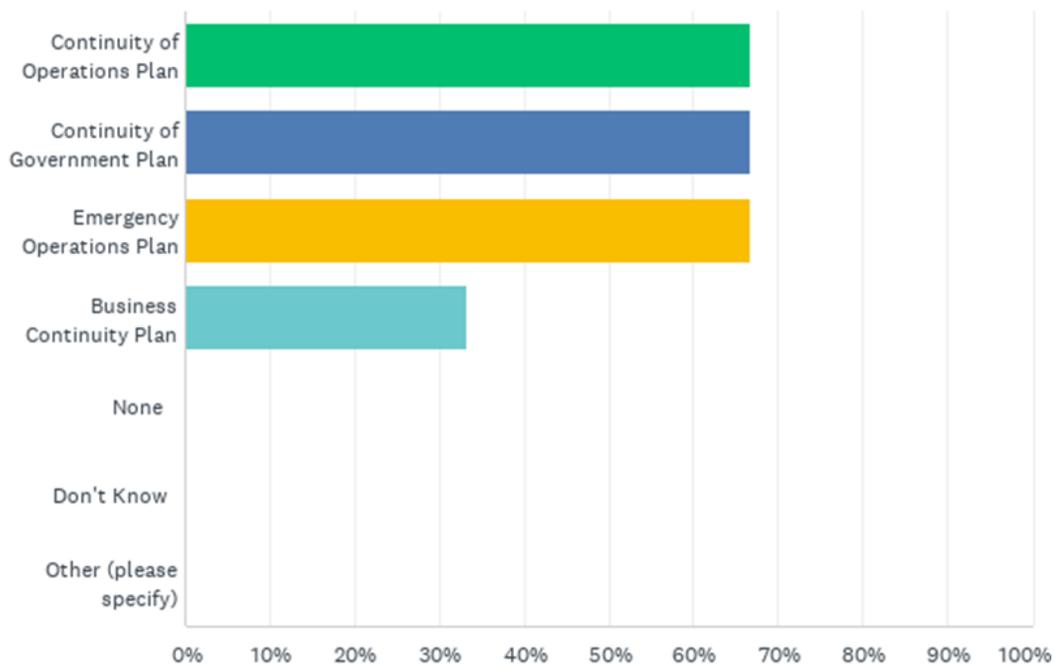


they believe low-lying areas of buildings and parking lots are most vulnerable to hazards. Two-thirds of respondents also believe the facilities and infrastructure for their organization are equipped to handle a disaster and/or are resilient to damages.

Community Preparedness

All of the respondents stated that their organization has some kind of hazard plan. Most (66.7%) of the respondents are covered by a Continuity of Operations Plan, a Continuity of Government Plan, and an Emergency Operations Plan. Only 33.3% are covered by a Business Continuity Plan (Figure 2-5).

Figure 2-5-. Plans of Stakeholders



Project Identification

Respondents identified the following projects or programs that could reduce their organization's vulnerability to damages, including operation of service:

- Storm water mitigation
- Loss prevention programs

The following were identified as recently implemented projects that reduced vulnerabilities to hazard events:

- Storm water mitigation
- NJ Utility Authorities Joint Insurance Fund's loss prevention programs



Respondents were also asked to detail how their organization has been involved in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents detailed the following:

- Rowan University Pandemic Operations Plan is under the direction of University Wellness Center which includes response, testing, and care
- We've maintained our services which are operational 24/7 adhering to CDC and State of NJ guidelines

The following services and infrastructure needs were identified by respondents as needing to be built or improved upon within their communities in order to mitigate damages experienced by the pandemic:

- Continued engagement of Pandemic Operations Plan as daily situations change with the pandemic

Neighboring County Survey

The neighbor survey was sent to the surrounding counties of Gloucester County due to their proximity to and because effects of hazard events that impact Gloucester County would be similar to that of their neighbors. As of November 5, 2021, no counties completed the survey.

2.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and citizens and to involve the public in the planning process, it was determined that meeting dates/locations will be made available to the public via the Gloucester County OEM website dedicated to the HMP update and social media; and the draft HMP available on the Gloucester County website. The participating partners also feel that community input on the HMP will increase the likelihood of hazard mitigation becoming one of the standard considerations in the evolution and growth of the County.

The Planning Partnership has made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the HMP:

- The Gloucester County OEM created a dedicated website for this project (<https://www.gloucestercountynjhmp2021.com/>). The website went live in April 2021 and was continuously updated throughout the planning process. The public website contains a project overview, meeting announcements, draft documents for review and comment, and a link to the public and stakeholder surveys.
- All hazard mitigation Planning Partnership meetings that were open to the public were advertised on the Gloucester County website and various social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter). Additional examples of municipal outreach are presented in Appendix D.



- An on-line natural hazards preparedness public survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact the County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards. The questionnaire asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The questionnaire also asked several demographic questions to help analyze trends. The questionnaire was available on the public website from April 2021 to August 2021, and further advertised on additional County and municipal websites and on printed materials. Responses were collected and provided back to plan participants for consideration in the mitigation action development (195 responses in total). Appendix D summarizes public input received through the website, the online survey, and other sources.
- A hazard mitigation planning brochure was developed to inform the public of the planning process, provide local contact information, and encourage the public to review the plan and provide input. This brochure was provided to all plan participants in electronic and hard copy format to distribute in their offices and communities; refer to Appendix D.
- All plan participants were encouraged to distribute the project brochure and post the links to the project webpage and citizen survey. In addition, all participating municipalities were requested to advertise the availability of the project website, citizen survey and stakeholder surveys via local homepage links, and other available public announcement methods (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, email blasts). Refer to Appendix D which highlights these local efforts.
- Gloucester County residents were provided opportunity to comment on the draft HMP before submittal to FEMA. The HMP was posted on the HMP public website on November 19, 2021 for review. All jurisdictions were requested to assist with advertising the plan was posted via their websites and social media. Public comments received through December 20, 2021 were distributed to Planning Partnership for their consideration.
- Additional examples of public outreach efforts, and results of surveys distributed, are presented in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach Documentation).

2.5 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS, AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Gloucester County HMP strives to use the best available technical information, plans, studies and reports throughout the plan process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development and prioritization of county and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments is presented in the County Profile (Section 3). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, is presented in the Risk Assessment, specifically in Section 4.2



Methodology and Tools, as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 4.3 (Hazard Profiles). Further, the source of technical data and information used may be found within the References section.

Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions, and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their Planning and Regulatory capabilities in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents, as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances were reviewed to identify the following:

- Existing County and municipal capabilities.
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified within the County or local mitigation strategies.
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives considered in the review and update of the overall Goals and Objectives in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy).
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions, and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated County and local mitigation strategies.

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed during this process to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives, and strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms to accomplish complementary and mutually supportive strategies:

- Master Plans
- Building Codes
- Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Emergency Management and Response Plans
- Land Use and Open Space Plans
- Capital Plans
- New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019)

2.6 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within the County there are many existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this hazard mitigation plan integrate and coordinate with, and complement, those mechanisms.



The Capability Assessment section of Section 5 (Capability Assessment) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county, and local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9, the County and each participating jurisdiction identified how they integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational/administrative framework (integration capabilities) and how they intend to promote this integration (integration actions). In addition, as noted above, a summary of the plan reviews indicating relevant goals and mitigation actions is provided in Appendix J. This information provided input to identify integration of mitigation concepts into the operations of the County and municipalities.

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

2.7 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Gloucester County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This HMP update will be made available for review on the HMP public website. Each jurisdiction's elected official shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the annual plan evaluation meeting (refer to Section 7 – Plan Maintenance) and posted on the public website at <https://www.gloucestercountynjhmp2021.com/>.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the HMP update as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Dennis McNulty, Office of Emergency Management) is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the 5-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the HMP.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

After completion of this HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership will review the plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation plan updates.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.



Dennis McNulty has been identified as the ongoing County HMP Coordinator (see Section 7), and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update. Contact information is:

Mailing Address: Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management
1200 N Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ 08312

Contact Name: Dennis McNulty

Email Address: dmcnulty@co.gloucester.nj.us

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