

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 266 (4th Edition)

RACINE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE: 2023-2028

Chapter 4

HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Planning may be defined as a rational process for formulating and meeting goals and objectives. Consequently, the formulation of goals and objectives is an essential task that must be undertaken before plans can be prepared. This chapter sets forth hazard mitigation goals and objectives for use in the consideration of alternative hazard mitigation strategies for Racine County and in the selection of recommended strategies from among those alternatives.

In formulating and setting forth goals and objectives, their differing natures and purposes must be kept in mind. In this regard, the definition of goals and objectives used herein is as promoted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Goals are general guidelines that explain what a community desires to achieve. Based upon the selected goals, a community can then develop the specific objectives needed to attain the goals. Objectives and standards more narrowly define strategies for meeting the selected goals and are more specific than goals.

4.1 RELATIONSHIP OF HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO OTHER RELEVANT PLANNING EFFORTS

Racine County and 17 of its local units of government have prepared a comprehensive plan that will provide a basis for broad-based decision-making on land use-related matters by County and local government officials, and will increase the awareness and understanding of County, city, village, and town planning goals

and objectives by landowners, developers, and other private interests.¹ The City of Racine endorsed the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan and adopted a city comprehensive plan based upon the multi-jurisdictional plan.² These plans incorporate and update elements from other pertinent County and Regional plans as appropriate. Racine County has prepared and adopted a park and open space plan³ to guide the County and local units of government in preserving and developing recreational and other open space uses throughout the County. The County has also assisted communities in developing land use plans which are prepared within the framework of the regional land use plan.⁴

Comprehensive watershed plans⁵ have been developed for each of the major watershed areas which include areas in Racine County. These plans included evaluation of alternatives and recommended flood mitigation plans developed on a comprehensive, watershed-wide basis. As comprehensive planning, park and open space planning, land use, and floodplain management planning has been carried out in Racine County and in the related watersheds, an integration and coordination of the goals and objectives has taken place. This is accomplished at the watershed level by developing comprehensive watershed plans which include floodplain management, land use, park and open space, and water quality planning in one integrated planning program. These watershed plans form a potential framework for sub-watershed-level planning programs. As an example, the comprehensive watershed planning objectives, principles, and standards for the Pike River watershed plan include six specific objectives and supporting standards related to land use and park and open space use, as well as objectives and standards relating to flood control. Similarly, the Racine County park and open space plan contains a specific plan element for wetland and floodplain preservation.

¹ SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, *A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035*, November 2009.

² SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 305, *A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine: 2035*, November 2009.

³ SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, February 2013.

⁴ SEWRPC Planning Report No. 48, *A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035*, June 2006.

⁵ SEWRPC Planning Report No. 9, *A Comprehensive Plan for the Root River Watershed*, July 1966; SEWRPC Planning Report No. 12, *A Comprehensive Plan for the Fox River Watershed, Volume One, Inventory Findings and Forecasts*, April 1969; and *Volume Two, Alternative Plans and Recommended Plan*, February 1970; SEWRPC Planning Report No. 35, *A Comprehensive Plan for the Pike River Watershed*, June 1983; and SEWRPC Planning Report No. 44, *A Comprehensive Plan for the Des Plaines River Watershed*, June 2003.

4.2 HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Figure 4.1 presents the six goals for the Racine County hazard mitigation planning program. The goals are based, in part, upon the goals established in the previous edition of the Racine County hazard mitigation plan, as well as in related County planning programs. Complementing each of these goals is a set of objectives which can be used to define more specific actions or strategies to achieve the goals.

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FIGURES

Figure 4.1 Goals and Objectives for the Racine County Hazard Mitigation Plan

- < **Goal 1: Maintain a spatial distribution of the various land uses which minimizes hazards and dangers to health, welfare, and safety, as well as further enhancing the economic base of the County and will result in a compatible arrangement of land uses properly related to the existing and proposed supporting transportation, utility, public safety systems, and public facility systems.**
 - **Objective 1.1:** Urban high-, medium-, and low-density residential uses should be located within planning units which are served with centralized public sanitary sewerage and water supply facilities and contain, within a reasonable walking distance, necessary supporting local service uses, such as neighborhood park, local commercial, and educational facilities, and should have reasonable access through the appropriate component of the transportation system to employment, commercial, cultural, and governmental centers, and elementary and secondary school and higher educational facilities; and should be provided with readily available fire and police protection and emergency medical services.
 - **Objective 1.2:** Rural- and suburban-density residential uses should have reasonable access through the appropriate component of the transportation system to local service uses; employment, commercial, cultural, and governmental centers; elementary, secondary schools, and higher educational facilities and should have reasonable access to fire and police protection and emergency medical services.
 - **Objective 1.3:** Industrial uses should be located to have direct access to arterial street and highway facilities and reasonable access through an appropriate component of the transportation system to residential areas and to railway, seaport, and airport facilities, and should be provided with readily available fire and police protection and emergency medical services.
 - **Objective 1.4:** Major commercial uses should be located in centers of concentrated activity on only one side of an arterial street and should be afforded direct access to the arterial street system; and should be provided with readily available fire and police protection and emergency medical services.
- < **Goal 2: Maintain a spatial distribution of the various land uses that maintains biodiversity and will result in the protection and wise use of the natural resources of the County, including its soils, inland lakes and streams, groundwater, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, and natural areas and critical species habitats.**
 - **Objective 2.1:** Floodplains should not be allocated to any urban development which would cause or be subject to flood damage.
 - **Objective 2.2:** No unauthorized structure or fill should be allowed to encroach upon and obstruct the flow of water in perennial stream channels.
 - **Objective 2.3:** The types and distribution of land uses should be developed considering the potential impacts on flood flows, on surface water quality, and on groundwater quality and quantity.

- **Objective 2.4:** All remaining undeveloped lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the County should be preserved in essentially natural, open uses.
 - **Objective 2.5:** All remaining undeveloped lands within the designated secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in the County should be considered for preservation as urban development proceeds and used as drainageways, floodwater storage areas, and parks.
 - **Objective 2.6:** All wetlands adjacent to streams or lakes, all wetlands within areas having special wildlife or other natural values, and all wetlands having an area of five acres or greater should not be allocated to any urban development, except limited recreational use, and should not be drained or filled. In addition, County and local units of government may choose to preserve all wetlands.
- < **Goal 3: Provide facilities necessary to maintain a high quality of fire and police protection and emergency medical services throughout the County.**
- **Objective 3.1:** Because adequate fire and police protection and emergency medical services are essential to the protection of the public health and safety and of real property values, and is a public service which enhances the economic development potential of an area, fire and police stations and emergency medical equipment should be developed and distributed based upon the accepted standards for such services.
- < **Goal 4: Develop a stormwater and floodplain management system which reduces the exposure of people to drainage- and flooding-related inconvenience and to health and safety hazards and which reduces the exposure of real and personal property to damage through inundation resulting from flooding and inadequate stormwater drainage.**
- **Objective 4.1:** In order to prevent significant property damage and safety hazards, the major components of the stormwater management system and the floodplain management system should be designed to accommodate runoff from a 100-year recurrence interval storm event.
 - **Objective 4.2:** In order to provide for an acceptable level of access to property and of traffic service, the minor components of the stormwater management system should be designed to accommodate runoff from a storm event to be determined appropriate by each community.
 - **Objective 4.3:** In order to provide an acceptable level of access to property and of traffic service, the stormwater management system should be designed to provide two clear 10-foot lanes for moving traffic on existing arterial streets, and one clear 10-foot lane for moving traffic on existing collector and land access streets during storm events up to and including the 10-year recurrence interval event
 - **Objective 4.4:** Flow of stormwater along and across the full pavement width of collector and land access streets shall be acceptable during storm events exceeding a 10-year recurrence interval when the streets are intended to constitute integral parts of the major stormwater drainage system
 - **Objective 4.5:** Plan components shall be designed to comply with the requirements of Chapter NR 116 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - **Objective 4.6:** All new and replacement bridges and culverts over waterways shall be designed so as to accommodate, according to the categories listed below, the designated flood events without overtopping of the related roadway or railway track.

- Minor and collector streets used or intended to be used primarily for access to abutting properties: a 10-year recurrence interval flood discharge.
- Arterial streets and highways, other than freeways and expressways, used or intended to be used primarily to carry heavy volumes of through traffic: a 50-year recurrence interval flood discharge.
- Freeways and expressways: a 100-year recurrence interval flood discharge.
- Railways: a 100-year recurrence interval flood discharge.
- **Objective 4.7:** All new and replacement bridges and culverts along waterways shall be designed so as not to inhibit fish passage in areas which are supporting, or which are capable of supporting, valuable recreational sport and forage fish species.
- **Objective 4.8:** Provide for the capability to provide fire and police protection and emergency medical services and for adequate operation of wastewater treatment facilities during a 100-year recurrence interval flood event.
- < **Goal 5: Identify high erosion risk Lake Michigan shoreline areas and the development of a coastal erosion control program which reduces the exposure of people and real and personal property to shoreline erosion and bluff recession.**
- **Objective 5.1:** Erosion risk areas and structure setback distances from the Lake Michigan shoreline should be established based upon the recommendations included in the Racine County coastal erosion management study.
- < **Goal 6: The identification and development of programs which complement County and local emergency operations plans, to mitigate the potential exposure to health and safety and the exposure of real and personal property resulting from a broad range of hazards which are unpredictable and not geographically specific in nature.**