



# **Ottawa County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

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## Table of Contents

<b>Type chapter title (level 1)</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Type chapter title (level 2)</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Type chapter title (level 3).....	3
<b>Type chapter title (level 1)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Type chapter title (level 2)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Type chapter title (level 3).....	6

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ottawa County is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe, secure, and resilient environment for its residents and businesses. Located along the south shore of Lake Erie between Toledo and Cleveland, the county is home to strong agricultural, industrial, and tourism industries. The Ottawa County Emergency Management Agency is dedicated to helping residents and businesses develop sustainable solutions to natural disaster threats through a progressive program of hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness.

The Ottawa County Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed through community-wide participation in the assessment of risks and hazards, development of mitigation strategies, and implementation and sustainment of loss reduction efforts. Through a series of meetings and work sessions described in this plan, the county, city, villages, and other jurisdictions came together to assess the current risks in Ottawa County and formulate sustainable solutions to reduce vulnerabilities. As a part of this plan, they considered various local, county, and regional plans and documents that provide guidance to developers, regulators, and residents as they implement community growth plans.

This natural hazard mitigation plan is intended to be a tool in economic development, construction, growth, and governance. It documents the history of disaster incidents in Ottawa County and takes into account the unique characteristics of the area, including its rural and coastal landscape and unique position at the convergence of several watershed and drainage basins. The plan documents past casualties and property losses and identifies mitigation strategies that will effectively protect and preserve the county's many natural and man-made assets.

The planning process utilized to develop this plan followed the guidance established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in March 2013. The whole community was involved in the process and input and feedback was sought from jurisdictions, residents, workers, and visitors in accordance with that guidance.

As one of many ways to make Ottawa County safe and resilient after catastrophic incidents, this mitigation plan provides a comprehensive review of communities and needs in the county, considering unique vulnerabilities when Mother Nature unleashes her fury. The mitigation strategies and planning process are intended to help community leaders implement projects and policies that make Ottawa County resistant to long-term devastation and unnecessary rebuilding costs.