

Paulding County Hazard Mitigation Plan

2017

Paulding County Emergency Management Agency



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paulding County is dedicated to establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment for the residents and businesses in this rural northwest Ohio county. Situated east of Fort Wayne, Indiana on the Ohio-Indiana border, Paulding County is home to many farm families and small industries that employ local residents. The Paulding County Emergency Management Agency is dedicated to helping the county and its jurisdictions develop sustainable solutions to natural disaster threats through a progressive program of hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness.

The Paulding County Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed through community-wide participation in the assessment of risks and hazards, creation of mitigation strategies, and planning for implementation and sustainment of loss reduction efforts. Through a series of meetings and work sessions described in this plan, the county, villages, and townships came together to assess the current risks in Paulding County and identify sustainable solutions to reduce those vulnerabilities. As a part of this action plan, they considered various regional, county, and local plans and documents that provide guidance to developers, regulators, and residents as they implement community growth initiatives. They considered conservation of the environment as well as economic development and community growth.

This plan is intended to be a tool in comprehensive community development planning, construction of new facilities, and growth of residential areas, as well as a thought provoking essay in the general evolution of local governance. It documents the history of disaster incidents in Paulding County and the surrounding area and takes into account the unique characteristics of the county's footprint. 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 Paulding County Hazard Mitigation Plan process followed the guidance established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in March of 2013. The whole community was involved in the process as input and feedback was sought from all county residents, workers, and visitors according to that guidance. This is evidenced by documentation of meetings included later in this plan.

As one of many ways to make Paulding County resilient to catastrophic incidents, this mitigation plan provides a comprehensive review of communities and mitigation needs, including its unique vulnerabilities to natural hazards. The mitigation strategies and planning process are intended to help community leaders implement projects and develop policies that make Paulding County resistant to long-term devastation and unnecessary rebuilding costs and facilitate rapid recovery when disasters do occur.