

### 3.0 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

As Paulding County’s planning team and stakeholders developed mitigation goals and strategies for the county, their goal was to address the specific risks and vulnerabilities of each jurisdiction. While many strategies are similar from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, each community’s stakeholders expressed their unique circumstances and crafted strategies to address those specific issues. The result is a set of comprehensive and customized mitigation goals and strategies that address the needs of Paulding County and its jurisdictions.

Strategies have been developed for the unincorporated parts of the county, and are listed under “Paulding County”. The area covered by this section includes all of the townships, or rural areas that are primarily used for production agriculture on family or corporate farms, for agri-businesses services and sales, or feed production, or for rural residential homes. There are a few small businesses spattered about the rural areas, and sections where windmill farms have been built. Most of the small businesses serve the residents who live in Paulding County.

Villages have been grouped together because of such strong similarity with one another. There is no urban area in Paulding County, and all villages are small settlements of residents. Paulding is the county seat and the largest village in the county with a population of 3,555. Antwerp is the second-largest village in the county at 1,676 residents and Payne is third with 1,192 residents. Completing the municipal group are the very small villages with just a few hundred residents, with Oakwood at 546 residents being the largest of those. This entire group of very small villages are similar in disaster vulnerability, and very like one another in mitigation needs; therefore, they were grouped together to facilitate collaboration as they work to include disaster mitigation in typical planning efforts. Each of the eleven villages will formally adopt the mitigation plan, and their mayor will act as the champion of strategy promotion and annual review because most of the villages have no paid staff.

#### 3.1 STATUS OF PAST MITIGATION EFFORTS

The immediately preceding Paulding County Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed and adopted by the Paulding County Commissioners on June 13, 2018. That plan’s federal approval status expired on June 26, 2023. No currently approved and adopted hazard mitigation plan exists for Paulding County although the update process was started prior to expiration. New mitigation guidance at the initial phases of implementation has slowed the process at all levels of involvement.

In the previous plan, the planning committee developed multiple strategies for implementation. They chose action items in consideration of past incidents, potential losses, and practical factors. Each action was applicable to the entire county or all villages.

Table 3-1 identifies these goals and the current status of each. Status assessments were discussed in multiple stakeholder meetings as well as by survey for those communities not able to attend some of the work sessions. The current status is classified in the table below.

- Completed: Strategy was completed as written; item has not been included in new plan
- Cancelled: Strategy was determined to be impractical or not feasible
- On Schedule: Strategy is applicable and feasible but is not complete or is ongoing
- Delayed: Strategy has been delayed due to lack of resources or other cause
- Deleted: Strategy was determined to not be feasible or necessary and has been removed from consideration in the new plan, or the facts upon which the strategy was developed no longer exist or have changed significantly

**Table 3-1: Paulding County 2017 Mitigation Goals and Strategies**

<b>GOAL 1: PAULDING COUNTY WILL EMPLOY MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES INCURRED FROM SEVERE WINDSTORMS, INCLUDING STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS AND TORNADOES.</b>					
1.1 Paulding County will advocate for and support the creation of safe rooms for vulnerable locations, including single and multi-family homes and neighborhoods without basements or shelters.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Paulding County will advocate and support, and implement on county-owned property, the proper maintenance of trees and vegetation to reduce damages caused by high winds or tornadoes.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Paulding County will implement a program to clear both urban and rural areas of debris after severe wind and flooding to keep crop fodder and other debris out of water treatment plants, sewers, transportation routes, and other infrastructure, and to keep roadways open and usable as soon as possible after storms.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Paulding County will maintain and enforce land use regulations (including zoning and development regulations and construction codes) in an effort to reduce storm damages to properties.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GOAL 2: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT REDUCE DAMAGES FROM FLOODING.</b>					
2.1 Paulding County will utilize acquisition, demolition, and relocation programs for properties that have repeated or extremely severe damage from floods and flash floods.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Paulding County will participate in NFIP and other federal flood mitigation programs that help the county reduce losses attributable to flooding and will regularly review flood maps through a process of public engagement to assure accuracy as necessary.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Paulding County will review and enforce existing land use regulations (zoning rules, building codes) to facilitate wise development, especially in areas with flood vulnerability.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Paulding County will advocate that renters, landowners, and others purchase and maintain reasonable casualty insurance, including flood insurance where appropriate, as mitigation against disaster losses.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.5 Paulding County will use federal and state grant programs to fund mitigation efforts, especially in flood mitigation and mitigation planning.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

2.6 Paulding County will require the use of retention and detention ponds where new or expanded construction, parking lots, streets, or other development may cause flooding to occur as a result of increased runoff or lack of natural watershed process.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.7 Paulding County will maintain or replace, as needed, water control structures and systems, such as wastewater pumping stations, generators, water pumps, and other structures.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.8 Paulding County will clear county-maintained ditches of debris, sediment, and other obstructions that impede drainage and watershed.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.9 Paulding County will advocate for study of the impact of potential dam failure, including consideration of dam characteristics and threat details for any Class I, II, or III dam in the county.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.10 Paulding County will study countywide watershed and storm runoff in order to improve storm water practices that protect property and reduce damages from flooding.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.11 Paulding County will use elevation and creation of buffer zones to contain floodwater where other means are ineffective, too costly, or not feasible.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Paulding County will encourage individuals to mitigate personal flood loss through the use of simple prevention measures like sandbagging or not building on property that floods.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.13 Paulding County will consider improvements to roads that include increased bridge spans and elevation, repair of berms, maintenance of bridge slopes and protection of roadways from flooding.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GOAL 3: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES FROM ALL SEVERE STORMS, INCLUDING THUNDERSTORMS AND BLIZZARDS, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS AND CAUSES.</b>					
3.1 Paulding County will expand its road sign warning program through increasing the number of signs available to mark dangerous road conditions like flooding, washouts, and other damages due to storms.	Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Paulding County will expand and improve its public warning and notification capability through additional or improved outdoor warning sirens, improvements to the software used in these systems, or enhanced public education regarding warning and notification of protection orders or warnings.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Paulding County will develop and implement a program to assist in the removal of dead or diseased trees along county maintenance waterways and roadways that have been affected by Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive species	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Paulding County will advocate for the agriculture industry to have emergency preparations in place and access to generators and other critical resources during extended power outages, to goods and services that are unique to livestock disease or infestation incidents, to services and supplies used in repair of specialized farm equipment damaged by storms and wind, and to other measures needed after disasters.	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>3.5 Paulding County will develop methods for the agriculture community to collaborate with appropriate agencies immediately after storms to identify storm caused consequences, such as excessive runoff and downstream flooding, manure management challenges, grain and chemical storage issues, equipment and commodity damages, and livestock casualties.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>GOAL 4: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES DUE TO UTILITY OUTAGES AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES FROM ALL CAUSES.</b></p>
<p>4.1 Paulding County will encourage quick action and collaboration between all levels of government and private contractors to clear roads and maintain utilities sure and after severe weather, especially ice, snow and floods to protect livestock operations from disaster related losses.</p> <p>Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4.2 Paulding County will advocate and encourage the hardening of utilities through damage resistant installation below grade, improvements to supply lines and generations plants, and upgrade of substations and transformers.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4.3 Paulding County will advocate for identification of redundant suppliers of heating fuels, potable water, and other utility needs and will identify and facilitate availability and proper use of generators as an alternate power source.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>GOAL 5: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS TOPSOIL AND WATERWAYS FROM THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER.</b></p>
<p>5.1 Paulding County will support, and participate in when feasible, efforts to maintain and clear county maintenance rivers in the county of debris, excessive sediment, and other obstructions that prevent the natural and effective watershed process.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2 Paulding County will participate in regional watershed management programs when feasible to create additional wetlands, and to reduce the use of phosphorus and nitrogen in agricultural, residential, and commercial settings.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.3 Paulding County will facilitate collaboration with farmers and agri-businesses to adopt conservation procedures that protect agricultural assets during and after severe storms, including land, facilities, crops, and other assets.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.4 Paulding County will encourage agricultural conservation processes that protect topsoil, slopes and waterway banks from wind or water abrasion through the use of windbreaks, filter strips, cover crops, grassy buffers, tree lines, and other methods of preserving the soil.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.5 Paulding County will protect roadways from compromised structural integrity, washed away abutments and bridges, degraded berms, or other damage through stabilization and reinforcement techniques.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.6 Paulding County will support agricultural practices that pertain to conservation efforts that replace old and damaged field tiles and replace them with contemporary structures; and that advocate for the appropriate and feasible use of cover crops, filter strips, conservation tillage, and tile control structures to limit damage to topsoil and protect slopes and waterway banks.</p>

Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
5.7 Paulding County will implement improvements to the county ditch maintenance program to further improve the natural function of the watershed and to repair damage done to streams, creeks, and ditches by storms and floods.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GOAL 6: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO OBTAIN AND USE DISASTER INFORMATION TO SAVE LIVES AND PRESERVE PROPERTY FOR ALL HAZARDS PRESENT IN PAULDING COUNTY.</b>				
6.1 Paulding County will develop a multi-part communication system to engage the community in protective action procedures, warnings and notifications, and other critical lifesaving information related to all disaster incidents when necessary.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.2 Paulding County will develop interoperable communication plans to coordinate life-saving efforts with community partners and others during severe storms and other disasters.				
Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3 Paulding County will educate the public about all relevant disaster hazards and vulnerabilities, protective actions, available services, vulnerable populations and available assistance and other emergency procedures using a variety of means to include print and spoken media, digital resources, and other appropriate local sources.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.4 Paulding County will develop, utilize and maintain a communications plan with the public to include mass media, social media, digital resources, and direct contact for emergency management information before, during, and after incidents that result from any hazard relevant to Paulding County.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5 Paulding County will identify locations and establish agreements with owners for facilities to be used as community centers during evacuations, extended power outages, or other disasters for general community use or shelters, as needed.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

**Table 3.2 Municipal (All) 2017 Mitigation Strategies**

<b>GOAL 1: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL EMPLOY MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES INCURRED FROM SEVERE WINDSTORMS, INCLUDING STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS AND TORNADOES</b>				
1.1 The villages will advocate for and support the creation of safe rooms for vulnerable locations, including single and multi-family homes and neighborhoods without basements or shelters.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 The villages will implement a program to clear the village of debris after severe wind and flooding to keep crop fodder and other debris out of sewer lines and catch basins, transportation routes, and streets.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 The villages will maintain and enforce land use regulations (including zoning and development regulations and construction codes) in an effort to reduce storm damages to properties.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4 The villages will advocate and support, and implement on village-owned property, the proper maintenance of trees and vegetation to reduce damages caused by high winds or tornadoes.				
Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>GOAL 2: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT REDUCE DAMAGES FROM FLOODING.</b>					
2.1 The villages will establish and/or maintain NFIP participation and will support other federal flood mitigation programs that help the county reduce losses attributable to flooding, and will regularly review flood maps through a process of public engagement to assure accuracy as necessary.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.2 The villages will maintain or replace, as needed, water control structures and systems, such as storm sewers, wastewater pumping stations, generators, water pumps, and other structures that control watershed and/or protect specific areas from flooding.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.3 The villages will clear village-maintained ditches of debris, sediment, and other obstructions that impede drainage and watershed.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.4 The villages will use federal and state grant programs to fund mitigation efforts, especially in flood mitigation and mitigation planning.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.5 The villages will review and enforce existing land use regulations (zoning rules, building codes) to facilitate wise development, especially in areas with flood vulnerability.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.6 The villages will require the use of retention and detention ponds where new or expanded construction, parking lots, streets, or other development may cause flooding to occur as a result of increased runoff or lack of natural watershed process.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.7 The villages will utilize acquisition, demolition, and relocation programs for properties that have repeated or extremely severe damage from floods and flash floods.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2.8 The villages will advocate that renters, landowners, and others purchase and maintain reasonable casualty insurance, including flood insurance where appropriate, as mitigation against disaster losses.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>GOAL 3: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES FROM ALL SEVERE STORMS, INCLUDING THUNDERSTORMS AND BLIZZARDS, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS AND CAUSES.</b>					
3.1 The villages will expand and improve its public warning and notification capability through additional or improved outdoor warning sirens, improvements to the software used in these systems, or enhanced public education regarding warning and notification of protection orders or warnings.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>GOAL 4: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES DUE TO UTILITY OUTAGES AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES FROM ALL CAUSES</b>					
4.1 The villages will encourage the hardening of utilities through damage resistant installation below grade, improvements to supply lines and generations plants, and upgrade of substations and transformers.					
Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancelled	<input type="checkbox"/>	On Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delayed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deferred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<p>4.2 The villages will establish redundant suppliers of heating fuels, potable water, and other utility needs and will identify and facilitate availability and proper use of generators as an alternate power source.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>GOAL 5: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS TOPSOIL AND WATERWAYS FROM THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER.</b></p>
<p>5.1 The villages will protect roadways from compromised structural integrity, washed away abutments and bridges, degraded berms, or other damage through stabilization and reinforcement techniques.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.2 The villages will encourage agricultural conservation processes that protect topsoil, slopes and waterway banks from damage through the use of windbreaks, filter strips, cover crops, grassy buffers, tree lines, and other methods of preserving the soil.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>GOAL 6: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO OBTAIN AND USE DISASTER INFORMATION TO SAVE LIVES AND PRESERVE PROPERTY FOR ALL HAZARDS PRESENT IN PAULDING COUNTY</b></p>
<p>6.1 The villages will develop, utilize and maintain a communications plan with the public to include mass media, social media, digital resources, and direct contact for emergency management information before, during, and after incidents that result from any hazard relevant to Paulding County.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6.2 The villages will educate the public about all relevant disaster hazards and vulnerabilities, protective actions, available services, vulnerable populations and available assistance and other emergency procedures using a variety of means to include print and spoken media, digital resources, and other appropriate local resources.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>GOAL 7: THE VILLAGES OF PAULDING AND OAKWOOD WILL REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO DAM FAILURE IN THEIR VILLAGE AND SURROUNDING AREAS.</b></p>
<p>7.1 The villages of Paulding and Oakwood will identify risk and vulnerability from upground reservoirs that are located in or near their jurisdiction that threaten people and property should a failure occur in the form of structural compromise or water running over the top of the structure.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7.2 The villages each will develop emergency plans to manage a failure of the upground reservoirs in their village.</p> <p>Completed <input type="checkbox"/>    Cancelled <input type="checkbox"/>    On Schedule <input type="checkbox"/>    Delayed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>

**3.2 RISK PRIORITIES**

The HIRA (section 2.0 of this plan) explains in detail the assessment and analysis of natural hazards in Paulding County. The HIRA takes into account the total list of hazards possible in Paulding County, the frequency (probability) with which each occurs, the severity (magnitude) that each hazard displays upon impact in the county, and the outcomes (impact and damages) caused by the incidents. [The potential for harm to underserved and disadvantaged populations](#)

was assessed in this plan as part of the new mitigation guidance, and involved new partners and stakeholders in the discussions. Those factors are all explained in the HIRA, as well as descriptions of the hazards and how each would impact various locations and populations in the county.

As a result of that assessment and analysis of hazards and consequences, the Paulding County Mitigation Planning group established the following hazard priorities, listed from highest hazard to lesser hazards in descending order of threat: Flood, windstorm, tornado, severe thunderstorm, severe winter storm (or blizzard), invasive species, land subsidence, drought and extreme heat, earthquake, and only where applicable, dam failure.

Flooding is the major concern in Paulding County. The flat terrain makes natural drainage slow and dependent upon storm sewer capacity, especially when heavy rain falls quickly, or significant snow melt occurs rapidly. Sometimes with Ohio's fluctuation in winter temperatures, both heavy rain and rapid snow melt are simultaneous, and that worsens flooding. In many cases of heavy or extended rainfall, flash flooding occurs because streets don't drain quickly, storm sewers are either non-existent or they are easily overwhelmed, or low-lying areas cannot drain without sunshine and the evaporation process to aid in removing standing water. The villages tend to deal with flooded streets on a regular basis, and homeowners have wet basements at the same time. The floodwaters are usually measured in inches, and damages are, for the most part, not significant when measured against FEMA damage assessment criteria. However, the damages are expensive for homeowners and disruptive for everyone. [The underserved and disadvantaged populations suffer more than others when their lives are disrupted, and often lack the resources to recover from these incidents.](#)

Flood strategies focus on structural options such as retention and detention of water, elevation of structures, and water management systems and practices. Land use regulation is used to prevent unwise construction inside flood zones. Actions can also include facilitation of drainage through system improvements and waterway maintenance. Acquisition, demolition, and relocation projects are a likely solution for some structures. [Consideration of social issues such as sheltering, providing transportation services, and other needs of underserved and disadvantaged populations were added to this update to ensure that these populations are served during times of need.](#)

Wind is the second concern. Again, the wide-open expanse of land without tree lines, wooded areas, and other windbreaks makes Paulding County properties prone to wind damage. The countryside is peppered with grain bins, feed silos, elevator legs on grain bins, and barns and storage buildings for farm equipment and livestock. This property is vulnerable to wind damage and is unprotected. Straight line high winds can easily reach 35-50 miles per hour in any given storm, perhaps happening multiple times each year. This kind of wind can topple trees, damage roofs and siding, destroy grain operations, and take out utility poles. Although rare, severe storms can include bursts of wind that are in excess of 50 miles per hour, and the damage can then include downed trees, fallen utility towers and poles, and destruction of farm



buildings. Because this wind occurs in western Ohio when weather fronts move into the area, the wind can be associated with extreme changes in temperature, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, or blizzards. However, a wind event that occurs by itself is not uncommon. Strategies for wind focus on elimination of debris potential, hardening of utility distribution systems, and use of wind-resistant building materials and wind-wise construction practices

Tornado is the third hazard to concern Paulding County residents. The area experiences unstable storm fronts with changing temperatures ahead of and behind it. This situation can spawn tornadoes quite easily. As fronts form in the Midwest and move across Illinois and Indiana into Ohio, rotational winds develop. It is common for funnel clouds to form and cross Paulding County, and they frequently touch down in the area. While the county is not populated in any concentration, tornadoes do damage farmsteads, homes, and commercial property. There is rarely damage to sufficient property to declare an emergency and most losses are covered by property owners. Even the villages are small enough that a low number of homes are damaged even when the village is struck by a tornado. Only three of eleven villages have over one thousand residents; seven have less than five hundred residents. Due to this factor, not much national attention is drawn to tornado damage in Paulding County.

Severe thunderstorms and severe snowstorms were fourth and fifth on the Paulding County list of threats. When precipitation (rain or snow) combines with wind, and sometimes a tornado or a microburst, the storm can cause a lot of damage to county properties. Severe thunderstorms sometimes include hail that pelts vehicles and buildings and causes damage. A microburst can destroy a large barn, grain operation, or home without widespread consequences.

Severe thunderstorms and blizzards are disruptive and expensive in their worst form. Both cause roads to become impassable. These storms cause accessibility problems across the county, and are especially damaging to the livestock farms that depend upon transportation services daily. Roads are blocked and snow covered, power outages occur due to the ice and/or wind associated with the storms, and farms cannot operate. Livestock operations are dependent upon utilities and transportation support. These storms also bring the damage of high winds and heavy precipitation, sometimes causing flooding and structural damages. Hail can damage roofs and vehicles, and anything else that is in its path. The storms are damaging because they combine several factors into a comprehensive path of destruction.

Strategies for severe storms include enhanced capacity to clear roads and bridges from debris and snow; elimination of debris potential; hardening of utilities; and improved warning and notification systems.

[Invasive species and land subsidence cause deterioration of property, especially for homeowners and farmsteads. Trees weakened by disease or infestation are more likely to fall during storms, causing damage to homes and buildings. Ditch banks that have widened and sit closer to homes, or embankments that have caused homes to be much closer to riverbanks and erosion make homes less safe and more vulnerable to extensive damages. Roads and other infrastructure are more vulnerable to wash-out and degradation when soils are eroded away.](#)

Drought and extreme heat are possible but do not occur frequently in Ohio. Drought tends to be more of a “dry spell” than an extended drought. While Ohio, in general, experienced drought in 1988 and 2012, Paulding County was not one of the most affected counties. Grain crops are more resilient than vegetable and fruit crops when drought strikes.

Mitigation strategies for drought and extreme heat include additional public information, enhanced warning and notification, and hardening of the water supply through emergency planning and capital improvements. [Stakeholders spoke about the need to identify emergency sources of bottled water and bulk water for residents during extended outages. They also discussed dependence upon a power grid that might not be able to support the load of customers during an extended high-use period with excess demand on the system.](#)

Dam failure is a hazard for those areas in proximity to a dam and spillway or an upground reservoir. The Village of Paulding has one up-ground reservoir on the extreme south side of the village. It is located between County Road 107 and Fairground Drive. The structures in close proximity to the reservoir are commercial and government-owned structures and the county fairgrounds that is occupied for specific purposes during the fair. Flatrock Creek, a large drainage stream, is to the immediate north of the reservoir. The village lies north of Fairground Drive. While total failure, due to the size of the structure, could inundate properties on the south side of the village, maintenance of the reservoir is the village’s responsibility. This threat ranked moderate as far as possibility but low as far as probability.

The other area vulnerable to dam failure is in Brown Township southeast of the Village of Oakwood. Situated out in the countryside away from structures, the Oakwood Wastewater Treatment lagoon lies east of Road 205, and west of Road 209 near the Auglaize River in Brown Township. There are few structures close to this facility and there is little risk of inundation of village residences. The dam is classified as such due to its size, and the strategy is placed with Oakwood because they own and control the dam.

The other villages did not include dam failure in their hazards because they do not have high-hazard dams in their jurisdiction nor do they own any.

Paulding County has an extremely low incidence of earthquake activity. There is no historical data of an earthquake epicenter in or near Paulding County. There are no buildings in the county that are higher than three stories, and there are few of those. Only in the downtown of a few villages are there buildings that have any significant height. Grain operations on county farms are the most likely vulnerable locations should an earthquake strike, and those elevators and conveyors would cause little damage anyhow. Most damage would be to private property, and most of it agricultural grain-storage associated structures. Due to the lack of earthquake history, the planning group felt it was a very low risk, and therefore strategies focused on community awareness.

Strategies for earthquake include robust warning and notification systems and public information.

Social vulnerability and community resilience were addressed in strategies that support existing services and plans in place to use those services. The Paulding County Emergency Management Agency has established and maintains an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that identifies agencies and departments to act in disasters, and assigns specific roles and responsibilities to each one. This plan ensures that community lifelines are maintained, and core capabilities are established with each agency or department. This mitigation plan refers back to that EOP as the document whereby underserved and disadvantaged populations are served after disasters, and by whom. These standards were addressed in this manner to remain consistent and supportive of other statutory responsibilities of county officials and departments, and to maintain attention to these issues in a single area for effective management and consideration.

The strategies in this plan are intended to provide general options to lessen the vulnerabilities in Paulding County. During the planning process, the planning team and stakeholders determined what hazards strike most frequently, which cause the most disruption, and which consequences feasibly can be prevented or lessened. With limited money and staff available to conduct mitigation projects, the planning team weighed every potential effort by measuring the benefit against the resources realistically available to conduct the activity. The planning team endeavored to prioritize strategies that could realistically be accomplished and result in actual reduction in potential and real losses.

Considerations of cost, identifiable funding to support the strategy, actual benefit to the community, prevention of loss of life, and overall feasibility were all discussed. Strategies were rated against one another and ranked from most to least important. While it is impossible to plan for or foresee every potential hazard, Paulding County attempted to identify the incidents that might realistically impact their community. These goals and strategies are an outcome of that assessment.

### **3.3 MITIGATION GOALS AND STRATEGIES**

Planning Team members and stakeholders from the county and each jurisdiction worked collaboratively to develop fitting mitigation goals and strategies. The Contractor drafted strategies based on the input provided by these stakeholders. The draft strategies were presented to the planning team and community for public review and comment, and modified accordingly. This section identifies the mitigation goals and strategies for each jurisdiction and the priority level, action type lead agency, timeline, and potential funding source assigned to each action. Strategies for specific municipalities vary from the countywide in priority of the problem and the potential solution.

#### **3.3.1 Paulding County**

Paulding County's mitigation strategies are intended to reduce vulnerability to damage from wind, water, severe storms, invasive species, [land subsidence](#), drought and [extreme heat](#), dam

failure, and earthquake. The identified goals and strategies include all non-incorporated areas of the county, such as townships and census areas or neighborhoods. These strategies will be considered as economic development and growth is guided, as regulations are written and revised, and as codes and guidance is enforced and approved. These strategies will be reflected as local regulation is considered, zoning rules are enforced, land use regulations are enforced, economic development goals and strategies are planned and achieved, capital improvement plans are created, and budgets are managed. Projects will be conducted as funding is available, and daily practices will be adjusted to include modifications of work that include these strategies.

Many of the small communities lack the budget to implement mitigation or public works projects; therefore, they may be, at some time, dependent upon county resources to help them. They have volunteer officials and frequently no paid staff. They would depend upon the county officials to support them in any implementation or grant application or administration.

As the Paulding County Commissioners represent the townships in mitigation efforts, they will communicate with the township trustees whose jurisdictions are affected. As the county acts on behalf of the townships when it comes to mitigation efforts, as it does with other federal and state programs, the townships will fulfill their responsibility to enforce and comply with land use regulations and building codes. The county officials will work with township trustees to ensure that smart development takes place to create sustainable communities in these rural sections of the county.

This tiered partnership between levels of local government is not new and stems from statutory procedures. Paulding County and townships have worked together in this way for many years. For example, they work together now to recruit new business and industry, and to develop more housing for individuals and families. They worked together, for example, as they brought windmill power generation business to Paulding County, working with potential businesses to establish construction goals, process, and completion that met the county's needs but also protected private and public property in the process. Recruitment and business incentives were all handled by the county, but the townships worked with the county to address wear and tear on township-maintained roads and bridges. Because township trustees are often volunteer officials, county commissioners take official action to benefit the townships as a cooperative effort with the trustees, especially where federal grants or requirements are concerned. Today's effort to include hazard mitigation in rural community development is another effort of collaboration.

**Table 3-3: Paulding County Mitigation Goals and Strategies**

**GOAL 1: PAULDING COUNTY WILL EMPLOY MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES INCURRED FROM SEVERE WINDSTORMS, INCLUDING STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS AND TORNADOES.**

1.1 Paulding County will advocate and support property owners' efforts to construct safe rooms in single and multi-family homes and neighborhoods without basements or other shelter from tornadoes and severe storms.

15	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	PDM Other
1.2 Paulding County will work to identify and secure facilities to be used as shelters, community centers, and comfort stations when severe storms or other conditions necessitate mass sheltering services.					
16	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
1.3 Paulding County will properly maintain trees and other vegetation on county-owned property to reduce damages caused by high winds, winter storms, or tornadoes.					
17	Prevention	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
1.4 Paulding County will manage debris after severe wind and flooding to keep crop fodder and other debris out of water treatment plants, sewers, transportation routes, and other infrastructure, and to keep roadways open and usable as soon as possible after storms.					
18	Prevention	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
1.5 Paulding County will maintain and enforce land use regulations (including zoning, development regulations and construction codes) in an effort to reduce storm damages to properties.					
19	Property Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
<b>GOAL 2: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION TO REDUCE DAMAGES FROM FLOODING.</b>					
2.1 Paulding County will utilize acquisition and relocation programs when property owners elect to relocate after repeated or extremely severe damage from flooding and their properties qualify for such programs.					
1	Prevention	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	PDM FMA HMGP SRL RFC
2.2 Paulding County will maintain NFIP participation, and will support flood loss reduction through regular review and update of existing floodplain regulations.					
2	Property Protection	County Floodplain Manager	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
2.3 Paulding County will review and apply existing land use regulations, zoning rules, commercial building codes, and other permit processes as development tools, especially in areas with flood vulnerability.					
3	Property Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
2.4 Paulding County will use federal and state grant programs to fund mitigation efforts, especially in flood mitigation and mitigation planning.					
4	Prevention	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	ALL Listed
2.5 Paulding County will support the installation of retention and detention ponds where new or expanded construction, parking lots, streets, or other development may cause flooding to occur as a result of increased runoff or lack of natural watershed process.					
5	Structurally Engineered Projects	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	HMGP CDBG FMA LOC
2.6 Paulding County will maintain or replace, as needed, water control structures and systems, such as wastewater pumping stations, generators, water pumps, and other structures, where appropriate.					
6	Property Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	HMGP BRIC PDM LOC ICC

2.7 Paulding County will clear county-maintained ditches of debris, sediment, and other obstructions that impede drainage and watershed.					
7	Natural Resource Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
2.8 Paulding County will support the development of emergency action plans for high-hazard dams in the Village of Paulding and the Village of Oakwood.					
8	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
2.9 Paulding County will study countywide watershed and storm runoff in order to improve storm water practices that protect property and reduce damages from flooding.					
9	Property Protection	County Floodplain Manager	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC PDM CDBG
2.10 Paulding County will use elevation and creation of buffer zones to contain floodwater where other means are ineffective, too costly, or not feasible.					
10	Structurally Engineered Projects		01-01-24	12-31-28	PDM BRIC LOC
2.11 Paulding County will consider improvements to roads that include increased bridge spans and elevation, repair of berms, maintenance of bridge slopes and protection of roadways from flooding to reduce flood damages.					
11	Structurally Engineered Projects	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC PDM HMGP
2.12 Paulding County will work to install USGA gauges at the Ohio – Indiana state line so that river and flood data can be transmitted and used to prevent flooding or to alert populations to imminent danger.					
12	Property Protection	County NRCS Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC ST
<b>GOAL 3: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES FROM ALL SEVERE STORMS, INCLUDING THUNDERSTORMS AND BLIZZARDS, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS AND CAUSES.</b>					
3.1 Paulding County will expand and improve its public warning and notification capability through additional or upgraded outdoor warning sirens, improvements to the software used in these systems, wireless notification systems, or enhanced public education regarding warning and notification of protection orders or warnings.					
13	Public Information	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	HMGP PDM
3.2 Paulding County will develop and implement a program to assist in the removal of dead or diseased trees along county-maintained waterways and roadways that have been affected by invasive species or infestation.					
14	Property Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
3.3 Paulding County will advocate for the agriculture industry to have emergency preparations in place and access to generators and other critical resources during extended power outages, to goods and services that are unique to livestock disease or infestation incidents, to services and supplies used in repair of specialized farm equipment damaged by storms and wind, and to other measures needed after disasters.					
22	Property Protection	County OSU Extension Agent	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
3.4 Paulding County will collaborate with the agriculture community to identify storm caused damages, such as excessive runoff and downstream flooding, manure management challenges, grain and chemical storage issues, equipment and commodity damages, livestock casualties, and unique rescue or response needs.					

20	Property Protection	County FSA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA
3.5 Paulding County will collaborate with villages and townships to identify and secure facilities to be used as shelters, comfort stations or community centers when areas need such service to cope with or recover from disasters.					
21	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
<b>GOAL 4: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES DUE TO UTILITY OUTAGES AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES FROM ALL CAUSES.</b>					
4.1 Paulding County will advocate for identification of redundant suppliers of heating fuels, potable water, vehicle fuels, and other utility needs and will identify and facilitate availability and proper use of generators as an alternate power source.					
23	Property Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
4.2 Paulding County will identify and establish emergency drinking water resources, cooling and warming center locations, and transportation resources for residents, especially those with special needs or underserved circumstances, for periods of extreme heat or cold, or drought.					
24	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
4.3 Paulding County will work with electrical providers to advocate for and achieve replacement of electrical poles that are highly vulnerable to storm damage.					
25	Property Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
<b>GOAL 5: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS TOPSOIL AND WATERWAYS FROM THE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER, LAND SUBSIDENCE, OR EXCESSIVE DEVELOPMENT.</b>					
5.1 Paulding County will support, and participate in when feasible, efforts to maintain and clear county-maintained waterways of debris, excessive sediment, and other obstructions that prevent the natural and effective watershed process.					
26	Natural Resource Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS Other
5.2 Paulding County will support regional watershed management programs when feasible to create additional wetlands, and to reduce the use of phosphorus and nitrogen in agricultural, residential, and commercial settings.					
27	Natural Resource Protection	Soil & Water Conservation District Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS USDA WDG
5.3 Paulding County will facilitate collaboration with farmers and agri-businesses to adopt conservation procedures that protect agricultural assets during and after severe storms, including land, facilities, crops, and other assets.					
28	Natural Resource Protection	Soil & Water Conservation District Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA USDA NRCS
5.4 Paulding County will encourage agricultural conservation processes that protect topsoil, slopes and ditch banks from wind or water abrasion or subsidence through the use of windbreaks, filter strips, cover crops, tree lines, and other methods of preserving the soil.					

29	Natural Resource Protection	Soil & Water Conservation District Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS USDA
5.5 Paulding County will work with agricultural resources to enhance conservation practices, to identify best practices, and to develop stricter application and enforcement of rules and regulations.					
30	Natural Resource Protection	Soil & Water Conservation District Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS USDA
5.6 Paulding County will protect roadways from compromised structural integrity, washed away abutments and bridges, degraded berms, or other damage through stabilization and reinforcement techniques.					
31	Property Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	PDM HMGP LOC ST
5.7 Paulding County will support agricultural practices that replace old and damaged field tiles with contemporary structures; and that advocate for the appropriate and feasible use of cover crops, filter strips, conservation tillage, and tile control structures to limit damage to topsoil and protect slopes and waterway banks.					
32	Natural Resource Protection	Soil & Water Conservation District Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS USDA
5.8 Paulding County will implement improvements to the county ditch maintenance program to further improve the natural function of the watershed and to repair damage done to streams, creeks, and ditches by storms and floods.					
33	Natural Resource Protection	County Engineer	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS
<b>GOAL 6: PAULDING COUNTY WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO OBTAIN AND USE DISASTER INFORMATION TO SAVE LIVES AND PRESERVE PROPERTY FOR ALL HAZARDS PRESENT IN PAULDING COUNTY.</b>					
6.1 Paulding County will maintain effective and interoperable communication systems to engage the county in protective action procedures, warnings and notifications, and other critical lifesaving information related to all disaster incidents when necessary.					
34	Public Information	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC CAPP
6.2 Paulding County will develop, utilize and maintain public outreach to include tools such as mass media, social media, wireless notification systems, digital resources, and direct contact for emergency management information before, during, and after incidents that result from any hazard relevant to Paulding County.					
35	Public Information	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC CAPP
6.3 Paulding County will identify locations and establish agreements with owners for facilities to be used as various community facilities during evacuations, extended power outages, or other disasters for general community use or shelters, as needed.					
36	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC



6.4 Paulding County will work to improve and expand public safety services, with an emphasis upon volunteer recruitment, training and retention for fire and EMS services so that emergency needs can be met under extreme conditions.

37	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC Other
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6.5 Paulding County will provide training to first responders in areas of technical and special rescue applicable to local needs, and will identify best practices for local technical rescue teams to best organize and manage local resources.

38	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC Other
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6.6 Paulding County will advocate for a statewide incentive program intended to develop and support volunteer first responders in small communities across the state for the purpose of meeting local response needs during an incident.

39	Property Protection	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC Other
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6.7 Paulding County will work through the Emergency Management Agency to update and improve the Paulding County Emergency Operations Plan so that underserved and disadvantaged populations are served in disasters, and that agencies and departments charged with serving them are able to be prepared to do so.

40	Public Information	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
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6.8 Paulding County will work with social agencies and departments, nonprofit organizations, and churches to ensure underserved, disadvantaged, and special needs populations have the necessary resources in disasters to maintain and sustain life and function.

41	Public Information	EMA Director	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
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**3.3.2 Paulding County Municipalities**

***\*Includes Villages of Antwerp, Broughton, Cecil, Grover Hill, Haviland, Latty, Melrose, Oakwood, Paulding, Payne, and Scott.***

The villages in Paulding County are all very similar, and each one is populated by a very small number of residents. Populations range from 120 in Broughton to 3,600 in Paulding. Seven of eleven villages have less than 500 residents, and only one is over 2,000 residents. Their elected officials are volunteers who, for the most part, work outside the village. There are only three main school districts in the county, and one in the far northeast corner that covers just a few homes. This draws individuals out of the small communities for both work and school activities. The communities are collections of residences with a few pieces of infrastructure (streets and bridges for the most part); most do not have utilities or infrastructure with the exception of Antwerp and Payne who do have utility departments that include storm sewers and water distribution.

The terrain is very flat and across the entire county, the homes and commercial properties are similar in age and type, and the risks are almost identical from village to village. The sharing of resources is very important, and there has been a great deal of success in the county attributed to cooperation and collaboration. Residents believe that mitigation efforts are one more area where the small towns can work together to best achieve success.

Paulding is the county seat, and is the largest municipality at just over 3,600 residents. Paulding sits in the center of county, and is the central retail center for local individuals and businesses. The county government offices are in Paulding and the surrounding area. The second largest village in this group is Antwerp, a community of just over seventeen hundred residents located in the far northwest of the county, very near the Indiana state line. Other villages include, with population following in parentheses, Broughton (120), Cecil (188), Grover Hill (402), Haviland (215), Latty (193), Melrose (275), Oakwood (608), Payne (1,194) and Scott (286).

All municipalities are most concerned about preventing wind damage and utility outages from windstorms and tornado, and in preventing flash flooding. Debris management and storm water management are concerns as crop fodder and fallen trees can interfere with drainage and access to the village and homes. Severe storms can isolate them, especially when combined with utility issues due to tree damage and downed poles, and as roads are closed due to blockages or flooding. The major area retail center is in Defiance, about 20 miles away in Defiance County. Making sure residents can get to Defiance is important for many reasons.

Each village's mayor acts as the chief officer of the community. Paulding and Antwerp have Village Administrators, but the other villages have minimal staff. Mayors meet as a group on a regular basis, and consider all development and contemporary issues and concerns, and when they have village employees, they work closely with them to achieve goals. Mayors can add mitigation actions to their existing meeting agenda, and by sharing the same goals and actions, can share resources to accomplish mitigation goals.

The following strategies apply to the entire list of villages above, and each village is named in each goal as a participant in that activity. The last goal pertains only to Paulding and Oakwood, and that is indicated in the verbiage.

**Table 3-4: Municipal Mitigation Goals and Strategies**

<b>GOAL 1: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL EMPLOY MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES INCURRED FROM SEVERE WINDSTORMS, STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS, AND TORNADOES</b>					
1.1 The villages will advocate and support property owners' efforts to construct safe rooms in single and multifamily homes without basements or any other shelter from tornadoes and severe storms.					
9	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	PDM Other
1.2 The villages will work to identify and secure facilities to be used as shelters, community centers, and comfort stations when severe storms or other conditions necessitate mass sheltering services.					
10	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
1.3 The villages will manage debris after severe wind and flooding, with an emphasis upon keeping crop fodder and other storm debris out of sewer lines and catch basins, and streets.					
	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
1.4 The villages will maintain trees and vegetation on village property to reduce storm damages to property.					
11	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC

**GOAL 2: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT REDUCE DAMAGES FROM FLOODING.**

2.1 The villages will establish or maintain (as applicable) NFIP participation and will support flood loss reduction through regular review and update of existing floodplain regulations.

1	Prevention	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
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2.2 The villages will maintain or replace, as needed, water control structures and systems, such as storm sewers, wastewater pumping stations, generators, water pumps, and other structures that control watershed and/or protect specific areas from flooding, as applicable in their village.

2	Structurally Engineered Projects	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	HMGP BRIC PDM LOC ICC
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2.3 The villages will clear village-maintained ditches of debris and other obstructions that impede drainage and watershed within the village.

3	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-32-28	LOC
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2.4 The villages will use federal and state grant programs to fund mitigation efforts, especially in flood mitigation and mitigation planning.

4	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	ALL Listed
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2.5 The villages will review and apply existing zoning regulations to facilitate development that does not cause additional flood loss, especially in areas with high flood vulnerability.

5	Prevention	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
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2.6 The villages will support installation of retention and detention ponds where new or expanded construction, parking lots, streets, or other development may cause flooding to occur as a result of increased runoff or lack of natural watershed process.

6	Structurally Engineered Projects	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	HMGP PDM CDBG LOC
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2.7 The villages will utilize acquisition and relocation programs when property owners elect to relocate after repeated or extremely severe damage from flooding and their properties qualify for such programs.

7	Prevention	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	PDM FMA HMGP SRL RFC
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2.8 The villages will advocate that renters and homeowners purchase and maintain reasonable casualty insurance, including flood insurance where appropriate, as mitigation against disaster losses.

8	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
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**GOAL 3: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES FROM ALL SEVERE STORMS, INCLUDING THUNDERSTORMS AND BLIZZARDS, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS AND CAUSES.**

3.1 The villages will maintain public warning and notification capability through outdoor warning sirens, improvements to the software used in these systems, or support of countywide emergency messaging systems, and will use grant funds whenever possible to facilitate this effort.					
12	Public Information	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	HMGP PDM
<b>GOAL 4: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE DAMAGES DUE TO UTILITY OUTAGES AND RESOURCE SHORTAGES FROM ALL CAUSES</b>					
4.1 The villages will work with the county to ensure adequate availability of necessary services and supplies such as heating fuels, vehicle fuel, and potable water, utilities, transportation, and access to generators during prolonged or severe emergency incidents.					
13	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
4.2 The villages will identify and establish emergency drinking water resources, cooling and warming center locations, and transportation resources for residents, especially those with special needs or underserved circumstances, for periods of extreme heat or cold, or drought.					
14	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
<b>GOAL 5: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, HAVILAND, AND PAULDING WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS RECOGNIZE AND CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES THAT DESTROY TREES, VEGETATION, CROPS, OR CAUSE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.</b>					
5.1 The villages will work with the local OSU Extension Service and Soil and Water Conservation District to educate residents about current invasive species threats, and to take effective action to reduce infestation or damage.					
15	Natural Resource Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
<b>GOAL 6: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL IDENTIFY LOCATIONS WHERE SOILS ARE DETERIORATING DUE TO SURFACE RUNOFF, EROSION, OR OTHER NATURAL THREATS THAT CAUSE LAND SUBSIDENCE.</b>					
6.1 The villages will encourage agricultural conservation processes that protect topsoil, slopes and waterway banks from damage through the use of windbreaks, filter strips, cover crops, grassy buffers, tree lines, and other methods of preserving the soil.					
16	Natural Resource Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS USDA
6.2 The Village of Oakwood will support property owners in the installation of appropriate land protection devices where property along waterways is endangered due to erosion, land subsidence, or other degradation.					
17	Natural Resource Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USDA NRCS USDA
6.3 The villages will identify areas where riverbanks and ditch banks are deteriorating or damaged due to soil movement, and will support property owners in implementing actions to mitigate this deterioration.					
18	Natural Resource Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC

<b>GOAL 7: THE VILLAGES OF ANTWERP, BROUGHTON, CECIL, GROVER HILL, HAVILAND, LATTY, MELROSE, OAKWOOD, PAULDING, PAYNE AND SCOTT WILL ENGAGE IN MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO OBTAIN AND USE DISASTER INFORMATION TO SAVE LIVES AND PRESERVE PROPERTY FOR ALL HAZARDS PRESENT IN PAULDING COUNTY</b>					
7.1 The villages will develop, utilize and maintain a communications plan with the public to include mass media, social media, digital resources, and direct contact for emergency management information before, during, and after incidents that result from any hazard relevant to Paulding County.					
19	Public Information	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
7.2 The villages will educate the public about all relevant disaster hazards and vulnerabilities, protective actions, available services, vulnerable populations and available assistance and other emergency procedures using a variety of means to include print and spoken media, digital resources, and other appropriate local resources.					
20	Public Information	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
7.3 The villages will work with county departments and social service agencies to identify and provide resources for underserved and disadvantaged residents of their jurisdiction to address their needs after disasters and significant incidents.					
21	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
7.4 The villages will assist the Paulding County Emergency Management Agency in updating and maintaining the Paulding County Emergency Operations Plan for the purpose of ensuring resources and assistance for underserved and disadvantaged populations, and for serving their unique needs during response and recovery.					
22	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC
7.5 The villages will work with first responders and other jurisdictions to ensure reliable public safety services are available to the residents of their villages for emergency needs through both direct services and mutual aid or memoranda of understanding for outside assistance.					
23	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC Other
<b>GOAL 8: THE VILLAGES OF PAULDING AND OAKWOOD WILL REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO DAM FAILURE IN THEIR VILLAGE CAUSED BY HIGH-HAZARD DAMS OWNED BY THEIR JURISDICTION.</b>					
8.1 The villages of Paulding and Oakwood will identify risk and vulnerability from upground reservoirs that are located in or near their jurisdiction that threaten people and property should a failure occur in the form of structural compromise or water running over the top of the structure.					
24	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC FMA USACE
8.2 The villages each will develop emergency plans to manage a failure of the upground reservoirs in their village.					
25	Property Protection	Mayor/Administrator	01-01-24	12-31-28	LOC USACE

**3.3.11 Strategy Descriptors**

Each strategy developed is assigned a priority, action type, lead agency, timeline, and potential funding source. These elements are described below. While specific information in this chart may change prior to the implementation of a strategy, the exercise of assigning time lines required stakeholders to evaluate current resources and support programs to determine how to best reduce the effects of disaster. They had to bear in mind that many of the villages are so

small they have few resources, financial and otherwise. Officials from Paulding County had to consider throughout this process that county leaders generally hold the responsibility of multiple jobs, sometimes in multiple jurisdictions, as they do their work. Officials are both paid employee and volunteer in many cases. Public information campaigns, plan enhancements, and the establishment of emergency protective measures were the highest priority and generally not significantly expensive. Upgrading communication and notification/warning systems was second because the acquisition of equipment involves procurement and budget process, therefore taking at least one budget year. These systems are exceptionally important to small, rural communities. Collaboration with other groups and comprehensive actions, due to the need to build trust and association between groups, would take longer to accomplish goals because it involved a two-phase action plan. Last on the completion list were structural projects due to design time requirements, budget needs, and dependence upon outside funding sources through applications. The priorities of life safety, incident containment, and property conservation combined with budget and procurement needs were major factors in determining the priority of goals and strategies.

#### *Priority*

Priority identifies the order of importance jurisdictions assigned to each strategy. Strategies may not be addressed in this exact order, depending on availability of funds and other circumstances.

#### *Action Type*

Action type describes the kind of activity described in the strategy.

- Natural Resource Protection – Reduce the impacts of natural hazard by preserving or restoring natural areas and their mitigation functions
- Prevention – Avoid hazard problems or stop impact from worsening
- Property Protection – Protect structures by modifying or strengthening building to withstand impact
- Public Information – Advise the public about hazards, hazardous areas, and mitigation techniques to protect people and property
- Structurally Engineered Project – Lessen the impact of a hazard by modifying the environment or progression of the hazard event through designed and engineered projects

#### *Lead Agency*

The lead agency is the entity charged with championing the strategy and ensuring that jurisdiction officials consider opportunities to implement the strategy over the five-year planning cycle. This agency may not have the authority or power to make a strategy into a project, nor would they necessarily be responsible for project oversight or completion should the strategy develop into an actionable and funded project. Rather, the lead agency is responsible for coordinating the overall effort, plays a key role in championing the project, or, by default, is the entity most appropriate to lead project development at the initial stage. If the strategy becomes a feasible project, this agency is not the only entity that would be involved in

its execution, nor is it the only entity involved in keeping the strategy on the jurisdiction's radar. For accountability purposes, the strategy is assigned to a single entity. When the strategy becomes a project, the jurisdiction would identify a project manager who may or may not represent the lead agency assigned in this plan.

#### *Timeline*

The timeline identifies the time frame in which a mitigation strategy could realistically be implemented. The actual time frame may vary from what is described in this plan, depending on funding, grant opportunities, or changes in priorities as other critical activities are adjusted to meet evolving community needs. At the time of plan development, these timelines fit logically within each jurisdiction's resources and support programs. As Paulding County reviews this mitigation plan annually, the timelines will be reviewed, adjusted, and modified as appropriate.

#### *Funding Source*

Mitigation strategies can be funded through a variety of sources. Depending on the type and cost of the project, different funding sources will be available and appropriate. [Sources are taken from FEMA Mitigation Funding Sources online information.](#)

- CDBG – Community Development Block Grants
- BRIC – Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities Program
- FMA – Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant
- PDM – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant
- HMGP – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- SRL – Severe Repetitive Loss Grant
- RFC – Repetitive Flood Claims Program
- COG – Clean Ohio Grant
- ICC – Increased Cost of Compliance (including rate increases or premiums)
- LOC – Local Funds
- ST – State Funds
- OTH – Other (including private funds and non-governmental agency funding)
- CWA – Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants
- WDG – Wetland Development Grants
- CAPP – Community Assistance and Protection Program for education and outreach
- USDA DA – USDA programs for technical assistance to farmers
- USDA NRCS – Various programs to relieve hazards related to flooding and conservation
- USACE – Planning Assistance, Floodplain Management, and Environmental Laboratory grants for the US Army Corps of Engineers

### **3.4 IMPLEMENTATION**

The identified mitigation strategies are general actions that could be taken to reduce the negative impact of disasters and large-scale emergencies. For any given strategy to become an actionable item, it must be converted to a specific project with funding, action steps, timelines,

and project goals. For example, if a property is to be acquired and demolished and the property owner relocated, that project must begin with the identification of the specific property to be acquired and the funding to be utilized for the project. The property owner must agree to accept the buy-out and use the money to purchase another home. The jurisdiction must accept its share of cost, planning responsibility, and project management roles. Only then can the actual project be executed. A similar process must be followed for any of the strategies identified here to become projects that reduce disaster loss in Paulding County.

The EMA will monitor the implementation of these strategies through ongoing communication with officials and stakeholders. When grant opportunities arise, reasonable efforts will be made to secure funding. For strategies that must be funded through local budgets, jurisdictions will work diligently to identify local funding sources that can be used to address disaster vulnerability. When funding is secured, a detailed project timeline will be developed and actionable steps taken to complete the project. Upon completion, effectiveness will be evaluated by the jurisdiction and findings shared with the EMA and planning team for consideration in developing future projects.

The greatest value in these strategies is the process, knowledge, and reasoning stakeholders utilized during their development. The mitigation planning process required stakeholders to collaborate to evaluate hazards and risks in their community. They were required to examine the local community, predict where and under what conditions damages would occur, and identify how to reduce or eliminate potential damages. The solutions, in the form of mitigation goals and actions that will ultimately develop into projects, had to be developed to maximize benefit to the community while minimizing cost. This process required whole community involvement so that the community was appropriately represented in the planning process.

Ultimately, Paulding County developed a set of comprehensive, thoroughly considered, relevant, and effective solutions to problems that are likely to arise. As stakeholders considered how to solve potential problems, they utilized a collaborative spirit to address community-wide problems. These strategies were original thoughts to reduce disaster vulnerability and loss at the local level.

Given the availability of funding, personnel, and support, Paulding County and its jurisdictions are positioned to move forward and implement these strategies to the best of their ability to accomplish their goals. Whatever mitigation activities are achieved will be well thought out, logical, and reasonable because of the community-wide hazard mitigation planning process.