

**BOROUGH OF UNION BEACH
MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
2023 PROGRESS REPORT
NIFP NUMBER 340331**



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1. Name of the CRS Floodplain Management

Borough of Union Beach Floodplain Management Plan (revised fall 2023) and Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan (2014 Plan updated approved by FEMA June 2020)

2. Plan Adoption History

The Borough of Union Beach Flood Plain Management Plan was adopted by the Mayor and Borough Council on July 18, 2002. The plan was revised to include two (2) additional repetitive loss properties and the revised plan was adopted by the Mayor and Borough Council on September 18, 2003. Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management also adopted a Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation plan on April 7, 2009. The Borough was a participating jurisdiction in the preparation of this plan and, as such, the Borough Council adopted this plan at its February 19, 2009 meeting. The Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management updated the Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation plan in 2020 and the updated plan was approved by FEMA in June of 2020.

3. Locations Where Copies are Available for Review

Copies of the Borough’s Flood Plain Management Plan, dated Fall 2023, are on file in the Borough Clerk’s office, located at 650 Poole Avenue, Union Beach, New Jersey.

A copy of the adopted Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 updated plan is posted on the on the Monmouth County Sherriff’s Web site (<https://www.mcsonj.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Hazmat%20Mitigation%20Plan%20-%201%20-%20REDACTED.pdf/>)

4. Flooding 2023 Report

On October 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy caused catastrophic damage within the Borough of Union Beach. Approximately 60 homes were destroyed during the storm, Approximately, 143 homes were severely damaged and demolished to mitigate hazards to public health and safety, and approximately 140 additional homes were subsequently demolished.

Approximately 2,043 housing units and 90 percent of the Borough was inundated with flood waters ranging from 2 to 10 feet in depth. The severe flooding impacted residents and businesses alike, leaving roadways impassible, inhibiting the circulation of emergency vehicles and eventually leading to a mandatory order of evacuation of the entire Borough.

The entire Borough was littered with storm damage debris. Power within the Borough was out for a little over two weeks and many structures were unsafe for power to be restored. All of the municipal buildings, fire houses and ems buildings sustained damaged and were inoperable for months after the storm. The bulkhead, boardwalk, open space areas and businesses along the bay front and throughout town were destroyed. The Borough has continued to recover from Superstorm Sandy over the last ten (10) years.

Over the past year the Borough continues to experience roadway inundation during moon tides and nor’easter storm. The regular flooding has increased because of stream siltation from Superstorm Sandy.

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5. Impacts of the Floods on the Repetitive Loss Areas

Prior to Superstorm Sandy there were thirty-five (35) properties with repetitive loss claims, Superstorm Sandy has had a significant impact on the Borough's Repetitive Loss Areas, as over 500 homes or roughly 22% of the Borough housing stock were substantially damaged and 90% of the Borough was inundated with flood waters ranging between 2 and 10 feet. As noted in the Monmouth County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, as of February 14, 2014, there were 77 non-mitigated repetitive loss properties and 4 Severe Repetitive Loss Properties within the Borough. Since the 2014, the Borough has mitigated 35 of the homes listed.

6. List of Plan Accomplishments During the Previous Year

See accompanying Status Report for details of the Borough's accomplishments during the last year to both the previously adopted Borough Floodplain Management Plan and the adopted Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan which serves as the Borough's current Floodplain Management Plan. The attached status report also provides the status of the Borough's recent flood mitigation actions and FEMA's revisions to the County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

7. Objectives Not Reached and Implementation Behind Schedule

As noted on the attached status report, the Borough continues to be on schedule with respect to the implementation of the goals and recommendations outlined in the Borough's prior Floodplain Management Plan, as well as the Borough's prioritized actions and implementation schedule from the updated Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Borough continues to participate in the preparation of the Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan which is update every 5 years.

8. New Projects to be Started or Revisions to the Recommendations or Objectives

At the current time, there are no revisions to the recommendations in either the prior Borough Floodplain Management Plan or the new Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Since both plans identify projects for future consideration and action, as such, the Borough will implement the current projects before adding new projects

9. Progress Reports Discussed and/or Made Available at a Public Meeting

A status of all mitigation projects is provided in the Borough Engineer's monthly status report, which is reviewed at the Borough Council workshop meeting held on the second Thursday of each month. The Borough will also solicit public comment on the 2023 Floodplain Management Plan Annual Progress Report at the October 11, 2023, Borough Council Meeting and the October 25, 2023, Land Use Board Meeting. Both the regular and workshop meetings of the Borough Council and Union Beach Unified Planning and Zoning Board are open to the public.

10. We Have Provided Copies of this Report to our Governing Board and Local Media

Copies of this progress report have been provided to members of the Union Beach Borough Council and the Union Beach Unified Planning and Zoning Board, and will be posted on the Borough's website for public review and comment.

Information Contact: Timothy Davis, Construction Official (732) 526-8687
Dennis Dayback, CFM at (732)671-6400

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Activity 510: Floodplain Management Plan
Floodplain Management Status Report (2023)

Introduction

On October 29, 2012, the Borough of Union Beach experienced significant flooding that resulted in property damage and beach erosion as a result of Superstorm Sandy. The wave action from this storm completely destroyed over 60 homes and 283 additional homes have been or will be demolished as a direct result of damage caused by Sandy. Approximately 2,043 housing units and 90 percent of the Borough was inundated with flood waters ranging from 2 to 10 feet in depth. The severe flooding impacted residents and businesses, leaving roadways impassible and inhibiting the circulation of emergency vehicles and eventually leading to a mandatory order of evacuation of the entire Borough.

The entire Borough was littered with storm damage debris. Power within the Borough was out for a little over two weeks and many structures were unsafe for power to be restored. All of the municipal buildings, fire houses and ems buildings sustained damage and were inoperable for months after the storm. The bulkhead, boardwalk, open space areas and businesses along the bay front and throughout town were destroyed. Hundreds of Borough residents have been forced to vacate their homes and numerous local businesses still remain closed unable to respond to the catastrophic damages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The Borough has continued to focus on its recovery from Superstorm Sandy. The Borough has adopted the Preliminary Flood Elevation mapping that was released in 2015 and has been rebuilding in accordance with FEMA's guidelines.

As noted in previous year's report, Monmouth County updated its Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This updated plan was approved by FEMA in June of 2020. The Borough adopted the new Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan on April 15, 2021, which replaces the prior Floodplain Management Plan. The Borough continues to participate in the update of the Monmouth County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Status of Flood Mitigation Actions

The previously adopted Borough's Floodplain Management Plan was adopted on September 18, 2003. This plan included four (4) goals and seven (7) recommendations. The following is a summary of each goal from this plan and the status of same:

- Goal 1: Increase resident awareness of the impacts of tidal flooding on the Borough and measures that can be implemented to reduce the risks of flooding. – The Borough continues to inform residents of the impacts of tidal flooding and the measures that can be implemented to reduce the risk of flooding. Again, this year, the Borough, in their Spring Newsletter, forwarded information to all property owners and business owners regarding the impacts of flooding on the Borough and measures that can be implemented to reduce those risks. This information is also posted on the Borough's web site. The Borough has also established Zoning/Floodplain office hours every Tuesday from 4 PM to 6 PM for residents to make inquiries concerning flooding concerns and to view current mapping.
- Goal 2: Acquire additional property along the Bayshore, along streams and flood prone areas to reduce the number of dwellings that are subject to flooding. – The Borough is in negotiation with certain property owners of vacant parcels along the Boroughs waterfront to purchase and expand the public parking. The dwellings on these properties were damaged and/or destroyed during Super

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Storm Sandy and subsequently demolished. In addition, in 2020 the Borough acquired 634 Poole Avenue which is located within the AE Zone. The storm damaged dwelling was demolished, and the property converted to the Borough Hall parking lot. The Borough continues to look for opportunities to preserve property in flood prone areas.

- Goal 3: Encourage new development and construction to implement the best management practices and soil erosion and sediment control measures. – Although there has been little new development activity, in the past year, storm damaged homes continue to be demolished, lifted, and rebuilt to meet the new NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Requirements. The Borough and Borough’s Land Use Board continues to require that all site plans and subdivisions, as well as capital improvement programs, comply with the NJDEP Stormwater Regulations and the Freehold Soil Conservation District standards.
- Goal 4: Control development in areas subject to frequent flooding in order to avoid or mitigate the detrimental effects of development on the environment and the safety, health and general welfare of the people of Union Beach. – The Borough continues to require that all new construction and substantial improved structures comply with the Borough’s current Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. In October of 2021, the Borough’s Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was amended to reflect the changes recommended by the NJDEP. The Borough’s Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance adopted the January 30, 2015, requires the Revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) as the map to establish the Local Design Flood Elevation (LDFE).
- Recommendation 1: Implementation of a complete flood protection system. – The Borough continues to work closely with the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of New Jersey for the implementation of the Shore Protection and Flood Control Project. The Corps has received approval of the final Union Beach Flood Control Re-evaluation Report from Headquarters and Division. The Corps awarded Contract No.1 of the overall Flood Protection Project in August of 2022 consisting of the construction of the sand dune system and beach fill. The Contract No.1 is now underway and is scheduled to be completed by January 2024. The remaining elements of the shore protection project consisting of earthen levees, floodwalls, closure gates and pump stations will be completed over the next five to ten years. The predesign engineering work is now underway.
- Recommendation 2: Acquisition – As noted above, the Borough is in negotiation with certain property owners of vacant parcels along the Boroughs waterfront to purchase and expand the public parking. In addition, the Borough acquired 634 Poole Avenue in 2020. The home was damaged during super storm sandy and demolished. The property was converted to parking for Borough Hall. The Borough continues to look for opportunities to preserve property in flood hazard areas.
- Recommendation 3: Zoning – The Borough continues to review the Borough Land Use and Development Regulations to be consistent with current development codes. In 2021 the Borough amended the section of the Ordinance relating to height and step setback to accommodate the recent changes in the Base Flood Elevation to permit resident to elevate and rebuild.
- Recommendation 4: Flood-Proofing – The Borough continues to encourage residents to implement flood-proofing methods. Annually, flood mitigation information is provided to all residents as part of the spring Newsletter and on the impacts of flooding and provides additional information on flood-proofing. This information is also available on the Borough’s website. The Borough’s Construction Department has also been providing information on house raising and rebuilding to Borough Residents

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- Recommendation 5: Infrastructure Improvements – As part of the Borough’s annual Capital Improvement Program, the Borough continues to upgrade and extend additional drainage systems and continues to raise local roadways above Elevation 6 (mean sea level). The Borough has recently completed reconstructing portion of Park Avenue, portion of Center Street, Cambridge Avenue and Aumack Avenue. The County of Monmouth is presently replacing the Florence Avenue Bridge over a tributary to the Chingorora Creek. The project also includes elevating a portion of the roadway above the elevation of the tidal flooding.
- Recommendation 6: Emergency/Flood Warning Notifications – The Borough’s Office of Emergency Management continues to operate an Emergency Advanced Warning System. Residents are notified of this system and the frequency of the Borough’s OEM radio station as part of the Borough’s quarterly newsletters.
- Recommendation 7: Erosion and Sediment Control – The Borough continues to implement this recommendation in that they require all construction projects implement soil erosion and control measures in accordance with the Freehold Soil Conservation District Requirements.

The Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan includes thirteen (13) action items for the Borough of Union Beach. The following is a summary of the actions, priority and the current status:

Priority	Mitigation Action	Priority	Status
1	Implementation of the Army Corps of Engineers Shore Protection and Flood Control Project.	High	As noted above, in December 2008, a Value Engineering Study was conducted to review the selected Shore Protection Plan and to evaluate the State and Borough’s concerns and priorities as it relates to the Shore Protection and Flood Control Elements of the project. Contract No.1, sand dune and beach fill, was awarded in August of 2022 and is underway.
2	Elevation of approximately 1,929 homes to the new FEMA FIRM Map Base Flood Elevation.	High	This action item is ongoing. Seventeen (17) homes were elevated by property owners in the last year.
3	Raise the roadway elevation of the flood prone intersection of Spruce Street, Center Streets, Fifth Street and Pine Street and Third Street.	High	This action item was completed in 2014.
4	Raising the elevation of the roadway to decrease the occurrence and severity of flooding in the area	High	This is an ongoing project that is completed as part of the annual capital improvement program. This year, the Borough improved the portion of Park Avenue, Center Street, Cambridge Avenue, and Aumack Avenue.
5	Relocated the Department of Public Works to a location above the FEMA base flood elevation.	High	The Borough continues to evaluate alternative sites.

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Priority	Mitigation Action	Priority	Status
6	Relocation of the Harris Gardens Fire Company to a site outside of the flood prone area.	High	No action was taken on this future mitigation item over the last 12 months. However, UBFD is looking to consolidate the Fire Department which will eliminate the Harris Gardens Fire House.
7	Raise the roadway elevation of the flood prone section of Florence Avenue.	High	The project is under Monmouth County Jurisdiction. The County is presently replacing Bridge No. 5 which includes elevating the approach sections of Florence Avenue. The County anticipates construction to be completed by the end of 2023.
8	Installation of flood warning signs in flood prone areas.	High	The warning system has been upgraded.
9	Cleaning and maintenance of receiving waterways and creeks.	High	The Borough continues to work closely with the Monmouth County Mosquito Commission on cleaning and desnagging of the waterways that traverse the Borough.
10	Maintenance of the existing shore protection features (bulkhead and beach areas).	High	The Borough annually inspects and repairs the existing Borough owned bulkhead.
11	Construct a stone revetment wall along the Raritan Bay Waterfront beginning at Flat Creek and continuing approximately 875 linear feet east.	High	As noted above, the Corps recently awarded Contract No.1 for the sand dune and beach fill along the Borough's shorefront. Construction is underway.
12	Annual cleaning and maintenance of the existing storm drains and inlets.	High	In the last 12 months, the Department of Public Works cleaned over 112 catch basins and all 64 outfalls in the Borough.
13	Upgrade Borough's existing warning system.	High	The upgrade of the warning system is complete.

Borough of Union Beach



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News Release

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

September 29, 2023
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Borough of Union Beach Releases Progress Report on Borough's Floodplain Management Plan

In accordance with National Flood Insurance Program guidelines, the Borough of Union Beach has released its annual progress report on Activity 510: Floodplain Management Plan.

Citizens, public officials and members of the news media are invited to review the document which is on file in the Borough Clerk's office and has been posted on the Borough's Web site (www.ubnj.net). The Borough's annual progress report will also be reviewed at the October 12, 2023, Borough Council Meeting, and the October 25, 2023, Borough Land Use Board meeting.

This report will be updated annually to advise Municipal, County, State and Federal officials and the public of the progress being made by the Borough of Union Beach towards implementation of floodplain management plans and activities under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) program.