



# City of Virginia Beach

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## COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM ACTIVITY 510 (Floodplain Management Planning) Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

**Regarding:** Annual Community Rating System (CRS) Recertification for 2019, City of Virginia Beach (515531): CRS Activity 510 Floodplain Management Plan's Annual Progress Report on City of Virginia Beach within the 2017 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan

<b>Date this Report was Prepared</b>	August 6, 2019
<b>Report Prepared by</b>	Kimberley A. Tempesco, Sr. EM Planner, OEM
<b>Name of Community</b>	City of Virginia Beach (515531)
<b>Name of Plan</b>	2017 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan
<b>Date of Plan Adoption</b>	March 7, 2017
<b>Five Year CRS Expiration</b>	April 1, 2024

In response to the annual recertification requirements to continue to be eligible for Community Rating System Credits, in accordance with Activity 510, Floodplain Management Planning - the City of Virginia Beach must prepare the annual evaluation report on progress in implementing the mitigation actions stated in the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017 HRHMP). Not only are annual evaluations required with the community's annual recertification, but also the process of conducting an annual evaluation gives the community a framework for monitoring the plan's effectiveness and the community's progress in implementing it. Failure to submit the evaluation report with the community's annual recertification will result in loss of the planning credit (i.e. FMP = 0). An annual evaluation report must be submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public.

In accordance with the requirements the following questions are addressed:

### 1) How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained?

The City of Virginia Beach 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan is contained within the 2017 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan and can be viewed on the City's website below:

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/emergency-management/Pages/mitigation-plan.aspx>

### 2) Describe how this evaluation report [on the 2017 HRHMP mitigation actions] was prepared

**and how it was submitted to the governing body of the City of Virginia Beach and how it was released to the media and made available to the public.**

According to the Hazard Mitigation Plan each community’s hazard mitigation planning committee will continue to meet at least annually and following any disaster events warranting a re-examination of the mitigation actions, thus continuously updating the Plan to reflect changing conditions and needs within the communities. An annual report on the Plan will be developed and presented to elected officials in order to report progress on the actions identified in the Plan and to provide information on the latest legislative requirements. The report may also highlight proposed additions or improvements to the Plan. The report will be released to the media and made available to the public via appropriate methods, such as a community’s web site, library, community bulletin board, or the HRPDC web site.

To satisfy this requirement the Office of Emergency Management spearheads the efforts and communicates with committee members as well as responsible departments to determine the updates to the mitigation plan as required and prepares the update to present to City Council and post for viewing on the City website.

**3) Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year.**

<b>2017 Hazard Mitigation Actions</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>
<p><b><u>Action 1</u></b> Relocate the ComIT Data Center in building 2</p>	<p>In progress. While relocation was being planned in the upcoming years, the building replacement/renovation schedule was accelerated due to the building being the location of a mass shooting even on May 31, 2019.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 2</u></b> Strengthen the City’s Floodplain Management Program with the following actions: 1) Continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. Continue enforcement of standards in existing floodplain management ordinance that meet and exceed NFIP minimum requirements; 2) Incorporate floodplain management tools/regulations into existing development review procedures; 3) Participate in the Community Rating System in order to reduce property owner premiums for flood insurance; 4) Provide specialized training and support Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification for floodplain plan reviewers, inspectors and permit</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ongoing.</li> <li>2) Ongoing</li> <li>3) The City officially entered the CRS program as a class 7 on May 1, 2019</li> <li>4) During 2018 several staff members obtained CFM certification</li> <li>5) Annual floodplain and flood insurance information is available in the permits office as well as numerous other public offices.</li> <li>6) The Office of Emergency Management applies for and manages elevation projects for the severe repetitive loss program and continues to identify structures for future mitigation.</li> </ol>

<p>processors;</p> <p>5) Prepare educational materials in the permit office on the value of flood insurance, freeboard and NFIP compliance; and,</p> <p>6) Participate in the Severe Repetitive Loss program to mitigate flood-prone structures.</p>	
<p><b><u>Action 3</u></b>  Create coalition of business owners, including some who have implemented mitigation actions in the past, to promote the value of hazard protection and help identify and implement retrofit/elevation/acquisition projects in the business community.</p>	
<p><b><u>Action 4</u></b>  Provide emergency power to critical infrastructure, critical facilities and critical roadway intersections during extended power outages. Emergency power and quick connect wiring is needed for critical intersections. Generator capability is needed at multiple school facilities used as shelters.</p>	<p>2019- An HMPG grant was awarded to replace an aging generator in Fire Station 20. Ongoing evaluation of generators is conducted by the energy office and they are currently determining which generators might be suitable for submission to PDM grant program 2019 in the fall of this year.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 5</u></b>  Retrofit public safety facilities vulnerable to wind damage and/or flooding.</p>	
<p><b><u>Action 6</u></b>  Provide educational outreach to residents to increase awareness of vulnerability to multiple hazards and preventative actions that can be taken. Focus on hurricane preparedness, sea level rise and flooding.</p>	<p>Ongoing. The Office of Emergency Management as well as many other city departments participate in numerous outreach events each year as well as provide presentations for civic leagues and civic organizations on the topics of hurricane preparedness, flood preparedness, etc.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 7</u></b>  Replace, as necessary, and maintain the existing regional interoperable communications system.</p>	<p>2018-The City replaced its CAD system to enhance interoperable communications  2018- Telecom equipment was upgraded in the Emergency Operations Center and upgrades continue through the city as funding is available. Maintenance of upgraded systems is provided on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 8</u></b>  Protect Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay shorelines from storm damage. Continue work with the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies to ensure ongoing maintenance of the Hurricane Protection Project and other maintained beaches within the city</p>	<p>2019- Ongoing Beach replenishment is currently underway at the Virginia Beach oceanfront as part of a \$22M projects</p>

<p><b><u>Action 9</u></b> Develop a dam safety plan to address protection, preparedness, response, and rebuilding in dam inundation zones.</p>	<p>Ongoing- The city conducted its annual review of the dam safety plan. A new wet weather management plan was created in 2018.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 10</u></b> Install mast arm supports with mechanical dampening systems for traffic signs and signals.</p>	
<p><b><u>Action 11</u></b> Improve and/or update alert, warning and notification capabilities.</p>	<p>2019- The City entered into a partnership with Waze for traffic notification to citizens to include road closures due to natural hazards. 2019- The City obtained RAVE alerting system to enhance notification to citizens with respect to a variety of alerts. The system also has the ability to create a Smart 911 profile for a caller.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 12</u></b> Retrofit existing stormwater management system throughout the City into state-of-the-art facilities to minimize flooding after heavy storms while also addressing water quality objectives. This action may include Climate Resilient Mitigation Activities (CRMA).</p>	<p>Ongoing- The city currently has stormwater and drainage improvement projects in 9 neighborhoods to retrofit aging undersized infrastructure.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 13</u></b> Mitigate incursion of storm surge and tidal inundation of low-lying areas. Investigate coastal barrier technologies and tidal stream diversion techniques. This action may include Climate Resilient Mitigation Activities (CRMA).</p>	<p>Ongoing- The City of Virginia Beach is developing plans to address both repetitive flooding and projected increases in flooding caused by sea level rise through the City's Comprehensive Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding Response Plan. The plan is an effort between local government and various stakeholders (corporate and individual) to collect, sort, interpret, and understand the data behind how sea level rise is affecting our City and how we should best respond.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 14</u></b> Elevate, relocate or retrofit structures in flood prone areas that have suffered repetitive flood damage. This action includes Mitigation Reconstruction projects</p>	<p>In 2018-2019 a total of 10 residences are currently being elevated with FMA funding, 4-5 more are due to begin construction before the end of the year.</p>
<p><b><u>Action 15</u></b> Acquire open space in strategic locations that can provide multi-objective management benefits. Objectives may include but are not limited to: flood control, water quality, public access to waterways, preserving or creating tree canopy, and preserving unique ecological and cultural heritage sites. This action may include Climate Resilient Mitigation</p>	<p>Ongoing- Agriculture Reserve program continues to assist the AG farmers/land owners with the option of preserving their AG land versus selling off for house development options. Since June 30, 2017 there has been an additional 99 acres added to the ARP program (9,821 acres currently enrolled). There is 113 acres currently planned to be enrolled in the fall of 2019. There are currently chances to the ARP ordinance that would</p>

<p>Activities (CRMA)</p>	<p>open more land in the southern watershed to be eligible for enrollment thus preserving more farm land and green space. The increase emphasis of farm land preservation as well as continued development of tree forestry growth to help mitigate recurrent flooding is under consideration as part of the strategy for controlling flooding.</p> <p>P&amp; R- No new land acquisition of open space has occurred. The city is attempting to acquire a small piece of non-developable property from a shopping center owner to create water access for a kayak launch as well as provide for bank stabilization and outfall for new stormwater quality facility in the Kempsville section of the city.</p>
<p><b>Action 16</b> Verify the geographic location of each NFIP repetitive loss property, and determine if that property has been mitigated and, if so, by what means. Prepare Repetitive Loss Area Analyses for CRS credit.</p>	<p>2018- Through the CRS process each rep loss property was mapped and evaluated for mitigation</p>

**4) Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule.**

Objectives that were not met are due primarily to lack of available funding. When possible the City takes advantage of federal grants which can be slow to obtain and fund. City funding remains tight and large scale costly projects must be phased in CIPs over multiple years.

**5) What are the recommendations for the new projects or revised recommendations?**

The City will continue with ongoing efforts and will take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise to move the action items forward. It should be noted that most of the items are continuing but will remain on the list due to ongoing maintenance requirements.

The City is now looking to open space and acquisition grants as well as a voluntary acquisition program within the city where it makes sense to do so.

The City has engaged engineering firms in order to conduct studies related to sea level rise and recurrent flooding in order to continue to develop mitigation strategies moving forward.