

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS) PROGRESS REPORT

On February 3, 2004, the City of Fort Lauderdale City Commission adopted Resolution R-2, 04-196, which is the Broward County Location Mitigation Strategy (LMS). The LMS is available for public review at the Fort Lauderdale City Clerk's Office, 100 North Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. The City of Fort Lauderdale was involved in the initial preparation of this plan and continues to sit on the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group and Planning Committees to monitor progress, make updates, and revise the plan.

The LMS serves as the Floodplain Management Plan for the City of Fort Lauderdale for the purpose of the Community Rating System (CRS) Activity 510. One of the requirements to maintain credit for this activity is the preparation and distribution of an annual progress report. This document serves as that progress report. It is prepared by the City of Fort Lauderdale CRS Workgroup and will continue to be prepared on an annual basis. It is submitted to our governing body, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission, and is available on our website for public review. Please see www.fortlauderdale.gov. A copy was also distributed to the local major newspaper, the *Sun Sentinel*. The following is a review of progress.

After a concerted, proactive effort to achieve a higher CRS rating that would result in a greater savings on flood insurance premiums for thousands of residents, the CRS workgroup succeed in lowering the City's score to a Class 7 rating. Over the past year the CRS Team successfully maintained the class 7 rating for the benefit of the Citizenry. In August 2010, the City went through an extensive FEMA audit to review the past 5 years of activities under the FEMA Community Rating System. The City Manager has requested evaluations of the current system to try and improve upon the current class 7 score.

Preventive Activities

The City-wide Stormwater Master Plan has been received and reviewed by the City Commission and Staff. Commission and staff are currently reviewing the "Level of Service" that the City will be providing. The Stormwater Master Plan addresses, but is not limited to, the following issues:

1. Identify, catalog and categorize existing citywide storm drainage problems.
2. Develop planning level improvement recommendations and cost estimates for existing storm drainage problems. Address funding methods for the improvements based on existing or proposed funding resources.
3. Review current status of the City's stormwater-related organization, funding mechanisms, policies and procedures. Review current ordinances, revenues, and expenditures for capital improvements (including design, project management, and construction of improvements), maintenance and operations. Make recommendations on staffing levels and changes to the existing organization, ordinances, project delivery strategies (including funding mechanisms, policies and procedures), maintenance and operations.
4. Review existing and proposed stormwater regulatory issues that may affect the City's stormwater program, especially as it relates to the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (MS4 NPDES) Permit. Make recommendations, including funding resources to address the regulatory requirements.

The Stormwater Master Plan is intended to be a guide for improving the City’s storm drainage system performance and meeting regulatory compliance through the year 2025. The Master Plan will provide a preliminary schedule of prioritized capital improvements necessary to allow the City’s storm water systems to meet the increasing performance and regulatory demands and modernize existing systems while maintaining the high level of service expected in a modern urban environment. The final plan has been generated and specific project scopes are being reviewed by various departments within the City.

The City has also applied for, and received, the following grants to improve stormwater:

River Oaks Stormwater Park – The city received a \$800,000 grant that will be used in development of the stormwater park and its final engineering design. The Storm Water Park will aid several low lying areas providing a protected stormwater catchment area. The Stormwater Park will provide recreation, improved water quality, additional outfall options, flood control, and a riparian habitat next to the floodplain of the South Fork of the New River. A FEMA grant is being sought to fund full construction of the park utilizing the State funds as a match.

Property Protection Activities

The City continued its program to sustain and even improve our Community Rating System (CRS) Score. The CRS Work Group met on a regular basis throughout the entire year in order to both maintain and investigate ways to increase the City of Fort Lauderdale CRS rating. We identified several areas for improvement and took the necessary steps to implement those improvements. The CRS Work Group will continue to meet and try to identify further new ways to enhance this program.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has received 2.4 million of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds to retrofit City buildings. Those funds are being used to retrofit City Hall and PD Headquarters for hurricane winds. The City is also implementing a switch gear elevation project for the building that houses the PD Headquarters and 911 Dispatch.

The City had received two inquiries from residents interested in taking advantage of the FEMA repetitive loss programs grants. Information and coordination was initiated with those homeowners.

Floodplain Protection Activities

The City continues to work with Broward County through their bond program to acquire conservation land and green space sites. Below is an inventory of the Conservation Land & Green Space and Open Space that has been preserved in the City through this program.

CONSERVATION LAND & GREEN SPACE SITES		
Site	DIST	Acres
Cypress Creek Scrub	9	8.27

Shady Banks/ Bill Keith Preserve	7	3.42
Tarpon River Park (Lewis Landing Park)		1.25
Warbler ESL		6.10
North Fork Riverwalk	7	2
Sailboat Bend Preserve	7	1.29
Riverside Park (Coontie Hatchee Landing)	7	2.6
Coral Ridge Bayview Neighborhood Park		0.29
Harbordale Park		0.30
Hortt Park		5.9
Middle River Terrace Addition		0.53
South Middle River Terrace		0.78
OPEN SPACE SITES		
Peter Feldman Park (Flagler Heights Park)	7	1.11
Florence Hardy Park Addition	7	3.9
Dolphin Isles Neighborhood Park	4	0.73
Ann Herman Park	7	0.94
Mills Pond Addition	9	22.98
Osswald Park		30
Palm Aire Village Park		5
River Oaks (Gore Nursery)		1.82
Riverland Woods Park		4.9
Twin Lakes Park		0.21

Emergency Service Activities

The Flood Notification System has been tested. Electronic notifications have been received from the National Weather Service for a variety of reasons, information has been relayed to the public through normal public information channels, and first responders use as a matter of routine the same equipment that would be used for drive-by emergency flood notification if it were necessary.

The Flood Warning notification system was utilized for Hurricane Irene onm August 25, 2011. Electronic notifications are received from the National Weather Service anytime a weather event is threatening the area and the City's internal notification tools (e-mail, cable TV channel, radio channel, Code Red phone alert, press releases, etc.) are used to disseminate important public safety information.

Structural Projects

Below are the drainage projects completed over the 2010-2011 year. These included new drain systems in the following locations:

	Project ID	Address/Area
1	11613P	Street blocks between NE 2 to 3 Streets, NE 11 to 13 Avenues
2	11479F	SW 6 St and SW 3 Ave
3	11613Q	NE 33 Ave and NE 23 Street
4	11479L	Birch Finger Streets Outfall Improvements
5	11479N	NE 18 Ave South of NE 51 St
6	11613A	NE 15 Ave between Broward Blvd and NE 2 Street
7	(maintenance)	(3329 NE 18 St) - NE 18 st West of A1A
8	11479B	NW 65th St (from NW 9 Ave to NW 12 Ave)
9	11479G	Windamar St.
10	11417	SW 2nd Street & SW 4th Ave
11	11479O	(920 SE 11 CT) SE 11 St & Hector Pk
12	11479R	Downtown Women's center

Ongoing Projects (2011-2012):

The ongoing projects below may span more than one year or be general in nature. Projects included may not be directly intended for storm water infrastructure but do have some component therein.

11713A - NE 30th Place & NE 26 Street- Drainage:

Street work, sidewalks, driveways, catch basins, exfiltration trenches, etc. along NE 30th Place. Construction to start end of October 2011.

11713B – SW 4th Ave between SW 5 St to SW 4 Ct:

Storm water improvements including swale restoration, new exfiltration trenches, interconnection piping, and catch basins. 90% design completed September 2011.

11613B - SW 21 Ave at SW 15 Street – North & South to End of Culdesac

Roadway improvements undergrounding of utilities, storm drainage improvements and asphalt resurfacing

11613o - Riviera Isles Storm Water Tidal Flooding:

Completed the retrofit of all 17 drainage outfall pipes for this coastal neighborhood. Installed seventeen (17) inline checkmate valves to prevent high tide to reach and flood the streets. Maintenance of the valves has started on September 2011, and they will be monitored for 5 years to evaluate performance and results.

11426 - North Fork of the New River PCD Install:

The proposed North Fork Pollution Control Device installations will occur at the following locations: Harris Terrace Outfall (42-inch diameter) and the North Fork Elementary (72-inch diameter) Outfall. The goal of the pollution control devices is to improve water quality from the identified storm water outfalls. Contract award by end of October 2011. Construction shall start prior to February 2012.

11713 - 2011-12 Annual Storm Drainage Contract:

This project is for the design & construction of various storm water drainage improvement projects throughout the city. Including, the installation of new underground piping, exfiltration systems, drainage wells, drainage outfalls, street gutters, and all things related.

11613 - 2010-11 Annual Storm Drainage Contract:

This project is for the design & construction of various storm water drainage improvement projects throughout the city for the 2010-11 FY. Including, the installation of new underground piping, exfiltration systems, drainage wells, drainage outfalls, street gutters, and all things related. Contract Extension for GPE.

Swales

The Water and Wastewater Division Right-of Way Maintenance has two swale crews that re-grade and sod utility right-of-ways throughout the City. The City has had an active swale program since 1999 that specifically addresses right of way maintenance. Swales are installed and maintained in accordance with the City of Fort Lauderdale ordinances 18-12, 26-145, 47-20-13, and 47-21-14.

The Public Works Department proactively installs swales at homeowner's addresses at no cost to the homeowner. The installation of swales enhances stormwater drainage and recharge of the surficial aquifer. The program activities for the year August 2010 through July 2011 have retrofitted or evaluated 329 properties for swales.

Outreach Projects

The City of Fort Lauderdale conducted multiple citywide outreach projects to convey important flood protection information to key audiences including residents, local businesses and visitors. The outreach projects included information on the importance of obtaining flood insurance, safety tips to protect residents and their property from flood hazards, instructions to obtain a FIRM map and contact information for additional City resources.

To ensure broad distribution and penetration into several audiences, this information was provided in a variety of formats. A special informational flood insert was mailed

citywide in August 2011. Hard copies of brochures were distributed at public meetings; information was broadcast on our City radio station and posted on our public access TV channel; electronic materials were posted on the City website; and information was distributed to all City homeowner associations and condo associations through civic packet mailings. In addition, the City mailed a letter and informative brochures to all repetitive loss properties and conducted a geographic analysis of the areas surrounding those properties and drafted and mailed a letter to more than 1,200 residences and business surrounding the repetitive loss properties to inform them of potential flood hazards and the availability of flood insurance.

Review of any delays to progress

In general the economic downturn has affected all levels of government. A decreased tax base with a falling market and substantial budget cuts reduced new projects feasibilities. Substantial progress has still been achieved throughout the year. Some delay has occurred due to the slow down of the real estate market. A funding grant for the stormwater park land purchase was slow to be realized. The Stormwater Park is proposed alleviate flooding in the River Oaks neighborhood.

Recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations

The Broward County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group is revising and strengthening the LMS this year. It has undertaken an aggressive schedule and plans exist to revise Chapter 4, Chapter 5, the Hazard Analysis, and the project prioritization tool. The City of Fort Lauderdale is a primary participant in this process and the group will work to systematically develop revised recommendations. The City CRS Work Group's recommendations for the future include the sustainment and possible modification of our CRS rating, enhanced public outreach projects, exercising of notification systems, and updating of our website to include additional information and resources regarding flood information.

The next Progress Report will be submitted approximately one year from now.