



## ST. TAMMANY PARISH

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PARISH PRESIDENT

December 15, 2023

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Resolution C-6333 adopted the St. Tammany Parish Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - 2020 by Unincorporated STP on September 3, 2020. It was subsequently approved FEMA (November 4, 2020) and by the State of Louisiana (November 18, 2020). All participating communities adopted the plan as seen in Table 1.

**Table 1. Community Adoptions of STP Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2020**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Adoption Date</b>	<b>Resolution No.</b>
Town of Abita Springs	October 20, 2020	-
City of Covington	September 22, 2020	2020-25
Village of Folsom	September 14, 2020	-
Town of Madisonville	October 14, 2020	2020-7
City of Mandeville	September 1, 2020	20-20
Town of Pearl River	September 22, 2020	09-15-20(A)
City of Slidell	September 8, 2020	R20-28
Village of Sun	August 11, 2020	8.11.2020.2
Unincorporated STP	September 3, 2020	C-6333

The Mitigation Planning Committee responsible for monitoring, evaluating and updating the *Plan*. The Planning & Development staff in Unincorporated St. Tammany Parish is designated to prepare an annual written progress report. This memo is the progress report prepared by the St. Tammany Regulatory Manager/CRS Coordinator through December 14, 2023.

For credit under the Community Rating System, this memo will be presented to the governing bodies of St. Tammany Parish, released to the media and made available to the public. Copies of the report are available for review at STP Department of Planning & Development, 21454 Koop Drive, Building B, Mandeville, LA 70471 and on the St. Tammany Parish website: [www.stpgov.org/floods](http://www.stpgov.org/floods).

## Background

The original *St. Tammany Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan* was drafted in 2004, adopted by the Parish Council in 2005, revised in 2010, 2015 and 2020. Upon completion of the *2015 Plan* 5-year cycle, 29 actions and recommendations (of 169) were implemented by parish communities. The remainder were deleted, carried over or are ongoing/in-progress in the *2020 Plan*. Completed Mitigation actions are listed in Tables 4-5 to 4-8 of the *2020 Plan*.

The *St Tammany Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update* Steering Committee (Table A-7,<sup>1</sup> of the *2020 Plan*) in collaboration with the participating jurisdictions, community stakeholders, and the public, drafted the current *St Tammany Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – 2020* during a series of meetings held throughout 2020. It includes a detailed problem statement, which identified flooding from the numerous riverine sources and storm surge inundation from tropical storms and hurricanes, as the worst of the problems. Storm sewer and yard drainage problems also occur throughout the Parish.

The *Plan* reviews a variety of eligible types of mitigation measures to mitigate potential flooding problems and protect people and property during storm events:

- 1. Local Plans and Regulations** – These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.
- 2. Structure and Infrastructure Projects** – These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area, and also includes projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.
- 3. Natural System Protection** – These actions minimize the damage and losses and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- 4. Education and Awareness Programs** - These actions inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.

Mitigation measures in the *2020 Plan* include upgrading storm drainage systems; maintaining rights-of-way, flood insurance, building regulations and public information. Additionally, St. Tammany Parish and incorporated municipalities have adopted and actively enforce zoning, landscaping, greenspace, fill, drainage and building ordinances that address items that could contribute to flooding. Figure 1 indicates current planning and regulatory capabilities of parish communities. The communities will work to expand their capabilities by adding to these plans, as well as work to create new plans that will address a long-term recovery and resiliency framework.

In instances where there are no existing plans, there will be a commitment to explore opportunities to create new plans that will address long-term recovery and resiliency framework as parish and local resources allow. The *2020 Plan* recommends 185 action items and 64 recommendations (249 total items) to reduce or prevent flood damage. These are presented in detail in Tables 4-9 to 4-43 of the *2020 Plan*.

	St. Tammany Parish	Abita Springs	Covington	Folsom	Madisonville	Mandeville	Pearl River	Slidell	Sun
<b>Plans</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>								
Comprehensive / Master Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	YES	Yes	No	No	No
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Economic Development Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Transportation Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	yes	No	Yes	No
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Other plans (redevelopment, recovery, coastal zone management)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Building Code, Permitting and Inspections</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>								
Building Code	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score	6/5	Yes	N/A	No	No	5/4	No	3/4	No
Fire Department ISO/PIAL rating	2	3	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Site plan review requirements	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Land Use Planning and Ordinances</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>								
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Other	No	No	Yes	No	No	yes	No	No	No

**Figure 1. St. Tammany Parish Communities Planning & Regulatory Capabilities (Table 3-1 from 2020 Plan)**

### Review of the 2020 Plan’s Action Items

The 185 action items and 64 recommendations (249 in total) found in Tables 4-9 to 4-43 of the *St Tammany Parish Hazard Mitigation Update – 2020* were reviewed by the members of the Mitigation Steering Committee. Of the 249 action items, 36 were carried over from the previous Plan update (2015); 110 were new items; and 103 were ongoing or in-progress at the time of publication.

As of December 15, 2023, significant progress has been made to the 249 projects, action items and recommendations;

- Three (3) were completed in 2021, seven (7) in 2022 and 10 in 2023;
- Five (5) were removed in 2021 (several were duplicates);
- Three (3) new projects were added in 2021, three (3) in 2022 and two (2) in 2023.

Communities are implementing 100% of the *Plan’s* recommendations. A Summary of the 2023 community progress is presented in Table 2. The detailed list of action items and recommendations for St. Tammany Parish communities is attached.

**Table 2. 2022 Summary of Action Items & Recommendations from the St. Tammany Parish NHM Plan Update - 2020**

St. Tammany Parish Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan - 2020 Plan																			
2023 Annual Action Items Progress - Summary																			
Community	2020 Plan				2021 Update					2022 Update					2023 Update				
	New Items	Items Carried Over [1]	Ongoing or Completed at Time of Plan Publication	Total Items in 2020 Plan	Number Action Items or Recommendations Completed	Number Items Removed	New Items	Number Projects or Recommendations Ongoing or in-Progress	Total Items Remaining in 2020 Plan	Number Action Items or Recommendations Completed	Number Items Removed	New Items	Number Projects or Recommendations Ongoing or in-Progress	Total Items Remaining in 2020 Plan	Number Action Items or Recommendations Completed	Number Items Removed	New Items	Number Projects or Recommendations Ongoing or in-Progress	Total Items Remaining in 2020 Plan
St. Tammany Parish	26	3	9	38	1	2	1	35	36	4		1	32	33	4		0	29	29
Abita Springs	10	15	3	28				28	28				28	28	1			27	27
City of Covington	11	6	16	33	1		1	32	33	1		1	32	33	1		1	32	33
City of Folsom	10	0	9	19				19	19				19	19				19	19
City of Madisonville	10	1	9	20				20	20				20	20				20	20
City of Mandeville	12	1	14	27				27	27	1			26	26	2			24	24
City of Pearl River	10	10	1	21				21	21				21	21				21	21
City of Slidell	11		33	44	1	3	1	40	41	1		1	40	41	2		1	39	40
Village of Sun	10	0	9	19				19	19				19	19				19	19
Totals	110	36	103	249	3	5	3	241	244	7		3	237	240	10		2	230	232
[1] Items carried over from 2015 Plan				249															

## Recommendations of the Mitigation Steering Committee

The Mitigation Steering Committee recommends that the Parish and incorporated municipalities continue to:

### 1. Local Plans and Regulations

- Adopt and enforce the most current building codes and floodplain regulations

St. Tammany Parish communities will replace standard building code with new State Uniform Construction Code that was adopted in October 2022. The Code includes a provision for 1 foot of freeboard for structures in the FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. Adoption of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code will go into effect in STPG on January 1, 2023. These codes consist of the 2021 International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Existing Building Code, International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, International Fuel Gas Code, and the 2020 edition of the National Electrical Code. Amendments to these codes can be found at [lsuccc.dps.louisiana.gov](https://lsuccc.dps.louisiana.gov).

Along with the adoption of the new state codes on January 1<sup>st</sup>, St Tammany Parish Department of Permits & Inspections will require an engineered exterior envelope framing plan for all new one and two-family dwellings, additions greater than 500 square feet and accessory buildings over 1000 square feet. The framing plans shall be prepared and stamped by a Louisiana licensed design professional.

Additionally, all St. Tammany Parish communities will strengthen procedures for enforcing building code and floodplain regulations.

- Develop a Unified Development Code incorporating the Strategies outlined in the 2020 Plan

St Tammany Parish adopted a 2040 Comprehensive Plan which highlights resilient building and land development practices and continues to enforce existing Code of Ordinances. Unincorporated St. Tammany Parish is also working to update its Code of Ordinances to encourage low impact development practices, develop a wetland plan and implement drainage and flood risk measures.

- Adopt and enforce a comprehensive Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

St. Tammany Parish communities are currently enforcing comprehensive Flood Damage Prevention Plans. The Parish is in the process of appealing the 2008 Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM), with the exception of Mandeville. Mandeville adopted its Community Maps on May 16, 2012. Progress with the Appeal has been made with FEMA: 1) Riverine appeals have been resolved, 2) WHAFIS remodeling of the Coastal Transects (CTs) by the Parish has been accepted by FEMA, and 3) FEMA has agreed to allow use of the 100-Year Stillwater Elevations (SWEL) from the CPRA's 2017 Coastal Master Plan in the Appeal process. FEMA's contractor will now proceed with revised ADCIRC and WHAFIS modeling (using new Stillwater elevations). Production of new DFIRM maps is expected in two years.

- Continue development of the St. Tammany Parish Hurricane Preparedness Plan

The director for the Office of Emergency Preparedness is continuously engaged in maintaining an updated Hurricane Preparedness Plan. The *St. Tammany Parish Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan* will be reviewed to determine when improvements can be made and how to maximize credit under the Community Rating System (CRS). In 2022 the CRS communities in the Parish were awarded 210 points (almost ½ a CRS class) for Activity 610 (Flood Warning and Response). This is the first time the communities have achieved this much-sought-after goal.

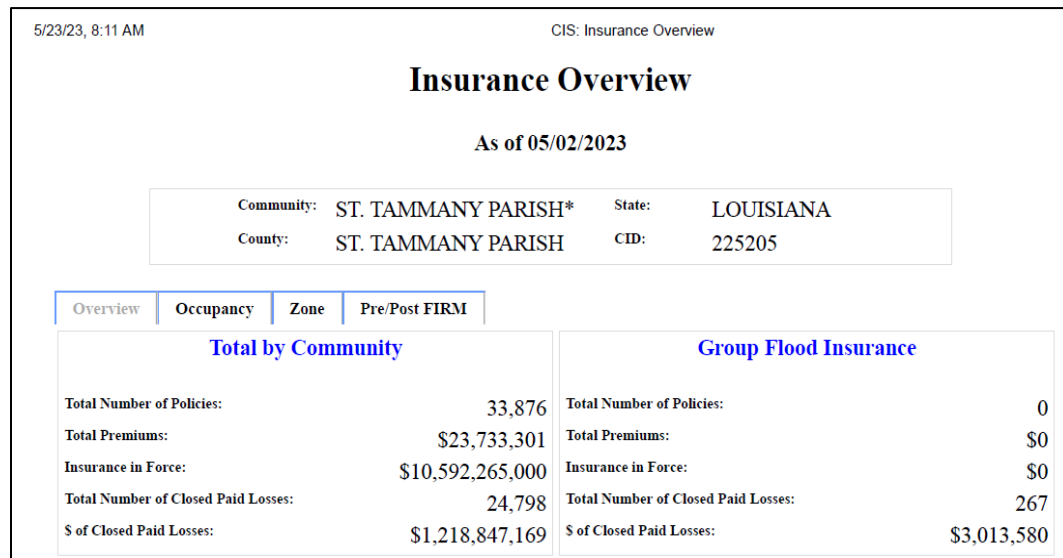
- Continue improvement of Community Rating System (CRS) Classes in St. Tammany Parish and Incorporated Municipalities

Several communities in the Parish have formed a CRS Users Group to facilitate communication among communities and public and to increase awareness of risks and mitigation funding. The City of Covington joined CRS effective 10/01/2017 and holds a CRS Class 7, Mandeville has achieved a CRS Class 5, Slidell a Class 8 and unincorporated St. Tammany Parish has maintained a Class 7. The latter may improve to a Class 5 when the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Classification is improved.

Discounts on residents’ flood insurance policies are awarded annually based upon the CRS Class of each respective community, as shown in Table 3. As of May 2, 2023, Unincorporated St. Tammany Parish has 33,876 Policies in Force (a loss of 5,901 policies since 2022) amounting to \$10,592,265,000 insurance in force. There have been 24,798 paid losses amounting to \$1,218,847,169 (Figure 2).

**Table 3. FEMA CRS Class Discounts for National Flood Insurance Policy (NFIP) Rates**

CRS CLASS	DISCOUNT	
	SFHA	Non-SFHA
1	45%	10%
2	40%	10%
3	35%	10%
4	30%	10%
5	25%	10%
6	20%	10%
7	15%	5%
8	10%	5%
9	5%	5%
10	0%	0%



**Figure 2. Insurance Overview for Unincorporated St. Tammany Parish 5/23/2023**

## 2. Structure and Infrastructure Projects

- Formalize a Comprehensive Drainage Maintenance Plan

St. Tammany Parish Department of Public Works currently schedules and maintains over 1500 miles of drainage infrastructure and 74 detention or retention ponds. The *Drainage System Maintenance SOP Manual* has been updated to reflect the barn areas, responsibilities, frequencies and methods of maintenance. Similar processes are followed

by incorporated municipalities in the Parish. Parish communities also continued working together to reduce stormwater and drainage problems that cross corporate boundaries.

- Commission drainage studies of all St. Tammany Parish watersheds to determine necessities and priorities for further drainage improvements and investigate all funding possibilities.

St. Tammany Parish and incorporated municipalities continue to aggressively apply for funding to study, prioritize and construct drainage solutions. In 2022 St. Tammany Parish began a pilot project for Sustainable Development and a Comprehensive Drainage Master Plan. In early November 2022, Parish President Michael Cooper encouraged all residents to participate in the process:

*“This Plan assesses the Parish as a whole for the first time in our history. We are currently in the information gathering phase and I encourage all citizens to visit the website and attend the town hall meetings to participate in this phase so that we have a complete representation of our drainage issues.”*

St. Tammany Parish communities continue active participation in various FEMA grant programs, in particular the HMGP, which has funded multiple regional drainage projects and home elevations.

Additionally, the State of Louisiana has received \$1.2 Billion in its *LA Watershed Initiative* to supply tools for watershed management and protection. Tools include stream gauges on vulnerable reaches, updated LIDAR and modeling of the watersheds in the state. These tools will be invaluable in the property protection and development of the communities in St. Tammany Parish. Calibrated models of watersheds in St. Tammany Parish will be completed by January 31, 2023 by DoTD’s contractor (Dewberry). The models will then be available for distribution to communities for use in planning, development and storm-event forensics.

- Harden Critical Facilities, Upgrade Communications Systems and Construct Safe Rooms

Communities will continue to harden critical facilities and facilities housing sensitive populations including the construction of safe rooms to protect critical personnel during hazard events. They will implement upgrades and additions to communications systems, including Auto call-down systems with backup capabilities. Communities will add generators to sewer lift stations and critical facilities as needed.

- New Actions recommended by the Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee for all St. Tammany Parish communities

The Steering Committee recommends all St. Tammany Parish communities adopt Water Conservation Measure ordinances requiring water-saving measures for times of drought. Communities were also encouraged to create redundancy of potable water supply to critical

facilities, and provide protection of potable water supply by acquisition/installation of backflow preventers at appropriate critical locations.

### **3. Natural Systems Protection**

Natural floodplain systems have many beneficial functions, including providing wildlife habitat and improved quality of life for residents. They slow down the velocity of water as it travels overland, increasing infiltration and reducing flood risk, reducing sediment and urban pollutants from reaching waterbodies. Protections will be extended to wetlands, open space preservation/conservation, and natural shoreline protection. Once communities identify areas that provide natural floodplain functions (as with unincorporated St. Tammany Parish's Wetland Plan), they can more easily make informed decisions about where development should occur. These protections are addressed in local, state and federal plans and regulations of the *2020 Plan*.

Natural systems protections are also addressed in *2020 Plan* projects including: marsh hydraulic restoration projects, marsh creation and nourishment projects, urban forestry initiatives and wildfire vegetation management.

### **4. Education and Awareness Programs**

- Continue and Enhance Active Public Education and Outreach Program for Mitigation of All Hazards

Outreach and education are the key to public participation and resiliency within the parish. All of the communities are implementing enhanced programs to increase public awareness of hazards and hazardous areas. St. Tammany Parish communities have created hazard pages on their respective websites to increase public awareness of hazards, hazardous areas and storm preparation.

Actions may also include: distribution of public awareness information regarding all hazards, SFHAs and potential mitigation measures using the local newspapers' public service advertising; meetings with schools and neighborhood organizations; distribution of materials at retailers, libraries, City Halls and Administration buildings and through social media.

Communities will provide critical information about elevation of homes through grant-funded programs; implementation of educational programs for children and merchants; integrate disaster preparedness/mitigation into the public-school curriculum; providing public education on the importance of maintaining ditches, stormwater ponds and storm drains; and promotion of the purchase of flood insurance for the public.

*Attachments: spreadsheets of community actions and recommendations*