Flood Smart Communities

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For more information: http://www.gflrpc.org/floodsmartactionplan.html

Funding for this project was provided by the NOAA Coastal Storms Program through the Ohio Sea Grant
• We represent a diversity of community types—from high density and commercial development to rural residential with agriculture.

• We regularly experience flooding and are connected by streams that flow to the Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area.

• We have a strong history of collaboration and currently work together on stormwater management activities through the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County.
The Flood Smart Approach

- Watershed approach to floodplain management
- Community-specific assessments
- Systematic decision making
The Flood Smart Approach

1. Identify the Problem

2a. Define the Purpose and Objectives

Describe Flooding
What kind of flooding?
What are the causes and impacts?

Statement of purpose
What do local governments want to get out of the project?
What are their constraints?
What is in their power to influence?
The Flood Smart Approach

Objectives
What should the recommendations achieve?

2b. Define the Purpose and Objectives

3. Conduct Community Study

1. Land Use and Planning Environment
2. Residential Property Owner Survey
3. Vulnerability Assessment /Flood Mitigation Assessment
4. Barriers and Challenges to Flood Risk Management
The Flood Smart Approach

4. Develop Recommendations
   What actions can be taken to make communities more resilient to flooding (achieve objectives)?

5. Assess Effectiveness
   Measure effectiveness of implementing recommendations and effectiveness of reducing vulnerability
Flooding Vulnerability Assessment

Physical
  Soil, hydrological and topographic conditions

Structural
  The number of structures located in floodplains and flood prone areas and certain characteristics

Economic
  The value of structures, the contents within and the productivity of local workers and businesses

Social
  Socioeconomic factors that indicate a higher risk of residents being impacted by flooding, weighted by population density
The Recommendations

1. **Convene intermunicipal work group**
   - Meets regularly
   - Is responsible for implementing the Flood Smart Action Plan
   - Provides a forum for communication and information sharing
   - Builds and maintains partnership and collaboration between Greece, Parma, and Hilton and upstream municipalities

2. **Develop training requirements or program for municipal boards**
   - Power to protect development from the impacts of flooding
   - Empower members with information

3. **Adopt intermunicipal floodplain protection overlay district (POD)**
   - Acknowledges the upstream-downstream connection of communities
   - Requires additional and intermunicipal review of site plans for building permits
   - Includes floodplains not mapped by FEMA

4. **Strengthen local flood damage prevention laws**
   - Commit to higher standards that will better protect people and assets
   - Can also secure more Community Rating System points which benefits community resilience and flood insurance policy holders

5. **Convene agricultural interests**
   - Strengthen relationships with agricultural interests to protect this important component of the local economy
   - Reduce flooding contributions from these lands
The Recommendations

6. Educate at-risk property owners
   • Help residents be more prepared so that they can respond to and recover from flooding more effectively

7. Prioritize and protect natural infrastructure
   • Helps reduce impacts of flood events by storing water and releasing it more slowly to the stream network and groundwater
   • Protect floodplains and wetlands that lie upstream of population centers so they continue to provide flood attenuation services

8. Share data with municipalities and the public
   • Compiling GIS data and other data produced during this project
   • Make information available to the public so it can used in decision-making
   • Improve communication by providing the same information to everyone

9. Utilize the Community Rating System
   • A voluntary incentive program to exceed minimum NFIP requirements
   • Improve public safety, reduce property loss, protect open space and natural resources, and recover better post-disaster
   • A discount of up to 45% off flood insurance premiums
Implementing the Plan

1. Flood Work Group → Subcommittee of Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

2. Training Opportunities → Silver Jackets inter-agency education opportunity at the Spring Local Government Workshop and site visit (Summer 2017)

3. Intermunicipal Floodplain Overlay District → G/FLRPC has been awarded funding from the New York’s Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program, see: [http://www.gflrpc.org/modelll.html](http://www.gflrpc.org/modelll.html)

4. Local Flood Damage Prevention Law → Updating Comprehensive Plan

5. Educate Property Owners → Greece is working with H₂O Hero program to include flood-related messages

6. Prioritize Natural Infrastructure → Completed floodplain function assessment, map of priority areas for flood mitigation/abatement

7. Share Data → Submitted grant proposals for statewide online mapper

8. Utilize Community Rating System (CRS) → Completed CRS “Quick Check” as a next step to application