
Sponsor: Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Meeting Date: 3/18/2025

Title: Approval of 2025 Ramsey County Minnesota Hazard Mitigation Plan

File Number: 2025-088

Background and Rationale:

A hazard mitigation plan is a federally required document under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). This law mandates that all states, counties, municipalities and jurisdictions maintain an approved hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants such as the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant, Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (HMGP) grant, and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant. This updated plan ensures that Ramsey County, and its municipalities and jurisdictions remain eligible for federal disaster mitigation funding while proactively addressing risks to enhance community resilience.

The 2025 Ramsey County, MN Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is updated approximately every five years in accordance with DMA 2000 to use the most recent demographic data, identify priority hazards and mitigation strategies, and evaluate critical infrastructure risks and hazards affecting Ramsey County. It serves as a framework upon which hazard mitigation projects and strategies can be coordinated across the entire county, and the process ensures that the county considers new and emerging hazards, the impacts of growth, development, and social vulnerability on hazards in our area, and considers the impact of real-world events. Ramsey County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (EMHS) worked with a contracted mitigation planning firm and with all 18 jurisdictions within the county, including the City of Saint Paul, to update the existing mitigation plan. Working with our partners, the contractor ensured that the planning process also provided substantial opportunities for input from our residents.

This revised HMP assesses and ranks major natural, technological, and human-caused hazards based on factors such as frequency of occurrence, economic impact, and potential for deaths and injuries. Mitigation recommendations are based on input from state and local agencies, public feedback, and national best practices. While the primary focus remains on evaluating Ramsey County's exposure to natural hazards and identifying appropriate mitigation actions, this HMP update also expands the scope to include technological and human-caused hazards and is crafted in compliance with federal mitigation planning requirements. For the first time, the city of Saint Paul elected to join in the countywide HMP effort ensuring a much more robust and accurate assessment (for the past 20 years, Saint Paul had instead submitted their own, separate, assessment and plan).

The HMP is a truly multi-jurisdictional plan that applies to all of Ramsey County, including the municipalities of Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Gem Lake, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, North Saint Paul, Roseville, Saint Anthony, Saint Paul, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township. Each of these municipalities will separately adopt the HMP as their own - meaning that the entire county will now use a single assessment and planning methodology so as to better coordinate across jurisdictions.

Please note that the cities of Blaine and Spring Lake Park will instead be covered under Anoka County's Multijurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan, as they have in the past.

Once approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, the plan will be submitted by the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for final approval.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the 2025 Ramsey County, Minnesota Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McMurtrey, seconded by Commissioner McGuire. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: 

Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board