

# 6 Palos Heights 2021 MJ-HMP Jurisdictional Annual Report

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## Annual Reporting Year: 2021

**Background:** Cook County and participating municipalities in the county developed a hazard mitigation plan to reduce risk from all hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction. The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal disaster grant assistance. To prepare the plan, the participating partners organized resources, assessed risks from natural hazards within the county, developed planning goals and objectives, reviewed mitigation alternatives, and developed an action plan to address probable impacts from natural hazards. By completing this process, these jurisdictions maintained compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act, achieving eligibility for mitigation grant funding opportunities afforded under the Robert T. Stafford Act.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on the implementation of the action plan identified in the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The objective is to ensure that there is a continuing and responsive planning process that will keep the Hazard Mitigation Plan dynamic and responsive to the needs and capabilities of the partner jurisdictions. This report discusses the following:

- Natural hazard events that have occurred within the last year
- Changes in risk exposure within the planning area (all of Cook County) Mitigation success stories
- Review of the action plan
- Changes in capabilities that could impact plan implementation
- Recommendations for changes/enhancement.

## Hazard Analysis

Hazards that represent a county-wide risk are addressed in the Risk Assessment section of the 2019 Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. This section only addresses the hazards and their associated impacts that are **relevant** and **unique** to the municipality.

**Dam/Levee Failure:** A dam is being constructed at Lake Arrowhead. If it ever fails, 70 structures will be flooded near 131st and Harlem during a 100-year flood event.

**Flood:** The Old Palos neighborhood drainage system has been modified by unpermitted work by residents. This "work" blocked overland flow paths for severe rain.

**Extreme heat:** Cooling zones are not well communicated to elderly residents. In addition, the water supply needs another tank at the hospital site.

**Lightning:** Lightning is not a severe risk for the municipality.

**Hail:** Hail is not a severe risk for the municipality.

**Fog:** Fog is not a severe risk for the municipality.

**High Winds:** Tree removal around the roadway. The municipality does not have the equipment to handle large trees.

**Earthquake:** The municipality does not consider earthquakes a severe risk.

**Drought:** The community would benefit from a second tank (reservoir) for the hospital.

**Severe Weather:** Two inches of rain in 30 minutes near 135th and Ridgeland.

**Snow:** Heavy snow is not a severe risk for the municipality (equipment is updated).

**Blizzards:** In the event of blizzards, the municipality needs a location to move snow, though blizzards are not considered a severe risk to the municipality.

**Extreme Cold:** Given the municipality's vulnerability to extreme cold events, the community would benefit from warming center notifications.

**Ice Storms:** The municipality's vulnerability to the impacts of ice storms would be mitigated by electrical protection.

**Tornado:** The municipality requires a good tire supply for dumps as well as back-up power in the event of a tornado.

## Natural Hazard Events in 2021

**Instructions:** Please use the **Edit** Tool to describe new hazard occurrences/incidents from the past year that have impacted your jurisdiction and had a measurable impact on people or property. (Example: A tornado occurred on [Date] and impacted [insert area] and caused damage to [insert damages]). You may also use the Edit Tool to suggest any modifications/improvements to the hazards unique to your community, as described below from the 2019 plan.

Describe 2021 Natural Hazard Events Here: [Type Here]

## Mitigation Strategies and Actions

The heart of the mitigation plan is the mitigation strategy, which serves as the long-term blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment. The mitigation strategy describes how the community will accomplish the overall purpose, or mission, of the planning process.

### New Mitigation Actions

Please submit [here](#)

### Ongoing Mitigation Actions

The following are ongoing actions. During the 2019 update, these "ongoing" mitigation actions and projects were modified and/or amended, as needed. Reviewers of this report should refer to the Hazard Mitigation Plan for more detailed descriptions of each action and the prioritization process. Address the following for each mitigation action:

- Was any element of the action carried out during the reporting period?
- If no action was completed, why?
- Is the timeline for implementation or the action still appropriate?
- If the action was completed, does it need to be changed or removed from the action plan?

TABLE: HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN MATRIX								
Completion status legend: N = New    O = Action Ongoing toward Completion C = Project Completed    R = Want Removed from Annex    X = No Action Taken								
2021 Status	2020 Status	2019 Status	Hazards Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead Agencies	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline/Projected Completion Date (a)
<b>Action P2.1</b> —Asset management program for water and sewer. The City of Palos Heights will compile information on the existing water and sewer systems throughout the City to determine where upgrades/maintenance is necessary.								
<b>Status Description: Task Completed in 2021</b>								
C	O	Ongoing	Flood, Severe Weather		City of Palos Heights	Medium	General Revenue	Long-term
<b>Action P2.2</b> —Cypress Drainage Study to be completed in conjunction with MWRD. The City of Palos Heights will work with MWRD to complete an area-wide drainage study and address flooding issues.								
<b>Status Description: Drainage Study completed in 2019</b>								
X	X	Completed	Flood, Severe Weather		MWRD; City of Palos Heights	Low	General Revenue, MWRD	Short-term
<b>Action P2.3</b> —Community-wide drainage study to determine what improvements can be completed to reduce/eliminate flooding.								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	Flood, Severe Weather		City of Palos Heights	Medium	General Revenue; No funds currently available	Short-term
<b>Action P2.4</b> —Capital improvement program. Complete regular upgrades throughout the City.								
<b>Status Description: In process of completing a 10 year watermain replacement plan</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All		City of Palos Heights	Low	General Revenue, CMAQ funds	Short-term
<b>Action P2.5</b> —Complete a Dam Evaluation to determine what maintenance/improvements are necessary.								
<b>Status Description: Project is Completed</b>								
C	O	Ongoing	Flood, Severe Weather		City of Palos Heights	Medium	General Revenue	Short-term
<b>Action P2.6</b> —Improvements to the bike path near Lake Katherine leading to the Metra station to provide an alternative route to public transportation.								
<b>Status Description: New Bike path commuter parking lot is in preliminary design</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All		City of Palos Heights	Low	General Revenue. ITEP Funds	Completed
<b>Action P2.7</b> —Install new sidewalk to fill in gaps and provide better access to mass transit.								
<b>Status Description: Obtained invest in Cook grant to complete project</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All		City of Palos Heights	Medium	General Revenue, CMAQ Funding	Completed

<b>Action P2.8</b> —Improve and replace the water infrastructure.								
<b>Status Description: Completed 123rd Street Watermain looping</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All		City of Palos Heights	Medium	Water Revenue	Long-term
<b>Action P2.9</b> —Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of structures in hazard-prone areas to prevent future structure damage. Give priority to properties with exposure to repetitive losses.								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All	7, 13	City of Palos Heights	High	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants	Long-term (depending on funding)
<b>Action P2.10</b> —Continue to support the countywide actions identified in this plan.								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All	All	City of Palos Heights	Low	General Fund	Short- and long-term
<b>Action P2.11</b> —Actively participate in the plan maintenance strategy identified in this plan.								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All	3, 4, 6	DHSEM, City of Palos Heights	Low	General Fund	Short-term
<b>Action P2.12</b> —Consider participation in incentive-based programs such as the Community Rating System, Tree City, and StormReady.								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13	City of Palos Heights	Low	General Fund	Long-term
<b>Action P2.13</b> —Maintain good standing under the National Flood Insurance Program by implementing programs that meet or exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. Such programs include enforcing an adopted flood damage prevention ordinance, participating in floodplain mapping updates, and providing public assistance and information on floodplain requirements and impacts.								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	Flooding	4, 6, 9	City of Palos Heights	Low	General Fund	Short-term and ongoing
<b>Action P2.14</b> —Where feasible, implement a program to record high water marks following high-water events								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	Flooding, Severe Weather	3, 6, 9	City of Palos Heights	Medium	General Fund; FEMA Grant Funds (Public Assistance)	Long-term
<b>Action P2.15</b> —Integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans, programs, or resources that dictate land use or redevelopment.								
<b>Status Description:</b>								
O	O	Ongoing	All	3, 4, 6, 10, 13	Palos Heights Engineer	Low	General Fund	Short-term
<b>Action P2.16</b> —Additional redundancy for the water reservoir at the Palos Hospital. Adequate water supply and emergency connection are available; however, they require field work for transfer over and need.								
<b>Status Description: Tank Rehabilitation is planned for 2022. New Oak Lawn Supply was installed in 2021 and waiting on the Oak Lawn Water System to become oprational</b>								
O	O	New	Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Extreme Heat, Lightning, High Wind, Extreme Cold, Tornado, Epidemic or Pandemic, Widespread Power Outage	2, 10	Public Works	\$500,000 to \$1 million; Medium	CIP funding	2029
<b>Action P2.17</b> —Flood Control at Arrowhead Lake								
<b>Status Description: Project Completed in 2021</b>								
C	O	New	Flood	2, 3, 9, 10, 13	MWRD	\$1,615,000; Low	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Action P2.18</b> —Flood Control in the vicinity of 131st Street and Cypress Drive								

**Status Description: 98% Construction Plans Submitted to MWRD**

O	O	New	Flood	1, 2, 3, 9, 10	MWRD	\$200,000; Low	Unknown	Unknown
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(a) Ongoing indicates continuation of an action that is already in place. Short-term indicates implementation within five years. Long-term indicates implementation after five years.

**Mitigation Success Stories:** Examples of mitigation success stories include, but are not limited to: received a Grant, completed a major mitigation project, etc.

With the assistance of MWRD, the \$1.6-million project increased flood storage and removed (rezoned) of roughly 70 homes from the FEMA Zone A flood plain in Palos Heights. The existing dam and outlet culvert was demolished and replaced with a new concrete dam, outlet culvert and spillway. As part of the project, a multi-use pedestrian path was resurfaced and an eroded bank at the south side of Arrowhead Lake was regraded and restored with native seeds, plant plugs and trees.

**Future Needs:** Examples of future needs include, but are not limited to: receiving training to better understand the mitigation grant application process, studies that may be needed to better understand hazards/risks, etc.