

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

ACTIVITY 510 (Floodplain Management Planning)

Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Regarding: Annual Community Rating System (CRS) Recertification for 2025, City of Virginia Beach (515531): CRS Activity 510 Floodplain Management Plan's Annual Progress Report on City of Virginia Beach within the 2022 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date this Report was Prepared	October 22, 2025
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Name of Community	City of Virginia Beach (515531)
Name of Plan	2022 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan
Date of Plan Adoption	June 6, 2022
Five Year CRS Expiration	April 1, 2029

In response to the annual recertification requirements to continue to be eligible for Community Rating System (CRS) Credits, in accordance with Activity 510, Floodplain Management Planning - the City of Virginia Beach must prepare the annual evaluation report describing progress made in the implementation of the mitigation actions stated in the 2022 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan (2022 HRHMP). Annual evaluation of mitigation actions gives the community a framework for monitoring the plan's effectiveness and a mechanism to track progress in the implementation of the community's mitigation actions. Failure to submit the evaluation report with the community's annual recertification will result in loss of the planning credit (i.e. FMP = 0). An annual evaluation report must be submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public.

In accordance with the requirements the following questions are addressed:

1) How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained?

The City of Virginia Beach 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan is contained within the 2022 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan and can be viewed on the City's website below:

<https://oem.virginiabeach.gov/programs-plans/regional-hazard-mitigation-plan>

- 2) Describe how this evaluation report on the 2022 HRHMP mitigation actions was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body of the City of Virginia Beach and how it was released to the media and made available to the public.**

Virginia Beach Emergency Management leads the completion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Progress Report. Information for the status update of each mitigation action was compiled based on communication with responsible agencies as well as reports throughout the year. Emergency Management will submit a City Council Staff Report to notify City Council of the completed Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Progress Report. The media will be notified of the annual report through a news release. The annual report will also be posted on the City's Emergency Management Department page for public viewing.

- 3) Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year.**

2022 Hazard Mitigation Actions	Actions Taken
<u>Action 1</u> Relocate the ComIT Data Center.	The previous Building 2 is now named Building 11. The ComIT Data Center will be located on the bottom floor of Building 11. Renovations for the ComIT Data Center remain ongoing.
<u>Action 2</u> Strengthen the City's Floodplain Management Program with the following actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. Continue enforcement of standards in existing floodplain management ordinance that meet and exceed NFIP minimum requirements. 2) Incorporate floodplain management tools/regulations into existing development review procedures 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ongoing. 2) Ongoing. 3) The City officially entered the CRS program as a class 7 on May 1, 2019. A Community Assistance Visit (CAV) occurred in 2023. Staff continued to work with FEMA on compliance items identified during the 2023 CAV including a permit review and creation of a Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement Plan. 4) There are currently 12 CFMs employed by the city in various departments.



<ul style="list-style-type: none">3) Continue participation in the Community Rating System in order to reduce property owner premiums for flood insurance.4) Provide specialized training and support Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification for floodplain plan reviewers, inspectors and permit processors.5) Prepare educational materials in the permit office on the value of flood insurance, freeboard and NFIP compliance; and,6) Participate in the Severe Repetitive Loss program to mitigate flood-prone structures.7) Consider changes to floodplain management ordinance to regulate repetitive flood losses and increase ICC availability, limit the size of enclosures beneath elevated structures in coastal high hazard areas, map and regulate a future conditions 100-year floodplain, and regulate Coastal Z Zones to Coastal V standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5) Annual floodplain and flood insurance information is available in the permits office as well as numerous other public offices.6) The Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Management (VBEM) applies for and manages elevation and acquisition projects for the severe repetitive loss program and continues to identify structures for future mitigation. Currently EM is finalizing an elevation project under FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program.7) No updates to the Floodplain Ordinance during FY 2025.
<p><u>Action 3</u> Create coalition of business owners, including some who have implemented mitigation actions in the past, to promote the value of hazard protection and help identify and implement retrofit/elevation/acquisition projects in the business community.</p>	<p>VBEM partnered with the Communications Office to implement the Sandbridge & Virginia Beach Preparedness Initiative for short-term rentals. This program ensures that guests have access to critical emergency notifications and preparedness resources during their stay. Each short-term rental receives a preparedness magnet, brochures, and pamphlets to be included in their onboarding packages. These materials provide guidance on signing up for VB Alerts, weather advisories, and</p>



	emergency instructions in the event of an all-hazard impact in Virginia Beach.
<p><u>Action 4</u> Better define what is considered a critical facility and update the City's critical facility list annually. Provide emergency power to critical infrastructure, critical facilities, pump stations and critical roadway intersections during extended power outages. Emergency power and quick connect wiring is needed for critical intersections. Generator capability is needed at multiple school facilities used as shelters.</p>	<p>Generator maintenance is managed by the Fleet Management Division of Public Works. Generators are serviced and load tested on a routine basis.</p> <p>Various VBCPS school locations are designated as evacuation centers. All school generators are inspected and vetted by a contractor every two months. Below are additional FY25 maintenance details for the primary evacuation center locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>College Park Elementary School</u>: Muffler and enclosure replaced.• <u>Corporate Landing Middle School</u>: Block heater replaced.• <u>Floyd E. Kellam High School</u>: Exercise timer and batteries replaced. Also completed repairs to the automatic transfer switch.• <u>Great Neck Middle School</u>: Fuel gauge replaced, and tank preservation completed.• <u>Landstown High School</u>: Replaced the batteries and put a new O-ring on the oil drain fitting.• <u>Larkspur Middle School</u>: Replaced batteries and completed a coolant change.• <u>Old Donation School</u>: Batteries and fuel lines have been replaced.• <u>Renaissance Academy</u>: Coolant change.• <u>Virginia Beach Middle School</u>: Coolant change.



<u>Action 5</u> Design or retrofit public safety facilities vulnerable to wind damage and/or flooding.	Older public safety facilities are incorporating retrofits as repairs are scheduled. New facilities are built to current standards with freeboard making them more resistant to flooding.
<u>Action 6</u> Provide educational outreach to residents to increase awareness of vulnerability to multiple hazards and preventative actions that can be taken. Focus on hurricane preparedness, sea level rise and flooding.	Ongoing. The Emergency Management Department as well as many other city departments participate in numerous outreach events each year as well as provide presentations for civic leagues and civic organizations on the topics of hurricane preparedness, flood preparedness, etc. In Fiscal Year 2025, Emergency Management participated in multiple outreach events related to hazard/threat awareness, hazard mitigation, recovery, and preparedness.
<u>Action 7</u> Replace, as necessary, and maintain the existing regional interoperable communications system.	Virginia Beach continues to participate in regional ORION discussions and committee meetings for radio interoperability.
<u>Action 8</u> Protect Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay shorelines from storm damage. Continue work with the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies to ensure ongoing maintenance of the Hurricane Protection Project and other maintained beaches within the city.	<p>The City's beach restoration program is currently focused on six key areas. Below is a brief description of the status of each project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resort Beach and North End – The Resort Beach received 180,000 cubic yards of sand between January and April 2025. The sand placement was part of a beneficial use of dredged material from the Virginia Port Authority/US Army Corps of Engineers partnership project that is deepening the Atlantic Ocean Channel. The next renourishment cycle is planned for 2030.



- **Sandbridge Beach** – Last renourished in 2020 through the City Sandbridge Tax Increment Financing District and Sandbridge Special Service District Funds. The USACE documented that this \$20.6 million project prevented more than \$140 million in coastal infrastructure damage. The next renourishment cycle is being planned for late 2026 with an anticipated federal contribution of \$22 million.
- **Croatan Beach** –Capital Project 100142 includes \$2.53 million in the FY 2024-2029 CIP for future sand placement as needed. A placement of 130,000 cubic yards of sand will begin in November 2025.
- **Cape Henry Beach** – The most recent planned renourishment of Cape Henry Beach from the Lynnhaven Inlet federal channel dredging occurred in fall 2024. Approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sand were placed along the western portion of Cape Henry Beach. The City will place an additional +65,000 cubic yards of sand by truck haul from City sand stockpiles beginning in late fall 2025.
- **Ocean Park Beach**- Bay Beaches Restoration CIP 100030 provides funding for sand placement along Cape Henry and Ocean Park beaches. The next renourishment is planned for FY29.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chesapeake Beach – The first renourishment of Chesapeake Beach occurred in fall 2024 and was completed in January 2025. 156,000 cubic yards of sand were placed along Chesapeake Beach. The total contract price was \$2.2 million. CIP 100064 Chesapeake Bay Beaches was the funding source for the initial project and first renourishment.
<p><u>Action 9</u> Maintain a dam inventory and monitor the condition of dams within the City making improvements when needed. Develop a dam safety plan to address protection, preparedness, response, and rebuilding for high hazard dams and areas in dam inundation zones.</p>	<p>Stumpy Lake Dam is classified as a Significant Hazard Dam within DCR's classification. During FY25, Public Utilities addressed dam and spillway deficiency issues and completed repair work indicated from the annual dam inspection. The Emergency Action Plan was also recently updated and a tabletop exercise on the plan was conducted in May 2025.</p>
<p><u>Action 10</u> Improve and/or update alert, warning and notification capabilities to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Utilizing the City's CRM registration portal and additional support services2) Maintenance and addition of sensor installations for data collection as part of the VB StormSense Network to enhance Alexa voice assisted AI and intelligent predictive visualization platform.	<p>The Virginia Beach Emergency Management Security Division continued RAVE Panic Button training for departments. RAVE is the City's internal emergency notification system.</p> <p>The StormSense Network is in the process of a major upgrade of 15 water level sensors. In 2026, 17 sensors are planned for minor upgrades. Virginia Beach will also participate in the HRPDC's Community Flood Preparedness Fund grant which may provide 4 additional sensors to the network. Flood cameras were installed at Little Neck Creek / Pinewood Road and Beggars Bridge Creek near Dawley</p>



	<p>Corner. Four additional locations were also surveyed for additional cameras and the city is considering adding 10 more flood camera locations by 2026 at the request of Public Works. A weather sensor at Mount Trashmore was also installed on a Smart Pole as a case study. If effective, additional sensors may be installed in this manner across the city.</p>
<p><u>Action 11</u> Retrofit existing stormwater management system throughout the City into state of-the-art facilities to minimize flooding after heavy storms while also addressing water quality objectives.</p>	<p>Virginia Beach continues to implement the first phase of the Flood Protection Program. The first phase includes stormwater management improvements in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linkhorn Bay Drainage Basin• Central Resort District• Lake Bradford/Chubb Lake• Southern Rivers Watershed• Windsor Woods/Princess Anne Plaza/The Lakes• Eastern Shore Drive Phase I• Stormwater Green Infrastructure- Marsh restoration in Back Bay and Elizabeth River Wetland & Floodplain Restoration
<p><u>Action 12</u> Mitigate incursion of storm surge and tidal inundation of low-lying areas. Investigate coastal barrier technologies and tidal stream diversion techniques.</p>	<p>Ongoing- The City of Virginia Beach is developing plans to address both repetitive flooding and projected increases in flooding caused by sea level rise through the City's Comprehensive Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding Response Plan. The plan is an effort between local government and various stakeholders (corporate and individual) to collect, sort, interpret, and understand the data behind how sea level rise is affecting</p>



	our City and how we should best respond.
<u>Action 13</u> Elevate, acquire, relocate or retrofit structures in flood prone areas that have suffered repetitive flood damage. This action includes Mitigation Reconstruction projects.	The City is finalizing two 2019 Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant projects. The elevation project contains five properties and the acquisition project contains two properties.
<u>Action 14</u> Acquire open space in strategic locations that can provide management benefits for multiple mitigation objectives. Objectives may include but are not limited to: flood control, water quality, public access to waterways, preserving or creating tree canopy, and preserving unique ecological and cultural heritage sites. Incorporation of the Parcel Level Mitigation Program for these projects.	<p>Ongoing- The Agriculture Reserve Program continues to assist the agricultural farmers/landowners with the option of preserving their agricultural land versus selling it off for home development options. For FY25, 467.32 acres and 46 development rights were purchased. There is now a cumulative total of 11,129.31 acres and 964 development rights protected.</p> <p>P& R- One property was purchased in FY25 at Washington Square Park for future park development. The Open Space Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly to evaluate and discuss open space opportunities.</p>
<u>Action 15</u> Verify the geographic location of each NFIP repetitive loss property, and determine if that property has been mitigated and, if so, by what means. Prepare Repetitive Loss Area Analyses for CRS credit.	Virginia Beach requested and received updated NFIP repetitive loss data from FEMA in February 2024.
<u>Action 16</u> Develop a local hurricane evacuation framework/plan and identify	Evacuation framework completed by ICF during FY25. Currently working on incorporating the evacuation framework

communication networks for evacuation messaging.	and Critical Transportation Plan into a comprehensive Evacuation Plan. Ongoing- The Department of Emergency Management provides information and messaging related to evacuation planning on the City's Emergency Preparedness website which is updated as needed.
<u>Action 17</u> Promote and sustain local programs such as the Parcel Level Mitigation Program (PLMP) to provide flood protective actions such as acquisition, flood vents, relocating utilities, elevation etc. to vulnerable flood areas. Utilize grant funding to expand capabilities of PLMP when appropriate and eligible.	Ongoing- Continued assessment of possible flood protective actions for residential properties including but not limited to acquisition, installation of flood vents, relocating utilities, and elevations.
<u>Action 18</u> Monitor and enhance the City's cybersecurity capabilities to protect the City from cybersecurity threats especially during or immediately after a disaster or emergency.	Ongoing- The City requires mandatory annual cybersecurity awareness training for all City employees. In addition, the IT Department participated in exercises with the National Guard and a tri-cities tabletop with VDEM. Detection and response capabilities have also increased by utilizing operational and generative AI platforms to assist cybersecurity staff in their day to day operations.
<u>Action 19</u> Facilitate discussions with agencies responsible for providing local transportation to encourage them to evaluate, improve, and/or establish local and regional transportation plans to address the transportation needs to vulnerable populations such as the elderly, college, and university students, those with disabilities, visitors, etc. in the event of an evacuation.	Ongoing- Virginia Beach Emergency Management completed a Critical Transportation Network Plan in June 2025. The plan identifies ways to provide transportation to vulnerable communities during evacuations and following a disaster.

<p><u>Action 20</u> Review all City rules, regulations, policies, procedures, ordinances and plans to ensure a consistent approach that aligns with hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and actions.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p><u>Action 21</u> Implement the action items and projects outlined in Sea Level Wise, particularly the following high priority items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify regional flood risk reduction projects that could be pursued with neighboring jurisdictions, such as the City of Norfolk. 2) Increase freeboard to 3 feet or to a future design flood elevation 3) Require mechanical and electrical systems to be elevated to design flood elevation (with freeboard). 4) Expand height allowance for buildings outside of the SFHA, where property owners want to elevate structures to reduce flood risk. 5) (Paraphrased and combined) Include sea level rise and future flooding considerations in designing adequate drainage controls, and in development of subdivision/site plans. 6) Develop informational materials on how to renovate historic properties to enhance flood resilience consistent with historic preservation requirements. 	<p>No updates to the Floodplain Ordinance since the last annual report.</p> <p>Continued utilization of the Sea Level Wise document to guide stormwater management projects and planning efforts. Examples include the City's Flood Protection Program and the Army Corps of Engineers' Coastal Storm Risk Management Project.</p>

4) Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule.

Objectives that were not met are due primarily to lack of available funding. When possible, the City takes advantage of federal grants which can be slow to obtain and fund. City funding remains tight and large-scale costly projects must be phased in CIPs over multiple years.

5) What are the recommendations for the new projects or revised recommendations?

The City will continue with ongoing efforts and will take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise to move the action items forward. It should be noted that most of the items are continuing but will remain on the list due to ongoing maintenance requirements.