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# CITY OF OTTAWA

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December 30, 2020

RE: Floodplain Management \_ Annual Progress Report (2020)

At a regularly scheduled City Council meeting held by the City on January 5, 2020, the report contained herein, was provided to the City Council. The following summary shall serve as an update and recap of floodplain management activities for the 2020 calendar year.

## Background:

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides federally supported flood insurance for property owners located in communities that participate in the program and regulate development activities in special flood hazard areas. The City of Ottawa has been a participant in good standing with the program since 1975. The Community Rating System (CRS), which the City also participates in, analyzes the City's approach to minimizing effects and loss from flooding events occurring in the corporate limits. The Community Rating System scores these activities/flood management strategies and allows for reductions in insurance premiums for property owners within the City. The City of Ottawa currently has a Class 2 rating, which provides for up to a 40% reduction in flood insurance premiums. Components of the CRS manual

## 2020 Summary:

- 2020 saw the second highest flood recorded since gauge installation near Ottawa High School. Elevation of the flood crest was estimated to be at an elevation of approximately 472.60. City departments (public works, fire and police, community development/building) were very busy during the flood following the Flood Threat Action Plan and all that goes along with a flood of this magnitude. During the flood, we learned some things, as we've not had one this high since 2013. Department staff during the flood and after discussed changes that need to be made to make the Flood Threat Action Plan more effective. These changes were made to the plan. Post flood inspections and damage assessments were completed by staff. One demolition resulted as a result of this flood (former River Rescue Squad building).

### Historic Crests

- (1) 473.72 ft on 04/19/2013
- (2) 472.60 ft on 05/19/2020 (P)
- (3) 472.21 ft on 09/16/2008
- (4) 471.49 ft on 02/22/2018 (P)
- (5) 470.83 ft on 05/02/2019
- (6) 470.23 ft on 03/11/2009
- (7) 468.87 ft on 12/29/2008
- (8) 468.06 ft on 12/30/2015 (P)
- (9) 468.00 ft on 05/13/2002
- (10) 467.86 ft on 06/17/2015 (P)

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- Staff participated in the update and public outreach process of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This plan is part of LaSalle County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan originally adopted in October of 2008 and updated in 2015 and again updated and adopted by the City Council in November of 2020. This plan serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan. The current plan can be found at <https://lasallecounty.org/natural-hazard-mitigation-plan/>. The Community Risk Assessment and mitigation strategies have been reviewed and implementation strategies are ongoing. Many projects are major and have significant costs associated with implementation that will require years of funding.
- City staff and Flood Commission reviewed and updated Flood Threat Response/Action Plan. The major flood in 2020 provided an opportunity to utilize the action plan to its near full extent. A number of revisions were incorporated into the plan following the May 2020 flood.
- City staff and Flood Commission reviewed and updated Program for Public Information. This is typically done at least once every year with the Flood Commission and a thorough review is completed every 5 years.
- City updated building codes to the 2018 version of the International Building Codes. This was a requirement to maintain our CRS Class.
- Staff attended annual State Floodplain and Stormwater Management Conference in Tinley Park, Illinois - March 2020.
- Staff accrued required continuing education credits for Certified Floodplain Manager's Certification (two CFM's on staff).
- Issued 5 floodplain permits in the City during 2020. Three permits for paver/stair projects in floodplain; 1 permit for river wall repair; 1 permit for a minor dredge project.
- No variances were issued for floodplain ordinance regulations/requirements during 2020
- Continue to monitor structures with cumulative damage located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).
- Conservation Foundation acquired additional land in the SFHA. Land to remain as open space. Updated in GIS and CRS.
- Program for public information outreach tasks and projects were reviewed extensively and updated/PPI document.
- A Flood Insurance Assessment (FIA) was completed and was reviewed by the Flood Commission. The results and direction have been updated in the FIA contained in the PPI document.
- Every building permit submitted in the City is verified for floodplain compliance (approximately 300).
- Continue to work on updates to the City's floodplain website ([www.ottawafloods.org](http://www.ottawafloods.org)) and the City's website regarding flood information/dissemination.
- Annual CRS Recertification paperwork prepared and submitted for Class 2 requirements (February 2020).
- CRS Coordinator is reviewing the updated CRS Coordinator Manual (2020 version) to ascertain changes that will need to be made to stay compliant in preparation of a 2021 audit of the program. We have been working on and will continue to update and change our annual activities to accommodate the new manuals requirements. Presently the City of Ottawa has a CRS ranking of a Class 2.
- Stormwater basin inspections (approximately 80) and compliance reviews were completed. Stormwater plans required and reviewed for new developments occurring in the City
- PDM Funding has been secured to elevate Green Street.

# May 2020 Flood Images

