

2023 Flood Preparedness Gap Analysis

Park County Environmental Council – Livingston, Montana

DISASTER MANAGEMENT



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: \$20,000 - \$30,000

TIMEFRAME: Nine (9) Months

DELIVERABLES: A summary report for the Park County Flood Preparedness Gap Analysis that included: a summary of the gap analysis process, stakeholder workshop and exercises, as well as next steps

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Consensus Building
- Gap Analysis
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Inter-Agency Cooperation
- Disaster Planning
- Preparedness

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Vision Planning and Consulting (VPC) supported the Park County Environmental Council (PCEC) with a Flood Preparedness Gap Analysis for the City of Livingston, in response to the 2022 Yellowstone River Floods, considered as one of the worst and most impactful flooding events in the City's history. VPC identified gaps in the County flood preparedness and resilience planning framework and developed general recommendations to address gaps, to enhance the County's preparedness and resilience to future flood events.

PROJECT SUMMARY

VPC delivered: a flood preparedness gap analysis, on-site workshop facilitation; and recommendations to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from major flood events. VPC reviewed the existing planning framework, and developed recommendations to address gaps and shortcomings associated with the 2022 Yellowstone River flood events. The gap analysis included a review of over 20 hazard-related plans, bylaws, guidelines, regulatory documents, stakeholder meeting notes, and other documents related to flooding, using the FEMA National Preparedness Goal (NPG) and Core Capabilities, and the EPA Flood Resilience Checklist as a baseline.

The NPG is made up of 32 Core Capabilities which are the critical elements essential for the execution of various disaster mission areas. VPC used the Flood Resilience Checklist to identify gaps in topic areas related to Land Conservation, Protection of People, Buildings, and Facilities in Vulnerable Settlements, New Development in Safer Areas, and Stormwater Management Techniques. Each document was analyzed for each Core Capability and Checklist question, and results were compiled into a matrix. Through this analysis, 10 core capability/gap areas were identified, and further discussion with stakeholders identified the top four gap topic areas that are most relevant to, and align most closely with, the priorities of Park County.

VPC facilitated a stakeholder workshop to present the results of the gap analysis, explain the identified gap topic areas, conduct group discussions to identify the top priority gap topics, and draft recommendations to address such gap areas. Two stakeholder group exercises were conducted. The first exercise focused on discussing the top four gap topic areas: Environmental Response/Health and Safety; Mass Care/Human and Social Services; Communications (internal and external); and Grants Management. A second exercise was held to brainstorm/develop recommendations to address the gap areas which resulted in 42 recommendations.

VPC prepared a final summary report for the Park County Flood Preparedness Gap Analysis, which included: a summary of the gap analysis process, stakeholder workshops and exercises, recommendations, and detailed potential next steps for Park County to undertake to continue building on its efforts to improve preparedness for flood disasters.

This study has benefitted Park County and the City of Livingston by improving the County's overall flood preparedness and disaster resilience capabilities.