

2025 LaSalle County Flood Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation Activities:

1. **Mitigation Strategy:** Enforce regulations and ordinances that pertain to development in floodplains.
Hazard Addressed: Floods
Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Zoning Official(s)/ LaSalle County Land Use Department
Benefit/Cost: High/Medium
Priority: High, no change since 2015 Plan
Cost: Staff Time
Revenue Source: Land Use Budget
Resources: LaSalle County Board
Benefits: Restrict development that places lives at risk; reduce the physical and financial impact of flooding; restore the floodplain to its natural purpose.
Deadline: (Ongoing)
Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations
Activity Status: LaSalle County continues to enforce floodplain regulations in the unincorporated areas of the County. Shortly after publication of this mitigation strategy, LaSalle County adopted “higher regulatory standards” in their floodplain development ordinance to help address the benefits associated with this strategy.

2. **Mitigation Strategy:** Restrict construction of projects that may increase flooding impacts (i.e. levees, buildings, dams, filling, etc.)
Hazard Addressed: Floods
Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Board/ LaSalle County Land Use/ Zoning Official
Benefit/Cost: High/Medium
Priority: Very High, no change since 2015 Plan
Cost: Staff Time
Revenue Source: Land Use Budget
Resources: LaSalle County Zoning Official /CFM
Benefits: Prohibit activities that may have an adverse impact on communities and property owners.
Deadline: (Ongoing)
Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations
Activity Status: LaSalle County adopted regulations in their flood ordinance to help address these types of construction projects by adding compensatory storage requirements (as well as other “higher regulatory standards” to help offset/minimize potential impacts of such projects. All flood permits are reviewed by CFM. Currently one CFM on staff.

3. **Mitigation Strategy:** Encourage other communities and counties to manage floodplain development.
Hazard Addressed: Floods
Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Zoning Official/ LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency/ LaSalle County Land Use
Benefit/Cost: High/Low
Priority: High, no change since 2015 Plan
Cost: Staff Time
Revenue Source: Land Use Budget/ General Fund

Resources: LaSalle County Board/ Zoning officials throughout the region.

Benefits: Work together as a region to minimize the adverse impacts of flooding

Deadline: (Ongoing)

Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations

Activity Status: Department staff and County Board members do attend and participate in Regional Flood Coalition meetings and assist communities who have questions regarding floodplain development/ordinances/regulations/etc.

4. **Mitigation Strategy:** Develop and implement a regional stormwater management ordinance that will reduce flooding and protect lives, property, and the environment.

Hazard Addressed: Floods

Responsible Entity or Person: County Board Members with regional group

Benefit/Cost: High/High

Priority: High, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time/Engineering Costs/ Planning Consultant

Revenue Source: Land Use Budget

Resources: Residents/ Public Officials/ Hydrologists/ Attorneys/ Planning Officials

Benefits: Minimize the adverse impact of stormwater on communities.

Deadline: 5-10 Years

Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations

Activity Status: Continue to assess the need for a stormwater management ordinance.

5. **Mitigation Strategy:** Educate citizens regarding potential natural hazards and their impacts.

Hazard Addressed: Tornadoes, Floods, Winter Storms, Extreme Temps, Dangerous Winds, Lightning, Drought, Hail

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency

Benefit/Cost: High/Medium

Priority: Medium, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time

Revenue Source: General Fund

Resources: Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency

Benefits: Increase public awareness of the severity of natural hazards and their impacts.

Deadline: 1-5 Years (Ongoing)

Mitigation Type: Education and Awareness Programs

Activity Status: Carried over into the activities list for this plan. LaSalle County EMA provides ongoing public education on natural hazards and their impacts on a monthly radio show, "Morning Meeting" first Friday of every month;; we also share information from the National Weather Service (NWS) on current weather and its impacts on Facebook and Twitter daily; coordinate with NWS on annual severe weather spotter class, have 2 people taught by NWS to teach the course and they go out and provide that training by requests of a minimum of 10 people for each class. Beginning in January of 2022, LaSalle County EMA will be at a minimum, writing a quarterly press release to provide to local media to educate the public on our hazards.

6. **Mitigation Strategy:** Educate decision makers about policy measures, ordinances, and decisions that have an impact on mitigation activities, disaster response, and funding capability.

Hazard Addressed: Tornadoes, Floods, Winter Storms, Extreme Temps, Dangerous Winds, Lightning, Drought, Hail

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Board/ LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency/ LaSalle County Land Use Department

Benefit/Cost: High/Medium

Priority: High, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time

Revenue Source: General Fund

Resources: Associations/Organizations

Benefits: Increased awareness and understanding of the county's needs.

Deadline: 1-5 Years (Ongoing)

Mitigation Type: Education and Awareness Programs

Activity Status: Carried over into the activities list for this plan. LaSalle County EMA educates its county board elected officials on a monthly basis at the Public Safety committee meeting about current issues in Emergency Management; we also host Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS Chiefs) meeting on odd months and educate them on current Emergency Management issues;

7. **Mitigation Strategy:** Encourage conservation development in design techniques.

Hazard Addressed: Tornadoes, Floods, Winter Storms, Extreme Temps, Dangerous Winds, Lightning, Drought, Hail

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Board and Zoning Official/ LaSalle County Land Use Department

Benefit/Cost: Medium/Low

Priority: Low, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time

Revenue Source: Land Use Budget

Resources: Engineers/Developers/Conservation Organizations

Benefits: Preserve open space.

Deadline: (Ongoing)

Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations

Activity Status: Development in the unincorporated areas of LaSalle County has been slow. Large scale commercial developments have been nearly exclusive to mining/transportation/energy developments. This strategy will be considered with any land use changes. This general strategy is also included in the 2023 Comprehensive Plan.

8. **Mitigation Strategy:** Adopt and enforce stricter building permit/ code requirements.

Hazard Addressed: Tornadoes, Floods, Dangerous Winds, Extreme Temperatures

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Board and Zoning Official/ LaSalle County Land Use Department

Benefit/Cost: Medium/High

Priority: Medium, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time

Revenue Source: Land Use Budget

Resources: International Code Council

Benefits: Higher regulatory standards that promote safety.

Deadline: 1-3 years

Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations

Activity Status: The Land Use Department adopted new 2024 IRC/IBC Code and 2023 NEC Code in 2025.

9. **Mitigation Strategy:** Work together as a region to share resources and to create opportunities for the public to be engaged and informed about the risks of natural hazards and mitigation activities.

Hazard Addressed: Tornadoes, Floods, Winter Storms, Extreme Temps, Dangerous Winds, Lightning, Drought, Hail

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Board/ LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency

Benefit/Cost: Medium/Low

Priority: High, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time

Revenue Source: General Fund

Resources: Other communities/ North Central Illinois Council of Governments

Benefits: Collaboration provides opportunities to share ideas and resources.

Deadline: 1-5 Years (Ongoing)

Mitigation Type: Education and Awareness Programs

Activity Status: We have Mutual Aid Agreements with partner organizations to share resources and information.

10. Mitigation Strategy: Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System to help residents save on flood insurance premiums.

Hazard Addressed: Floods

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Board/ LaSalle County Land Use Department

Benefit/Cost: High/Medium

Priority: Low, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Varies depending on activities pursued

Revenue Source: Land Use Budget

Resources: Insurance Services Office/ Illinois Department of Natural Resources/ Illinois Emergency Management Agency

Benefits: Lower flood insurance premiums for residents/ Activities reduce the impact of flooding.

Deadline: (ongoing)

Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations

Activity Status: Carried over into the activities list for this plan. LaSalle County moved from a class 7 to a class 8 in 2017. The County remains at a class 8.

11. Mitigation Strategy: Examine the effects of rural stormwater infrastructure.

Hazard Addressed: Floods

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Board/ Zoning Officials

Benefit/Cost: Medium/High

Priority: High, no change since 2015 Plan

Cost: Staff Time/ Engineering Studies/ Consulting Firms

Revenue Source: General Fund

Resources: United States Department of Agriculture/ Illinois Department of Natural Resources/ United States Environmental Protection Agency

Benefits: Understanding of the effects of rural stormwater infrastructure

Deadline: 5 Years (Ongoing review of need)

Mitigation Type: Local Plans and Regulations

Activity Status: A stormwater commission planning group developed and met for several months in 2014, but has since been disbanded. The Land Use Committee and Department will continue to assess the need for additional stormwater regulations.

12. Mitigation Strategy: Develop educational information and publicize, including preventative and preparedness safety procedures, for residents regarding all identified risks.

Hazard Addressed: All identified hazards

Responsible Entity or Person: LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency/ LaSalle County Land Use Department

Benefit/Cost: Medium/Low

Priority: Low, no change, new activity for this plan.

Cost: Staff time

Revenue Source: Federal, state, local or grant funds

Resources: Federal Emergency Management Agency/ Illinois Emergency Management Agency

Benefits: Increased awareness and preparedness

Deadline: (Ongoing)

Mitigation Type: Education and Awareness Programs

Activity Status: New mitigation activity for this plan.