

OLMSTED COUNTY

Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION Encourage all county residents to sign-up for the county's CodeRED Emergency Notification System.	Existing High Ongoing	Olmsted County Emergency Management (OCEM)	Olmsted County maintains the CodeRED Emergency Notification System which allows residents and visitors to sign up ("opt-in") to receive severe weather alerts targeted to their location, along with other local emergency alerts. A link to sign up for the system is located on the Olmsted County website. Alerts delivered through CodeRED can be delivered in English and Spanish. Additional languages may be available later.	County Funding
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	PUBLIC OUTREACH Conduct outreach to the public to increase awareness and preparedness for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High Ongoing	OCEM	OCEM utilizes the Olmsted County website, Olmsted County Sheriff's Office website page, and local news media to communicate with residents, visitors, schools, and long-term care facilities on emergency preparedness, severe weather, and other hazard conditions throughout the year. The Olmsted County Emergency Management website page provides emergency preparedness information and resource links for the public. Olmsted County also participates in the NWS annual Severe Weather Awareness Weeks.	County Funding
3	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	EOP PLANNING Ensure the county's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is updated and addresses policies & procedures needed to support EM functions prior to, during, and following a disaster.	Existing High Ongoing	OCEM	The Olmsted County EOP is updated on a regular basis and addresses functions that dually support mitigation and response for natural disasters, including public information and warning, operational coordination, mass care sheltering, evacuation, and access to resources.	County Funding

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4	All Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	FUTURE DEVELOPMENT Incorporate mitigation strategies across county and local government plans and policies that address future growth and new development.	Existing High 2025-2030	OC Admin, OC Planning., OC Public Works in coord with local gov'ts	Olmsted County continues to work closely with the City of Rochester and surrounding communities to address planning for increased growth and development that will affect emergency response services as well as an increase in vulnerable systems and infrastructure. Olmsted County uses its General Land Use Plan, Shoreland Ordinance, Floodplain Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and Transportation plan to address long-term planning for future development.	County Funding
5	All Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	CLIMATE CHANGE Integrate considerations for mitigation for natural hazards into long-term planning for climate resiliency.	New High 2025-2030	OC Admin in coord with depts.	Olmsted County currently has a committee of people representing leaders in all departments throughout its organization that are evaluating climate change hot topics and what Olmsted County can do to reduce its carbon footprint. This committee will report on results and initiatives to the County Board with recommended steps moving forward and seek funding for projects such as solar power, hybrid or electric vehicles, geothermal systems for its new buildings to name a few.	County Funding

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6	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	VULNERABLE POPULATIONS Work with county departments, partner agencies, facilities, and local jurisdictions to address planning and outreach efforts for those considered to be more vulnerable to severe weather events.	Existing High Ongoing	OCEM, OCPH	OCEM, OCPH, and local jurisdictions provide outreach to and emergency planning assistance as needed to facilities such as schools and long-term care facilities and mobile home parks. Schools throughout the county participate annually in tornado drills annually. We work in coordination with agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Emergency notifications are available in more than one language. OCEM works with Public Health to maintain information on the location of key facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, and day cares.	County Funding other agencies & organizations
7	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	GENERATOR BACKUP POWER Install generators at key county facilities to ensure continuity of operations and services in the event of loss of power.	Existing High Ongoing	OC Facilities & Building Operations	OC Facilities and Building Operations is installing generators at all County-owned critical infrastructure buildings, starting with Public Health.	County Funding

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8	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	MASS CARE SHELTERING Ensure that plans and designated facilities are in place in order to provide temporary sheltering due to a severe weather or other disaster event.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM, OCPH, HHH	In the event of a disaster where temporary sheltering is needed, OCEM works in coordination with OC Public Health Services, the American Red Cross, and local governments/Fire & EMS to provide mass care services as needed. The county EOP includes plans, procedures, and resources available for mass care sheltering. Olmsted County has also partnered with our hotel association Olmsted County/City of Rochester and have agreements in place for mass sheltering in hotels. Each hotel has designated blocks of rooms that can be utilized for short- or long-term sheltering options.	County Funding
9	Extreme Cold/Heat Temps	Education & Awareness Programs	EXTREME TEMPS PUBLIC OUTREACH Provide outreach and education to the public on personal safety measures to take during periods of extreme cold or extreme heat.	In-Progress High 2024	OCEM, OCPH, HHH	OCEM works to share information received from the NWS when periods of extreme hot/cold are forecast and occurring. Syndromic surveillance is a tool being implemented to monitor our hospital emergency department visits related to extreme heat/cold affects on patients. This surveillance can identify trends in order to better predict expectations of more of these events in the future so that community education can be more effective.	County Funding

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10	Extreme Cold/Heat Temps	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	SHELTERING/HOUSING FOR HOMELESS POPULATIONS Plan for/expand the capacity to shelter vulnerable populations during periods of extreme cold or extreme heat.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM, OCPH	Olmsted County is continuing to work on a project acquiring housing and transitional living space for our community's homeless population. Housing those who need it is far more reaching than simple short-term sheltering and will help provide protection to some of our most vulnerable populations with regard to natural hazards.	County Funding
11	Severe Winter Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	SNOW & ICE CONTROL Implement snow removal and ice control to ensure the safety of county roads impacted by winter storms.	Existing High 2025-2030	Olmsted County Public Works	Olmsted County Public Works conducts winter road maintenance on county roads in accordance with the Olmsted County Snow and Ice Control Policy. Other road jurisdictions conduct winter road maintenance on their respective road systems in accordance with each of their established policy and/or practice.	County Funding
12	Severe Summer Storms	Education & Awareness Programs	SKYWARN TRAINING Work with the National Weather Service (NWS) to provide SkyWarn training and develop a network of trained Storm Spotters throughout the county.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM in coord with NWS	OCEM works with the NWS to offer this training on an annual basis to local fire and law enforcement departments and local residents that wish to be trained as spotters. Olmsted County Emergency Management supports and works with a long-standing and active Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) group that deploys ahead of incoming storms to pre-designated spotting locations throughout Olmsted County. Radio operators are certified Skywarn Spotters and have direct contact with the Emergency Operations Center during weather-related events for direct reporting of weather activity.	National Weather Service

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13	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS Ensure outdoor warning sirens are located where needed and functioning properly.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM in coord with local jurisdictions	Olmsted County works closely with all communities within its borders regarding its Outdoor Warning Siren system. An official sound study was completed in 2023 and recommended additions to its siren system. Olmsted County provides ongoing preventative maintenance of the Siren system, but local municipalities own the sirens and must budget for repairs, replacements, and expansion of their sirens to newly developed areas. Olmsted County made recommendations to two municipalities to add sirens in specific locations for added coverage.	County Funding & local jurisdictions
14	Severe Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	STORM SHELTERS / TORNADO SAFE ROOMS Address the need for the construction of storm shelters or tornado safe rooms in areas where residents or visitors are vulnerable to high wind events, such as mobile home parks and campgrounds.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM and OCPH in coord with local jurisdictions	OCEM and OCPH will assist any communities in their effort to assess and address the need for construction of a storm shelter or tornado safe room. Grant funding may be available for tornado safe rooms from FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program funding, based on application approval.	County Funding, Local Gov't, FEMA HMA
15	Severe Summer Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	MHP SAFETY Ensure that licensed manufactured home parks (MHP's) within the county meet the requirements of MN Statute 327.20 for shelters and evacuation plans.	Existing High 2025-2030	Olmsted County Public Health	Olmsted County Public Health works in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on this effort. Shelter and evacuation plans must be approved by the city or township in which they are located and submitted to MDH.	MDH & MHP licensing fees

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16	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	POWERLINE RETROFITS Encourage municipal and rural electric coops to address burying powerlines or strengthening power poles to avoid power outages from high wind events and storms.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM, local jurisdictions in coord with electric utility providers	OCEM works with our utility coops and local governments on these efforts as needed. FEMA HMA grant funding may be a source for powerline infrastructure retrofits that eligible rural and municipal electric coops can apply for.	Electric Coops, FEMA HMA
17	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	BUILDING SAFETY Ensure that new development projects follow state building codes in order to withstand the impacts of severe weather events, including roof collapse from heavy snow or damages from high wind events.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	Olmsted County Planning Dept.	Olmsted County Planning Dept. oversees permits for new development. Olmsted County recommends building to the specifications as provided by the State of Minnesota's Department of Labor and Industry in order to minimize financial burdens and potential safety hazards which can arise from poorly constructed buildings. Local jurisdictions enforce their own building permits respectively.	County Funding
18	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT Manage trees and other vegetation along roads from severe storm events to reduce risk to powerlines and passing motorists.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	OC Public Works, Local Utility Providers	Olmsted County Public Works regularly conducts vegetation management along county roads to reduce the risk of downed trees or branches resulting from severe spring and summer storm events. Local utility providers also work to manage vegetation near power lines to reduce the risk of downed lines and power outages.	County Funding, Utilities

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19	Karst / Landslides	Local Planning & Regulations	KARST & SLOPE MONITORING Monitor areas of the county that may be at risk for karst and landslides and address any areas of risk.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	OC Planning Dept., OC GIS	Olmsted County GIS has several geologic layer maps that show erosion risk areas and risk to groundwater contamination due to karst features. The county also has a sinkhole map. Development of future GIS support systems should include updating spatial and non-spatial data (such as Karst features and landslide vulnerabilities), modeling, project cost benefit evaluation and hazard event record storage including substantial damaged structure information.	County Funding
20	Landslides	Natural Systems Protection	BLUFF/BANK STABILIZATION Improve the stabilization of steep hillsides or banks to reduce impacts to roads, natural resources, and recreation areas from erosion and slope failure.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	OC Planning Dept., OC Public Works, Olmsted SWCD	The Olmsted SWCD administers the state Buffer Law and provides technical assistance on buffer compliance by landowners. Buffers benefit bank stabilization and reduced erosion and sedimentation into ditches, streams, rivers, and lakes. The USGS has a layer for at risk areas of landslides that the county GIS team can incorporate data. Olmsted County departments are working to continue assessment of any areas of landslide risk and implement stabilization measures.	County Funding, SWCD
21	Landslides	Local Planning & Regulations	LANDSLIDE RISK REDUCTION FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT Reduce the risk of erosion and landslides in areas of new development on bluffslands.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	OC Planning Dept.	Olmsted County Planning & Zoning manages the approval of any new development through our permitting system. Proposed development related to bluff areas or steep slopes must meet review and approval by the county.	County Funding

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22	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and enforce policies that address development in high-risk flood areas.	Existing High 2025-2030	OC Floodplain Administrator	Olmsted County enforces requirements of the NFIP through the county's floodplain ordinance (Olmsted County Code of Ordinances - Chapter 3750), adopted September 5, 2023 and published publicly September 9, 2023. This ordinance establishes the floodplain district and zoning regulations and conditional uses permitted within the floodway, flood fringe, and general floodplain districts of Olmsted County. The Olmsted County Planning Department maintains and enforces the floodplain management ordinance for the unincorporated areas of the county and assists incorporated areas in administering their ordinances.	Olmsted County
23	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	FLOODPLAIN MAPPING & RISK ASSESSMENT Assess current risk of damages to structures in newly mapped floodplain areas.	In-Progress High 2025-2030	OC Floodplain Administrator	Floodplain mapping has been updated in 2023 for a portion of the county that wasn't previously mapped. The Olmsted County Planning Department is creating a database of structures in the floodplain to better track substantial damage.	County Funding
24	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	HYDRAULIC RISK ASSESSMENTS Conduct hydraulic risk assessments as part of plans for bridge reconstruction and flood protection.	Existing High 2025-2030	OC Public Works	All Olmsted County reconstruction projects include hydraulic elements designed to state aid standards, providing an increased level of flood protection and in turn safety for the traveling public. Hydraulic risk assessments are done on our bridge reconstruction projects to inform a design that will provide the necessary level of protection to meet current roadway standards.	County Funding

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25	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	ROCHESTER KINGS RUN POND 40 PROJECT Work with the City of Rochester to apply for FEMA BRIC grant funding to implement flood mitigation project for the Kings Run Pond 40, also known as the Section 7 Pond.	New High 2025-2030	Rochester Public Works in coord with Rochester EM and OCEM	Beginning in 2024 the City of Rochester is working with Olmsted County Emergency Management to prepare a grant application to submit for FEMA BRIC grant funding to support this project. This project has been identified as the top flood mitigation project for the city. A series of regional stormwater ponds are designed to reduce peak flows from the western drainage area outside of the city; with the Section 7 pond being the primary pond needed to reduce and stabilize flows on the south side of the Douglas State Bike Trail through the residential areas. The grant will be submitted to FEMA following approval of the 2024-2025 Olmsted County HMP Update.	City Funding, FEMA BRIC Grant Funding
26	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	LOCALIZED FLOOD RISK REDUCTION Plan for and implement measures to address localized flood reduction projects for roads, bridges, and culverts throughout the county.	Existing High 2025-2030	OC Public Works, OC Planning	The Olmsted County Planning Department serves as staff to the Rochester Olmsted Council of Governments. We develop and maintain the Long-Range Transportation Plan; Olmsted County Public Works uses that plan to implement their roadway projects. The county needs funding assistance to improve roads and culverts that experience repetitive flooding. Significant State and Federal funding is needed to construct infrastructure projects to prevent, reduce, and mitigate the impacts of high rain events and flooding.	County Funding, State and Federal funding, Possible FEMA BRIC or HMA grant funding

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27	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	WATERSHED PLANNING Work with area watershed organizations to address mitigation plans and projects that address risk reduction for localized flooding and erosion.	Existing High 2025-2030	Olmsted SWCD	Olmsted County SWCD participates in the Zumbro River Watershed 1W1P, Root River Comprehensive Watershed Plan, and the Mississippi River – Winona/LaCrescent 1W1P. These plans address regional watershed planning which include measures for flood mitigation.	SWCD, Watershed District funding
28	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	PROPERTY BUYOUTS Conduct property buyouts to acquire homes affected by repetitive flooding and physically relocate or remove those homes to eliminate future flood damages.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	OCEM	There are currently no potential property buyout projects identified by Olmsted County. The county will continue to evaluate and assist with potential future property acquisition projects and application to FEMA or MN DNR for grant funding to conduct buyouts.	Olmsted County, FEMA HMA
29	Flooding/ Drought	Natural Systems Protection	INCREASE FLOODPLAIN CONNECTIVITY, REDUCE FLOODING Improve stream channel pattern and floodplain connectivity and flooding capacity using prescribed natural channel design methodologies. Improve and protect road infrastructure and utilities from damage of future flooding, improve public safety by widening roadway, lengthening toe slopes and establishing ditches by shifting a channelized stream system back to its natural location.	Existing High 2025-2030	OC Public Works, City of Rochester Public Works., Olmsted SWCD, MNDNR	OC Public Works, City of Rochester Public Works., Olmsted SWCD, and MNDNR are working collaboratively on the Hadley Valley Creek Project at the Gertrude B Sehl Trustee property in Haverhill twp, sect 17, 18 to develop a design plan, secure funding and implement the stream channel and floodplain restoration project to reduce flooding, protect infrastructure, improve public safety, reduce sedimentation, improve water quality and enhance habitat.	Federal-FEMA, Also, State & Local

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30	Drought	Education & Awareness Programs	DROUGHT OUTREACH & EDUCATION Provide outreach and education to residents to be aware of watering restrictions, water conservation tips, and fire safety during periods of severe drought.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM	OCEM continues to provide public outreach and education during heightened drought periods using the county website and social media platforms. OCEM encourages city and townships to promote drought awareness to residents at the local level.	Olmsted County
31	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations	WATERING RESTRICTIONS Implement watering restrictions during periods of drought as per MN DNR guidance.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM in coord with MN DNR and local jurisdictions	Olmsted County and local jurisdictions will establish and enforce watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought.	County Funding, Local Gov'ts
32	Wildfire	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN / FIREWISE OUTREACH Work with the MN DNR Firewise Program and local fire departments to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or equivalent in the county EOP.	New Moderate 2025-2030	OCEM in coord with MN DNR and local FDs	Olmsted County will seek to work with the MN DNR to determine how the county can address wildfire mitigation planning (to what level) in order to be eligible for MN DNR Firewise Grant funding for wildfire mitigation projects. The planning will work to identify fuels mitigation needs and public education.	County Funding, MN DNR Grant funding
33	Wildfire	Education & Awareness Programs	WILDFIRE PUBLIC OUTREACH Conduct public outreach and education on wildfire risk and prevention during periods of high risk for wildfire.	Existing High 2025-2030	OCEM in coordination with local FD's	In event of wildfire, Olmsted County Emergency Management works with local law enforcement, local fire departments, the NWS, and the MN DNR to get the word out on the risk of the level of fire danger and any burning restrictions to help keep the public informed and protected.	County Funding
34	Dam Failure	Local Planning & Regulations	ZUMBRO DAM EAP Work with Rochester Emergency Management and RPU on EAP updates and emergency drills for the Zumbro Hydroelectric Dam.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	OCEM in coord with REM	Olmsted County Emergency Management continues to coordinate with Rochester Emergency Management and Rochester Public Utilities to participate in EAP updates and annual drills for dam safety.	OCEM, RPU

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35	Land Subsidence (Karst)	Local Planning & Regulations	KARST MAPPING Continue to utilize GIS maps in planning and zoning reviews that show where risk exists in the county due to karst features.	Existing High Ongoing	Olmsted County Planning	Olmsted County GIS houses several state geologic layer maps that show erosion risk areas and risk to groundwater contamination due to karst features. The county also has a sinkhole map.	County and State Funding
36	Land Subsidence (Karst)	Local Planning & Regulations	ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION Continue to use the Olmsted County General Land Use Plan in policy and development review to manage critical ecosystems such as areas of karst and steep slopes.	Existing High Ongoing	Olmsted County Planning	Areas of karst and steep slopes are found throughout Olmsted County. Conserving and protecting the County's natural environment is a primary planning principle of the Olmsted County land use plan.	County Funding
37	Land Subsidence (Karst)	Local Planning & Regulations	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Sensitive environmental areas should be protected from degrading land use practices and their development discouraged in order to support such critical natural functions as groundwater protection, stormwater management, and erosion control. These lands include areas of sinkhole concentrations and steep or unstable slopes.	Existing High Ongoing	Olmsted County Planning	The policies of the Olmsted County General Land Use Plan and its Comprehensive Land Use Evaluation System (CLUES) model steer development potential away from areas sensitive to human impacts and hazardous environmental conditions.	County Funding
38	Land Subsidence (Karst)	Local Planning & Regulations	SUBURBAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT Where suburban development patterns (large lots on private wells and septic systems) and individual development proposals incorporate areas with significant natural features, development should be designed to preserve such features and minimize adverse impacts to them.	Existing High Ongoing	Olmsted County Planning	While sensitive features such as karst and steep slopes may be found within the boundaries of suburban developments, site designs must avoid these critical features.	County Funding

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39	Land Subsidence (Karst)	Local Planning & Regulations	URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT Where urban development patterns and individual development proposals cannot avoid areas with significant natural features, development should be designed to minimize adverse impacts to those features.	Existing High Ongoing	Olmsted County Planning	While cities are granted planning authority by State statutes, the Olmsted County Future Land Use Plan provides guidance to municipalities on how to do so within their urban service area boundaries.	County Funding