

Flood Mitigation Plan FY 2020 Annual Review

Background

The Town of Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners approved the Town Flood Mitigation Assistance Plan (FMAP) on September 4, 2012. The Plan was then submitted as part of the Bel Air 5-year recertification cycle for continued participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) in 2013 (CRS is a program that establishes ratings based on flood prevention measures and awards flood premium reductions). The Town receives Community Rating System (CRS) credit for the FMAP, and an annual reevaluation of the Plan must accompany the annual CRS recertification. A 5-year update of the Plan was required in October 2018.

Evaluation Process

The FMAP was prepared by a private contractor under the review of a committee comprised of Town employees, local residents and a local engineer. While the Town found the committee process helpful in discussing flood-related issues within the Town's boundaries, it also became apparent that Bel Air has few flood-prone properties and has historically experienced very little flood-related damage. The results of the FMAP confirmed the committee members' observations.

This evaluation was completed by staff who participated on the original committee: the Director of Public Works, the Senior Planner, and the Associate Engineer. The Director of Planning also participated in this review. The purpose of the evaluation is to record any flood events, flood related impacts to properties, changes in response to flood events, and reevaluation of the status of flood-related action items listed on the Priority of Mitigation Actions Matrix in the FMP. This document serves as the review of the Town's Flood Mitigation Plan for fiscal year 2020 and the Plan update for the 2020 CRS recertification cycle. A 5-year update of the Plan was initiated in October 2018, resulting in a determination letter dated September 16, 2019.

Flood Events during FY 2020

There were no significant storm events for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. However, the Town has occasionally experienced infrequent flash flooding events that have impacted select areas. Although flood damage has been minimal, the circumstances and locations of these events continue to be investigated in order to determine what actions may be appropriate.

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Action Matrix items completed during FY2020

The Plumtree Streambank Revitalization Phase III Section IV project, south of MD Rte. 24, was constructed within FY 2020. The project restored approximately 1,935 linear feet of Plumtree Run which will improve stormwater management and stream flow at the headwaters of the Plumtree Run.

Mitigation Strategies

Following is the Priority of Mitigation Actions Matrix established for FY 2020 with an itemized explanation of the status of each item:

Action Number	Project Summary	Life Safety Impact	Legal and Admin. Impact	Economic Feasibility	Total	Time Frame	Responsible Department
1	Encourage Green Practices	2	2	2	6	Ongoing	Planning
2	Sump pump/ backflow retrofit education	2	2	2	6	Ongoing	Public Works
3	Acquire 332 Baltimore Pike	1	1	1	3	TBD	TBA Administration
4	Streambank stabilization measures	2	2	2	6	Ongoing	Public Works
5	SWM Retrofit Study per WIP – Watershed Assessment	1	2	1	4	2021	Public Works/ Harford Co.
6	Plumtree Phase III Section IV Streambank Revitalization	1	3	2	6	2020	Public Works/Harford Co.
7	Flash flood impacts	2	2	3	7	Ongoing	Public Works

Item 1: Encourage Green Practices. As part of this ongoing process, the Town the Department of Planning continues to look for opportunities to limit impervious surface area created during development in order to limit surface runoff.

Item 2: Sump pump/ backflow retrofit incentives. The Public Works Department continues to provide education on an ongoing basis to encourage residents to retrofit existing facilities when possible.

Item 3: Acquire 332 Baltimore Pike. The property remains vacant and for lease/sale, but no funding source is available for land purchase at this time. Acquisition could provide additional storm water capacity, stream restoration, and recreational benefits.

Item 4: Stream bank stabilization measures. English Country Manor Stream Project - The Town has allocated funding in FY2021 for design of a stream restoration project of an unnamed

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tributary to the Heavenly Waters tributary. Heavenly Waters is a tributary to Winters Run. The drainage area for this unnamed tributary encompasses the northern portion of the English Country Manor development. This project will improve water quality and habitat by incorporating stream restoration and floodplain connectivity for an existing area that has very little stormwater management. The project will restore approximately 1,500 linear feet of stream channel.

Item 5: SWM Retrofit Study. The Town has allocated funding in FY2021 to perform a watershed assessment of the Town in order to determine the best places for projects such as, stream restoration, new SWM facilities and retrofits of existing facilities. This will allow for prioritizing those that will be the most beneficial to the Town in reducing pollutant loads from its jurisdiction, improving water quality, and meeting the requirements for impervious surface restoration.

Item 6: Section IV Plumtree Run Chanel Improvement Project. This project will improve water quality and habitat by incorporating stream restoration and floodplain connectivity in the restoration of 1,935 linear feet of stream. Construction was completed within FY 2020.

Item 7: Flash flooding impacts. Flash flooding is creating the largest impact on Town residents. The Public Works Department will begin investigating areas of repetitive flash damage to determine what structural changes may be required and the costs associated with redesign.