



office memorandum

DATE: January 21, 2025
TO: Floodplain Permit Committee Members
FROM: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager
SUBJECT: Floodplain Permit Committee 2024 End of Year Summary

Floodplain Permits

The Department of Public Works received 18 floodplain permit applications in 2022:

- Of the 24 permit applications reviewed, 23 were approved by the committee.
- One permit application was denied and later resubmitted as a new permit and approved.

Floodplain Violations

Four floodplain violation notices was issued in 2024.

Letters of Map Revision (LOMR)

No Letters of Map Revision were received in 2024.

Flood Insurance Studies

No Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) were received in 2024.

Community Rating System (CRS) Program

Norman's CRS Class rating was changed to back to a 6 from 7 in October 2022 due in part to the City's update to its Flood Hazard Ordinance. As part of the program community outreach requirements, city staff performed the following in 2024:

- Direct mailed approximately 2,300 flood protection brochures and letters to property owners and renters in the floodplain.
- Letters were sent to approximately 80 property owners and renters who own or rent homes in Norman's repetitive loss areas. A Repetitive Loss (RL) property is any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling ten-year period, since 1978. The purpose of the letter was to inform affected property owners and renters that their property is subject to flooding, suggest property protection measures, and provide basic facts about flood insurance.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for Year 2022

Action Item 12 – Miscellaneous Drainage Improvements

The following projects were identified in the City's Storm Water Master Plan or through citizen complaints. The following projects were completed using city maintenance staff or contractors:

- Double Inlet Box Replacement on S. Ponca
- Inlet Box Replacement on Chautauqua

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- Repaired Collapsed Pipe on Boyd and Lahoma
- Pipe Replacement at Saxon Park
- Collapsed Pipe Replacement at Triad Village
- Inlet and Pipe Replacement at Rolling Meadows Place
- Pipe Replacement on Madra Street
- Repaired more than a dozen breaks in pipes and inlets and associated with fixed voids and recesses

Midway Drive Scoping Project - Several houses along Midway Drive have experienced repeated instances of flooding during rain events. Consequently, this area has been identified as a repetitive loss area. In November of 2020, with approval from the City Manager, the City applied for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant through the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (ODEMHS). In February 2022, ODEMHS notified the City of the approval to award funds for the FEMA BRIC Grant for the City of Norman Midway Drive Project Scoping. The City of Norman awarded the project to Garver Engineers. This project was completed in 2024.

The Vineyard Addition Drainage Project - For several years, residents of The Vineyard Addition have experienced property damage due to flooding. In July 2015, the City hired Meshek and Associates to perform an analysis of the cause of flooding in The Vineyard Addition. This included a review of the previous drainage reports and studies that were available. Additional detailed modeling was done to determine if any structural changes could be made that would reduce the risk of flooding in this area. The modeling determined that enlarging an existing detention pond and doing other drainage improvements would reduce the amount and frequency of flooding. The City was awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant to fund 75% of the construction costs. This project was completed in March 2024.

Flood Warning System Scoping Project - The City of Norman experiences flood events on a regular basis which often lead to road closures. The current process to identify and barricade flooded roadways is a manual process which can take a significant amount of time and puts both the emergency responders and traveling public at risk. In November of 2020, the City applied for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant through the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (ODEMHS). These grants are designed for pre-disaster mitigation and are competitively awarded. In February 2022, ODEMHS notified the City of Norman of the approval to award funds for the FEMA BRIC Grant for the City of Norman Flood Warning System Scoping Project. The scoping project has been completed by and a final report submitted. The City of Norman is currently seeking grant funding opportunities to proceed with implementation of the project.

Several projects identified in the Storm Water Master Plan were not completed due to lack of funding.

Action Item 23 – Imhoff Creek Channel Improvements

This project involves the purchase of drainage/access easements and streambank stabilization in central Norman. The City has received 90% construction plans from the consultant. The City has applied for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant to fund 90% of the construction costs. The City is still awaiting a decision from FEMA on the grant opportunity. Grant funding was approved and appropriated for design of this project in early 2024 and in November, grant funding was awarded for construction. Construction is set to begin in Spring of 2025. Additionally, the City has moved forward with a design solution for Phase 2 of the project.

Action Item 24 – Relocate/Elevate Mobile Home Parks

There were 3 mobile home parks in Norman that were partially located in the floodplain. This project involves property acquisition and/or relocation of the residents to areas outside the floodplain. The parks would then be used for regional detention and green space.

The residents of Ranch Estates Mobile Home Park in the Little River floodplain/floodway were relocated to other areas of town in 2016. The park area is now being developed as green space and designated as Water Quality Protection Zone for the Little River.

The 2 remaining mobile home parks are still in existence. Residents have not been relocated or properties acquired due to lack of funding.

Action Item 25 – Property Acquisition in Floodplain

The City will acquire properties located within the floodplain that frequently flood, remove or demolish structures, and turn into open space as grants and funding allow. In 2024, 214 South Lahoma was purchased by the City and deeded as permanent open space.

2024 FLOODPLAIN PERMIT COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE CHART							
Meeting	Sturtz	Scanlon	Stansel	Hudson	Danner	Hoggatt	Miles
1/2							
1/16							
2/5							
5/6							Absent
6/3							

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7/15				Absent		Absent	
8/5			Absent				
8/19							
9/3							
10/21				Absent			
11/4			Absent				Absent