

## Appendix A. Public Involvement Activities

As noted in Chapter 1, many of the mitigation activities that were reviewed, and some that were recommended, require the cooperation of residents, businesses, and property owners to be effective. Because the public is important to the solution, it was involved in the mitigation planning effort. The public was kept abreast of developments through newspaper articles and the County's website. These efforts continually asked for input via the Mitigation Advisory Task Force and the website.

### A.1. Mitigation Advisory Task Force

The Regional Planning Commission and its advisory task force included many non-government representatives. The Commission itself is composed of sixteen plan commissioners, thirteen of whom are not governmental employees or elected officials.

The Task Force was composed primarily of County staff and municipal representatives (who represent the residents of their communities).

During the Summer of 2013 the Advisory Task Force held three meetings to discuss issues and review draft chapters of the *Plan*. Each meeting was publicized in accordance with County public meeting rules and posted on the County's website (see page A-11). The public was always invited to attend.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>
June 21	Organize, Goals, property protection, emergency management, flood control
July 12	Hazard analysis, goals Preventive measures, public information activities, Action plan
July 23	Public input, final plan

## A.2. Newspaper Coverage

A news release was issued at the beginning of the planning process and was covered by local newspapers.

that typically serves 150 people six days a week and daily food giveaway for the needy along with many others.  
Current locations of The Salvation Army drop boxes

Submitted photo  
To expand the amount of donated clothing for their thrift store in downtown Kankakee, The Salvation Army of Kankakee County began placing its distinctive white and red drop boxes at locations throughout Kankakee County.

### County seeks public input

Kankakee County is in the process of updating the existing Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. With re-adoption of the plan, Kankakee County and its municipalities will maintain their eligibility to apply for federal funding towards natural hazard mitigation projects. This local planning process includes a wide range of representatives from city and county government and emergency management personnel.  
A natural hazards mitigation plan provides communities with a set of goals, action items and resources designed to reduce risk from future natural disaster events.

Engaging in mitigation activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits, including reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship; reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs; increased cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process; and increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction projects.  
To comment on hazard mitigation planning, visit <http://planning.k3county.net>. A survey is available on the website for citizens to provide information about their natural hazard experiences in Kankakee County. This information will be utilized in updating the plan. The survey will be available until July 5, 2013.  
A draft version of the Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be available for formal public comment in July. Copies of the plan will be available on the planning department's websites.

For more information regarding the Kankakee County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan or the update process, contact Delbert Skmerhorn, planner at 1-815-937-2940 or email [DSkmerhorn@k3county.net](mailto:DSkmerhorn@k3county.net).

### KCC South Extension Center

Kankakee Community College's new South Extension Center opened its June 3, 2013 at 1489 E. Walnut St. in Watseka, adjacent to Riverside Medical Center. A grand opening celebration will be held Wednesday, June 26 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with remarks at 5:45 p.m. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.  
KCC's former Hoquous Community Satellite Center moved from 1001 E. Grant St., Watseka to the new location and was re-

named the KCC South Extension Center.  
The new location provides expanded access to KCC classes and services in the southern part of the KCC district, with four classrooms, clinical space, a testing area, offices and a student gathering area.  
KCC is offering college credit, continuing education, GED and adult education classes at the site. In addition to classes, students can register, meet an academic advisor, receive financial aid information, take placement tests and pick up KCC class schedules and catalogs.  
The full schedule of summer and fall classes for KCC can be viewed at [www.kcc.edu/sec](http://www.kcc.edu/sec). Fall classes begin the week of Aug. 19.  
For more information, phone the KCC South Extension Center at 1-815-432-4670, email [sec@kcc.edu](mailto:sec@kcc.edu) or phone KCC's main campus at 1-815-802-8500.

### Win a tractor and more added to Tractors for a Cure

Submitted photo  
Win a 1963 Allis Chalmers D-17 Series 3 tractor at the third annual Tractors for a Cure event, Saturday, July 13, 2013 from 9 a.m. until midnight at Fireman's Park, Beecher. Raffle tickets for the tractor are \$10 each. All proceeds from the TFAC event and raffle go to the American Cancer Society to help find a cure for cancer. This year's event is once again family oriented. Lunch and dinner are included in the ticket price. Tickets/wrist bands are \$25 for ages 13 and over and \$15 for children ages 5-12. Kids 5 and under enter free with a paying parent. There will be a silent and live auction, tractor poker run, a cancer ribbon of tractors in a local farm field and parade at 1 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by DJ Misty Mayes beginning at 9 a.m. Added to the schedule of events is Bernie Glim and the Country Roads Band from 4-7 p.m. The Greg Schneider Band will perform at 8 p.m., and the candlelight event and tribute video with the Stockyard Kitty Band begins at 9 p.m. New this year will be a Bean Bag tournament at 1 p.m. with registration at 11 a.m. The Color Guard with Armvets Post 67, National Anthem and Tribute to Troops will begin at 6 p.m. Several residents from the Veterans Home in Manteno will attend. The beer garden will be open from 4 p.m. to midnight. For more information, contact Dean Bettenhausen at 1-708-243-8877, visit [www.tractorsforacure.com](http://www.tractorsforacure.com) or like them on Facebook.



### A.3. Website

The Planning Department established a mitigation planning page on the County's website (<http://planning.k3county.net/hmplan2013.html>). It included an overview of the process, the members of the Mitigation Advisory Task Force, the schedule of Task Force meetings, and (after it had been reviewed by the Task Force) the draft plan.

The website also had a survey whereby people could submit information on their experiences with natural hazards and could offer suggestions for mitigation activities. Even though this was publicized, few took advantage of it. Excerpts from the website are included here.

**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2013**

**Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update**

The County of Kankakee has begun the process of updating its [Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan](#). This update will present a strategy for reducing the County's vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazard events such as floods and tornadoes. The County's previous plan was adopted in 2006.

**Introduction**

Hazard Mitigation planning is a proactive effort to identify actions that can be taken to reduce the dangers to life and property from natural hazard events. These long-term strategies include planning, policy and regulation changes, educational programs, infrastructure projects, and other activities. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all municipalities and counties that wish to be eligible to receive FEMA funding for hazard mitigation grants, to adopt a local multi-hazard mitigation plan and update this plan in five year intervals.

Public participation is an important part of this planning process and members of the Kankakee County community are encouraged to submit comments and questions. If you are interested in finding out more, or would like to submit information regarding natural hazards impacting the County of Kankakee, please contact the Planning Department at 815-937-2940. Opportunities to participate are also listed in the timeline below. When a draft plan is available, it will be posted to this website.

**Citizen Survey**

In order to gather information from Kankakee County citizens regarding natural hazards, planning staff has created an online survey. This survey will be available until July 5, 2013 for citizens to share their natural hazard experiences. The survey can be found here: [Citizen Survey](#)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update?**

Hazard Mitigation planning is a proactive effort to identify actions that can be taken to reduce the dangers to life and property from natural hazard events. Kankakee County adopted a hazard mitigation plan in 2006 and FEMA regulations require that the plan be updated every five years. [View the 2005 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.](#)

**Why is this plan important?**

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that a community have an approved hazard mitigation plan in order to qualify for federal funding from the following grant programs:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

**What goes into a hazard mitigation plan?**

## **A.4. Public Meeting**

On July 23, 2013, the Task Force held a public meeting to hear comments on the draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

## **A.5. Survey Results**

To gather public input on hazard mitigation activities, the Planning Department created an online survey for citizens to complete. The survey was available for over a month and 81 responses were received. Below is a synopsis of those responses.

Question 1: Please indicate your age. – 17.28% were 18 to 30, 16.05% were 31 to 40, 27.16% were 41 to 50, 20.99% were 51 to 60, and 18.52% were 60 and over.

Question 2: Gender. – 45.68% were male, and 54.32% were female.

Question 3: Please indicate what area of Kankakee County you live in. - The largest number of respondents were from unincorporated Kankakee County (21) and the Village of Bourbonnais had the next highest with 19. In third was the City of Kankakee with 11. The rest were scattered throughout the County.

Question 4: If you answered unincorporated Kankakee County for question 3, which township do you live in? - The largest number of respondents were from Limestone Township (6) followed by Aroma and Bourbonnais Townships with 5 each.

Question 5: How long have you lived in the County? – The majority of respondents have lived in the county more than 20 years (70.37%).

Question 6: Have you been impacted by a natural hazard in the last 5 years while living or working in Kankakee County? Most respondents indicated that they had been impact by natural hazards in the last 5 years in some fashion.

Question 7: Please rank how prepared you feel you and your household are for the probable impacts of natural hazard events. – Most respondents felt they are prepared.

Question 8: Why do you think you are prepared for the probable impacts from natural hazards? – The majority of respondents indicated that locally provided news and media information made them prepared for natural hazards (77.27%).

Question 9: In the past 10 years, which of the following natural hazard events have you or someone in your household experienced within Kankakee County? – Severe storms ice storms, drought / excessive temperatures, and property flooding top the list.

Question 10: Information on the impacts of and how to prepare for a natural disaster can be disseminated to the public in various ways. Of the methods, please identify the top 3 ways which would be most effective. – Television, radio, and newspaper were the top 3 responses.

Question 11: Are you currently signed up for Kankakee County's text alert system. – 52.5% of the respondents indicated that they subscribe to the system.

Question 12: Do you currently have any of the following disaster and emergency plans and procedures in place. – 41% said their home has an emergency plan, 47% said their workplace had an emergency plan. 28% have a disaster supply kit in their home and 17% have a disaster supply kit in their workplace. 84% stated they know how to shelter in-place in their home and 38% know how to shelter in-place at their workplace. 55% know evacuation routes from their homes and 41% know evacuation routes from their workplace.

Question 13: Is your property located in a designated floodplain? – 69.44% stated “no” and 25% were not sure.

Question 14: Do you have flood insurance? – 93% said “no”.

Question 15: If you do not have flood insurance, what is the primary reason? – “My home is not in the floodplain” was the main answer (47.37%).

Question 16: Did you consider the impact a natural disaster could have on your home before you purchased / moved into your home? – 55% stated they did not consider natural disaster when purchasing their homes.

Question 17: Would the disclosure of this type of information influence your decision to purchase / move into a home? – 77% stated that it would.

Question 18: If your property were located in a designated “high hazard” area, or had received repeated damage from a natural hazard event, would you consider a “buy out”, elevation of the structure, or relocation offered by a public agency? – 81% indicated yes for this question.

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