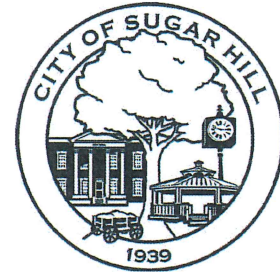


DATE: August 29, 2024
 TO: Mayor and City Council
 FROM: Assistant City Manager
 SUBJECT: Resolution: Gwinnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan



RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Gwinnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution, indicating the City’s partnership with county emergency management and hazard mitigation efforts.

BUDGET IMPACT

A total of \$145,000 is estimated for operating or capital expenses that could be used to leverage federal funds toward the project objectives identified.

DISCUSSION

Gwinnett County has taken the lead on emergency management and hazard mitigation efforts under the service delivery agreements and have sought to include the city’s interests in updating their plans through the years. Gwinnett is seeking to provide updates to the plan and resolution of cooperation as they move forward with a number of funding applications.

Staff has reviewed the document, updated our section and clarified the level of action proposed for our items. Most indicate our commitment to provide and maintain certain programs or investments. One large item is to design and provide a early warning system for Gary Pirkle Park and its location below Saddle Dike 3.

Objective 10.1: Improve Gwinnett County’s capabilities to prepare for and respond to a dam failure										
10.1.5	Review/Develop recommendation for Emergency Response Plan for Dam/Dike failure at Lake Lanier	City of Sugar Hill	City Officials	\$100,000	\$500,000	City Budget, Grants	2025-2030	Ongoing	Existing	

Other items of a more operational nature are attached.

The participation in the plan allows the city to apply for and secure funding for these and other hazard mitigation items or programs.

#

**RESOLUTION
TO INCLUDE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES
AS PART OF THE GWINNETT COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, understands the need to develop a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan in order for the City to comprehend its vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards, and the actions needed to reduce or eliminate those risks.

WHEREAS, the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, realizes the development of such a plan is vital to the protection, health, safety and welfare of its citizens as well as its visitors.

WHEREAS, the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, understands that in order for the City to receive mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it must have a mitigation plan in place at the time of submitting a proposal.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA, THAT THE CITY WILL WORK WITH GWINNETT COUNTY TO INCLUDE ITS MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES AS PART OF THE GWINNETT COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this the _____ day of _____, 2024 by the Mayor and Governing Board of Sugar Hill, Georgia, assembled in regular session.

BY: _____
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

BY: _____

CITY OF SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA

MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Geography and History

The City of Sugar Hill (City) is located at 34°6'8"N, 84°2'39"W (34.102123, -84.044094). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the City has a total area of 11.29 square miles (29.24 km²), all of which is land.

The City of Sugar Hill is rumored to receive its name from an incident in which a heavily loaded freight wagon lost its wheel on a high hill and spilled a part of its load. Included in the load that fell was several large bags of sugar. The wheel was repaired and the wagon was reloaded; however, the only thing that wasn't reloaded onto the wagon were the bags of sugar, which had broken open and spilled onto the hill. The area became known as "the hill where the sugar spilled," which was eventually shortened to Sugar Hill. It existed as part of the Georgia Militia District for many years, until it was charted as a city on March 24, 1939.

Significant Characteristics

The E Center is the city's mixed-use development that boasts a 406-seat performing arts theatre, The Eagle, a gymnasium and 43,000 square feet of restaurant, retail, office and meeting space all overlooking the outdoor amphitheater, The Bowl.

The Bowl, located directly behind city hall and the E Center, is the city's 1,750 seat outdoor amphitheater where many concerts and events are held.

Sugar Hill Golf Club opened in 1992 and has become one of the most beautiful and artfully laid out golf courses of the North Georgia.

E.E. Robinson Park is a 54-acre park that has two of each of the following: softball fields, pavilions, tennis courts, basketball courts, beach volleyball courts and concession stands. The park also features a soccer field, jogging trail, playgrounds and much more.

Gary Pirkle Park is a 35-acre park for passive recreation like walking or jogging, and a 14-acre sports complex for basketball, racquetball, exercise rooms and more.

Sugar Loop Greenway will travel around the city with approximately 16.5 miles of trail of paved pathways intended for shared use by pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users and joggers. The greenway will bring economic, health, environmental, community and transportation benefits to the city. The greenway will also provide connectivity to the citizens and guests.

Population and Demographics

As of 2022, there are an estimated 28,188 people and 9,149 households in the City. The estimated population density is 2,496.7 people per square mile. The racial makeup of the City is 50.2 percent White, 20.6 percent Hispanic or Latino (of any race), 13.7 percent African American, 0.7 percent Native American, 14.6 percent Asian, and 11.6 percent from two or more races. The average household is 3.1.

The median age is 36.7. 26.1% of the population is under 18 years of age, 62.97% is age 18 to 64, 11% is over age 65.

Sources: US Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey and 2022 official population estimate, ESRI Business Analyst estimates, 2024.

Economy

The median household income is \$107,413. Median income for male full-time year-round workers is \$51,230 and \$31,106 for females. The per-capita income is \$44,712.

The most common industries for civilian employed population 16 years and over are Management (15.5%), Office Administration (9.8%) Business/Financial (8.4%), Transportation (7.9%), and Sales (7.4%).

Sugar Hill-area historical tornado activity is above the Georgia state average. It is 103 percent greater than the overall U.S. average.

On November 22, 1992, an F4 tornado with maximum wind speeds of 207-260 miles per hour (mph) struck 22.6 miles away from the City center, injuring 46 people and causing between \$5 million and \$50 million in damages.

On April 3, 1974, an F4 tornado struck 24.7 miles away from the City center, killing six people and injuring 30 others. Damages were estimated between \$500,000 and \$5 million.

Table 1
Single-Family New House Construction Building Permits

Year	Permits	Average Cost
2021	72	\$194,021
2022	123	\$166,882
2023	95	\$201,382
2024	222	\$141,601

Infrastructure

The North Precinct of the Gwinnett County Police Department, which covers an area of 87 square miles in north Gwinnett County, serves Sugar Hill.

Fire services are provided to Sugar Hill by the Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Gwinnett County Public Schools have the following schools in Sugar Hill

Table 2
Sugar Hill School Infrastructure

School	Type	Enrollment
Sycamore	Elementary	781
Sugar Hill	Elementary	1,106

School	Type	Enrollment
White Oak	Elementary	672
Lanier	Middle	1,349
North Gwinnett	Middle	3,093
Lanier	High	1,849

Land Usage

The City has a total area of **11.29 square miles** (29.24 km²), all of which is land.

Legal and Regulatory Capabilities

The Legal and Regulatory Capability survey documents authorities available to the jurisdiction and/or enabling legislation at the state level affecting planning and land management tools that support local hazard mitigation planning efforts. The identified planning and land management tools are typically used by states and local and tribal jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation activities.

Table 3
Legal and Regulatory Capability

Regulatory Tools/Plans	Regulatory Type: Ordinance Resolution Codes Plans, Etc.	Reference Number	Date Adopted	Local Authority	State Prohibited	Higher Authority
Building Codes	City Code and 2002 Development Regulations	Chapter 14		Y	N	N
Capital Improvements Plan	Referenced in the City Code	Article VI		Y	N	N
Comprehensive Plan	2019 Comprehensive Plan		2019	Y	N	N
Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) Plan	County COOP/COG Plan			N	N	Y
Community Rating System	County Rating			N	N	Y
Economic Development Plan	County Plan and the 2019 Comprehensive Plan			N	N	Y
Emergency Management Accreditation Program Certified				N	N	Y

Regulatory Tools/Plans	Regulatory Type: Ordinance Resolution Codes Plans, Etc.	Reference Number	Date Adopted	Local Authority	State Prohibited	Higher Authority
Emergency Response Plan	County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)			N	N	Y
Flood Management Plan	City Code and the Flood Plain Management Ordinance	Chapter 34	2006	Y	N	N
Growth Control Ordinance	2002 Development Regulations and the 2019 Comprehensive Plan			Y	N	N
Hazard Setback Regulations						
Historic Ordinance	City Code and the 2009 Comprehensive Plan	Article II		Y	N	N
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	Participate in NFIP			N	N	Y
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	County EOP			N	N	Y
Real Estate Disclosure	Real Estate Commission			N	N	Y
Site Plan Requirements	City Code & Development Regulations	Article II		Y	N	N
Subdivision Regulations	City Code & the 2002 Development Regulations	Article II Chapter 56, Article III		Y	N	N
Zoning Ordinances	City Code and Zoning Ordinance	Article III	1987 2000	Y	N	N

Administrative and Technical Capabilities

The City of Sugar Hill has a number of administrative and technical capabilities. City departments include the City Clerk, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Economic Development, Events, Finance, Gas Customer Service and Utility, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, Public Works, Storm Water Utility, Public Safety and Golf Clubhouse Maintenance. The city holds Municipal Court on a monthly schedule for Code Enforcement

matters. The City government includes a Mayor and five Council Members, one of which serves as Mayor Pro Tem. The administrative functions of the City are managed by the City Manager.

Mitigation Actions

Each jurisdiction participating in this Plan is responsible for implementing specific mitigation actions as prescribed in the adopted mitigation action plan. In each mitigation action plan, every proposed action is assigned to a specific local department or agency in order to assign responsibility and accountability and increase the likelihood of subsequent implementation. This approach enables individual jurisdictions to update their unique mitigation strategy as needed without altering the broader focus of the countywide Plan. The separate adoption of locally specific actions also ensures that each jurisdiction is not held responsible for monitoring and implementing the actions of other jurisdictions involved in the planning process. A complete list of countywide mitigation strategies and additional action information is provided in Section 5 of the Gwinnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Table 4
Mitigation Actions**

Action	Action/Project Description	Jurisdiction	Responsible	Estimated Cost	Est. Benefit	Funding Sources	Timeframe	Status	New/ Existing Infrastructure	Additional action information
Goal 1: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to severe winter storms										
Objective 1.1: Increase citizen severe winter storm awareness, preparedness, and response										
Objective 1.2: Improve first responder capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe winter storms										
Objective 1.3: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe winter storms										
1.3.18	Provide/maintain winter weather salting/sanding/scraping equipment	City of Sugar Hill	City Officials	\$10,000	\$200,000	City Budget, Federal Grants	2025-2030	Ongoing	Existing	
1.3.19	Provide/maintain generators or transfer switches at identified critical facilities in the City of Sugar Hill	City of Sugar Hill	City Officials	\$10,000	\$50,000	City Budget, Grants	2025-2030	Ongoing	Existing	
Goal 2: Minimize losses of life and property due to high winds from severe thunderstorms and windstorms in Gwinnett County, including all municipalities. *These actions also can apply to Hurricane(s) and Tropical Storms										
Objective 2.1: Increase citizen severe thunderstorm/windstorm awareness, preparedness and response										
2.1.5	Maintain all outdoor warning systems	City of Sugar Hill	City Officials	\$10,000	\$200,000	City Budget, Grants	2025-2030	Ongoing	Existing	
Objective 2.2: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather events, including thunderstorms and windstorms										
Goal 3: Minimize the impacts of tropical storms and hurricanes in Gwinnett County, including municipalities										
Objective 3.1: Enhance advance warning and preparedness capabilities										
Goal 4: Reduce the loss of life and property caused by tornadoes in Gwinnett County										
Objective 4.1: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather events including tornadoes										
Goal 5: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to lightning.										
Objective 5.1: Increase citizen lightning awareness.										

Objective 5.2: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from severe weather events involving lightning and its effects

Goal 6: Minimize losses of life and property in Gwinnett County due to wildfires

Objective 6.1: Protect critical facilities and vulnerable populations from the effects of wildfires.

Objective 6.2: Encourage the protection of residential and commercial structures.

Goal 7: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to flood events.

Objective 7.1 Improve Gwinnett County's flooding information distribution and warning to citizens.

7.1.8	Maintain NFIP status for flood mitigation	City of Sugar Hill	City Officials	\$5,000	\$100,000	City Budget	2025-2030	Ongoing	Existing	
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Objective 7.2: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flood events.

Goal 8: Minimize agricultural and property losses in Gwinnett County resulting from drought conditions.

Objective 8.1: Protect critical facilities and vulnerable agriculture from effects of drought conditions

Goal 9: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to earthquake events.

Objective 9.1: Improve Gwinnett County's earthquake information distribution and warning to citizens.

Goal 10: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to dam failure events

Objective 10.1: Improve Gwinnett County's capabilities to prepare for and respond to a dam failure

10.1.5	Review/Develop recommendation for Emergency Response Plan for Dam/Dike failure at Lake Lanier	City of Sugar Hill	City Officials	\$100,000	\$500,000	City Budget, Grants	2025-2030	Ongoing	Existing	
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Goal 11: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to cyber security attacks.

Objective 11.1: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to cyber security attacks.

Goal 12: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability to hazardous materials events.

Objective 12.1: Increase citizen hazardous materials event awareness, preparedness, and response.

Objective 12.2: Improve first responder capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazardous materials events.

Objective 12.3: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazardous materials events.

Goal 13: Reduce Gwinnett county's risk and vulnerability to pandemic/epidemic events

Objective 13.1: Improve Gwinnett County's pandemic/epidemic information distribution and warning to citizens

Objective 13.2: Improve Gwinnett County's first responder capabilities to prepare for and respond to pandemic/epidemic events

Objective 13.3: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from pandemic/epidemic events

Goal 14: Reduce Gwinnett County's risk and vulnerability from domestic and international terrorism incidents

Objective 14.1: Increase citizen knowledge on domestic and international terrorism awareness, preparedness, and response

Objective 14.2: Improve first responder's capability to prepare for and respond to terrorism incidents.

Goal 15: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to reduce risk and vulnerability to all-hazards events.

Objective 15.1: Improve Gwinnett County's information distribution and warning capabilities to citizens

Objective 15.2: Improve Gwinnett County's first responder capabilities to

Objective 15.3: Improve Gwinnett County's capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all-hazard events.

15.3.15	Update a site emergency plan for the E Center	City of Sugar Hill	City Officials	\$10,000	\$250,000	City Budget, Federal Grants	2025-2030	Ongoing	Existing	
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