

Section 4

Mitigation Plan Mission, Goals, Action Items

This section provides information on the process used to develop the mission, goals and action items addressed in the mitigation plan. It also describes the framework that focuses the plan on developing successful mitigation strategies. The framework is made up of three parts—*Mission*, *Goals* and *Action Items*:

- *Mission*— The mission statement is a philosophical or value statement that answers the question “Why develop a plan?” In short, the mission states the purpose and defines the primary function of the City of Portland’s Natural Hazards Mitigation plan. The mission is an action-oriented statement of the plan’s reason to exist. It should be broad enough that it need not change unless the community environment changes.
- *Goals*—Goals are designed to drive actions and they are intended to represent the general end toward which the City’s effort is directed. Goals identify how the City intends to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. They should not specify how the City is to achieve the level of performance. The goals are guiding principles for the specific recommendations that are outlined in the action items.
- *Action Items*—The action items are detailed recommendations for activities that city departments, citizens and others could engage in to reduce risk (See Section 5 for information on the plan’s action items).

Natural Hazard Mitigation Vision and Mission

Vision

The City of Portland’s vision is to strive to create a “Disaster Resilient City.”

By creating a legacy of mitigation activities, City and community leaders’ proactive implementation of long term, cost effective mitigation measures has protected its population, its properties, its natural and built environment and its investments. The forethought of Portland’s leaders has preserved the City through decades of hazard events.

Mission Statement

The mission of the City of Portland Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is:

To reduce risk, prevent loss of property and commerce, and promote expedient recovery, while safeguarding people and the environment from natural disaster events through a coordinated and collaborative community partnership.

Mitigation Plan Goals

The plan goals help to guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards. The goals listed here serve as checkpoints as agencies and organization begin implementing mitigation action items.

Meetings with the project steering committee, subcommittees, stakeholder interviews, served as methods to obtain input and identify priorities in developing goals for reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards in Portland.

Portland's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan goals are based on the goals established by State of Oregon's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The City's project steering committee reviewed the state's goals and made recommendations during a meeting on June 10, 2004, for adapting them to the City's needs. The following are the resulting goals for the City of Portland's Natural Hazards Mitigation plan.

Goal #1	Identify risk level and evaluate Portland's vulnerability to natural hazards
Goal #2	Implement activities to protect human life, property and natural systems.
Goal #3	Promote public awareness, engage public participation, and enhance partnerships through education, outreach and coordination of a diverse and representative group of the City's population
Goal #4	Establish a disaster resilient economy.
Goal #5	Build and support the capacity and commitment to continuously become less vulnerable to hazards.

Mitigation Plan Action Items

The mitigation plan identifies short and long-term action items developed through data collection and research. Mitigation plan activities may be considered for funding through state and federal grant programs, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program, as funds are made available. Action items address both multi-hazard (MH) and hazard specific issues for the hazards addressed in this plan. To facilitate implementation, each action item includes information on timeline, coordinating and partner organizations, ideas for implementation, and plan goals addressed.

Coordinating Organization:

The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The coordinating organization for all action items within the Portland plan will be the City of Portland.

Internal Partners:

Internal partner organizations are departments within the City that may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the coordinating organization.

External Partners:

External partner organizations can assist the City in implementing the action items in various functions and may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private sector organizations.

The internal and external partner organizations listed in the Mitigation Plan are potential partners recommended by the project steering committee, but not necessarily contacted during the development of the plan. The coordinating organization should contact the identified partner organizations to see if they are capable of and interested in participation. This initial contact is also to gain a commitment of time and or resources towards completion of the action items.

Timeline:

Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation. *Short-term action items* (ST) are activities that city departments may implement with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. *Long-term action items* (LT) may require new or additional resources and/or authorities, and may take between one and five years to implement.

Ideas for Implementation:

Each action item includes ideas for implementation and potential resources. This information offers a transition from theory to practice. The ideas for implementation serve as a starting point for this plan. This component of the action items is dynamic as some ideas may be not feasible and new ideas can be added during the plan maintenance process. (For more information on how this plan will be implemented and evaluated, see Chapter 5).

The action items are suggestions for ways to implement the plan goals only. Some of these items may prove to be unrealistic and others more refined ideas may be identified and added to the plan. Ideas for implementation include things such as collaboration with relevant organizations, grant programs, tax incentives, human resources, education and outreach, research, and physical manipulation of buildings and infrastructure. A list of potential resources outlines what organization or agency will be most qualified and capable to perform the implementation strategy. Potential resources often include utility companies, non-profits, schools, and other community organizations.

Plan Goals Addressed

The plan goals addressed by each action item are identified as a means for monitoring and evaluating how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals following implementation.