

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS MITIGATION ACTION 1	
Continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, including enforcement of zoning and building codes.	
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
Site and Location:	Floodprone areas throughout the city
Benefit Cost:	NFIP regulations reduce flood damage by requiring elevation to the base flood elevation.
MITIGATION ACTION DETAILS	
Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flooding, Flooding due to Impoundment
Goal(s) Addressed:	Goal 1: Objective 1.1, 1.4; Goal 4
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	High
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Moderate to High
Estimated Cost:	Minimal
Potential Funding Sources:	Existing budgets and staff
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Building Inspection Department
Implementation Schedule:	Ongoing
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS MITIGATION ACTION 2

Protect public and private structures from natural hazard damage, including acquiring, relocating, retrofitting or elevating floodprone property. This action may include minor structural flood control projects, retrofits to address critical infrastructure and facilities and stormwater management system improvements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site and Location:

Citywide, but with particular emphasis on Newcastle Apartments in the Old Town Creek floodway and floodplain. Safe evacuation of these buildings during flood events is problematic.



Source: Virginia Flood Risk Information System

Benefit Cost:

Structures and infrastructure can often be retrofitted to provide additional protection from hazards such as flood, thereby reducing average annual losses. In some cases, the risk of flooding is so great that relocation, demolition or elevation is the only cost effective and safe solution.

MITIGATION ACTION DETAILS	
Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flooding, Flooding due to Impoundment Failure, Severe Wind Events, Wildfires, Severe Winter Weather, Thunderstorms, Earthquakes, Landslides, Radon Exposure
Goal(s) Addressed:	Goal 1: Objective 1.4; Goal 3; Goal 4
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	High
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	High – Newcastle Apartments rep loss area Moderate – 2 rep loss areas along Swift Creek west of Jefferson Davis Highway Low – rep loss area east of I-95 and north of Temple Ave, along Old Town Creek
Estimated Cost:	Depends on method selected to address the problem.
Potential Funding Sources:	DHS: BRIC, HMGP, FMA, RFC; ARPA; USACE: SFCP, FPMS; HUD: CDBG; Virginia CFPF
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Fire and EMS; Planning and Community Development; Economic Development; PDC
Implementation Schedule:	Within 3 years of plan adoption
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	
<p>Additional projects include projects to repair/replace/retrofit aging infrastructure, such as: shelter retrofits;</p> <p>protection for Lakeview Elementary which is in the SFHA;</p> <p>repairs to flood-damaged stormwater components;</p> <p>protection for sewer pump stations; and</p> <p>aging sewer and water lines and components (Conjure's Neck and Boulevard north of Temple).</p>	

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS MITIGATION ACTION 3

Distribute brochures and use other means to educate the public regarding preparedness and mitigation. Conduct annual preparedness days for hazards to include floods, wind, earthquakes, and tornado. Customize messaging to address: repetitive flood loss areas, importance of flood insurance coverage, and the high vulnerability of certain populations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site and Location:	Citywide, with particular emphasis on repetitive flood loss areas.
Benefit Cost:	FEMA, VDEM and other agencies maintain a large library of free paper and online materials to support this action. Social media is free for communities and has potential to reach large number of citizens in a short period of time, and at little cost.

MITIGATION ACTION DETAILS

Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flooding, Flooding due to Impoundment Failure, Severe Wind Events, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Severe Winter Weather, Thunderstorms, Droughts and Extreme Heat, Earthquakes, Radon Exposure, Infectious Diseases
Goal(s) Addressed:	Goal 1: Objectives 1.2, 1.4; Goal 2: Objective 2.2
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	High
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	High
Estimated Cost:	~\$5,000
Potential Funding Sources:	Existing budgets
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Emergency Management
Implementation Schedule:	Within 1 year of plan adoption

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The current messaging/outreach the City is deploying is not reaching the targeted populations. Officials are optimistic about reworking the current system to address more people and measuring the number of people reached.

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS MITIGATION ACTION 4

Conduct regular review of repetitive loss and severe repetitive flood loss properties from FEMA. Review will include verification of the geographic location of each property and determination if mitigated and by what means. Corrections can be made to FEMA by filing form FEMA AW-501.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site and Location:	Repetitively flooded areas in the city
Benefit Cost:	Structures designated as repetitive flood losses are treated differently under NFIP rating procedures. Ensuring the list is correct is important for property owners in the county who have to pay for flood insurance, and for targeting flood risk messaging per action #4 above.

MITIGATION ACTION DETAILS

Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flooding, Flooding due to Impoundment Failure
Goal(s) Addressed:	Goal 1: Objectives 1.1, 1.4; Goal 3; Goal 4: Objective 4.1
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	Low
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	High
Estimated Cost:	Minimal
Potential Funding Sources:	Existing budgets
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Fire and EMS, PDC and VDEM
Implementation Schedule:	Within 2 years of plan adoption and regularly thereafter as new data are provided

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS MITIGATION ACTION 5

Use available statewide, regional, or county advanced warning systems, weather gauging systems, evacuation planning tools, and public information resources to prepare community officials and residents in case of a hazard event. Acquire additional resources to build components of a flood warning system and local evacuation plan, including: new IFLOWS gauges (especially, Swift Creek, Swift Creek dam and Old Town Creek), road crossing elevations for county, city and state-owned roads, a flood alert system, and an additional tornado siren for the north end of the City near Tussing Elementary and Conjure’s Neck.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site and Location:	Citywide, with particular emphasis on the Swift Creek floodplain, Sherwood Hills, and Conjure’s Neck, as described above
Benefit Cost:	When people have adequate time to prepare for a hazard event and know what actions to take ahead of time, damages are reduced.

MITIGATION ACTION DETAILS

Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flooding, Flooding due to Impoundment Failure, Tornadoes, Severe Wind Events, Thunderstorms, Earthquakes, Severe Winter Weather
Goal(s) Addressed:	Goal 1; Goal 2; Goal 4
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	Moderate
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	High
Estimated Cost:	TBD
Potential Funding Sources:	DHS: HMGP, BRIC; Virginia CFPF; USACE
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Fire and EMS
Implementation Schedule:	Within 4 years of plan adoption

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS MITIGATION ACTION 6

Repair flood gates on Lakeview Dam, as identified in after action report from the last flood event that impacted the dam.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site and Location:	Lakeview Dam is located in a meander bend of Swift Creek in the northwest portion of the City.
Benefit Cost:	Critical infrastructure requires regular upkeep, maintenance and repairs to operate at design capacity. Repairs to the dam are far less expensive than the potential flooding that could result should the flood gates fail.

MITIGATION ACTION DETAILS

Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flooding due to Impoundment Failure
Goal(s) Addressed:	Goal 4
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	High
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	High
Estimated Cost:	TBD
Potential Funding Sources:	DHS: HHPD, HMGP; USACE
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Emergency Management, VaDCR
Implementation Schedule:	Immediately; identify funding source within 1 year of

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Lakeview Dam is privately-owned and was built in 1920; it is considered a high hazard potential dam. Although no structures are listed as potential impact structures on the Dam Safety Data Sheet, the dam impounds water above the Sherwood Hills neighborhood and access/egress to that neighborhood during flood events on Swift Creek is very limited.

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS MITIGATION ACTION 7

Include additional reviewers on Design Review Committee for new development, specifically to review projects for hazard-related vulnerabilities. Include staff training for decision making tools, such as those developed by VIMS Center for Coastal Resources Management for shoreline development and the Certified Floodplain Manager program from the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Site and Location:	Citywide
Benefit Cost:	Early review of projects to reduce existing and future hazard vulnerabilities reduce future damages.

MITIGATION ACTION DETAILS

Hazard(s) Addressed:	Flooding, Flooding due to Impoundment Failure, Wildfires, Landslides, Shoreline Erosion, Sinkholes
Goal(s) Addressed:	Goal 1; Goal 4
Priority (High, Moderate, Low):	Moderate
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	High
Estimated Cost:	Minimal
Potential Funding Sources:	Existing resources
Lead Agency/Department Responsible:	Planning and Community Development, Emergency Management
Implementation Schedule:	Within 2 years of plan adoption

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

This action includes elements from the Comprehensive Plan Environment Policies section.