



Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services, North Carolina

CTP Since: 1999

CRS Participant Since: 1990

Major CTP Accomplishments: The partner developed revised flood maps that more accurately show the location of areas likely to flood along major streams and creeks throughout the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. In July 2006, the county began reviewing and processing requests for Letters of Map Change pursuant to a pilot program for Cooperating Technical Partners (CTPs). In 2007, the county intends to begin revising 20 percent of its Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels per year on a continual basis to maintain the accuracy of the flood information in an area that has seen dramatic population growth.

CRS Rating: Mecklenburg County is rated 6 (20-percent reduction in flood insurance premiums for county residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas). The City of Charlotte is rated 5 (25-percent reduction).

Complete Story (link)

CRS Accomplishments: One of the major Flood Map Modernization efforts has been mapping floodplain boundaries based on future conditions hydrology (credited under CRS activity 410 - Additional Flood Data). A HAZUS pilot study was conducted to measure the losses avoided by using future conditions hydrology and enforcing stricter building restrictions. The results of the study showed that in one watershed alone, an estimated \$16 million in structural damages were avoided by investing \$250,000 in enhanced analyses for mapping future conditions. A complete study was conducted for all watersheds and determined that \$2 million invested in enhanced mapping prevented \$300 million in losses for a single, 100-year flood event. Charlotte and Mecklenburg County receive CRS credit for requiring new studies be developed that provide elevations for a length of stream in advance of development. The requirement states that the Base (1-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevation must be delineated on streams that discharge greater than 50 cubic feet per second. New homes must be built at least two feet above this elevation (credited under CRS Activity 430 - Higher Regulatory Standards). Several ongoing programs and policies have contributed to the current favorable CRS ratings for Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The FIRM shows delineations of both existing and future conditions floodplains as well as a floodway based on a 0.1-foot surcharge (credited under CRS Activity 410 - Additional Flood Data). CRS points are also awarded for enforcing higher regulatory standards, numerous building acquisition projects, and an active stream channel maintenance program. As is the case for all North Carolina CTPs, Mecklenburg County will receive additional credit under the CRS point system because the State is a CTP and this study was done pursuant to the State's CTP agreement.