



City of Peoria and Peoria County Acquisition

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Peoria County, Illinois



City of Peoria and Peoria County, IL - Acquisition and relocation of frequently flood-damaged buildings have been taking place in the City of Peoria and unincorporated Peoria County for nearly 15 years. Beginning with FEMA's Section 1362 floodprone property acquisition program in 1982 and continuing through today's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the City, County, and Park District have acquired, relocated, and demolished dozens of structures and restored an open floodplain along a 25 mile reach of the Illinois River.

The City and County have obtained Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funding to continue to acquire floodprone properties. All the properties have since been cleared into open space, and residents have relocated to flood-free locations. The County also participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) and has used the acquisition projects to reduce their CRS rating, which lowers flood insurance premiums for County residents.

Record floods occurred in 1979, 1982, 1985, and 1995. The success of the program is obvious when the damages for the 1985 and 1995 floods are compared. Although the 1995 flood crested 1.4 feet higher than the 1985 flood, very little damage occurred, and flood insurance claims were reduced by almost 90 percent. Taxpayers saved millions of dollars in relief costs, and the benefits are continuing. Removing the exposure to flood damage pays real benefits. The jurisdictions have continued these ongoing efforts by applying for \$1.3 million in HMGP funding and \$383,000 in Flood Mitigation Assistance Program funding, which will be matched by State agencies.

Standard Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program makes Federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in participating communities.

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County (County-wide)**

FEMA Region: **Region V**

State: **Illinois**

County: **Peoria County**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**
Hazard Type: **Flooding**
Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts**
Structure Type: **Wood Frame**
Activity/Project Start Date: **01/1982**
Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**
Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); State sources; Other FEMA funds/ US Department of Homeland Security**
Funding Recipient: **Local Government**
Funding Recipient Name: **City of Peoria and Peoria County**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$4,700,000.00 (Actual)**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal Disaster? **Unknown**
Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**
Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**
Year First Tested: **1995**
Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>
Reference URL 2: <http://www.state.il.us/iema/>

Main Points

- All the properties have since been cleared into open space, and residents have relocated to flood-free locations.
- The County also participates in the Community Rating System (CRS) and has used the acquisition projects to reduce their CRS rating, which lowers flood insurance premiums for County residents.
- The success of the program is obvious when the damages for the 1985 and 1995 floods are compared. Although the 1995 flood crested 1.4 feet higher than the 1985 flood, very little damage occurred, and flood insurance claims were reduced by almost 90 percent.

