



City of Boulder Hazard Mitigation Update Report 2025

For credit under the Community Rating System, this report must be distributed to the media and be made available to the public. Notification of the availability of the report will be sent to the media that cover the City of Boulder via a press release. Copies of this report and the 2022 Plan Update are available for review at the Office of Disaster Management for the City of Boulder & Boulder County or online at BoulderODM.gov.

For this mitigation plan, goals were defined as broad-based public policy statements that:

- Represent basic desires of the community.
- Encompass all aspects of the community, public and private.
- Are nonspecific, in that they refer to the quality (not the quantity) of the outcome.
- Are future-oriented, in that they are achievable in the future; and
- Are time-independent, in that they are not scheduled events.

The City of Boulder's goals for the 2022-2027 Hazard Mitigation Plan are as follows:

Goal 1: Increase Community Awareness of Boulder's Vulnerability to Natural Hazards

- Objective 1.1: Inform and educate the community about the types of hazards the City of Boulder is exposed to, where they occur, and recommend responses.

Goal 2: Reduce Vulnerability of People, Property, and the Environment to Natural Hazards

- Objective 2.1: Reduce impacts of hazards on residents and vulnerable populations in the community.
- Objective 2.2: Reduce impacts to critical facilities and services.
- Objective 2.3: Reduce impacts to existing buildings and infrastructure to the extent possible.
- Objective 2.4: Reduce impacts to future development and infrastructure to the extent possible.
- Objective 2.5: Reduce impacts to the city's natural and historic resources.
- Objective 2.6: Reduce impacts to public health.

Goal 3: Increase Interagency Capabilities and Coordination to Reduce the Impacts of Natural Hazards and Increase Community Resiliency

- Objective 3.1: Continue to collaborate and coordinate with other agencies on planning, projects, hazard response, and funding opportunities.
- Objective 3.2: Minimize economic impacts of natural hazards.

| Mitigation Action Title | Jurisdiction | Priority | Goals | Hazards | Status | |
|--|---|----------|-----------|--|-------------|---|
| Multi-Hazard Actions | | | | | | |
| Mitigation Action Title | Jurisdiction | Priority | Goals | Hazards | Status | Update |
| City of Boulder Projects | | | | | | |
| Water System Resilience – Improvements to Water Treatment Reliability and Redundancy | City of Boulder Public Works-Utilities Department | High | Goal 2 | Earthquake, drought, severe winter storm, tornado, windstorm, wildfire, hail | In Progress | Capital project improvements in both design and construction at the 63 rd Street Water Treatment Facility and the Betasso Water Treatment Facility continued in 2025. |
| Treated Water Transmission System Resilience and Reliability | City of Boulder Public Works-Utilities Department | High | Goal 2 | Earthquake, drought, severe winter storm, tornado, windstorm | In Progress | The city continues to work on several transmission system piping replacement projects located along 63 rd Street which are scheduled for completion in 2026. |
| Undergrounding Electric Utilities | City of Boulder Public Works-Climate Initiatives Department | High | Goal 2, 3 | Earthquake, severe winter storm, tornado, windstorm, wildfire, extreme heat | In Progress | The city continues to work on opportunities to underground electric utilities, with 69% of electric lines within the city already constructed underground. Four major projects are planned for 2025-2026, that will underground line segments within wildland areas proximate to the city, including one serving the city’s wastewater treatment plant. |
| Harden Overhead Electric Utilities | City of Boulder Public Works-Climate Initiatives Department | High | Goal 2,3 | Earthquake, severe winter storm, tornado, windstorm, wildfire, extreme heat | In Progress | The city continues to work with the serving electric utility, Xcel Energy, to ensure poles, wires and other infrastructure is hardened withstand and prevent hazards. |
| Enhance Critical Facility Data | City of Boulder Risk Management | Low | Goal 1, 3 | All Hazards | In Progress | |
| Emergency Back-Up Power | Boulder County Facilities & Asset Management | High | Goal 2 | All Hazards | In Progress | |

| Mitigation Action Title City of Boulder Projects | Jurisdiction | Priority | Goals | Hazards | Status | Update |
|--|--|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Hazard Education | Boulder ODM, Fire Dept, Police Dept | Medium | Goal 1 | All Hazards | In Progress | ODM continues to provide outreach programs through HOA presentations, City special events, sponsored ODM disaster preparedness workshops and regional AFN agencies. ODM website has added significant preparedness program information, videos and in 5 languages. |
| Increase Individual Warning Systems Capacity Available | City of Boulder ODM, Fire and Police | High | Goal 1 | All Hazards | In Progress | Everbridge, WEA, EAS, NWS Radio, Sirens, Keyword, and Reachwell translation service. |
| Outreach Efforts Associated with BoCo911Alert.com | Boulder ODM, Fire Dept, Police Dept | High | Goal 1 | All Hazards | In Progress | BOCO Alert 911 capability provides detailed alerting information and mapping tool to provide detailed information to residents during alerting efforts. |
| Prepare pre-disaster forms to facilitate public infrastructure mitigation through the FEMA public assistance program during post-disaster recovery | Boulder ODM, | Low | Goal 2,3 | All Hazards | In Progress | COOP effort begins in 2026 to update existing departmental Continuity of Operations Plans. ODM asked County Recovery Management staff to develop PA estimator based on prior disaster recovery experience. |
| Increasing Public Awareness of Flood Risk and Safety Measures | Boulder ODM, & City of Boulder Public Works – Utilities Department | High | Goal 1 | Flooding | In Progress | Ongoing community outreach at selects public events. |
| Enhance Outdoor Emergency Warning System - add sirens to NW, East & SE areas of the city | Boulder ODM, Fire Dept, Police Dept | Low | Goal 1 | All Hazards | In Progress | Outdoor warning system has been maintained. No funding currently to replace or add additional sirens. |

| Mitigation Action Title City of Boulder Projects | Jurisdiction | Priority | Goals | Hazards | Status | Update |
|---|---|-----------------|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| Maintain Urban Tree Canopy | City of Boulder Parks and Rec, Forestry Division, Climate initiatives | High | Goal 2,3 | Air Quality, Extreme Temperatures, Flood, Windstorm, Winter Storm | In Progress | City-wide tree canopy monitoring systems developed. Low canopy/high heat areas identified. Tree canopy targets and action strategies in development for high vulnerability areas. |
| Implement Flood Mitigation Plans | City of Boulder Public Works-Utilities Department | High | Goal 2 | Flood | In Progress | Advancement of three key flood mitigation projects at various stages – South Boulder Creek (design finished and project bid), Upper Goose/Two-mile (pre-design work), and Gregory Canyon Creek (detailed design). |
| Relocate Fire Station Outside 100-year Flood Risk | FAM & Fire Dept. | Medium | Goal 2 | Flood & Fire | Complete | Relocated Fire Stations #3. Project is complete and station is in-service. |
| Prioritize Flood Hazards | City of Boulder Public Works – Utilities Department | High | Goal 2 | Flood, | Complete | A Flood Project Prioritization (FPP) tool was developed as part of the Comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Master Plan Update. The FPP tool incorporates seven key criteria to rank and rate over 30 flood mitigation project needs. |
| Update the Comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Master Plan | City of Boulder Public Works – Utilities Department | High | Goal 2 | Flood, | Complete | The Comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Master Plan was updated in 2022 and approved by City Council. |
| Acquire High Hazard Zone Properties | City of Boulder Public Works – Utilities Department | Medium | Goal 1, 2 | Flood, | In Progress | While no additional properties were acquired in 2025, future acquisitions are planned as part of this ongoing program. |
| Update City's Floodplain Maps | City of Boulder Public Works – Utilities Department | Medium | Goal 1, 2 | Flood, | In Progress | No specific updates in 2025, but floodplain mapping updates will continue in future years. |

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| Implement Wildland Fire Mitigation Program for Watersheds | City of Boulder Public Works-Utilities Department | High | Goal 1, 2, 3 | Wildfire | In Progress | Completed two forest fuels reduction projects to protect the source water supply and critical drinking water infrastructure from wildfire impacts - Arapaho Ranch (2023) and Kossler Reservoir (2024). Planning an additional project at Tram Hill along the Barker Penstock and two powerlines; implementation planned for 2025 through 2028. |
| Wildland Fire Management Plan | OSMP / Fire | Medium | Goal 1,2,3 | Wildfire | In Progress | No progress to date, Will reevaluate after completion of CWPP In progress, this should be included with “implement CWPP” as the WRIP inventory and implementation plan should be considered a broader fire management plan |
| Update CWPP | OSMP / Fire | Medium | Goal 1,2,3 | Wildfire | Complete | CWPP accepted by Council Q3 2024. |
| Implement CWPP | OSMP / Fire | High | Goal 2 | Wildfire | In Progress | No action to date, anticipated progress in Q3 2024 CWPP implementation in progress unknown completion. |
| Implement Forest Ecosystem Management Plan | OSMP | High | Goal 2 | Wildfire | In Progress | The city continues to prioritize the goals and projects outlined in the Forest Ecosystem Management Plan. To date, over 2700 acres of forest thinning have been completed in forests owned and managed by the city. In 2025, over 150 acres of projects were completed in WUI focused areas like Flagstaff Mountain, Shanahan Ridge, and the Sanitas Valley. |
| Update City’s Drought Plan | City of Boulder Public Works – Utilities Department | High | Goal 1,2,3 | Drought | Complete | The city’s Drought Plan was updated in 2022 and will be used for decisions on water use restrictions in future years, as appropriate. |