Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, local jurisdictions must have a disaster mitigation plan in effect to receive funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. For this project, BPS prepared the update to the Marion County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan with the purpose of identifying and assessing the natural, geological, and manmade hazards that pose the greatest risk to Marion County’s communities.

BPS completed extensive research on historic hazard events and assessed the risk posed to Marion County by each hazard. Vulnerability assessments were conducted to determine each hazard’s potential impact to infrastructure, population, and property, and estimate the economic losses that could result from a hazard event.

Additionally, the BPS team performed GIS mapping and Hazus analyses; facilitated stakeholder and public engagement activities; digitized the survey collection process for ease of compiling stakeholder and community feedback; collected mitigation action recommendations; and developed corresponding mitigation strategies to reduce any losses from those hazards. The final mitigation plan established a coordinated process to implement the plan.