



LOCATION

Portage County, Ohio

TASKS

- Hazard mitigation plan development
- Sustainability and resiliency integration
- Public & stakeholder involvement
- Risk assessments & vulnerability analyses
- Hazus modeling
- Mitigation strategies

HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressed natural & human-made hazards
- Developed mitigation actions to reduce hazard impacts
- Created a website for updates, meeting notices, and comments
- Facilitated in-person & virtual public and stakeholder meetings

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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) for pre-disaster mitigation activities. For this project, BPS prepared the update to the Portage County Hazard Mitigation Plan with the purpose of identifying and assessing the hazards that pose the greatest risk to Portage County and its communities.

BPS completed an existing conditions assessment of Portage County, including demographics as well as historic hazard events. BPS also assessed risk 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 collected GIS mapping data and performed a Level 1 Hazus analysis; facilitated in-person and virtual stakeholder and public engagement activities (due to the COVID-19 pandemic); collected mitigation action recommendations; and developed corresponding mitigation strategies to reduce losses from those hazards. The final plan established a coordinated process to implement the plan and was reviewed and approved by the Ohio and Federal Emergency Management Agencies.

