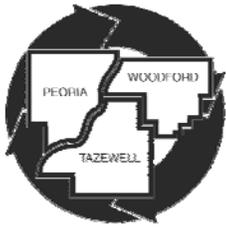


**PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS ARTICLES PUBLISHED**



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

456 FULTON STREET ▪ SUITE 401 ▪ PEORIA, IL 61602  
PHONE: 309-673-9330 ▪ FAX: 309-673-9802  
WWW.TRICOUNTYRPC.ORG

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Reema Abi-Akar, 309-673-9330

## **Tri-County Plans for Natural Disasters**

Peoria, IL (October 16, 2017)—The tri-county area will be updating its Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to help the region prepare for disasters such as tornadoes, floods, and droughts.

Fourteen jurisdictions throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties will participate in the planning process: The Village of Bartonville, the City of Chillicothe, the City of East Peoria, the City of Eureka, the Village of Germantown Hills, the Village of Hanna City, the Village of Morton, the City of Peoria, the Village of Peoria Heights, Tazewell County, the Village of Tremont, the City of Washington, and Woodford County.

Funded with a grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, or IEMA, this document will update Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's most recent 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

"It is crucial to continue updating the region's hazard mitigation plan to ease the damage caused by future natural disasters and ensure a documented process is in place for these events," said Reema Abi-Akar, Planner at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and organizer of the planning process.

A Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) has been formed, made up of representatives from each of the 14 jurisdictions in addition to area sheriffs, hospitals, schools, and organizations. The first MAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Clock Tower Building at 201 Clock Tower Drive in East Peoria.

"In attending this meeting, public officials, local leaders, and many regional stakeholders will be able to understand where their place is in the larger planning process and what they should be aware of when preparing for natural disasters," Abi-Akar continued.

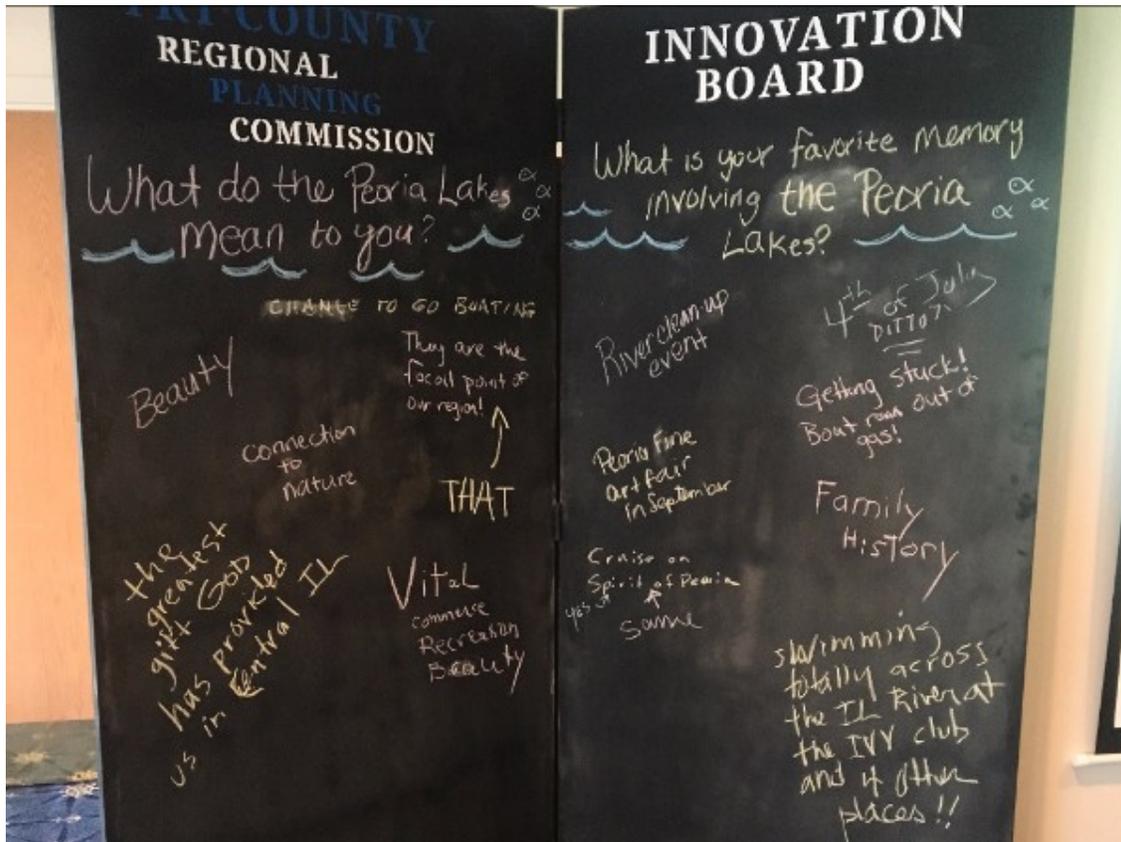
These meetings will occur periodically during the next several months as the planning process progresses. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the process, understand what details are included in the plan, and provide their input.

While natural disasters cannot be prevented altogether, updating this Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow the tri-county area to be more prepared to manage them and bounce back from them as they occur in the future.

[View this email in your browser](#)



## TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



### WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- TCRPC Staff Updates
- New Website Unveiled
- Peoria Lakes Project
- Hazard Mitigation
- Regional Water Supply Planning
- Pekin Derby Street Project
- East Peoria Sidewalk Study
- Performance Measures
- Multi-Modal Freight Study

The project kicked off in April of this year, and the PLBA, made up of Tri-County, The Nature Conservancy, and Heartland Water Resources Council, have held a public open house, been featured in the media, and have put together a Project Review Committee to continue the progress toward the final plan.

Read about the project in [InterBusiness Issues](#) or visit [PartakeInPeoriaLakes.org](http://PartakeInPeoriaLakes.org) for more information!



Photo: July 13, 2017 Peoria Lakes public open house

---

## Tri-County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan with Community Support

*The tri-county area will continue to help the region prepare for disasters such as tornadoes, floods, and droughts*

Fourteen jurisdictions throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties will participate in the planning process: Bartonville, Chillicothe, East Peoria, Eureka, Germantown Hills, Hanna City, Morton, Pekin, Peoria, Peoria Heights, Tazewell County, Tremont, Washington, and Woodford County.

Funded with a grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, or IEMA, this document will update Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's most recent [2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).

While future natural disasters cannot be prevented altogether, this plan update will allow the tri-county area to be more prepared to manage and bounce back from them.



Photo: October 25, 2017 kickoff public meeting



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

456 FULTON STREET ▪ SUITE 401 ▪ PEORIA, IL 61602  
PHONE: 309-673-9330 ▪ FAX: 309-673-9802  
WWW.TRICOUNTYRPC.ORG

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Reema Abi-Akar, 309-673-9330

## **Tri-County Plans for Natural Disasters**

Peoria, IL (March 14, 2018)—The tri-county area is updating its Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to help the region prepare for disasters such as tornadoes, floods, and droughts.

Fourteen jurisdictions throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties are participating in the planning process: The Village of Bartonville, the City of Chillicothe, the City of East Peoria, the City of Eureka, the Village of Germantown Hills, the Village of Hanna City, the Village of Morton, the City of Pekin, the City of Peoria, the Village of Peoria Heights, Tazewell County, the Village of Tremont, the City of Washington, and Woodford County.

Funded with a grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, or IEMA, this document will update Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's most recent 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

"It is crucial to ensure that a documented process is in place to ease the damage caused by future natural disasters," said Reema Abi-Akar, Planner at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and organizer of the planning process.

A Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) has been formed, made up of representatives from each of the 14 jurisdictions in addition to area sheriffs, hospitals, schools, and organizations. The second MAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Clock Tower Building at 201 Clock Tower Drive in East Peoria.

The meeting is open to the public, and it will involve dialogue about risk assessment, mitigation activities, and strategy. The last meeting introduced the process and invited attendees to fill out forms that gauge their knowledge about area hazardous events.

In attending this meeting, regional stakeholders will acquire specific information about the frequency and severity of natural hazards that can be used to better prepare their communities.

These meetings will occur during the next several months as the planning process progresses. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the process, understand what details are included in the plan, and provide their input.

While natural disasters cannot be prevented altogether, updating this Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow the tri-county area to be more prepared to manage them and bounce back from them as they occur in the future.

## **Tri-County disaster plan update to be topic of Wednesday meeting**

**By Brad Erickson**

**Journal Star transportation reporter**

Posted Mar 11, 2018 at 9:18 PM

Updated Mar 11, 2018 at 9:27 PM

PEORIA — A public meeting set for Wednesday in East Peoria is part of a Tri-County effort to update a plan to prepare for disasters such as tornadoes, floods and droughts.

Fourteen jurisdictions throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties are taking part in the planning process: They are Bartonville, Chillicothe, East Peoria, Eureka, Germantown Hills, Hanna City, Morton, Pekin, Peoria, Peoria Heights, Tremont, Washington, Tazewell County and Woodford County, according to a news release from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. Peoria County has its own plan.

“It is crucial to ensure that a documented process is in place to ease the damage caused by future natural disasters,” Reema Abi-Akar, planner at the commission and organizer of the planning process, said in a news release.

The document will update the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission’s most recent 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The goal is to update the plan every five years, “but sometimes the funding structure makes that difficult,” Abi-Akar said last week.

In addition to a \$48,713 grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, there is a local cost share requirement of \$16,275 to update the plan, Abi-Akar said.

A Mitigation Advisory Committee formed to help with the update is composed of representatives from the 14 jurisdictions in addition to area sheriffs, hospitals, schools, and organizations. The committee had its first meeting last October. The committee's meeting Wednesday is intended to go more in depth to inform the public about what is being done to prepare for disasters in the Tri-County, Abi-Akar said.

Officials from American Environmental Corp. in Springfield, which is consulting on the project, will attend Wednesday's meeting, she said.

Abi-Akar said there will be more meetings in the coming months, and completing the updated plan might take until 2019.

Brad Erickson can be reached at 686-3059 and [berickson@pjstar.com](mailto:berickson@pjstar.com). Follow him on Twitter [@Bradrickson](https://twitter.com/Bradrickson).



## **SIGN UP FOR DAILY E-MAIL**

Wake up to the day's top news, delivered to your inbox

---



## TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Save the Date for May 9-10 Symposium
- FHWA/ FTA Quadrennial Review
- Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Plan Update
- Peoria Lakes Dredged Material Use
- CityLift/CountyLink Coordinated Dispatch
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- Regional Water Supply Planning Underway
- Community Spotlight: Roanoke

---

### SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

Story originally published [here](#) by Emily Watson.

---

## Hazard Mitigation Planning Process Continues

*The tri-county area will continue to help the region prepare for disasters such as tornadoes, floods, and droughts.*

Earlier this month, Tri-County held its second meeting of the Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC), made up of representatives from 14 participating jurisdictions and other key regional stakeholders, to discuss risk assessment and possible mitigation projects throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties.

The 14 jurisdictions participating in the planning process are: Bartonville, Chillicothe, East Peoria, Eureka, Germantown Hills, Hanna City, Morton, Pekin, Peoria, Peoria Heights, Tazewell County, Tremont, Washington, and Woodford County.



Funded by a grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, or IEMA, this document will update Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's most recent 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

MAC meetings will continue periodically, the next one taking place on [June 20](#). While future natural disasters cannot be prevented altogether, this plan update will allow the tri-county area to be more prepared to manage and bounce back from them.

---

## Tapping Into Regional Water Supply Planning

*Regional water stakeholders are undertaking a planning initiative for the seven-county Middle Illinois Basin area.*

Tri-County is partnering with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) to develop a regional water supply plan for the Middle Illinois Basin (MIB). The MIB encompasses seven counties: LaSalle, Putnam, Marshall, Stark, Livingston, Woodford, and Peoria.

---

Middle Illinois Basin Priority Planning Area

*Appendix F*



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

456 FULTON STREET ▪ SUITE 401 ▪ PEORIA, IL 61602  
PHONE: 309-673-9330 ▪ FAX: 309-673-9802  
WWW.TRICOUNTYRPC.ORG

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Reema Abi-Akar, 309-673-9330

## **Tri-County Plans for Natural Disasters**

East Peoria, IL (June 20, 2018)—When severe storms hit, it is crucial to take steps preventing injuries and deaths while maintaining vital community services. The nature of these steps will be the topic of the upcoming Tri-County Natural Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting, taking place at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20 in Room 200 of the Clock Tower Building at 201 Clock Tower Drive in East Peoria. Committee meetings are open to the public.

Fourteen jurisdictions throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties are participating in the planning process: The Village of Bartonville, the City of Chillicothe, the City of East Peoria, the City of Eureka, the Village of Germantown Hills, the Village of Hanna City, the Village of Morton, the City of Pekin, the City of Peoria, the Village of Peoria Heights, Tazewell County, the Village of Tremont, the City of Washington, and Woodford County.

The last meeting, which took place in March, involved dialogue about risk assessment and mitigation activities. Two more meetings are expected in this planning process, which is funded through a grant from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, or IEMA. This plan will serve as an update for the 2010 Tri-County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Beginning in October 2017, this Committee has been working to update this plan, whose goal is to protect Tri-County residents and property from natural disasters. This plan is aimed at identifying projects and activities that can be implemented before these disasters occur.

Building storm shelters, acquiring flood-prone properties, providing back-up power supplies, retrofitting water supplies and other critical facilities to better withstand natural disasters are a few of the more frequently encountered mitigation projects in Illinois. Developing public information materials and conducting drainage studies are examples of other activities that might also be included in the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

While natural disasters cannot be prevented altogether, updating this Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow the tri-county area to be more prepared to manage them and bounce back from them as they occur in the future.



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

456 FULTON STREET ▪ SUITE 401 ▪ PEORIA, IL 61602  
PHONE: 309-673-9330 ▪ FAX: 309-673-9802  
WWW.TRICOUNTYRPC.ORG

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Reema Abi-Akar, 309-673-9330

## **Natural Disaster Planning with the Local Community**

East Peoria, IL (September 27, 2018)— Projects to protect residents and property from storms and other natural hazards will be the focus of the Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting on September 27th in Room 200 of the Clock Tower Building at 201 Clock Tower Drive in East Peoria. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

Fifteen jurisdictions throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties are participating in the planning process: The Village of Bartonville, the City of Chillicothe, the City of East Peoria, the City of Eureka, the Village of Germantown Hills, the Village of Hanna City, the Village of Morton, the City of Peoria, the Village of Peoria Heights, Village of Roanoke, Tazewell County, the Village of Tremont, the City of Washington, and Woodford County.

“With the increased news coverage about natural hazards in the Eastern United States, it is more important than ever to plan for future events in our own communities,” said Reema Abi-Akar, Planner at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and organizer of the planning process. “Identifying preventative steps is crucial to reducing damages and preventing loss of life before severe weather strikes.”

Projects identified by county and municipal representatives at this meeting will become part of the Tri-County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The public has had the chance to participate in the process, and there will be continued opportunities to do so when the entire Plan is presented for public review before its submission to the state and federal government.

“Later in this process, we will hold a public forum so the public can learn more about what has been done, ask questions, and take part in the planning effort,” Abi-Akar added. “For those who cannot attend, we will also provide a two-week comment period for community members to submit their reviews and thoughts on the draft plan.”

While natural disasters cannot be prevented altogether, updating this Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow the tri-county area to be more prepared to manage them and bounce back as they occur in the future. Any interested individuals are invited to submit questions and comments to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

456 FULTON STREET ▪ SUITE 401 ▪ PEORIA, IL 61602  
PHONE: 309-673-9330 ▪ FAX: 309-673-9802  
WWW.TRICOUNTYRPC.ORG

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Reema Abi-Akar, 309-673-9330

## **Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Initiative Wraps Up with Public Forum**

Peoria, IL (January 10, 2019) – A public forum will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 to allow attendees to review a draft of the Tri-County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This document outlines projects and activities to prevent injuries, fatalities, and property damage from natural hazard events such as severe storms and tornadoes. The Forum will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Gateway Building at 200 Northeast Water Street in downtown Peoria, and individuals are free to come and go at their convenience.

“County and municipal stakeholders throughout the region are part of a Mitigation Advisory Committee to gather data, assess vulnerability, and identify mitigation projects to help reduce future risks from severe weather events,” said Reema Abi-Akar, planner at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the entity spearheading this planning effort.

Fifteen jurisdictions throughout Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties are participating in the planning process: The Village of Bartonville, the City of Chillicothe, the City of East Peoria, the City of Eureka, the Village of Germantown Hills, the Village of Hanna City, the Village of Morton, the City of Pekin, the City of Peoria, the Village of Peoria Heights, Village of Roanoke, Tazewell County, the Village of Tremont, the City of Washington, and Woodford County.

The Mitigation Advisory Committee, or MAC, has been meeting for over a year to talk about past natural hazards, dollars of damage, and potential projects that will mitigate future damage from events such as tornadoes, severe storms, floods, and droughts. American Environmental Corp. is the consultant helping with this planning effort, which will serve as an update to Tri-County’s 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan document.

The MAC members have identified over 180 regional projects and activities that have the potential to alleviate future regional damage from natural hazards. These preventative steps, such as conducting studies, hardening infrastructure, designating shelters, developing educational materials, and evaluating critical facilities can potentially save the region money and reduce property damage and loss of life.

Attendees of the Public Forum on January 10 will be able to view a hard copy of the plan, submit comments in person, and ask questions for MAC members. Following the Forum, the public will have two weeks to submit comments regarding the draft Tri-County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The draft will also be available online with a comment form. Comments can be submitted by emailing Reema Abi-Akar at [rabiakar@tricountyrpc.org](mailto:rabiakar@tricountyrpc.org) or calling the Tri-County office at 309-673-9330. The comment period will close on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.