

Introduction

DISASTERS AND PLANNING

Overview: *Disasters happen, and damage to or destruction of building and loss of life are among the tragedies that can result. There is no precise definition of what constitutes a disaster. Sometimes a disaster develops quickly, hitting with full force with little or no warning. Other times, a disaster looms on the horizon for days until it becomes sufficiently large to be a threat. As communities change or evolve, the synergy between man and nature becomes more apparent. Some of the activities associated with these communities may be directly attributed to increasing the impacts of natural disaster.*

The concept of sustainability has become part of our vocabulary along with an enhanced awareness of the interconnectedness of the entire environment, natural and man-made. Communities are attempting to become more resilient to natural disasters and bounce back from an experience without undue hardship.

To that end, this report strives to address the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; thereby placing Clinton County in a position to qualify for credits in the Community Rating System, and better comply with programs such as the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. In essence, this plan provides a greater assurance that attainable goals and objectives have been established and policies in place to mitigate future damages before projects are approved,

This planning document has been prepared with the assistance of several individuals and agencies representing the public, institutional and private sectors of Clinton County. A Mitigation Planning Team was formed and through the use of several public outreach techniques achieved its mission to: *Create a comprehensive research based natural hazards mitigation plan to reduce risks of life and property damage to the residents of Clinton County and to present policies to guide future decisions regarding a broad range of problematic areas associated with natural systems.*

Natural disasters impose many emotional challenges to residents. Included with the array of public costs are those associated with debris removal, mobilizing emergency services, restoration of damaged public and private property, and sharing costs for mitigation projects. Private businesses and individuals incur costs associated with emergency housing, grants for the serious underinsured needs and similar activities.

Table I:1

Presidential Major Disaster
Declarations in Ohio from January 1, 2000 –
November 1, 2000

<u>Disaster Type</u>	<u>Disaster Date</u>	<u>Disaster Declaration</u>
Severe Storm	2/18 – 3/2	3/7
Severe Storm	7/29 – 8/2	8/21
Tornado	9/20	9/26

Source: National Conference of State
Legislatures Disaster May 2003.

Specific discussion and documentation of the planning process is attached as Appendix I-1.0.

SETTING

Most of the region that comprises Clinton County was part of the Virginia Military District. The Virginia Military District consists of over 4.2 million acres and lies between the Scioto, Little Miami and the Ohio Rivers. According to the reservation agreement between the U.S. Congress and Virginia, when Virginia ceded the Northwest Territory in 1784, it reserved the area for its military veterans. Consequently, no surveying team entered this region for the purposes of township surveys, as was the practice in other Ohio areas such as the Congress Lands. The Virginians located their lands by natural boundaries and markings (Rose 1974, P. 15-24). By 1810, Clinton County was created by legislative act from parts of Warren and Highland Counties. The City of Wilmington was founded in 1810 and incorporated in 1828. During the early period the County grew from west to east with the focus on Wilmington and surrounding Union Township.

Modern Clinton County includes seven (7) village governments, one city government, and 13 township governments. Encompassing approximately 403 square miles in southwestern Ohio, Clinton County lies in the “magic triangle” between Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati. Clinton County is bounded on the north by Green County, northeast by Fayette County, southeast by Highland County, the south by Brown and Clermont Counties; and to the west by Warren County. Convenient access to the metropolitan areas is afforded by I-71, US Route 68 and Routes 22 and 3, and 73 and similar roadways.

Topography and Geology: Clinton County is situated in the Glacial Till Plains Section of the Nation’s Central Lowland Physiographic Provinces. The southwest quadrant of the County is characterized by very gently undulating or nearly level topography. Throughout the County, elevations range from about 790 feet to 1,190 feet. The highest elevation is just north of the village of New Vienna, immediately east of the intersection of Levo and Leeka Roads. The lowest area about sea level in the County is around the Clarksville region. Most of the region is approximately 1,000 feet in elevation.

Two Wisconsin Age moraines, the Cuba End Moraine and the Reesville Recessional Morain, traverse the County from northwest to southeast. These moraines are belts of sharply rolling land composed of till which may contain lenses of stratified sand and gravel.

Eco-Regions: The County lies within the Eastern Corn Belt Plain eco-region. Eco-regions are land surface areas that are grouped based on similarities in land use, potential natural vegetation, land surface form, and soils (Ohio EPA, Section 305 (b) Report, 1992). The Eastern Corn Belt Plain is characterized as a region of extensive cropland agriculture on a gently rolling glacial till plain crossed by end moraines, kames and outwash plains. Besides cropland agriculture, this eco-region has pastures, small woodlands, and small to medium urban areas.

Soil Associations: Soils are composed of complex mixtures of weathered rock, primary minerals, secondary minerals, organic matter, water, and air. They are formed through the physical and chemical activities of these constituent materials. The characteristics of these soils depend on the nature of the parent material, climate, relief, vegetation, and length of time the materials have been exposed.

The soils have been mapped into soil associations that have distinctive proportional patterns, which may be on slopes, depressions, or along a stream. Consisting of at least one major and one or more soil series, the soil associations are named for the series which are most extensive throughout the particular landscape. Presented on Table I:2 are the soil associations for Clinton County.

Table I:2
Soil Association

Montgomery – Milford – McGary	Miamian – Celina – Crosby	Clermont – Avonburg – Rossmoyne
Brookston – Crosby – Celina	Fincastle – Brookston – Miamian	Rossmoyne – Avonburg – Bonnell
Eldean – Ockley – Sleeth	Miami – Miamian – Xenia	Wesland – Eldean – Brookston

Source: Miami Valley Resource Conservation and Development, 1994.

Watersheds and Streams: The County is situated at the headwaters of two major drainage basins – The Little Miami River Basin and the Scioto River Basin. The divide generally follows Ohio State Route 72, south to Ohio State Route 729; west to about Ohio State Route 73 then exits the County northeast of the Village of New Vienna.

Because of the County's location at the headwaters, certain challenges exist. For example, not all the streams or creeks flow during the year, thus posing unique requirements for controlling point and non-point source pollution. Table I:3 lists the streams and creeks in Clinton County by watershed.

Table I:3
Streams and Creeks in Clinton County by Watershed

<u>Little Miami River Basin</u>		<u>Scioto River Basin</u>
Anderson Fork	Little Creek	Grassy Branch
Buck Run	Lytle Creek	Lees Creek
Cowan Creek	Moore Branch	Middle Fork of Lees Creek
Dutch Creek	Second Creek	South Form of Lees Creek
East Fork of the Little	Sewell Run	West Branch of Rattlesnake
Miami River	Stone Lick Creek	Creek
East Fork of Todd's Creek	Todd's Creek	Wilson Creek
Glady Run	Turkey Run	
Grassy Run	West Fork of East Fork	
Indian Run		

Climate: Moderately cold winters and warm summers characterize Clinton County. Winters have frequent periods of cold weather and moderate snowfall, while summers have periods of hot, humid weather. Precipitation is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. Serious droughts are infrequent. The climate is influenced by many general storms and thunderstorms, hail storms, windstorms, heavy rainstorms, and other disturbances. It is noteworthy that any part of the County may expect 40 to 50 thunderstorms per year. The lowlands along streams are flooded to some extent nearly every year. About half of the County's annual average precipitation falls during the growing season.

The average date of the last killing frost in the spring is May 7, while the last killing frost in the fall is October 9. This trait provides for a frost-free period of 155 days. The average annual temperature is 50 degrees with the sun shining an average of 57% of the daylight hours. Prevailing winds are from the southwest.