

COMMUNITY PROFILE

VILLAGE OF HERMAN

Papio-Missouri River NRD
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

2021

Local Planning Team

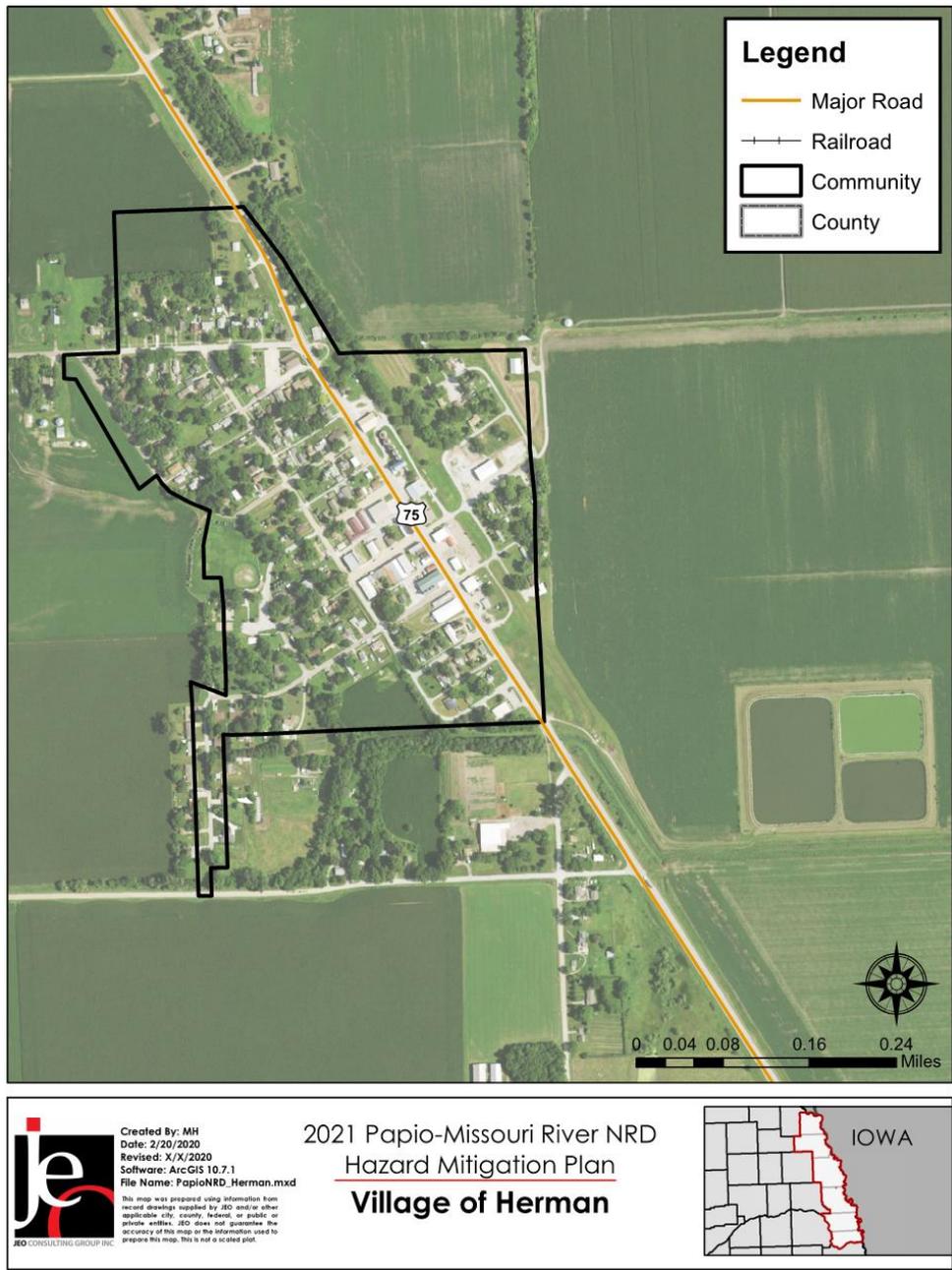
Table HMN.1: Herman Local Planning Team

NAME	TITLE	JURISDICTION
VICKY KELLOGG	Village Clerk	Village of Herman

Location and Geography

The Village of Herman is located in the northern portion of Washington County and covers an area of 0.14 square miles. Hill Creek and New York Creek are located to the north and east of Herman. Herman is a few miles west of the Missouri River.

Figure HMN.1: Village of Herman



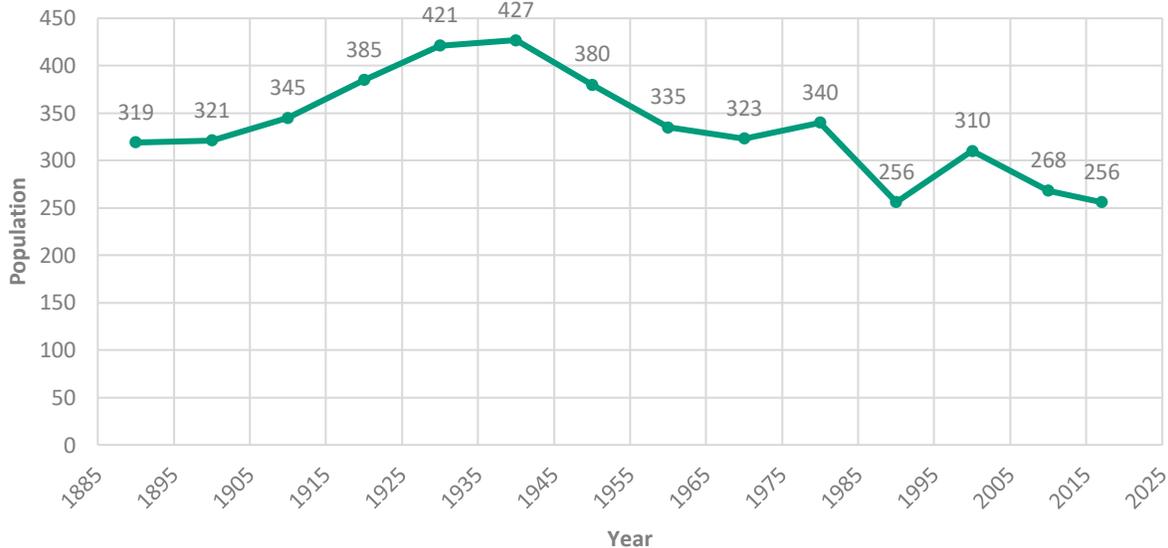
Transportation

Herman's major transportation corridors includes Highway 75 that averages 4,720 vehicles per day according to the Nebraska Department of Roads and County Road 4/P4, which is commonly used by semi-trucks to avoid scales on the highway. The local planning team mentioned that various chemicals are transported on Highway 75 on a regular basis, but it is not known the type or quantity of chemicals transported. Transportation information is important to hazard mitigation plans insofar as it suggests possible evacuation corridors in the community, as well as areas more at risk to transportation incidents.

Demographics

The population of Herman has generally declined since the 1940s. The current estimated population in 2017 was 256. A declining population can lead to more unoccupied housing that is not being maintained and is then at risk to high winds and other hazards. Furthermore with fewer residents, there is decreasing tax revenue for the community, which could make implementation of mitigation projects more fiscally challenging. Herman's population accounted for approximately 1% percent of Washington County's population in 2017.¹

Figure HMN.2: Estimated Population 1890 – 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau²

The young, elderly, minorities, and poor may be more vulnerable to certain hazards than other groups. In comparison to the County, Herman's population was:

- **Younger.** The median age of Herman was 34.5 years old in 2017, compared with the County average of 41.2 years. Herman's population has grown younger since 2010, when the median age was 40.6 years old. Herman had a smaller proportion of people under 20 years old (23.4%) than the County (27.0%).³
- **Greater ethnic diversity.** Since 2010, Herman grew more ethnically diverse. In 2010, only 0.3% of Herman's population was American Indian. By 2017, 1% of Herman's population was Black, 1% was American Indian, 3% was Asian, 2% other races, and 4%

¹ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: S0101: Age and Sex." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

² United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: S0101: Age and Sex." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

³ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: S0101: Age and Sex." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

was two or more races. During that time, Washington County population was 1% two or more races in 2010 and grew to 2% Black and 1% two or more races in 2017.⁴

- **More likely to be at the federal poverty line.** The poverty rate in Herman (17.2% of all persons living below the federal poverty line) is greater than the County's poverty rate (9.8%) in 2017.⁵

Employment and Economics

The Village's economic base is a mixture of industries. In comparison to Washington County, Herman's economy had:

- **Different mix of industries.** The only employment sector accounting for 10% or more of employment in Herman was Educational Services; while Washington County's employment sectors included Manufacturing, Retail Trade, and Educational Services in 2017.⁶
- **Lower household income.** Herman's median household income in 2017 (\$47,917) was about \$18,500 lower than the County (\$66,485).⁷
- **Fewer long-distance commuters.** About 30.9% percent of workers in Herman commuted for fewer than 15 minutes, compared with about 39.1% of workers in Washington County. About 29.1% of workers in Herman commute 30 minutes or more to work, compared to about 30.4% of the County workers.⁸

Major Employers

The major employer in Herman is the Peterson's Bar; however, the majority of residents commute to Blair, Omaha, or Tekamah for employment.

Housing

In comparison to Washington County, Herman's housing stock was:

- **More owner occupied.** About 80.4% of occupied housing units in Herman are owner occupied compared with 76.5% of occupied housing in Washington County in 2017.⁹
- **Greater share of aged housing stock.** Herman had a larger share of housing built prior to 1970 than the county (72.0% compared to 38.1%).¹⁰
- **More single-family homes.** The predominant housing type in the Village is single family detached and Herman contains far fewer multifamily housing with five or more units per structure than the County (0% compared to 10.1%). About 83.1% of housing in Herman was single-family detached, compared with 82.7% of the County's housing. Herman has a larger share of mobile and manufactured housing (8.1%) compared to the County (2.1%).¹¹

This housing information is relevant to hazard mitigation insofar as the age of housing may indicate which housing units were built prior to state building codes being developed. Further, unoccupied housing may suggest that future development may be less likely to occur. Finally, communities with a substantial number of mobile homes may be more vulnerable to the impacts

⁴ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁵ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁶ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁷ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: DP03: Selected Economic Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁸ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: S0802: Means of Transportation to Work by Selected Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

⁹ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

¹⁰ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

¹¹ United States Census Bureau. "2017 American Fact Finder: DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics." [database file]. <https://factfinder.census.gov/>.

of high winds, tornadoes, and severe winter storms. Mobile homes in Herman are scattered throughout the community.

Future Development Trends

In the past five years the elementary school in town closed and consolidated with Tekamah’s public school district. One home in town was demolished and purchased for commercial expansion by the local seed dealer. One new single family home was built in 2017 by a homeowner of the neighboring parcel.

There are currently no new commercial or residential developments planned at this time. The Village’s population has declined over the past decade, which the local planning team attributed to a lack of new housing, an aging housing stock, and the inability of the community to expand into neighboring tracts of land. The village is currently surrounded by large scale agricultural operations.

Structural Inventory and Valuation

The planning team requested GIS parcel data from the County Assessor as of December 2019. This data allowed the planning team to analyze the location, number, and value of property improvements at the parcel level. The data did not contain the number of structures on each parcel. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following table. There are no LOMAs filed for the Village of Herman.

Table HMN.2: Herman Parcel Valuation

NUMBER OF PARCELS	NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL IMPROVEMENT VALUE	NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS IN FLOODPLAIN	VALUE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN FLOODPLAIN	PERCENT OF IMPROVEMENTS IN FLOODPLAIN
197	132	\$7,895,940	2	\$119,860	2%

Source: County Assessor

Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources

Chemical Storage Fixed Sites

According to the Tier II System reports submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, there are no chemical storage sites in Herman that contain hazardous chemicals. The local planning team noted a seed dealer in town may store some chemicals, however these would be only in small quantities.

Critical Facilities

Each participating jurisdiction identified critical facilities vital for disaster response, providing shelter to the public, and essential for returning the jurisdiction’s functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. Critical facilities were identified during the original planning process and updated by the local planning team as a part of this plan update.

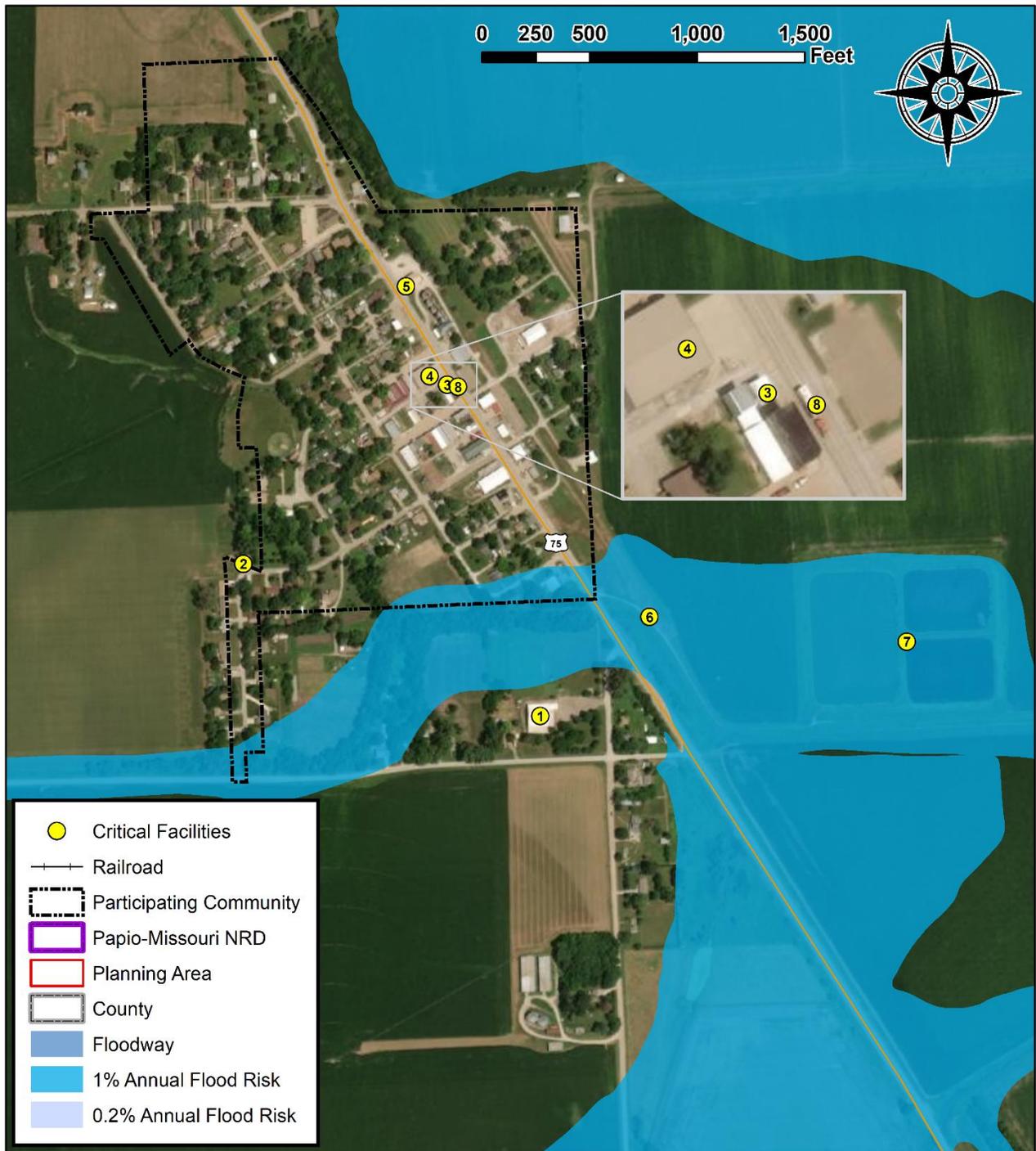
The local planning team noted that the Legion Hall and Village Shop are used primarily as shelter locations. There is an outdoor warning siren located at the Village Shop. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction. The following table and figure provide a summary of the critical facilities for the jurisdiction.

SECTION SEVEN: VILLAGE OF HERMAN COMMUNITY PROFILE

Table HMN.4: Critical Facilities

CF #	TYPE	NAME	SHORT-TERM SHELTER (Y/N)	GENERATOR (Y/N)	FLOODPLAIN (Y/N)
1	Food, Water, and Shelter	Herman Elementary School	Y	N	N
2	Food, Water, and Shelter	Water Tower	N	N	N
3	Safety and Security	Village Office	N	N	N
4	Safety and Security	Fire Station	N	Y	N
5	Food, Water, and Shelter	Legion Hall	Y	N	N
6	Food, Water, and Shelter	Lift Station	N	Y	Y
7	Food, Water, and Shelter	Lagoon	N	N	Y
8	Transportation	Village Shops	Y	N	N

Figure HMN.3: Critical Facilities



Created By: MB
 Date: 8/20/2020
 Revised: 11/5/2020
 Revised By: MW
 Software: ArcGIS 10.7.1
 File Name: PapioNRD_HermanCF.mxd
 This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JEO and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JEO does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

2021 Papio-Missouri River NRD
 Hazard Mitigation Plan
**Village of Herman
 Critical Facilities**



Historical Occurrences

See the Washington County community profile for historical hazard events.

Hazard Prioritization

For an in-depth discussion regarding area wide hazards, please see Section Four: Risk Assessment. The hazards discussed in detail below were either identified in the previous HMP and determined to still be of top concern or were added by the local planning team based on the identification of hazards of greatest concern, hazard history, and the jurisdiction's capabilities.

Flooding

Flooding was identified by the local planning as a hazard of top concern for Herman. According to NCEI, one flash flood event occurred in 1998. During the flash flood, 8 to 12 inches of water was flowing across Highway 75, and there was some flooding near homes southwest of Herman. The report does not indicate any damages nor does it indicate if any homes were flooded as result of this event. Additionally, the village was impacted by the March 2019 flood event. During the flood, water in excess of six inches covered several roads in town, including the highway. Many residential homes experienced significant basement flooding, especially on the east side of town where the water table is higher. During these events, no specific damages occurred to municipal buildings or critical facilities.

The local planning team did note that the area under the Highway 75 bridge on the south side is full of debris and can cause some poor drainage. Additionally, the village park on the west side of the village is next to farmland and prone to sheet flooding from heavy rain events. Heavy rains will flow from the fields into the park, causing ponding and other localized flooding issues. The village and the NRD reinforced the berm around the park prior to the March 2019 flood event to alleviate some flood risk; however, the structure was damaged again during the flood. The NRD is currently evaluating improvement needs for the structure. Overall stormwater drainage system is in need of clearing and expansion of ditches. An engineering analysis is needed to determine full community needs for stormwater drainage.

The Village of Herman has a delineated floodplain on the very south side of the village and also northeast outside the corporate boundaries of the village. Herman has one NFIP policy in-force for \$175,000 and there are no repetitive flood loss properties in the Village of Herman. Washington County also has a Flood Insurance Study dated January 6, 2012 which includes Arlington, Blair, Fort Calhoun, Herman, Kennard, and Washington Village. The study identified the Missouri River and the adjacent valley areas as the principal flood problem. Flooding along the smaller streams is generally caused by flash flooding from localized storms and from backwater from the major streams. The construction of six dams on the Missouri River in the Dakotas and Montana, the construction of a navigable channel as far upstream as Sioux City, Iowa and the construction of levee systems has transformed the stream into a stable channel with relatively uniform discharges throughout the year. The threat of flooding has been reduced considerable, but unfortunately, not eliminated. Flood protection measures in the area include various levees in the area. However, it has been ascertained that some of these levees may not protect the community from rare events such as the 1-percent-annual-chance flood. The criteria used to evaluate protection against the 1-percent-annual-chance flood are 1) adequate design, including freeboard, 2) structural stability, and 3) proper operation and maintenance.

High Winds and Tornadoes

Tornadoes and high winds were identified as hazards of top concern due to previous damages and occurrences. On March 31, 2007, an EF-1 tornado touched down about 3 miles west of the

Village of Herman. It tracked about one mile before lifting, and the tornado path width was measured at a quarter of a mile. The tornado did not damage any buildings in Herman; however some outbuildings were damaged and a horse barn was nearly destroyed. High winds have caused damages in the village to the water tower, which required the roof to be replaced in June 2014. While there are no FEMA certified safe rooms in Herman, many residents have basements, and the Legion Hall and Village Shop are open to the public for sheltering. The Village Shop in particular is open to residents on the east side of town who do not have basements due to the high water table. The village has shared access keys for residents to access the shop basement. The community uses the 2006 Internal Building Codes but no additional retrofits have been done on critical facility roofs. An outdoor warning siren is located at the old fire hall/village shop and the Washington County Emergency Management Agency manages emergency alerts for residents.

Severe Thunderstorms

The local planning team identified severe thunderstorms as a hazard of top concern for Herman. Heavy rain, high winds, lightning, and hail are possible hazards that are associated with severe thunderstorms and can impact the village with downed power lines, localized flooding, property damages, and blocked evacuation or emergency routes. According to NCEI, outbuildings were damaged near Herman from 60 mph thunderstorm winds on September 2, 2000 and 60 knot winds on April 16, 2002 downed power lines near Herman. Extensive tree damage also occurred from thunderstorm winds in Herman on June 18, 2001. The local planning team mentioned that none of the power lines in the village are buried, which are at risk to power outages from thunderstorm wind and lightning. OPPD provides power service to the community and has done well in the past to restore power to the community. Hail is a common occurrence in Herman as well as the rest of the planning area. There have been four reported hail events ranging in size from 0.75 to 1.75 inches. Although there are no reported damages through the NCEI, the village has experienced some losses from hail events. Past hail events have caused damage to roofs at the Village Office and the Legion Hall, which were replaced. It was noted that in 2012 a severe hail storm caused many homeowners to replace their roofs due to significant hail damage. At this time there are no lightning rods on any municipal facilities.

Severe Winter Storms

Severe winter storms was selected as a top concern for the village by the local planning team. Winter storms can include blizzards, ice accumulation, extreme cold, heavy snow, and winter storms. The winter of 2009-2010 included several severe winter storms that greatly impacted the region. The Christmas Winter Storm of 2009, which began on December 24 and ended on the 26th, brought up to 16 inches of snow along with gusting winds over 40 mph. This caused significant blowing and drifting snow which brought traffic to a standstill for several days. A blizzard event in 2011 knocked out power to the community for approximately 24 hours which OPPD repaired. Since that point, OPPD has updated much of the infrastructure in the area and outages have decreased. The local planning team did not report any damages to facilities as a result of severe winter storms. Streets are cleared by Village Maintenance, and snow removal resources have been determined sufficient for local events. If additional snow removal resources are needed, farmers in the surrounding areas are contracted for assistance.

Social Media Engagement

The Papio-Missouri River NRD launched a “Would You Rather” themed social media campaign during the 2021 HMP update to garner local input on hazard priorities, residential capabilities, and action items residents would like to see the community take in the future to reduce potential impacts from hazard events.

The Village of Herman had no reported respondents in the campaign (based upon general zip code analysis).

Governance

A community's governance indicates the number of boards or offices that may be available to help implement hazard mitigation actions. Herman has a number of offices or departments that may be involved in implementing hazard mitigation initiatives. The Village is governed by a five member village board and the following offices.

- Village Clerk/Treasurer
- Village Maintenance
- Planning Commission
- Volunteer Fire Department

Capability Assessment

The capability assessment consisted of a Capability Assessment Survey completed by the jurisdiction and a review of local existing policies, regulations, plans, and the programs. The survey is used to gather information regarding the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory capability; administrative and technical capability; fiscal capability; and educational and outreach capability.

Table HMN.5: Capability Assessment

SURVEY COMPONENTS/SUBCOMPONENTS		Yes/No
PLANNING & REGULATORY CAPABILITY	Comprehensive Plan	Yes (2008)
	Capital Improvements Plan	No
	Economic Development Plan	No
	Emergency Operational Plan	Yes
	Floodplain Management Plan	No
	Storm Water Management Plan	No
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes (2006)
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	No
	Other (if any)	
ADMINISTRATIVE & TECHNICAL CAPABILITY	Planning Commission	Yes
	Floodplain Administration	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	No
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Civil Engineering	No
	Local Staff Who Can Assess Community's Vulnerability to Hazards	Yes
	Grant Manager	Yes
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	

SURVEY COMPONENTS/SUBCOMPONENTS		Yes/No
FISCAL CAPABILITY	Capital Improvement Plan/ 1 & 6 Year plan	Yes
	Applied for grants in the past	Yes
	Awarded a grant in the past	Yes (CDBG and NRD)
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects	Yes
	Gas/Electric Service Fees	No
	Storm Water Service Fees	No
	Water/Sewer Service Fees	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	No
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No
	Other (if any)	
EDUCATION & OUTREACH CAPABILITY	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc. Ex. CERT Teams, Red Cross, etc.	No
	Ongoing public education or information program (e.g., responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Yes
	Natural Disaster or Safety related school programs	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree Village USA	No
	Other (if any)	

OVERALL CAPABILITY	LIMITED/MODERATE/HIGH
FINANCIAL RESOURCES NEED TO IMPLEMENT MITIGATION PROJECTS	Limited
STAFF/EXPERTISE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS	Limited
COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS	Limited
TIME TO DEVOTE TO HAZARD MITIGATION	Limited

Plan Integration

The Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) for Herman, which was last updated in 2016, is an annex of Washington County's LEOP. The plan is anticipated to be updated in July 2021. It is an all hazards plan that does not address specific natural and man-made disasters. It provides a clear assignment of responsibility in case of an emergency, actions to take during emergency events, and identifies shelter locations in each community.

SECTION SEVEN: VILLAGE OF HERMAN COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Comprehensive Plan, which was updated in 2008, discusses limiting development in flood-prone areas and to consider removal of existing properties in the floodplain. The local planning team noted a need to update the plan and will include goals/objectives aimed at Safe Growth, limiting development near hazardous areas; encourage clustering of development in hazardous areas; and identify areas in need of emergency shelters.

The village also has a Zoning Ordinance and Floodplain Ordinance which are updated on an as needed basis. The Floodplain Ordinance requires at least one foot of elevation for all structures located in the floodplain. The village has adopted the 2012 International Building Codes. The village’s annual municipal budget is updated annually. The local planning team noted budget funds are limited to maintaining current facilities and any available funds are currently being used to pay off village loans for the water tower painting and lift station projects finished in the past year.

Plan Maintenance

Hazard Mitigation Plans should be living documents and updated regularly to reflect changes in hazard events, priorities, and mitigation actions. These updates are encouraged to occur after every major disaster event, alongside community planning documents (i.e. annual budgets and Capital Improvement Plans), during the fall before the HMA grant cycle begins, and/or prior to other funding opportunity cycles begin including CDBG, Water Sustainability Fund, Revolving State Fund, or other identified funding mechanisms.

The local planning team is responsible for reviewing and updating this community profile as changes occur or after a major event. The local planning team will include the Village Clerk, Planning Commission, and Village Board. The local planning team will review the plan no less than annually and will include the public in the review and revision process by: sending information on email roster, postings at village office and post office, and sharing information at board meetings.

Mitigation Strategy

Continued Mitigation Actions

MITIGATION ACTION		BACK-UP MUNICIPAL RECORDS
DESCRIPTION	Develop protocol for back-up of critical municipal records	
HAZARD(S)	All hazards	
ESTIMATED COST	\$1,000+	
FUNDING	Local taxes	
TIMELINE	2-5 years	
PRIORITY	High	
LEAD AGENCY	Village Clerk	
STATUS	The Village has an external hard drive but needs to look into other programs to automatically update/upload documents to the cloud	

MITIGATION ACTION		BACK-UP POWER GENERATOR
DESCRIPTION	Provide a portable or stationary source of backup power to redundant power supplies, municipal wells, lift stations, and other critical facilities and shelters.	
HAZARD(S)	All hazards	
ESTIMATED COST	\$50,000+	
FUNDING	Local taxes, HMGP, BRIC	
TIMELINE	2-5 years	
PRIORITY	Medium	
LEAD AGENCY	Board Chairman	
STATUS	Fire hall has a generator that can be used as needed for other facilities. However, the village is in need of an additional generator. Either a portable one for the lift station or a stationary for village office.	

MITIGATION ACTION		BUILD BERM AT PARK
DESCRIPTION	Construct a berm at the village park to reduce or eliminate flooding into park and nearby neighborhoods	
HAZARD(S)	Flooding	
ESTIMATED COST	Unknown	
FUNDING	Local taxes, FMA, HMGP, BRIC, NRD	
TIMELINE	1-2 years	
PRIORITY	High	
LEAD AGENCY	Board Chairman, Papio NRD	
STATUS	The Village and NRD had built up the berm and installed two additional tubes in the past five years; however, the structure was damaged during the March 2019 flood event and should be reevaluated for needs and repairs.	

MITIGATION ACTION		UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
DESCRIPTION	Update comprehensive plan. Integrate plan with Hazard Mitigation Plan components.	
HAZARD(S)	All hazards	
ESTIMATED COST	Staff Time	
FUNDING	N/A	
TIMELINE	2-3 years	
PRIORITY	Medium	
LEAD AGENCY	Planning Commission	
STATUS	This project has not yet been started.	

Removed Mitigation Actions:

MITIGATION ACTION		MAINTAIN GOOD STANDING WITH NFIP
DESCRIPTION	Maintain good standing with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) including floodplain management practices/ requirements and regulation enforcements and updates.	
HAZARD(S)	Flooding	
REASON FOR REMOVAL	While the community will continue to participate in the NFIP, this project can be removed as it is considered an ongoing effort.	

SECTION SEVEN: VILLAGE OF HERMAN COMMUNITY PROFILE

MITIGATION ACTION		TORNADO SHELTERS/SAFE ROOMS
DESCRIPTION	Identify, construct and publicize tornado shelters or safe rooms	
HAZARD(S)	High Winds and Tornadoes	
REASON FOR REMOVAL	While the new fire hall was being constructed the community evaluated the need to include a storm shelter. The Legion Hall, Fire Hall, Village Shop, and residential basements are all available to residents for sheltering and it was determined that an additional storm shelter was not needed.	