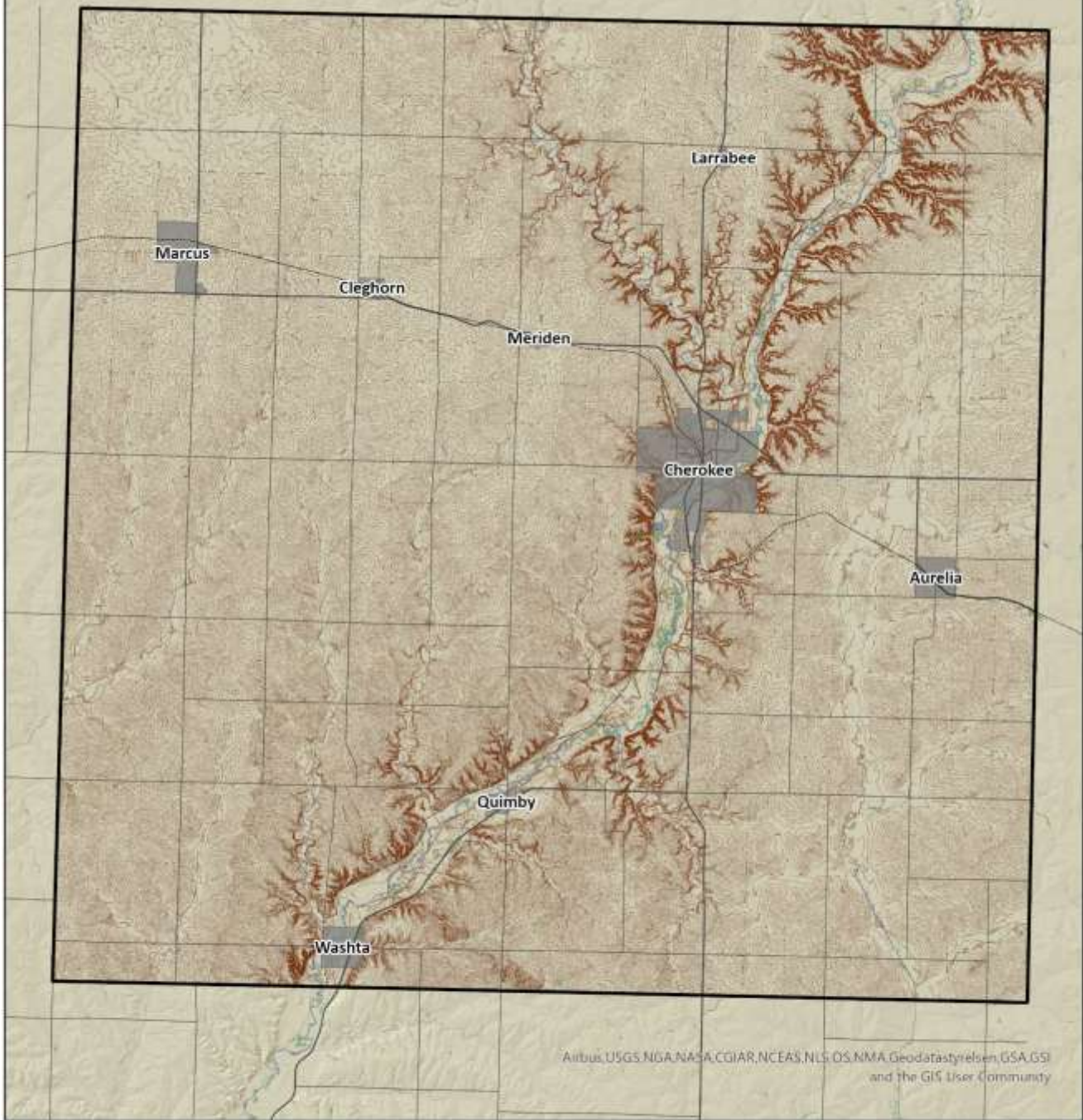




Table of Contents




IV. Counties & Cities Participating as Jurisdictions	4-1
A. Cherokee County	4.1-2
Profile – Unincorporated Area & County	4.1-2
Transportation Network	4.1-4
Participation	4.1-11
Capabilities	4.1-12
Mitigation Actions, Strategies, & Projects	4.1-22
Jurisdictions	4.1-24
1. Aurelia	4.1-24
2. Cherokee	4.1-33
3. Cleghorn	4.1-48
4. Larrabee	4.1-53
5. Marcus	4.1-60
6. Meriden	4.1-68
7. Quimby	4.1-73
8. Washta	4.1-80

Topography Map, Cherokee County



Airbus, USGS, NOAA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NLS, OS, MMA, Geodastatys, Eriksen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community

 Marsh, Swamp, Bog, Prairie
 River

 Lake, Reservoir
 Incorporated Areas
 County Boundary

 Contours
 Railroad



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IV. COUNTIES & CITIES PARTICIPATING AS JURISDICTIONS

A. Cherokee County

PROFILE – UNINCORPORATED AREA & COUNTY

Cherokee County is centrally located in the northwest quarter of Iowa. The County is bordered by O'Brien County to the north, Buena Vista County to the east, Ida County to the south, and Plymouth County to the west. Cherokee County is approximately 577 square miles.

Cities within Cherokee County include Aurelia, Cherokee, Cleghorn, Larrabee, Marcus, Meriden, Quimby, and Washta.

Rivers & Watersheds

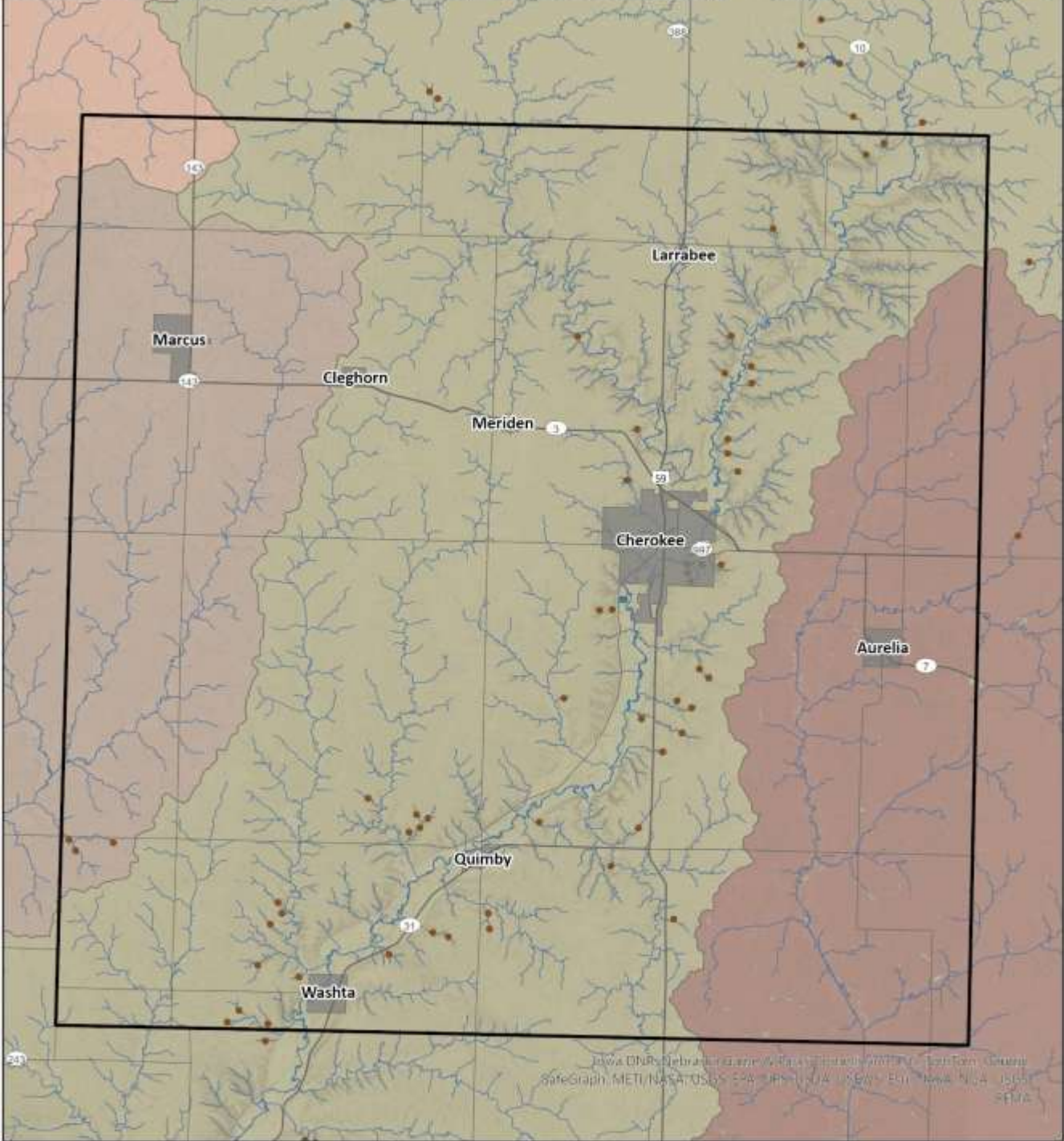
The Little Sioux River runs diagonally from northeast to southwest through the County. While this is the only significant river, there are a number of smaller creeks including Perry Creek, Stratton Creek, and Pierson Creek.

There are three (3) primary watersheds within the County that drain storm water and snow melt into streams and lakes, wetland areas, or into groundwater reserves. These watersheds are Little Sioux Watershed, Monona-Harrison Ditch Watershed, and Maple Watershed. The following map shows sub-watersheds for Cherokee County. Regional breakdown for watersheds is provided in *Planning Area* information. The following map depicts the sub-watersheds within those as listed above. Subwatersheds are determined based on hydrologic unit code (HUC) level 12, which includes more detail including tributary data.

Landform Regions & Geology

Some resources (such as Iowa Landscapes in Google Maps) indicate that Cherokee County is composed entirely of a single geological landform region, the Northwest Iowa Plains. The Northwest Iowa Plains are marked by rolling hills, which are the result of the manipulation of glacial sediment deposits, by glacial melt and streams. Other resources reference presence of Southern Iowa Drift Plain as well (<https://www.iuhr.uiowa.edu/igs/southern-iowa-drift-plain/>).

Watershed and Water Resources, Cherokee County



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dams Marsh River Lake, Reservoir River/Stream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporated Areas County Boundary Watersheds Blackbird-Soldier Boyer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floyd Little Sioux Lower Big Sioux Maple Monona-Harrison Ditch 	<p>0 2 4 Miles</p> <p>The map does not represent a survey; no liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data delineated herein, either expressed or implied by SIMPCO.</p> <p>© 2025 Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council. Please call 712-279-6206 to obtain permission for use.</p>
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TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

U.S. Highway 59 and State Highways 3, 7, 31, and 143 are all included in the County's transportation network.

The County's secondary road system is composed of 1,004.35 miles. Within this category, Farm-to-Market roads make up 311.07 miles, while Area Service roads account for 693.28 miles. Gravel or earth surface types account for 780.10 miles of the secondary road system. The remaining 217.02 miles are composed of bituminous, asphalt, or PCC surface types.

County Governance & Supports

The county seat is located in the city of Cherokee, which is just northeast of the center of the County. Its jurisdiction covers all unincorporated portions within county boundaries. A five (5)-person Board of Supervisors governs Cherokee County. The Board acts as the legislative body for the County. Additional offices include the following departments:

- Assessor
- Attorney
- Auditor
- Community Services
- Conservation
- Emergency Management
- Engineer
- Environmental Health
- General Relief
- GIS – Mapping
- Recorder
- Secondary Roads
- Sheriff
- Technology/Website Admin
- Treasurer
- Veterans Affairs
- Zoning

The Cherokee County's Emergency Management Agency is responsible for the development and maintenance of relevant planning documents, coordinates plans and facilities, and sponsors training opportunities for emergency responders, partner agencies, and the public. The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement to all rural portion of the County including towns of Larrabee, Meriden, Cleghorn, Quimby, and Washta. The office is staffed by a sheriff and seven (7) additional employees.

County Facilities

Storage	405 1/2 Coombs Dr	Aurelia
---------	-------------------	---------

Storage	118 N Main	Larrabee
Radio Equipment	118 N Main	Larrabee
Law Enforcement Center	111 N 5th	Cherokee
Courthouse	520 W Main	Cherokee
War Memorial Bldg	520 W Main	Cherokee
Conservation Office; Storage	629 River Road	Cherokee
Martin Access, County Park	SE 1/4 NW 1/2 Sec 32-91-40	Cherokee
Work Activity Center	322 Lake St	Cherokee
Garage	322 Lake St	Cherokee
Offices; Shop; Bldgs	5074 Hwy 3 W	Cherokee
LEC Radio Equip	5074 Hwy 3 W	Cherokee
Storage	406 E 4th St	Quimby
Storage	408 W Sanford	Washta
Storage	601 W Cedar	Marcus
Radio Equipment	601 W Cedar	Marcus
Storage	409 W 1st	Meriden
E911 Radio Equip	113 S Lewis St	Cleghorn
E911 Radio Equip	1880 570th St	Cherokee
Cabins	5494 Martin Access Rd	Cherokee
Park Equip	5494 Martin Access Rd	Cherokee
Siren	5494 Martin Access Rd	Cherokee

Education

Educational attainment in Cherokee County differs in several ways from the state of Iowa as a whole. More residents in Cherokee have completed high school or earned an associate’s degree compared to the state average, indicating a strong foundation in basic and technical education. However, the county sees fewer individuals pursuing or completing bachelor’s and graduate degrees, highlighting a gap in higher education. The level of residents without a high school diploma is roughly in line with the state, suggesting comparable access to early education. Overall, while Cherokee County maintains solid rates of high school and associate-level education, it falls behind in advanced educational attainment.

<i>Level of Education</i>	<i>Cherokee</i>	<i>Iowa</i>
No high school diploma	6.9%	6.7%
High school degree (includes equivalency)	38.4%	29.9%
Some college, no degree	18.8%	19.6%
Associate's degree	13.1%	12.2%
Bachelor's degree	14.3%	20.9%
Graduate or professional degree	7.3%	10.7%

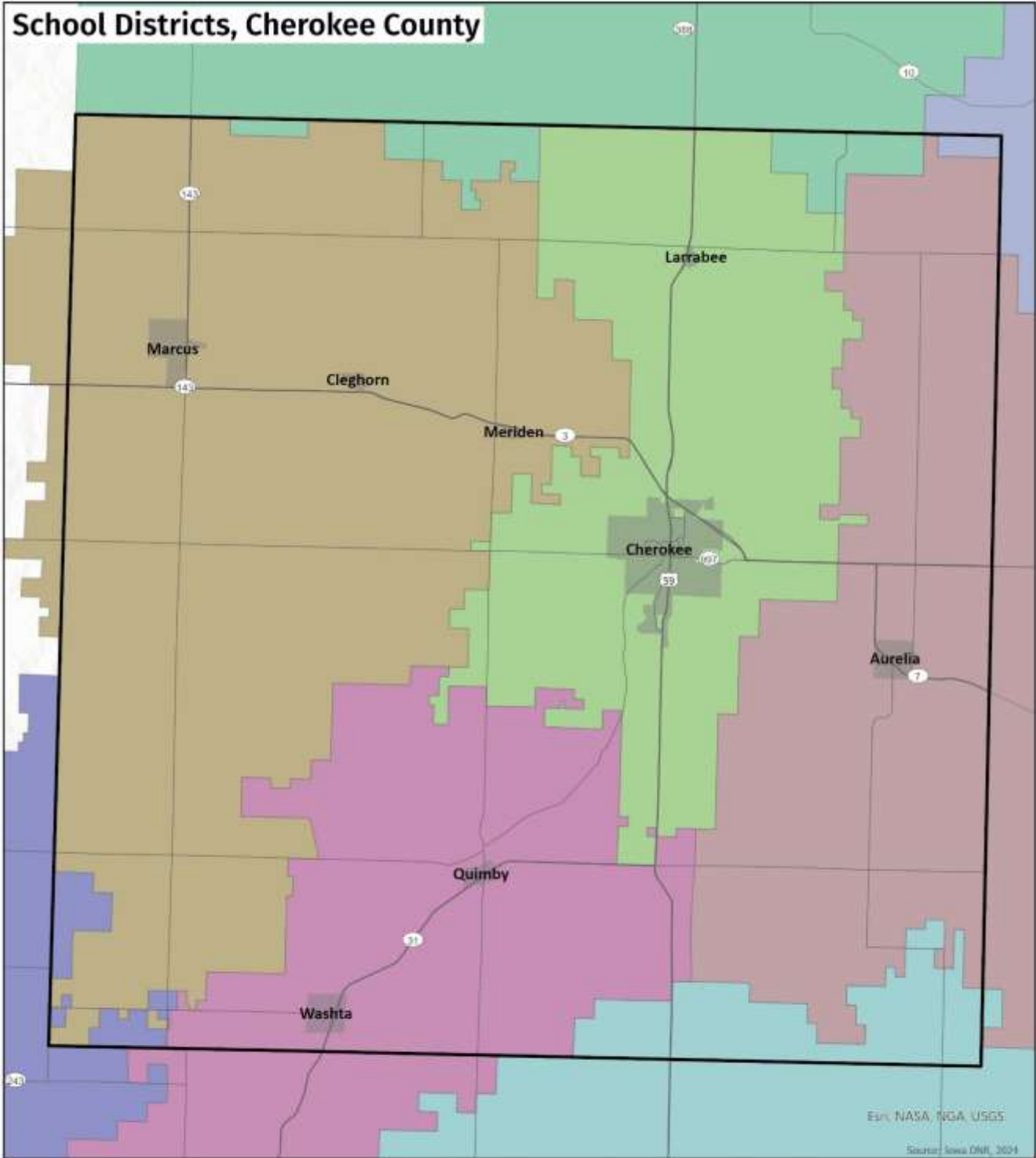
Local enrollment numbers for public schools are included within the statistics and data presentation for each district. In Cherokee County, there are 10 public schools serving four (4) school districts. District listing and facilities table follow.

- Alta-Aurelia Community Schools
- Cherokee Community School District
- Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn-Remsen Community School District
- River Valley Community School District

<i>Educational Facilities</i>	
Alta-Aurelia Elementary/Middle School	300 Ash Street, Aurelia
Cherokee Community Schools	600 W Bluff, Cherokee
Cherokee Middle School	200 E Indian Street, Cherokee
Early Childhood Learning Center	929 N Roosevelt, Cherokee
Marcus Meriden Cleghorn Jr. Sr. School	400 E Fenton St, Marcus
Marcus Meriden Cleghorn Primary	500 E Fenton St, Marcus
Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn East Elementary School	200 Campbell St, Cleghorn
River Valley Community School	100 S 5 th St, Washta
Roosevelt Elementary School	929 N Roosevelt, Cherokee
Washington High School	600 W Bluff St, Cherokee
Western Iowa Tech Community College (Chke Co Campus)	200 Victory Dr, Cherokee

There are three (3) private schools located within the County. While there are not public or private standalone universities located within Cherokee County, Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) does have a small campus in the city of Cherokee. WITCC is a public two-year college.

School Districts, Cherokee County



Iowa_School_Districts_2023-2024 selection

SchoolDist:

- ALTA-AURELIA
- CHEROKEE

- GALVA-HOLSTEIN
- KINGSLEY-PIERSON
- MARCUS-MERIDEN-CLEGHORN
- RIVER VALLEY

- SIOUX CENTRAL
- SOUTH O'BRIEN



The map does not represent a survey, no liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data delineated herein, either expressed or implied by SIMPCO.

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Population

CensusReporter.gov 2023 estimates show Cherokee County¹ has a population of 11,605, showing a slight decline from 11,658 in 2020. The county contains 5,082 households, with a median household income of \$64,478—falling below the statewide median of \$73,147. Population projections indicate a continued decline over the coming decades, with estimates for 2040 ranging from just under 8,000 to nearly 11,700 residents, depending on future growth rates. The county also includes a significant portion of vulnerable populations: nearly 25% of residents are aged 65 and older, while 15.2% live below the poverty level. Additionally, 7.2% of the population lives with a disability, and 4.9% are children under the age of five. These demographic trends highlight the need for thoughtful planning around economic development, aging services, and support for low-income and at-risk residents.

<i>Community Characteristics</i>	
Population (2023)	11,605
Population (2020)	11,658
Total Households	5,082
Median Household Income	\$ 64,478
Median Household Income – Iowa	\$ 73,147

<i>Vulnerable Populations</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
5 years and younger	568	4.9%
65 years and older	2,845	24.6%
Below the poverty level	1,717	15.2%
Living with a disability	1,335	7.2%

Healthcare Facilities

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Assisted Living</i>	<i>Skilled Nursing</i>
Careage Hills	725 N. 2nd St.	Cherokee, IA 51012	No	Yes
Accura Healthcare	921 Riverview Dr	Cherokee, IA 51012	Yes	Yes
Heartland Care Center	604 E. Fenton	Marcus, IA 51035	Yes	Yes
Accura Healthcare	401 W 5th St	Aurelia, IA 51005	No	Yes

¹ Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US19035-cherokee-county-ia/>

Cherokee Specialty Care	1011 N. Roosevelt Ave	Cherokee, IA 51012	No	Yes
The Beck Senior Living Apartments	333 Sioux Valley Dr	Cherokee, IA 51012	Yes	No
The Gardens	1610 Hwy 3	Cherokee	No	No

Housing

Cherokee County offers relatively affordable housing, with a median home value slightly higher than the state average and median rent slightly below. The county has a total of 5,551 housing units, the majority of which are occupied. Most occupied homes are owner-occupied, while a smaller portion are rented. A modest number of housing units remain vacant, indicating a reasonably stable housing market. These figures suggest that homeownership is the dominant form of housing in Cherokee County, and rental options are available but limited.

<i>Housing Characteristics</i>		
Value	Cherokee	Iowa
Median Home Value	\$145,100	\$137,200
Median Rent	\$711	\$740
Availability	Count	Percent
Total Housing Units	5,551	-
Occupied	5,373	90.5%
Owner-occupied	4,064	71.5%
Renter-occupied	1,309	28.5%
Vacant	549	9.5%

Income & Economics

Cherokee County's civilian workforce, made up of individuals aged 16 and older, totals around 4,049 people. The largest number of residents are employed in education, health care, and social assistance, followed by manufacturing and retail trade. Agriculture, including forestry, fishing, and mining, also represents a key part of the local economy. Other notable sectors include construction, wholesale trade, public administration, and professional services. Smaller portions of the workforce are employed in areas such as finance, information, transportation, and the arts and hospitality industries. Overall, the employment landscape reflects a strong presence of both traditional industries and essential community services.

<i>Industry for the Civilian Employed Population 16 and over</i>		
Civilian employed population (16 and older)	4,049	-
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	400	9.9%
Construction	346	8.5%
Manufacturing	645	15.9%
Wholesale trade	189	4.6%
Retail trade	619	15.3%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	115	2.8%
Information	44	1.1%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	51	1.3%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	165	4.1%
Education services and health care and social assistance	842	20.1%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	130	3.2%
Other services except public administration	187	4.6%
Public administration	182	4.5%

Cherokee County identifies the following as leading employers:

- Hy-Vee Distribution
- Cherokee Regional Medical Center
- Cherokee Mental Health Institute
- Cherokee Community School District
- Civil Commitment Union for Sexual Offenders
- Cherokee County
- RJ Thomas Manufacturing
- Christensen Brothers, Inc.
- City of Cherokee
- American Natural Processors
- Schoon Construction/Warehouse
- First Coop Association (Cherokee)
- Mongan Painting

- Foundation Analytical Labs
- Screenbuilders
- Grundman Hicks Construction
- Cloverleaf Cold Storage
- Haselhoff Construction

Additional notable employers in the county include:

- AgReliant
- Corteva
- Fareway
- Hy-Vee Grocery
- Little Sioux Corn
- Lopez Foods, Inc.
- Marcus Lumber
- Simonsen Industries
- Staples Promotional Product

Valuation of County Assets

Total Blanket TIV	\$	23,108,274
Building	\$	19,442,963
Personal Property	\$	3,692,503
Miscellaneous Property Scheduled	\$	8,692,349
Miscellaneous Property Unscheduled	\$	<u>664,929</u>
Total TIV	\$	32,492,744
APD TIV	\$	4,692,268
Grand Total TIV	\$	<u>37, 185,012</u>

PARTICIPATION

Facilitated by SIMPCO, a planning meeting was held at the County EMA office on January 17, 2025 with the following in attendance.

- Justin Pritts, EMA Coordinator
- Bill Anderson, Economic Development (CAEDC)
- Joel Ehrig, Assessor

- Laura Jones, Conservation Board Director
- Tom Ryherd, Superintendent – Cherokee Community Schools
- Derek Scott, Sheriff

Public input was collected through the primary survey with 61 of 251 respondents indicating Cherokee as county of residence. Comments and concerns are included for discussion under Capabilities and Risk Assessment sections as applicable.

CAPABILITIES

Factors improving community capabilities include warning sirens at county parks – Silver Sioux and Martin Access. The sheriff’s office has a generator.

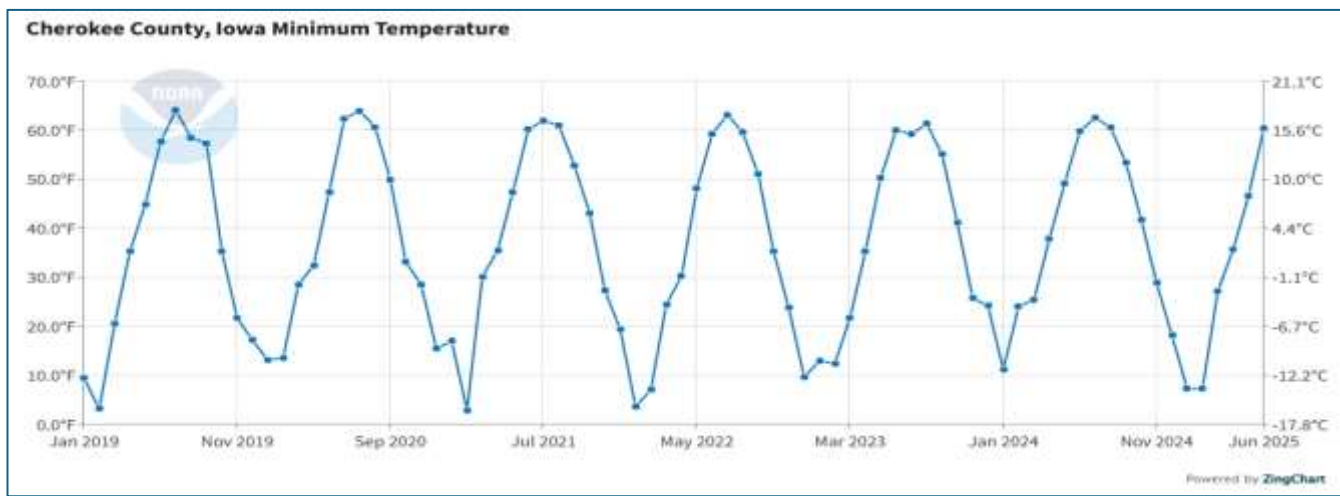
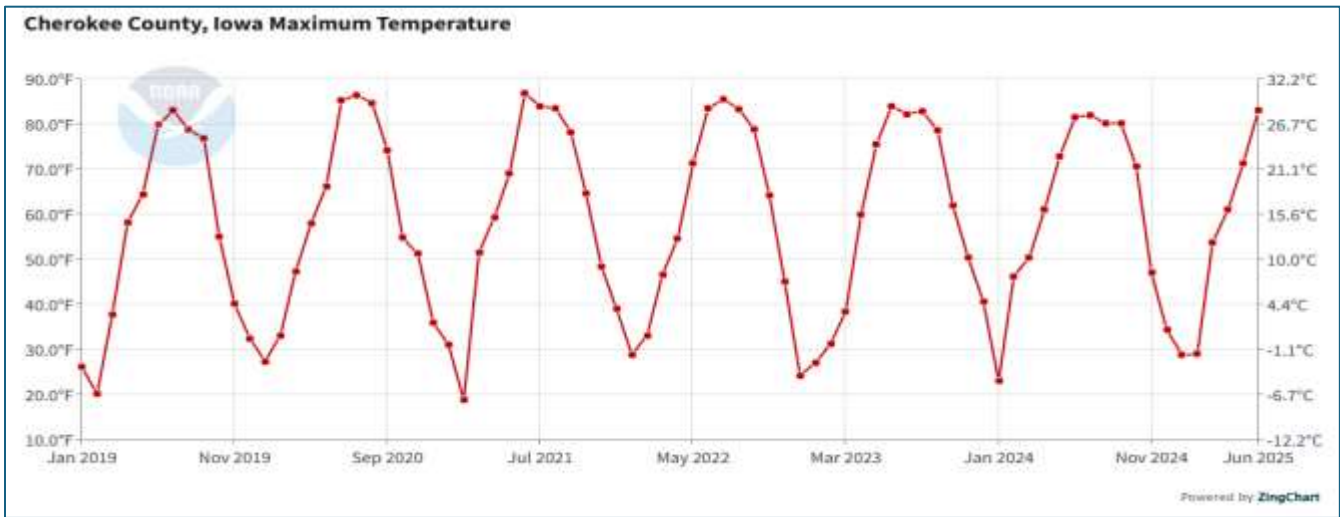
Cherokee County is a participant in NFIP, CID # 190854A. **The County Zoning Administrator serves as Floodplain Administrator. As a county, its unincorporated areas have zero RL/SRL properties.**

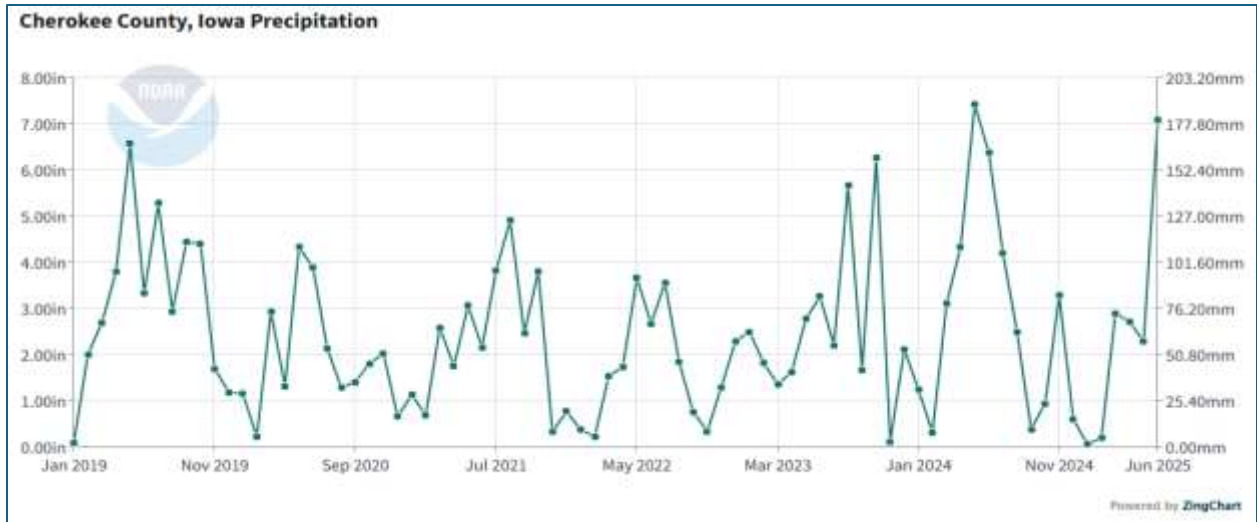
<i>Cherokee County Resources</i>	
Emergency Management Agency & Programming	Emergency Management Coordinator County Recovery Plan Local/County Emergency Plan
Law Enforcement	Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office
Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan	
Economic Development Plan	Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation
Iowa Wetlands and Riparian Areas Conservation Plan	Cherokee County Conservation Board

Review of Actions Taken

communication /education		
tools/equipment		
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County	2020: Two trailer-mounted generators to facilitate county response efforts <i>County EMA</i> (Local funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County	Update. 1 in place 100kw unit owned by the state is housed at the EMA offices. 2 nd unit as well as other generator needs are carried into the 2026 HMP.

Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County	2020: On-site permanent generator for Courthouse; <i>County EMA</i> (County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County	Update. Not implemented as funding has not been dedicated to project. Still needed and carries over to 2026 HMP.
flow control		
refuge		
technology		
natural barriers/ supports		
development		





Risk Assessment

Cherokee County Flood Hazard maps² as produced through the Iowa DNR are now categorized as *Effective*. The Land Use and Floodplain map as provided is based on current available information from the DNR and the County, with more detail visible when zooming in on a specific area rather than the full county. Regardless of mapped depiction of floodways, Cherokee County is intersected diagonally by the Little Sioux River and again to the center of its northern border by its Mill Creek tributary. Development particularly for the cities of Cherokee, Quimby, and Washta is therefore highly subject to flood patterns. Other geographical and weather-based vulnerabilities are consistent with those of the region as a whole. The following charts provide a look at county averages³ for maximum temperature, minimum temperature, and precipitation for November 2019 through December 2024.

Ethanol production and transport is a key consideration in determining risk, as are the presence of bulk ammonia tanks outside the cities of Marcus and Aurelia.

The Trivium Life Services work activity facility in the city of Cherokee is noted to have shelter specifications, though details are not immediately available. School facilities in Cherokee

² Source: <https://ifs.iowafloodcenter.org/ifs/maps/hazard/>

³ www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/time-series/IA

County have designated tornado protocol and refuge areas, though none are certified. In recent years, state programming has enabled the addition of some generators for use by County departments and facilities.

Gov. Kim Reynolds issued a disaster declaration that weekend for 21 Iowa counties affected by the nearly unimaginable amount of flood water inundating those areas.



-Photo by Karen Schwaller

Much of northwest Iowa received nearly a year's worth of rainfall before 2024 was even half over, with approximately 11 inches falling in a short period of time in the month of June. That resulted in historic flooding, which devastated hard-hit Iowa communities like Rock Valley, Spencer, Sioux Rapids, Cherokee, Correctionville, Hawarden, and points further south. Here the water flows from the field and over the roadway.

www.messengernews.net/progress-2025/progress-2025-agriculture/2025/02/2024-floods-northwest-iowa-recovers 2024 Floods: Northwest Iowa recovers. Feb 22, 2025 Karen Schwaller editor@messengernews.net (June 9, 2025)

Frequency of extreme weather, especially flooding and heavy storms, has resulted in an increase of power outages due to downed powerlines. As contributing factors are widespread affecting many communities at the same time, county and locally supplied portable generators are insufficient to maintain operations simultaneously.

A review of reports in the NOAA Storm Event database provides 134 records within Cherokee County between 11/01/2019 and 12/31/2024.

Summary

Number of County/Zone areas affected:	2
Number of Days with Event:	113
Number of Days with Event and Death:	0
Number of Days with Event and Death or Injury:	0
Number of Days with Event and Property Damage:	2
Number of Days with Event and Crop Damage:	20
Number of Event Types reported:	15

Property damage estimates as reported: \$ 2,445,000
 Crop damage estimates as reported: \$ 12,734,000

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Mag</u>	<u>Dth</u>	<u>Inj</u>	<u>PrD</u>	<u>CrD</u>
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/26/2019	15:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/28/2019	22:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/17/2020	7:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/18/2020	15:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/22/2020	0:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/12/2020	22:30	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/19/2020	3:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/19/2020	18:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	4/12/2020	8:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CLEGHORN	6/4/2020	22:43	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE MUNI ARPT	6/4/2020	23:09	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	7/28/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	1.100M
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	1.100M
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	9/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	50.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	10/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	55.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	10/25/2020	5:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	37.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/9/2020	22:00	Ice Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/23/2020	11:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/14/2021	23:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/23/2021	8:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/25/2021	18:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/4/2021	3:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/14/2021	2:00	Extreme Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/21/2021	6:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/15/2021	0:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	4/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	5/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	20.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	6/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	270.00K
WASHTA	6/22/2021	17:42	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	191.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	7/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	214.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	250.00K
WASHTA	8/20/2021	17:22	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	8/27/2021	0:46	Thunderstorm Wind	52 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	50.00K
CHEROKEE	8/27/2021	1:05	Thunderstorm Wind	52 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	9/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	10.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	10/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	5.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/10/2021	13:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
FIELDING	12/15/2021	16:46	Thunderstorm Wind	74 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
MARY HILL	12/15/2021	16:53	Thunderstorm Wind	83 kts. EG	0	0	15.00K	0.00K
MERIDEN	12/15/2021	16:56	Thunderstorm Wind	83 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	12/15/2021	16:56	Thunderstorm Wind	70 kts. EG	0	0	50.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	16:59	Tornado	EF1	0	0	1.000M	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:00	Tornado	EFU	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:02	Thunderstorm Wind	87 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:02	Thunderstorm Wind	87 kts. EG	0	0	20.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:02	Thunderstorm Wind	78 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:03	Thunderstorm Wind	78 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K

LARRABEE	12/15/2021	17:05	Tornado	EF1	0	0	250.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/15/2021	20:40	High Wind	39 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/1/2022	1:30	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/6/2022	4:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/14/2022	3:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/21/2022	16:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/22/2022	19:30	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/5/2022	13:30	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/25/2022	10:00	Strong Wind	31 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	4/14/2022	7:20	High Wind	35 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	4/23/2022	10:45	High Wind	38 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	5/30/2022	14:55	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	6/14/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	1.130M
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	7/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	1.800M
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	1.750M
FIELDING	8/18/2022	18:35	Thunderstorm Wind	53 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CLEGHORN	8/27/2022	16:18	Thunderstorm Wind	70 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	9/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	1.120M
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	10/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/29/2022	6:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/8/2022	17:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/12/2022	17:00	Ice Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/22/2022	3:00	Extreme Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/22/2022	10:30	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/2/2023	20:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/18/2023	17:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/28/2023	1:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/15/2023	1:30	Strong Wind	29 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/8/2023	13:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	3/22/2023	22:30	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	4/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CLEGHORN	4/19/2023	18:43	Hail	1.50 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	4/30/2023	8:00	Strong Wind	39 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	5/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	6/20/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	7/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	7/3/2023	16:53	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	110.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	7/26/2023	10:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/19/2023	13:30	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/21/2023	11:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	9/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	10/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	3.470M
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	10/28/2023	12:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/25/2023	2:00	Ice Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/8/2024	15:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/11/2024	18:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/12/2024	15:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/12/2024	18:00	Extreme Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/18/2024	9:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	1/19/2024	22:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	2/27/2024	16:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
FIELDING	4/26/2024	11:30	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CLEGHORN	4/26/2024	11:47	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	5/2/2024	18:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	5/8/2024	15:31	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	5/20/2024	19:50	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	5/20/2024	20:30	Hail	1.50 in.	0	0	0.00K	2.00K
LARRABEE	5/22/2024	2:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
WASHTA	6/21/2024	1:00	Flood		0	0	1.020M	0.00K
LARRABEE	6/21/2024	1:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

CLEGHORN	6/22/2024	6:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	7/1/2024	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	7/13/2024	12:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
QUIMBY	7/29/2024	23:21	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	7/29/2024	23:22	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE	7/29/2024	23:37	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	7/29/2024	23:45	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	7/31/2024	11:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/2/2024	12:00	Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/5/2024	12:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	8/25/2024	12:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	10/29/2024	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	11/1/2024	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/4/2024	11:00	Strong Wind	36 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE (ZONE)	12/19/2024	12:00	Strong Wind	26 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Estimates as provided are intended to imply a base valuation only. It is important to note that estimates are from on reported amounts. As NOAA is a public-sourced database, events are recorded in real time but follow up of adding costs associated with events is often incomplete. Local EMA offices are better equipped to provide such details. Even then, final numbers may not be totaled for several years after recovery efforts have been completed.

A compilation of State disaster declarations and presidential disaster declarations are included in the Region Risk Assessment section of this plan.

Priority Hazards

The county identifies the following as primary hazard concerns.

- Flood
- Tornado / Windstorm
- Drought

Also noted as concerns are

- Animal / Plant / Crop disease and
- Terrorism (Active Shooter)

Among Cherokee County respondents to the survey, Tornado/Windstorm (33/61), Severe Winter Storm (27/61) and Flood – Flash and Riverine (24/61) have the highest frequency of Very Concerned indicated. When asked what they consider the top three hazards, respondents provided: Tornado/Windstorm (37/61), Severe Winter Storm (23/61) and Thunderstorm with Hail & Lightning (20/61).

Most surveys completed were on paper which allowed for level of concern for each hazard and space for general comments. The online survey was longer with more prompts for open-ended responses. Below are some notable concerns/mentions regarding overall community awareness of hazards and preparedness.

What personal impacts have you experienced due to any of the hazards identified above?

- [Sure!] Good! Need info on what's available during/after disaster - to know what to do
- To be informed of dam and levy failure
- (1) Ongoing community only about risks and risk migration measures (2) Department meetings in the subject yearly reviewing plans
- Dust and noise from elevator
- flood
- Have had to miss work because couldn't travel because of floods and snow.

What have you done to reduce the impacts of likely occurring hazards (i.e. installed sump pump to keep basement from flooding)

- All that I can do
- nothing
- Built on a hill

Are there any mitigation projects you would like to see implemented to reduce the impact of hazard/disastrous events in the Jurisdiction you are representing?

- Dam release from Lakes are[a] can affect our County.
- More security in schools-SRO's-Metal detectors etc.
- Flood mitigation- expanding watershed project

MITIGATION ACTIONS, STRATEGIES, & PROJECTS

The full list of planned mitigation actions, strategies, and projects follows.

communication/education		
Promo/Info	Cherokee County	New. Enhance education materials and communications on water conservation and responsible use during drought; red flag warning awareness during dry conditions; winter weather safety; lightning safety; Extreme heat safety; flood safety. County EMA, IA DNR. (No funds needed). HIGH PRIORITY
Assessment/Study	Cherokee County	New. A study of several tributaries is need to assess options for collection, redirection, diversion. Waterways include Mill Creek, Little Sioux River, Railroad Creek. County will support study of others as collaborative project. EMA, County Board, affected cities, Conservation Board, DNR, ACE, Secondary Roads. (Scoping project-PDM funds as may be available, local funds from participating entities) HIGH PRIORITY
tools/equipment		
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County	Carry over. trailer-mounted generator needed to facilitate county response efforts County EMA (Local funds – not yet allocated, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County	New. On-site generator needed for EOC/EMA for continuity of operations extreme weather events and other disasters. Estimated cost @ \$350,000. County EMA (Local funds – not yet allocated, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County, Cherokee CSD	New. generator to facilitate use of High School as refuge / shelter location. Generator addresses reduction in loss of life in power outage conditions (tornado, flood, wind, lightning, ice, etc.) by ensuring shelter and communication links. County EMA, School Superintendent / Board, City of Cherokee (Local general budget funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee County	Carry over. On-site permanent generator for Courthouse; County EMA (County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Relocate critical facilities	Cherokee County	New. Relocation of Conservation Department necessitated by floodplain expansion. Current office now in compromised area. Facility needs office space as well as storage. There is potential to collaborate with Secondary

	Roads to share storage space. Estimates range from \$.5M - \$.75M. Ideally, new location will be in one of the parks, River Oaks Conservation Area is being considered. <i>County Board, Conservation Dept, Secondary Roads, IDNR, State Conservation</i> (County and state funds as available, PDM/FMA as appropriate, other TBD) HIGH PRIORITY
development	
flow control	
refuge	
technology	
natural barriers/supports	

Other projects with potential mitigative impact include but are not limited to the following.

- Cherokee County has several road projects listed for consideration in the near future, many of which are increasing in implementation priority due to the accelerated deterioration effects of frequent weather extremes. Among these are collaborative projects with cities, state funded roadways, and watershed improvements.
- The ability to maintain function of County operations during and after a hazardous event or disaster is essential to appropriating response.
- The county is looking at expanding the assessor’s office space, addressing in part vehicle storage.
- Several road repair projects to perform routine maintenance, some with extensive repairs

JURISDICTIONS

1. AURELIA

a. Profile

The city of Aurelia is located close to the eastern border of Cherokee County, just 8 miles southeast of the City of Cherokee. The IA-7 Highway is the main road that goes through the city and connects Aurelia to surrounding communities, running northwest/southeast through the city.

City Governance & Community Supports

Aurelia is governed by a 5-person elected council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, Public Works, Streets, Waterworks, Electric, Fire Chief and Police Chief. City Hall houses the Council chambers, police department, and city staff offices. Aurelia City has a volunteer Fire Department in place. The Department staffs 22 volunteer firefighters with 7 having Emergency Medical Service certifications. The Aurelia Fire Department serves the city and rural surrounding community, approximately 105 sq. miles. The department operates as at EMT level service for medical emergencies. **City Council meets the third Monday each month at 6:30 PM.**

The city pursues economic development with several community partners. After a lapse in activity, the Aurelia Economic Development Corporation's (AEDC) has resumed. Its mission is to economically promote and sustain the quality of life in Aurelia by assisting local businesses, residents, and actively promoting new opportunities to grow the City of Aurelia. Eight Board members lead the AEDC.

The Aurelia Commercial Club (ACC) is much like a traditional chamber of commerce with the exception that anyone may be a member. Aurelia Commercial Club's mission is to promote Aurelia's local business, ag industry and the economic and social health of the community. The Friends of Aurelia group is a community organization that contributes to economic development issues in Aurelia.

Tornado - AURELIA

Cherokee/Buena Vista County

Date	Dec 15, 2021
Time (Local)	4:59 PM - 5:12 PM CST
EF Rating	EF-1
Est. Peak Winds	110 mph
Path Length	18.1 miles
Max Width	250 yards
Injuries/Deaths	0/0

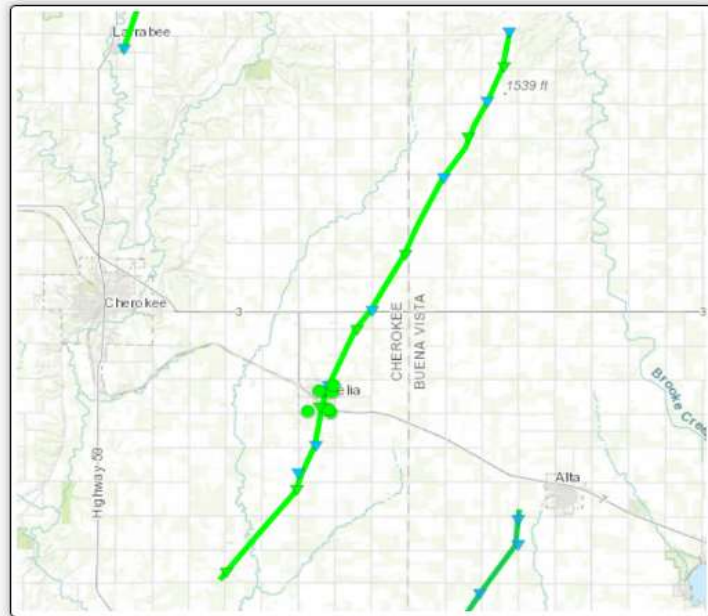
Summary:

The tornado touched down near the intersection of T Avenue and 610th Street and collapsed a hog barn. It tracked northeast toward Aurelia and intermittently damaged roofs and siding of nearby houses and farm outbuildings.

The tornado entered the south side of Aurelia near Main Street and 560th Street. It damaged the grain elevator and snapped numerous tree limbs and trunks throughout the city, including at the golf course. Other non-tornadic wind damage included three tipped over empty rail cars, leaning power poles, and a storage garage near the elementary school.

The tornado continued to the northeast, destroying a barn and three outbuildings along 535th Street. Additional damage occurred to a machine shed and trees along the Cherokee and Buena Vista County line. Damage continued to the northeast, and trees before south of the Bl Park.

Track Map



Downloadable KMZ File

Source: Historic December Severe Weather Outbreak Brings Damaging Winds and Tornadoes to Northwest Iowa, www.weather.gov/fsd/20211215-Tornado-nwia (June 9, 2025)



(Courtesy: NWS Survey)



(Courtesy: NWS Survey)



(Courtesy: NWS Survey)



(Courtesy: NWS Survey)

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

It is important to note that a local survey indicates a higher population than indicated by census estimates of 968 (2020 decennial census). The local survey was distributed to less than the full population and results still exceed value assigned by the Census Bureau. For consistency in review of data, the census total is used herein.

This small community is composed of approximately 430 households. It boasts a median household income that slightly surpasses the Cherokee County average, indicating a relatively

stable economic foundation. Despite its modest size, the community has notable demographic trends. Nearly 30% of residents are aged 65 or older, significantly higher than both the county and state averages, highlighting a strong presence of older adults. In contrast, the percentage of young children is lower than regional and state figures. The community also reports a lower poverty rate and a comparable proportion of residents living with disabilities, suggesting a need for services that cater specifically to aging residents and those with accessibility needs.

<i>Community Characteristics</i>	
Population (2020)	968
Total Households	430
Median household income	\$68,605
Median household income – Cherokee County	\$64,478

<i>Vulnerable Populations</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cherokee</i>	<i>Iowa</i>
5 years and younger	44	4.5%	4.9%	6.3%
65 years and older	283	29.3%	24.6%	16.0%
Below poverty level	44	4.5%	7.2%	11.3%
Living with a disability	136	14%	15.2%	13%

<i>Housing Characteristics</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total housing units	441	
Occupied units	402	91.2%
Vacant units	39	8.8%
Mobile Homes	12	2.3%
<i>Age of residential structure</i>		
Built 2000 or later	10	1.9%
Built 1970 – 1999	151	28.7%
Built 1969 or earlier	366	69.4%

The local housing landscape reflects the community’s deep-rooted character. Of the 441 housing units, more than 90% are occupied, showing consistent demand and a relatively low vacancy rate. Most homes were built prior to 1970, with fewer than 2% constructed since 2000. This aging housing stock suggests potential needs for renovations or infrastructure

improvements. Mobile homes make up a small portion of available housing, indicating a predominance of traditional single-family residences.

Together, these characteristics paint a picture of a well-established and stable community with a strong economic base, an aging population, and housing infrastructure that may benefit from strategic investment and long-term planning.

Leading Employers

While not hosting a large number of employees, the following businesses operate and have established a necessary presence in Aurelia.

- Alta-Aurelia Community Schools
- Accura Care and Rehab Center

Critical Facilities

City Hall	236 Main St
Water Tower	236 Main St
Community Center	235 Main St
Library	232 Main St
Municipal Electric Bldg	126 S Main St
Town Shop	126½ S Main St
Town Building	115 Myrtle St
Garbage Shop	114 Myrtle St
Fire Dept Storage	112 Myrtle
Fire Station	110 Myrtle St
City Park (Shelter House, Gazebo)	216 W 4 th St
Boy Scout House	216 W 4 th St (West side)
Pool Bldg & Equipment Bldg	304 W 4 th St (bldgs 1 & 2)
Sewer Plant	SW ¼ of Section 10 – Pitcher Twp (bldgs 1 – 5)
Town Storage	Hwy 7
Aurelia Golf Course	601 Valor Rd

Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, Gathering Locations, & Local Areas of Interest

Accura Care and Rehab Center,	410 W 5th St
Aurelia Elementary School	300 Ash St
Alta-Aurelia Middle School	300 Ash St
Heritage Center	228 Main St
Martin Area Park	4579 Martin Access Rd (outside City Limits)
Aurelia Day Care (on-site at school, operated independently)	216 Ash St

Valuation of City Assets

Total Buildings	\$	6,185,768
Total Personal Property	\$	1,030,463
Total Property in the Open	\$	<u>2,378,323</u>
Combined Total	\$	<u>9,594,554</u>

b. Participation

Facilitated by SIMPCO, a mitigation planning meeting was held December 18, 2024 at Aurelia City Hall with the following in attendance.

- Stephanie McSparran, City Clerk
- Dustin Wieland, Maintenance
- Mark Sangwin, Public Works Director

Public input was provided by way of survey responses. Of the 61 surveys collected for Cherokee County, 2 respondents indicated Aurelia as jurisdiction of residence. **A final review was completed by the same team in the initial planning stages. Upon review, the city acknowledged changes within the plan and committed to adopting it upon FEMA approval.**

c. Community Capabilities

<i>Planning Documents and Organization Supports</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	Adopted 2018
Builder's Plan	2015IPMC and IBC)

Economic Development Plan	Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation
<i>Policies/Ordinance – adopted 12/26/2018</i>	
Municipal Code of Ordinances – annual updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floodplain Ordinance (2021 via IDNR) Subdivision Ordinance Tree Trimming Ordinance Nuisance Ordinance Debris Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storm Water Ordinance Drainage Ordinance Historic Preservation Ordinance Zoning Ordinance
Iowa Wetlands and Riparian Areas Conservation Plan	<i>Cherokee County Conservation Board Iowa DNR</i>
<i>Infrastructure and Technology</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning Siren Generator at Fire Station and 1 mobile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alert Iowa access Community Bulletin Board/Public Posts
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	<i>Zoning Ordinance</i>
Codes Building Site/Design	<i>Building Permits issued by clerk w/Council-approved application</i>
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190549A
Hazard Awareness Program	Cherokee County Hazardous Waste Pick-up
ISO Fire Rating	Aurelia Class 7 and Aurelia FD Class 7/9
Property Acquisition	Considered for dilapidated residences on a case-by-case basis
Planning/Zoning Boards	Planning and Zoning Commission
Mutual Aid Agreements	Cities of Alta, Peterson, and Galva Service provided to: Cherokee Regional Medical Ctr; Sioux Valley Hospital.
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Works Official Emergency Response Team Historic Preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Works Director City Fire and EMS Department Aurelia Heritage Society
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	American Legion Auxiliary Grashoff McManus American Legion Post 390
Community Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurelia Commercial Club Aurelia Economic Development Aurelia Women’s Club Friends of Aurelia Public Library Kiwanis Club of Aurelia

<i>Local Funding Availability/Eligibility</i>	
Community Development Block Grants	
Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specified purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	
Incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general obligation bonds • private activities • special tax bonds
Withhold spending in hazard prone areas	

The Floodplain Ordinance was adopted October 18, 2021 under resolution #21-10. The 2015 edition of the IPMC was adopted by reference with exceptions on September 2023. The city participates in the NFIP program with the City Clerk serving as Floodplain Administrator. The city has zero RL/SRL properties.

The city is working on funding a new Fire Station with a generator included in the plans. Estimated at \$1.5M, the site has been determined and the project is set to go to bid in 2025. Fundraising figures prominently in planned funding sources.

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

communication/education		
Promo/Info	Aurelia	2020: Interest in promoting Smoke Detector programs, and similar supports, when offered at County or Region levels. <i>City Clerk, Public Health, EMA</i> (for promo: No dedicated funding necessary. For detectors: Community grants, pre-disaster funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Promo/Info	Aurelia	Update. No action taken as program has not been made available through FD or Public Health. City wishes to carry this project over to 2026.
tools/equipment		
Equipment	Aurelia	2020: Additional equipment for Emergency Response needed in lieu of resident-owned materials. Items considered include but are not limited to ATV and Rescue Boat. <i>City Council, Fire & Rescue Services, Police Department</i> (Local funds, fundraising, community betterment funds) MEDIUM PRIORITY
Equipment	Aurelia	Complete. City added ATV to city inventory. No further action anticipated for this project.
development		
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Aurelia	2020: Improve capacity for Community Center to be designated as cooling shelter and/or refuge location for extreme weather conditions. <i>City Council, City Maintenance</i> (Local Funds, Community Betterment Funds, PDM)

Update. City still interested in improving facility prep for use as shelter/refuge with specific project identified: add generator.

Carry over. Project for generator added under appropriate category.

flow control

refuge

technology

natural barriers/supports

Addressing failing infrastructure, the city completed a water and sewer mains replacement project in November 2023. The work included 7 fire hydrants, covered 5 blocks, and cost approximately \$900,000. Cherokee County reported that a transfer switch project was implemented at the community center following 2021 tornado. The \$20,000 project was privately funded. The city would still like to have a dedicated generator for city use.

Other efforts include the removal of ash trees completed per the city’s tree removal plan. Re-treeing efforts are intermittent, although Kiwanis put in a trail lined with several trees.

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

The NOAA Storm Event database provides record of 8 events specific to Aurelia, and 97 events attributed to Cherokee (Zone) affecting the whole county from 11/01/2019 through 12/31/2024.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mag</i>	<i>Dth</i>	<i>Inj</i>	<i>PrD</i>	<i>CrD</i>
AURELIA	12/15/2021	16:59	Tornado	EF1	0	0	1.000M	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:00	Tornado	EFU	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:02	Thunderstorm Wind	87 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:02	Thunderstorm Wind	87 kts. EG	0	0	20.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:02	Thunderstorm Wind	78 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	12/15/2021	17:03	Thunderstorm Wind	78 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
AURELIA	7/3/2023	16:53	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	110.00K
AURELIA	5/20/2024	20:30	Hail	1.50 in.	0	0	0.00K	2.00K

In addition to adverse effects of extreme weather, aging infrastructure is placing a high demand on local resources. A water systems improvement project including a new water tower and well

is in progress with engineering complete. Site testing for the well and site selection for the tower are underway. Construction is expected to begin within a year.

Naturally occurring flooding is not a primary issue, however, flash flooding can be problematic. Sewer system overload and resulting back flow is a prominent concern and is directly related to aging infrastructure that is overcapacity. It is expected that recent improvements will reduce these occurrences.

Priority Hazards

- Tornado/Windstorm
- Severe Winter Storms (*including Ice and Extreme Cold*)
- Extreme Heat

Survey respondents indicate similar priorities with Thunderstorms with Hail and Lightning ranking slightly higher than Extreme Heat. Drought and Grass and Wildland Fire are also noted concerns.

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

communication/education		
Promo/Info	Aurelia	Carry over. Seek Smoke Detector program opportunities and similar supports, when offered at County or Region levels and promote accordingly, <i>City Clerk, Public Health, EMA</i> (for promo: No dedicated funding necessary. For detectors: Community grants, pre-disaster funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Promo/Info	Aurelia	New. City intends to increase awareness of Alert Iowa program through promotion and registration provision on city communications. <i>City Clerk, County EMA</i> (no expense aside from staffing hours is anticipated) HIGH PRIORITY
tools/equipment		
Generator & Related Projects	Aurelia	Carry over (moved from Improve Existing Facilities). Community ctr updates to improve capacity to serve as refuge location in the event of an emergency. Transfer switch added to community center after 2021 tornado, funded privately. Dedicated generator still needed. Cost estimate provided in 2023 is \$55,000. Portion of funds have been set aside. Project pending availability to cover balance. City Council, County EMA (Local general budget funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY

development
flow control
refuge
technology
natural barriers/supports

2. CHEROKEE

a. Profile

The City of Cherokee is situated just north and east of center in Cherokee County. It is the County’s largest city and serves as the county seat. Two main highways connect the city to neighboring cities in Cherokee and neighboring Counties – US Highway 59 passes through the middle, running north/south bound, and Highway 3 passes along its northern-most border. The Little Sioux River is situated near the city’s southern-most border, extending north and south of Cherokee County.

City Governance & Community Supports

The City of Cherokee is governed by a five-person elected council and Mayor. **City Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 PM.** Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, Administrator, Wastewater Department, Parks and Recreation, Street Department, and Public Works. The City’s Fire Department consists of 25 volunteer firefighters, two paid driver/dispatchers and a chief. The department provides fire, rescue, and hazardous material services for the City and surrounding rural areas. The Department also maintains several agreements with surrounding communities to assist each other with major incidents or as needed.

Some additional detail on supports available for the City of Cherokee can be found in *Section c. Community Capabilities* later in this Chapter.

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

As of 2024, the city of Cherokee has experienced modest population growth, increasing to 5,157 residents from 5,018 in 2020. There are approximately 2,290 households and 2,330 total housing

units, with a high occupancy rate, indicating steady housing demand. The median household income stands at \$64,478, reflecting economic conditions consistent with the broader county average. The housing stock is predominantly older, with most residential structures built before 1970. More recent development has been limited, with a small portion of homes constructed since 2000. Mobile homes account for a minor part of the housing inventory. These characteristics point to a stable and established community, though the aging housing infrastructure may present opportunities for revitalization and investment.

<i>Community Characteristics</i>	
Population (2024)	5,157
Population (2020)	5,018
Total Households	2,290
Median household income	\$64,478

<i>Housing Characteristics</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total housing units	2,330	-
Occupied units	2,172	93.2%
Vacant units	158	6.8%
Mobile Homes	59	2.5%
<i>Age of residential structure</i>		
Built 2000 or later	180	7.7%
Built 1970 – 1999	430	18.4%
Build 1969 or earlier	1,720	73.9%

Leading Employers

Economic development in Cherokee is ever-evolving with some rotation of newer businesses and/or ownership of older entities. At the writing of this Plan, the following are recognized as major or otherwise notable employers in the City of Cherokee.

- American Natural Soy* 1510 S 2nd St
- AgState Cooperative* 960 Riverview Dr
- Cherokee Mental Health Institute 1251 W Cedar Loop
- Cherokee Regional Medical Center* 300 Sioux Valley Dr

- Cherokee Community School District* 600 W Bluff St
- Cherokee Locker* 1300 S 2nd St
- NorAm Cold Storage* 1530 S 2nd St
- Fareway Food Store 205 W Bluff St
- Hy-Vee Distribution Center 1010 Riverview Dr
- Hy-Vee Food Store* 1300 N 2nd St
- Lopez Foods* 1300 Lake St

As leading employers, the respective interests of the above entities are given due consideration in all aspects of community development and planning. Those denoted with an asterisk (*) are stakeholders with direct representation through City Council and among city staff.

Critical Facilities

City Hall	416 W Main St
Fire Station	300 W Elm
Law Enforcement Center	239 W. Maple St
Streets Shop (multiple bldgs/equip)	1811 Industrial Rd
Community Center	530 W Bluff St
Library	215 S 2nd St
Cemetery (multiple bldgs/equip)	1601 W Main
Cherokee Regional Airport (multiple bldgs/equip)	1201 S 2nd
Aquatic Center (multiple bldgs./equip)	614 W Bluff
North Water Tower (#1)	Intersection of Hwy 59 & Hwy 3
Hill Street Water Tower (#2)	N 11th & Hill St
MHI Water Tower (#3)	1200 W Cedar Loop
Industrial Water Tower (#4)	1300 S Lake Rd
Industrial Wastewater Plant (multiple bldgs/equip)	1322 S Lake St
Industrial Water Plant (multiple bldgs/equip)	1201 S Lake St
Wastewater Plant (multiple bldgs/equip)	5745 River Rd
Water Plant	746 E Spruce
Siren	1400 N 2nd
Siren	936 Hill St
Central Park Walking Bridge	Central Park

RR Bridge	
Well Sites	8 Well & Well House locations
Lift Station - South	136 S 2nd St
Lift Stations - Saratoga	76 Saratoga Ave & E Main St
Sumner Street Lift Station	731 Sumner St
Valley View Lift Station	318 W View
MHI Lift Station	701 River Dr
Lift Station	1540 S 2nd St
Spruce Street Lift Station	996 East Spruce St
Beech Street Lift Station	300 E Beech Street
Lift Station	920 Riverview Dr
Storage (multiple bldgs)	339 W Beech

Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, &/or Gathering Locations

<i>City Supports & Communications Centers</i>	
Chamber of Commerce	201 W Main
Cherokee Area Economic Development	201 W Main
Chronicle Times	111 S 2nd St
KCHE Radio	201 S 5th St
<i>County Facilities in City Limits</i>	
County Offices	520 W Main
Conservation Office	629 River Rd
Engineer's Office	Hwy 3 West
Cherokee County Landfill	1805 Linden St
Sheriff's Office	111 N 5th St
VA Office	228 1/2 W Main St
<i>Education Facilities</i>	
Cherokee Community Schools	600 W Bluff
Cherokee Middle School	200 E Indian St
Roosevelt Elementary School	929 N Roosevelt
Washington High School	600 West Bluff St
ISU Cherokee Co Extension Office	209 Centennial Dr, Suite A
Crossroads of Western Iowa	322 S Lake
Western Iowa Tech Community College	200 Victory Dr

<i>Medical Facilities</i>	
Cherokee Mental Health Institute/CCUSO	1251 W Cedar Loop
Cherokee Regional Medical Center	300 Sioux Valley Dr
<i>Senior and Disabled Housing/Care/Support Facilities</i>	
Countryside Estates	921 Riverview Drive
Cherokee Villa Nursing and Rehab	1011 N Roosevelt
Careage Hills Nursing Home	725 N 2nd St
The Gardens	1610 Hwy 3
The Beck (Senior Housing)	333 Sioux Valley Dr
<i>Recreation/Cultural Facilities</i>	
Cherokee County Fairgrounds	200 Linden
American Theaters	108 E Main St
Cherokee Community Theater	530 W Bluff St
Cherokee Symphony	530 W Bluff St
Sanford Museum and Planetarium	117 E Willow St
Cherokee Depot	119 S 4th St, Ste. 6
Westcott Ball Park	Highway 59 South
Spring Lake Yacht Club	606 Spring Lake Dr
Koser Spring Lake Park and Campground	808 Spring Lake Dr
Cherokee Country Club	800 N 11th
<i>Nearby Parks</i>	
Inkpaduta Canoe Trail	Little Sioux River
Pilot Rock (Glacial Rock)	South of Cherokee on Highway 59
Poulson Park	Euclid Ave
Treptow Mini-Park	E Main St

Valuation of City Assets

For the purpose of cost-benefit considerations, a valuation of the City's assets was compiled based on its insured properties, personal property, and facilities. The value as provided does not include private properties, equipment, or non-city funded investments that may contribute to project determinations. Separately catalogued assets and equipment may not be represented in this value.

Total Blanket TIV	\$	76,009,255
Building	\$	72,588,025
Personal Property	\$	3,461,406
Miscellaneous Property Scheduled	\$	1,265,830
Miscellaneous Property Unscheduled	\$	<u>1,178,910</u>
Total	\$	62,535,835
APD TIV	\$	<u>4,443,336</u>
Grand Total TIV	\$	<u>82,937,507</u>

b. Participation

A planning meeting to update the City of Cherokee’s profile and projects for the 2026 HMP update was held at Cherokee City Hall on October 7, 2024. The meeting was facilitated by SIMPCO with the following in attendance.

- Sara Lucas – City Clerk
- Craig Schmidt – Mayor
- Tyler Hahn – Library
- Chris Horton – Parks & Rec
- Nate James – Police Dept
- Todd Larsen – Street Dept Supt
- Todd Miller – Water Supt
- Jeremiah Mullins – Parks & Rec

In addition to the planning meeting, survey responses were considered in determination of primary hazards. Of all survey responses, seventeen had Cherokee indicated as residence. Considerations provided in survey responses are included throughout this community profile as applicable.

A signed 2026 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Voluntary Participation Agreement has not been received from the City of Cherokee.

A final review of the plan including revisions and corrections was completed by City Administrator Theresa Pudenz and City Clerk Sara Lucas on February 27, 2026. Upon said review, the city acknowledges plan content and commits to adopting the Plan as approved by FEMA.

c. Community Capabilities

The City of Cherokee has a self-assessment process to monitor infrastructure and residential needs. Investments have been made to improve connectivity for residents through library and internet improvements. Among them, broadband expansions are providing more reliable access to resources for residents and local business. A municipal code update is in progress as of 2025. The city is looking at updating its local emergency response plan and its comprehensive plan in light of known and potential growth and development opportunities for Cherokee.

Training opportunities, specifically for hazardous materials response are conducted routinely, improving local response practices. Tornado siren warning procedures are well understood within the community. However, there is a need to better prepare for and issue warnings for pending or likely flood events that communicates that same “urgent action needed” effect as the tornado siren.

In-time extreme weather events resulting in power outages prompted City staff to further consider communications systems and the need for extended connections during power outages. Events occurring during the development of this plan highlighted such needs that when implemented with the full scope of need in context, enables a multi-faceted solution. In this case, a generator project has been added to resolve a breakdown in communications between emergency response and public works during power outages, while also serving to retain function operation of the city’s water systems. As infrastructure becomes more automated, sustained backup power is increasingly urgent.

Cherokee adopted the 2012 IBC by reference with exceptions. Their Building Codes were implemented on February 2, 2000. The city’s floodplain ordinance is included in Section 704 of their Municipal Code of Ordinances and was adopted on October 12, 2021. Cherokee participates in the NFIP program with the City Administrator serving as Floodplain Administrator. The city has 27 RL/SRL properties – all residential.

<i>Documents/Plans</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	Updated in 2011

Economic Development Plan	Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation
Land Use Plan	Included in the Comprehensive Plan; Land use addressed in zoning
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Plan & updated floodplain map	
<i>Policies/Ordinances - last updated August 2019</i>	
The following are included in the City of Cherokee Municipal Code of Ordinances	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Ordinance • Building Code • Floodplain Ordinance • Subdivision Ordinance • Tree Trimming Ordinance • Nuisance Ordinance • Storm Water Ordinance • Drainage Ordinance • Historic Preservation Ordinance • Landscape Ordinance 	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	Addressed in Comprehensive Plan and in Zoning Regulations in Code of Ordinances
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190063A
ISO Fire Rating	Class 4
Property Acquisition	Acquisition in flood areas & abandoned property
Planning/Zoning Boards	Planning and Zoning Commission
Tree Trimming Program	City managed in right-of-way and in parks
Mutual Aid Agreements	County-wide 28E Agreement
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Building Code Official	City Administrator serves in this capacity; Inspections/reviews typically performed by one of two full time firemen
Development Planner	City Administrator serves in this capacity
Emergency Response Team	Cherokee Fire Department
Engineer	Project-based consultation; Primary is Beck Engineering, Cherokee office
Fire Department	Chief: Casey Carpenter; 25 Volunteers; dispatch and drivers
Historic Preservation	Historic Preservation Commission
Library	7 Staff members including Director Zach Freking
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	City Administrator serves in this capacity
Parks & Rec	Dept includes director & coordinator
Police Department	Chief: Nate James; 2 Sergeants, 6 officers; 1 admin
Public Works Director (<i>includes oversight of: Water, Sewer, Storm Sewer, Utility</i>)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streets Dept • Wastewater Dept • Water Dept 	
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	

Chamber of Commerce	Executive Director: Cory Ege
Neighborhood Associations	Varied
Veterans Groups	Veterans Affairs
	L.A. Wescott, Post 2253
Community Organizations	Cherokee Rotary Club
	Cherokee Lions Club
	Friends of the Library
<i>Local Funding Availability/Eligibility</i>	
Community Development Block Grants	
Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specified purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	
Ability to incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general obligation bonds • private activities • special tax bonds
Ability to withhold spending in hazard prone areas as development restricted and guided through Floodplain Ordinance and compliance may affect spending allowance	

In addition to the charted capabilities and efforts as provided, physical implementations also contribute to mitigating loss of life and/or damage to property. The City of Cherokee has effectively addressed recurring flooding issues through completed strategies and projects as outlined in the following Review of Actions taken section. The City has established guidance procedures for new developments and has therefore managed reduction in new, preventable risks and losses.

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Cherokee has continually worked toward resiliency with implementation of community projects specific to mitigation as well as other projects where resistance to natural disasters and other hazards is an additional consideration. Below is a summary of actions taken on projects identified in the 2020 Regional Plan.

communication /education
tools/equipment

Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee (City of)	2020: Generators needed for Water Plant and Wastewater Plant; <i>City Council, County EMA</i> (Local funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee (City of)	Update. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is in the process of being relocated due to flooding. In progress. Generator for the Water Plant has been purchased, installation pending. Project was funded via bond and FEMA grant (disaster declaration funds)
development		
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cherokee	2020: Improve capacity and function of sewer system; <i>City Waterworks</i> (City funds, USDA program funds, IDNR program funds) MEDIUM PRIORITY
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cherokee	Update: The city has made some improvements, additional are still needed. Project priority remains the same.
Relocate critical facilities	Cherokee	2020: Move/raise lift station at Beech St; <i>City Water & Public Works Depts</i> (City funds, IDNR, PDM) HIGH PRIORITY
Relocate critical facilities	Cherokee	Update: Carry Over. Cherokee is expanding project scope to include several infrastructure improvements. Project is carried into 2026 HMP.
Bridges & Roads	Cherokee	2020: Collaborate w/County and State on review of and implementation of roadway elevation improvements along Hwy 3 and/or Hwy 59; <i>City Administrator & Streets Dept, County Roads Dept, IDOT</i> (Transportation funds, City/county funds) MEDIUM PRIORITY
Bridges & Roads	Cherokee	Update. Several road/bridge projects are planned with 3 in progress and others pending. Bridges pending work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railroad Creek Bridge and E Cherry St Bridge. • Needed but not yet planned: Maple Street Bridge • Work on Bypass scheduled with preparation in progress. Projects as listed are carried over to 2026 HMP with HIGH PRIORITY.
flow control		
Flood protection	Cherokee	2020: Berm preventing runoff and Little Sioux Floodwaters from entering Spring Lake; <i>City Administrator, Parks Dept, IDNR</i> (City funds, IDNR Clean Water programs/Runoff control) HIGH PRIORITY
Flood protection	Cherokee	Completed. Project complete with construction of flood wall in 2021. Project cost & funding source not provided. However, 35' crest from 2024 flooding has presented additional concern for potential road washout. The city is interested in conducting a study to review options including but not limited to extending the wall. That is included as a new project in the 2026 HMP.
refuge		
technology		
natural barriers/ supports		

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

In flooding events since 2019, most damages incurred have been at a higher cost and more significant than usual. Through 2023, about 70 homes/properties were acquired through a buyout process, with some buildings relocated. There is potential for an additional 120 homes and properties to be considered for the property acquisition program. It seems flood response is often still in progress when the next flood event occurs, making it extremely difficult to enact more impactful mitigative measures. Discussions leading to the development of this plan included the need for monitoring and controls for tributaries as well as major rivers. Flooding stemming from the Little Sioux River can be multifaceted with each cause having a varying effect, with some reducing capacity for timely response. Local precipitation, precipitation and snow melt at source and feeder waterways, backflow from larger and other connecting tributaries and rivers are all conditions contributing to difficulties in pre-disaster planning. Each cause resulting is a different flood impact. Velocity of river flow due to flooding is also expediting erosion and meandering, changing the course of the river at an increasingly high rate. The river is encroaching on River Rd along with annual recurrence of washing out trees. The city is looking at long term solutions while continually maintaining rip rap for erosion prevention.

During the planning meeting, the community provided that there have been changes to the city's floodplain. Iowa DNR worked with several communities in the region, including Cherokee, over the past 5 years to update floodplain ordinances and flood maps. The technologies and assessment tools will ultimately replace the FEMA FIRM maps, better representing land-form improvements that reduce flood risk as well as flow changes that result in altered areas of effect.

In addition to the facilities as provided, Critical Infrastructure to be considered in the event of a natural disaster includes at least one nursing home, a Middle and Elementary School located in one facility, public water intake, water treatment plant, and a pipeline and railroad line known to transport hazardous material(s).

State officials estimate 2000 homes were damaged or destroyed during recent flooding in northwest Iowa.

After previous flooding in Cherokee, FEMA bought out 40 properties. Another 70 homes in Cherokee were destroyed in this year's flooding and Cherokee Mayor Craig Schmidt said he doesn't know where people will go.

"They're not staying if they can't find another place to live if their home is devastated," he said. "The reality of it is, and it's not comforting, but all the other towns around us are saying the same thing: 'No workers and no housing.' So, what do you do?"

Governor Kim Reynolds and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell surveyed flood damage in Cherokee, Spencer and Rock Valley last week. Reynolds said the state needs to figure out how to combine state and local resources and get new homes built as quickly as possible. The governor told reporters she and her staff are trying to come up with some type of transitional housing plan as well as incentives for developers that build homes and apartments.

(By Sheila Brummer, Iowa Public Radio)

www.radioiowa.com/2024/07/03/70-homes-in-cherokee-destroyed-by-flooding/ 70 Homes in Cherokee Destroyed by Flooding Radio Iowa Contributor (July 3, 2024). Resource drawn June 9, 2025

by Radio Iowa Contributor | Jul 3, 2024



Governor Kim Reynolds and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell toured flood damage in Cherokee, Spencer and Rock Valley last week. (Photo from Iowa Governor's Office)

An historical record of events for Cherokee is detailed in the NOAA Storm Event Database and other event-based information centers. Notable occurrences specifically recorded the City of Cherokee between 11/01/2021 and 12/31/2024 are as provided. Events categorized as Cherokee "Zone" can reasonably be expected to have affected the whole county and are included under the Cherokee County profile.

NOAA Record of Storm Events 12/01/2019 – 12/31/2024

Location	Date	Time	Type	Mag	Dth	Inj	PrD	CrD
CHEROKEE MUNI ARPT	6/4/2020	23:09	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE	8/27/2021	1:05	Thunderstorm Wind	52 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CHEROKEE	7/29/2024	23:37	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Source: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents>

Information received from the FEMA database for flood insurance, the City of Cherokee does have repetitive loss recorded.

County	Cherokee County
Community	Cherokee
Most Recent Date of Loss	6/23/2024
# of Repetitive Loss Properties	27
Number of Losses	68
Net Building Payment	\$877,346.07
Net Contents Payment	\$51,682.01
Total Net Payment	\$929,028.08

Priority Hazards

Determination of priority hazards is consistent between city staff perspective and resident survey respondents. There were 17 respondents via paper survey for the Cherokee. Of those responses, 16 indicated “very concerned” for FLOODING, both under “riverine” and “flash” as indicated separately. TORNADO/WINDSTORM rated next highest with 11 indicating “very concerned” and 3 at “somewhat concerned”. Other notably concerning hazards based on survey responses include infrastructure failure and drought. The city recognizes most natural hazards as listed by the State are of a significant level of concern with the following being primary in regard to risk to residents and potential impact on City operations:

- Flooding
- Tornado/Windstorms
- Infrastructure failure
- Drought

Thunderstorms - Hail/Lightning was moved lower on the list of prominent concerns faced by the city. Though still an issue, potential for catastrophic damage to the city’s wells and water treatment facilities takes priority. For infrastructure failure, age is likely the greatest contributing factor, however several disaster types may contribute to such occurrence – especially flooding. An investment of at least \$2M, in addition to the many projects listed would significantly improve sustainability of the above-mentioned infrastructure.

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

Mitigation actions and strategies identified by Cherokee are consistent with the goals as established for the Region. Projects included in this Plan address maintaining function of operations, communication of existing procedures and new mitigation activity, and encouraging individual accountability for personal safety and protection. Actions are reliant upon collaboration and optimizing potential of existing programs and resources.

communication /education		
Promo/Info	Cherokee	New. The city is committed to promoting alert systems as already available through the county and state. City Clerk, City Administrator, County EMA (No funds expected to be needed) HIGH PRIORITY.
tools/equipment		
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee (City of)	New. A generator is needed for the community center which serves as a refuge/shelter center during extended power outages and as needed for extreme weather or crisis events. <i>City Council, County EMA</i> (Local general budget funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee (City of)	New. A generator is needed for the community center which serves as a refuge/shelter center during extended power outages and as needed for extreme weather or crisis events. <i>City Council, County EMA</i> (Local general budget funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Cherokee (City of)	<p>New. Generators are needed for Radio Repeaters that are essential for communications between the Police Department and Public Works, especially during power outages. Current backup is supplied via battery which is intended to bridge connections until a dedicated power source is (re)connected, lasting no longer than 30 minutes.</p> <p>Repeaters are located on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill Street Water tower • Main water tower at the intersection of Hwy 59 and Hwy 3 <p>The generators would serve dual purpose, also powering the pumps and equipment at respective towers to maintain functionality of the water</p>

		system. Public Works, County EMA (PDM funds as available, CDBG DR as applicable, Response/Communications funds as available) HIGH PRIORITY
Equipment	Cherokee	New. Equipment needed for various city departments includes: brush truck (FD), side-by-side to improve access during extreme weather events, and pumps for stormwater transfer. Public Works, Fire Department, Streets Dept. (Local general budget funds, emergency response funds, disaster mitigation & disaster response funds as may be available) HIGH PRIORITY
development		
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cherokee	Carry over. Improve capacity and function of sewer system; <i>City Waterworks</i> (City general budget funds, USDA program funds, IDNR program funds) MEDIUM PRIORITY
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cherokee	New. City is planning ADA improvements to the Community Center to enable use as refuge/shelter in the event of a disaster resulting in residential displacement. Project includes addition of dedicated generator. <i>Public Works/Utilities, local responses teams.</i> (Local general budget , CDBG, disaster response/disaster mitigation as may be available) HIGH PRIORITY
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cherokee	New. Saratoga Lift station needs improvements. Public Works (local general budget)
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cherokee	New. Increase well availability and function during flood events. One control panel raising project is in progress with at least one planned. Up to 3 are being considered. City is also adding one well outside flood zone. Costs were not immediately available. <i>Public Works/Utilities, local responses teams.</i> (Local general budget , CDBG, disaster response/disaster mitigation as may be available) HIGH PRIORITY
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cherokee, Cherokee CSD	New. Collaborative effort to implement ADA improvements on school campus and at access routes as applicable throughout the City. Some projects have been implemented (no detail provided). Costs will be determined by project as implemented. <i>Cherokee Community Schools, City of Cherokee.</i> (accessibility grants, local general budget funds, trail funds where applicable, wellness grants, Safe Routes to School funds as applicable, CDBG) HIGH PRIORITY.
Relocate critical facilities	Cherokee	Carry Over. Cherokee is expanding project scope of facility/building relocation program to include several infrastructure improvements. In addition to Beech Street, lift stations at E Sumner< Riverview, Emmet Dr (MHI), E Bluff, and Spruces need rising and/or repairs. Cost estimates not immediately available. <i>City Water & Public Works Depts</i> (City general fund, IDNR, Disaster Response/Disaster Mitigation funds as may be available) HIGH PRIORITY
Bridges & Roads	Cherokee	Carry Over. Collaborate w/County and State on review of and implementation of roadway elevation improvements along Hwy 3 and/or Hwy 59; <i>City Administrator & Streets Dept, County Roads Dept, IDOT</i> (Transportation funds, City general budget /county funds) MEDIUM PRIORITY
flow control		
Flood protection	Cherokee	New. Study to determine flood protection options including but not limited to extending existing flood barrier wall. <i>City Administrator, Parks Dept, IDNR</i> (City funds, IDNR Clean Water programs/Runoff control, Disaster mitigation funds as may be available) HIGH PRIORITY
refuge		

Shelter	Cherokee	New. City of Cherokee is aware of need for shelter location south of the river, serving the ball fields and surrounding parks and considering funding opportunities to support the project. A cost estimate is not immediately available as funding source may dictate size and other components affecting the cost. Priority level reflects lack of feasible funding in the near future, not the importance of the project. City parks dept., City Council, County EMA. (Local funds, fundraisers, community benefit grants, public safety initiatives) LOW PRIORITY
Shelter	Cherokee	New. City is assessing options for refuge locations for extreme heat/ extreme cold weather events, especially for individuals whose homes may not have air conditioning or sufficient heat systems. This would also serve to benefit those using rec areas where a brief respite may be necessary. City departments, clerk & administrator, County EMA as consult (local funds as needed) HIGH PRIORITY
technology		
natural barriers/ supports		
Stabilization	Cherokee	New. Lake bank stabilization. Repetitive flooding is having an impact on the lake in addition to riverbanks. The city is implementing a stabilization project intended for long term sustainability. <i>City, IDNR as applicable</i> (local funds, DNR grants as may be available, other TBD) HIGH PRIORITY
Stabilization	Cherokee	New. City, in collaboration with the County, is considering options in controlling flow of river to reduce meandering. Increase of intensity and frequency of high water events has resulted in accelerated meandering of the river, threatening to overtake River Road. <i>City, County, IDNR, USACE as applicable.</i> (local funds, county funds, waterway program funds as may be available, pre-disaster funds) HIGH PRIORITY

3. CLEGHORN

Note: The city participated in the development of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, however, they have not included any specified mitigation actions, strategies, or projects. Therefore, the City of Cleghorn is not recognized as an active “Participant” in the Plan. To activate participant status, the city must process an amendment at the local level and file said amendment with Cherokee County and FEMA. Procedures to amend this plan are included in Title I. Introduction, section H. Amendments and Plan Maintenance.

a. Profile

The city of Cleghorn lies in the northwest quadrant of Cherokee County. Built on a sloping hill and without active waterways, the City does not have a floodplain within its limits. Edging the

south of town is state Highway 3 serving as the main road running east/west and connecting Cleghorn to surrounding cities. Canadian National rail line as operated by Illinois Central Railroad intersects the City diagonally from the west to the southeast. Historically, the railroad brought a great deal of industrial business and growth to the city.

City Governance & Community Supports

Cleghorn is governed by a five-person elected council and Mayor. Staffed positions include City Clerk and Public Works official. Fire Rescue and emergency response is coordinated through the Liberty-Sheridan-Rock Fire Association, which is independent of the City but does receive financial support. The city also contracts with the county for law enforcement and with regional medical and hazardous materials emergency response providers.

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

Cleghorn, a small community with an estimated population of 274 in 2023⁴, has a presumed increase from 240 residents in 2020. The town consists of 134 households and a total of 135 housing units, with a very high occupancy rate, indicating strong housing demand and stability. The median household income is \$48,750, and a portion of the population lives below the poverty line, reflecting modest economic conditions. The housing stock is relatively modern, with most residents having moved into their homes in recent years. Mobile homes make up a small portion of the housing inventory, while a limited number of homes date back to before 1990. These characteristics suggest a tight-knit community with newer housing and potential opportunities for economic growth and development.

Leading Employers

The following businesses operate and have established a necessary presence in Cleghorn.

- AgState
- Wetherell Manufacturing

⁴ Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1914115-cleghorn-ia/>

Critical Facilities, Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, Gathering Locations, & Local Areas of Interest

City Hall	102 N. Lewis Ave
Cleghorn Community Center	102 W Grace
Meriden-Cleghorn Public Library	200 E Grace St
Post office	110 N Lewis Ave
Liberty-Sheridan-Rock Fire Department	109 N Lewis Ave
Cleghorn Central Park	Adaline St & Dixon Ct
City Pump Station	W Grace St

Valuation of City Assets

Total Blanket TIV	\$	3,379,858
Building	\$	3,116,300
Personal Property	\$	263,558
Misc Property Scheduled	\$	30,470
Misc Property Unscheduled	\$	<u>13,750</u>
APD TIV	\$	35,200
Total TIV	\$	<u>3,424,078</u>

b. Participation

Updates to the Cleghorn profile and related projects were communicated through email and phone conversations January 2025 and March 2025. The primary contact is City Clerk, Audra Crocker. Additional information was provided by Mayor Tim Petersen, Fire Chief Dillon Mugge, and Waterworks Director Caleb Ney.

c. Community Capabilities

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	2005 Community Builder
<i>Policies/Ordinances</i>	

Municipal Code of Ordinances	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Ordinance • Floodplain Ordinance • Subdivision Ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Trimming Ordinance • Nuisance Ordinance • Drainage Ordinance
Iowa Wetlands and Riparian Areas Conservation Plan	Cherokee County Conservation Board
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	Including in City Code under Zoning Ordinance
Codes Building Site/Design	Building Permits only
ISO Fire Rating	Class 8/9
Property Acquisition	Case-by-case determination
Planning/Zoning Boards	Planning and Zoning Commission
Mutual Aid Agreements	Liberty-Sheridan-Rock Fire Association Fire Department
	County-Wide 28E
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Public Works Official	Public Works Official for Water/Sewer
Emergency Management Coordinator	Cherokee County EMA
Emergency Response Team	Liberty-Sheridan-Rock Fire Association Fire Department
	County-Wide 28E
<i>Local Funding Availability/Eligibility through following Programs/Activities</i>	
Community Development Block Grants	
Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	
Ability to incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general obligation bonds • private activities • special tax bonds
Withhold spending in hazard prone areas as development restricted/guided through Floodplain Ordinance; compliance may affect spending allowance	

As there is not designated floodplain within city limits, Cleghorn is not a participant in NFIP.
The city has zero RL/SRL properties.

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

The city indicated that no action was taken on the projects included in the 2020 plan.

communication/education		
Promo/Info	Cleghorn	2020: Interest in promotion of established notification networks such as the Alert Iowa system; Promote programs as available through regional resources. <i>City Clerk, County EMA</i> (No dedicated funding necessary) HIGH PRIORITY
Promo/Info	Cleghorn	Closed. Update was not provided by community.
tools/equipment		
development		
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cleghorn	2020: Improve infrastructure to better accommodate weather extremes such as heavy rain, frost/heave conditions – especially water lines and related infrastructure. <i>City Council, City Staff</i> (Local funds, capital improvement funds, DNR program funds). HIGH PRIORITY
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Cleghorn	Update. No specific action was taken to permanently address this concern. City will continue to implement mitigative measures within funded projects but will not continue to carry this as a priority item in the 2026 HMP.
flow control		
refuge		
technology		
natural barriers/supports		

Cleghorn completed a water tower project in 2020 that can generally be classified as a public health measure. Project cost was \$959,840 and funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, State Revolving Loan Funds, (SRF), and local funds. The city stated no other significant projects were implemented within the last five years.

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

A review of records as reported in the NOAA Storm Event database from 11/01/2019 through 12/31/2024 included five events specific to Cleghorn.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mag</i>	<i>Dth</i>	<i>Inj</i>	<i>PrD</i>	<i>CrD</i>
CLEGHORN	6/4/2020	22:43	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CLEGHORN	8/27/2022	16:18	Thunderstorm Wind	70 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CLEGHORN	4/19/2023	18:43	Hail	1.50 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

CLEGHORN	4/26/2024	11:47	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
CLEGHORN	6/22/2024	6:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Priority Hazards

- Tornado/Windstorm
- Severe Winter Storms
- Drought

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

The city has not identified a specific action, strategy, or project. Therefore, an amendment must be filed for FEMA and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to formally recognize this jurisdiction as an eligible applicant for pre-disaster and/or mitigation funds as may be available.

4. LARRABEE

Note: The city participated in the development of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, however, they have not included any specified mitigation actions, strategies, or projects. Therefore, the City of Larrabee is not recognized by FEMA as an active “Participant” in the Plan. To activate participant status, the city must process an amendment at the local level and file said amendment with Cherokee County and FEMA. Procedures to amend this plan are included in Title I. Introduction, section H. Amendments and Plan Maintenance.

a. Profile

The city of Larrabee is situated near the northern border of Cherokee County. The city lies south of C-16 and US Hwy 59 runs north/south through the city. One of the County’s smaller cities, it occupies 0.12 square miles. Larrabee is served by the Cherokee Community School district and is within the Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) region.

City Governance & Community Supports

Larrabee is governed by a five-person elected council and Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council includes Public Works, a department comprised of part time water/sewer meter reading and maintenance and a mower/snow removal team. Larrabee is on the Cherokee County Rural Water System and local services include C-M-L Telephone, cable television, garbage pick-up, and sewer. Larrabee has a Volunteer Fire Department with 11 firefighters and one (1) administrative volunteer.

American Legion Post 0670 is a significant community support, with a notable presence in the community. Larrabee growth and development is supported with local, County, and Region guidance in several plans and documents including County Recovery Plan, SIMPCO Economic Development Plan, and 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan currently in development. Some additional detail on supports available for the City of Larrabee can be found in *Section c. Community Capabilities* later in this Chapter.

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

In 2023, the city of Larrabee had an estimated population of 116⁵, showing a decrease from 142 residents reported in the 2020 decennial census. The community is made up of 54 households, with a median household income of \$47,143, and some residents living below the poverty line. There are 63 total housing units in the city, with most of them occupied, indicating stable demand for housing. Mobile homes make up a small portion of the housing stock. Half of the homes in Larrabee were built after 2000, while others were constructed in the 1990s or earlier. These characteristics suggest that Larrabee is a small, yet stable community, with a relatively newer housing market and potential for future growth.

Leading Employers

The First Cooperative Association Feed Mill first opened in March of 1999 and established a now historical presence. Now operating independently, the Feed Mill and Cooperative remain as key businesses in Larrabee. As a small community in a rural area, the United States Postal

⁵ Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1943500-larrabee-ia/>

Service presence in Larrabee is significant. At the time of the planning meeting, the former Juke Box restaurant was undergoing an extensive remodel. Under new ownership, this local establishment is expected to become an integral element of the community, serving as a gathering place for residents.

Critical Facilities

Larrabee Community Center; Clerk’s Office	101 N Main St
Water Tower	106 N Jordan St
Pump House/Valve Bldg	Cedar & Jordan Streets
Flow Meter	S Main St
Warning Siren	106 N Main St
City Park	adjacent to Community Center
City Shed	118 N Main

Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, Gathering Locations, & Local Areas of Interest

US Post Office	116 N Main
Larrabee United Methodist Church	106 S Church St
Calvary Chapel	213 S Jordan
The Alamo (pending re-opening)	117 N Main

Valuation of City Assets

The City’s Valuation of Assets through 12/2024 including buildings, personal property (as owned by the City) is provided below based on their 2024 insurance statement of values. This is provided as means of determining cost-benefit analyses for projects affecting or that may affect city property/holdings. Housing value summaries as noted in the demographics portion of this profile provide a basis for residential benefits of mitigative action.

Total Blanket TIV	\$	837,962
Building	\$	826,138
Personal Property	\$	11,824
Miscellaneous Property Scheduled	\$	11,882
Miscellaneous Property Unscheduled	\$	<u>38,324</u>

Total TIV \$ 888,168

b. Participation

A planning meeting for the 2026 regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was held at the Larrabee City Hall on September 3, 2024 at 6PM and facilitated by SIMPCO with the following in attendance.

- Tammy Roethler, City Clerk
- Dan James, Mayor
- Chuck Waggoner, Utility Supt
- Jamie Fossler, Council
- Dustin Richardson, City Council
- Jan Robinson, City Council
- Missy Thompson, Council

In addition to the in-person meeting, surveys were made available to residents as an opportunity to provide input.

A signed *Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Voluntary Participation Agreement*, dated 09/03/2024 is on file for the city.

c. Community Capabilities

<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
Code of Ordinances	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Trimming Ordinance • Nuisance Ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Water Ordinance • Debris Management Plan
<i>Programs</i>	
ISO Fire Rating	Larrabee Class 9 and Larrabee FD Class 9/10
Property Acquisition	Case-by-case
Mutual Aid Agreements	28E Agreement with all cities in Cherokee County.
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Building inspector	Dave Christiansen
Mapping Specialist (GIS)	Cherokee County
Engineer	Consultant used as needed.
Public Works Official	Water Supt and Wastewater/Sewer Supt
Emergency Management Coordinator	Cherokee County EMA

Emergency Response Team	Larrabee Fire Department
Law Enforcement	Contracted through County
Regional Planning Agencies	Iowa League of Cities
	SIMPCO
<i>Local Funding Availability/Eligibility</i>	
Community Development Block Grants	
Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for specified purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	
Incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general obligation bonds • special tax bonds • private activities
Withhold spending in hazard prone areas by way of building permit	

As there is not designated floodplain within city limits, Larrabee is a non-participant in NFIP with a CID of 190353A. **The city has zero RL/SRL properties.**

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

The city has made investments improving the city park and equipment. Larrabee has added a new message board allowing in-time mass communication to residents and is planning a major water and sewer systems improvement project.

communication /education		
Promo/Info	Larrabee	2020: Interest in developing improved means of communicating urgent information through existing networks such as Alert Iowa. Also, further develop local intercommunications tools such as texting and internal posting options. <i>City Clerk, City Council</i> (No costs associated with this project)
Promo/Info	Larrabee	Implemented. Additional efforts ongoing. City installed new community message board to better relay information in real time and for scheduled messaging (about \$1,500). City makes use of existing informational formats such as the County website, Facebook postings, and physical postings at the post office.
tools/equipment		
development		
flow control		

refuge

technology

natural barriers/ supports

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

Recent occurrences of natural disasters with local impact were researched through the NOAA Storm Event database. City representatives stated meticulous maintenance of area ag land as a significant mitigation practice of wildfire prevention.

NOAA Record of Storm Events 12/01/2019 – 12/31/2024

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Mag</u>	<u>Dth</u>	<u>Inj</u>	<u>PrD</u>	<u>CrD</u>
LARRABEE	12/15/2021	17:05	Tornado	EF1	0	0	250.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	5/2/2024	18:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	5/20/2024	19:50	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	5/22/2024	2:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	6/21/2024	1:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
LARRABEE	7/1/2024	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Source: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/choosedates.jsp?statefips=19%2CIOWA>

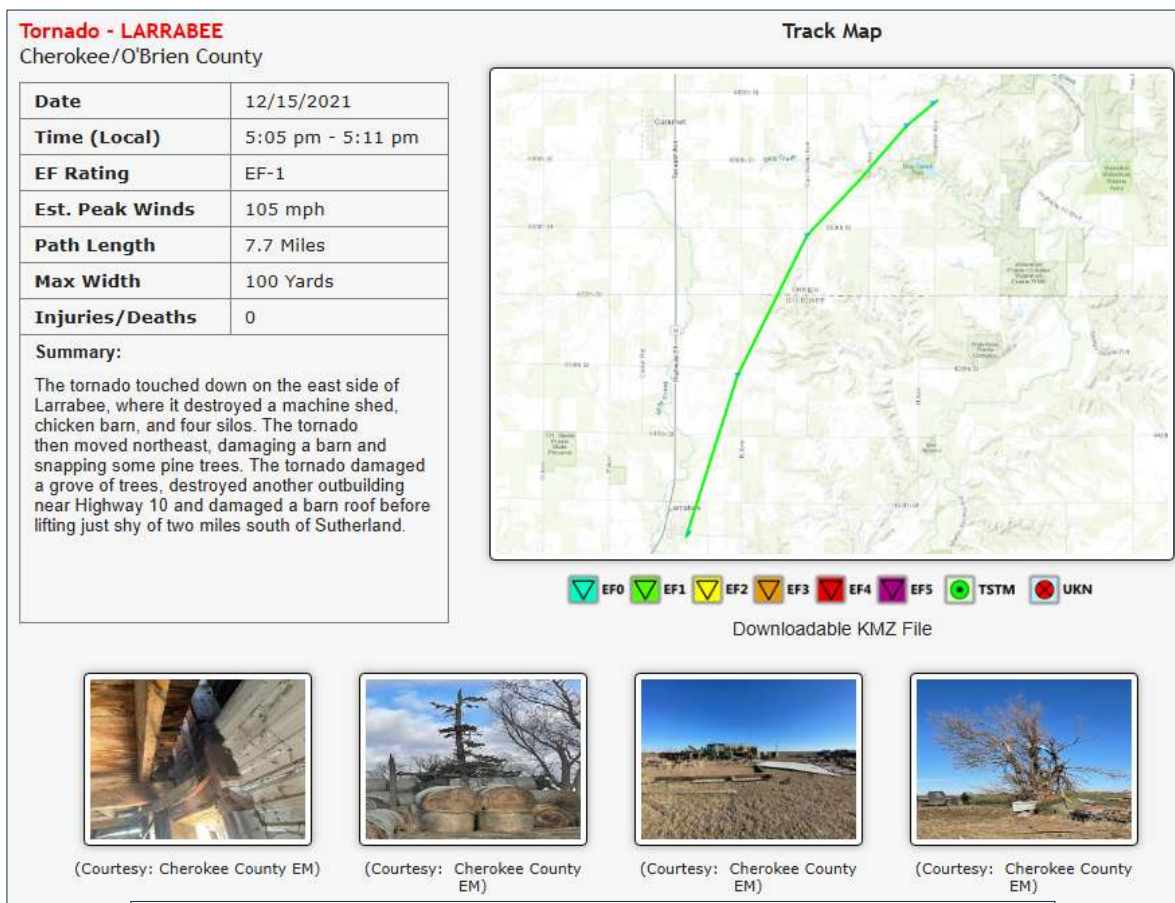
Please note that the above listed events are as recorded in the NOAA database. Locations as indicated may be at point of occurrence or point of data collection. Therefore, related information may include statistics from extended areas while effects directly on the City of Larrabee may be negligible. Incident details can be found using their Climate Data Online tool at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/> and via the hyperlink embedded in the community name for each event as provided.

Priority Hazards

Larrabee’s physical location and topography have served favorably in reducing impacts of flooding in recent years. Though an issue in the past, other natural disasters and extreme weather have taken precedence in planning. The city recognizes the following as priority concerns.

- Tornado/Windstorm
- Thunderstorms with lightning &/or hail
- Severe Winter Storms

Thirteen survey responses with Larrabee indicated as place of residence were collected. Of the 13, 100% were in agreement that the city-identified hazards are indeed of greatest concern. Despite note of ag land maintenance as fire prevention, there is lingering concern of Drought, Extreme Heat, and Grass or Wildland Fires by residents with 8 of 13 indicated being very concerned or somewhat concerned. As drought conditions persist in the region, due caution is advised with a recommendation that the community include fire prevention awareness into their public communications and social media venues.



Source: www.weather.gov/fsd/20211215-Tornado-nwia (June 9th 2025)

Also notable in survey response (each with 7 of 13) is some level of concern for Drought, Flooding (flash and riverine), and Transportation Incidents.

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

Larrabee has not identified any mitigation-specific strategies for inclusion in this Plan. However, the city is pursuing a number of projects that will improve city functions overall that directly and indirectly improve resilience. City asset valuations and census-based housing values as previously provided in this profile set a foundation for cost-benefit analyses of projects prior to implementation. A more thorough analysis will be conducted during the early engineering stage(s) of each planned or recommended project.

5. MARCUS

a. Profile

The City of Marcus resides in the northwest region of Iowa, located in the heart of a vast fertile agricultural market in Cherokee County. Marcus is the second largest city in the county after the City of Cherokee. The intersection of State Highways 3 and 143 is located in the southeast corner of Marcus' municipal boundary. Long-standing train service runs across the northern part of Marcus originating October 1870 carrying passengers and freight from Sioux City to Chicago. The main line of the Canadian National Railroad skirts the north edge of town, now moving goods and commodities instead of passengers.

City Governance & Community Supports

Marcus is governed by a five-person elected council and Mayor. **City Council meets the second Monday every month at 5:00 PM.** Additional offices include City Clerk, Police Department, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Street Superintendent, Economic Development, Public Works, and Chamber of Commerce. The Marcus Fire and Ambulance Rescue Department has an average of 27 volunteer staff. Staff training levels vary and include the following: Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Fighter 1, Fire Fighter 2, fire instructors, and Emergency Medical Services evaluators.

Significant support entities for the community include, Marcus Action Club, MEDCO (Marcus Economic Development Corporation), and Marcus Lions. The last Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2019. American Legion Post 0517 facility is still in place, however the local legion is not currently active.

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

With an estimated population of 1,236 in 2023⁶, the city of Marcus, has seen a rise from the 1,079 estimated residents in the 2020 decennial census. The community consists of 555 households, with a median household income of \$75,288, reflecting relatively strong economic conditions. Approximately 5.3% of the population lives below the poverty line. Marcus boasts a total of 626 housing units, with 89% of them occupied, indicating a healthy demand for housing. The housing stock in Marcus is relatively modern, with a significant portion of homes built after 2000. Older homes, built prior to 1990, make up a smaller share of the housing market. Notably, Marcus has no mobile homes in its housing inventory, further reflecting the area's focus on traditional single-family homes. These factors point to a community that enjoys stable housing, strong economic health, and a relatively new housing market, with potential for continued growth and development.

Leading Employers

The City of Marcus and the MMC and RU Community School Districts are notable employers for the community. The following businesses also have established a significant and necessary presence in Marcus:

- AgReliant Genetics, LLC 4765 IA-143.
- Little Sioux Corn Processors 4808 F Ave
- Marcus Lumber 409 N Locust St
- Schmillen Construction 4772 C Ave
- Staples Promotional Products 710 IA-143

Critical Facilities

<i>City Facilities</i>	
City Hall	222 N Main St
Marcus Community Center	319 N Main St
Marcus Public Library	108-110 N Locust St

⁶ Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1949350-marcus-ia/>

City Park – Equipment, Structures, & Bldgs	City Park
Swimming Pool (& related bldgs.)	110 S Locust St
City Storage/Garage	611 Railroad
City Storage	501 W Cedar
Pump House/Water Treatment Plant (& related)	409 Hwy 143
Water Tower	Hwy 143
Wastewater Treatment Plant (& related equipment)	Sec 32 Marcus Twp
Senior Center	405 N Main
Lift stations	Golf Course, 490 th St;
	Shamrock Rd & Pine St
Golf Course & Club House	

Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, Gathering Locations, & Local Areas of Interest

In addition to critical city facilities, Marcus has several churches and two daycare providers, one in-home and one school facility, noted as likely hosting a concentration of vulnerable persons during hours of operation as well as scheduled and special events. The following services or venues may at any given time host a disproportionate amount of population.

- Marcus Fairgrounds, W Fenton St (near Maple St)
- Heartland Care Center
- Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn Community School District, 400 E. Fenton St
 - MMC & RU High School (& adjacent baseball fields)
 - MMC Marcus Elementary School

Valuation of City Assets

For the purpose of cost-benefit considerations, a valuation of the City’s assets was compiled based on its insured properties, personal property, and facilities. The value as provided does not include private properties, equipment, or non-city funded investments that may contribute to project protection determinations. Separately catalogued assets and equipment may not be represented in this value. Housing values as provided in the Demographic section serve as a basis of residential values which may also be considered in determining cost-benefit analyses

of mitigation projects and relative impact. The city purchased the local golf course which is now included in city property valuations.

Total Blanket TIV	\$	12,499,839
Building	\$	11,328,036
Personal Property	\$	1,171,803
Fine Arts	\$	4,873
Miscellaneous Property Scheduled	\$	272,796
Miscellaneous Property Unscheduled	\$	<u>43,375</u>
Total TIV	\$	12,820,883
APD TIV	\$	217,830
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>13,038,713</u>

b. Participation

A Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting was held at Marcus City Hall on December 11, 2024 at 09:30. The meeting was facilitated by SIMPCO with the following in attendance.

- Robin Harvey, City Clerk,
- Doug Dreckman, Water Supt
- Tanner Cronin, Public Works

Four survey respondents indicated Marcus as place of residence. In addition to discussion held with city staff, consideration of comments as provided in the survey is given in this profile.

A signed Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Voluntary Participation Agreement has not been received from the City of Marcus.

A final review of the Marcus profile was completed February 25, 2026 by the City Clerk Robin Harvey and (now) Public Works Superintendent Doug Dreckman. Upon review, the city acknowledges all changes as incorporated since their last meeting and confirmed commitment to adopt once approved by FEMA.

c. Community Capabilities

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	
Urban Revitalization Plan	
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
Code of Ordinances	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subdivision Ordinance • Nuisance Ordinance • Tree Ordinance • Hazardous Material Accountability 	
Zoning Ordinances	<i>Zoning/Land Use Restrictions</i>
Historic Preservation	<i>Historical Preservation Commission</i>
Iowa Wetlands and Riparian Areas Conservation Plan	<i>Cherokee County Conservation Board</i>
<i>Programs</i>	
Codes Building Site/Design	<i>Building Permits; 2018 Adoption by Reference of Int'l Building Code Standards</i>
ISO Fire Rating	<i>Marcus Class 7 and Marcus FD Class 7/9</i>
Property Acquisition	<i>Case-by-Case</i>
Planning/Zoning Boards	<i>Planning and Zoning Commission</i>
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Building Code Official	<i>Zoning Administrator serves in this capacity</i>
Mapping Specialist (GIS)	<i>Cherokee County; SIMPCO</i>
Public Works Official	<i>Water/Waste Superintendent</i>
Emergency Management Coordinator	<i>Cherokee County EMA</i>
Emergency Response Team	<i>Marcus Fire Department</i>
Law Enforcement	<i>Marcus Police Department</i>
Historic Preservation	<i>Marcus Historical Society</i>
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	<i>American Legion Post 0517</i>
Economic Development/Growth	<i>Marcus Chamber of Commerce</i>
	<i>MEDCO (Marcus Economic Development Corporation)</i>
Community Organizations	<i>Marcus Action Club</i>
	<i>Marcus Lions</i>
<i>Local Funding Availability/Eligibility</i>	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	
Community Development Block Grants (HUD and Iowa EDA)	
Incur debt through	• general obligation bonds

- private activities
- special tax bonds

Withhold spending in hazard prone areas

Changes of note since 2019 include completion of an income survey determining CDBG eligibility under the national objective of percentage of residents meeting Low-to-Moderate Income guidelines. A Municipal Code update was completed in 2023 with annual reviews scheduled to maintain compliance with state standards. **Marcus added adoption of the 2021 IPMC manual by reference with exceptions as part of their building code.** As there is not designated floodplain within city limits, Marcus is not a participant in NFIP. **The city has zero RL/SRL properties.**

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

communication/education		
tools/equipment		
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	2020: Generator for Fire Department to enable use as emergency shelter. <i>Fire Chief, City Council, County EMA</i> (Local funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	Update, in progress. Project is in progress as an included component of a Fire Station Expansion Project. As of late 2024, the pad has been laid and a dedicated generator is planned. As of December 2024, local budget is the primary funding source with the city continuing to consider additional options. <i>Fire Chief, City Council, County EMA</i> (Local funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, BRIC, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	2020: Generator Water Plant – maintain function during power outage; <i>City Council, County EMA</i> (Local funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	Closed. Community will coordinate with county for mobile generator use as needed.
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	2020: Generator at Shelter house, also for use in the event of power outage during an emergency; <i>City Council, County EMA</i> (Local funds, County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	Update. Action not taken due to lack of dedicated funding. Project is still needed and carries over to the 2026 HMP.
development		
flow control		
refuge		

Shelter	Marcus	2020: Interest in improvements of Fire Department to enable Safe Room designation. City Council, Fire Chief, County EMA as applicable. (Local funds, community benefit fund programs, PDM) HIGH PRIORITY
Shelter	Marcus	Implemented. An addition to the Fire Station has been completed allowing adequate space to serve as shelter site in the event of mass displacement. An ongoing concern is coordination of supplies in the event of such disaster. City will work with county and federal/state/local response teams as appropriate to attain and allocate supplies (such as cots) as needed.
technology		
natural barriers/supports		

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

Marcus has the benefit of having no designated floodplain within and immediately surrounding their corporate boundaries. The city does experience the rare occasion of pooling during extremely heavy rain events, however such events in recent years have not incurred notable damages. Land use maps with floodplain overlay are included in the Appendix for all participating cities for reference.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mag</i>	<i>Dth</i>	<i>Inj</i>	<i>PrD</i>	<i>CrD</i>
MARCUS	8/27/2021	0:46	Thunderstorm Wind	52 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	50.00K
MARCUS	12/15/2021	16:56	Thunderstorm Wind	70 kts. EG	0	0	50.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	5/30/2022	14:55	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	5/8/2024	15:31	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
MARCUS	7/29/2024	23:22	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

NOAA storm event database shows the above occurrences for Marcus between December 1, 2019 and December 31, 2024. Recorded wind and hail-induced events in part, figured into the city's decision schedule removal of dead and diseased trees from public rights of way. Marcus is in the process of planning tree replacement to substantiate natural barriers to extreme heat (via shade canopy), soil erosion, and wind as present with healthy tree population.

Additional weather impacts as experienced county-wide such as Drought, general winter weather, and extreme heat and cold are noted under the Cherokee County profile.

Priority Hazards

The City recognizes most natural hazards as listed by the State are of at least some concern. Despite reduction of even isolated flood incidents in recent years, city staff maintains the following as priority hazards in regard to risk to residents and potential impact on City operations.

- Tornado/Windstorms
- Severe Winter Weather
- Flash Flooding

Survey responses reflected highest level of concern for Severe Winter Weather, followed by Thunderstorms with Hail/Lightning, Tornado/Windstorms, and Transportation Incidents with each respondent indicating very- or somewhat concerned. Grass and Wildland Fires was also prioritized in the “top 3” section of the survey.

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

Following is the list of identified strategies expected to be addressed by Marcus within the next five years.

communication/education		
Promo/Info	Marcus	New. City is interested in expanding opportunity for preparedness workshops and readiness campaigns to better inform residents of potential disasters. Workshop/information would include before/after preparation including “ready bags” with medications and other necessary items, especially if urgent evacuation is issued. Additional preparedness resources would include facilitating a safe check process for aging and specialized needs neighbors (i.e. oxygen tank dependency or mobility limitations) and the implementation of a buddy system to ensure communications are thorough and complete for those not routinely using social media or cell phones. <i>City, local response teams, County EMA, Red Cross/United Way affiliates as applicable</i> (Need for dedicated funding not anticipated, use of local communications formats expected) MEDIUM PRIORITY
Warning Sirens	Marcus	New. Existing warning siren has aged out of serviceability and is in need of replacement. Public works. (Private funds, Pre-disaster funds as available, local and county emergency response funds, transportation funds as may be applicable) HIGH PRIORITY
tools/equipment		

Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	Carry over. Generator for Fire Department to enable use as emergency shelter. Project is in progress as an included component of a Fire Station Expansion Project. As of late 2024, the pad has been laid, and a dedicated generator is planned. As of December 2024, local budget is the primary funding source with the city continuing to consider additional options. <i>Fire Chief, City Council, County EMA</i> (Local funds general budget , County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	New. Install transfer switch at Community Center, a critical facility as it serves a command center, refuge/shelter as needed in the event of a disaster or extreme event. Facility available for residents, students, and nearby communities as may be necessary. <i>Public works (General Fund, Community Foundation grants as applicable, additional TBD)</i> MEDIUM PRIORITY
Generator & Related Projects	Marcus	Carry over. Generator at Shelter house, also for use in the event of power outage during an emergency; <i>City Council, County EMA</i> (Local funds general budget , County supports, State/Federal response funds, PDM, Community Benefits funds) HIGH PRIORITY
development		
flow control		
refuge		
technology		
natural barriers/supports		
Trees	Marcus	New. Recognizing the benefits of a healthy tree population, the city is seeking funding opportunities to fortify its tree density, especially in recreation and public greenspace areas, filling gaps left by removal of dead/diseased trees. <i>Public Works, City Council, County Conservation as applicable</i> (local general budget funds, Trees Please and similar re-treeing programs, Arbor Day Foundation) MEDIUM PRIORITY

6. MERIDEN

Note: The city participated in the development of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, however, they have not included any specified mitigation actions, strategies, or projects. Therefore, the City of Meriden is not recognized as an active “Participant” in the Plan. To activate participant status, the city must process an amendment at the local level and file said amendment with Cherokee County and FEMA. Procedures to amend this plan are included in Title I. Introduction, section H. Amendments and Plan Maintenance.

a. Profile

Meriden is located just north of center in Cherokee County. One of the county's smallest cities, Meriden occupies 0.11 square miles. Situated south of state Highway 3, Canadian National Railroad passes about parallel to the city's northern boundaries. According to Cherokee County's city webpage for Meriden, the city was originally named Hazard after a railroad family. The name was changed to Meriden after the locals put in a request to the U.S. Postal Service in 1874 (<https://www.cherokeecountyiowa.com/Towns/Meriden.htm>).

City Governance & Community Supports

Meriden is governed by the Mayor and City Council. **City Council meets the first Wednesday of every month**. Offices in addition include City Clerk, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation. The Meriden Fire Department is independent of the city with an average of 17 volunteer firefighters. The community is very self-sufficient with residents funding public infrastructure through fundraising efforts including fire station/city hall and a multi-purpose community center. The city contracts with the county for law enforcement and has an emergency response team under Meriden Fire and Rescue.

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

In 2023, the city of Meriden had an estimated population of 130⁷, reflecting a decrease from 161 residents in the 2020 decennial census. The community is home to 67 households, with a median household income of \$53,661, reflecting a moderate economic standing. A small portion of the population lives below the poverty line, indicating relatively stable financial conditions for most residents. Meriden has a total of 81 housing units, with most of these units occupied, suggesting a steady demand for housing. While there are a few vacant units, mobile homes make up a small portion of the housing stock. Many of the homes were built after 2000, while older homes, built before 1990, make up a smaller share of the housing inventory. These characteristics suggest that Meriden is a small, stable community with newer housing and a need for continued attention to housing growth and revitalization.

⁷ Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1951150-meriden-ia/>

Leading Employers

Meriden's leading employers are key to the function and sustenance of the community's wellbeing.

- Cleghorn-Meriden-Larrabee Telephone
- First Farmers Coop (seasonal)
- Millwright Maintenance
- Whistle Stop Restaurant

Critical Facilities, Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, Gathering Locations, & Local Areas of Interest

City Hall, Fire Department, City Storage Garage	105 Eagle St
Community Center, Playground	204 Eagle St

Valuation of City Assets

Building	\$	1,144,929
Miscellaneous Property Scheduled	\$	77,550
Miscellaneous Property Unscheduled	\$	286,000
Total	\$	<u>1,508,479</u>

b. Participation

To complete Meriden's update, mail communications were conducted between SIMPCO and Mike Loetz, City Clerk. Additional information was provided from Mayor Beau Menke (former).

A final review was completed by the current Mayor, Jim Thatcher, and Councilmembers Doug Dirks, Nicole Glassmaker, Trevor Stevenson, Cindy Ricklefs, and Michael Loetz on April 3, 2026. Upon review, the city has acknowledged changes made to the Plan and have agreed to adopt the Plan once approved by FEMA.

c. Community Capabilities

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	<i>2005 Community Builder</i>
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
Municipal Code of Ordinances	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subdivision Ordinance • Tree Trimming Ordinance • Nuisance Ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Water Ordinance • Drainage Ordinance • Debris Management Plan
Zoning Ordinance	Zoning/Land Use Restrictions
Building Code	Building plans are brought to Council for approval.
<i>Programs & Commissions</i>	
ISO Fire Rating	Meriden Class 9 and Meriden FD Class 9/10
Property Acquisition	Case-by-case
Planning/Zoning Boards	Zoning brought to County P&Z for review in lieu of local Board
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Public Works Official	<i>Water/Sewer Superintendent (PT)</i>
Emergency Response Team	<i>Meriden Fire and Rescue</i>
<i>Local Funding Availability /Eligibility</i>	
Community Development Block Grants	
Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for specified purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	
Ability to incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general obligation bonds • special tax bonds • private activities
Withhold spending in hazard prone areas	

As there is not designated floodplain within city limits, Meriden is not a participant in NFIP. **The city has zero RL/SRL properties.**

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Meriden has not implemented any mitigation-related projects since 2019.

communication /education

tools/equipment		
development		
Bridges & Roads	Meriden	2020: Street repaving project to address washout and weather-related deterioration. <i>City maintenance, City Council.</i> (Local funds) MEDIUM PRIORITY
Bridges & Roads	Meriden	Closed. Project not completed. Some work completed to maintain function. Work will be implemented incrementally without anticipation of PDM funding supports.
flow control		
Flood protection	Meriden	2020: Interest in flood control implementation to protect lagoon at north end of town. Flooding risk with heavy rain and/or rapid snowmelt. <i>City Council, city staff/maintenance</i> (Local funds, capital improvement funds, betterment funds, DNR program funding). HIGH PRIORITY
Flood protection	Meriden	Update. No action taken. City stated due to lack of funding, no major projects were completed. Project removed form priority listing.
refuge		
technology		
natural barriers/ supports		

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

An assessment of NOAA Storm Event database included only one report specific to Meriden between 11/01/2019 and 12/31/2024⁸. An additional 97 events are recorded for the Cherokee (Zone) with impact to the whole county.

Location	Date	Time	Type	Mag	Dth	Inj	PrD	CrD
MERIDEN	12/15/2021	16:56	Thunderstorm Wind	83 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K

Priority Hazards

- Flash Flooding
- Severe Winter Weather
- Tornado/Windstorms

⁸ Source: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/eventdetails.jsp?id=1000253>

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

The city has not identified a specific action, strategy, or project. Therefore, an amendment must be filed for FEMA and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security to formally recognize this jurisdiction as an eligible applicant for pre-disaster and/or mitigation funds as may be available.

7. QUIMBY

a. Profile

The City of Quimby lies close to the southern border of Cherokee County and occupies about 0.41 square miles. Highway 31 is the main road that connects Quimby to surrounding communities and runs diagonally from the southwest to northeast corners of the city. The Little Sioux River runs along the city's north boundary. A number of Iowa Century Farms exist in the rural areas around Quimby honoring farmers and their families that have been in the area for 100 years or more.

City Governance & Community Supports

Quimby is governed by a five-person elected council and Mayor. **City Council meets on the second Monday of each month.** Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk and Maintenance Director. Quimby City has a volunteer Fire Department in place. The Department staffs 23 members, headed by the Fire Chief. Quimby's Fire and EMS-Ambulance rescue squads are trained and certified in Sioux City and Quimby. The force is made up of five certified Emergency Medical Techs, two are pending EMT training, and all are certified Fire Fighter I.

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

As of 2023, Quimby had an estimated population of 246⁹, reflecting a slight decrease from 249 residents in 2020 decennial census estimates. The town recognizes a higher population than reflected in database estimates. The town includes 160 households and has a median household income of \$52,083, which falls below the county median of \$64,478. A significant share of residents live below the poverty line, and the community has a higher percentage of

⁹ Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1965280-quimby-ia/>.

individuals aged 65 and over compared to the county average. Additionally, many residents are living with a disability. These factors suggest that Quimby faces some economic and demographic challenges, but the town remains a small, close-knit community with potential opportunities for support and growth.

<i>Community Characteristics</i>	
Population (2023)	246
Population (2020)	249
Total Households	160
Median household income	\$52,083
Median household income – Cherokee County	\$64,478

<i>Vulnerable Populations</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cherokee</i>	<i>Iowa</i>
5 years and younger	14	4.7%	10%	6.3%
65 years and older	62	33%	25%	18%
Below poverty level	62	12.5%	15.2%	11%
Living with a disability	56	18.4%	11.8%	13.2%

Quimby has a total of 180 housing units, with 160 of them occupied, indicating a stable demand for housing in the area. There are 20 vacant units, which make up a small portion of the housing stock. Mobile homes account for a small part of the housing inventory. The housing market in Quimby is relatively modern, with a significant portion of homes built after 2000. A smaller number of homes were constructed between 1990 and 1999, while older homes, built before 1990, make up a portion of the town's housing stock. These characteristics suggest a relatively new housing market, with opportunities for continued development and maintenance of the existing housing infrastructure.

<i>Housing Characteristics</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Housing Units	180	-
Occupied units	160	89.0%
Vacant units	20	11%
Mobile Homes (portion of total)	5	3%

<i>Age of residential structure</i>		
Built 2000 or later	115	64%
Built 1990-1999	49	11%
Build 1990 or earlier	43	24%

Leading Employers

The following businesses operate and have established a necessary presence in Quimby.

- Simonson’s Corporate Industries
- Quimby Ag Supply
- City of Quimby
- Deer Valley Mechanical
- Rendering Plant
- C+C Pesticide

Additional businesses contributing to the overall wellbeing of the City include several single-employee businesses including Joe’s Food Mart, Quimby Golf Club (volunteer), Stevenson Family Tree Service, and Green Pasture Boutique. At the time of the planning meeting, a new restaurant was in the works.

Critical Facilities

City Hall	101 E 2 nd Ave
Quimby Community Center	9 Main St
Library	120 N Main St
City Park	Seller St
City Maintenance Shop	11 Main St
Lift Station	N Clark St
Water Treatment System/Lagoon	C60
Pump House/Filtration Bldg, etc.	Railway Ave
Warning Siren & Tower	Railway Ave

Water tower	Off E 3 rd
Quimby Golf Course	1151 Clark

Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, Gathering Locations, & Local Areas of Interest

In addition to the area’s leading employers, community supports in Quimby are the Community Center Board, American Legion, Auxiliary, and Town & County.

Valuation of City Assets

Misc Property Sched	\$	3,247,354
Misc Property Unsched	\$	<u>103,980</u>
Total	\$	<u>3,351,334</u>

b. Participation

SIMPCO facilitated a mitigation planning December 23, 2024 at Quimby City Hall with the following in attendance.

- Jeanette Beekman, City Clerk
- Donald Fiser, Councilmember, Fire Dept rep
- Willis Allbaugh, Councilmember

Additional participation by way of public input was collected through survey distribution – both paper and online. Of the total 251 responses for the primary survey, 20 respondents indicated Quimby as jurisdiction of residence.

A final review of the Kingsley profile was completed by the planning team on February 25, 206, acknowledging changes since the initial planning meeting and confirming agreement to adopt upon FEMA approval.

c. Community Capabilities

<i>Policies/Ordinances</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Code • Debris Management Plan • Floodplain Ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance Ordinance • Tree Trimming Ordinance • Zoning Ordinance
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	Zoning Ordinance
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID # 190354A @ E status
ISO Fire Rating (not updated)	Class 7
Planning/Zoning Boards	
Tree Trimming Program	Mid-American Energy trims trees that are near power lines.
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Public Works Official	Water Superintendent
Emergency Response Team	Quimby Fire and Rescue
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Groups • Community Organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary • Town and Country
<i>Local Funding Availabilities & Authorities</i>	
Apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Collect fees for water services	
Ability to incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general obligation bonds • special tax bonds • private activities

The city participates in the NFIP program with the Mayor serving as Floodplain Administrator. The city has zero RL/SRL properties.

The fire department added a new fire truck at the cost of \$480,000. Project was financed through fundraising efforts (Fire Board and firefighters), local funds, and a MRHD grant.

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Projects as included in the 2019 are updated as shown.

communication /education
tools/equipment

development		
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Quimby	2020: Wastewater infrastructure improvements needed to address increased waterflow through and near river, which has accelerated deterioration of stabilization. Redirection of wastewater lines necessary. <i>City Council, DNR as applicable, County departments as applicable.</i> (Local funds, approved loan and bond programs, CDBG) HIGH PRIORITY
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Quimby	Complete. Pipeline crossing river was relocated and reconstructed to pass over an area that runs straighter, reducing wear, length of exposed lines, and risk of contamination. Project included relocation of lift station to the east. Project funded in part by CDBG (\$300K) and FEMA (\$350K).
Relocate critical facilities	Quimby	2020: Relocation or elevation needed for Lift Station to address flooding impacts. <i>City Council, City maintenance/waterworks, Coordination with County EMA as applicable.</i> (Local funds, DNR program funds, PDM funds, approved bond and loan programs) HIGH PRIORITY
Relocate critical facilities	Quimby	Complete. Lift station moved east as part of line improvements as noted under <i>Improve existing facilities & infrastructure</i> category of projects.
flow control		
refuge		
technology		
natural barriers/ supports		

Other projects improving the city’s sustainability as recently completed include the following.

- Cracked sewers lined
- Lift station added at 3rd Street
- A generator has been purchased for the lagoons, though there is need for generators at additional facilities

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

Infrastructure concerns are significant for Quimby with needs far exceeding available funds. Ongoing maintenance and improvements are always in progress. Sewer lines (approximated at \$59/ft) and street resurfacing are needed on a large scale to catch up to “routine” status instead of reactive to extreme wear. Drainage ditch maintenance is burdensome especially in heavier periods of rain which increases frequency of work. Lead/galvanized pipes through most of town are an urgent priority for replacement. Funding opportunities are extremely limited, slowing implementation.

A DNR Tree Survey has been completed resulting in a prioritized removal list. Trees within parks will be replaced incrementally.

A review of the NOAA Storm Event database provided one event specific to Quimby as reported. It is expected that all events noted as Cherokee (Zone) under the county profile risk assessment were experienced in town as well.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Mag</u>	<u>Dth</u>	<u>Inj</u>	<u>PrD</u>	<u>CrD</u>
QUIMBY	7/29/2024	23:21	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Priority Hazards

Priority hazards as determined by the city are unchanged from the 2020 HMP.

- Flooding – Riverine and Flash
- Tornado / Windstorm
- Severe Winter Weather

Discussion was held regarding long term power outage that resulted in melded lines. This is in acknowledgement of the significant impact of varying types of extreme weather events and transportation incidents and potential for loss of/damage to power sources (lines, transformers).

The survey responses submitted by 20 Quimby residents provides additional context to community hazard priorities. Respondents indicated Tornado/Windstorm with the highest frequency at “Very Concerned”, followed by Severe Winter Storm. Notable for a high rate of at least “Somewhat Concerned” is Thunderstorm with Hail and Lightning. When asked to choose their top three hazards, respondents indicated Tornado/Windstorm (10/20), Severe Winter Storm (6/20), and Infrastructure Failure (5/20).

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

communication /education

Promo/Info	Quimby	New. PSAs - Improve communications of existing programs and systems as available including but not limited to Alert Iowa, Increasing water intake during extreme heat and/or extreme dry conditions; water conservation (drought considerations); Red Flag warning awareness; Lightning safety, Snowstorm/Heavy snow safety, Tornado safety. These activities are intended to reduce risk of life and loss/damage to property. <i>City Clerk, County EMA (no funds needed) HIGH PRIORITY</i>
tools/equipment		
Generator & Related Projects	Quimby	New. Interested in generators for Fire Station and warning siren as means of maintaining operations & communication during power outages and as need in response efforts. <i>Fire Dept, City Council, Public Works, County EMA (Local supports @ general budget, fundraising, response funds as may be available, PDM funds, community benefit funds) HIGH PRIORITY</i>
development		
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Quimby	New. Address abandoned, vacant, and dilapidated buildings through: incentivized development, rehabilitation, and acquisition programs. Dilapidated structures are themselves at risk in extreme weather conditions, pose threat of fire, and are a general risk to public health. City is looking for programs to implement as well as funds to implement some measures as applicable (including but not limited to acquisition). <i>City Council. (various funding sources depending on programs – IEDA, PDM as applicable, local general budget funds, private partnerships, IDNR Dilapidated Buildings prog) HIGH PRIORITY.</i>
Improve existing facilities & infrastructure	Quimby	New. City is in the process of determining options to improve function of, expand, and update lagoon, sewer/wastewater system, lines and related to meet IDNR compliance standards. Needs include but are not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. expanded capacity with potential of adding a cell pending feasibility. 2. Berm construction or raising of lift station to protect from flood infiltration, and 3. Pre-engineering to fully assess options are part of project. <i>City, Public Works, IDNR (CDBG, USDA as applicable, local general budget funds, PDM as available, other sources TBD) HIGH PRIORITY</i>
flow control		
refuge		
technology		
natural barriers/ supports		

8. WASHTA

Note: The city participated in the development of the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, however, they have not included any specified mitigation actions, strategies, or projects. Therefore, the City of Washta is not recognized as an active “Participant” in the Plan. To activate participant status, the city must process an amendment at the local level and file said amendment with Cherokee County and FEMA.

Procedures to amend this plan are included in Title I. Introduction, section H. Amendments and Plan Maintenance.

a. Profile

The City of Washta is situated near the southern-most border of Cherokee County, and occupies about 1.01 square miles. IA-31 is the main highway connecting Washta to surrounding communities, running north/south through the eastern half of its corporate boundaries. The Little Sioux River travels diagonally through its northwest quadrant with the Stratton Creek tributary branching eastward and south. Washta is known as the coldest spot in Iowa when on January 12, 1912, an official temperature of -47° F was recorded.

City Governance & Community Supports

An elected council and the Mayor govern Washta. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk and Public Works. Washta benefits from the services of a 19-member, independently operated volunteer fire department – Washta Fire and Rescue. The city contracts with the county for law enforcement and emergency management coordination. The City is served by the River Valley Community School District and hosts an elementary school facility. Information regarding mitigation actions and strategies for this and all regional public school districts can be found under Title VI: School Districts.

Demographics, Housing, & Economics

CensusReporter.gov estimates the 2023 population of Washta at 171¹⁰, down from 209 residents in 2020. The town is comprised of 89 households, with a median household income of \$50,313—lower than the regional average. Around 6.4% of residents live below the poverty line, indicating some economic difficulties within the community. Despite these factors, Washta remains a small and stable town, with potential for growth and development as it continues to adapt to the needs of its residents.

¹⁰ Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1982380-washta-ia/>

Washta has a total of 128 housing units, with 90 of them occupied, reflecting a moderate demand for housing. There are 38 vacant units, making up a portion of the housing stock, and mobile homes account for a small share of the inventory. The majority of homes in Washta were built after 2000, with a smaller number constructed between 1990 and 1999. A smaller portion of homes were built before 1990, indicating that the housing market in Washta is relatively modern, with opportunities for further development and improvement in the coming years.

Leading Employers

- Lange’s Restaurant & Convenience Store
- River View Elementary School
- New Coop (formerly Western Iowa Coop)

Critical Facilities, Community Supports, Vulnerable Populations, Gathering Locations, & Local Areas of Interest

City Hall	206 Main St
Community Building	305 Main St
Water Treatment (& related Bldgs)	101 Sanford St
City Maintenance	103 S 3 rd Ave
Water Tower	1 st Ave & Sanford St

Those entities identified as leading employers are also community staples, serving as gathering locations and providing essential services.

Valuation of City Assets

Property	\$	1,065,166
Misc Property - Sched & Unsched	\$	<u>84,154</u>
Total	\$	<u>1,149,320</u>

b. Participation

Contribution to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan were conducted via email between SIMPCO and City Clerk, Karen Clark. Of the 61 Cherokee County surveys submitted, 5 were from Washta residents.

c. Community Capabilities

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents, Policies</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	
Municipal Code of Ordinances	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floodplain Ordinance • Tree Trimming Ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuisance Ordinance • Storm Water Ordinance
Building Permit process w/out adopted building code standards	
<i>Programs</i>	
ISO Fire Rating	<i>Class 7/9</i>
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant - CID #190064A	
Property Acquisition	<i>Case-by-case</i>
<i>City Staff/Departments</i>	
Public Works Official/Water Superintendent	
Emergency Response Team	<i>Washta Fire and Rescue</i>
Engineer	<i>Consultant on an as needed basis</i>
<i>Local Funding Abilities</i>	
Apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Fund projects through CIP	
Levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	
Incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general obligation bonds • special tax bonds • private activities
Withhold spending in hazard prone areas on a case-by-case basis	

The city participates in the NFIP program with the Mayor serving as Floodplain Administrator. The city has zero RL/SRL properties.

Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Washta did not include any projects in the 2020 HMP. No major community projects aside from maintenance have been implemented.

d. Risk Assessment

Contributing Factors

An assessment of the NOAA Storm Event database from 11/01/2019 through 12/31/2024 shows three reported incidents specific to Washta. The city likely experienced the effects of the 97 weather incidents as recorded for Cherokee (Zone) as generalized for the area as a whole. As a border community, Ida (Zone) and Woodbury (Zone) reports may also apply.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mag</i>	<i>Dth</i>	<i>Inj</i>	<i>PrD</i>	<i>CrD</i>
WASHTA	6/22/2021	17:42	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	191.00K
WASHTA	8/20/2021	17:22	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
WASHTA	6/21/2024	1:00	Flood		0	0	1.020M	0.00K

Priority Hazards

City staff indicated the following as priority hazards.

- Flooding
- Severe Winter Storm
- Tornado/Windstorm

Resident input is consistent with city assessment with one exception. Of the 5 Washta respondents, survey responses indicated the highest frequency of Very Concerned under Drought. Other notable indications of at least Somewhat Concerned include Flooding, Severe Winter Storm, and Tornado/Windstorm. When asked to choose the top three hazards, Tornado/Windstorm (4/5) had the highest frequency.

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

The city has not identified a specific action, strategy, or project. Therefore, an amendment must be filed for FEMA and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security to formally recognize this jurisdiction as an eligible applicant for pre-disaster and/or mitigation funds as may be available.