

## IV. COUNTIES & CITIES PARTICIPATING AS JURISDICTIONS

### D. Plymouth County

#### PROFILE – UNINCORPORATED AREA & COUNTY

Plymouth County is located in the west half of the northwest quarter of Iowa. The County is bordered by Sioux County to the north, Cherokee County to the east, Woodbury County to the south, and the state of South Dakota to the west. Plymouth County is approximately 864 square miles.

Incorporated cities within Plymouth County include Akron, Brunsville, Craig, Hinton, Kingsley, Le Mars, Merrill, Oyens, Remsen, Struble, and Westfield.

[insert ply co:

- topography map with incorporated cities highlighted
- Watershed & Water Resource map]

#### a. Rivers & Watersheds

The western border of Plymouth County follows the Big Sioux River. Other significant rivers in the County include the Broken Kettle Creek, Floyd River, Perry Creek, and the West Fork of the Little Sioux River.

There are five (5) watersheds within the County that drain storm water and snow melt into streams and lakes, wetland areas, or into groundwater reserves. These watersheds are Blackbird-Soldier Watershed, Floyd Watershed, Little Sioux Watershed, Monona-Harrison Ditch Watershed, and Lower Big Sioux Watershed. Regional breakdown for watersheds is provided in *Planning Area* information. The following map depicts the sub-watersheds within those as listed above. Sub-watersheds are determined based on hydrologic unit code (HUC) level 12, which includes more detail including tributary data.

#### b. Landform Regions & Geology

Plymouth County is composed of three (3) distinct landform regions<sup>1</sup>, which include Northwest Iowa Plains, Southern Iowa Drift Plains, and Loess Hills are said to have been formed by ancient glaciers. The Northwest Iowa Plains and Southern Iowa Drift Plains are marked by rolling hills that are the result of the manipulation of glacial sediment deposits by glacial melt and streams. The Loess Hills are unique to the region, and begin in Plymouth County. This landform was created from the accumulation of wind-blown silt. Today these steep hills rise from the surrounding landscape.

#### c. Transportation Network

U.S. Highway 75 and State Highway 3 intersect near the center of Plymouth County. The transportation network also includes State Highways 3, 12, and 140.

The County's secondary road system is composed of 1,423.27 miles. Within this category, Farm-to-Market roads make up 364.06 miles, while Area Service roads account for 1,059.21 miles. Gravel or earth surface types account for 1,056.23 miles of the secondary road system. The remaining 370.76 miles are composed of bituminous, asphalt, or PCC surface types.

[insert IADOT map for Ply Co??]

#### d. County Governance & Supports

The county seat is in Le Mars, just north of the center of the County. Its jurisdiction covers all unincorporated portions within county boundaries. Plymouth County is governed by a five (5)-person Board of Supervisors. The Board is the legislative body of the county.

Additional Offices include the following departments. Some departments have shared staff.

- |            |                       |                        |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • Assessor | • Clerk of Courts     | • E-911                |
| • Attorney | • County Conservation | • Economic Development |
| • Auditor  | Board                 | • Emergency management |

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://iowageologicalsurvey.uiowa.edu/iowa-geology/landforms-iowa>

- Engineer / Secondary Roads
- Information Technology
- Juvenile courts Services
- Planning & Zoning / Sanitarian
- Recorder
- Sheriff
- Social Services
- Solid Waste Agency
- Treasurer
- Veteran Affairs

The Plymouth County Emergency Management Director serves as a key leader in planning, coordinator of operations, and chief of staff to the jurisdiction's executives during emergency response, community liaison to build the emergency program, and lead agency in coordination of regional mitigation planning. The Plymouth County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the rural portions of the County and supports community departments. Mental Health services as administered in Plymouth County are relegated to state districting protocol.

#### County Facilities

County Courthouse	215 4 <sup>th</sup> St, Le Mars
Law Enforcement Center	451 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Le Mars
Engineer's Office	32802 170 <sup>th</sup> St, Le Mars
Roads Department - Equipment/Supply Storage	Several locations throughout County
Historical Museum	335 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave SW, Le Mars
County Fairgrounds	500 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Le Mars
County Veterans Memorial	1000 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave SE, Le Mars
Hillview Recreation Area	25601 C60, Hinton
Five Ridge Prairie	15561 260 <sup>th</sup> St, (rural)Westfield
Big Sioux Park	14241 Hwy 12, Akron
Birkley's Bend	26779 Hwy 12, Westfield
Boyd's Bend	13469 Hwy 12, Akron
Doorenbos-Ford Wetland	120 <sup>th</sup> St & Hwy 12, Akron
E.C. Lippke Wetland	11132 240 <sup>th</sup> St, Westfield
Highway 75 Wetland	NE of Merrill, east side Hwy 75
Kohler Memorial Grassland	150 <sup>th</sup> St and Quest Ave, Remsen
Meadow Wildlife Area	45597 140 <sup>th</sup> St, Remsen
Millsite River Access	10001 Hwy 3, Westfield

O'Brien Prairie	26211 Noble Ave, le Mars
River's Bend Wildlife Area	11826 180 <sup>th</sup> St, Akron
Ron Wilmot River Access	180 <sup>th</sup> St & Hwy 12, Akron
Rufus B. Hatch Memorial Grassland	L22 & 140 <sup>th</sup> St, Remsen
Southeast Wildwood	41564 310 <sup>th</sup> St, Kingsley

## Education

Plymouth County is home to 18 public schools. Two of these schools are part of the grade-sharing agreement between the Marcus Meriden Cleghorn (MMC) and Remsen Union (RU) Community School Districts, with portions located in Cherokee County. Additionally, there are four private schools within the county. The remaining 16 public schools are divided among four school districts, which include the following:

- Le Mars Community School District
- Hinton Community School District
- Akron Westfield Community School District
- Kingsley-Pierson Community School District

Statistics show educational attainment in Plymouth County<sup>2</sup> reflects a relatively strong foundation in basic and postsecondary education. A higher percentage of residents have completed high school or some college compared to the state average. The county also has a notable portion of residents with associate's degrees, while fewer individuals hold bachelor's or graduate degrees compared to the state. The percentage of people without a high school diploma is slightly lower than the state average, indicating comparable access to early education. Overall, Plymouth County shows solid rates of high school and some college education but lags behind the state in advanced degree completion.

It is important to note that many residents as may be employed by one of the major manufacturing/production businesses in the county have attained certifications for machinery operation and maintenance as a credential for positions held. These certifications, while not

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US19149-plymouth-county-ia/>

included in education stats, can be applied to other employment opportunities and merit due consideration in employability and career advancement.

CensusReporter.gov estimates, the median household income is \$81,600 with about 6.8% of its population living below the poverty level.

Generally, the categories that FEMA identifies as vulnerable populations are present in the County at similar rates compared to the State.

[insert ply co school district map]

## Population

<i>Community Characteristics</i>	
Population (2023)	25,699
Population (2020)	25,141
Total Households	10,297
Median Household Income	\$81,600
Median Household Income – Iowa	\$73,147

<i>Vulnerable Populations</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
5 years and younger	1,453	5.7%
65 years and older	4,956	19.3%
Below the poverty level	1,799	6.8%
Living with a disability	2,992	11.8%

## Healthcare Facilities

Plymouth County houses Floyd Valley Healthcare in Le Mars. The facility has experienced significant expansion in recent years. Services include Emergency Services, Urgent Care, Specialists, Primary Care, Assisted Living Facility, and Education and Wellness programming.

There are several assisted living, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers throughout the county, as well as local dental and vision care providers.

## Housing

Plymouth County has a relatively high median home value compared to the state of Iowa, although its median rent is slightly lower. The county contains a total of 10,863 housing units, with the majority being occupied. Of the occupied units, a significant portion are owner-occupied, while a smaller proportion are renter-occupied. The county has a low vacancy rate, suggesting a stable housing market. These figures highlight a community with a strong emphasis on homeownership, while rental options are also well-represented.

<i>Housing Characteristics</i>	<i>Plymouth</i>	<i>Iowa</i>
Median Home Value	\$218,600	\$195,900
Median Rent	\$865	\$891
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Housing Units	10,863	-
Occupied	10,319	95%
Owner-occupied	8,038	74%
Renter-occupied	2,824	26%
Vacant	543	5%

## Income & Economics

In Plymouth County, the civilian employed population aged 16 and older totals 20,115 individuals. The largest employment sector is education, health care, and social assistance, which employs over one-fifth of the workforce. Manufacturing and retail trade are also major contributors, with a significant portion of the population working in these industries. Agriculture, including forestry, fishing, and hunting, remains an important sector, alongside transportation, warehousing, and utilities. Other notable sectors include finance, professional services, and public administration. While smaller portions of the workforce are employed in arts, entertainment, and other services, the data reflects a diverse economy with strong representation in both traditional industries and service-oriented sectors.

Much of Plymouth County's economic development and large scale employment is hosted in Le Mars, its county seat. In addition to county employees and City of Le Mars staff and administration, the following are recognized as leading employers as follows.

- Bekins, Inc.
- BoDeans Baking Company
- Dairy Farmers of America/Kemps Dairy
- Fareway
- Gus Pech Manufacturing Co.
- Hy-Vee
- IML Containers of Iowa
- NorAm Cold Storage and Distribution
- SmithCo Side-Dump
- Walmart
- Wells Enterprises

<i>Industry for the Civilian Employed Population 16 and over</i>		
Civilian employed population (16 and older)	20,115	-
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	937	6.9%
Construction	758	5.0%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>20.6%</b>
Wholesale trade	90	2.1%
<b>Retail trade</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	1,146	8.5%
Information	214	1.6%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	657	4.9%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	612	4.5%
<b>Education services and health care and social assistance</b>	<b>3,019</b>	<b>22.3%</b>
Arts, entertainment, & recreation, and Accommodation & food services	625	4.6%
Other services except public administration	806	6%
Public administration	441	3.3%

### Valuation of County Assets

Total Blanket TIV	\$	48,630,267
Building	\$	46,416,552
Personal Property	\$	2,213,715
Misc Property Sched	\$	8,040,445

Misc Property Unsched	\$	<u>809,345</u>
<b>Total TIV</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>57,480,057</b>
<b>APD TIV</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,265,534</b>
<b>Grand Total TIV</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>62,745,591</u></b>
 <b>Covered Vehicles</b>	 <b>\$</b>	 <b>5,313,511</b>

## PARTICIPATION

A Mitigation Planning meeting was held December 4, 2025 at the County Annex. Facilitated by SIMPCO, the following were in attendance.

- Becca Socknat, EMA
- Stacey Feldman, Auditor
- Nick Beeck, Conservation
- Shawn Olson, Director of IT
- Steven Chapman, Zoning Administrator

Additional participation was collected by way of surveys. Completed online or on paper, there is record of 248 primary survey respondents. Of those, 65 indicated residence in Plymouth County. A secondary survey was made available to participating school districts for distribution to junior and senior students. Of the 65 student surveys collected, 54 students noted residence in Plymouth County. Some insight from the perspective of area youth is discussed in the Risk Assessment portion of this profile.

## CAPABILITIES

<i>Plans/Guidance Docs</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Builder's Plan</li> <li>• Comprehensive Plan</li> <li>• County Recovery Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Use Plan</li> <li>• Local/County Emergency Plan</li> </ul>
<i>Policies/Ordinances</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuisance Ordinance</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drainage Ordinance</li><li>• Floodplain Ordinance</li><li>• Historic Preservation Ordinance</li><li>• Landscape Ordinance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Storm Water Ordinance</li><li>• Subdivision Ordinance</li><li>• Zoning Ordinance</li></ul>
Iowa Wetlands and Riparian Areas Conservation Plan	Plymouth County Conservation
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	
Codes Building Site/Design	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190899
Property Acquisition	
Planning/Zoning Boards	
Mutual Aid Agreements	IMAC & EMAC
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Zoning Official / Sanitarian	Planning and Zoning, and Environmental Health
Mapping Specialist (GIS)	
Engineer	
Development Planning (role assumed by Board of Supervisors)	
Emergency Management Coordinator	
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	
Emergency Response Team	Special Response Team
Historic Preservation	
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Veterans Groups	County Veterans Affairs Commission
Environmental Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County Environmental Health Department.</li><li>• Conservation Foundation Board</li><li>• Land Acquisition Conservation</li></ul>
<i>Local Funding Availabilities &amp; Authorities</i>	
Apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Assess impact fees for new development	
Ability to incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• general obligation bonds</li><li>• special tax bonds</li><li>• private activities</li></ul>
Ability to withhold spending in hazard prone areas	

State / Federal grants by department	
Plymouth County Betterment Fund	
TIF program	Wind Turbine
	Ethanol Urban Renewal

While the county profiles are intended to cover unincorporated areas within defined border, it is impossible to completely separate county operations and services from cooperative planning strategies - especially in mitigation and response planning. One such collaboration is availability of the County Courthouse, as located in Le Mars, to serve as gathering place in the event of an evacuation of Franklin Elementary School. Proximity, access, and ready-to-activate security features figure in such designations.

Primary goal of county in the event of any emergency is the continuity of operations. Ongoing monitoring of protocol, policies, and procedure enable timely adjustments and improvements as may be dictated in real time.

#### Review of Actions Taken

Some projects in place throughout the county include tree removal within drainage districts, tree planting projects to re-establish an appropriate tree canopy, and protections of the loess hills.

Plymouth County completed a shelter at the Fairgrounds in 2015 and invested \$3500 in refuge resource kits during the planning period since 2020. Some additional refuge/shelter-related projects are needed including notification systems improvements.

[Insert update to 2020 table]

Following major flooding over the weekend in Iowa, President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in the state Monday night and approved federal aid to help recovery efforts.

"The President's action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Clay, Emmet, Lyon, Plymouth, and Sioux," a White House press release said.

"Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster."

Flooding in northwest Iowa, caused by [heavy rainfall](#), had impacted at least 1,900 properties, leaving hundreds destroyed, Iowa Gov. [Kim Reynolds](#) told reporters Sunday.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/flooding-northwest-iowa-leads-250-water-rescues-hundreds/story?id=111355969> (by Mariama Jalloh, June 24, 2024, 11:10 PM) June 10, 2025

## RISK ASSESSMENT

Local accounting of weather-related disasters and other hazards are detailed within jurisdiction profiles reflecting reported events in the NOAA Storm Event database and local accounts. Overall, Plymouth County's reports<sup>3</sup> from 11/01/2019 through 12/31/2024 included 183 storm events in 17 categories.

<i>Event Summary for Plymouth County, Iowa</i>	
Number of County/Zone areas affected:	2
Number of Days with Event:	27
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:	1
Number of Days with Event and Crop Damage:	0

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>

Number of Event Types reported:

13

<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>
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/28/2019	3:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/12/2020	14:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/17/2020	6:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/18/2020	11:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/12/2020	15:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/12/2020	23:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/19/2020	1:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	3/10/2020	7:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/19/2020	17:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	3/29/2020	11:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	3/30/2020	7:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	3.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	4/1/2020	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	4/1/2020	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	4/12/2020	6:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	6/21/2020	5:34	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	1.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	7/28/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	865.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	668.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	8/14/2020	14:25	Hail	1.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	8/14/2020	14:59	Hail	0.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MILLNERVILLE</a>	8/14/2020	14:05	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	8/14/2020	13:54	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MERRILL</a>	8/31/2020	3:37	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	9/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	60.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	10/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	77.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	10/25/2020	3:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	11/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	10.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	11/9/2020	22:00	Winter Weather		0	0	10.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/1/2020	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/23/2020	10:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/29/2020	8:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/14/2021	22:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/23/2021	17:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/25/2021	18:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/4/2021	3:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/14/2021	6:00	Extreme Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/21/2021	6:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	4/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	5/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	73.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	6/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	2.350M
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	6/11/2021	5:38	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	35.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">O LEARY</a>	6/22/2021	17:10	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	6.00K	5.220M
<a href="#">O LEARY</a>	6/22/2021	17:20	Thunderstorm Wind	52 kts. EG	0	0	2.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">O LEARY</a>	6/22/2021	17:23	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	2.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">O LEARY</a>	6/22/2021	17:34	Funnel Cloud		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	7/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	1.300M
<a href="#">NEPTUNE</a>	7/8/2021	23:29	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">NEPTUNE</a>	7/8/2021	23:31	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	866.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS</a>	8/27/2021	0:16	Thunderstorm Wind	51 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	30.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	9/1/2021	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	282.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS</a>	10/20/2021	8:17	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/10/2021	13:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:38	Thunderstorm Wind	72 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:39	Thunderstorm Wind	72 kts. EG	0	0	25.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:39	Thunderstorm Wind	78 kts. EG	0	0	20.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:39	Tornado	EF1	0	0	50.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:40	Thunderstorm Wind	82 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:40	Thunderstorm Wind	83 kts. EG	0	0	35.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:41	Thunderstorm Wind	74 kts. EG	0	0	25.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:41	Thunderstorm Wind	72 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:44	Thunderstorm Wind	69 kts. EG	0	0	20.00K	0.00K

<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:44	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kts. EG	0	0	25.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:47	Thunderstorm Wind	64 kts. EG	0	0	5.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/15/2021	20:35	High Wind	55 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/1/2022	6:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/5/2022	7:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/21/2022	16:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/23/2022	4:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/5/2022	13:30	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/15/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/25/2022	10:00	Strong Wind	27 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	4/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	4/23/2022	10:00	High Wind	52 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	4/23/2022	13:00	Wildfire		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	5/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	500.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	5/12/2022	18:30	Thunderstorm Wind	70 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	16.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	6/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	7.140M
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	7/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	10.210M
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	12.370M
<a href="#">BRUNSVILLE</a>	8/18/2022	16:44	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">BRUNSVILLE</a>	8/18/2022	16:56	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">BRUNSVILLE</a>	8/18/2022	16:58	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	11.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	8/18/2022	18:22	Hail	1.50 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSSEN</a>	8/18/2022	18:00	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	9/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	2.870M
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	10/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	11/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	11/29/2022	5:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/1/2022	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/8/2022	16:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/22/2022	0:00	Extreme Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/3/2023	3:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/18/2023	18:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

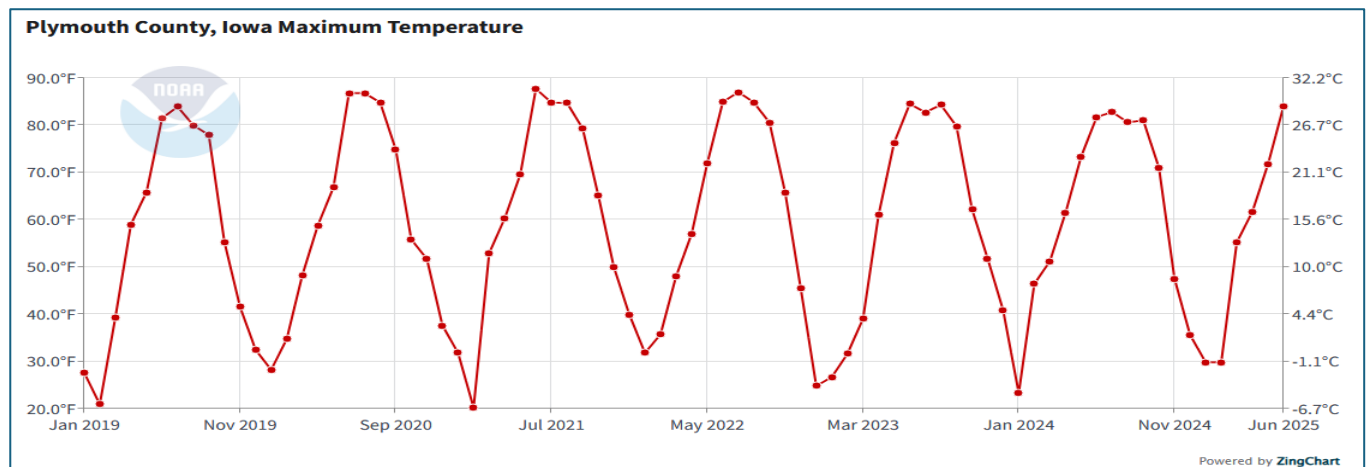
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/28/2023	0:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/22/2023	10:30	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/8/2023	17:30	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	3/22/2023	22:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	4/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	4/10/2023	23:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	4/12/2023	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MERRILL</a>	4/19/2023	19:39	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MILLNERVILLE</a>	4/19/2023	19:03	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MILLNERVILLE</a>	4/19/2023	19:09	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/19/2023	20:04	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	4/30/2023	9:00	Strong Wind	39 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	5/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	5/10/2023	23:05	Hail	1.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">OYENS</a>	5/10/2023	23:40	Hail	1.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">OYENS</a>	5/10/2023	23:42	Hail	2.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	6/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	7/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	7/4/2023	13:50	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">NEPTUNE</a>	7/4/2023	14:02	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	6.00K
<a href="#">MILLNERVILLE</a>	7/12/2023	3:55	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	7/21/2023	18:06	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	7/25/2023	10:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS MUNI ARPT</a>	8/5/2023	17:25	Thunderstorm Wind	62 kts. MG	0	0	5.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/19/2023	13:30	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/21/2023	11:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	9/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	9/2/2023	12:00	Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	10/1/2023	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	7.460M
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	10/12/2023	15:00	Strong Wind	45 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

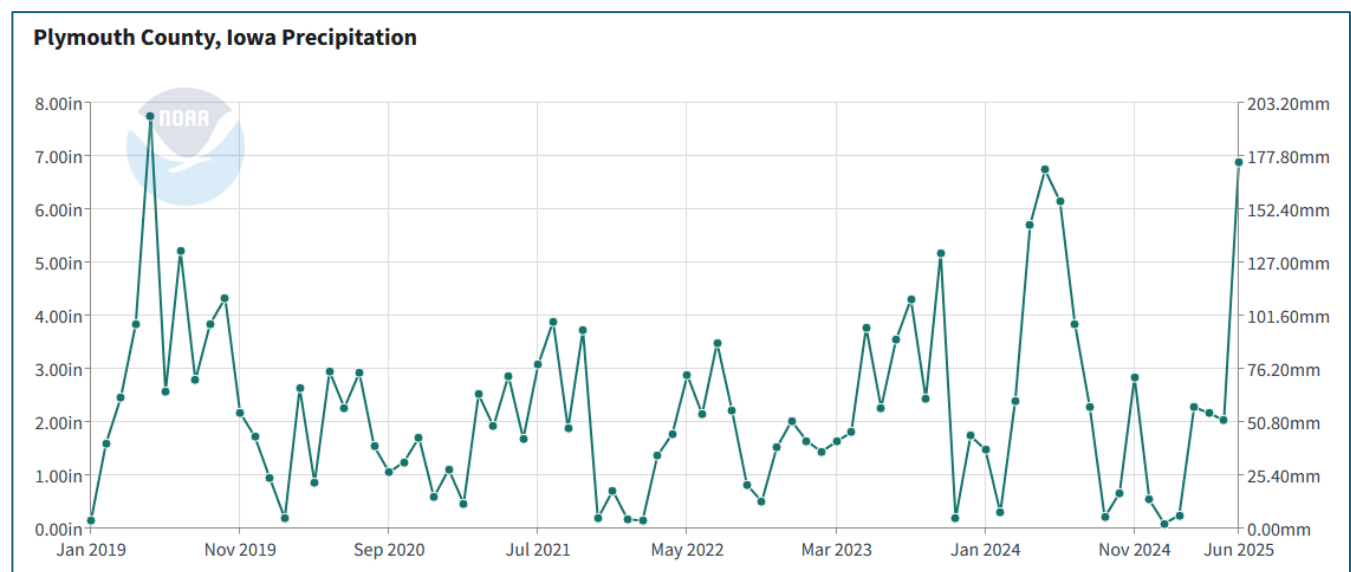
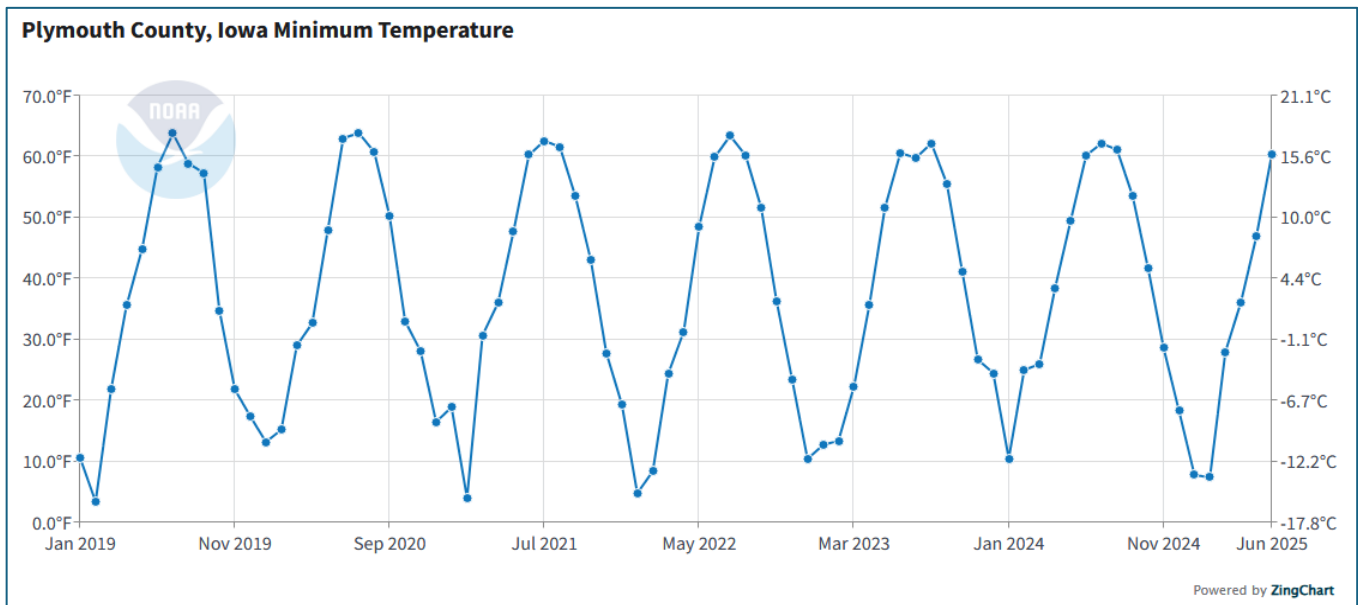
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	10/28/2023	11:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/9/2023	9:00	Strong Wind	44 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/25/2023	3:00	Ice Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/8/2024	4:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/10/2024	13:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/11/2024	14:00	Winter Storm		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/12/2024	15:00	Blizzard		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/12/2024	18:00	Extreme Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/18/2024	9:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	1/19/2024	22:00	Cold/wind Chill		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	2/27/2024	15:00	Winter Weather		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	4/16/2024	12:46	Tornado	EFU	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">JAMES</a>	4/16/2024	12:49	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MERRILL</a>	4/16/2024	13:10	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">OYENS</a>	4/16/2024	13:22	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/16/2024	13:21	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">STRUBLE</a>	4/16/2024	13:00	Tornado	EF1	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WEST LE MARS</a>	4/16/2024	12:48	Tornado	EFU	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	14:56	Hail	0.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	15:00	Hail	0.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	15:02	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	15:04	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MILLNERVILLE</a>	5/20/2024	22:27	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	5/20/2024	18:50	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">O LEARY</a>	5/21/2024	5:43	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	6/21/2024	9:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">JAMES</a>	6/21/2024	1:30	Flood		0	0	1.580M	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	6/21/2024	16:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">STRUBLE</a>	6/22/2024	2:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">STRUBLE</a>	6/22/2024	14:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WEST LE MARS</a>	6/22/2024	18:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	6/23/2024	3:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MILLNERVILLE</a>	6/23/2024	3:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	7/1/2024	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K



<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	7/1/2024	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	7/13/2024	12:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	7/29/2024	23:00	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	7/29/2024	23:08	Thunderstorm Wind	74 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS</a>	7/29/2024	22:55	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS MUNI ARPT</a>	7/29/2024	22:52	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS MUNI ARPT</a>	7/29/2024	22:52	Thunderstorm Wind	54 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MERRILL</a>	7/29/2024	22:46	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	7/31/2024	11:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/2/2024	12:00	Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/5/2024	12:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	8/25/2024	12:00	Excessive Heat		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	10/22/2024	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	11/1/2024	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/1/2024	0:00	Drought		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/4/2024	12:00	Strong Wind	43 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">PLYMOUTH (ZONE)</a>	12/19/2024	11:00	Strong Wind	29 kts. MS	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<b>Totals:</b>							<b>1.906M</b>	<b>52.387M</b>

The following charts provide a visual of Plymouth County's record of maximum temperature, minimum temperature and precipitation by month from November 2019 through December 2024 ([www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/time-series/IA](http://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/time-series/IA)).





## Priority Hazards

Survey responses specific to Plymouth County indicated and Tornado/Windstorm at the greatest frequency at least somewhat concerned. Flooding (both flash and riverine) and Thunderstorm, Hail & Lightning follow, with notable concern indicated for Severe Winter Storm, Drought, Infrastructure Failure, Extreme Heat, and Hazardous Materials incidents. Issues have varied by community. In addition to Tornado/Windstorm concerns, the county identified top hazards by frequency of related projects.

Most concerning hazards as indicated by county officials are as follows. Determination of level of concern is primarily cost of recovery with due consideration of risk to residents.

- Flood – Flash and Riverine
- Thunderstorm w/Hail & Lightning
- Severe Winter Storm

The top three most concerning hazards as ranked by survey response are Tornado/Windstorm, Severe Winter Storm, and Flash Flooding.

STORM LAKE, Iowa (KTIV) - A disaster proclamation has been signed for the counties impacted by the recent severe storms that started on Thursday, April 17.

On Friday, April 18, Iowa Gov. Reynolds issued a disaster proclamation for two Siouxland counties: Buena Vista County and Plymouth County. Other counties included are Page County and Fremont County.

**Thousands left without power, numerous buildings damaged after severe weather hits Storm Lake, IA**

This proclamation allows for state resources to be used to respond and recover from the aftereffects of the severe weather, effective immediately, and expires on Sunday, May 18.

Source: [www.ktiv.com/2025/04/18/gov-reynolds-issues-disaster-proclamation...](http://www.ktiv.com/2025/04/18/gov-reynolds-issues-disaster-proclamation...) (By Kathryn Vlaanderen

Published: Apr. 18, 2025 at 3:50 PM CDT) June 10, 2025.

### Future Risk

According to FEMA's National Risk Index<sup>4</sup>, Plymouth County has an overall "Very Low" risk level relative state and national comparisons and Very High Community Resilience rating. An assessment of Hazard Types, Expected Annual Loss. Social Vulnerability, Risk Valuation and Risk Score provide a composite breakdown of vulnerability.

Composite Expected Annual Loss:	<u>\$ 4,815,286.01</u>
Composite Expected Annual Loss Rate National Percentile:	<u>30%</u>

Building EAL	<u>\$ 2,682,874.42</u>
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<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/map>

Building EAL Rate	\$	<u>1.00</u>	per	<u>\$2.82K</u>	of building value
Agriculture EAL	\$	<u>276,698.01</u>			
Agriculture EAL Rate	\$	<u>1.00</u>	per	<u>\$3.06K</u>	of agriculture value
Population EAL		<u>0.16</u>	fatalities		
Population EAL Rate		<u>1</u>	per	<u>160.57K</u>	people
Population Equivalence EAL	\$	<u>1,855,713.57</u>			

#### *Hazard Type Risk Ratings*

Hazard Type	Expected Annual Loss		Risk Factor Breakdown	
	EAL Value	EAL Rating	Risk Value	Risk Index Score
Cold Wave	\$ 136,389	Relatively Moderate	\$134,713	60.6
Drought*	\$ 239,042	Relatively Low	\$224,472	77
Earthquake	\$ 9,326	Very Low	\$9,623	16.3
Hail	\$ 101,390	Relatively Low	\$99,764	48.2
Heat Wave	\$ 60,596	Relatively Low	\$60,144	44.2
Ice Storm	\$ 37,814	Relatively Low	\$37,702	39.3
Landslide	\$ 21,900	Relatively Low	\$19,057	17.5
Lightning	\$ 30,060	Very Low	\$29,748	17
Riverine Flooding	\$ 21	Very Low	\$18	3.1
Strong Wind	\$ 479,908	Relatively Low	\$477,136	57.2
Tornado	\$ 3,415,905	Relatively Moderate	\$3,398,856	77.7
Wildfire	\$ 206,051	Relatively Low	\$180,774	69.6
Winter Weather	\$ 76,884	Relatively Low	\$76,006	56.3

\*Note: Risk Index is based on Agricultural (crop only) impacts  
<https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/report/viewer?dataLOD=Counties&dataIDs=C19149>

## MITIGATION ACTIONS, STRATEGIES, & PROJECTS

Plymouth County identified several strategies and planned actions to address natural disasters and other hazards intended to reduce risk of property loss/damage and potential loss of life.

## JURISDICTIONS

### 1. AKRON

#### a. Profile

The City of Akron lies on the western-most border of Plymouth County, on the Iowa/South Dakota border. Akron occupies about 1.23 square miles. Big Sioux River Road, IA-12, travels north/south on a slight diagonal through the central part of Akron with IA-3 branching east from 12 before following the city's southeast boundary and continuing east. Big Sioux River runs on the north part of Akron City's boundary, serving as the Iowa/South Dakota border. Union Pacific railroad line passes through Akron between IA-12 and the Big Sioux River.

#### City Governance & Community Supports

Akron is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include:

- Akron Fire & Rescue
- City Administrator
- City Attorney
- City Clerk
- Deputy Clerk
- Library
- Parks & Recreation
- Police Department
- Zoning Board & Commission
- (Elected) Akron Care Center Board

The Akron Fire & Rescue is composed of about 45 volunteers that respond to calls for service utilizing 10 different apparatus and provide a wide variety of skills and special abilities). The city contracts with the County for Emergency Management. Akron is a member of the NFIP program, though residents are known to be inactive under flood insurance. A comprehensive plan was adopted October 2011. More information about the City of Akron can be found on their website at <https://akronia.org/>.

#### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

CensusReporter.gov estimates a slight increase in the population of Akron from 1,558 in 2020 to 1,660 in 2023<sup>5</sup>. The town is home to 748 households, with a median household income of

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<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1900775-akron-ia/>

\$59,706. Akron has a poverty rate of 9.2%, indicating that while the community is relatively prosperous, there are still some economic challenges faced by a portion of its residents.

Akron has a total of 802 housing units, with 746 currently occupied and 56 vacant, resulting in a strong occupancy rate. There are no mobile homes in the community. The majority of residents have moved into their homes since 2000, reflecting a trend toward newer housing. Smaller portions of the population settled into homes built in the 1990s or earlier, indicating a mix of both recent and long-established residences throughout the town.

### Leading Employers

The following businesses, as well as those listed under Community Supports, operate and have established a necessary presence in Akron. Those as provided are leading employers in the city.

- Akron-Westfield Com School District
- Akron Care Center
- Heyl Truck Lines
- Mike's Inc.

### Critical Facilities

City Hall	220 Reed St
City Garage	N Hwy 12 @ 2 <sup>nd</sup> St
Library	350 Reed St
Senior Center	204 S 4 <sup>th</sup> St
Police Department	220 Reed Street
Fire Station	1000 Ridge Rd
Fire Siren	5 <sup>th</sup> St @ Dakota St
City Storage	140 2 <sup>nd</sup> St
Office Bldg	300 Reed St
(former) Nursing Home	121 South St
Huff Bldg	245 N 3 <sup>rd</sup> St
Pump House	260 N 3 <sup>rd</sup> St
Lefty Swift Ballfield & Park	2-58 N 4 <sup>th</sup> St
Main Lift Station	Reed St @ River Rd

Lift Station - Heyl	N Norka Dr
Lift Station - Waterbury	S River Rd
Substation	Hwy 12 @ Reed St
Water Tower & Equipment	S 9th St @ Main St
Well Bldg & Related	S end Akron Business Park
Children's Memorial Park	301 Iowa St
City Park, Sargent Field & related	
Bob Tucker Field	
Akron City Park	City Park Dr.
Akron Swimming Pool	340 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Street
Warning Siren	2 <sup>nd</sup> St @ Country Club Ln
Thrift Store	251 N 5 <sup>th</sup> St
Akron Golf Club	941 Country Club Dr

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

Public and private gathering spaces and other community supports are integral to Akron's makeup. Following is a list of entities given due consideration in mitigation planning efforts. The list is not exhaustive but does highlight some of the community centers, gathering points, and supports known even to non-residents. These and other centers of activity and/or service will be itemized beneficiaries in project protection specifications as applicable.

<i>In Town</i>	
Akron-Westfield Senior High School	850 Kerr Dr
Akron-Westfield Middle School	
Akron-Westfield Elementary School	
Akron Care Center	991 Hwy 3
Akron Family Practice Clinic	321 Mill St
Akron Opera House	151 Reed Street
Akron Area Museum	S 6 <sup>th</sup> Street & Main St
Chub's Country Store	
CVA Grain Bin	
Casey's	

<i>Outside City Limits</i>	
Appley/Von Hagel Wetland	(South Dakota side of River)
Boyd's Bend	13469 Hwy 12
Big Sioux Park	14241 Hwy 12
Hole n' the Wall Lodge	14396 Diamond Ave
Doorenbos-Ford Wetland	near 120 <sup>th</sup> St & Hwy 12
Higman Wetland	(Iowa side of River)
Lazy H Campground	Little Pearl Lake
Ron Wilmont River Access	180 <sup>th</sup> St & Hwy 12

### Valuation of City Assets

Part of determining overall benefit of any project implementation, Akron periodically reviews its city-held properties in terms of how effective and efficient its functionality is within city operations. In recent years, the city sold two buildings and consolidated operations into a single facility. Protecting city investments is primary mitigation and other development planning. Valuation of assets is based on the community's current insurance policy. Values are provided as a foundation for cost-benefit analysis for projects expected to improve resiliency of the community overall. A more specific assessment of value will be determined by project when included in an application for mitigation and pre-disaster programs. Numbers as provided are strictly for city-owned assets and do not include vehicles and equipment.

Total Building	\$	9,201,538
Total Personal Property	\$	1,004,917
Total Property in the Open	\$	<u>4,873,525</u>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>15,079,980</u></b>

### b. Participation

SIMPCO facilitated a virtual mitigation planning meeting via Teams, December 16, 2024 with Dan Rolfes, City Administrator and Becca Socknat, Plymouth Co EMA in attendance.



### c. Community Capabilities

Capacity building is an ongoing process for the city. Informal designation of refuge locations has been made. Pending the emergency/incident, the Care Center and Fire Station will serve to shelter displaced or otherwise affected persons. Formalizing other actions is underway with updates to integrated community plans encompassing capital improvements, land use, and wellhead protect plans, including a master plan component. In addition to resources as available through State, Region, and County entities, the City has the following capabilities as locally derived and/or determined.

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	
Capital Improvement Plan	
Local/County Emergency Plan	
Land Use Plan	
Wellhead protection plan	
Firewise or other fire mitigation plan	Fire Department incident command structure
Critical Facilities Plan (Mitigation/Response/Recovery)	within Emergency Ops Plan
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> <li>• Floodplain Ordinance</li> <li>• Subdivision Ordinance</li> <li>• Tree Trimming Ordinance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuisance Ordinance</li> <li>• Storm Water Ordinance</li> <li>• Drainage Ordinance</li> <li>• Historic Preservation Ordinance</li> </ul>
Building Code	UBC & IBC 2018
Property Maintenance (by reference w/exceptions)	IPMC 2022
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	
Codes Building Site/Design	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190223
ISO Fire Rating	Akron class 4; Akron FD class 4/8B
Property Acquisition	
Planning/Zoning Boards	
Tree Trimming Program	
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Zoning Administrator (volunteer position)	Building Code Official

	NFIP Floodplain Administrator
Public Works Official	role of Zoning Administrator
Emergency Response Team	Akron Fire & Rescue
Historic Preservation	
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	Legion Post 186
Homeowner Associations	
Neighborhood Associations	Neighborhood Watch
Chamber of Commerce	
Community Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendship &amp; Service Club</li> <li>• Next Generation Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knights of Columbus</li> <li>• PEO</li> </ul>
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Ability to apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, or electric services	
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> <li>• special tax bonds</li> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>

### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Projects as implemented in the past five (5) years may have a considerable effect on the City's ability to mitigate the effects of natural disasters when actions and strategies as proposed in the 2020 Plan were applied to those projects. Following is a status update.

[Insert update to 2020 table here]

Cars sit stranded in flash flood waters on Merriman Road in Akron in front of the Dollar General store on Aug. 6, 2024. From 3.5 to 5 inches of rain fell in the area in about a two-hour period, trapping drivers and leading to wide spread damage to homes and businesses. (Signal Akron / Wittman Sullivan)

The rain poured down last Thursday for about four hours, dumping as many as seven inches of water in some parts of the Akron area. The slow-moving storm resulted in a “very, very, very heavy rainfall in a very short period of time,” said Raelene Campbell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

<https://signalakron.org/500-year-storm-tests-akron-areas-ability-to-handle-extreme-rainfall-events/> (by Arielle Kass August 16, 2024) June 10, 2025

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

Smaller towns, Akron included, continue to struggle filling vacancies in volunteer and service positions alike. At the time of the mitigation planning meeting, the city was actively conducting a search for a police officer to fill its second position. Volunteer participation in response departments has steadied somewhat, however there remains high turnover of new recruits brought in to fill in for retired persons. Adequate staffing directly impacts response capacity and Akron’s efforts have resulted in a relatively strong volunteer base.

Akron is taking preventive action by strategically removing ash trees. A plan is in place to replace one tree for every two removed. Overall, 7-8 have been removed and 5 have been planted. Work continues as needed.

In terms of natural disasters and other hazards, Akron shows 7 incidents reported in the NOAA Storm Event database from 11/01/2019 through 12/31/2025.

<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>
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	3/10/2020	7:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	3/29/2020	11:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	4/1/2020	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

<a href="#">AKRON</a>	4/10/2023	23:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	6/21/2024	9:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	7/1/2024	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">AKRON</a>	6/11/2021	5:38	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	35.00K	0.00K

By [Dean Welte](#) and [Ervin Dohmen](#)

Published: Jun. 22, 2024 at 1:27 PM CDT



AKRON, Iowa (KTIV) - Plymouth County officials say the Floyd River at Le Mars and the Big Sioux River at Akron have crested. Water is expected to go down slowly from here on.

This news comes hours after Plymouth County Emergency Management told all Akron residents west of Highway 12 needed to evacuate immediately.

At about 3:30 p.m. Saturday water started coming up on Highway 12, with some residents reporting that the water was rising from the manholes on the street. Within two hours a large part of the area around Highway 12 was covered and Akron residents west of the highway were told to evacuate.

Before the evacuation was called, crews worked to place sandbags at places like Highway 12 and Reed Street but as the waters rose, they went further east into town to place bags closer to homes.

<https://www.ktiv.com/2024/06/22/officials-say-akron-ia-residents-low-lying-areas-should-be-prepared-evacuate/> (By [Dean Welte](#) and [Ervin Dohmen](#) Published: Jun. 22, 2024 at 1:27 PM CDT) June 10, 2025

### Priority Hazards

Among survey responses received from Plymouth County, none indicate Akron as jurisdiction of residence. From the perspective of the city, priority hazards are determined based on city expenses – one-time and ongoing, as accumulated due to natural disasters and other hazards. Due consideration is also given to residents. Flood mitigation remains an overwhelmingly high priority in project planning. As drought conditions persist, flood impacts are frustratingly more severe.

- Flood – both River and Flash
- Dam/Levee Failure
- Drought

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

[insert new project table]

## 2. BRUNSVILLE

**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 Brunsville 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 Plymouth 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 Brunsville is situated just north of center in Plymouth County, and occupies .24 square miles. The main road that connects the city to surrounding communities is Highway 3, running east-west about 1.2 miles south of Brunsville.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Brunsville is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk and City Administrator. City staff has designated the Legion Hall as significant support entity to community well-being. The City contracts with the county for law enforcement and with the City of Le Mars’s emergency response team.

The City of Brunsville is a member of the NFIP program, though the majority of residents are known to be inactive under flood insurance. The city is covered by the county’s Local/County

Emergency Plan and has a few plans adopted and are specified in the discussion of Community Capabilities.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

A review of demographic data was completed using Census Reporter<sup>6</sup>. Brunsville's population rose to 180 from 129 between 2020 and 2023, reflecting notable growth in a short period. Using the 2020 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for reference, data from the 2010 decennial census estimated a population of 151.

The town includes 75 households, and the median household income stands at \$67,125. Despite a relatively solid income level, 21.6% of the population lives below the poverty line, indicating that a significant portion of residents may be facing economic hardship.

Brunsville has a total of 80 housing units, with 75 currently occupied and 5 vacant, indicating a high occupancy rate. There are no mobile homes in the community. Most residents have moved into their homes since 2000, while a smaller number settled in during the 1990s or earlier. This suggests a relatively modern housing stock with limited older residences, reflecting recent growth and development in the town.

### Leading Employers

Drawn from records on file, Brunsville's leading employers are noted as follows.

- Corner Café
- Iowa State Bank

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

Community facilities, both city-owned and independent as listed are determined from records on file.

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<sup>6</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1908875-brunsville-ia/>

- City Hall, 310 Oak St
- Brunsville Public Park, Oak St and Locust St
- ALCW (Lutheran Aid Society)
- American Legion Post 724 Heeren McHale Wilkens

### Valuation of City Assets

A valuation of assets is not on file for Brunsville. For the purpose of cost-benefit considerations, a valuation of the City's assets may be compiled based on its insured properties, personal property, and facilities. Such calculations would be expected to accompany a mitigation project funding request.

### b. Participation

Updates to the Brunsville profile were completed by SIMPCO using available online resources. Additional input was received from the County EMA regarding community capacity to withstand natural disasters and other hazards. One survey indicated Brunsville as jurisdiction of residence.

### c. Community Capabilities

Community capabilities as provided are as retained on file from previous projects and related meetings.

<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190476
Mutual Aid Agreements	Countywide & with SCFR for Haz Mat Response
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	American Legion Post 724 Heeren McHale Wilkens
Community Organizations	ALCW (Lutheran Aid Society)
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Ability to apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water, and sewer services	

Ability to incur debt through:	• general obligation bonds
	• special tax bonds
	• private activities

### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Brunsville did not include any scheduled projects in the 2020 HMP. A listing of other activities/projects has not been provided.

### d. Risk Assessment

#### Contributing Factors

A compilation of storm events as recorded in the NOAA database show a single day of repeated reports of Hail. Brunsville likely experienced the effects of all events indicated for Plymouth “Zone” which include a wide range of event types (see [Plymouth County profile](#) for more information).

<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>
<a href="#">BRUNSVILLE</a>	8/18/2022	16:44	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">BRUNSVILLE</a>	8/18/2022	16:56	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">BRUNSVILLE</a>	8/18/2022	16:58	Hail	1.25 in.	0	0	0.00K	11.00K

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

#### Priority Hazards

The city did not indicate priority hazards. One survey respondent indicated Brunsville as place of residence. While the respondent did not complete the ranking scale section of the survey, the following were all noted with “Very Concerned”.

- Drought
- Flooding (both flash and riverine)
- Severe Winter Storm
- Thunderstorm w/Hail & Lightning,
- Tornado/Windstorm,
- Pandemic Human Disease



#### 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.

### 3. CRAIG

**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 Craig 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 Plymouth 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 Craig is situated near the northern-most border of Plymouth County, and occupies 0.09 square miles. The city lies about eight miles north of Highway 3, which runs east and west.

#### City Governance & Community Supports

The City of Craig is governed by a five-person Council and the Mayor. In addition to Mayor and Council, Craig staffs a City Clerk. The City contracts with the county for law enforcement and Emergency Management. Craig also contracts with Ireton Fire and Rescue, which is located five miles north on CR-K30; Law is enforced by the Plymouth County Sheriff’s Office.

## Demographics, Housing, & Economics

Current demographic information as presented is drawn from the Census Reporter<sup>7</sup>. For reference, the 2010 decennial census estimated Craig's population at 89. In 2023, the population of Craig was 76, marking a slight decline from 79 residents in 2020. The town consists of 24 households, with a median household income of \$50,000. While the income level reflects a modest economic profile, about 13% of the population lives below the poverty line, indicating that a portion of residents may be experiencing financial difficulties.

Craig has a total of 24 housing units, all of which are currently occupied, leaving no vacant homes in the community. Two of the homes are mobile homes. The majority of residents have moved into their homes since 2000, while a smaller number have lived in their homes since the 1990s or earlier. This suggests a relatively modern and fully occupied housing stock, with limited older structures and no recent vacancies.

## Leading Employers

While not hosting a large number of employees, Farmers' Cooperative has an established and necessary presence in Craig.

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

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • City Hall                             | 725 Main St         |
| • Poplar Park                           | Main St and Pine St |
| • St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church | 400 Linn St         |

## Valuation of City Assets

A valuation of assets is not on file. For the purpose of cost-benefit considerations, a valuation of the city's assets may be compiled based on its insured properties, personal property,

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<sup>7</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1916950-craig-ia/>

facilities, and other holdings. Such calculations would be expected to accompany a mitigation project funding request.

#### b. Participation

Updates to the Craig profile were completed by SIMPCO using available online resources. Additional input was received from the County EMA regarding community needs to withstand natural disasters and other hazards. None of the submitted surveys included notation of Craig as residence.

#### c. Community Capabilities

Available summary of Craig's resources indicate a small population with a few localized resources. In addition to those as provided, Craig may benefit from county, region, and state resources as specified in respective sections of this plan.

Craig has a basic City code of Ordinances that is maintained with record of amendments, resolutions, and adoptions. Fire and Rescue services are provided through an agreement with the City of Ireton. Craig also has mutual aid agreements with all communities in Plymouth County and with SCFR (through Plymouth County) for hazardous materials response. Funding capabilities are as shown

<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Ability to apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water and sewer services	
Ability to incur debt through:	• general obligation bonds
	• special tax bonds
	• private activities

#### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

The City of Craig did not include any scheduled projects in the 2020 HMP. A listing of other activities/projects has not been provided.

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

A review of available data in the NOAA Storm Event database revealed no recorded events centered in Craig between 11/01/2019 and 12/31/2024. However, Craig likely experienced the conditions as reported for 102 Plymouth “Zone” events including a broad range of weather events. More information about these events is catalogued in Plymouth County’s profile under Risk Assessment.

##### Priority Hazards

The city did not determine a prioritized list of hazard concerns. It can be expected that the natural disasters listed (as referenced in the 2020 HMP) remain significant concerns to the city.

- Tornado/Windstorm
- Sever Winter Storm
- Grass or Wildland Fire – Primarily due to lack of locally available resources to combat fire of any kind, this hazard may easily become widespread and travel to other communities.

#### 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.

## 4. HINTON

#### a. Profile

Including some annexation activity in 2020 and property purchase in 2021, the City of Hinton covers about 0.9 square miles of land near Plymouth County’s south border. US Highway 75, the main connector between Hinton and surrounding communities, runs north/south along much

of the city's east border. The Floyd River runs about ¼ to ½ mile east of the highway, outside city limits. The Burlington Northern/Santa Fe, Illinois Central, and Union Pacific railroads lines run that same corridor.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Hinton is governed by a six-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Municipal Utilities, Waterworks, Public Works, and Police Department. The Fire Department averages about 31 volunteer firefighters with, at last count, 11 emergency medical service certifications. An operation independent of the city, the Hinton Fire/Ambulance Department serves the city and rural surrounding areas. Hinton's Public Safety Building was recently built in 2012. The city recognizes the Legion as significant support entity to community well-being alongside additional community supports as specified in the discussion of Community Capabilities.

The City contracts with the county for law enforcement and Emergency Management. The City of Hinton is a member of the NFIP program, though residents are known to be inactive under flood insurance. A Comprehensive Plan was adopted July 18 2019. Hinton's Zoning Ordinances and Municipal Code of Ordinances updates are in progress as of May 2025.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

Hinton is a community that has experienced fairly consistent growth for decades, with just one drop shown in decennial census numbers – between 1910 and 1920. Recent data review via CensusReporter.org<sup>8</sup> provides a notable population estimate drop from 935 in 2020 to 881 in 2023. Local accounting is most consistent with population as determined in 2020 census records.

The community includes 357 households, and the median household income stands at \$108,125—well above average for the region. With only 2.5% of residents living below the poverty line, Hinton reflects a relatively affluent and economically stable community.

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<sup>8</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1936480-hinton-ia/>

Hinton has a total of 369 housing units, with 358 currently occupied and just 11 vacant, indicating a high occupancy rate. There are no mobile homes in the community. Most of the housing development has occurred since 2000, with a smaller number of homes built in the 1990s and very few constructed before 1990. This points to a modern and well-maintained housing stock, reflecting the town's growth and relatively recent residential development. As of October 2024, two additional residential developments were nearing completion and already at 75% occupancy.

### Leading Employers

While not necessarily hosting a large number of employees, the following businesses operate, and have established a necessary presence, in Hinton. Additional business and organizations supporting the overall wellbeing of Hinton are included under Community supports.

- Central Valley Ag
- Hinton Community School District

### Critical Facilities

City Hall	205 W Main
Hinton City Park	15 S Center St
Hinton Community Center	205 W Main St
Substation & Equip	26505 C60
Pump Station	Pump Site
Ball Park & Tractor Pull	
Pump House	Sec 8, T90N, R46W
Deer Run Golf Course	801 First Ave
Warning Siren	315 W Grand St
Fire/Ambulance/Police Depts	308 1st Ave S
Water Booster Station	Titan Rd @ Springbrook Dr

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

Hinton High School	315 W Grand
Hinton Middle School	312 W Grover

Hinton Elementary School	315 W Grand
Preschool & Daycare	315 W Grand (independent but onsite @ school)
3D Ag – Hardware & Supplies	1112 Starview
Hinton Baseball Field	C60 & S Center St
Held Sports Complex	1 <sup>st</sup> Ave S
Hillview Recreation Area	25601 C60
Hinton Hardware	107 Maple
American Legion	205 W Main St
Michael's Miracle Park	Valley Dr
Prime Time Hinton	201 E Main
Junkyard Pub & Grub	1116 Starview Dr

### Valuation of City Assets

Total Building	\$	5,736,272
Total Personal Property	\$	597,400
Property in the Open	\$	<u>3,285,500</u>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>9,619,172</u></b>

#### b. Participation

SIMPCO facilitated a mitigation planning meeting at Hinton City Hall on October 24, 2024 with the following in attendance.

- Kelly Kreber, Mayor
- Kelli Hill, City Clerk
- Kyle Utech, Public Works
- Logan Johnson, Police Department

Further participation was contributed via survey with 9 respondents indicating Hinton as their jurisdiction of residence in the primary survey (248 total responses) and 33 student responses from the Hinton Community School District to the student survey (65 total responses).

### c. Community Capabilities

In addition to capabilities as included in the following table, Hinton also has access to resources as available through county, region, and state programs and supports. Those are identified within the region and county profiles respectively as applicable.

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Code</li> <li>• Nuisance Ordinance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subdivision Ordinance</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> </ul>
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	
Hinton Disaster Plan	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190224
ISO Fire Rating	Class 5/5A (2019)
Planning/Zoning Boards	
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Emergency Response Team	Hinton Fire and Rescue
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	American Legion Post 477 Casper
Community Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinton Growth Org</li> </ul>
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Ability to apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Ability to apply for State Revolving Loan Fund programs	
Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, and municipal electric services	
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• special tax bonds</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>

### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

In addition to planned strategies, Hinton has undertaken some massive infrastructure projects such as a water treatment facility, currently in design phase, with an estimated investment of



approximately \$10M. Upcoming projects include a highway reconstruction collaboration with IA DOT which will affect roadway drainage/runoff. The following table logs actions taken specific to the 2020 HMP's identified strategies for Hinton.

[\[updates to 2020 table here\]](#)

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

Risk assessment is an ongoing evaluation of all community infrastructure and public spaces. Unexpected flooding in 2019 highlighted the city's need to prepare for the unexpected as well and anticipated issues. Removal of Ash Trees is a known need, however a clear plan has not yet been developed – in part due to lack of designated funds. Communication efforts are better coordinated between Hinton, nearby communities, Plymouth and Woodbury Counties, and the IA DOT. IBC and IPMC are being considered in zoning code updates to initiate better resident preparedness for natural disasters.

A review of available Storm Event data from NOAA provides record of 7 events specific to Hinton between 11/01/2019 and 12/31/2024. Hinton likely experienced the effects of 102 Plymouth “Zone” categorized events as well. Those events are noted in the county profile under Risk Assessment.

<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>
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	6/23/2024	3:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	8/14/2020	14:25	Hail	1.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	8/14/2020	14:59	Hail	0.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	5/10/2023	23:05	Hail	1.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	7/4/2023	13:50	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	7/21/2023	18:06	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">HINTON</a>	4/16/2024	12:46	Tornado	EFU	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

## Priority Hazards

The city identified the following as priority hazards in context of cost and general well-being of residents.

- Flood
- Severe Winter Weather
- Thunderstorm w/Hail & Lightning

Primary survey respondents from Hinton indicated Grass or Wildland Fire, Flooding (both flash and riverine), and Drought with the highest frequency of “Very Concerned”. Infrastructure Failure and Tornado/Windstorm ranked highest among top three hazards.

Hinton Schools student survey responses generally supported these issues as at least somewhat concerning. However, the three with highest frequency as most concerning are Tornado/Windstorm (19/33), Severe Winter Weather (15/33), and Pandemic Human Disease (10/33).

### e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

[insert updates to 2020 table here]

## 5. KINGSLEY

### a. Profile

The City of Kingsley is situated southeast corner of Plymouth County, and occupies 1.61 square miles. The West Fork Little Sioux River runs northeast and southwest just west of the city. A floodplain intersects Kingsley running east/west, south of the centerline.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Kingsley is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Water Clerk, Maintenance, Police, Fire Department,

Ambulance and Rescue, Maintenance, City Attorney, and the Chamber. The Fire Department maintains a staff of about 25 volunteer firefighters. City staff has designated the Legion Hall as a significant support entity to community well-being. Additional community supports are specified in the discussion of Community Capabilities. More information on Kingsley and its services for the public can be found online at <http://kingsleyia.com/publicservices.html>.

The City of Kingsley is a member of the NFIP program, though the majority of residents are known to be inactive under flood insurance.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

Demographic estimates are sourced using the Census Reporter. Though estimates tend to fluctuate, a consistent use of a single primary source allows for similar-based comparisons between jurisdictions. An increase in Kingsley's population was estimated from 1,396 in 2020 to 1,427 in 2023<sup>9</sup>. The community is home to 618 households, with a median household income of \$73,103. While the income level suggests relative economic stability, about 8.1% of the population lives below the poverty line, indicating that some residents may still face financial challenges.

Kingsley has a total of 653 housing units, with a high occupancy rate of 95% and only a small number of vacant homes. There are no mobile homes in the community. The majority of residents have moved into homes built since 2000, with fewer homes constructed in the 1990s or earlier. This indicates a predominantly newer housing stock and suggests ongoing residential development and investment in the area.

### Leading Employers

As a smaller, rural community, Kingsley does not host a major employment center. The city recognizes its community support partners as leading employers. They are included in the Community Supports table.

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<sup>9</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1941385-kingsley-ia/>

## Critical Facilities

City Hall	222 Main St
Kingsley Public Library	220 Main St
Kingsley Community Center	217 E 1 <sup>st</sup> St
Ambulance & Rescue	
Kingsley Volunteer Fire Dept	101 Clarendon St
Police Department	319 E 1 <sup>st</sup> St
City Maintenance Building	
Cemetery Building	222 Main St.
Water Tower	
Lagoon Building & Controls	
Water Pump House	
Lift Station	
No. 3 Well	
Little League Field	
Loring Aquatic and Fitness Center	Quest Ave
Kingsley City Park	Park Dr & Brandon St
Tennis Court/Basketball Court	

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

US Post Office	210 Main St
Kingsley-Pierson High School	322 Quest Ave
Kingsley Elementary School	322 Quest Ave
Kingsley Medical Clinic	111 Main St
Kingsley Nursing & Rehab Center	305 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> St,
Brookside Golf Course	101 Iowa 140
Southeast Wildwood	310 <sup>th</sup> St & Quorn Rd

## Valuation of City Assets

Summation of asset values provide current replacement cost and may not include equipment and materials. Valuations are provided as a base for general application to cost-benefit analysis. Project engineering and planning will include specific related asset protections for public assets as well as private property as may be affected by the given project.

Total Building	\$	5,022,257	RC
Total Personal Property	\$	752,937	RC
Property in the Open	\$	<u>2,661,187</u>	RC
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>8,436,381</u></b>	

#### b. Participation

Facilitated by SIMPCO, a planning meeting was held on December 11, 2024 at Kingsley City Hall with the following in attendance.

- Angela Becker, City Clerk
- Brandon Sitzmann, Fire Chief
- Brian Book, Maintenance Manager

One survey for Plymouth County was completed with Rural Kingsley noted as place of residence. Details are included for consideration but not specified as to eliminate potential for disclosure of personal information.

#### c. Community Capabilities

<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floodplain Ordinance</li> <li>• Nuisance Ordinance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Burn Ordinance</li> <li>• Zoning Ordinance</li> </ul>
International Property Code adopted May 2019	
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190477
ISO Fire Rating	Class 6/8B
Planning/Zoning Boards	
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Public Works Official	
Building Inspector	
Emergency Response Team	Fire Dept, Ambulance & Rescue, Police Dept
Regional Planning Agencies	SIMPCO and Iowa League of Cities

<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	American Legion Nash Post 140
Chamber of Commerce	
Community Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingsley Community Action Club (KCAC)</li> <li>• School Clubs</li> <li>• Booster Club</li> <li>• 4-H</li> </ul>
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Ability to apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water & sewer services	Water and Sewer
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> <li>• special tax bonds</li> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>

### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Kingsley has implemented several projects to improve its sustainability in the event of a natural disaster and other hazards. They've initiated a water main replacement project in 2024, purchased a generator for the community center to substantiate its designation as a refuge/shelter location (approximate cost @ \$50,000, install not funded and included in new project list), and the fire department has new pump trucks and a new fire station. The new building increases storage capacity, increasing flexibility of City Maintenance/Police Department building.

Always willing to take advantage of collaborative training opportunities, Kingsley hosted a region-wide full scale hazardous material response exercise October 2024. The exercise included a transportation-related hazardous materials incident simulation involving response interactions with 5 participating counties and a third-party administration team. Kingsley prioritizes preparedness and continues to demonstrate that focus in project planning.

The city has included tree maintenance as a line-item in its budget addressing necessary removals and replacement. The city is addressing removal of dead/diseased/at risk trees in the

parking first, with 25 planned per year. Trees in parking will not be replaced, however other public spaces will assume the balance of new trees.

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

As mentioned, Kingsley has floodplain running through town, just south of center. The Golf Course and undeveloped greenspace fills most of the designated area, though a few industries may be affected. The city has two warning sirens, audible throughout city limits. Kingsley has 15 reported weather events in the NOAA Storm Event Database between 11/01/2019 and 12/31/2024. Eleven of those events were from varying sources in response to a single event. Unchanged from 2020, Thunderstorm, Tornado, and Hail were notable locally while Drought was significant in Plymouth County and the region.

<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>
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:38	Thunderstorm Wind	72 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:39	Thunderstorm Wind	72 kts. EG	0	0	25.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:39	Thunderstorm Wind	78 kts. EG	0	0	20.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:40	Thunderstorm Wind	82 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:40	Thunderstorm Wind	83 kts. EG	0	0	35.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:41	Thunderstorm Wind	74 kts. EG	0	0	25.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:41	Thunderstorm Wind	72 kts. EG	0	0	30.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:44	Thunderstorm Wind	69 kts. EG	0	0	20.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:44	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kts. EG	0	0	25.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:47	Thunderstorm Wind	64 kts. EG	0	0	5.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	12/15/2021	16:39	Tornado	EF1	0	0	50.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	5/12/2022	18:30	Thunderstorm Wind	70 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	16.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	8/18/2022	18:22	Hail	1.50 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	7/29/2024	23:00	Thunderstorm Wind	65 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">KINGSLEY</a>	7/29/2024	23:08	Thunderstorm Wind	74 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

In addition to the above reports specific to Kingsley, the city also experienced the general effects of 102 events noted under Plymouth (County) “Zone”.

## Priority Hazards

Discussion included Infrastructure Failure and costs associated with Severe Winter Storm. However, the city indicated the following as primary hazard concerns for the city.

- Tornado
- Flooding
- Grass and Wildland Fire

### e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

[insert new projects table here]

## 6. LE MARS

### a. Profile

Serving as county seat, the City of Le Mars is situated near the center of Plymouth County. U.S. Highway 75 stretches north/south, primarily just outside city boundaries. Iowa Highway 3 stretches east/west through the city, before angling north and following east toward Cherokee. Iowa Highway 60 is accessible north of the city. The City of Le Mars accounts for the largest population and spatial area of Plymouth County occupying 8.9195 square miles. The Floyd River runs through Le Mars, following outside much of its east and north borders.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Le Mars is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include are as provided.

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Airport Library                   | • Community Development/Code     |
| • Board of Civil Service Commission | Enforcement                      |
| • Board of Zoning Adjustment        | • Convention and Visitors Bureau |
| Commission                          | • Disaster Services Coordinator  |
| • City Clerk                        | • Finance Dept                   |



- Fire-Rescue Department
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Hospital Trustee Board
- Mapping
- Park and Recreation Committee
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Police Department
- Public Facilities
- Streets
- Trustees
- Waste and Recycling
- Wastewater Treatment
- Water Department

The Le Mars Fire-Rescue department has about 50 volunteers and is funded by a combination of township fire fees, city taxes, and fund-drive donations. The department provides coverage and protection extending 8 miles from City Limits and approximately 200 square miles of rural territory including all or partial areas of seven townships and five additional small communities/villages.

The City of Le Mars is a member of the NFIP, though residents are known to be inactive under flood insurance. A Community Development Plan was adopted in 2023.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

Using the online Census Reporter<sup>10</sup> estimates, Le Mars' population of 10,597 (2023) shows a slight increase from 2020's decennial census (10,571) reflecting steady community growth. The city includes 4,356 households and boasts a median household income of \$72,381, which suggests a relatively strong local economy. Despite this, about 8.9% of residents live below the poverty line, indicating that some households may still face economic challenges. Overall, Le Mars continues to show signs of stability and growth while maintaining a solid economic foundation.

Census.gov table B25034 - Year Structure Built<sup>11</sup> estimates the total number of houses in Le Mars to be 4,521 with approximately 88 of those homes built after 2020 and about 17% of total stock built 2000 or later. Table H1 – Occupancy Status<sup>12</sup> estimates show housing at 225 vacant.

<sup>10</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1944400-le-mars-ia/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2023.B25034?q=houses+year+built&g=160XX00US1944400>

<sup>12</sup> <https://data.census.gov/table?q=home+occupancy&g=160XX00US1944400>

Local perception indicates a much lower vacancy rate when considering move-in-ready homes as the market remains very tight. Online real estate resources indicate a range of 30 – 35 homes for sale as of May 2025, and up to 22 units for rent. Census data shows an estimate of 329 mobile homes<sup>13</sup>, representing about 7.6% of the total housing units available.

### Leading Employers

As one of the larger communities in the planning region, Le Mars hosts a larger employee-base than resident population affecting its approach to effectively managing emergency response. The following businesses are among the largest in the jurisdiction.

- BoDeans Baking Co.
- Floyd Valley Hospital
- Iowa National Guard
- Kemps
- Le Mars Community Schools
- Schuster Trucking Co.
- Wells Enterprises Inc.

Several expansions and investments were completed in recent years.

- Wells Enterprises completed multiple additions to their facilities
- Floyd Valley Health Care completed a \$10M specialty clinic and therapy expansions project
- Schuster Trucking added a \$4M maintenance building

### Critical Facilities

<i>City Facilities</i>	
City Hall	40 Central Ave. SW
Police Department	205 5th Ave NW
Fire Rescue Department	45 1st Ave. SW, Station No. 1
Fire Station #2	25 - 12th St SE

<sup>13</sup> <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S2504?q=home+occupancy&g=160XX00US1944400>

Garage (FD)	45 1st Ave SW
Airport & Related	1621 Airport Drive
Public Works Bldg	800 18th St SW
Storage Facilities for various Depts	multiple addresses
Water Department & Treatment	1298 18th St. SW
Water Towers	1002 3rd Ave SE
	33082 200 <sup>th</sup> St
Well Houses	multiple addresses
Wastewater Treatment & Related	705 5th Ave NW
	17505 Key Ave
Lift Stations/Pumps	multiple addresses
Booster Station	33082 200th St
Misc Waterworks, Bldgs & Property	100 Park Lane Rd
Kemps Electrical Ctrl Bldg	1078 Lincoln St SW
Shed	301 9th Ave
Office Bldg	50 Central Ave
8 Warning Sirens (+1 planned for 2025)	Various locations
<i>Outdoor Recreation</i>	
Adler Park	Plymouth St SE
Bolser Park	2nd St & 5th Ave SE
Cleveland Park	2nd St & 6th Ave S.E.
Courts; Park; Golf Course; Related	935 Park Lane
Dog Park	Holton Dr
Foster Park	Central Ave & 6th St S.E.
Le Mars Area Family YMCA	241 12th St SE
Municipal Park	813 Park Ln
O'Toole Park	Central Ave & 4th St N.E
Outdoor Swimming Pool & Park	241 12th St SE
Paulin Park	12th St & 7th Ave S.E
Riverview Complex	N of Hwy 3
Schafer Park	15th St & Schafer Ave SE
Sunset Park	Holton Dr
Veterans Memorial Park	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave SE & 10 <sup>th</sup> St
Walnut Park	11th St & Central Ave SE
West Floyd Park	3rd St & 12th Ave SW
Westmar Memorial Park	10th St SE

Willow Creek Campground	Hwy 3 & Park Lane
<i>Cultural and Wellness</i>	
Visitor Info Center	54 Central Ave SE
Veterans Memorial Park & related	3rd Ave SE @ 10th St SE
Olson Cultural Events Center	33 1st St NE
Post 21 Playhouse	105 1st St NE
Le Mars Sportsman Club	31549 C38
Civic Art Center	200 Central Ave SE
Royal Theatre	33 Central Ave SW
Le Mars Convention Center	275 12th Street SE
Le Mars Public Library	46 1st St SW
<i>County facilities</i>	
Plymouth County Historical Museum	335 1st Ave SW
Plymouth County Fairgrounds	500 4th Ave. NE
Plymouth County Veterans Memorial	1000 3rd Ave SE

It is important to note that as County Seat, several county facilities and services as listed in the Plymouth County Profile are hosted in Le Mars.

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

Le Mars High School	921 3rd Ave SW
Individualized Learning Center	940 Lincoln Street SW
Le Mars Middle School	977 3rd Ave SW
Clark Elementary School	201 2nd Ave NW
Franklin Elementary School	400 3rd Ave SE
Kluckhohn Elementary School	1338 Central Ave SE
Floyd Valley Community Health Service	714 Lincoln St NE
Floyd Valley Hospital	714 Lincoln St NE
Good Samaritan Society - Le Mars	1140 Lincoln St NE
Park Place Estates	900 Lincoln St NE
Plymouth Manor Care Center	954 7th Ave SE
Pride Group Inc.	214 Plymouth Street SE
PRIDE 1 - Residential Care Facility	214 Plymouth Street SE
Prime Living Apartments	108 1st Ave NW
Blue Bunny Museum and Meeting Center	115 Central Ave NW

Mobile Homes & Mobile Home Courts	930 4 <sup>th</sup> St SW
	500 block 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW
	100 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW
Apartment Complexes	Multiple addresses

### Valuation of City Assets

The following summation of city assets is intended to provide a foundation for cost-benefit analysis for mitigation projects. This total is not all inclusive and does not take into account private properties, businesses, residences, and other financial considerations as may be impacted through pre-disaster and resiliency-building efforts. A full cost-benefit analysis will accompany project descriptions in the application process where relevant.

<b>Total Vehicle Value</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,553,061</b>
Blanket TIV	\$	149,425,314
Building	\$	145,506,894
Personal Property	\$	3,918,420
Misc Property Sched	\$	3,147,055
Misc Property Unsched	\$	<u>1,218,777</u>
<b>Total TIV</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>153,791,146</u></b>

### b. Participation

Facilitated by SIMPCO and Plymouth County EMA Rebecca Socknat, a planning meeting was held October 24, 2024 at the Le Mars City Council Chambers with the following in attendance.

- Jason Vacura, City Administrator
- Jan Feller, City Clerk
- Joe Mohning, Finance/HR Director
- Brad Eppling, Public Facilities
- Scott Kneip, Streets
- Doug Masuen, Wastewater Superintendent
- Rich Sudtelgte, Water Superintendent
- David Schipper, Fire Chief
- Shirley Taylor, Library Director
- Tom Mullally, Airport Manager

Also considered for discussion are 37 responses to the survey noting Le Mars as residence.

### c. Community Capabilities

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>		
Community Development Plan (2023)		
2015 Builder’s Plan		
Capital Improvement Plan		
Le Mars Emergency Operation Disaster Preparedness Plan		
Land Use Plan		
Firewise or other fire mitigation plan	Le Mars Fire Department	
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>		
<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building Code</li><li>• City Code (2019)</li><li>• Debris Management Plan</li><li>• Drainage Ordinance</li><li>• Floodplain Ordinance</li><li>• Historic Preservation Ordinance</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscape Ordinance</li><li>• Nuisance Ordinance</li><li>• Storm Water Ordinance</li><li>• Subdivision Ordinance</li><li>• Tree Trimming Ordinance</li><li>• Zoning Ordinance</li></ul></div></div>		
<i>Programs</i>		
Codes Building Site/Design	Code Enforcement	
Hazard Awareness Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disaster Preparedness Plan</li><li>• Plymouth Co Alerts (through Alert Iowa) – text/email</li></ul>	
ISO Fire Rating	Class 2/2Y	
Mutual Aid Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Countywide 28E</li><li>• SCFR through County for HazMat Response</li></ul>	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190225	
Planning/Zoning Boards		
Property Acquisition	guided via Iowa ROW Manual	
Tree Trimming Program		
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions		
<i>Staff/Department</i>		
Code Enforcement Officer		
Community Development		
Building Inspector		
NFIP Floodplain Administrator		
Coordinator of Disaster Services	City Administrator	
Emergency Response Team	Fire and Rescue (Ambulance integrated to department)	

Historic Preservation	Historic Preservation Commission
Mapping Manager	
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Community Organizations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Le Mars Business Initiative Corp</li> <li>• Lions</li> <li>• Kiwanis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimists</li> <li>• Rotary</li> <li>• Sertoma</li> </ul>
Homeowner Associations in select neighborhoods	
Le Mars Area Chamber of Commerce	
Neighborhood Associations in select subdivisions	
Veterans Groups	American Legion Wasmer Post 241
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water & sewer, stormwater, and solid waste services	
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> <li>• special tax bonds</li> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>
Withhold spending in hazard prone areas	Yes

## Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

[insert 2020 table updates]

### d. Risk Assessment

#### Contributing Factors

As presented throughout this profile, the abundant employment centers in Le Mars add an urgency to ongoing training and capacity building for the city's emergency response teams. Response teams must coordinate with each other as well as their industry partners, to correctly determine the number of people in an area at any given time. Fortunately, the city has an

active Disaster Plan and formal Response Team in place. Each role is clearly identified noting chain of command so no communications are lost. Corporate safety teams routinely cross-train with city responders to facilitate the process.

Despite ongoing efforts to improve flood-prone areas, the intersecting waterways in and around the city remain a primary consideration in all planning efforts. Flooding in 2024 resulted in more significant damages than previously recorded, especially in and around the town's ball fields and trails.

Due to relative proximity, the NOAA Storm Event database search for Le Mars included the Le Mars Municipal Airport and West Le Mars in addition to the city itself. Between 11/01/2019 and

By **Klem Web Team** - Jun 24, 2024



<https://klem1410.com/2024/06/24/record-flood-at-le-mars/>

*Record Flood at Le Mars* (by [Klem Web Team](#) - Jun 24, 2024)

June 10, 2025

## **RECORD FLOOD AT LE MARS**

Record floodwaters isolated Le Mars for a time, and the city is just now starting to weigh the impact of the flood.

Le Mars had a crest of 29 feet, which was just below the record crest of 26.4 feet.

Le Mars Fire Rescue Chief Dave Schipper said during their flood preparations, they discovered water would come in even higher than predicted.



12/31/2024, 6 events were recorded with Thunderstorm Wind figuring prominently, with Hail, Tornado, and Flood noted at one occurrence each.

<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>
<a href="#">LE MARS</a>	10/20/2021	8:17	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS</a>	8/27/2021	0:16	Thunderstorm Wind	51 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	30.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS</a>	7/29/2024	22:55	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS MUNI ARPT</a>	8/5/2023	17:25	Thunderstorm Wind	62 kts. MG	0	0	5.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS MUNI ARPT</a>	7/29/2024	22:52	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">LE MARS MUNI ARPT</a>	7/29/2024	22:52	Thunderstorm Wind	54 kts. MG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WEST LE MARS</a>	4/16/2024	12:48	Tornado	EFU	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WEST LE MARS</a>	6/22/2024	18:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

**LE MARS, Iowa (AP) — An explosion Wednesday morning destroyed two houses in the northwest Iowa city of Le Mars and injured three people.**

The 6:30 a.m. explosion demolished two adjacent houses and damaged a third house, Le Mars Fire-Rescue Chief Dave Schipper told the [Sioux City Journal](#).

The three people who were injured were inside or around one of the homes. Two of them were taken to a Le Mars hospital and one was taken to a Sioux City hospital and later transferred to a burn center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Schipper called it “very fortunate” that no one died in the explosion, which he thinks was caused by a gas leak.

<https://apnews.com/article/explosions-fires-iowa-city-des-moines-1d9b3487db6ad7d0002dbe65f9f4af2e> Le Mars explosion injures 3 people, destroys homes. by Tim Hynds, Sioux City Journal via AP; Published 1:38 PM CDT, July 13, 2022) June 10, 2025

### Priority Hazards

In recent history, flooding is of the greatest concern, resulting in high expense repairs/recovery. The top three identified priorities are determined by likelihood of occurrence, cost of resulting damages, and potential impact on residents as well as the expansive and transient employee base.

- Flood – both Flash and Riverine
- Tornado/Windstorm
- Hazardous Materials Incident

Transportation Incident and Severe Winter Storm are also of significant concern. Particularly at risk are disaster-related blockages affecting the highways and railroad. Potential for bulk spills due to derailment can be catastrophic in terms of access and exhaustion of available supplies. Dam/Levee Failure and most other hazards as identified by the state are on the radar. Severe Winter Storm, Drought, and Extreme Heat factor considerably in local agriculture and manufacturing industries.

Survey responses indicate the top three resident concerns to be fairly consistent with the city's determination, replacing Hazardous Materials Incidents with Severe Winter Storm. Thunderstorm w/Hail and Lightning also has a high frequency of notable concern.

#### e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

[insert 2025 project list]

## 7. MERRILL

#### a. Profile

The City of Merrill is situated near the center of Plymouth County, just south of Le Mars City. US Highway 75 is the main road that travels north-south through the eastern portion of Merrill. Floyd River defines the path of Hwy 75, following northeast outside the city's immediate corporate boundaries. BNSF railroad has a line that runs through Merrill, intersecting the highway and separating a portion of Merrill's downtown from the rest of the city.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Merrill is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Police Department, Ambulance Department, Maintenance Department, Library, and EDC Department. The Merrill Fire Department is staffed by 22 volunteer firefighters. City staff designates the Legion Hall as a significant support entity to community's well-being. Additional community supports are specified in the discussion of Community Capabilities.

Merrill contracts with the county for law enforcement and Emergency Management. The City of Merrill is a member of the NFIP program, though residents are known to be inactive under flood insurance.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

Merrill had an estimated population of 885<sup>14</sup> in 2023, reflecting an increase from 717 residents in 2020 decennial census numbers. The city is home to 343 households and has a median household income of \$79,250, suggesting a relatively strong economic standing. With only 4.5% of the population living below the poverty line, Merrill appears to be a financially stable community overall.

In 2023, Merrill had a total of 382 housing units, with 343 of them being occupied, which accounts for 90% of the units. There are 38 vacant units, making up 10% of the housing stock. The community also includes 19 mobile homes, which represents 5% of the housing units. In terms of the age of the residential structures, 233 units were built before 1990, while 53 were constructed between 1990 and 1999, and another 53 were built in 2000 or later. This distribution highlights a mix of older and newer housing in Merrill.

### Leading Employers

- Casey's
- Iowa State Bank
- US Post Office
- Hometown Mobility
- Plymouth Energy LLC
- Wells (Le Mars)

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<sup>14</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1951375-merrill-ia/>

## Critical Facilities

City Hall & Community Center	608 Main St,
Senior Center	
Library-Kissinger Ctr	
Police Department	
Fire Station	500 Roosevelt
EMS / Ambulance Department	
Merrill Community Center	321 4th St
Garage Mntc Shop	301 2nd St
Sewer Lift Station	100 E Main St
	19 5 <sup>th</sup> St
Warning Siren	635 Center St
	205 Calhoun St
	725 Webster St
Merrill Community Park & Related	725 Webster
Park & Related	700 Webster
Misc Storage	301 2nd St
Water Treatment; Pump House & related	600 Center St
(RV Only) Campground	23 5 <sup>th</sup> St

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

In addition to those businesses listed under leading employers and various city facilities, the city recognizes the following as community gathering spots/events that may temporarily reflect a higher than average concentration of the local population.

- Cugini's Italian Restaurant
- Merrill Food Truck Night (Wednesdays)
- Merrill Shooting Range

## Valuation of City Assets

Total Building	\$	6,310,118
Total Personal Property	\$	787,910
Total Property in the Open	\$	<u>469,066</u>

**Combined Total \$ 7,567,094**

**b. Participation**

Facilitated by SIMPCO and Plymouth County EMA Rebecca Socknat, a mitigation planning meeting was held February 14, 2025 via Teams with the following in attendance.

- Bruce Norgaard, Mayor
- Angela Gray, City Clerk
- Pat Gray, Public Works

**c. Community Capabilities**

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	
Land Use Plan	
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
Zoning Ordinance	within City Code
Floodplain Ordinance	within City Code
Drainage Ordinance	In covenants for HOAs
<i>Programs</i>	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190478
ISO Fire Rating	Class 6/9
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Public Works Official	
Emergency Response Team	Fire and Rescue
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	American Legion Oleson-Halweg
Chamber of Commerce	
Community Organizations	Lions Club
<i>Local Funding Abilities</i>	
Apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	

Fees for water and sewer services	
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> <li>• special tax bonds</li> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>

The city has adopted by reference the IBC and IPMC, with applicable exceptions as currently implemented at the state level. Merrill's Community Development department oversees compliance for construction/development activities in relation to building codes, land development code, the Comprehensive Plan, and enforcement thereof.

#### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

[insert proj update table]

In addition to activities specifically noted in the 2020 plan, several other project components contribute to community resiliency.

- Backup generator at lift station
- Generator hookup at well (for mobile generator connection)
- Water access plan in place
- Highway work is planned with stormwater controls in place. Project is expected to retain those features sustaining drainage during and after construction

The city engaged IDNR to map ash trees throughout the community with findings indicated most are on private property. The city has a plan in place to 1.) remove trees as affected and 2.) plant 6-8 new trees annually. Some mitigation efforts were implemented for the lagoon, however flooding in 2024 indicated a greater need that that addressed. Several other projects benefitting community resilience include the following.

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

An assessment of records in the NOAA Storm Event database include three reports from Merrill.

<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>
<a href="#">MERRILL</a>	8/31/2020	3:37	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MERRILL</a>	4/19/2023	19:39	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">MERRILL</a>	4/16/2024	13:10	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Some areas housing critical facilities were raised in 2018/2019. Despite those efforts, flooding as occurred in 2024 affected the city's lagoon located on the east side of the river, outside the city's formal boundary. Resulting in severe damages, the FEMA recovery process was underway at the time of the planning meeting. The city is interested in determining viable solutions to reduce the impact of future flood events (see 2025 projects table).

The presence of a high frequency rail line intersecting US-75 and cutting through town adds to concerns about Transportation Incidents and Hazardous Materials Incidents.

#### Priority Hazards

The city continues to consider the following as priority hazards, with the addition of Thunderstorms with Hail and Lightning as being the most prevalent and most likely to result in damage.

- Thunderstorm with Hail and Lightning
- Flooding
- Tornado/Windstorm
- Severe Winter Storm

#### e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

[Insert new projects table]

## 8. OYENS

### a. Profile

The City of Oyens is situated near the northeastern part of Plymouth County and occupies 0.09 square miles. Highway 3 is accessible from less than a mile, just south of the city. Highway 3 and K-64 are the closest main road connectors to surrounding communities. There is a Canadian National railroad line that travels east-west through the southern part of the city.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Oyens is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Maintenance, and Economic Development. The Volunteer Fire Department is independent of the city and staffs about 22 volunteer firefighters. Oyens contracts with the county for law enforcement and Emergency Management.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

CensusReporter.gov estimates the population of Oyens at 89 in 2023<sup>15</sup>, showing a slight decrease from 92 residents recorded in 2020 census numbers. The town is home to 32 households, with a relatively high median household income of \$96,250, indicating a strong economic standing. Although no specific poverty data is available, the community's income level suggests a relatively stable financial environment. However, city staff believes income and population estimates in determined from the 2020 census as well as American Community Survey estimates since to greatly misrepresent the actual population and relative income. A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) guided income survey is currently underway to determine actual Low-to-Moderate-Income rates.

In Oyens, there are an estimated 32 total housing units, all of which are occupied, reflecting a fully utilized housing stock. None of the units are vacant or classified as mobile homes. The majority of the housing structures were built between 1990 and 2000, with a smaller portion built before 1990, and a notable number of homes were built in 2000 or later. This indicates a relatively newer housing market with stable occupancy.

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<sup>15</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1960780-oyens-ia/>



### Leading Employers

Oyens has a few small businesses in town. The following are notable employers.

- Central Valley Ag
- US Post Office
- CVA Storage

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

City Hall	230 Main St
Fire Station	
Well House	401 Park St
Water Plant Shed	

Once established, the City Park will be included as a critical facility and gathering location for Oyens. It is important to note the above listed employers also serve as potential gathering locations. City Hall serves as command center and refuge location in the event of emergency. The Fire Department has a connection to a generator on county property that runs the sheds.

### Valuation of City Assets

A current valuation of assets is not immediately available. However, based on valuation increases for communities throughout the region, the 2019 valuation of \$474,360 has likely increased between 20 and 50% in the last five years. Investments expected through planned projects may have an exponential impact on cost-benefit analyses applied to mitigation projects.

#### b. Participation

Facilitated by SIMPCO and Plymouth County EMA Coordinator Rebecca Socknat, a planning meeting was held on February 21, 2025 at the county EMA office. The following were in attendance.

- Donna Paulsen, Mayor
- Julie Athens, City Clerk

Further input was collected via survey with three of Plymouth County's 65 responses indicating Oyens as place of residence.

#### c. Community Capabilities

<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
Zoning Ordinance	
Nuisance Ordinance	
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	
NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) Participant	
ISO Fire Rating	Class 9/10
Staff/Department	Comments
Emergency Response Team	Yes, Fire and Rescue (no ambulance)
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water and sewer services	
Impact fees for new development through TIF	
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• general obligation bonds</li><li>• special tax bonds</li><li>• private activities</li></ul>

Much of the city's maintenance is contracted – lagoon, water, snow removal, utilities, and street repairs.

An income survey to determine CDBG eligibility is underway. Based on interactions with population, the city expects drastically different outcomes than those determined through 2020 decennial census estimates.

#### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Oyens did not have any projects included in the 2020 HMP. Projects completed were in line with routine maintenance with mitigation measures sustained or improved in the process, for example in street repairs.

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

Floodplain carries through south of city limits and surrounds (but does not overlap) the lagoon. As Plymouth County Floodplain maps are in preliminary stages, those determinations may change – especially when the frequency and intensity of local flooding is in a cycle of annual increases. Infrastructure plans, especially regarding water system improvements, will fully consider the potential changes in the final maps with specific attention given to the 500-year floodplain.

The city is looking into establishing a city park. A committee is in place and preliminary plans include a shelter that would serve as storm refuge as well as shade in extreme heat conditions. The city is also planning water systems improvements with the schedule being highly reliant on funding opportunities. At present, city water is testing at a high level for nitrates. The project is primarily a public health measure. Wastewater improvements are incorporated in the project as are mitigation efforts that protect the infrastructure from flooding and allow for, at minimum, generator connections. Pending fund availability and final engineering, a dedicated generator is expected to be part of the project. The shelter and generator aspects are included as projects for Oyens in this Plan. A mobile generator is available through the County as needed. However in the event of a large scale disaster, it may already be designated for an another use.

Water main capacity constrains the city's ISO Fire Rating with local infrastructure not meeting the 6" or greater size requirement. The city does not have independent ambulance services.

In addition to community conditions as outlined above, an assessment of NOAA Storm Event database records provides the following events specific to Oyens.

<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>
<a href="#">OYENS</a>	5/10/2023	23:40	Hail	1.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">OYENS</a>	5/10/2023	23:42	Hail	2.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">OYENS</a>	4/16/2024	13:22	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Oyens is included in the represented area indicated by Plymouth (Zone) within the NOAA system, noting general effects of regional weather conditions as noted for 102 reports. Oyens student population attend classes in the MMCRU and Le Mars school districts, highlighting importance of passable roadways in inclement weather conditions.

#### Priority Hazards

The following hazard priority designations are carried over from the 2020 plan as their relative impacts are still of significant concern to the community.

- Tornado/Windstorm
- Thunderstorm w/Hail & Lightning
- Grass and Wildland Fire

A lightning strike cost the community \$35,000 in damages. Infrastructure failure ranks closely to those noted with particular concern for water quality and lagoon function.

#### e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

The city needs to look at opportunities to replace the propane tank for city hall to ensure function in the event of an emergency.

[insert project table]

## 9. REMSEN

### a. Profile

The City of Remsen is situated in the northeast quadrant of Plymouth County, occupying 1.27 square miles. Highway 3 is the main road that connects Remsen to surrounding communities and delineates much of the town's southern border. A Canadian National railroad line travels east-west through the center of town, following much of Remsen's northern border.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Remsen is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Street Department, Sanitation Department, Utility Board, and Wastewater Department. Remsen City has a volunteer Fire Department in place. The Department staffs twenty members, headed by one Fire Chief and three officer/personnel positions. Outside of preventing and extinguishing fires, the Fire Department also takes on the responsibility of answering all emergency calls for which there is no other established agency (<http://www.remseniowa.org/>).

City staff designates the Legion Hall as a significant support entity to community's well-being. Additional community supports are specified in the discussion of [Community Capabilities](#). Remsen contracts with the county for law enforcement and Emergency Management, but has a Fire and Response team.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

CensusReporter.gov estimates Remsen's population increased to 1,897<sup>16</sup> in 2023, up from 1,678 in 2020, indicating steady growth. The town is home to 677 households and boasts a median household income of \$98,250, suggesting a strong economic foundation. With only 4.1% of residents living below the poverty line, Remsen appears to be a financially stable community, reflecting positive economic trends.

Remsen has a total of 727 housing units, with 676 currently occupied, indicating a high occupancy rate and a relatively low number of vacancies. The housing stock includes 51 mobile

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<sup>16</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1966405-remsen-ia/>

homes. A significant portion of homes were built in 2000 or later, while smaller but equal shares were constructed in the 1990s and before 1990. This suggests a community with a predominantly newer housing base and ongoing residential development.

### Leading Employers

MMC & RU Community School Districts	Marcus & Remsen offices
Happy Siesta Nursing Home	423 Roosevelt Ave,
Mid-Sioux Opportunity	418 S Marion St
Farmers' Cooperative	6 S Washington
Bavarian Meadows	632 L14 # 130
Gengler Feed	002 S Marion St
Wells Enterprises	(Region employer) Le Mars, IA

### Critical Facilities

City Hall	008 W 2 <sup>nd</sup> St
Police Dept	205 Fulton
Fire Dept & Municipal Garage	108-112 1 <sup>st</sup> St
Remsen Public Library	209 Fulton St, Remsen, IA 51050
Maintenance Bldg	215 Fulton St
Well/Reservoir	124 E Nothem Ave
Well Field	North of Remsen
Water Tower	801 Madison St
Remsen Swimming Pool & Related	209 Lincoln St,
Thelen Park; Football Field; North Park	
Garage	122 Marion
Sunrise Park & Shelter House	515 E 3 <sup>rd</sup> St
Beck Park & Shelter House	105 Madison St
Old Light Plant	125 E 1 <sup>st</sup> St
Ambulance Bldg	109 Fulton
Shop/Utility Bldg	320 S Marion St
Storage	16267 L12
Main Lift Station & Lab	Marion St
Remsen Cemetery	

Niggeling Ball Park & Related	Nothem Ave
Baseball Field & Related	
Water Treatment Facilities & Related	400 Lagoon Rd
Derby Arena	Marion St

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

MMC & RU Middle School	511 Roosevelt Ave, Remsen
RU Remsen Elementary (Pk-4)	
Avalon Ballroom	114 Fulton St
Remsen Golf Course	506 W 5 <sup>th</sup> St
<i>Outside city limits</i>	
Meadow Wildlife Area	45597 140 <sup>th</sup> Street
Rufus B. Hatch Memorial Grassland	Intersection of L22 and 140 <sup>th</sup> Street
Kohler Memorial Grassland	near 150 <sup>th</sup> St and Quest Ave

Locations indicated under leading employers are also considered as gathering locations and areas of interest. Similarly, gathering locations outside city limits are included as visitors during special events may temporarily cause a significant increase in population affecting resource availability in hazardous conditions.

### Valuation of City Assets

Building	\$	17,504,426	RC
Personal Property	\$	1,462,083	RC
Property in the Open	\$	<u>8,238,220</u>	<u>RC</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>27,204,729</u></b>	

#### b. Participation

A mitigation planning meeting was facilitated by SIMPCO at Remsen City Hall on February 25, 2025 with the following in attendance.

- Rachel Keffeler, City Administrator
- Mike Wurth, Public Works Superintendent

Additional input was provided through survey response with five of Plymouth County's respondents indicating residence in Remsen.

#### c. Community Capabilities

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	
Builder's Plan - through Zoning Administrator	
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Regulations Ordinance - IPMC by reference w/exceptions (2019) adopted 5/2024</li> <li>• Dangerous Buildings Ordinance</li> <li>• Drainage Ordinance</li> <li>• Floodplain Ordinance</li> <li>• Historic Preservation Ordinance</li> <li>• Nuisance Ordinance</li> <li>• Open Burning Restrictions</li> <li>• Storm Water Ordinance</li> <li>• Subdivision Ordinance</li> <li>• Tree Ordinance</li> <li>• Well Protection</li> <li>• Zoning Regulations Ordinance</li> </ul>	
<i>Programs</i>	
Zoning/Land Use Restrictions	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190480
ISO Fire Rating	Class 5/8B
<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Building Code Official	Zoning Administrator
Public Works Official	
Emergency Response Team	Yes, Fire and Rescue
Historic Preservation	
Museum Board	
<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	
Veterans Groups	American Legion Pieper
Chamber of Commerce	
Community Organizations	Lions Club
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Ability to apply for Community Development Block Grants	



Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, gas, and electric services	
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> <li>• special tax bonds</li> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>

### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Actions taken to improve community resilience in Remsen include a water systems improvement project involving water main replacements, funded in part by CDBG. Projects completed in response to planned strategies in the 2020 plan include one amended addition as included in the following table.

[insert project update table]

Other work that contributes to local resiliency includes tiling work as completed on the Golf Course improving drainage systems on Country Club and Celebrity with one storm drain on each 24" tile. Runoff flows to the pond. Project cost was \$22,000 in materials. Labor was completed by Golf Course employees.

### d. Risk Assessment

#### Contributing Factors

An assessment of the recorded events specific to Remsen includes eight reports. This is separate from the 102 Plymouth (Zone) events reported that also affected the area.

<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>
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	8/18/2022	18:00	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/19/2023	20:04	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/16/2024	13:21	Thunderstorm Wind	61 kts. EG	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	14:56	Hail	0.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	15:00	Hail	0.75 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	15:02	Hail	0.88 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	4/30/2024	15:04	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">REMSEN</a>	5/20/2024	18:50	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K

### Priority Hazards

- Infrastructure Failure
- Tornado / Windstorm
- Thunderstorm with Hail & Lightning

Shown above in order of greatest concern, the city includes Flooding to the list. City flood-related expense is mainly focused on washout from uncontrolled runoff during flash flood events. Survey responses indicated Severe Winter Storm as a notable concern in addition to the city's #2 & #3 considerations. When asked to select the top three hazards, respondents selected Severe Winter Storm (4/5), Tornado/Windstorm (3/5) with the highest frequency. Transportation Incident and Terrorism were also noted.

#### e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

The city is in the process of moving its utilities underground. The \$1.2M project is in progress and set for completion in 2026. Additional mitigation-specific strategies to be implemented in the next five years are included in the following project table.

[insert project table]

## 10. STRUBLE

#### a. Profile

The City of Struble lies near the northern-most border of Plymouth County, and occupies .016 square miles. Highway 75 is the closest man road that connects Struble to surrounding communities. Less than a mile east of the city, Highway 75 travels north and south. West Branch Floyd River also runs north/south, less than half a mile east of the city.

### City Governance & Community Supports

The City of Struble is governed by an elected Council and Mayor, and appointed City Clerk. Struble contracts with the county for law enforcement. The city does not have a Fire-Rescue department, but contracts with the City of Maurice (Sioux County) Fire and Rescue.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

Struble had a population of 71 in 2023<sup>17</sup>, reflecting a small increase from 67 residents in 2020. The town consists of 30 households and has a median household income of \$59,167. Despite the modest population growth and moderate income level, about 21.4% of residents live below the poverty line, indicating that a portion of the community may be experiencing economic hardship.

Struble has a total of 30 housing units, all of which are occupied, indicating full utilization of its housing stock. The community includes a small number of mobile homes. A majority of the homes were built in 2000 or later, with additional units constructed in the 1990s and a few dating back to before 1990. This suggests that Struble's housing is relatively modern, with most residents living in newer homes.

### Leading Employers

While hosting relatively small employee populations, Struble recognizes Urban's Lawn Care as its leading employers.

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

City Hall	210 William St
City Maintenance Shop	305 Main St
Town Hall	Block 7 Elgin Twp
City Park	(adjacent to City Hall)
Shelter House	Lot 11-13 Block 12

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<sup>17</sup> [censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1975945-struble-ia/](https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1975945-struble-ia/)

### Valuation of City Assets

Valuation of assets as provided is based on the city's current insurance policy and does not necessarily provide full scope of public properties and equipment. This serves as a foundation for cost-benefit considerations when determining project scope and relative impacts. Further analysis including all properties/assets within the area of potential effect of a given project will accompany an application for mitigation funds or may be included as a deliverable in a scoping project or study.

Building	\$	349,350
Personal Property	\$	<u>30,108</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>379,458</u></b>

#### b. Participation

Facilitated by SIMPCO, a mitigation planning meeting was held at Struble City Hall on December 3, 2024 with the following in attendance.

- Marilyn Volmecke, City Clerk
- Mike Vander Molen, Mayor
- Linda Urban, Treasurer
- Bob Hughes, Councilmember
- Troy Hughes, Councilmember
- Shelbee Ropte, Councilmember
- Ken Urban, Councilmember
- Rick Weiler, Councilmember

In addition to the planning meeting, 9 of Plymouth County's survey respondents indicated residence as Struble.

#### c. Community Capabilities

A small community, Struble has limited local resources. However, there is a mutual aid agreement in place with all communities in Plymouth County response, with the Sheriff's department for law enforcement services, and with SCFR HazMat Response through the county as applicable. A border community, Struble also collaborates with nearby communities in Sioux

County. Fire and rescue services are contracted with Maurice. Struble may also benefit from all supports as provided through county and regional programs as listed in their respective profiles. The following funding resources are available options for the City of Struble.

<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Ability to apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Ability to fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Authority to levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Ability to incur debt through:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> <li>• special tax bonds</li> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>

#### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

[Insert updates]

The city completed other work as needed in recent years in terms of response as well as mitigation. Tree removal is completed to reduce potential effects of dead/diseased trees. The city is moving forward with tree replacement in the park and other public properties outside of parking. Scheduled ditch clearing was completed is on a monitoring schedule to prevent blockages that may escalate flash flooding instances. Funds as allocated from the 2019 floods were used to regravel heavily damaged roads. City Hall has a new roof that serves to help sustain that structure.

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

Steps taken to improve resilience have been modest due to lack of available funds. However, projects as implemented have all taken mitigation into account, maximizing return on investment. At present, access to/from Struble is severely restricted with bridges out at each the north and south ends of town. Without a local fire department, the city is fully reliant on mutual aid agreements for emergency response. Concerns for fire response, especially with recently prevalent drought conditions, serve as impetus for including acquisition of a tanker in

their mitigation strategies. As residents serve on nearby volunteer departments, training to operate the tanker can be part of routine certifications.

A more complicated risk is that of hazardous materials incidents as BNSF railroad line runs through town. Depending on materials in transport and other factors involved in the incident, immediate action is critical.

Flooding remains a priority concern due to a high water table. A moderate or heavy rain will routinely result in some basement flooding.

A review of NOAA Storm Event database shows 3 recorded events between 11/1/2019 and 12/31/2024, all of which occurred in 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>
<a href="#">STRUBLE</a>	4/16/2024	13:00	Tornado	EF1	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">STRUBLE</a>	6/22/2024	2:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">STRUBLE</a>	6/22/2024	14:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

### Priority Hazards

Priority hazards are based on frequency/likelihood of occurrence, potential for catastrophic loss or damage, and ability (or lack thereof) to mitigate without outside supports.

- Flood
- Tornado/Windstorm
- Grass and Wildland Fire

Other natural disasters and other hazards on the city's radar are drought and infrastructure failure – one increases risk of priority concerns, the other prohibits prompt response.

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

Following are Struble's identified strategies to improve their mitigative opportunities and resilience.

[insert project table]

## 11. WESTFIELD

a. Profile

Westfield is the western-most incorporated city along the border of Plymouth County and occupies about 0.13 square miles. It is located on the northern edge of the "Loess Hills" landform leading to designation of the local portion of Highway 12 as the Loess Hills Scenic Byway. IA-12 is the main road that connects Westfield to surrounding communities and runs north-south through the City. County Road C38, just south of town, connects Westfield to Le Mars. The Big Sioux River runs north-south less than a mile west of the city, and the Dakota and Iowa Railroad (DAIR #211) passes north-south through the center of the city.

### City Governance & Community Supports

Westfield is governed by a five-person elected Council and the Mayor. Offices in addition to Mayor and Council include City Clerk, Maintenance, and contracted water/wastewater supervisor.

Ambulance services are contracted with the City of Akron. Akron Fire/Ambulance provides pre-hospital patient care and ambulance service. A 28E Agreement is in place between all Plymouth County Communities and the Plymouth County EMA for Emergency Management.

### Demographics, Housing, & Economics

In 2023, CensusReporter.org estimates Westfield's population at 133<sup>18</sup>, showing a modest increase from 123 residents in 2020. The town is home to 70 households and has a median household income of \$60,000, indicating a relatively stable economic base. With only 4.5% of residents living below the poverty line, Westfield appears to maintain a solid level of financial well-being within the community.

Westfield has a total of 84 housing units, with 70 currently occupied and 14 standing vacant. The town includes 8 mobile homes as part of its housing stock. Most of the residential structures were built in 2000 or later, reflecting a relatively modern housing landscape. A smaller number of homes were constructed in the 1990s and before 1990, indicating that much of the community's housing is fairly new.

### Leading Employers

- The Station
- Hummer's Roadhouse
- Steve McMahon Trucking
- Price Auction House
- Marilyn's Beauty Shop

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

City Hall	223 Union St.
Westfield Baseball Field & Related	Plymouth St & Lindon St.
Westfield City Park, Shelter, & Playground	Union & Elm St.
Loess Hills Welcome Center	320 Union
(New) City Shed/Garage	Elm
Lift Station & Lagoon	(South end) Railroad Dr

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<sup>18</sup> Source: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1984090-westfield-ia/>



(New) Water Treatment Plant	Elm St
Community Center	215 Linden St
<i>Community Gathering Locations/Vulnerable Populations</i>	
Westfield Congregational Church	224 Linden St
<i>Outside City Limits</i>	
Birkley's Bend	26779 Highway 12
E.C. Lippke Wetland	11132 240th Street
Five Ridge Prairie	15561 260th St
Millsite River Access	10001 Highway 3

## Valuation of City Assets

Total Building	\$	811,014
Total Personal Property	\$	163,334
Total Property in the Open	\$	<u>213,980</u>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>1,188,328</u></b>

### b. Participation

Facilitated by SIMPCO, a virtual mitigation planning meeting was held via Teams on February 17, 2025 with the following in attendance.

- Jenny Hartman-Mendoza, Mayor
- Karen Wardrip, City Clerk

### c. Community Capabilities

<i>Plans/Guidance Documents</i>	
Comprehensive Plan	
Land Use Plan	Future Land Use w/in Comp Plan
<i>Policies/Ordinance</i>	
Permitting process governed by Ordinance	
<i>Programs</i>	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	CID #190482

<i>Staff/Department</i>	
Public Works Official	
<i>Local Funding Availability</i>	
Apply for Community Development Block Grants	
Fund projects through Capital Improvements funding	
Levy taxes for a specific purpose	
Fees for water, sewer, and electric services	
Ability to incur debt through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general obligation bonds</li> <li>• special tax bonds</li> <li>• private activities</li> </ul>

In addition to policy and procedural supports, the city has some equipment in place to reduce the potential effects of natural disasters and other hazards. One generator is in place at the lift station, and one is at the community center for emergency use. Additional generators are needed. Response teams are not centered in Westfield so basic preliminary on-site actions may serve to stabilize situations (power outages, command center establishment, refuge location, etc.). City staff uses the City's UTV to access lagoon when roads are washed out.

The city has undertaken a zoning and land use update to better accommodate practical land use with some changes between commercial and residential designated lots where applicable. The city also transitioned some parcels from Ag to Commercial.

#### Review of Actions Taken (Since 2019)

Westfield included one mitigation strategy in the 2020 plan as shown in the following update table.

[insert project update table]

Other projects completed that improve local resilience include the following.

- City projects (totaling \$120,000):
  - Road to lagoon repaired, improving access in inclement weather conditions
  - Fencing repaired

- Scheduled berm repair completed (though additional work is noted in current mitigation strategies section)
- Removal of dead/diseased trees in city right of way is in progress, completed as needed. The County is addressing ditch trees.
- Impactful private property work:
  - Private dyke that had collapsed was repaired (\$35,000)

A Water Treatment Plant is in progress. Westfield has added two buildings to its inventory and added a concessions stand to the city ballfields.

#### d. Risk Assessment

##### Contributing Factors

An assessment of records in the NOAA Storm Event database includes seven reports specific to Westfield in addition to the 102 attributed to Plymouth (Zone) as likely experienced throughout the county.

<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>
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	3/30/2020	7:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	3.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	4/1/2020	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	6/21/2020	5:34	Thunderstorm Wind	56 kts. EG	0	0	1.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	8/14/2020	13:54	Hail	1.00 in.	0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	4/12/2023	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	6/21/2024	16:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K
<a href="#">WESTFIELD</a>	7/1/2024	0:00	Flood		0	0	0.00K	0.00K

Additional consideration is given to the six mobile homes located in city limits.

##### Priority Hazards

The City carried over the following as priority hazards.

- Flood
- Thunderstorm w/Hail & Lightning

- Tornado/Windstorm

e. Mitigation Needs, Actions, & Strategies

[insert 2025 proj list]