3 | Planning Process

3.1 Methodology

The Planning Process chapter describes the steps involved in the development of the 2025 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan, including details about who participated, how community involvement was organized and promoted throughout the community, what hazards were included in the Plan and why, as well as how stakeholder involvement played a critical role in the planning process. This chapter also explains how the Core Planning Committee was formed and how member feedback contributed to the updating of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

3.2 Existing Plans & Regulations

Clinton County and the State of Ohio maintain several plans and tools that were pertinent to reference in the development of the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan, including:

- 2021 Clinton County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
- 2024 State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan (SOHMP)
- Zoning Regulations for all Townships
- Clinton County Subdivision Regulations

3.3 Clinton County Authority to Adopt Plan

The Clinton County Board of Commissioners are elected at large for four-year terms. The board members are the budgeting, appropriating, taxing, and purchasing authority. The Clinton County Planning Commission was established by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners in conformance with Section 713.21 of the Ohio Revised Code. The authority to adopt plans comes from statutory law and from Chapter 307 of the Ohio Revised Code. **Table 3.3.1** lists the existing authorities and regulations in place in Clinton County and its municipalities.

Through Titles 3 and 7 of the Ohio Revised Code, the county and all municipal corporations have the authority to establish, maintain, and improve a large number of jurisdictional capabilities listed in **Table 3.3.1.** However, their ability to establish, maintain, or improve upon these capabilities vary based on their respective need, political will, and financial capacity. Compared to larger communities, smaller jurisdictions may have the same authority enabled to them by the Ohio Revised Code, but have less ability to establish, maintain, or improve these capabilities.

Table 3.3.1: Existing Authorities and Regulations in Clinton County's Municipalities

Community	Planning Commission	Comprehensive Plan	Floodplain Regulation	Building Codes*	Zoning Codes	Capital Budget	Public Works Budget
Clinton County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
City of Wilmington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Blanchester	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited in-kind wages only

Community	Planning Commission	Comprehensive Plan	Floodplain Regulation	Building Codes*	Zoning Codes	Capital Budget	Public Works Budget
Village of Clarksville	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Martinsville	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Midland	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of New Vienna	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Port William	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Sabina	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited in-kind wages only

* All jurisdictions within the state now follow the State Building Code (Ohio Administrative Code 4101:1)

3.4   Notification Process

Core Planning Committee members were invited to participate at the beginning of the planning process through a Kickoff Meeting announcement. Prior to each additional meeting, members of the Core Planning Committee were invited to participate via email notification. Representatives from the following entities were invited to participate in the planning process. Additionally, **Table 3.4.1** lists the participating jurisdictions and representatives and how they participated.

Clinton County

- Clinton County
- Clinton County EMA
- Clinton County Engineer's Office
- Clinton County Health District
- Clinton County History Center

- Clinton County Port Authority
- Clinton County Sheriff's Office
- Clinton County Solid Waste Management
- Clinton County Regional Planning Commission

City and Village Members

- City of Wilmington
- Village of Blanchester
- Village of Clarksville
- Village of Martinsville
- Village of Midland
- Village of New Vienna
- Village of Port William
- Village of Sabina

Township Members

- Adams Township
- Chester Township
- Clark Township
- Green Township
- Harrison Township
- Jefferson Township
- Liberty Township
- Marion Township
- Richland Township
- Union Township
- Vernon Township
- Washington Township
- Wayne Township
- Wilson Township

Local Schools and Universities

- Clinton-Massie Local School District
- Wilmington City Schools
- Wilmington College

Other Organizations

- AIM Media Midwest
- Alkermes
- American Red Cross
- Amazon
- Clinton Memorial Hospital
- Collet Services
- Council on Aging of SW Ohio
- Duke Energy
- Department of Public Safety Ohio
- Greene County EMA
- Help 4 Seniors
- Hitachi Astemo
- Kettering Health
- Laurel Health
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Nutrien Ag Solutions
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Ohio School Safety Center
- Linde Gas & Equipment Inc.
- RL Carriers
- Sunrise Co-Op
- The Health Collaborative
- The Salvation Army
- Warren County EMA
- Wilmington Air Park
- Wilmington Transit System

Table 3.4.1: Participating Jurisdictions

Community/ Organization	Stakeholders	Surveys Completed				Meetings Attended		
		Goals	Hazard Priorities	Previous Mitigation Actions	New Mitigation Actions	1	2	Other
County								
Clinton County	Mary Ann Foland – Administrator Brenda Woods - Commissioner Mike McCarty – Commissioner	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Clinton County EMA	Thomas Breckel – Director	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Clinton County Engineer's Office	Adam Fricke – Deputy Engineer Jeff Linkous – County Engineer	√	√	√		√		
Clinton County Health District	Katie Burwinkel – Director Tonja Ruther – Special Projects Coordinator	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Clinton County History Center	Shelby Boatman – Executive Director	√	√			√		
Clinton County Port Authority	Elizabeth Huber – Chief Operating Officer					√	√	
Clinton County Regional Planning Commission	Anya Tipton - Planner	√	√	√		√		
Clinton County Solid Waste	Jeff Walls – Coordinator	√	√			√	√	
Clinton Memorial Hospital	Shuan Luther– Emergency Preparedness Matt Gunderman – Asst. Administrator of Clinical Operations						√	
Jurisdictions								
City of Wilmington	Robert Wilson – Police Chief Andy Mason – Fire Chief Mike Crowe – City Service Director Samantha Ison – Deputy Service Director	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Village of Blanchester	John Carman – Mayor	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Community/ Organization	Stakeholders	Surveys Completed				Meetings Attended		
		Goals	Hazard Priorities	Previous Mitigation Actions	New Mitigation Actions	1	2	Other
Village of Clarksville	Nomi Woods - Mayor	√	√	√	√			√
Village of Martinsville	Jed Mountjoy - Mayor	√	√	√	√			√
Village of Midland	John Burris - Mayor	√	√	√	√			√
Village of New Vienna	Judy Havens – Mayor	√	√	√	√	√		√
Village of Port William	Robert Collins - Mayor	√	√	√	√			√
Village of Sabina	Joe Noland – Police chief	√	√	√	√	√		√
Other								
Adams Township	Kerry Steed – Commissioner	√	√	√		√		
Marion Township	Gregory Hefner – Trustee	√	√	√	√	√	√	

If representatives were unable to attend the virtual Core Planning Committee meetings, they participated via "Other" formats, including online surveys, as documented in **Appendix G**.

The following section details the meetings that took place during the planning process. Documentation of each meeting, including newspaper postings, email announcements and attachments, meeting materials, and completed surveys, can be found in **Appendix G**.

3.5 Meetings

Core Planning Committee Kick off

A kickoff announcement was emailed to stakeholders on October 30, 2024, inviting them to participate in the 2025 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan update process as part of the Core Planning Committee. All kickoff materials were made available on the project's website (http://www.burtonplanning.com/Clinton-hmp).

The Announcement outlined the following details regarding the planning process:

- Goals of the Hazard Mitigation Plan
- A summary of who is involved in the planning process
- Federal requirements of the hazard mitigation planning process
- An overview of the hazard mitigation planning process
- The proposed schedule for the Clinton County Plan update
- The role of the Core Planning Committee in the update process
- Contact information for both Clinton County EMA and Burton Planning Services
- Dates, times, and Microsoft Teams links of upcoming Core Planning and Public Meetings

Core Planning Meeting and Public Meeting 1

The first meetings were open to both the core planning members and the public. They were held both virtually and in-person on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 1:00 P.M and at 5:00 P.M at the Clinton County Administrative Campus. The meetings began with a brief introduction from a Burton Planning

Services (BPS) representative. This introduction included a description of the in-person and virtual engagement process, including multiple options for participants to sign into the meeting. Participants who attended virtually were reminded multiple times throughout the course of the meeting to sign in using the online survey, via the chat function, or by sending an email to the County EMA or BPS. Participants who attended in person used the sign-in sheets to document attendance. The introduction also informed attendees that they could ask questions using the chat feature, or by unmuting themselves and asking their questions at any time throughout the meeting.

A BPS representative then guided the attendees through a presentation which detailed the hazard mitigation planning process, including requirements of the planning process, potential hazards that could be addressed, benefits of hazard mitigation planning, and potential types of projects that could be federally funded because of the hazard mitigation plan. BPS also described the role that the Core Planning Committee would serve in the development of the 2025 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A total of 28 people attended the afternoon meeting, including the Clinton County EMA Director. Representatives from the City of Wilmington, Village of Blanchester, Village of Sabina, Adams Township, Clinton County Health District, Clinton County History Center, Clinton County Port Authority, Clinton County Regional Planning Commission, Clinton County Solid Waste Management District, Clinton County Engineer's Office, and Clinton County Commissioners were also in attendance. In addition, representatives from Alkermes, Amazon, the American Red Cross, Astemo, Department of Public Safety Ohio, Duke Energy, Clinton Massie Local Schools, and Wilmington City Schools attended this afternoon meeting.

A total of six people attended the evening meeting, including the Clinton County EMA Director as well as representatives from the City of Wilmington, Village of New Vienna, Marion Township, and Wilmington College. In addition, one member of the public attended the evening meeting. Another four members of the public participated by completing surveys online via Survey Monkey.

Following the completion of the presentation, a BPS representative guided the attendees through three surveys, detailed below. Each participant was provided with multiple methods of completing the survey, including a physical hard copy of the survey, a fillable PDF that could be completed on their computer, or an online version. Links to survey locations were provided throughout the meeting. Public input was requested using social media and news releases.

Goals Survey

The purpose of this survey was to reflect on the goals included in the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan to determine if they were still relevant to the 2025 Plan. Each attendee reviewed the previous goals and determined if they were still applicable, provided comments or edits to the goals that needed to be changed, and generated new goals to potentially be included in the 2025 Plan.

Discussion on the Goals Survey centered around the relevance of the goals. Attendees indicated a preference for adding a goal related to water treatment and water delivery systems. Other attendees mentioned the relevance of invasive species to the Plan.

Hazard Priority Survey

The purpose of this survey was to review all hazards that could be included in the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan and prioritize them. As such, attendees were asked to rate each hazard on a scale of zero to five, with five meaning the hazard poses the greatest possible threat to the County or their community and zero meaning the hazard should not be included in the 2025 Plan. Attendees rated hazards that were included in the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as all potential hazards that could be included in the 2025 Plan.

Following the completion of this survey, BPS guided a discussion on which hazards were deemed to be most important and which hazards attendees did not think needed to be included. As mentioned above, attendees emphasized invasive species during this part of the meeting.

Previous Mitigation Actions Status Survey

The purpose of the Previous Mitigation Actions Status Survey was to have attendees review the mitigation actions that were included in the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan, reflect on the status of each action, and determine if that action should be included in the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Core Planning Meeting and Public Meeting 2

The second meetings were open to both the core planning members and the public. They were held both virtually and in-person on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. and at 5:00 P.M. at the Clinton County Administrative Campus. The meetings began with a brief introduction from a Burton Planning Services (BPS) representative. This introduction included a description of the in-person and virtual engagement process, including multiple options for participants to sign into the meeting. Participants who attended virtually were reminded multiple times throughout the course of the meeting to sign in using the online survey, via the chat function, or by sending an email to the County EMA or BPS. Participants who attended in-person used the sign-in sheets for attendance. The introduction also informed online attendees that they could ask questions using the chat feature, or by unmuting themselves and asking their questions at any time throughout the meeting.

A BPS representative then guided the attendees through a presentation which detailed the hazard mitigation planning process, including requirements of the planning process, potential hazards that could be addressed, benefits of hazard mitigation planning, and potential types of projects that could be federally funded because of the hazard mitigation plan. BPS also described the role that the Core Planning Committee would serve in the development of the 2025 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A total of 19 people attended the afternoon meeting, including the Clinton County EMA Director, and representatives of the Clinton County Health District, Clinton County Solid Waste Management, City of Wilmington, Villages of Blanchester and Sabina, Clinton Memorial Hospital, Wilmington College, Hitachi-Astemo, and the Ohio School Safety Center. The director of the Greene County EMA and a representative of the Warren County EMA were also in attendance.

A total of four people attended the evening meeting, including the Clinton County EMA Director and representatives of Marion Township, Wilmington Air Park and Clinton Massie Schools.

Following the completion of the presentation, a BPS representative guided the attendees through a survey detailed below. Each participant was provided with multiple methods of completing the survey, including a physical hard copy of the survey, a fillable PDF that could be completed on their computer, or an online version. Links to survey locations were provided throughout the meeting. Public input was requested using social media.

Hazard Mitigation Action Scoring Matrix

The purpose of this survey was to reflect on the hazard mitigation actions included in the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan to determine if they were still relevant to the 2025 Plan. New mitigation actions were developed for the 2025 Plan, and these actions were presented to the Core Planning Committee. Participants were asked to score the actions based on their priority for their jurisdiction. Participants were also told that the wording for the mitigation actions may be altered to better align with the needs of their communities. The remainder of the meeting functioned as a working session, where participants were able to ask questions as they completed their surveys. Once complete, the meeting was adjourned.

3.6   Public Comment Period

The 2025 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan was made available to the public and Core Planning Committee for review for a 30-day public comment period, ending on August 11, 2025. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was made available for review online on the project's website and paper copies were available at the Clinton County EMA's office. Comments from stakeholders were addressed in the plan. Clinton County's efforts to include the public and core planning members can be found in **Appendix G.**