

## **Community Profile**

# **Village of Firth**

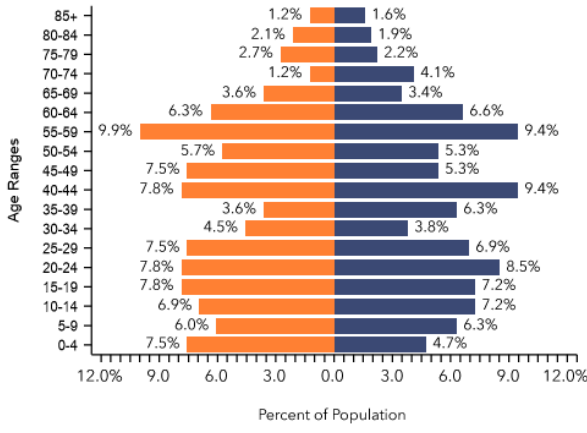
## **Lower Platte South NRD Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update**

# Community Summary Fact Sheet

Firth Village, NE  
Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025

**651**  
Population
**38.7**  
Median Age
**\$111,622**  
Median Household Income
**\$436,842**  
Median Home Value
**0.0%**  
Unemployment Rate
**8%**  
Households Below the Poverty Level


## AGE PYRAMID




## TOTAL POPULATION

2023 Total Population (Estimate)	651
2020 Total Population (U.S. Census)	649
2010 Total Population (U.S. Census)	633
2000 Total Population (U.S. Census)	487


## AT RISK POPULATION



**68**  
Households With Disability

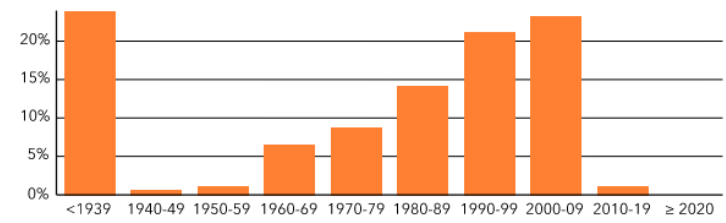


**78**  
Population 65+




**0**  
Households Without Vehicle


## HOUSING: YEAR BUILT



## COMMUTER

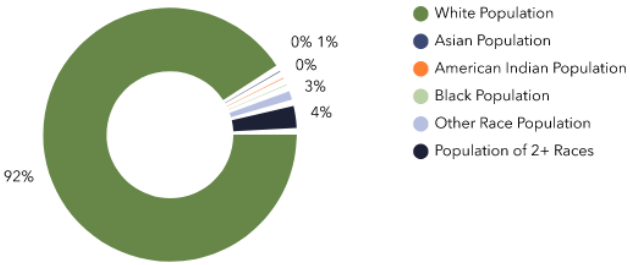


**0%**  
Workers Who Took Public Transportation




**0%**  
90+ Minute Commute


## POPULATION BY RACE




## HOUSING



**5%**  
Vacant Housing Units



**9%**  
Renter Households



**1%**  
Mobile Homes

 **Source:** Esri, U.S. Census, ACS. Esri forecasts for 2023, 2020, 2010, 2000, 2017-2021, 2028.

## Local Planning Team

The Village of Firth’s local planning team for this hazard mitigation plan update are listed in the table below, along with their involvement. All planning worksheets were filled out and returned by members of the local planning team.

### Local Planning Team

Name	Title	Jurisdiction	Engagement
Jill Hoefler	Village Clerk	Village of Firth	Attended Meetings
Kami Beaty	Village Board Chair	Village of Firth	

## Plan Maintenance

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

The Village Clerk, Maintenance, and Board Chair will be responsible for reviewing and updating the community profile outside of the five-year update. The Village of Firth will review the plan bi-annually and the public will be notified during board meetings and through website updates.

## Location and Geography

The Village of Firth is on the southern border of Lancaster County, half a mile north of the Gage County line and directly adjacent to the Big Nemaha River Reservoir 11A. The Village covers an area of 0.28 square miles. There are two major waterways near the town. The largest is the Big Nemaha River Reservoir 11A, on the east side of town. The second is the Middle Branch of the Nemaha River, which flows north-to-south on the southwest side of town.

## Capability Assessment

The planning team assessed the Village of Firth’s hazard mitigation capabilities by reviewing planning and regulatory capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, fiscal capabilities, and education and outreach capabilities.

### Capability Assessment

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
<b>Planning &amp; Regulatory Capability</b>	Comprehensive Plan	Yes, updated 2019
	Capital Improvements Plan	No
	Economic Development Plan	No
	Emergency Operations Plan	Yes, County
	Floodplain Management Plan	Yes – as part of Comprehensive Plan
	Storm Water Management Plan	No
	Zoning Ordinance	Yes
	Subdivision Regulation/Ordinance	Yes
	Floodplain Ordinance	Yes
	Building Codes	Yes

Section Seven | Village of Firth Community Profile

Capability/Planning Mechanism		Yes/No
	Water System Emergency Response Plan	Yes
	Wellhead Protection Plan	Yes
	National Flood Insurance Program	Yes
	Community Rating System	No
	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>Administrative &amp; Technical Capability</b>	Planning Commission	Yes
	Floodplain Administrator	Yes
	GIS Capabilities	Yes
	Chief Building Official	Yes
	Civil Engineering	Yes
	Grant Manager	No
	Mutual Aid Agreement	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>Fiscal Capability</b>	1- & 6-Year Plan	Yes
	Applied for Grants in the Past	Yes
	Awarded a Grant in the Past	Yes
	Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects	Yes
	Gas/Electric Service Fees	No
	Storm Water Service Fees	No
	Water/Sewer Service Fees	Yes
	Development Impact Fees	Yes
	General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	Yes
	Other (if any)	-
<b>Education &amp; Outreach Capability</b>	Local Citizen Groups or Non-Profit Organizations Focused on Environmental Protection, Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs Populations, etc.	No
	Ongoing Public Education or Information Program (e.g., Responsible Water Use, Fire Safety, Household Preparedness, Environmental Education)	No
	Natural Disaster or Safety Related School Programs	No
	StormReady Certification	No
	Firewise Communities Certification	No
	Tree City USA	No
	Other (if any)	-

**Firth Overall Capability**

Capability	2020 Plan Limited/Moderate/High	2025 Plan Limited/Moderate/High
Financial Resources to Implement Mitigation Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Staff/Expertise to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Public Support to Implement Projects	Moderate	Moderate
Time to Devote to Hazard Mitigation	Moderate	Limited
Ability to Expand and Improve the Identified Capabilities to Achieve Mitigation	-	Limited

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

The Village of Firth has a floodplain ordinance which requires permits for development within flood risk hazard areas. The village clerk serves as the Floodplain Administrator and is responsible for reviewing and approving all floodplain permits. Flood maps from the FEMA Flood Map Service Center are reviewed to determine if the property is located in a floodplain or floodway. The village enforces local floodplain regulations with the help from the county or state.

The Firth ordinance notes: *Within identified special flood hazard areas of the Village, no development shall be located, extended, converted or structurally altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations. No person, firm or corporation shall initiate any floodplain development or substantial improvement or cause the same to be done without first obtaining a separate permit for development.*

*New Development. Subdivision proposals and other proposed new development, including manufactured home parks or subdivisions, be required to assure that (1) all such proposals are consistent with the need to minimize flood damage, (2) all public utilities and facilities, such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems are located, elevated and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage, (3) adequate drainage is provided so as to reduce exposure to flood hazards, and (4) proposals for development (including proposals for manufactured home parks and subdivision) of 5 acres or 50 lots, whichever is lesser, include within such proposals the base flood elevation.*

**NFIP Information**

NFIP Overview	
Date of NFIP Participation:	4/15/1981
Floodplain Administrator:	Jill Hoefler
Is Floodplain Administrator a Certified Floodplain Manager?	No
Is Floodplain Management an Auxiliary Function?	Yes
Number of NFIP Policies In-Force:	3
Total NFIP Premium (\$):	\$3,109
Total NFIP Coverage (\$):	\$666,000
Number of Claims Paid Out:	0
Total Amount of Claims Paid Out (\$):	\$-
Number of Repetitive Loss Structures:	N/A
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss Structures:	N/A
Is the Community Currently Suspended from the NFIP?	No
Any Outstanding Compliance Issues?	No
FIRMs Digital or Paper?	Both

**Parcel Improvements and Valuation**

The planning team requested GIS parcel data from the County Assessor as of September 2024. This data allowed the planning team to analyze the location, number, and value of property improvements at the parcel level. The data did not contain the number of structures on each parcel. A summary of the results of this analysis is provided in the following table. Several structures in Firth have been removed from the floodplain via LOMA. A summary of LOMAs identified for Firth can be found in the table below.

**Parcel Value in the 100 Year Floodplain**

Number of Parcels	Total Parcel Value	Number of Parcels in Floodplain	Value of Parcels in Floodplain	Percentage of Parcels in Floodplain
278	\$58,804,000	24	\$3,603,200	8.6%

**Parcel Value in the 500 Year Floodplain**

Number of Parcels	Total Parcel Value	Number of Parcels in Floodplain	Value of Parcels in Floodplain	Percentage of Parcels in Floodplain
278	\$58,804,000	5	\$1,321,500	1.8%

Source: County Assessor, 2024

**Flood Map Products**

Type of Product	Product ID	Effective Date	Details
FIRM Panels	31109CIND0B	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31109C0575G	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31109C0586G	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31109C0588G	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels
FIRM Panels	31109C0600G	04/16/2013	Current FIRM Panels

Source: Flood Map Service Center

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**Plans and Studies**

Firth has several planning documents that discuss or relate to hazard mitigation. Each plan is listed below along with a short description of how it is integrated with the hazard mitigation plan or how it contains hazard mitigation principles. When the village updates these planning mechanisms, the local planning team will review the hazard mitigation plan for opportunities to incorporate the goals and objectives, risk and vulnerability data, and mitigation actions into the plan update.

**Comprehensive Plan**

The comprehensive plan is designed to guide the future actions and growth of the Village. The hazard mitigation plan has been integrated into the 2019 plan with the inclusion of the most updated floodplain information. Development is limited in the floodplain. The planning commission reviewed the 2019 comprehensive plan in August 2024. It was determined that the current comprehensive plan is still accurate for the needs of Firth and does not need a full update until 2029. However, the Future Land Use map will be updated as an amendment to the current comprehensive plan in 2025.

**Capital Improvement Plan**

The capital improvements plan outlines projects the Village would like to pursue and provides a planning schedule and financing options. The Village is working on replacing oldest water and

sewer mains to keep systems running smoothly. There is no plan or timeline to update the Capital Improvement Plan.

### **Ordinances and Regulations**

The Village's floodplain ordinance outlines requirements for structures and developments located in the 100-year floodplain. By having a floodplain ordinance, Firth promotes public health, safety, and welfare by minimizing losses due to floods. It also helps to ensure eligibility of purchasing flood insurance for property owners. Subdivision regulations govern the division of land from one or more larger parcels into smaller lots. The Village's zoning ordinance outlines where and how development should occur in the future and was updated in December of 2020. There is no plan or timeline to update these ordinances and regulations. These documents limit development in the floodplain and limit development in the ETJ. Structures built in the floodplain are required to be one foot above Base Flood Elevation. Future updates will limit development in the wildland urban interface.

### **Building Codes**

The Village of Firth has adopted the 2009 International Building Codes. The community may look to update to adopting the 2021 or 2024 IBC sometime in the future. The building code sets standards for constructed buildings and structures. Enforcement of the building code is done through requiring that all building projects receive a building permit and meet code.

### **Southeast Nebraska Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020)**

The purpose of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to provide a tool for effectively managing fire and hazardous vegetative fuels and to bolster collaboration and communication among the various agencies and organizations who manage fire in Southeast Nebraska. Lancaster County lies within the upland tallgrass prairie vegetation zone. Agriculture crop fields, hay land, and grazing lands cover much of the county.

### **Lancaster County Local Emergency Operations Plan**

The Lancaster County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) was last updated in 2022. The LEOP incorporates hazard mitigation through the following: addresses hazards of top concern; assigns specific responsibilities to individual communities; identifies scenarios that would require evacuation; identifies sheltering locations; and provides clear assignment of responsibility during an emergency. Several departments are familiar with the County LEOP including fire departments and city staff.

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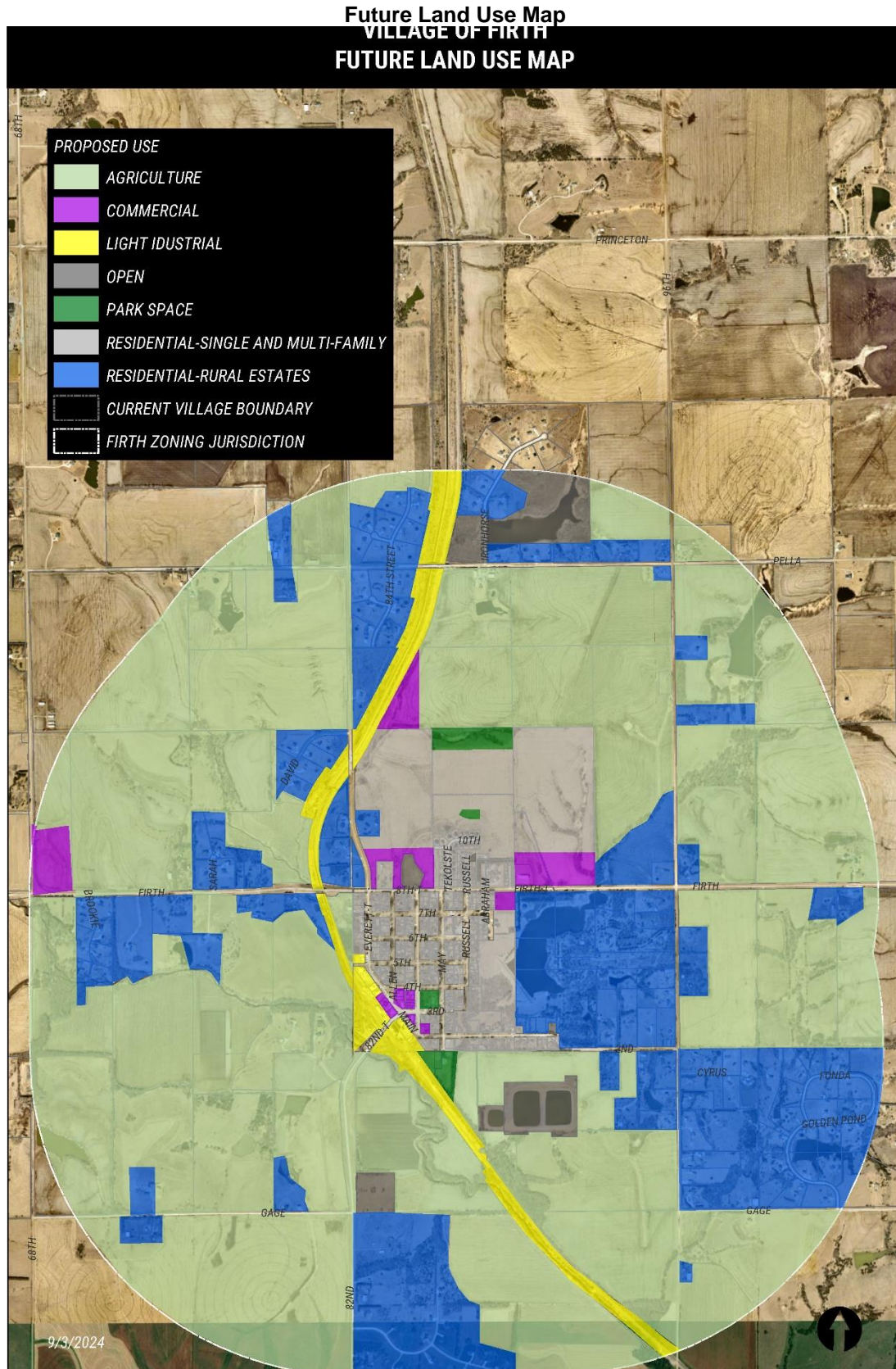
## **Future Development Trends**

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In the last 10 years, the North Ridge development was annexed to the village. Phase one of the annexation included 19 residential lots, which are now fully built and all occupied. Phase two will include up to 40 residential lots along with five to six commercial lots. The second phase has been on hold for the last four years and any change in the status is indefinite. Overall, this new housing development has been attracting residents to Firth, allowing the population to be relatively stable.

The previous plan identified a new Monolith Materials manufacturing plant in Hallam that has been expected to bring more new residents to Firth. The North Ridge phase two would likely be the next development to happen in the Village and will not be located in the floodplain or other hazardous areas.







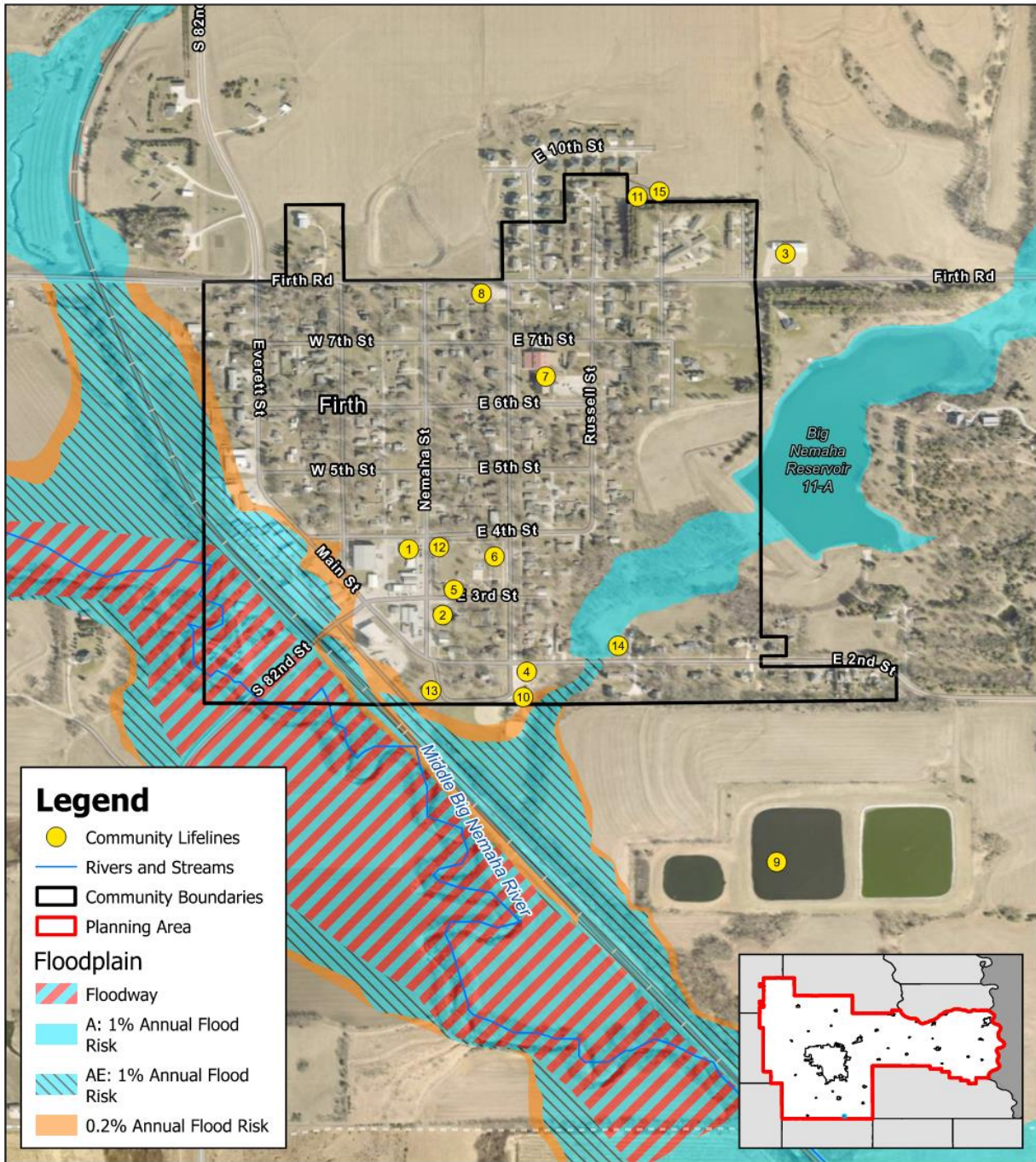
## Community Lifelines

As listed in the following table, each participating jurisdiction identified community lifelines that are vital for disaster response and essential for returning the jurisdiction’s functions to normal during and after a disaster per the FEMA Community Lifelines guidance. The FEMA lifeline categories include Safety and Security; Food, Water, and Shelter; Health and Medical; Energy; Communication; Transportation; and Hazardous Material Facilities.



### Firth Community Lifelines

CF #	Lifeline	Name	Generator	Shelter	Floodplain
1	Food, Water Shelter	Firth Community Center	N	Y	N
2	Other	Firth Bible Church	N	N	N
3	Safety and Security	Firth Fire Station	N	N	N
4	Safety and Security	Firth Maintenance Building #1	N	N	N
5	Safety and Security	Firth Maintenance Building #2	N	N	N
6	Food, Water, Shelter	Firth Park Shelters	N	Y	N
7	Other	Firth Reformed Church	N	N	N
8	Transportation	Lancaster Co Shop	N	N	N
9	Food, Water, Shelter	Sewage Lagoons	N	N	N
10	Food, Water, Shelter	Sewage Lift Station	Y	N	N
11	Food, Water, Shelter	Village Well #1	N	N	N
12	Food, Water, Shelter	Village Well #2	N	N	N
13	Food, Water, Shelter	Village Well #3	N	N	N
14	Food, Water, Shelter	Village Well #4	Y	N	N
15	Food, Water, Shelter	Water Tower	N	N	N



**Legend**

- Community Lifelines
- Rivers and Streams
- Community Boundaries
- Planning Area

**Floodplain**

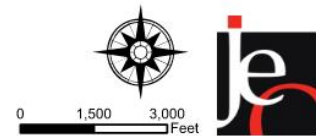
- Floodway
- A: 1% Annual Flood Risk
- AE: 1% Annual Flood Risk
- 0.2% Annual Flood Risk

Created By: JR  
 Date: 12/23/2024  
 Software: ArcGIS Pro  
 File: Lower Platte South NRD.aprx

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## Firth Community Lifelines

Lower Platte South NRD  
 Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025



## Hazard Prioritization and Mitigation Strategy

The Lower Platte South NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan evaluates a range of natural and human-caused hazards which pose a risk to the counties, communities, and other participants. During the planning process, the local planning team prioritized specific hazards of top concern for Firth which required a more nuanced and in-depth discussion of past local events, potential impacts, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. The following section expands on the prioritized hazards identified by the Village of Firth. Based on this analysis, the local planning team determined their vulnerability to all other hazards to be of low concern. For a review and analysis of other regional hazards, please see *Section Four* and *Appendix A*.

### Hazard Risk Assessment for Lancaster County

HAZARD TYPE		LANCASTER COUNTY		
		Count	Property	Crop
Agricultural Disease	Animal Disease <sup>2</sup>	45	388	N/A
	Plant Disease <sup>3</sup>	22	N/A	\$200,119
Hazardous Materials	Chemical Fixed Sites <sup>5</sup>	172	\$1,500,000.00	N/A
	Chemical Transportation <sup>6</sup>	75	\$1,239,064	N/A
Civil Disorder/Terrorism <sup>10</sup>		3	Minor (<\$1 million)	N/A
Dam Failure <sup>7</sup>		0	\$0	N/A
Drought <sup>8</sup>		443 out of 1550 months	\$0	\$79,060,597
Extreme Temperatures <sup>11</sup>	Extreme Heat <sup>9</sup>	Avg 5 days/yr	\$0	\$4,325,321
	Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	Avg 38 days/yr	\$100,000	\$303,069
Flooding <sup>1</sup>	Flash Flood	47	\$5,005,000	\$64,569
	Flood	10	\$100,154,000	
Grass/Wildfires <sup>4</sup>		847	6,444.75 acres	\$0.00
High Winds and Tornadoes	High Winds <sup>1</sup>	34	\$28,000	\$913,713
	Tornadoes <sup>1</sup>	28	\$100,300,000	
Severe Thunderstorms <sup>1</sup>	Thunderstorm Wind Avg: 57mph Range: 45-100mph	216	\$1,505,000	N/A
	Hail Avg: 1.17" Range: 0.52" - 5.0"	381	\$2,000,000	\$5,543,263
	Heavy Rain	8	\$0	\$5,626,632
	Lightning	12	\$936,400	N/A
Severe Winter Storms <sup>1</sup>	Blizzard	10	\$0	\$423,880
	Heavy Snow	6	\$16,000,000	
	Ice Storm	3	\$0	
	Winter Storm	53	\$0	
	Winter Weather	22	\$75,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,994</b>	<b>\$228,842,464</b>	<b>\$96,461,163</b>

**Drought**

Drought is a pervasive hazard that can severely harm the surrounding agricultural economy. Water mains in the Village broke during the 2022-23 drought which was likely caused by dry ground settling. Firth has added a new well house since the previous plan that currently has a generator. The current water restriction policies in Firth do not have clear for extended drought events. Future plans for the Village include having well-defined long-term water restriction policies and having them readily available to the community.

ACTION	UPDATE DROUGHT ORDINANCE
<b>Description</b>	Update and/or create water restriction ordinances to account for long-term drought conditions to protect existing water resources.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Drought, Extreme Temperatures
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$5,000+, Staff Time
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Funds
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Village Board
<b>Timeline</b>	1 year
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	This is a new mitigation action.

**Flooding**

Flooding has been a primary concern for the Village because of its proximity to the middle branch of the Nemaha River. Firth has not seen many flooding events since 2010, when the Nemaha ditch and detention cell project was completed; however, part of the Co-Op facility is still located in the floodplain. The rail line which runs between the river and the Village provides some level of flood protection. Firth has been working with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to update the Village (plus the 1-mile ETJ) floodplain ordinance which was completed in December 2024. The next stage is to create a plan to mitigate obstacles within the floodplain to better serve the community. FEMA is in the process of changing the FIRM maps which will enlarge the floodplain area in the jurisdiction.

ACTION	Stormwater System and Drainage Improvements
<b>Description</b>	Firth can utilize stormwater systems comprising of ditches and culverts to convey runoff. Undersized systems can contribute to localized flooding. Drainage improvements may include ditch upsizing, ditch cleanout, and culvert improvements. These improvements can serve to more effectively convey runoff within villages, preventing interior localized flooding.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$10,000 – 50,000
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund, Street Maintenance Funds
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Village Board, Village Maintenance
<b>Timeline</b>	2-5 years
<b>Priority</b>	High
<b>Status</b>	Some areas along 7 <sup>th</sup> Street and Everett St have been improved for drainage. Russell Street and other areas throughout the community are currently being evaluated for improvements.

**Hazardous Materials Release (Transportation)**

Chemical spills via transportation are of concern due to the high volume of hazardous chemicals transported through the community. Firth Road and the rail line running along the edge of town regularly see large volumes of coal, oil, and agricultural chemicals transported. Primary concerns regarding chemical spills include the proximity of the only chemical fixed site, the Co-Op, being



located near the rail line. While no chemical spills have occurred to date at these locations, a combined spill event would be particularly difficult for the Village. The Village is looking into developing an evacuation plan that could be utilized during this event and coordinating with the Co-Op on an emergency plan and potential mitigation measures.

ACTION	EVACUATION PLAN
<b>Description</b>	Develop an all-hazards evacuation plan for the community to utilize during hazard events, particularly those that block key transportation routes or hazardous material routes.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Hazardous materials, Flooding, Dam Failure, Grass/Wildfire, High Winds and Tornadoes
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$15,000
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Funds
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Village Board
<b>Timeline</b>	2-5 years
<b>Priority</b>	High
<b>Status</b>	This is a new mitigation action.

### High Winds and Tornadoes

Tornadoes are a significant hazard of concern due to their potential to cause large-scale damage and injury or death to residents. While local churches and the community building are used as local shelters, there are no FEMA-certified storm shelters located in the Village. The Village also has an alert siren in town which is owned and controlled by Lancaster County Emergency Management. Social media posts to alert residents of incoming severe weather has been identified as a potential action to reduce the impacts of high winds and tornado events.

ACTION	Comprehensive Village Disaster/Emergency Response Plan
<b>Description</b>	Develop an evacuation plan to be prepared for any disaster that would require evacuation. Develop/update a Comprehensive Village Disaster and Emergency Response Plan.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Agricultural Disease, Civil Disorder/Terrorism, Dam Failure, Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Grass/Wildfires, Hazardous Materials, High Winds and Tornadoes, Levee Failure, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$5,000+, Staff Time
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Funds
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Village Board
<b>Timeline</b>	2-5 years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	Not yet started.

ACTION	BACKUP GENERATOR
<b>Description</b>	Evaluate and ensure hook up infrastructure is in place for community sheltering sites for portable generator use.
<b>Hazards Addressed</b>	Extreme Temperatures, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Winter Storms, Grass/Wildfire, High Winds and Tornadoes
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$15,000+
<b>Potential Local Funding</b>	General Fund
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Village Board
<b>Timeline</b>	2-5 years
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Status</b>	This is a new mitigation action



