

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-36

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT THE UPDATED PORTAGE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (HMP) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kent, Portage County Ohio, is vulnerable to natural and human caused hazards which may result in loss of life and property, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires state and local governments to develop and submit for approval a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying their respective natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kent acknowledges the requirements of Section 322 of DMA 2000 to have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as a prerequisite to receiving post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Portage County 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by the Portage County Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with other county departments, local City officials, institutional stakeholders, and the citizens of Portage County; and

**WHEREAS**, a public involvement process consistent with the requirements of DMA 2000 was conducted to develop the Portage County 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Portage County 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends mitigation activities that will reduce losses to life and property affected by both natural and human-caused hazards that face the County and its city and village governments.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County:

**SECTION 1.** That Kent City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, to accept the updated Portage County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 3.** That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: April 15, 2026  
Date

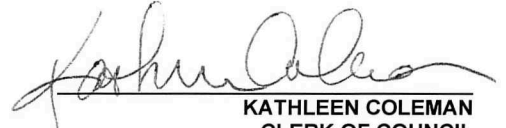
  
Jack Arnheim  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: April 15, 2026  
Date

ATTEST: Kathleen Coleman  
Kathleen Coleman  
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF RESOLUTION No. 2026-36, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON April 15, 2026.

(SEAL)

  
KATHLEEN COLEMAN  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

# PORTAGE COUNTY 2026

## HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

PREPARED FOR:

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Management Agency  
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Ravenna, Ohio 44266*



PREPARED BY:

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## Table of Contents

1.	Introduction .....	1
1.1.	<i>Background</i> .....	1
1.2.	<i>Purpose</i> .....	1
1.3.	<i>Scope</i> .....	2
1.4.	<i>Authority and References</i> .....	3
2.	Community Profile .....	4
2.1.	<i>Geography and Environment</i> .....	4
2.2.	<i>Community Facts</i> .....	9
2.3.	<i>Population and Demographics</i> .....	9
2.4.	<i>Equity in Hazard Mitigation Planning</i> .....	13
2.5.	<i>Land Use and Development</i> .....	17
2.6.	<i>Data Sources and Limitations</i> .....	21
3.	Planning Process .....	28
3.1.	<i>Update Process Overview</i> .....	28
3.2.	<i>Plan Participants</i> .....	28
3.3.	<i>Meetings and Documentation</i> .....	30
3.3.1.	Meetings .....	30
3.3.2.	Worksheets and other documentation .....	31
3.4.	<i>Multi-Jurisdictional Planning</i> .....	33
4.	Risk Assessment .....	35
4.1.	<i>Update Process Summary</i> .....	35
4.2.	<i>Hazard Identification</i> .....	36
4.2.1.	Diaster Declarations .....	36
4.2.2.	Summary of Hazards.....	36
4.3.	<i>Hazard Profiles and Vulnerability Analysis</i> .....	37
4.3.1.	Drought.....	37
4.3.1.1.	<i>Location and Extent</i> .....	37
4.3.1.2.	<i>Range of Magnitude</i> .....	38
4.3.1.3.	<i>Past Occurrence</i> .....	41
4.3.1.4.	<i>Future Occurrence</i> .....	44

## PORTAGE COUNTY 2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

**Table 6.1-2 Status of 2021 Mitigation Actions**

HAZARD PRIORITY	ACTION PRIORITY	HAZARD	MITIGATION ACTION	STATUS			
				COMPLETE	CANCELLED	DEFERRED	ONGOING
14	8	Landslides, Erosion & Mine Subsidence	Consider buying out, demolishing, and relocating properties built on top of abandoned mines.		X		
14	9	Landslides, Erosion & Mine Subsidence	Provide ODNR with updated abandoned mine locations.		X		
15	1	Earthquakes	Maintain a database to track community vulnerability to earthquake risk and provide documentation.	X			
16	1	Wildfire	Routinely inspect the functionality of fire hydrants and provide documentation.		X		
16	2	Wildfire	Ensure that buildings have fire extinguishers and fire detectors installed.		X		
16	3	Wildfire	Use GIS mapping of wildfire hazard areas to facilitate analysis and planning decisions through comparison with zoning, development, infrastructure, etc.	X			
16	4	Wildfire	Develop a vegetation management plan to reduce wildfire risk.		X		
<b>City of Aurora</b>							
2	1	Flooding	Purchase remaining homes in Geauga Lake's 100-year floodplain.				X
2	2	Flooding	Remove a dam along the Chagrin River, restoring the Aurora Branch in order to meet water quality standards (Aurora Branch Restoration Project)	X			
2	3	Flooding	Install stormwater BMPs [best management practices] to assist with stormwater management in Geauga Lake low lying area				X
<b>City of Kent</b>							
1	1	Multiple Hazards	Create a training forum for the new National Incident Management System (NIMS) to limit confusion during disaster response.		X		
1	2	Multiple Hazards	Support local agency efforts to complete independent study NIMS training online.		X		
1	3	Multiple Hazards	Create/update local emergency action plans (EAPs) as required by NIMS.		X		

## PORTAGE COUNTY 2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Table 6.4-3 2026 City of Aurora Mitigation Action Plan							
HAZARD PRIORITY	PRIORITY	MITIGATION ACTION	CATEGORY	HAZARD	LEAD AGENCY	TIME	FUNDING SOURCE
City of Aurora Actions							
14	1	Work with local, county, and state law enforcement officials to identify best practices to mitigate identified risks.	Education and Awareness	Terrorism	Mayor/ Administrator of Jurisdiction	Medium Term	General Operating Budget
16	1	Coordinate with county and state officials on invasive species of concern, including the development of messaging and outreach materials for how residents can mitigate risks on their property.	Education and Awareness	Invasive Species	Mayor/ Administrator of Jurisdiction	Medium Term	General Operating Budget

Table 6.4-4 2026 City of Kent Mitigation Action Plan							
HAZARD PRIORITY	PRIORITY	MITIGATION ACTION	CATEGORY	HAZARD	LEAD AGENCY	TIME	FUNDING SOURCE
City of Kent							
3	1	Work with critical facilities and local businesses regarding general preparedness for emergencies i.e. business continuity, evacuation, active shooter, disaster recovery, fire code, building code, infectious disease or other environmental concerns.	Plans and Regulations	Winter Storm	City of Kent Service Department	Long Term	General Operating Budget

# PORTAGE COUNTY 2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Table 6.4-4 2026 City of Kent Mitigation Action Plan							
HAZARD PRIORITY	PRIORITY	MITIGATION ACTION	CATEGORY	HAZARD	LEAD AGENCY	TIME	FUNDING SOURCE
City of Kent							
2	2	Work to enact a tree management program and/or contractor to limit utility disruptions and impacts to people and property during high wind or winter storm events.	Structure and Infrastructure	Utility Interruption	City of Kent Service Department	Medium Term	Capital Improvement Budgets
2	3	Post warning signs and preparedness messages at river liveries, local parks, and other outdoor areas.	Structure and Infrastructure	Utility Interruption	City of Kent Service Department	Long Term	Sewer Utility
12	1	Fix storm pipes to improve stormwater management.	Education and Awareness	Extreme Temperatures	Community and Development, Public Health, Paramedicine	Medium Term	General Operating Budget
9	2	Conduct Hydrological Planning for flood prone areas located within the City to identify mitigation options.	Structure and Infrastructure	Transportation Incidents	City of Kent Engineer	Long Term	Capital Budget, ODOT
7	3	Annually inspect, review and enforce maintenance of retention and detention ponds.	Education and Awareness	Dam Failure	City of Kent Fire Department	Short Term	General Operating Budget
8	1	Plan for and maintain adequate road and debris clearing capabilities.	Response Equipment	Hazardous Materials Release	City of Kent Fire Department	Medium Term	HMGP, State Homeland Security Program, County HazMat Fund

## PORTAGE COUNTY 2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Table 6.4-4 2026 City of Kent Mitigation Action Plan							
HAZARD PRIORITY	PRIORITY	MITIGATION ACTION	CATEGORY	HAZARD	LEAD AGENCY	TIME	FUNDING SOURCE
City of Kent							
8	1	Purchase and install backup generators for public buildings and critical facilities.	Plans and Regulations	Hazardous Materials Release	City of Kent Fire Department	Short Term	General Operating Budget/ County LEPC/ Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Funding
14	2	Relocate municipal sewer pipe along the Cuyahoga River that is in detriment of embankment erosion and failure.	Plans and Regulations	Terrorism	City of Kent IT	Long Term	General Operating Budget
14	1	Organize outreach, paramedicine and public health to vulnerable populations, including establishing and promoting accessible heating or cooling centers in the community.	Structure and Infrastructure	Terrorism	City of Kent Public Safety	Long Term	General Operating Budget
3	1	Implement traffic calming measures, including appropriate signage, at key community intersections.	Plans and Regulations	Winter Storm	City of Kent Service Department	Long Term	General Operating Budget
2	1	Build partnerships with Lake Rockwell dam owner.	Structure and Infrastructure	Utility Interruption	City of Kent Service Department	Medium Term	Capital Improvement Budgets

# PORTAGE COUNTY 2026 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Table 6.4-4 2026 City of Kent Mitigation Action Plan							
HAZARD PRIORITY	PRIORITY	MITIGATION ACTION	CATEGORY	HAZARD	LEAD AGENCY	TIME	FUNDING SOURCE
City of Kent							
2	1	Acquire a UTV with rail line abilities to conduct rail response operations on inaccessible rail lines.	Structure and Infrastructure	Utility Interruption	City of Kent Service Department	Long Term	Sewer Utility
12	2	Conduct research and risk assessments of HazMat facilities located within the city to enhance outreach, education and HazMat Response exercises	Education and Awareness	Extreme Temperatures	Community and Development, Public Health, Paramedicine	Medium Term	General Operating Budget
9	1	Enhance cyber security preparedness and response protocols across the City.	Structure and Infrastructure	Transportation Incidents	City of Kent Engineer	Long Term	Capital Budget, ODOT
7	2	Conduct Risk and Vulnerability assessments to strengthen prevention and protection actions for outdoor public events.	Education and Awareness	Dam Failure	City of Kent Fire Department	Short Term	General Operating Budget