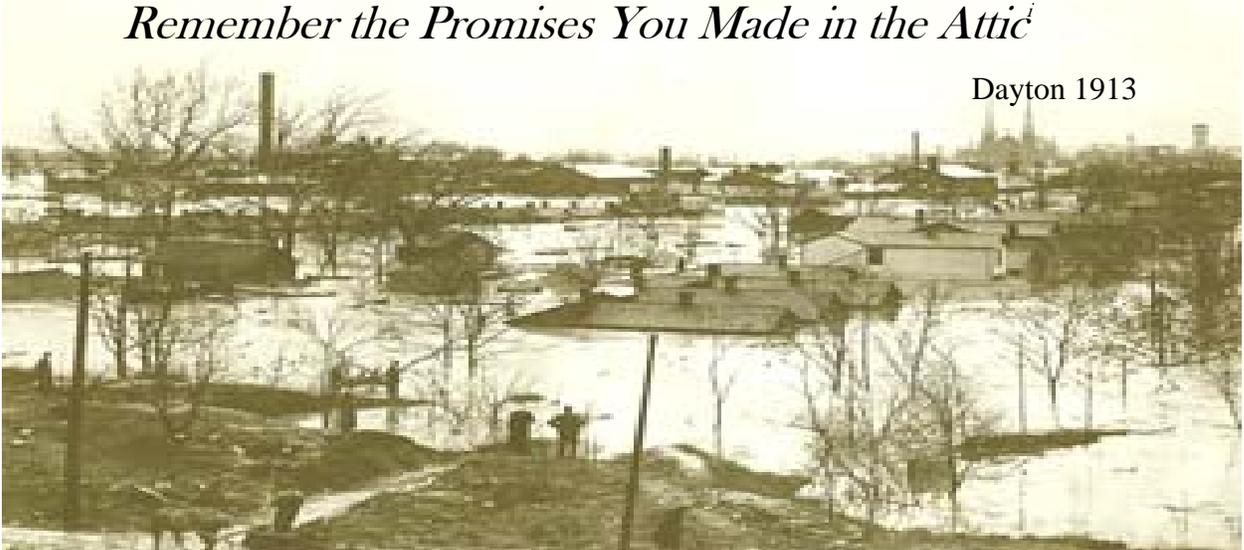


**ODNR
DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Remember the Promises You Made in the Atticⁱ

Dayton 1913



1913 Flood Centennial

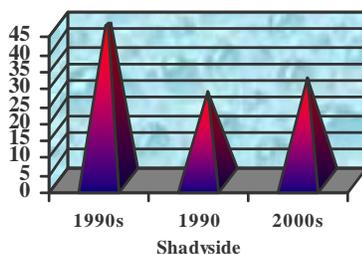
We commemorate the centennial of Ohio's greatest weather disaster, the Flood of 1913. Exceeding all other weather events for the state, the statewide disaster had a rainfall totaling 6-11 inches, with more than 40,000 homes flooded, and at least 467 deaths.ⁱⁱ We take this opportunity to honor the accomplishments in reducing flood risks and renew our commitment to continuing this tremendous legacy.

A leader in floodplain management, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)'s Floodplain Management Program (FMP) assists all Ohioans in reducing flood risk and protecting the State's valuable floodplain resources.

Ohio Floodplain Management Program
Mission
*Ensure the wise management
of Ohio's floodplains.*

In 2011, the FMP celebrated its 50th anniversary. In 1961 as floods occurred in 38 Ohio counties, the Floodplain Unit was created within the ODNR's Division of Water. Large floods in Ohio, such as those experienced in 1913, 1937, 1959, 1963, 1964, and 1969 have caused billions of dollars of property damage and the loss of many lives. Even smaller floods wreak havoc, costing lives and millions of dollars in damage such as in 1969 (47 deaths in northern Ohio), 1990 (26 deaths along Wegee & Pipe creeks), the Ohio River floods of 1997 (20 deaths), 1998, 2005, and the northern floods of 2007.

Ohio's Flood-related Deaths



Ohio's river systems have offered many benefits that have contributed to the development of the state. After two centuries, the character of the state's rivers and floodplains has changed; the natural functions and riparian areas continue to be altered by human actions. The desire to develop in the floodplains and riparian areas often results in increased danger and decreased benefits from the natural functions of the floodplains. Flooding

is the leading natural hazard threat in Ohio (and worldwide). Floods cost Ohio more in lives and property damage than all other natural hazards combined. No county in Ohio is free from the threat of flooding.

While it is not possible, or even desirable, to stop floods, the risk associated with flooding can

Ohio Floodplain Management Program
Objectives
Reduce flood damage
Protect and Promote naturally
beneficial functions of floodplains

be reduced through promoting sound management practices and stewardship of the natural beneficial functions of floodplains. Sound floodplain development reduces risk to lives and property, while naturally functioning floodplains allow for safer conveyance of floodwaters. The FMP's twin objectives are shared by all Ohioans. Ohio has more than 803 identified flood-

prone communities (including all 88 counties). Local and state floodplain management activities are designed to help reduce flood risk; however, millions of dollars are spent annually in the response to and recovery from flood events. Flooding is a natural occurrence that becomes a problem when development decisions are made without proper assessment of and response to the risk.

Federal Flood Disaster Declarations

2 times in the 1960s (for 54 counties),
6 times in the 1970s (for 29 counties),
6 times in the 1980s (for 38 counties),
7 times in the 1990s (for 128 counties),
14 times in the 2000s (for 166 counties), &
0 times in the 2010s thus far...

The FMP strategy recognizes the regulatory and voluntary aspects of sound floodplain management and the inherent limitations of both. Since it is not sufficient to be accurate if not persuasive, the FMP strategy is premised upon and promotes the following three principles.

- 1) floodplain management is a significant and worthwhile undertaking directly affecting health, safety, and resource protection.
- 2) the FMP is ideally and uniquely suited to provide leadership in promoting sound floodplain management for Ohio.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 3) the FMP objectives are demonstrably reasonable, responsible, and responsive.

FMP staff are recognized and respected for comprehensive floodplain management knowledge and expertise that has been developed over several decades as Ohio's National Flood Insurance Program-Coordinator. The ability of the FMP to obtain, maintain, and refine current technical expertise in floodplain management provides an invaluable resource and support to all our customers: citizens, professionals, and officials. These customers have an expectation of quality products and service from the FMP. The ability to seek out and utilize proven and innovative means enables the staff to constructively respond as we strive to maintain this crucial element.

Reducing flood risk and protecting floodplain resources requires collaboration and cooperation at multiple levels. The FMP strives to reduce federal, state, and local financial burdens consequent from unwise use of floodplains. In Ohio, land use and development decisions that involve floodplains rest largely with local communities. Flood damage costs are rising and local development decisions sometimes fall short of fully incorporating the floodplain's resource value when considering flood risk. The FMP uses **a)** education, **b)** risk identification, **c)** partnerships, **d)** mitigation support, and **e)** integration of technology to effectively influence land use and development decisions statewide.

As the State Coordinator of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) the FMP has statutory authority to coordinate floodplain management activities throughout the state.^{iv} The NFIP

depends upon the collaboration of federal, state, and local programs, delivered at the local level. The NFIP assists the implementation of FMP strategy funding technical assistance to communities for flood risk reduction. FEMA's various mapping efforts also help accomplish our goals by providing accurate, quality maps with credible science to influence land use and development decisions of flood hazard areas.

Looking ahead

Following the 1913 Flood, Ohioans undertook floodplain management with fierce dedication to ensure that such widespread devastation should never happen again. We all are the beneficiaries of their impressive efforts. To continue to improve floodplain management in Ohio, we need to routinely evaluate our tactics for currency, effectiveness, and, at times, unintended consequences. For its part, ODNR's Floodplain Management Program stands ready to assist citizens and officials in our shared efforts to reduce flood risks flood risk and protect Ohio's floodplain resources. We best honor the accomplishments of the past century by maintaining our commitment to continuing this tremendous legacy.

ⁱ The banner slogan used to raise funds to initiate the Miami Conservancy District.

ⁱⁱ This number for 1913 flood-related deaths is considerably low according to draft research by Trudy E. Bell, M.A. Science/Technology writer and editor (<http://trudyebell.com/1913flood.php>)

ⁱⁱⁱ The FMP authority and mandates come from the provisions contained in the Ohio Revised Code §§1506.04, 1521.13, 1521.14 and 1521.18:

- ORC §1506.04 requires Ohio counties or municipal corporations with coastal flood hazard areas to comply with the NFIP-regulations or have equivalent local flood damage reduction standards.
- ORC §1521.13 identifies the floodplain management responsibilities and flood damage reduction standards of the FMP and designates the Division of Soil and Water Resources as the State Coordinator for the NFIP. ORC §1521.13 (D) and (E) clarifies the floodplain management duties of state agencies and political subdivisions, sets conditions for agency funding of development in flood hazard areas, and promotes awareness of flood risk (high water markers) and mitigation opportunities to reduce the flooding potential (floodproofing). Additionally, (E) (3) and (4) strengthen the floodplain management enabling authority for Ohio counties and municipal corporations.
- ORC §1521.14 provides for court enforcement against development that is not compliant with NFIP-criteria and is either in a noncompliant NFIP-community, or is funded, financed, undertaken or preempted by a state agency.
- ORC §1521.18 requires all counties and municipal corporations with flood hazard areas to adopt local floodplain management standards, which comply with the minimum federal criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program.

^{iv} The specific duties of the FMP in the role of State Coordinator for the NFIP are further enumerated in 44 CFR 60.25.