



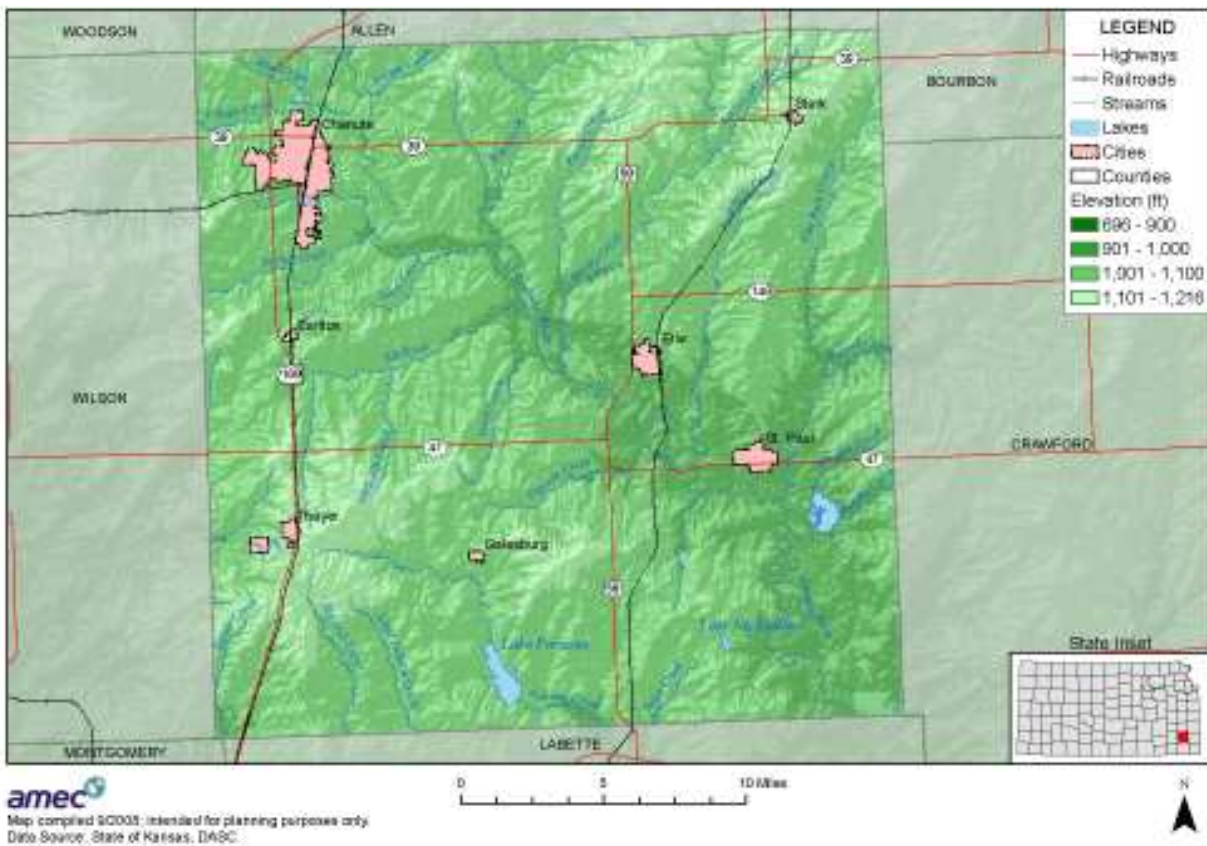
2 PLANNING AREA PROFILE AND CAPABILITIES

Chapter 2 provides a general profile of Neosho County followed by descriptions of each of the jurisdictions participating in this plan and their existing mitigation capabilities.

2.1 Neosho County Planning Area Profile

Figure 2.1 provides a map of the Neosho County planning area.

Figure 2.1. Neosho County Planning Area



2.1.1 Geography and Topography

Neosho County is located in the southeastern part of the State of Kansas, approximately 30 miles west of the Missouri state line. Neosho County is bounded on the north by Allen County; on the east by Crawford County; on the northeast by Bourbon County; on the south by Labette County; and on the west by Wilson County. The land area of Neosho County is 571.7 square miles.

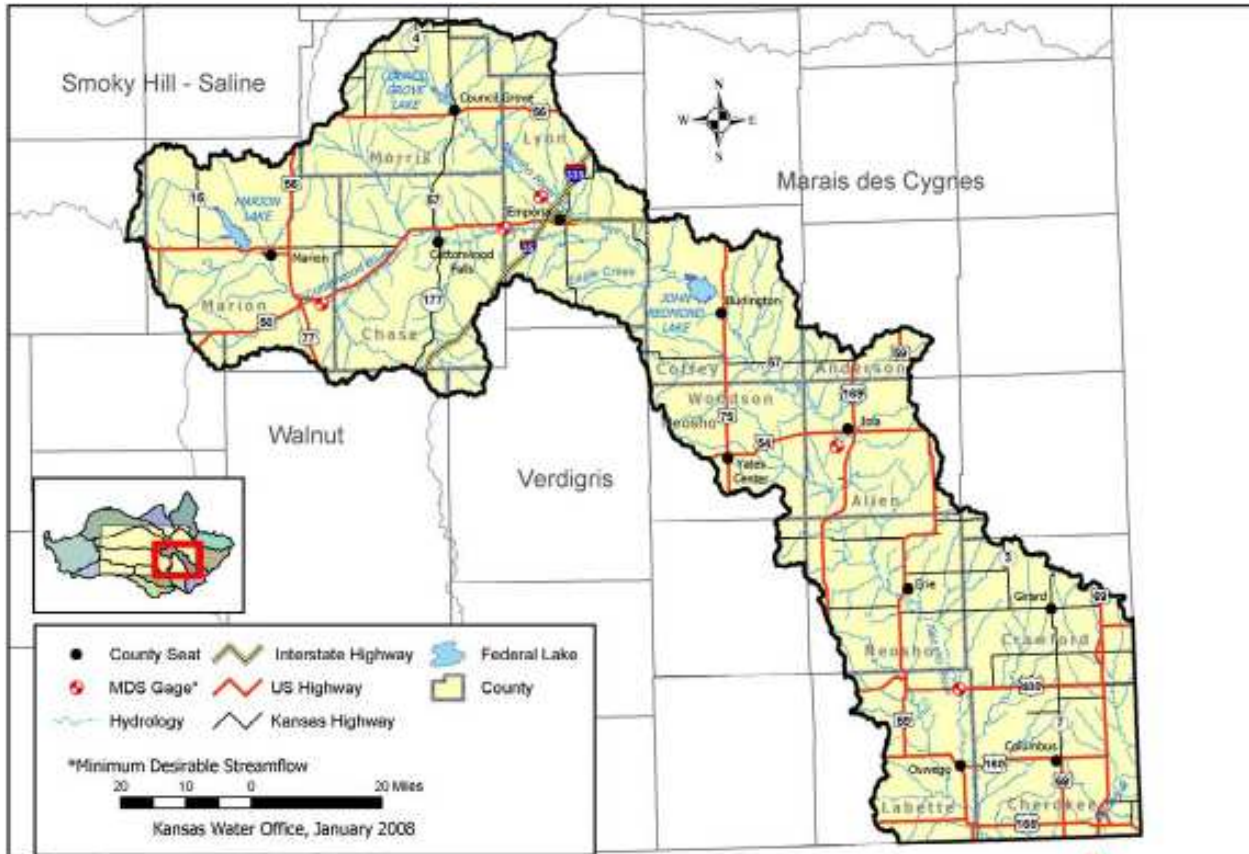
The bulk of the land cover in the county , approximately 92 percent, is comprised of cropland and grassland. The primary water bodies include the Neosho River, Parsons Lake, State Lake, and the Neosho Waterfowl Area. Residential and commercial/industrial development comprises roughly 0.84 percent of the land cover, primarily in and around the cities and townships throughout the county. Woodlands are typically clustered along the many streams and creeks that traverse through the county. The principle varieties of native timber include the elm, maple, walnut, oak, hickory, and cottonwood.

The County is in the Osage Cuestas physiographic region that covers most of the southeastern portion of Kansas. The Osage Cuestas are among the state’s oldest geologic features and are composed of several alternating layers of sandstone, limestone, and shale which form mounds or low hills. Some of these are peak shaped, but most are level topped.

Most of Neosho County is located within the valley of the Neosho River, which flows from northwest to southeast through the county. The Neosho River Valley consists primarily of upland regions, with the exception of the bank area of the river and the valleys located in proximity of the river’s tributaries. Chert gravel occurs along the western side of the valley. High terraces are adjacent to and 10-20 meters above the modern Neosho River Valley floodplain.

The Neosho River Basin depicted in Figure 2.2 covers approximately 6,300 square miles and encompasses all or parts of 18 counties in southeastern Kansas. The major streams in the basin are the Neosho River and its tributary, the Cottonwood River and the Spring River in the southwest portion of the basin. The Neosho and Spring Rivers join the Arkansas River in Oklahoma. There are three major reservoirs in the river system; Council Grove, Marion, and John Redmond. Ground water is found in alluvial deposits along major streams.

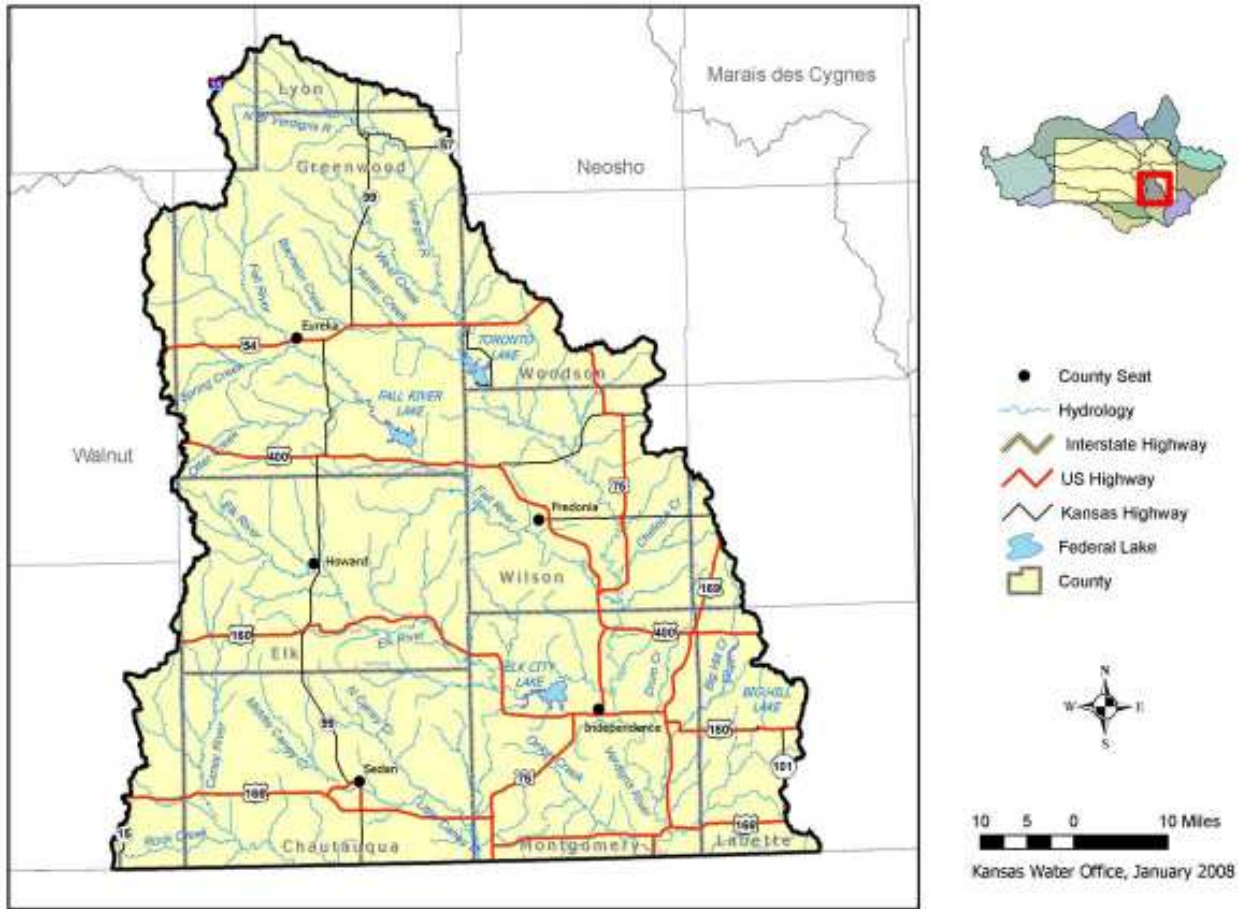
Figure 2.2 Neosho River Basin



Source: Kansas Water Office, Draft Water Plan, January 2008
http://www.kwo.org/Kansas%20Water%20Plan/SWP/KWP_2008/Vol_III_Docs/NEO/Rpt_NEO_Basin_Description_Nov2008.pdf

A very small portion of extreme southwest Neosho County is also located in the Verdigris River Basin shown in Figure 2.3. The basin covers approximately 4,400 square miles and encompasses all or parts of 11 counties in southeastern Kansas. The major streams in the basin are the Verdigris, Elk, Fall and the Caney and Little Caney Rivers, and Big Hill and Caney Creeks. Elk and Fall Rivers and Big Hill Creek are tributaries to the Verdigris in Kansas, while the Caney's join the Verdigris in Oklahoma.

Figure 2.3 Verdigris River Basin



source: Kansas Water Office, Draft Water Plan, January 2008
http://www.kwo.org/Kansas%20Water%20Plan/SWP/KWP_2008/Vol_III_Docs/VER/Rpt_VER_basin_Description_Nov2008.pdf

2.1.2 Climate

The climate regime for the Midwestern region of the United States that includes Neosho County is a transition area between semi-arid and humid continental areas. It is characterized by moderate precipitation levels and continental weather patterns supporting temperate grasslands, savannahs, and shrublands. The Kansas State University Weather Data Library reports an annual precipitation average of 41.25 inches per year for the period 2000-2007, with a high of 45.90 inches in 2007 and a low of 29.15 inches in 2006. Precipitation totals for the months of December through February are generally the lowest of the year. Specific climate information was obtained for Erie, Kansas and is provided in Table 2.1 below and is fairly representative of the planning area. According to this climate information the planning area averages about 228 sunny days per year and average high temperatures in July are almost five degrees hotter than the national average. The comfort index for Erie is 30 out of 100 where higher is more comfortable. This index is based on humidity during the hot months. The U.S. average comfort index is 44.

Table 2.1. Erie, Kansas Annual Climate Averages

Climate	Neosho County	United States
Annual Rainfall (inches)	37.5	36.6
Annual Snowfall (inches)	8.6	25.2
Precipitation Days (annual total)	81	101
Sunny Days (annual total)	221	205
Average July High Temperature (°F)	91.8	86.5
Average January Low Temperature (°F)	22.2	20.8

Source: Kansas State University Research and Extension, http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/wdl/precip%20files/no_p.asp; Sperlings, <http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Erie-Kansas.aspx>

2.1.3 Population/Demographics

According to the Kansas Division of the Budget, the July 1, 2007 population estimate for Neosho County was 16,228. Population density based on this estimate is 28.4 people per square mile (571.7 total square miles in the county). County population decreased 4.7 percent from 1990 to 2007. Populations and population and housing unit changes for each of the incorporated cities and the unincorporated County are provided in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2. Neosho County Population Change, 1990-2007

Location	1990 Population	2007 Population	Percent Change 1990-2007	1990 Housing Units	2000 Housing Units	Percent Change 1990-2000
Neosho County	17,035	16,228	-4.7	7,726	7,461	-3.4
Chanute	9,488	8,854	-6.7	4,426	4,262	-3.7
Earlton	69	78	13.0	29	32	10.3
Erie	1,276	1,150	-9.9	568	545	-4.0
Galesburg	160	146	-8.8	77	72	-6.5
Stark	79	103	30.4	42	47	11.9
St. Paul	687	655	-4.7	251	241	-4.0
Thayer	435	448	3.0	218	203	-6.9
Unincorporated	4,841	4,754	-1.8	2,115	2,059	-2.7

Source: US Census; Kansas Department of the Budget, http://budget.ks.gov/files/FY2010/KS_Certified_Population_July2008.xls

Chanute is the county's largest city with a 2007 estimated population of 8,854. Erie serves as the county seat, with a 2007 estimated population of 1,150. Neosho County spans approximately 24 miles east to west and 23 miles north to south at the widest points.

Selected U.S. Census 2000 demographic and social characteristics for Neosho County are shown in Table 2.3. Characteristics for Neosho County are for the entire county including totals from incorporated areas.

Table 2.3. Neosho County Demographic and Social Characteristics

Jurisdiction	Under 5 Years (%)	65 Years and Over (%)	Average Household Size	High School Graduates (%)	Bachelor Degree or Higher (%)	Persons Below Poverty (%)
U.S.	6.8	12.4	2.6	80.4	24.4	12.4
Kansas	7.0	13.3	2.5	86.0	25.8	11.1
Neosho County	6.0	17.5	2.45	83.5	15.0	13.0
Chanute	6.3	18.9	2.34	81.2	80.4	15.0
Earlton	10.0	18.8	2.50	71.4	0.0	7.0
Erie	4.5	19.9	2.35	89.6	15.6	14.9
Galesburg	8.0	18.7	2.54	70.8	12.4	13.8
St. Paul	5.6	22.8	2.63	72.1	8.0	10.7
Stark	11.3	11.3	2.52	81.0	15.9	17.2
Thayer	6.8	12.2	2.73	82.7	11.9	9.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov/, State and County QuickFacts, Census 2000.

2.1.4 History

Neosho County was founded from the northern part of what was originally called Dorn County, which was changed to Neosho, by the first state territorial legislature in 1861. The actual organization of the county was in 1864. In 1866 the boundaries were fixed to include the territory of what is now Neosho and Labette counties. In 1867 it was diminished by the territory included in Labette County. Neosho County took its present boundaries in 1870.

The land area which Neosho County is now a part of was an Indian hunting ground for the Osage and Sioux Tribes in the early 1800's. The lands of Neosho County were occupied by the Osage Indians until the treaty of 1865, and were known as the "Osage Ceded Lands". The name Neosho had been used by the Kansas Indians many years before white settlement. George Sibley of the Santa Fe Trail survey team mentioned the Nee Ozho River in his journal entry of August 5, 1825. The Indian word "Ne" means "water" and "osho" means "stream" or "stream with water in it" (Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc, 1912).

2.1.5 Economy/Industry

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the industries that employed the highest percentage of Neosho County's labor force were manufacturing (26.1 percent); educational, health, and social service (20.0 percent); and retail trade (12.0 percent).

The Kansas Department of Labor reports 17,998 persons in the civilian labor force as of September 2008, and the County unemployment rate (6.1 percent) is higher than the statewide unemployment rate (4.8 percent) for that period.

Table 2.4 lists selected economic characteristics for Neosho County and incorporated cities from the 2000 U.S. Census.

Table 2.4. Neosho County Economic Characteristics by Jurisdiction, 2000

Jurisdiction	Median Household Income (\$)	Median Home Value (\$)	Median Monthly Mortgage (\$)	Population 16+ in Labor Force (%)	Top Three Employing Industries
U.S.	41,994	119,600	1,088	63.9	Educational, Health, Social Services (19.9%), Manufacturing (14.1%), Retail Trade (11.7%)
Kansas	40,624	83,500	888	67.5	Educational, Health, Social Services (21.9%), Manufacturing (15.0%), Retail Trade (11.5%)
Neosho Co.	32,167	44,900	589	63.4	Manufacturing (24%), Educational, Health, and Social Services (22.5%), Retail Trade (11.5%)
Chanute	29,912	43,900	580	61.8	Manufacturing (27.3%), Educational, Health, and Social Services (22.4%), Retail Trade (12.4%)
Earlton	46,250	45,000	750	38.1	Manufacturing (41.7%), Retail Trade (16.7%), Construction (12.5%)
Erie	30,568	41,200	580	57.2	Educational, Health, and Social Services (27%), Manufacturing (13%), Retail Trade (12.4%)
Galesburg	32,250	28,500	409	67.9	Manufacturing (44.6%), Educational, Health, and Social Services (20.3%), Retail Trade (8.1%)
St. Paul	33,393	49,800	656	58.1	Educational, Health, and Social Services (32.5%), Construction (18.9%), Manufacturing (12.5%)
Stark	27,500	15,300	364	72.9	Manufacturing (23.5%), Retail Trade (15.7%), Educational, Health, and Social Services (13.7%)
Thayer	35,288	40,400	605	67.9	Manufacturing (39.6%), Educational, Health, and Social Services (12.6%), Construction (10%)

Source: U.S. Census 2000; <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

Information from the Kansas Center for Community and Economic Development (KCCED) reports the number of business establishments in Neosho County increased from 538 to 544 from 2000-2004. In 2004, 479 businesses had 1-19 employees, 53 had 20-99 employees, 12 had 100-499 employees, and none had 500 or more employees.

According to data from 2004, payrolls from manufacturing establishments constitute the highest percentage of the county payroll total (36.04 percent), followed by health care and social assistance (15.51 percent). Retail trade was the most common business type in 2004 (20.04 percent of total), followed by health care and social assistance (13.60 percent). Table 2.5 contains information about business establishments and payroll values by occupational sector for Neosho County in 2004.

Table 2.5. Neosho County Establishments and Payroll by Occupational Sector, 2004

Occupational Sector	Establishments	Percent of Total (%)	Total Payroll (\$)	Percent of Payroll (%)
Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Agriculture Support	3	0.55%	0	0.00%
Mining	17	3.13%	3,988,000	2.63%
Utilities	1	0.18%	0	0.00%
Construction	32	5.88%	10,073,000	6.66%
Manufacturing	32	5.88%	54,545,000	36.04%
Wholesale Trade	25	4.60%	9,713,000	6.42%
Retail Trade	109	20.04%	18,601,000	12.29%
Transportation and Warehousing	16	2.94%	2,430,000	1.61%
Information	11	2.02%	1,872,000	1.24%
Finance and Insurance	39	7.17%	11,667,000	7.71%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	10	1.84%	368,000	0.24%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	37	6.80%	4,003,000	2.64%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Administrative Support, Waste Management, and Remediation	23	4.23%	4,642,000	3.07%
Educational Services	1	0.18%	0	0.00%
Health Care and Social Assistance	74	13.60%	23,481,000	15.51%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10	1.84%	0	0.00%
Accommodation and Food Services	37	6.80%	2,654,000	1.75%
Other Services	65	11.95%	3,322,000	2.19%
Unclassified	2	0.37%	0	0.00%
Total	544	100.00%	151,359,000	100.00%

Source: Kansas Center for Community and Economic Development, (KCCED), University of Kansas, 2007, <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/kcced/profiles/pdf/20133.pdf>

Notes: Zero (0) values may indicate missing data or non-calculated amounts.

2.1.6 Agriculture

Agriculture is a major component of the economy of Neosho County. In 2006, overall value of crops harvested was \$21,851,100 and the value of cattle and mild products was \$16,036,300.

Table 2.6 below shows the production value and percentage of the county total for the main agricultural products in Neosho County.

Table 2.6. Neosho County Agricultural Production Value, 2007-2008

Crop	Percent of Total Annual Production Value
Cattle	40%
Sunflowers	1%
Wheat	4%
Soybeans	16%
Hay	12%
Sorghum	2%
Corn	23%
Milk	2%

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service, Kansas Farm Facts-2007-2008 County Profiles

Table 2.7 provides harvest and yield information for crops in Neosho County for 2007. During this period, the value of cattle inventory in the county was estimated to be \$36,620,000.

Table 2.7. Neosho County Crop Production, 2007-2008

Commodity	Harvested (acres)	Yield (bushels/acre)	Total Production (bushels/tons)
Wheat	21,600	11	227,000
Corn	18,900	120	2,262,000
Sorghum	2,300	80	184,700
Soybeans	27,100	22	602,800
Hay	33,800	1.6	53,700

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service, Kansas Farm Facts-2007-2008 County Profiles

2.2 Jurisdictional Descriptions and Capabilities

The mitigation capabilities for each of the jurisdictions participating in the plan are profiled in the section that follows. These profiles include an overview of the jurisdiction and its organizational structure; a description of staff, fiscal, and technical resources; and information regarding existing hazard mitigation capabilities such as adopted plans policies and regulations, if any. The descriptions and capabilities assessments are based on available and applicable data, including information provided by the jurisdictions collected during the planning process.

For the purposes of this section, participating jurisdictions are grouped as follows: unincorporated county, incorporated cities, unified school districts and community college. Table 2.8 is a listing of participating jurisdictions and their groupings.

Table 2.8 Hazard Mitigation Plan Participating Jurisdictions by Group

Category	Jurisdiction
County	Neosho County
Cities	Chanute
	Erie
	St. Paul
	Thayer
School Districts and Community College	USD 101
	USD 413
	USD 447
	USD 505
	Neosho County Community College

In the subsections that follow, Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 summarize mitigation capabilities for Neosho County and participating cities respectively. Section 2.2.3 summarizes mitigation capabilities for the participating school districts and community college.

2.2.1 Unincorporated Neosho County

Neosho County

Overview

The jurisdiction of Neosho County includes all unincorporated areas within the County boundaries. Neosho County has a three-member elected commission. Main departments and functions of the Neosho County government include the following departments and offices.

- County Commissioners
- County Appraiser
- County Attorney
- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- Health Department
- Noxious Weed/Environmental Health Department
- Payroll Department
- Register of Deeds
- Road and Bridge Department
- Sheriff’s Department (includes Emergency Management Office)

Technical and Fiscal Resources

Neosho County has staff resources in floodplain management, emergency management, and GIS services. The County has a 911 central dispatch center as well as outdoor warning sirens throughout the county that are remotely activated through the dispatch center. Table 2.9 outlines Neosho County personnel resources in 2008.

Table 2.9 Neosho County Administrative and Technical Resources

Personnel Resources	Department/Position	Comments
Personnel skilled in GIS	Contracted Services	
Floodplain Manager	Noxious Weed/Environmental Health Department	
Emergency Manager	Sheriff's Department	
Warning Systems/Services (Reverse 9-11, cable override, outdoor warning signals)	Neosho County Emergency Management/911 Dispatch Center	Outdoor warning signals

Source: HMPC

Existing Plans and Policies

Neosho County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and has a floodplain management ordinance that is administered by the Noxious Weed/Environmental Health Department. The Unincorporated County does not have a building code. The County has an emergency operations plan that is administered by the Neosho County Emergency Management Office within the Sheriff's Department.

Other Mitigation Activities

Neosho County has conducted public education campaigns including the following:

- Fire Safety
- Storm Preparedness
- DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

2.2.2 Cities

Four incorporated cities participated in the planning development process. The amount of information regarding mitigation capabilities of these participating incorporated cities varies, but each supports the mitigation goals of the county overall. Descriptions of each participating city are provided below and Table 2.10 at the end of this section summarizes the mitigation related capabilities of these cities.

City of Chanute

Overview

Chanute is located in northwest Neosho County off of Highway 169 and is the largest city in Neosho County with a 2007 population of 8,854. Chanute has a rich history with settlers arriving as early as 1856 and the railroad set to arrive shortly thereafter. The early residents of this area needed an innovative solution to an escalating dispute between the towns of Tioga, Chicago Junction, Alliance, and New Chicago. With each town vying for the right to house the LL&G Railroad's new land office, a compromise was needed to settle the dispute. However, the towns were unable to settle their differences until an individual by the name of Octave Chanute came to town. Octave was the Chief Engineer and General Superintendent of the LL&G Railroad. In 1872, he suggested the towns merge together to end the bickering. On January 1, 1873 the towns merged and became chartered as the City of Chanute (Chanute Website, www.chanute.org, December 2008).

Figure 2.5 Historic Santa Fe Depot



Source: Chanute website: <http://www.chanute.org/Visiting/history/history.htm>, December, 2008.

With the Southern Kansas Railroad locating a division headquarters in Chanute, the city began to flourish. In 1887, the City of Chanute boasted a rapid growth in flourmills, grain elevators, banks, drug and hardware stores, and natural gas. It soon became apparent that the City would have to become an innovative leader if the city was to continue its prosperity. In 1903, the City of Chanute established the electric utility, and in the years to follow, the City established the gas,

water, wastewater, and refuse utilities. The City of Chanute is one of only a handful of remaining full-service cities in the State of Kansas.

The Chanute Martin Johnson Airport, located two miles southwest of Chanute, is a public airport with one asphalt-paved runway extending 4,255' x 75', and a turf-covered runway extending 2,200' x 120'. Aircraft operations average 51 per day, 57% of which are local general aviation, 43% are transient general aviation, and less than 1% is military. There are 22 aircrafts based on the field, 18 of which are single-engine airplanes, one multi-engine airplane, and three ultra lights (E-FM CONSULTING Hazard Analysis).

The Commission-Manager form of government was adopted in 1951. Today, the city continues the tradition of innovation through projects and improvements that provide citizens with exceptional services and a high quality of life. For example, the City recently added 50 megawatts of electrical generation to its electric utility to assist expansion of the City's industrial base and better serve the citizens of Chanute.

Chanute is organized as a Commission/City Manager form of government. The City Commission consists of a Mayor and four City Commissioners, all with the same voting responsibilities. Every two years an election is held and three City Commission seats are at stake every election. The two candidates receiving the most votes are elected for four-year terms and the candidate receiving the third most votes is elected for a two-year term. City Departments include the following:

- Airport
- Animal Control
- Auditorium Services
- Cemetery
- City Commission
- City Manager
- Data Processing
- Economic Development
- Electric Distribution
- Electric Meter Services
- Electric Production
- Community Development
- Fire Department
- Gas Distribution
- General Admin. Services
- Information Services
- Legal Services
- Meter Reading
- Municipal Court
- Parks and Recreation
- Police Department
- Refuse Collection
- Refuse Disposal
- Street
- Swimming Pool
- Tourism Office
- Utility Business Office
- Utility Complex
- Vehicle Services
- Wastewater Collection
- Waste Water Plant
- Water Distribution
- Water Treatment Plant

Technical and Fiscal Resources

Chanute participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. The Floodplain Management position and the Emergency Management position are within the Community Development Department. This department is responsible for the preparation, review, and inspection of all planned public improvement projects. The department also prepares all cost estimates and petitions for proposed special assessment districts. Inspectors check new construction and remodeling projects to ensure compliance with building, electrical, and plumbing codes of the City. Personnel also supervise Public Works which includes Street, Refuse and Storm Drainage Departments. The City has an outdoor warning system that is automatically activated via remote from the Neosho County 911 dispatch center as well as a website and cable channel that can be utilized to communicate emergency information to residents.

The City of Chanute, Kansas has created a community-wide communications network for the benefit of the community. Current community network participants include: Chanute Public School District USD 413, Neosho County Community College (both Chanute and Ottawa Campuses), the County of Neosho County E911 and central dispatch site, Kustom Signals, Kansas State Board of Regents (Kan-ed), Midwest Connections, Ash Grove Cement, Tri-Valley Developmental Services, Chanute Public Library, City of Chanute governmental and public safety departments, Chanute's municipal utility departments, Chanute Manufacturing, and Community National Bank (under contract). A proposal providing aggregated fiber network access has been submitted to the State of Kansas to support the State Agencies' offices located in Chanute (KDOT, Highway Patrol, SRS, KCC, KDHE and other State agencies will benefit if the proposal is accepted by the State).

Fiscal tools or resources that the City could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities include the following:

- Community Development Block Grants
- Capital improvements project funding
- Taxes for specific purposes
- Fees for water, sewer, gas or electric services
- Impact fees for new development
- Debt through general obligation bonds
- Debt through special tax bonds
- Debt through private activities
- Withhold spending in hazard prone areas

Existing Plans and Policies

Chanute has a master plan, zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, floodplain management ordinance, and has been a participant in the regular program of the NFIP since 1979. The City's adopted building code is the IBC 2006 edition. The fire department ISO rating is 4. The city has a stormwater management program, site plan review requirements and a capital improvements

plan. A flood insurance study has been developed for the City, as well as a local emergency operations plan.

Other Mitigation Activities

Chanute has developed an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide coordinated interagency public safety and emergency management support and monitored video-surveillance based security. This Emergency Operations Center serves as a backup facility to the county's 911 and central dispatch center in Erie, Kansas. These sites are linked through a high speed broadband wireless connection on the City's network. Additional critical municipal infrastructure sites have monitored video-surveillance equipment.

Through the City's cable channel, they offer informational programs on water usage and broadcast public forum/awareness meetings on fire safety.

The City has also submitted an application for funding from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the purchase of nine floodprone properties. The status of this project was pending as of January 2009.

Figure 2.4 shows the garden area along the side of a Chanute home that camouflages the elevation of the home above grade. In the front, the home is elevated four feet. In accordance with the floodplain management ordinance adopted by the City of Chanute, the home was required to be elevated two feet, five inches to make it one foot above the 1951 flood line of the nearby Neosho River. The homeowner chose to elevate even higher than the required height to provide added protection. As a result of this mitigation effort, the home stood three feet above water when the Neosho River flooded the Chanute area in June/July 2007.

Figure 2.4 Elevated Neosho County Home



Source: FEMA Mitigation Best Practices Portfolio, www.fema.gov

City of Erie

Overview

Erie is an incorporated city in east central Neosho County serving as the county seat. The 2007 population estimate for Erie was 1,150. Originally a town called Erie, now referred to as "Old Erie," was started two miles northwest of the present town site. Two miles southeast another town was started named Crawfordsville. The proprietors of the towns made a compromise to abandon both towns and start a new one. They selected the present Erie town site for the new location. In November of 1866 the Erie Town Company was formed. Erie began to prosper. The first log home was built in 1866. The first store went up in 1867 by Drs. Kennedy & Neely and John C. Carpenter. It is still standing on the corner of 4th and Main. The town of Erie was organized by a decree of the Probate Court, Dec. 25, 1869 with J. A. Wells, G. W. Dale, John McCullough, Isaac M. Fletcher and Douglas Putnam as trustees. On Dec. 30 the trustees met and declared the town a city of the third class. The City is governed by a mayor and 5 member City Council. City officials and departments include:

- City Superintendent
- City Clerk
- City Treasurer
- Municipal Judge
- City Attorney

-
- Zoning Administrator
 - Public Works Department
 - Police Department
 - Fire Department

Technical and Fiscal Resources

The City Superintendent for Erie serves as the floodplain administrator. There is no separate Emergency Manager for the City of Erie. However, the County Emergency Manager's office is located in the City of Erie in the Sheriff's department. The City has an outdoor warning system that is automatically activated by the County's 911 dispatch center.

Fiscal tools or resources that the City could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities include the following:

- Community Development Block Grants
- Taxes for specific purposes
- Fees for water, sewer, gas or electric services
- Debt through general obligation bonds
- Debt through special tax bonds

Existing Plans and Policies

Erie has a master plan, zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, floodplain ordinance and an adopted 1993 building code. The community has participated in the regular program of the NFIP since 1978. The fire department ISO rating is 5 and a flood insurance study has been developed for the City. The City has an emergency operations plan, capital improvements plan, and economic development plan. A planning commission has been formed to oversee capital improvements and an economic development committee has been formed to oversee implementation of the economic development plan.

Other Mitigation Activities

Erie uses the local cable channel to post public information regarding hazards and emergencies along with other city business.

The City has received funding from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the purchase of 11 floodprone properties. The City intends to complete purchase and demolition of these properties by December 2009.

City of St. Paul

Overview

Father John Schoemakers, S.J. founded Osage Mission on April 28, 1847. Called the "Apostle to the Osage" and the "Father of civilization in Southeast Kansas," he served for 36 years as

spiritual director, doctor, steward, lawyer, judge, catechist and preacher to the Osage. He served as an officially appointed U.S. postmaster of Osage Mission from 1851 to 1864. With the relocation of the Osage he ministered to the needs of the newly arrived settlers. He built the present St. Francis Church stone structure. In 1895, the name of the town was changed to St. Paul. Some claim the new name was selected to honor Father Paul, the great missionary, but it was most probably selected in honor of St. Paul of the Cross, founder of the Passionist Order which had just then established a home in Osage Mission.

The City of St. Paul, with a 2007 population estimate of 655, is governed by a Mayor and five-member City Council. The Mayor and City Council all serve two-year terms and are elected in April of odd-numbered years. City Personnel consist of:

- City Administrator/City Clerk
- City Foreman
- City Maintenance Position
- Administrative Assistant

The City also has a fire department with a Fire Chief, and Assistant Fire Chief.

Technical and Fiscal Resources

The City Clerk serves as St. Paul's Floodplain Manager. The warning system for St. Paul consists of outdoor severe weather warning sirens that are activated by the County's 911 dispatch center.

Fiscal tools or resources that the City could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities include the following:

- Community Development Block Grants
- Capital improvements project funding
- Taxes for specific purposes
- Fees for water and sewer services
- Debt through general obligation bonds
- Debt through special tax bonds
- Debt through private activities

Existing Plans and Policies

St. Paul does not have a building code. The Fire Department's ISO rating is 8. The City joined the NFIP Emergency Program in 1978 and entered the regular program in 1990. The City has a floodplain management ordinance which regulates development in the floodplain.

Other Mitigation Activities

None reported.

City of Thayer

Overview

The City of Thayer had a 2007 population estimate of 448 and is located in southwest Neosho County. The City is governed by a mayor and 5-member City Council. The City has a fire department. Other city staff positions include:

- City Clerk
- Public Works Director
- Public Works Assistant

Technical and Fiscal Resources

Thayer does not currently participate in the NFIP, but is completing the process to join as this plan is being developed. A floodplain manager has not yet been identified. The warning system for severe weather warnings in Thayer is automatically activated by the Neosho County 911 dispatch center.

Fiscal tools or resources that the City could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities include the following:

- Taxes for specific purposes
- Fees for water, sewer, gas or electric services
- Debt through general obligation bonds

Existing Plans and Policies

The City of Thayer utilizes the County emergency operations plan (Current version is 12/2007) in the event of an emergency. The fire department ISO Rating is 6.

Table 2.10 Neosho County and Participating Cities: Summary of Mitigation Capabilities

Capability	Neosho County	Chanute	Erie	St. Paul	Thayer
Master Plan	N	Y	Y	N	N
Emergency Operations Plan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Economic Development Plan/Policy	N	N	Y	N	N
Capital Improvements Plan	N	Y	Y	N	N
Building Code	N	Y	Y	N	N
Building Code Year	N/A	2006 IBC	1993 UBC	N	N
Fire Department ISO Rating	varies	4	5	8	6
Stormwater Management Ordinance	N	Y	N	N	N
Floodplain Management Ordinance	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Zoning Ordinance	N	Y	Y	N	N
Subdivision Ordinance	N	Y	Y	N	N
Site plan review requirements	N	Y	N	N	N
Erosion Management Ordinance	N	N	N	N	N
National Flood Insurance Program Participant	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
	N-Current Preliminary Effective	Y-2001 Revision Effective	Y-1993 Revision Effective	N-Current Preliminary Effective	N-Current Preliminary Effective
Flood insurance study	6/2009	6/2009	6/2009	6/2009	6/2009
Elevation Certificates Maintained	N	Y	Y	N	N

2.2.4 School Districts

Unified School Districts 101 (Erie and Galesburg), 413 (Chanute), 447 (Cherryvale-Thayer), and 505 (Chetopa-St. Paul), are participating jurisdictions in this hazard mitigation plan. As public institutions, these school districts share an interest in public safety and in achieving Neosho County’s mitigation goals. Figure 2.6 provides the boundaries of the school districts participating in this plan. The school buildings within each district are identified by the red dots.

Figure 2.6 Neosho County School District Boundaries

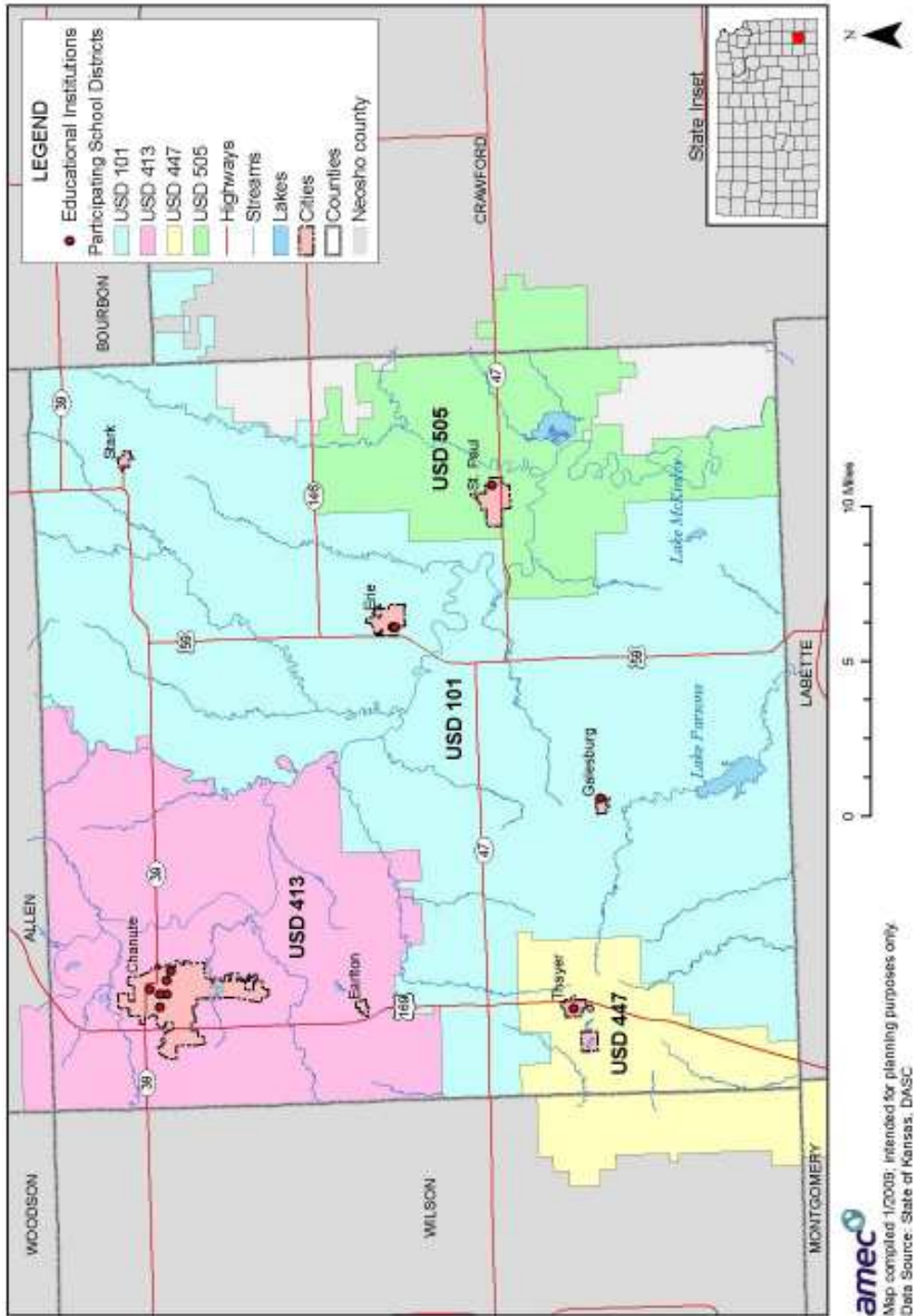


Table 2.11. Schools in Participating Districts with Reported 2007-2008 Enrollment

USD 101 Galesburg and Erie Public Schools		2007-2008 Enrolment
		Total 601
Erie Elementary School		288
Galesburg Elementary School		113
Erie High School		200
USD 413 Chanute Public Schools		2007-2008 Enrolment
		Total 1,894
Chanute Elementary Charter School		145
Chanute High School		616
Hutton Elementary		272
Lincoln Elementary		196
Murray Hill Elementary		239
Royster Middle School		426
USD 447 Cherryvale-Thayer Public Schools		2007-2008 Enrolment
		Total 944
Cherryvale Sr/Middle School (MG County)		474
Lincoln Central Elementary School		336
Thayer Schools		134
Schools		2007-2008 Enrolment
		Total 560
Chetopa Elementary		150
Chetopa High School		137
St. Paul Elementary School		142
St. Paul High School		131
St. Paul Middle School		Not reported

Source: Kansas State Department of Education Report Card, <http://online.ksde.org/rcard/index.aspx>

Technical and Fiscal Resources

The Unified School Districts all have the authority to levy taxes for special purposes related to education and student safety and/or incur debt through general obligation or special tax bonds.

All schools in the school districts participating in this plan have NOAA all hazard radios on site to provide early warning of hazard events. In addition, each school has fire alarms and a public address system capable of providing specific instructions in the event of an emergency.

USD 101 and USD 413 have a grant writer on staff. At USD 505, the Superintendent of Schools performs emergency management and grant writing duties.

At USD 447, emergency manager duties are performed by school administrators supported by the nursing staff.

Existing Plans and Policies

USD 101, 413, and 505 have a crisis management plans. USD 413 also has a five year plan for capital improvements.

Other Mitigation Activities

All schools participating in the plan conduct regular fire/emergency drills and tornado drills in accordance with the regulations of the Kansas State Fire Marshal. Fire drills are conducted monthly and tornado drills are conducted at least quarterly.

USD 101 Galesburg and Erie Public Schools received a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant in June 2008 to construct tornado saferooms in each of the three schools in the district. Construction was ongoing during the development of this plan.

USD 413 Chanute Public Schools recently completed a construction project involving a new high school, new elementary school and remodeled middle school. At both of the new buildings FEMA certified saferooms were constructed as part of the project although a FEMA grant was not used to fund the saferooms.

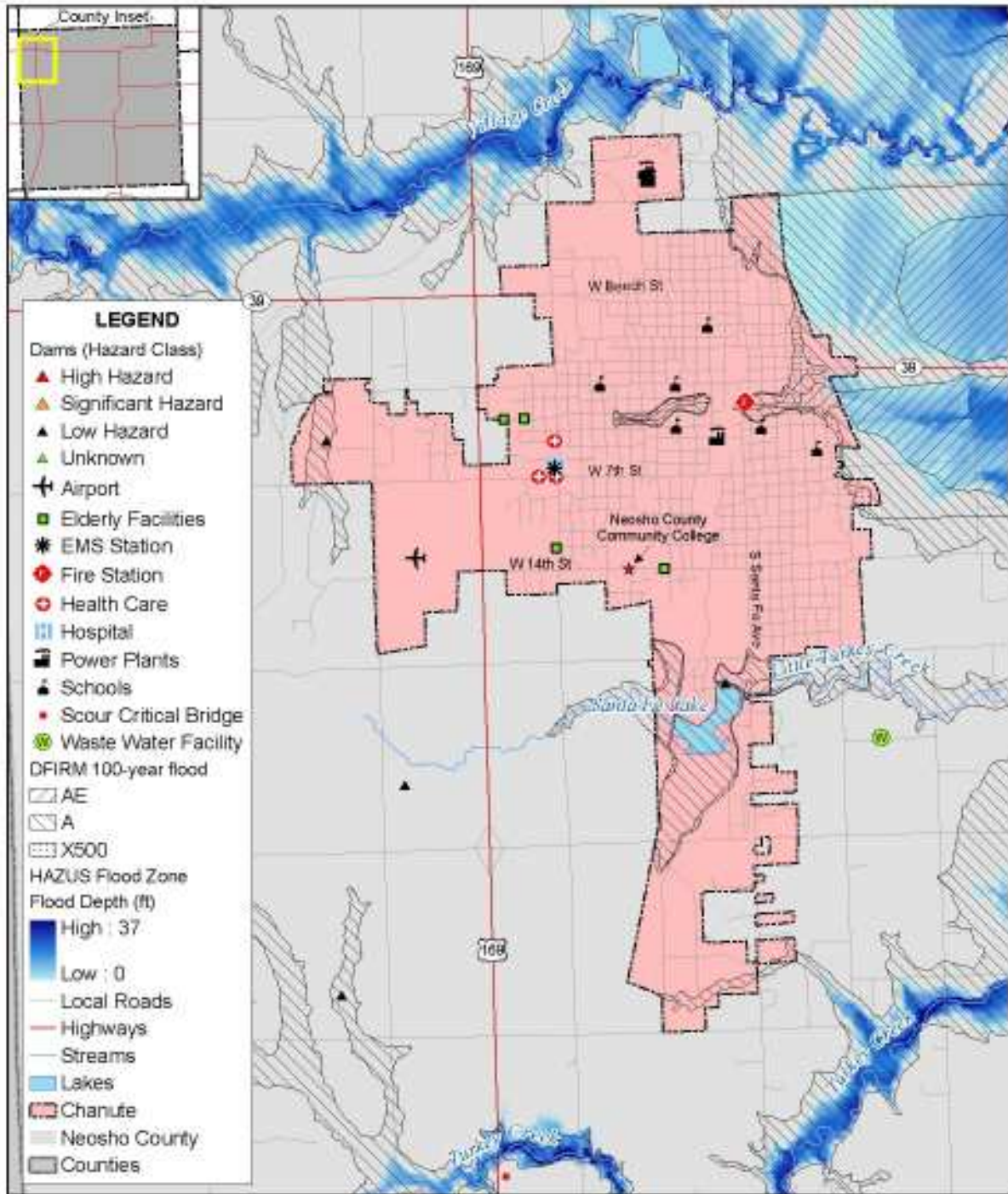
USD 505 Chetopa-St. Paul Public School District received a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant in July 2008 to construct two tornado saferooms at the St. Paul campus in Neosho County. This project was in progress during the development of this plan.

2.2.5 Neosho County Community College

Overview

Neosho County Community College (NCCC) is a participating jurisdiction in this multi-hazard mitigation plan. As a public institution, the college shares an interest in public safety and in achieving the county's mitigation goals. The college campus is located in the city limits of Chanute at 800 W. 14th Street (See Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7 Neosho County Community College (red star in center of map)



Map compiled 1/2008; intended for planning purposes only.
 Data Source: State of Kansas, DASC, HAZUS-MH MR3, FEMA



Technical and Fiscal Resources

The college takes a proactive approach to safety of its students and faculty and has organized the Neosho County Community College Safety and Security Committee. This committee develops policies for the campus-wide safety/security program. The committee evaluates and assesses existing fire safety and security systems, electronic access and security systems, and security information systems.

Existing Plans and Policies

The College has an Emergency Action Plan that is kept current by the Safety and Security Committee. This plan was designed to provide contingency procedures for Neosho County Community College administrators to follow in the event of campus emergencies. The date of the current plan is November 13, 2008. Specific procedures are addressed for the following potential natural hazard emergencies: medical emergencies, fires, severe weather, tornado, utility failure, and earthquake. The plan also covers additional emergencies related to criminal acts and man-made hazards.