



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Manitou Springs Reduces Flood Insurance Premiums by Maintaining a Class 7 Rating through FEMA's Community Rating System

MANITOU SPRINGS CO – Reducing flood risk in Manitou Springs is a priority of the City of Manitou Springs. This was demonstrated by Manitou Springs City Staff's dedication to maintaining a Class 7 Rating through FEMA's Community Rating System – **resulting in a 15% reduction in flood insurance premiums for the Manitou Springs community.**

In the past, the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department was the entity who would complete the 5-year verification requirement for this program, but recently, this task was handed over to each individual municipality. Only through an extremely collaborative effort between City Departments, the Manitou Springs School District, and the Regional Floodplain Administrator - that resulted in many long nights and 200+ hours of dedication to this verification - was this Class 7 rating achieved.

Duties that City Staff performed include mapping all buildings in the 100-year floodplain, extensive outreach for flood preparedness and mitigation, participation in the Pikes Peak Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and much more.

The City of Manitou Springs would like to extend its gratitude to Senior Planner, Karen Berchtold, AICP, who was the person who managed this operation. Without Karen, a 15% reduction in flood insurance premiums for Manitou Springs would not have been possible.

Other City Staff that were instrumental in the success of this verification were Jeff Jones, Director of Public Works; Eric Karlson, Streets/Stormwater Supervisor; Dylan Becker, Planner I; Alicia Stoke; Senior Administrative Assistant for Public Works; and John Chavez, Stormwater Consultant.

The work that City stormwater crews perform plays an extremely important part in flood mitigation in Manitou Springs. For more information on City Staff mitigation and maintenance efforts for Williams Canyon, please visit:

<https://www.manitouspringsgov.com/668/Williams-Canyon-Maintenance>



For more information on hazard mitigation in Manitou Springs, please visit:
<https://www.manitouspringsgov.com/572/Hazard-Preparedness-Mitigation-and-Resil>

About the Community Rating System:

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Over 1,500 communities participate nationwide.

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