



# Lower Meramec Multi-Jurisdictional Floodplain Management Plan Public Involvement (Results of Early Public Engagement) 27 June 2018

**Public Involvement Summary:** The planning process includes opportunities for the public to be involved with the plan during its development and prior to its finalization. Three public meetings were held in March and April 2018 to inform the public of the purpose, schedule and structure of the planning effort, and to seek public input via surveys and map commenting. Below is a summary of the early public engagement activities. The schedule also calls for more public engagement later in the process to inform the public on results of the draft Floodplain Management Plan.

## Public Workshop Attendees:

Workshop Location	Public	Partners	Congressional	Media	Total
Pacific	15	14	2	3	34
Sunset Hills	44	16	2	4	66
Arnold	49	14	2	0	65

**Total surveys received:** 38

## Feedback by question:

**Question 1:** Optional to provide name and address.

**Question 2:** Are you concerned about past or potential future flooding at this address location?

Yes	No	Did not respond
30	8	0

**Question 3:** If you answered yes to question 2, what type of structure is located at the address location provided?

Type of Structure	Number of Structures
Home	15
Business	12*
School	0
Church	0
Industrial	1
Public Facility	0
Other (family condo)	1
Didn't Answer	1

*\*Note: 3 identified as business and industrial*

**Question 4:** If you answered yes to question 2, what type of building foundation does this structure have?

Building Foundation	Number of Foundations
Slab-on-grade	13
Crawl Space	1
Basement	13
I do not know	0
All of the above	0
Other (concrete foundation/cement)	3

**Question 5:** If you answered yes to question 2, what was the estimated flood depth on the structure during the worst case flood?

Estimated Flood Depth	Number of Structures
<3 feet	12
3-6 feet	10
>6 feet	1
Not Applicable	7
All of the Above	0
No Answer	0

**Question 6:** Select the tool(s) that you are most interested in to reduce flood risk in the planning area (multiple tools may be selected and write-ins were accepted).\*

Tool(s)	Number of times selected
Relocation of a Building	0
Fill Basement with Main Floor Addition	0
Elevating the Building	1
Dry Flood Proofing	5
Wet Flood Proofing	7
Flood Warning	4
Berm Around Building ("Field" Added)	3
Floodwall Around Building	5
Buyout of Property	5
Enforced Floodplain Regulations	9
Flood Insurance	8
Levee construction to prevent crested water	5
Better drainage to Fishpot Creek	1
Lower Valley Park Levee to allowable FEMA height	1

*\*Note: 5 people did not include Page 2 in the survey*

**Question 7:** Do you have any other ideas (besides those listed in question 6) to reduce flood risk in the planning area?\*

- FEMA should expand buy-outs/relocations of commercial property
- Plants or watershed type project
- The Mayor and Police Chief should not turn off the electric. Stop pumping the sewers that caused many homes that are not in the floodplain to flood just so they could enlarge the park and then lie to the people about it.
- I believe the new levee in Valley Park has caused the water to back up and bring it over to our side of highway 44.
- Manage the current floodplains to not allow additional levees, building, or modification of any land in the 100-year floodplain.
- A levee similar to Valley Park
- At the recent meeting in Arnold, the possibility of dredging the river was mentioned.
- Explore levy construction to prevent crested flood waters from reaching this location\*\*
- Build the Meramec dam and reservoir. Control river levels and flow.
- Pumping station connected to sewer line, when flooding reaches a specified depth, the station could pump the sewer system to prevent flooding of basements.
- Stop filling in the floodplains with earth and trash.
- Dredge the Meramec; put in a floodgate at culvert Dutch bottom where it drains Meramec
- Do not allow levees to be built
- See article: “The Role of Landscapes in Stormwater Management”
- Stop pouring concrete.
- Allow the river to flow naturally as many areas as possible.
- Stop building in flood prone areas.
- Allow no more levees to be built in lower Meramec region.
- Mandatory education of middle and high school students.
- Tighter floodplain development rules that go beyond the federal minimum. Significant use of enhanced wetlands in all the parks along the Meramec to play.
- Stop filling in floodplain area, stop building levees so they can build in these areas. The rain is not going to stop. There has to be somewhere for the water to go.

*\*Note: 5 People did not include Page 2 in the survey*

*\*\*Note: 4 surveys listed this response*

**Question 8:** Would you support stricter regulatory standards in the floodplain to achieve a higher level of safety and flood risk reduction?

Yes	No	I do not know	Did not respond
24	1	7	1

**Question 9:** If you answered yes to question 8, please select the regulatory standard(s) that you may support (multiple regulations may be selected).

Regulatory Standard	Number of times supported
Prohibit new development	25
Zoning the floodplain for low-density uses	5
Adopting a standard that new construction allows less than a one-foot rise in floodway	8
Freeboard requirements	5
Compensatory storage	8
Protection of critical facilities	8
Off channel setbacks	11
Watershed-specific storm water management regulations	17

**Question 10:** Would you support preservation of natural areas in the floodplain?

Yes	No	I do not know	Did not respond
31	1	5	1

**Question 11:** If you answered yes to question 10, identify all of those natural area services or values that mean most to you (multiple services/values may be selected).

Natural area services or values that mean the most	Number of times selected
Contain unique or scenic natural resources	24
Accessible to Neighborhoods	11
Connected to Tourist Areas or other Parks	11
Connectivity to existing and planned trail systems	12

**Question 12:** Do you have any other comments or questions you would like the floodplain management plan to answer?\*

- There is not enough wetlands left. They keep filling them in so they can build there. We created this problem.
- When you do your modeling of the flood situation, we would like to have you do flood modeling where the effects of the Valley Park levee on the region’s flooding problems isolated in the model.
- Take care of my town.
- I support nature-based solutions, such as restoring floodplains and wetlands, property buyouts, regulatory approaches, and flood-friendly culverts.
- How do we control INCREASED flooding if we insist on building in floodplains. Areas that did not normally flood in the past are now continually threatened.
- We have drastically altered our land use during the last century by our urban development, agriculture and highway systems. We have eliminated our ability to accumulate water in our uplands, riparian and floodplains. We have turned our streams

and rivers into transport systems that cannot contain the current conditions of frequent high rain fall events without major changes to our current land use.

- We would like to speak to someone that can offer some insight as to the best course of action to reduce the immediate action during a flood event.
- Seems to me all overdevelopment (not just floodplains) along the entire watershed is a huge problem apparently only bound to get worse. More streets, driveways, parking lots, and roofs means more runoff and potentially more and worse floods.
- When my home was built 25 years ago, we were not in the floodplain. Since levees upstream have been built, there have been times of flooding here. Never having been told that flood insurance was necessary, my home was not covered.
- Quit building the levees north of Arnold. Take down Valley Park levee. If you're going to keep building levees, then put a gate or culvert that runs under 141 (Dutch Bottom and Mo State Road) and put in a pump station for a next flood.
- Think outside the box.
- Extend the bridge opening on Telegraph Road Bridge to let water coming down the Meramec River faster draining into Mississippi River. In May 2015, water was being back up by Telegraph Road and smaller outlets into Mississippi River. The bridge and road were acting like a dam with too small of a spillway.
- Since you can't control the weather then the only options we have left to protect those of us who now suffer due to overbuilding of floodwalls and levees.
- The team did very well at Arnold City Hall. This area floods from the Mississippi Rivers and from rivers north. It's the mouth of the river!
- What is the plan for future? We had an excessive amount of damage and also had to pay for piers later out of pocket.
- During the flooding in recent years, we have stayed at a hotel on the St. Louis County side of the Meramec so that we could get to work.
- Levees have been built all around us, which causes more flooding to the Arnold area. This is not right. Arnold desperately need a levee to protect its citizens.
- I've lived here 30 plus years. Until the levee was put in, the area around my house was floodplain. I see the levee as part of the problem.
- What is being done to correct flood depths increasing?
- Flooding in this area is becoming more and more common in the past 5 years. What are you doing about protecting the business owners in Tree Court Ind. Park?
- If my business floods, it will put 80+ people out of work and likely bankrupt a \$30,000,000 business.
- Dredging or channeling the Meramec? Adding reservoirs or dams to the Upper Meramec or tributaries like Big River to help with flood control.
- Stop building all levees anywhere on the Meramec River. Stop all development in the Meramec floodway or floodplain. Build a damn in the Upper Meramec to control water flow along the Upper Meramec.

*\* Note: Additional responses were received in the form of addendums and attached articles. Those responses have not been included in this summary but will be reviewed and potentially included in aspects of the Floodplain Management Plan.*