

Table 31. All Mitigation Actions for Benton County

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status	Priority Ranking	Time-frame	Jurisdictions	Responsibility	County Comments on Planning Mechanisms for Implementation	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Work to ensure that all Benton County residents are aware of and sign-up for the Swift Reach emergency notification system	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids and All Townships	BC Emergency Management in coordination with local city and townships	This is a standing effort of the Benton County Emergency Management Program. Sign-up for Swift Reach is available on the Benton County Emergency Management website and reminders are also put out via Facebook. Cities also work to promote sign-up by local residents by sharing information on city websites and announcements at public meetings.	County Budget
2	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Provide training to County employees for following emergency preparedness and response procedures to improve safety in the event of hazard events.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management and BC Administration	Benton County seeks to ensure the safety of all County employees in the event of severe weather or other emergency events. We need to continue to educate and train employees in the use of weather radios during storm events. One option we have also discussed is a Public Address (PA) system. We also must ensure that all employees participate in the tornado drills scheduled during severe weather awareness week.	County Budget

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3	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Identify and map locations of vulnerable populations for emergency response and ensure the ability to reach special populations within the community who have special needs or a disability.	Ongoing	Moderate	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management and BC Human Services in collaboration with local cities	Ensuring the ability to reach at-risk populations (i.e., the elderly, those with English as a 2 nd language, deaf, blind, etc.) is a high priority and is an ongoing effort of the BC Emergency Management Program. BC will work in collaboration with Public Health and local cities to gather information on vulnerable populations within their jurisdictions and plan for how to reach them using the best means possible.	County/ City budgets
4	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents of Benton County to sign up for the Benton County Emergency Management Facebook page.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids and All Townships	BC Emergency Management in coordination with local city and townships	This is a standing effort of the Benton County Emergency Management Program. Our FB page is an important communication tool to convey timely information on emergency conditions and personal preparedness.	County Budget

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5	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations / Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Work with all city and township governments to improve emergency preparedness and response capabilities, including ability to coordinate with Benton County Emergency Management.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids, and All Townships	BC Emergency Management in coordination with city and township officials	This is an ongoing effort of Benton County Emergency Management. Annual training and exercises are held in the county that engage local government officials and first responders. A general strategy to improve the overall quality of emergency preparedness with townships is also being implemented. Each township has been requested to identify one individual within their jurisdiction that will act as the Township's Emergency Coordinator. This individual will work directly with the County Emergency Management Director in developing response plans for each Township and during emergencies. So far only several townships have indicated that they are willing to work with County Emergency Management. The effort will continue to be made to increase these numbers.	County / City / Township Budgets

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6	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Continue to update the Benton County Emergency Operations Plan to prepare for All-Hazards response and recovery.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	Benton County Emergency Management	This is an ongoing effort of the Benton County Emergency Management Program. Our EOP is updated on an annual basis to meet HSEM MNWALK requirements. Benton County Emergency Management also encourages cities to develop EOPS and update them on a regular basis.	County Budget
7	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations / Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support	Ensure that plans are in place for mass care sheltering and designated shelter facilities are identified throughout the County, and encourage cities to be prepared at the local level.	Ongoing	Moderate	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management, BC Human Services	This is an ongoing effort of the Benton County Emergency Management Program as well as Benton County Public Health. Planning for Mass Care Sheltering is a required element of our county EOP update. Residents may be temporarily displaced from their homes due to structure damage from storms, power outages during extreme temperature events, or other events that threaten public safety such as a hazmat release.	County Budget
8	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support	Ensure that interoperable radio communications (800 MHz) are in place between Benton County and city emergency management.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids	BC Emergency Management in coordination with city EM's	This project will be addressed by the Benton County Emergency Manager in coordination with the EM department of each city.	County Funding, other grants

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9	Severe Winter Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Encourage the planting of "Living Snow Fences" (trees and other vegetation) or the placement of other snow fences along roadways to help prevent blowing and drifting snow onto key transportation routes.	Ongoing	Low	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Highway Dept., BC SWCD in coordination with MnDOT and local city and township road authorities	Benton County will work with MnDOT and local road authorities to identify where LSF projects may be effective, particularly along recent road projects where trees have been removed. Benton County SWCD has had some landowners put in living snow fences for their driveways, but have not had much luck with roads.	SWCD funding, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) (Federal cost-share program) and local landowner private funds
10	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Education & Awareness Programs	Work to promote severe weather awareness and emergency preparedness for families and individuals.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids	BC Emergency Management & BC Public Health in coordination with local cities	This is a standing effort of the Benton County Emergency Management Program. Information on emergency preparedness is provided on the BC Emergency Management website and through local outreach efforts. The County also participates annually in the NWS Winter Hazard Awareness Week (November) and Severe Weather Awareness Week (April). Cities are encouraged to further share information within their jurisdictions (i.e., website, FB posting). Extra outreach effort is made during the summer storm season. Radio shows, media releases and social media posts are made as weather develops.	County Budget

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11	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support	Promote the use of NOAA weather radios as a key communications resource for residents, businesses, and facilities that house vulnerable populations (i.e., nursing homes, group homes, senior centers, and day care facilities).	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids, All Townships, and All Schools (ISD #47 & ISD #51)	BC Emergency Management in coordination with City EM's and School Districts	This is a standing effort of the Benton County Emergency Management Program. Benton County Emergency Management seeks to have weather radios available for loan during events to have them present in all public buildings where large events are held. Weather Radios have been promoted through the annual Skywarn training as well as Benton County's annual participation in the NWS spring and winter Severe Weather Awareness Weeks in April and November.	County/City Budgets

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12	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support	Identify critical facilities or infrastructure that do not have backup power in the event of a major power outage resulting from severe winter or summer storms. (Critical facilities may include police/fire departments, EOC, health care facilities, water & sewer treatment facilities, and other facilities deemed as critical, i.e. public schools and sheltering facilities).	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, All Townships, Sauk Rapids and Public School Districts (ISD #47 - Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools and ISD #51 - Foley Public Schools)	BC Emergency Management, City Admin & Public Works, and School District Staff	Some County buildings have generator backup power, while others do not. In the event of a power outage, some County departments cannot function and serve the public. Ideally, all County buildings would have generator backups that can fully support all County facilities. BC Emergency Management encourages all area cities and schools to also ensure that there is have backup power generation options to ensure operations of critical infrastructure and services during a power outage.	County, City, Township, & School budgets

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13	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support	Purchase and install generator hook-ups and encourage local generator purchases for identified critical facilities that require backup power.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, All Townships, Sauk Rapids and Public School Districts (ISD #47 - Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools and ISD #51 - Foley Public Schools)	BC Emergency Management, City Admin & Public Works, School District Staff	Benton County and its jurisdictions will investigate where existing generators may be acquired (i.e., surplus equipment from MN DNR) or outside supportive funding for the purchase of generators.	County, City, Township, School Budgets & Possible FEMA HMA 5% Initiative Funding for Generators
14	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Work with rural electrical and municipal coops to identify and address mitigation measures for above ground power lines that are susceptible to damage from severe storms in order to reduce potential power outages.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids	East Central Electric and Benton Telecommunications in cooperation with local cities	Locating lines underground where it is feasible and cost effective, as is occurring in some parts of Benton County, can reduce the damages and potential power outages. Benton County and individual cities will work with the electric coops to address projects where they are needed.	Electric Coop Funding, Possible FEMA HMA funding for Infrastructure Retrofit

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15	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Provide/participate in the National Weather Service's SkyWarn "Storm Spotter" training in various parts of the County for first responders and community residents.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids	BC Emergency Management in collaboration with local cities and NWS	This is a standing part of the Benton County Emergency Management Program. Benton County works with the NWS on an annual basis to provide training sessions for community volunteers, law enforcement, and fire departments. We will continue to encourage more volunteers to become active in the severe storm spotters network.	County Budget and NWS funding to deliver program
16	Severe Summer Storms	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Identify areas where vulnerable populations are susceptible to tornadoes or extreme wind events (i.e. schools, county parks, County fairgrounds, campgrounds, or mobile home parks) and evaluate for construction or retrofit of safe rooms or storm shelters.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, All Townships, Sauk Rapids and Public School Districts (ISD #47 & #51)	BC Emergency Management, BC Hum, BC Parks Dept., and BC Dept. of Development in coordination with townships and local cities	Benton County has identified several existing key locations for potential safe rooms, including the County Fairgrounds, Benton Beach Park and the campground on Little Rock Lake. ISD #47 and ISD #51 also have identified a need for construction or retrofit of a safe room at public schools to provide for student and staff safety in the event of a tornado.	County, City, Township, School Budgets

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17	Severe Summer Storms	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Implement construction or retrofit projects for safe rooms or storm shelters in identified vulnerable locations.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, All Townships, Sauk Rapids and Public School Districts (ISD #47 & #51)	BC Emergency Management, BC Public Health, in coordination with townships and local cities	BC Emergency Management will work with any school or jurisdiction seeking to develop an application to FEMA for a safe room project.	County, City, Township, School Budgets & Possible FEMA HMA funding for Safe Room Construction
18	Severe Summer Storms	Public Education & Awareness	Encourage businesses and schools to develop and practice tornado drill plans.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County and Public School Districts (ISD #47 & #51)	BC Emergency Management, BC Public Health, in coordination with schools and local cities	All schools within Benton County regularly practice tornado drills. During Severe Weather Awareness Week Benton County Emergency Management encourages local businesses to also be prepared for tornadoes.	County, private business, and School budgets

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19	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Identify cities and rural areas within the County where there are gaps in warning siren coverage, and work to obtain funding to install new sirens.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County City of Gilman City of Foley City of Rice	BC Emergency Management in coordination with City Admin/Public Works	Benton County has a system of emergency warning sirens throughout the county, which are used to alert residents during severe wind events. However, there are gaps in warning siren coverage. The City of Gilman has no warning siren and the City of Foley needs a warning siren at the south part of town. Benton County Emergency Management will work with each City to address how to meet this need. Watab Township has installed 2 of their own warning sirens.	County Budget, NOAA/NWS Grants, Possible FEMA grant funding through 5% Initiative
20	Extreme Temps (Heat / Cold)	Education & Awareness Programs	Provide outreach & education to the public and to vulnerable populations in the community (i.e., senior citizens, young adults) on personal safety measures to take during periods of extreme heat / cold.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County School Districts	BC Emergency Management / BC Human Services and School District Staff in collaboration with local cities and schools.	Benton County Emergency Management regularly uses its Facebook page to convey information on extreme temperatures and safety precautions for the public. Benton County public schools also work to inform students on the dangers of extreme heat and extreme cold. This is done as part of the NWS annual spring and winter severe weather awareness weeks.	County/City/School budgets

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21	Extreme Temps (Hot / Cold)	Local Planning & Regulations / Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Develop plans to respond to extreme temperatures situations in Benton County.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management and BC Public Health in coordination with Red Cross and local cities	Benton County Emergency Management and Benton County Human Services will continue to work with local jurisdictions and the American Red Cross to plan for where people could go in the event that homes are unsafe due to temperature extremes.	County Budget
22	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Identify, map, and prioritize roads, bridges, and culverts in the County that are impacted by flood events, and prioritize required mitigation measures to reduce future flood damages.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids and All Townships	BC Public Works/Highway Dept., BC GIS, BC SWCD, and local city and township public works	Benton County strives to constantly improve its road and culvert infrastructure against flooding, but is limited by financial resources to go beyond maintenance on some projects. Funding shortages keep the Benton Co. Public Works Department from meeting all mitigation needs in the county.	County, and Township Budgets, Possible outside grants via SWCD
23	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Encourage and ensure that culverts and drainage ditches in the County are clear and unobstructed so that maximum flood water dispersal is possible.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids	BC Public Works/Highway Dept. in coordination with local city and township road authorities	This is a function of the County Public Works/Highway department and local cities and townships. Private landowners are also encouraged to maintain their culverts and ditches to be free of debris.	County, City and Township Budgets

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24	Flooding	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Implement prioritized flood mitigation measures for roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage systems.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids, and All Townships	BC Public Works/Highway Dept., BC GIS, BC SWCD, and local city and township public works	Benton County Highway Department and Benton County Public Works maintain an annual list of prioritized roads and transportation infrastructure projects to address improvements. Planning for projects is adjusted as flood events occur and may present new challenges.	County/State Aid, Federal Surface Trans., Clean Water Fund, SWCD funding, Possible FEMA HMA funding for Localized Flood Reduction Projects

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25	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Ensure that storm water management plans and improvement projects are identified and prioritized to address flood management for future high-impact rain events throughout the County.	Ongoing	New	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids, and All Townships	BC Public Works/Highway Dept., HC GIS, HC SWCD and local city public works depts., MNDNR, MPCA	Benton County will work with cities and townships to ensure we identify needed storm water management plans and improvement projects for future high-impact rain events. In the identification of projects we will seek to identify what projects may be eligible to apply for the MPCA's annual Clean Water Project Priority List (PPL). Projects must be on the PPL to be eligible to apply for low interest CWRP loans and other state grants and loans from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA). PFA financing is for investments in municipal infrastructure, which result in improvements in water quality. Funding is not available for privately owned infrastructure.	County/State Aid, Federal Surface Trans., Clean Water Fund, SWCD funding, Possible MPCA/PFA grant funding

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26	Flooding	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Implement storm water management structure and infrastructure projects to assist with flood management throughout the County.	Ongoing	New	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids, and All Townships	BC Public Works/Highway Dept., HC GIS, HC SWCD and local city public works depts., MNDNR, MPCA	The County and jurisdictions will seek outside grant funding where possible to fund eligible stormwater improvement projects, such as through MPCA and FEMA HMA funding for flood reduction projects.	County/State Aid, Federal Surface Trans., Clean Water Fund, SWCD funding, Possible FEMA HMA funding for Localized Flood Reduction Projects
27	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Ensure that wellhead protection plans are in place to address flooding that may lead to contaminated drinking water.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids	BC SWCD, MN Dept of Health and local city and township public works depts.	Cities work directly with the Minnesota Department of Health on the development or update of wellhead protection plans to ensure they meet State requirements.	MDH Source Water Protection grant funding for wellhead improvement projects
28	Flooding	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	Create floodwater retention ponds where needed to reduce flooding over roads throughout the county as well as agricultural areas.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County City of Foley	BC Public Works/Highway Dept. in coordination with BC SWCD	Benton County Public Works/Highway Department and the SWCD will work in coordination on this mitigation effort where identified areas may benefit from floodwater retention.	County Budget, SWCD, Possible FEMA HMA funding for Localized Flood Reduction Projects
29	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Identify properties that experience damage from repetitive flooding, and work with property owners to buy out structures and turn into open-space.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County City of Foley	BC Emergency Management, BC Assessor, in cooperation with City of Foley Admin	Benton County and the City of Foley will work in coordination to identify and address properties that respectively flood and to discuss buyouts with property owners.	County/City Funding, Possible FEMA grant funding for Property Acquisition

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30	Flooding	Structure and Infrastructure Systems	Identify and implement engineering solutions for Benton Drive (CSAH 33) in Sartell which has continual overtopping and flooding.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Public Works/Highway Dept. in coordination with MN DNR and private land owner	Addressing this local flooding issue is under the oversight of the Benton County Highway Department. We have identified that a stormwater retainage project would help control the rate and volume of water toward the road.	County Budget, Possible FEMA HMA funding for Localized Flood Reduction Projects
31	Wildfire	Education & Awareness Programs	Provide Firewise materials to the public to increase education and awareness of wildfire danger and homeowner mitigation actions that can be taken to increase defensible space.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management in coordination with MN DNR and local fire departments	Each year we distribute MN DNR Firewise brochures at the Benton County Fair as well as other public events to increase public awareness and education on wildfire issues and actions they can take to reduce risk.	MN DNR Firewise Funding
32	Wildfire	Education & Awareness Programs / Natural Systems Protection	Work with local homeowners to provide Level-1 Firewise Assessments. Promote defensible space education and provide training for property owners that have properties at-risk for wildfire.	New	Moderate	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management in coordination with MN DNR, local fire departments and ISD #51 Foley Public School District	ISD #51 (Foley Public School District) is interested to work with MN DNR, local fire departments, and Benton County Emergency Management in promoting a Firewise education program for conducting Level 1 Assessments for the district of Foley. We could do this through our Community Education Program.	MN DNR Firewise Funding

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33	Wildfire	Natural Systems Protection	Address the need for dry hydrants and water access in areas in the county where water resources are limited to support wildfire suppression.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management in coordination with local fire chiefs and MN DNR Forestry	Benton County Emergency Management will work in coordination with local fire departments to review water access for fire suppression in rural areas. Where projects may be feasible we will seek to work in coordination with the MNDNR for dry hydrant or underground water storage tank projects.	Possible MN DNR Firewise Grant funding (50:50 cost share grant)
34	Wildfire	Local Planning & Regulations	Update 911 addressing and GPS of at-risk residences and businesses.	Ongoing	Moderate	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management and BC Dept. of Development in coordination with local fire chiefs	This is an ongoing process with the Sheriff's 911 program, and the County Department of Development.	County / Fire Department budgets
35	Wildfire	Education & Awareness Programs	Provide aerial views of at-risk homes from the County's pictometry imaging.	Ongoing	Low	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management and BC Dept. of Development in coordination with local fire chiefs	This service is available through the Benton County Department of Development and GIS to homeowners in affected areas. This service is also available to local fire departments to assess areas under wildfire suppression.	County Budget
36	Wildfire	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Provide local fire departments with access to mass notification system based upon the jurisdiction of the county that they have contracted.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management in coordination with local fire chiefs	Benton County Emergency Management has made this offer to fire departments and will provide training for members in its use.	County Budget

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37	Wildfire	Education & Awareness Programs	Provide education to the public on the dangers of and prevention of wildfire, particularly during periods of high-risk due to drought and high winds.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Emergency Management in coordination with MN DNR Forestry	BC Emergency Management uses its Facebook Page, traditional media, and public events to provide outreach to the public during high-risk periods for wildfire.	Possible MN DNR Firewise Grant funding (50:50 cost share grant)
38	Drought	Education & Awareness Programs	Educate the public on water conservation measures and fire safety awareness during periods of drought.	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County	Benton County Emergency Management in collaboration with SWCD, local cities, and MN DNR	Promoting water conservation during periods of drought is a standing effort of the County, local governments, and MN DNR. Benton County SWCD provides education on water conservation through annual events and promotes practices that benefit water quality.	County/City Budgets, Federal and State funding sources
39	Drought	Education & Awareness Programs/ Local Planning & Regulations	Promote water conservation measures and awareness to residents during periods of drought. Enforce orders for water conservation when needed (i.e., prohibit watering lawns during drought).	Ongoing	High	2017-2021	Benton County, Foley, Gilman, Rice, Sauk Rapids	Benton County Emergency Management, Local City Government	Promoting water conservation during periods of drought is a standing effort of the County and local governments.	County/City Budgets

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40	Erosion	Natural Systems Protection	Identify and address shoreline stabilization for the protection of houses and roads in areas at risk throughout the county.	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County City of Foley	BC Highway Dept. and BC SWCD	A specific project is to implement measures for slope stabilization on NE River Road (CR 55) near CR 79 that threatens a private residence and public roadway along the Mississippi River that are at risk of sliding into the Mississippi River. Addressing this local flooding issue is under the oversight of the Benton County Highway Department and Benton County SWCD. If necessary, the County will discuss property buy-out of the homeowner's at-risk property.	County Budget, SWCD, Possible FEMA HMA Grant Funding for Slope Stabilization or Property Acquisition
41	Erosion	Natural Systems Protection	Address erosion issues along the Elk River where it runs under Golden Spike Road (CSAH 3).	New	High	2017-2021	Benton County	BC Highway Dept. and BC SWCD	Elk River travels under Golden Spike Road (CSAH 3). Upstream of the bridge the bank is eroding. Due to the meander of the river, the erosion could compromise the public road.	County Budget, SWCD