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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC COMMENTS REQUESTED ON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WAKE FOREST, NC – August 11, 2009 – The draft update of the Town of Wake Forest Hazard Mitigation Plan is now available on the Town's website for public review and comment at www.wakeforestnc.gov/residents/planning_services_hazard_mitigation_2009.aspx.

The plan's goal is to help guide hazard mitigation planning to better protect the people and property of Wake Forest from the impacts of natural emergencies before, during, and after they occur.

In order to qualify for mitigation grant funds in the event of a declared disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires local governments to adopt an approved hazard mitigation plan and update it every five years. Wake Forest adopted its original Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2004.

As with all plans that impact the public, the Town of Wake Forest values the input of its citizens. Local residents are encouraged to review the final draft of the plan and email any comments or suggestions to Town Planner Agnes Wanman at awanman@wakeforestnc.gov no later than Sept. 4, 2009.

Additionally, two public meetings have been scheduled to solicit comments about the plan. The first is an open house set for Thursday, Aug. 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Wake Forest Town Hall Board Chambers. This meeting will give residents, elected officials, emergency responders, and other interested stakeholders the opportunity to talk directly with Town staff who have been working on the project. The meeting will provide an overview of the plan, its goals and mitigation strategies, and allow for public comments prior to the plan being finalized.

The Wake Forest Board of Commissioners will also host a public hearing on the draft update during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m.

The final version of the plan will be submitted to FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for review and approval.

For more information about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, contact Agnes Wanman at (919) 554-3911 or awanman@wakeforestnc.gov.

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For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.