

# 4. Objectives

The overarching goal of emergency management is to reduce disasters. Every year the United States loses an average of over \$1 billion a week in costs related to natural and human-caused industrial or technological hazards (*SDR, 2005*). In order to reduce loss of life and control the rising costs of disasters, federal law requires that local jurisdictions describe the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction if the jurisdiction wants to obtain disaster grant funding (44 CFR 201.6(c)(2)(i)). Emergency management accreditation and standards also require the identification and monitoring of local hazards including their likelihood and severity of their occurrence through time (*NFPA 1600 (2016), 5.2.2*).

Landslides are one of Hennepin County's natural hazards. There is ample physical evidence of ancient landslide activity in the county. Historical accounts as well as recent experience demonstrate that this landslide threat continues and may grow in association with climate change. Recent costs in destroyed property and recovery expenses in Hennepin County indicate that landslide hazards must be understood and addressed. The lives lost to landslides recently in neighboring Ramsey County and historically in Hennepin County show that local slides also have an urgent life-safety dimension.

Until this assessment, there were no comprehensive surveys of the landslide hazard in Hennepin County. Detailed countywide landslide data have not been available to assist public officials, businesses, and residents in making decisions that could prevent or reduce their risk. Users can consult the Hennepin County Landslide Hazard Atlas to develop disaster-resilient measures to reduce landslide impacts.

There are six objectives for the Hennepin County Landslide Hazard Atlas:

- 1) Map and investigate past landslide activity in Hennepin County: to understand the locations and circumstances of previous activity.
- 2) Categorize the types of landslides occurring in Hennepin County: to describe their host environments and potential triggering conditions.
- 3) Provide information to help determine risk for future landslides for officials and landowners: to decide whether additional investigation and planning may be needed before development or activities on or near slopes in these areas.
- 4) Provide general recommendations to prevent or mitigate landslide impacts in Hennepin County: to proactively save lives, protect critical infrastructure and protect property.
- 5) Describe ways for officials and the public to report landslide activity and impacts: to update the landslide atlas and improve the understanding of local landslide hazards.
- 6) Stimulate future advancements to address local landslides hazards: to add capabilities such as the development of specific monitoring and alert criteria.