



40 JURISDICTIONAL ANNEXES

40.1 TOWN OF WATERTOWN

This jurisdictional annex to the Jefferson County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) provides information to assist public and private sectors in the Town of Watertown with reducing losses from future hazard events. This annex is not guidance of what to do when a disaster occurs; its focus is on actions that can be implemented prior to a disaster to reduce or eliminate damage to property and people. The annex presents a general overview of Watertown, describes who participated in the planning process, assesses Watertown's risk, vulnerability, and capabilities, and outlines a strategy for achieving a more resilient community.

40.2 HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TEAM

The Town of Watertown identified primary and alternate HMP points of contact and developed this plan over the course of several months, with input from many Town departments.

Table A summarizes local officials who participated in the development of the annex. Additional documentation of the Town's planning activities through Planning Partnership meetings is included in Volume I.

Table A. Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Name/Title: Joel Bartlett, Town Supervisor Address: 22867 County Route 67, Watertown, NY 13601 Phone Number: (315) 782-8248 Email: jrbsupervisor@gisco.net	Name/Title: Pamela Desormo, Town Clerk Address: 22867 County Route 67, Watertown, NY 13601 Phone Number: (315) 782-8248 Email: pamd@gisco.net
National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Administrator Name/Title: David Ross, Floodplain Administrator Address: 22867 County Route 67, Watertown, NY 13601 Phone Number: (315) 782-8248 Email: dhross@twcny.rr.com	

40.3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

40.3.1 Community Classifications

Table B summarizes classifications for community programs available to Watertown.

Table B. Community Classifications

Program	Participating? (Yes/No)	Classification	Date Classified
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	Yes	3	6/27/22
Community Rating System (CRS)	No	-	-
Firewise Communities classification	No	-	-
National Weather Service StormReady Certification	No	-	-
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	Yes	4/4Y	3/2024
NYSDEC Climate Smart Community	No	-	-
Other: Organizations with mitigation focus (advocacy group, non-government)	No	-	-



N/A = Not applicable

40.3.2 Community Profile

The Town of Watertown has an area of 36 square miles and is located in the central part of the County. The Town is bordered by the Town of Brownville, Town of Pamela and the Town of LeRay to the north, the Town of Rutland to the east, the Town of Rodman and Town of Adams to the south, and the Town of Hounsfield to the west. Interstate 81, U.S. Highway 11 and numerous state highways run directly through the Town of Watertown.

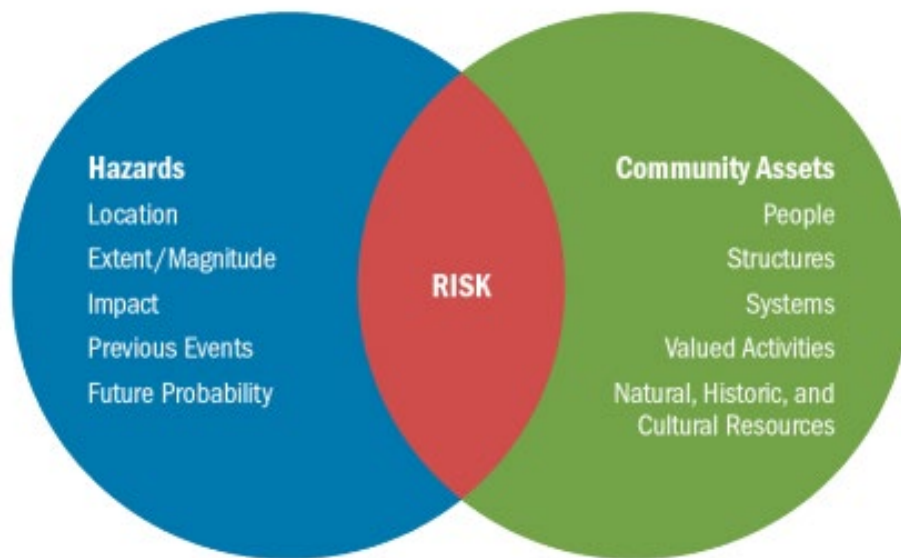
According to the U.S. Census, the 2020 population for the Town of Watertown was 5,913 which makes up 5.1 percent of the county population. Data from the 2022 American Community Survey indicates that 5.4 percent of the population is 5 years of age or younger, 19.2 percent is 65 years of age or older, zero percent is non-English speaking, 4.2 percent is below the poverty threshold, and 13.7 percent is considered disabled.

40.4 JURISDICTIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The hazard profiles in Volume I provide detailed information regarding each planning partner's vulnerability to the identified hazards, including summaries of Watertown's risk assessment results and data used to determine the hazard ranking. Key local risk assessment information is presented below.

Each jurisdiction has unique assets, vulnerabilities and overall risk. A multi-jurisdictional plan needs to identify every hazard (from the whole planning area). In hazard mitigation planning, risk is the potential for damage or loss when natural hazards interact with people or assets. These assets may be buildings, infrastructure or natural and cultural resources. A risk assessment is a robust, data-driven analysis. It explains what might happen. It also finds where the local jurisdiction is vulnerable to hazards.

Each community must describe how the selected hazards affect its jurisdiction. Some hazards will have similar effects across the area: extreme temperatures, windstorms, winter weather, drought, heavy rain, etc. Some have a smaller location and will vary based on geography. Multi-jurisdictional plans must explain these differences.



Risk is the relationship, or overlap, between hazards and community assets. The smaller the overlap, the lower the risk.

40.4.1 Hazard Area

Hazard area maps provided below illustrate the probable hazard areas impacted within the Town are shown in Figure 1 through Figure 2. These maps are based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan and are adequate for planning purposes. Maps are provided only for hazards that can be identified clearly using mapping techniques and technologies and for which Watertown has significant exposure. The maps show the location of potential new development, where available.



Figure 1. Watertown Flood and Coastal Erosion Hazard Area Extent and Location Map

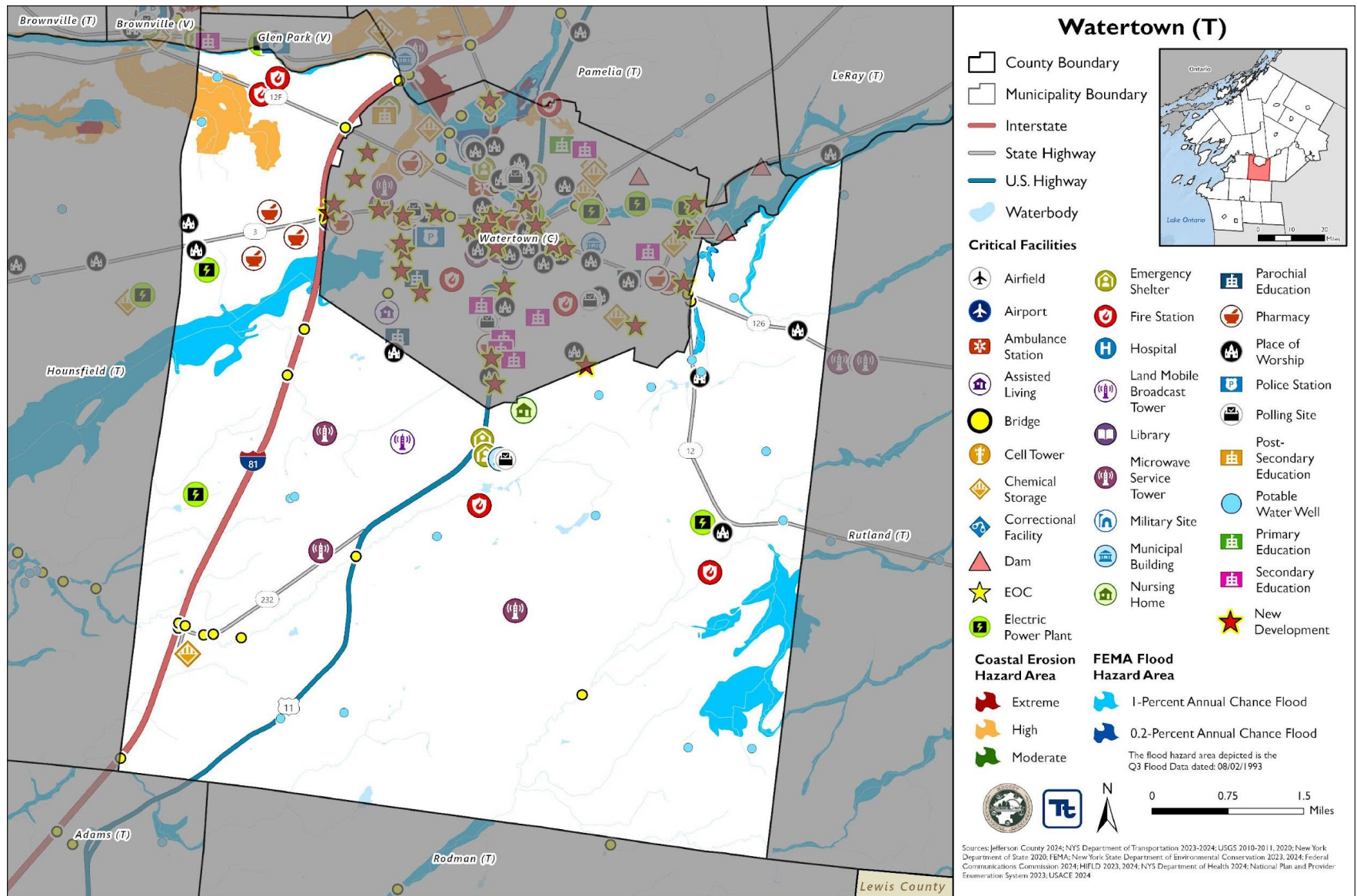
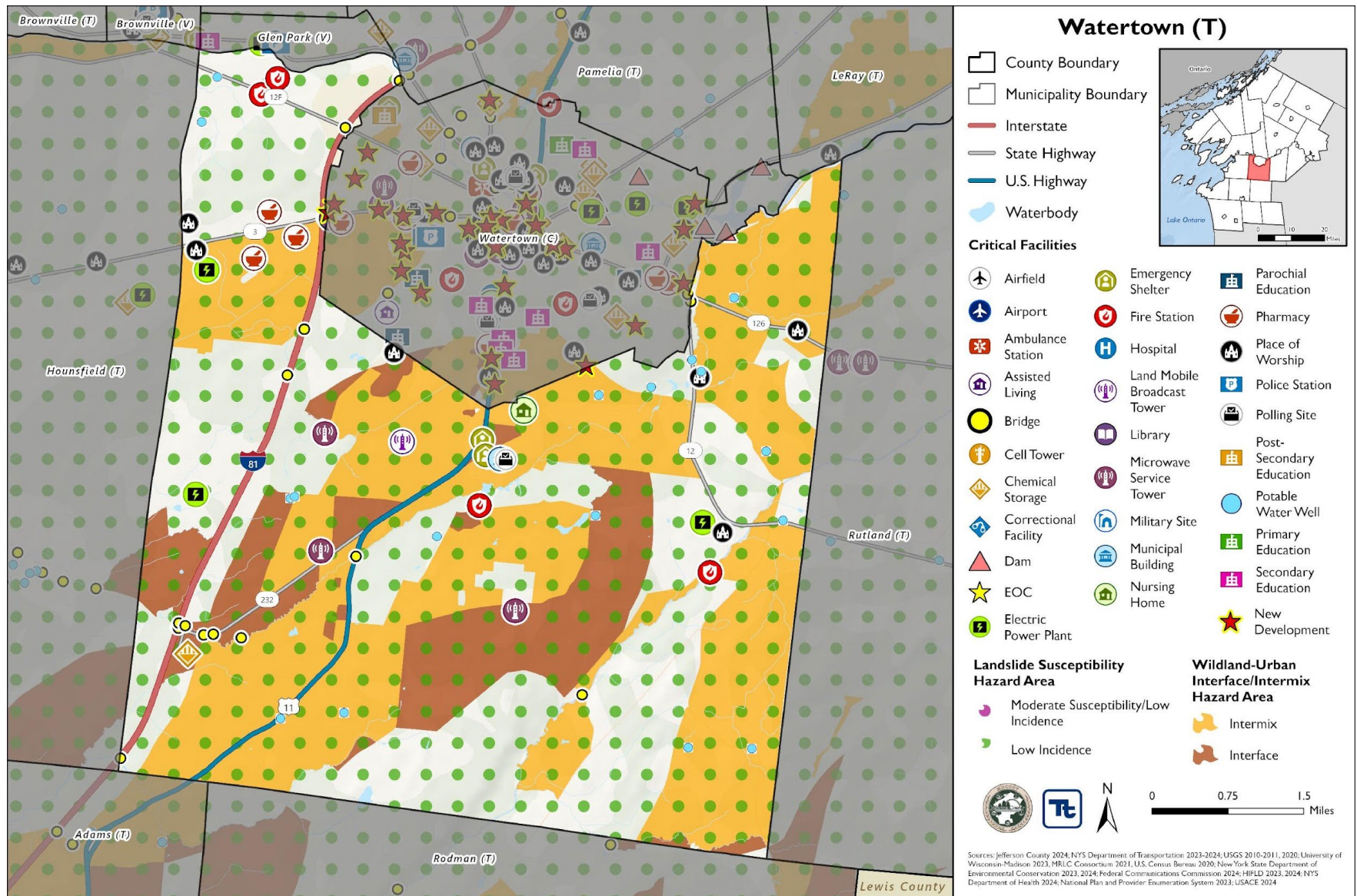




Figure 2. Watertown Landslide and WUI Hazard Area Extent and Location Map





40.4.2 Previous Event History

The history of natural and non-natural hazard events in Watertown is detailed in Volume I, where each hazard profile includes a chronology of historical events that have affected the County and its municipalities. Table C provides details on loss and damage in Watertown during hazard events since the last hazard mitigation plan update.

Table C. Presidential Disaster Declaration History in Watertown

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration)	Summary of Event	Summary of Damage and Losses in Watertown
November 18-22, 2022	Severe Winter Storm (EM-3589)	A winter storm caused more than six feet of snow to accumulate in Jefferson County. This intense snowfall has created extremely dangerous travel conditions, and as a result, numerous road closures and travel bans.	The Town experienced some power outages and road closures.
October 31 – November 1, 2019	Severe Storm, Flood (DR-4472)	A storm system brought record breaking rains, damaging wind gusts (45 to 50 mph), a small Lake Ontario seiche, and river flooding to the region. Thousands of power outages occurred across the area, and wind-related damage closed hundreds of roads and did countless tree damage. High winds and lakeshore flooding continued into November 1.	The Town experiences some limited short-term power outages.
May 2 – August 6, 2017	Flood (DR-4348)	Six months of wet weather led to an over-accumulation of waters in Lake Ontario. Flooding from the lake began impacting areas in May and continued until early autumn. Waves destroyed public and private break walls all along the lake shore. Thousands of homes and buildings were affected by flood waters. Several homes dropped off bluffs. In some areas shoreline erosion of 50 to 100 feet deep occurred. Sanitary sewer systems in lakeside communities were affected. Beaches, marinas, and state parks were closed all summer long with unknown economic losses to mainly seasonal businesses. In late May, the Governor imposed a 5-mph speed limit within 600 feet of the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shore. By summer's end, damage estimates reached \$10 Million in Jefferson County.	The Town did not incur any documented losses or damages.
November 17-26, 2014	Severe Winter Storm, Flood (DR-4204)	A winter storm moved into the region, causing temperatures to drop tremendously. Lake effect snow impacted counties bordering Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Travel restrictions were instituted due to whiteout conditions. The storm	The Town experienced limited power outages and damage to a few homes and businesses.



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Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration)	Summary of Event	Summary of Damage and Losses in Watertown
		produced heavy snowfall, high winds, and blizzard-like conditions, resulting in road closures, travel disruptions, power outages, and damage to public and private property.	
October 27 – November 8, 2012	Severe Storm (EM-3351)	Remnants of Hurricane Sandy brought strong winds and heavy rains. Rainfall amounts of two to five inches were measured across the area with some area creeks reaching bankful. High winds downed trees and power lines. Wind gusts were measured to 60 mph. Utilities reported tens of thousands of customers without power across the entire region.	The Town experienced power outages.

EM = Emergency Declaration (FEMA)

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency

DR = Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)

N/A = Not applicable



40.4.3 Local Hazard Impacts Assessment

In the table below representatives from the Town of Watertown Hazard Mitigation Planning Team assessed impacts of hazards on buildings, structures, facilities, infrastructure, community assets and systems, people and the local economy.

Table D. Local Hazard Impacts Assessment

Hazard Name	Local Impacts
Dam Failure	The Town has one located off Eastern Boulevard that has no known impacts.
Drought	No known issues
Extreme Temperature	No known issues
Flood	The Town reported that there is minor flooding along the Black River. There are no known impacts unless the level is exceptionally high.
Geological Hazards	No known issues
Severe Storm	No known issues
Severe Winter Storm	No known impacts
Wildfire	No known impacts



40.4.4 Vulnerable Community Assets

In the table below representatives from the Town of Watertown Hazard Mitigation Planning team assessed specific impacts to the assets included in the table below. If a community asset is not present in the municipality the Planning Team stated, 'Not Applicable.'

Table E. Vulnerable Community Assets

Community Asset	Hazard Impacts and Asset Vulnerabilities	Community Asset	Hazard Impacts and Asset Vulnerabilities
Agriculture	No known issues	Local Roads	Ridge Road has the potential for flooding and a homeowner has reported flooding in the basement. The road may need a catch basin to prevent it. The pond located on Peasant Run Road can overflow, which cause drainage issues. The Town would like to put something there to prevent the flooding.
Airports	Not applicable	Major Employers	No known issues
Area: Concentration of Businesses	No known issues	Medical Centers (non-hospital)	No known issues
Area: Concentration of Residences	No known issues	Natural Resources	No known issues
Bridges	No known issues	Neighborhoods	There have been basements of homes on Outer Holcomb street that experience flooding.
City Hall/Courthouse	No known issues	Parks and Recreational Sites	Not applicable
College/University	Not applicable	Place of Worship	No known issues
Community Centers/Hubs	No known issues	Private Property	There have been basements of homes on Outer Holcomb street that experience flooding.
Community Activities: major local events including festivals and economic drivers such as beaches, skiing, farming, fishing, etc.	Not applicable	Public Transportation	No known issues
Cultural/Historic Buildings/Sites	No known issues	Schools (K-12)	Not applicable



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Community Asset	Hazard Impacts and Asset Vulnerabilities	Community Asset	Hazard Impacts and Asset Vulnerabilities
Culverts	The Ridge Road parking lot, near the Black River trail, needs to be replaced and upsized. Overlook Drive has undersized culverts that are located near the gravel pit.	Small Businesses	No known issues
Elder-care Facilities	No known issues	Supermarkets/Grocery Stores	No known issues
Fire/Police Stations	The Fire Stations have backup power.	Transportation - Mobile Asset Storage	No known issues
Gas Stations	No known issues	Utilities	The sewer and water systems have minor water leaks in the Lettiere Water Tract area (a privately owned water line serving 118 homes).
Highways	No known issues	Wastewater Treatment Plants	The sewer and water systems have minor water leaks in the Lettiere Water Tract area (a privately owned water line serving 118 homes).
Hospitals	Not applicable	Waterfront	Not applicable
Other	No known issues	Drinking Water Resources	No known issues



40.4.5 Hazard Ranking

The participating jurisdictions have differing degrees of vulnerability to the hazards of concern, so each jurisdiction ranked its own degree of risk to each hazard. The community-specific hazard ranking is based on problems and impacts identified by the risk assessment presented in Volume I.

The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard; the potential impacts of the hazard on people, property, and the economy; community capabilities to address the hazard; and changing future climate conditions. Impacts from a particular hazard may have decreased due to an implemented project or relocation of an asset that was previously at risk. Alternatively, risk may have increased because population has increased in a hazard prone area.

Table F. Hazard Ranking

Hazard Name	Frequency (2011 – present): Increased, Decreased, Stayed the Same	Impacts (2011 – present): Increased, Decreased, Stayed the Same	Description of frequency and impacts (2011 – present):	Future Events (present – 2030): Will Increase, Decrease, Stay the Same	2025 Ranking
Dam Failure	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	-	Stayed the same	Low
Drought	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	-	Stayed the same	Low
Extreme Temperature	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	-	Stayed the same	Low
Flood	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	-	Increase	High
Geologic Hazards	Increased	Stayed the same	The Town has had more earthquakes, but no impacts.	Stayed the same	Low
Severe Weather	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	-	Stayed the same	High
Severe Winter Weather	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	-	Stayed the same	Medium
Wildfire	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	-	Stayed the same	Low

40.4.6 Critical Facilities

Table G. Critical Facilities Flood Vulnerability

Name	Type	Vulnerability		Addressed by Proposed Action	Already Protected to 0.2% Flood Level
		1% Annual Chance Event	0.2% Annual Chance Event		
None Identified					



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Source: Jefferson County 2024; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 2023, 2024; Federal Communications Commission 2024; HIFLD 2023, 2024; NYS Department of Health 2024; National Plan and Provider Enumeration System 2023; USACE 2024; NYS Department of Transportation 2023

The municipality does not have any identified high hazard potential dams within the jurisdiction.



40.5 GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Understanding how past, current, and projected development patterns have or are likely to increase or decrease risk in hazard areas is a key component to appreciating a jurisdiction's overall risk to its hazards of concern. Recent and expected future development trends, including major residential/commercial development and major infrastructure development, are summarized in Table H through Table L.

40.5.1 Development and Permitting

Table H. Development and Permitting Capability

Question	Answer
Does your municipality or the county issue building permits for development in your community?	Jefferson County
What is your process for tracking building permits?	The Town tracks Zoning Permits.
Are permits tracked by hazard area? (For example, floodplain development permits.)	No
Does your community have a buildable land inventory? If yes, please describe.	No

Table I. Number of Building Permits for New Construction Issued Since the Previous HMP

	New Construction Permits Issued			Total
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	
2019				
Total Permits	8	0	4	12
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2020				
Total Permits	5	0	8	13
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2021				
Total Permits	8	0	6	14
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2022				
Total Permits	15	0	2	17
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2023				
Total Permits	14	0	7	21
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2024				
Total Permits	5	0	3	8
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0



SFHA = Special Flood Hazard Area (1% flood event)

Table J. Recent Major Development and Infrastructure from 2011 to 2018

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zones	Description / Status of Development
None Identified					

Table K. Recent Major Development and Infrastructure from 2019 to Present

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zones	Description / Status of Development
Ag Park	Commercial	3	NYS Route 3	None	In Progress

Table L. Known or Anticipated Major Development and Infrastructure in the Next Five Years

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zones*	Description / Status of Development
None Identified					

40.6 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

This section provides specific information on the management and regulation of the regulatory floodplain, including current and future compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The floodplain administrator listed in Table A is responsible for maintaining this information.

40.6.1 NFIP Statistics

Table M summarizes the NFIP policy and claim statistics for Watertown.

Table M. Watertown NFIP Summary of Policy and Claim Statistics

# Policies	1
# Claims (Losses)	2
Total Loss Payments	\$6,484.53
# Repetitive Loss Properties (NFIP definition)	0
# Repetitive Loss Properties (FMA definition)	0
# Severe Repetitive Loss Properties	0

NFIP Definition of Repetitive Loss: The NFIP defines a repetitive loss property as any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the NFIP within any rolling 10-year period since 1978.

FMA Definition of Repetitive Loss: FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program defines a repetitive loss property as any insurable building that has incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event.



Definition of Severe Repetitive Loss: A residential property covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and: (a) That has at least four NFIP claim payments over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000; or (b) For which at least two separate claims payments have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building. At least two of the claims must have occurred within any 10-year period, more than 10 days apart.

Source: FEMA 2024

40.6.2 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Vulnerability Summary

The HMP Team provided information on participation in and continued compliance with the NFIP in the table below.

Table N. NFIP Summary

NFIP Topic	Comments
Describe areas prone to flooding in your jurisdiction.	Along the Black River
Who is the Community Floodplain Administrator (FPA)? Do they serve any roles other than FPA? Do they have adequate training and capacity for this role?	David Ross, Floodplain Administrator
What local department is responsible for floodplain management?	Zoning
Are any certified floodplain managers on staff in your jurisdiction?	No
What is the local law number or municipal code of your flood damage prevention ordinance?	The Town, County and NYSDEC did not have record of this law number/municipal code.
When was the latest effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) adopted, if applicable?	8/2/1993
Explain NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, inspections, engineering capability, GIS, etc.)	Permit Review, Inspections
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in your community, if any?	No



NFIP Topic	Comments
Does your floodplain management staff need any assistance or training to support its floodplain management program? If yes, what type of assistance/training is needed?	No
How do you make Substantial Damage determinations? What is the process to make sure these structures are brought into compliance?	No
How do you determine if proposed development on an existing structure would qualify as a substantial improvement?	Per design professional
How many Substantial Damage determinations were declared for recent flood events in your jurisdiction?	N/A
Does the community track the number of buildings in the floodplain? If so, how many structures are in special flood hazard area (SFHA)?	Nothing within the last 20 years in the floodplain.
How many structures (residential and non-residential) are exposed to flood risk within the community outside of the regulatory maps?	Approximately 30
Does the community maintain elevation records? If yes, please describe.	No
Are there any repetitive loss (RL) or severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures in the community? If yes, how many of each category?	None
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage.	None
How does the community teach property owners or other stakeholders about the importance of flood insurance?	None - If someone came to the Town with a permit in a floodplain, they would be educated on the need for flood insurance. Typically, banks do this
What digital sources (like the FEMA Map Service Center, National Flood Hazard Layer) or non-regulatory tools does your community use?	Yes



NFIP Topic	Comments
Are there other local ordinances, plans or programs (e.g., site plan review) that support floodplain management and meeting the NFIP requirements? For instance, does the planning board or zoning board consider efforts to reduce flood risk when reviewing variances such as height restrictions?	Yes
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?	CAC: December 21, 2015 CAV: July 7, 1993
Does your community plan to join the CRS program or is your community interested in improving your CRS classification?	No



40.7 JURISDICTIONAL CAPABILITY INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

Watertown performed an inventory and analysis of existing capabilities, plans, programs, and policies that enhance its ability to implement mitigation strategies. Volume I describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning. The jurisdictional assessment for this annex includes analyses of the following:

- Planning and regulatory capabilities
- Development and permitting capabilities
- Administrative and technical capabilities
- Fiscal capabilities
- Education and outreach capabilities
- Classification under various community mitigation programs
- Adaptive capacity to withstand hazard events

For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into day-to-day local government operations. As part of the hazard mitigation analysis, planning and /policy documents were reviewed and each jurisdiction was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of their progress toward plan integration. Development of an updated mitigation strategy provided an opportunity for Watertown to identify opportunities for integrating mitigation concepts into ongoing Town procedures.



40.7.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability and Integration

Planning and regulatory capabilities are the plans, policies, codes, and ordinances that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards.

Ordinances

Jefferson County has an Emergency Management Ordinance which charges the County with maintaining a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to identify local measures that may prevent disasters, to develop local mechanisms to coordinate local resources and personnel for service during and after disasters, support the facilitation of delivery of services to aid citizens and reduce human suffering resulting from disaster, and to provide for short- and long-term recovery and redevelopment after disasters.

Jefferson County has Site Plan and Subdivision Codes that are relevant to development within a certain distance of County interests. Development applications in the areas across the County are sent to County Planning for review to promote coordination of land use decisions and local/county impacts. These County capabilities are inclusive of Watertown and the jurisdiction often partners with the County. To learn more about these capabilities please see Jefferson County's Jurisdictional Annex.

The HMP Team inventoried its existing ordinances against the full capability list of hazard mitigation-related capabilities. The absence of other kinds of ordinances was not considered a gap in local capabilities. The table below summarizes the ordinances currently in place in the Town.

Table O. Ordinances

Capability Type	In Place in Municipality	Comments	Responsible Department / Agency / Organization
Building Codes	Yes	All of the communities in Jefferson County regulate construction through the use of a building code. The Town of Watertown adhere to the building code through the County Authority. Building codes regulate construction standards and are developed for specific geographic areas of the country. They consider the type, frequency, and intensity of hazards present in the region. Structures built to applicable building codes are inherently resistant to many hazards such as strong winds, floods, and earthquakes. Due to the location specific nature of the building codes, these are very valuable tools for mitigation.	Jefferson County
Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Yes	This ordinance is designed to protect communities from flood hazards by implementing regulations that ensures the land use and development practices account for the flood risks, requires vulnerable structures to be constructed to withstand flood damage, and to control changes to the natural floodplain and stream channels to prevent increased flood hazards.	Town Planning
Real Estate Disclosure Requirements	Yes, Property Condition Disclosure Act, NY Code - Article 14 §460-467	In addition to facing potential liability for failing to disclose under the exceptions to "caveat emptor," a home seller must make certain disclosures under the law or pay a credit of \$500 to the buyer at closing. While the PCDA requires a seller to complete a standardized disclosure statement and deliver it to the buyer before the buyer signs the final purchase contract, in practice, most home sellers in New York	NYS Department of State, Real Estate Agent



Capability Type	In Place in Municipality	Comments	Responsible Department / Agency / Organization
		opt not to complete the statement and instead pay the credit.	
Site Plan Code	Yes, Chapter 107 – Zoning, Article IX	Site plan review requirements are used to evaluate proposed development prior to construction. An illustration of the proposed work, including its location, exact dimensions, existing and proposed buildings, and many other elements are often included in the site plan review requirements. The site plan reviews offer an opportunity to incorporate mitigation principles, such as ensuring that the proposed development is not in an identified hazard area and that appropriate setbacks are included.	Planning Board
Subdivision Code	Yes, Chapter 91 – Subdivision of Land	Subdivision ordinances offer an opportunity to account for natural hazards prior to the development of land as they formulate regulations when the land is subdivided. Subdivision design that incorporates mitigation principles can reduce the exposure of future development to hazard events.	Planning Board
Zoning/Land Use Code	Yes, Chapter 107 – Zoning	Zoning is a useful tool to consider when developing a mitigation strategy. It can be used to restrict new development, require low-density development, and designate specific uses (e.g. recreational) in the hazard prone areas. Private property rights must be considered, but enacting a zoning ordinance can reduce or potentially eliminate damages from future hazard events.	Zoning Enforcement Officer

Plans

Jefferson County has an Agriculture Plan (Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, 2016); Climate Adaptation / Resilience Plan (North Country Regional Sustainability Plan, 2013); Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA); Continuity of Operations Plan (Jefferson County Government COOP – COG Plan, 2023); Economic Development Plan (Jefferson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2021); Public Health Plan (Jefferson County Public Health Service Strategic Plan 2023-2027); Threat and Hazard Identification and Assessment (THIRA); Tourism Plan; Transportation Plan (Jefferson County Coordinated Transportation Plan for Mobility Services, 2021); and other recent plans that are all countywide in scope and implementation and are applicable to the Town of Watertown. To learn more about these capabilities please see Jefferson County's Jurisdictional Annex.

The HMP Team inventoried its existing plans against the full capability list of hazard mitigation-related capabilities. The absence of other kinds of plans was not considered a gap in local capabilities. The table below summarizes the plans currently in place.



Table P. Plans

Capability Type	In Place in Municipality	Comments	Responsible Department / Agency / Organization
Comprehensive Plan	Yes	A comprehensive plan is a document which illustrates the overall vision and goals of a community. It serves as a guide for the community's future and often includes anticipated demographics, land use, transportation, and actions to achieve desired goals. Integrating mitigation concepts and policies into a comprehensive plan provides a means for implementing initiatives through legal frameworks and enhances the opportunity to reduce the risk posed by hazard events.	Town Administration

40.7.2 Administrative and Technical Capability

Jefferson County Code, Fire Prevention and Building Code department currently enforces the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code in 31 municipalities that chose not to enforce the Code at the local level, including the Town of Watertown. The Department employs Code Enforcement Officers and clerical staff to ensure that new construction and areas of public assembly conform to the provisions of the State Uniform Code. Proper enforcement of the Code protects property and encourages quality development that enhances public safety and the economy of the County. The office's two major program responsibilities include existing and new building permit administration (i.e.: plan review, issuing permits, construction inspections and issuing certificates of occupancy) and mandated fire safety inspections.

Jefferson County has an Economic Development Commission (Jefferson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy); Emergency Management (Jefferson County Office of Fire & Emergency Management), County Department of Planning; County Public Health Department (including Administration and Finance, Home Healthcare Services, Medical Examiner's Office, Emergency Medical Services); County Highway Department, among others, whose programs and services serve the entire County, including the Town of Watertown. To learn more about these capabilities please see Jefferson County's Jurisdictional Annex.

The HMP Team inventoried its existing Administrative and Technical Capabilities against the full capability list of hazard mitigation-related capabilities. The absence of other staff was not considered a gap in local capabilities. The table below summarizes staff and personnel resources.

Table Q. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Capability Type	In Place in Municipality	Comments
Maintenance Programs	Yes	The Town Highway Department conducts routine road maintenance and tree trimming.
Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes	The Town has mutual aid with the County and neighboring plan.
Planning Board	Yes	The Planning Board has five members.
Public Works/Highway Department	Yes	The Highway Department conducts snow removal, road maintenance and tree trimming.



Capability Type	In Place in Municipality	Comments
Zoning Board of Appeals	Yes	The Zoning Board has five members.

40.7.3 Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to Watertown.

Table R. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability Type	Has this funding capability been used since the last plan (2011)? If yes, please describe.
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)	No
Capital improvement project funding	Yes - water districts.
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	No
User fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	No
Stormwater utility fee	No
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes
Incur debt through special tax bonds	No
Incur debt through private activity bonds	No
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No
Other Federal (non-FEMA) funding programs	No
FEMA funding programs	No
Other State funding programs	Yes, CHIPS
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No
Other (for example, Clean Water Act 319 Grants [Nonpoint Source Pollution])	No



40.7.4 Education and Outreach Capability

The table below includes education and outreach programs and methods already in place that could be used to carry out mitigation activities and communicate information about hazards.

Table S. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Capability Type	Is this education and outreach capability currently in use in the Municipality? If yes, please describe.
Community Newsletter	No
Hazard awareness campaigns (such as Firewise, Storm Ready, Severe Weather Awareness Week, school programs, public events)	No
Hazard mitigation information available on your website	No
Local News	Yes
Natural disaster/safety programs in place for schools	N/A
Organizations that conduct outreach to socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations	No
Public information officer or communications office	No
Social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach	No
Warning systems for hazard events	No
Other	No

40.7.5 Hazard Capability Assessment

Each jurisdiction has a unique combination of capabilities to adjust to, protect from, and withstand a future hazard event, future conditions, and changing risk. The HMP Team ranked the local government's capability to address risks and impacts of each hazard based on the risk and capability assessments performed above.

- *Strong: Capacity exists and effectively manages the impacts of this hazard.*
- *Moderate: Capacity exists but is not used or needs some improvement.*
- *Weak: Capacity exists and needs substantial improvement*
- *None: Capacity does not exist.*

Table T. Adaptive Capacity

Hazard	Strong, Moderate, Weak, None
Dam Failure	N/A
Drought	None



Hazard	Strong, Moderate, Weak, None
Extreme Temperature	None
Flood	Moderate
Geological Hazards	None
Severe Storm	Weak
Severe Winter Storm	Strong
Wildfire	None

40.8 MITIGATION STRATEGY AND PRIORITIZATION

This section discusses the status of mitigation actions from the previous HMP, describes proposed hazard mitigation actions, and prioritizes actions to address over the next five years.

40.8.1 Past Mitigation Action Status

The Town did not participate in the last plan.

40.8.2 Additional Mitigation Efforts

Since the adoption of the County's first HMP, Watertown has made significant mitigation progress in the following areas:

- None identified.

40.8.3 Identified Issues

The Town of Watertown has identified the following vulnerabilities within their community for mitigation strategy development:

- Recent storm events have resulted in severe rainfall which overwhelmed culverts and roadways which caused flooding. There are numerous roadways located in the Town that are of infrastructure and flooding concerns, including Ridge Road, the Ridge Road parking lot, Outer Holcomb Street and Overlook Drive, some of which also impact private property owners. The Town knows that other roads and culverts may also need to be upsized and mitigated.
- The pond located on Peasant Run Road can overflow, which cause drainage issues. The Town would like to put something there to prevent the flooding.



40.8.4 Proposed Hazard Mitigation Actions for the HMP Update

Watertown participated in the mitigation strategy workshop and identified hazard mitigation actions to reduce the risks and impacts of hazards the community ranked as high-risk. Hazard risk ranking was specific to each community in the County and was based on quantitative (i.e., analysis of the best available data) and qualitative risk assessment processes (i.e., evaluation of previous occurrences, likelihood of future occurrences and vulnerabilities to people and community services; buildings and critical infrastructure; the natural environment and other local priorities).

Implementation of these actions are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and local capacity and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in local priorities.

Volume I identifies fourteen evaluation criteria for prioritizing the mitigation actions. Below, Table U provides the prioritization criteria score for each proposed mitigation action.



Action 2025-WatertownT-01. Flood Prone Streets

Lead Agency:	Town Highway Department	
Supporting Agencies:	Town Administration, County, NYSDOT	
Hazards of Concern:	Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm	
Description of the Problem:	Recent storm events have resulted in severe rainfall which overwhelmed culverts and roadways which caused flooding. There are numerous roadways located in the Town that are of infrastructure and flooding concerns, including Ridge Road, the Ridge Road parking lot, Outer Holcomb Street and Overlook Drive, some of which also impact private property owners. The Town knows that other roads and culverts may also need to be upsized and mitigated.	
Description of the Solution:	The Town will contract an engineer to complete an engineering survey of Ridge Road, the Ridge Road parking lot, Outer Holcomb Street and Overlook Drive in the Town that contribute to flooding to determine the proper size culverts, or other mitigation measures that are necessary to eliminate or reduce flooding. Once the potential solutions are determined, the Town will implement the best and most cost-effective solution.	
Estimated Cost:	TBD after Survey and Inventory	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, FMA, CHIPS, Town Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 Years	
Goals Met:	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	
Benefits:	Overall flooding will be reduced, which will result in less frequency of road closures and reduced damage occurring to culverts and roadways during severe events. Businesses are likely to remain in place if they are able to remain open, or re-open sooner following a flood.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Areas that were previously vulnerable to frequency or severe flooding events will be less likely to be impacted by flooding events.	
Impact on Future Development:	Future development in the impacted area will be less likely to be flooded.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation routes are more likely to remain open • Evacuation routes will remain intact. • Access to health and medical facilities will be maintained, both for healthcare workers and the population who require treatment for injuries and illness. 	
Impact on Capabilities:	Identifying the culverts and vulnerabilities that are at greatest risk of damage or failure can allow resource staging to take place where the need is greatest ahead of a flood event.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Climate change is likely to result in more frequent and severe rainfall events. This action is to increase culvert sizes to meet changing stormwater needs as the result of climate change.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Project	
CRS Category	Preventative Measures, Property Protection, Structural Flood Control Projects	
Priority	High	
Alternative	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Elevate affected roadways	Not cost effective



	Raingardens	Raingardens are unlikely to be able to absorb enough stormwater to prevent flooding during severe rainfall events.
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Action 2025-WatertownT-02. Peasant Run Road Mitigation

Lead Agency:	Town Highway Department	
Supporting Agencies:	Town Administration, County, NYSDOT	
Hazards of Concern:	Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm	
Description of the Problem:	The pond located on Peasant Run Road can overflow, which cause drainage issues. The Town would like to put something there to prevent the flooding.	
Description of the Solution:	The Town will conduct an engineering study for modifying the pond to temporarily store excess stormwater and will design an overflow path to direct and slow the release of excess water to prevent overtopping and downstream flooding. The Town will acquire funding to implement the best and most cost-effective solution.	
Estimated Cost:	TBD	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, FMA, CHIPS, Town Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 Years	
Goals Met:	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	
Benefits:	Overall flooding will be reduced, which will result in less frequency of road closures and reduced damage occurring to culverts and roadways during severe events. Businesses are likely to remain in place if they are able to remain open, or re-open sooner following a flood.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Areas that were previously vulnerable to frequency or severe flooding events will be less likely to be impacted by flooding events.	
Impact on Future Development:	Future development in the impacted area will be less likely to be flooded.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation routes are more likely to remain open • Evacuation routes will remain intact. • Access to health and medical facilities will be maintained, both for healthcare workers and the population who require treatment for injuries and illness. 	
Impact on Capabilities:	Identifying vulnerabilities that are at greatest risk of damage or failure can allow resource staging to take place where the need is greatest ahead of a flood event.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Climate change is likely to result in more frequent and severe rainfall events. This action is to increase culvert sizes to meet changing stormwater needs as the result of climate change.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Project	
CRS Category	Preventative Measures, Property Protection, Structural Flood Control Projects	
Priority	High	
Alternative	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Elevate affected roadways	Not cost effective
	Raingardens	Raingardens are unlikely to be able to absorb enough stormwater to prevent flooding during severe rainfall events.





Table U. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Scores for Evaluation Criteria															High / Medium / Low
		Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social Vulnerability	Administrative	Hazards of Concern	Climate Change	Timeline	Community Lifelines	Other Local Objectives	Total	
Action 2025-WatertownT-01.	Flood Prone Streets	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
Action 2025-WatertownT-02.	Peasant Run Road Mitigation	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High

Note: Volume I, Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) conveys guidance on prioritizing mitigation actions. Low (0-6), Medium (7-10), High (11-14)