



25 JURISDICTIONAL ANNEXES

25.1 TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD

This jurisdictional annex to the Jefferson County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) provides information to assist public and private sectors in the Town of Hounsfield 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 Hounsfield, describes who participated in the planning process, assesses Hounsfield’s risk, vulnerability, and capabilities, and outlines a strategy for achieving a more resilient community.

25.2 HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TEAM

The Town of Hounsfield 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: Beth Arthur, Town Supervisor Address: 18774 County Route 66 Watertown, NY 13601 Phone Number: (315) 782-6380 Email: townsupervisor@townofhounsfield.com	Name/Title: Brenda Bockus, Town Clerk Address: 18774 County Route 66 Watertown, NY 13601 Phone Number: (315) 782-6380 Email: townclerk@townofhounsfield.com
National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Administrator	
Name/Title: Todd Farrington, Highway Superintendent Address: 18774 County Route 66 Watertown, NY 13601 Phone Number: (315) 782-6380 Email: highwaysuperintendent@townofhounsfield.com	
Additional Contributors	
Name/Title: Bob Ball, Zoning Officer Method of Participation: Provided key information in the planning process	

25.3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

25.3.1 Community Classifications

Table B summarizes classifications for community programs available to Hounsfield.

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	5/5Y	



Program	Participating? (Yes/No)	Classification	Date Classified
NYSDEC Climate Smart Community	No	-	-
Other: Organizations with mitigation focus (advocacy group, non-government)			

N/A = Not applicable

25.3.2 Community Profile

The Town of Hounsfield has an area of 47 square miles and is located in the central part of the County. The Town is bordered by the Village of Dexter, Village of Brownville and Town of Brownville to the north, the Village of Glen Park and Town of Watertown to the east, the Town of Henderson and Town of Adams to the south, and the Village of Sackets Harbor and Henderson Bay to the west. Interstate 81, U.S. and numerous state highways run directly through the Town of Hounsfield.

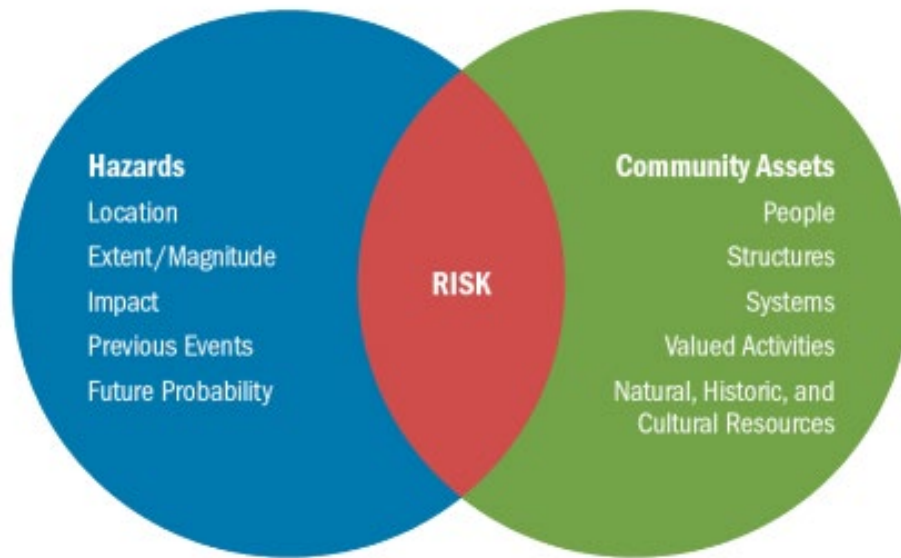
According to the U.S. Census, the 2020 population for the Town of Hounsfield was 1,930 which makes up 1.7 percent of the county population. Data from the 2022 American Community Survey indicates that 8.5 percent of the population is 5 years of age or younger, 18.1 percent is 65 years of age or older, zero percent is non-English speaking, 5.6 percent is below the poverty threshold, and 9.9 percent is considered disabled.

25.4 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 Hounsfield’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.

25.4.1 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 Hounsfield has significant exposure. The maps show the location of potential new development, where available.



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

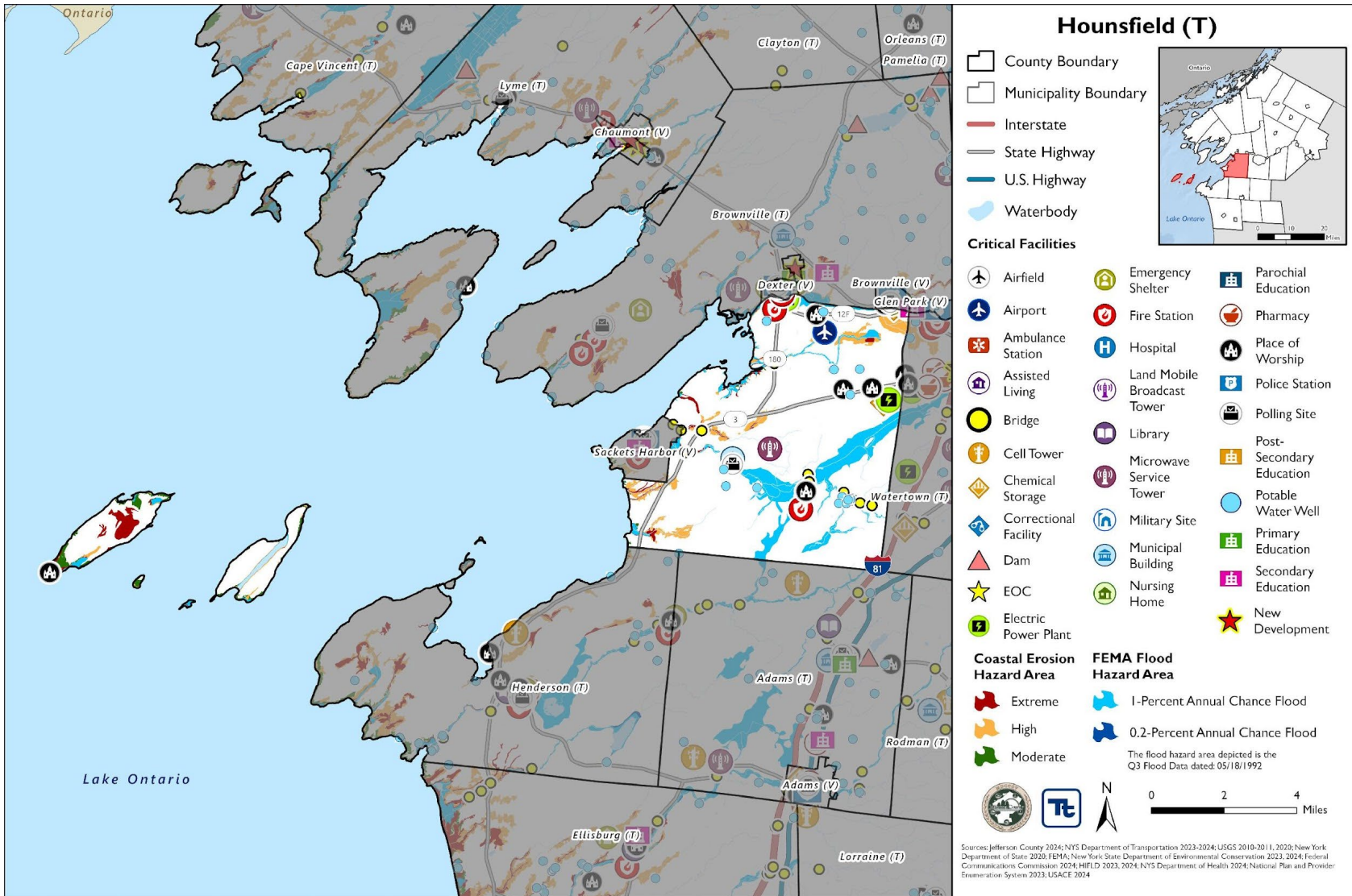
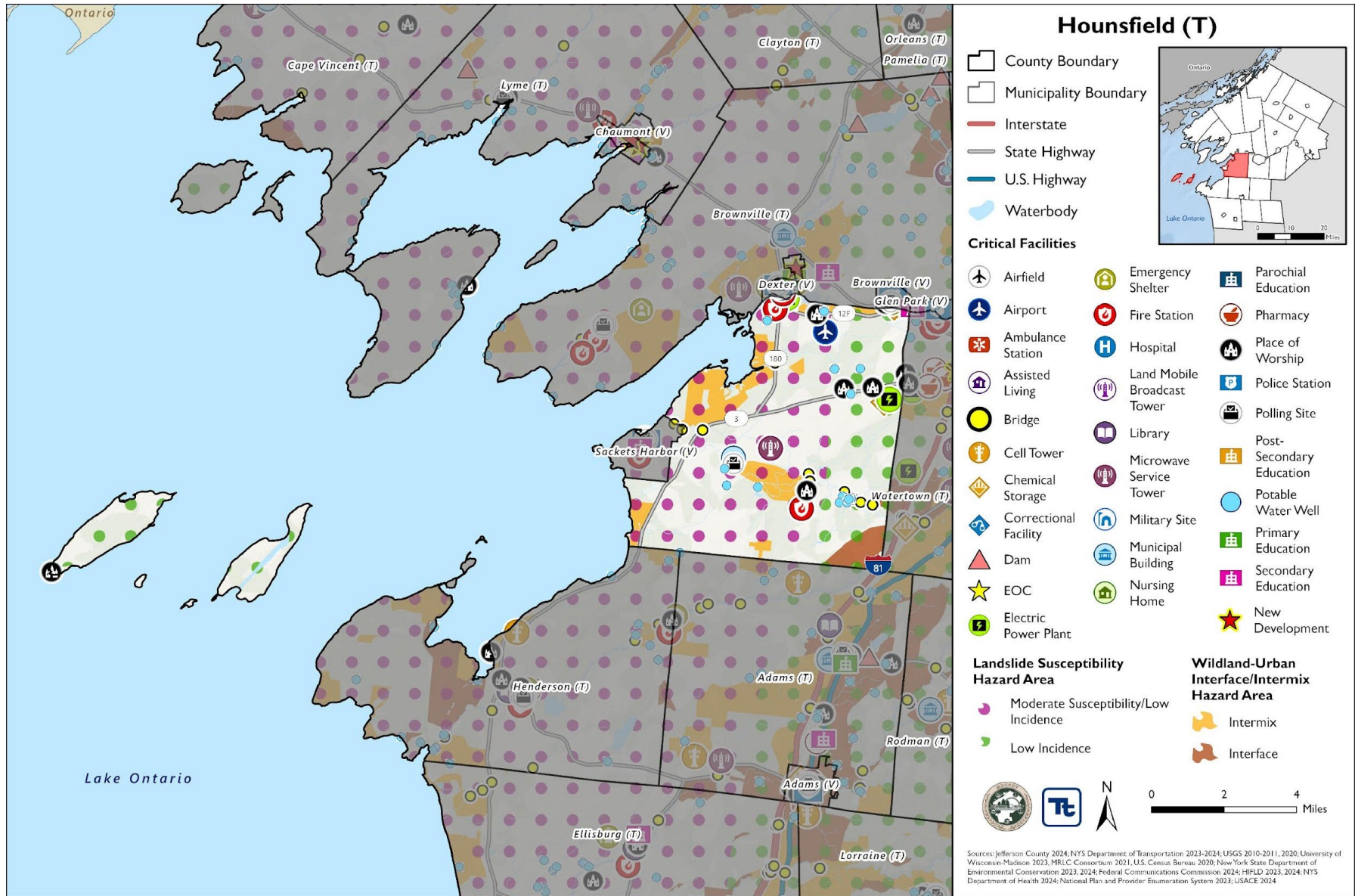




Figure 2. Hounsfield Landslide and WUI Hazard Area Extent and Location Map





25.4.2 Previous Event History

The history of natural and non-natural hazard events in Hounsfield 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 Hounsfield during hazard events since the last hazard mitigation plan update.

Table C. Presidential Disaster Declaration History in Hounsfield

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration)	Summary of Event	Summary of Damage and Losses in Hounsfield
July 2024	-	A severe storm produced strong winds in the Town.	The Town reported downed trees that led to impassable roads and caused downed utility lines and power outages that lasted approximately three days.
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 had created extremely dangerous travel conditions, and as a result, numerous road closures and travel bans.	The snowfall in the Town made roads impassable. The Town worked around the clock plowing for a few days to clear local roads.
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 did not incur any documented damage or losses.
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 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 does not own lake front property and therefore did not incur any direct damage or losses. The Town did have to supply a lot of sandbags to homeowners of lake front property to try and reduce flood impacts.



Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration)	Summary of Event	Summary of Damage and Losses in Housfield
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 produced heavy snowfall, high winds, and blizzard-like conditions, resulting in road closures, travel disruptions, power outages, and damage to public and private property.	No impacts to report based on local team's roles.
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.	No impacts to report based on local team's roles.

EM = Emergency Declaration (FEMA)
 FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency
 DR = Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)
 N/A = Not applicable

25.4.3 Local Hazard Impacts Assessment

In the table below representatives from the Town of Housfield 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	Minor flooding could occur at the Black River Bay Campground and if the dam in Dexter or the dam bordering Housfield were to fail, this campground would be heavily impacted.
Drought	No known impacts.
Extreme Temperature	The Town has not had to open heating/cooling shelters, though the Town Barn would be available for these purposes and has secondary power.



Hazard Name	Local Impacts
Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Route 75 has flooding that overtops the road. The road has been closed, and detours have been created. Dodge Avenue was closed in 2024 for repairs. The road is regularly flooded by overtopping water. Youngs Road needs ditching and culvert upsizing. Apprx. 200 private residences (camps and cottages), apprx. 200 single family homes are susceptible to flooding
Geological Hazards	Three small earthquakes occurred in the last 1.5 years with no known impacts and there have been no known impacts or occurrences of landslide events in the Town.
Severe Storm	Extreme rain events affect roads and culverts which can result in flooding.
Severe Winter Storm	The biggest issue the Town has regarding winter storm is the flooding that occurs during the snowmelt.
Wildfire	No known impacts

25.4.4 Vulnerable Community Assets

In the table below representatives from the Town of Hounsfield 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	In 2024, a tractor trailer turned over and dumped fertilizer into a ditch and has not been removed but was covered with plastic by NYSDEC.	Local Roads	<p>County Route 75 has flooding that overtops the road. The road has been closed, and detours have been created.</p> <p>Dodge Avenue was closed in 2024 for repairs. The road is regularly flooded by overtopping water.</p> <p>Youngs Road needs ditching and culvert upsizing.</p> <p>On these roads there are approximately 200 private residences (camps and cottages) on a lakefront campsite, as well as many single-family homes at risk to flooding from the Lake.</p>
Airports	Jefferson County manages the airport, Watertown International Airport.	Major Employers	No known impacts



Community Asset	Hazard Impacts and Asset Vulnerabilities	Community Asset	Hazard Impacts and Asset Vulnerabilities
Area: Concentration of Businesses	No known impacts	Medical Centers (non-hospital)	No known impacts
Area: Concentration of Residences	No known impacts	Natural Resources	No known impacts
Bridges	The Town does not own any bridges within the jurisdiction, they are all owned by Jefferson County. No known impacts currently.	Neighborhoods	No known impacts
City Hall/Courthouse	No known impact	Parks and Recreational Sites	No known impacts
College/University	Not applicable.	Place of Worship	No known impacts
Community Centers/Hubs	No known impacts	Private Property	See Local Roads
Community Activities: major local events including festivals and economic drivers such as beaches, skiing, farming, fishing, etc.	Not known impacts	Public Transportation	Not applicable.
Cultural/Historic Buildings/Sites	Old school houses exist in the Town, but they do not have hazard risks beyond those posed to any other structure.	Schools (K-12)	The school is in the Village of Sackets Harbor and has secondary power.
Culverts	See notes	Small Businesses	No known impacts
Elder-care Facilities	No known impacts	Supermarkets/Grocery Stores	No known impacts
Fire/Police Stations	The Fire Department has backup generator	Transportation - Mobile Asset Storage	No known impacts
Gas Stations	No known impacts	Utilities	No known impacts
Highways	No known impacts	Wastewater Treatment Plants	No known impacts
Hospitals	Not applicable	Waterfront	No known impacts
Other	No known impacts	Drinking Water Resources	No known impacts



25.4.5 Hazard Ranking and Vulnerabilities

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	Same	Same	Not a Risk	Same	Low
Drought	Same	Same	Not a Risk	Same	Low
Extreme Temperature	Same	Same	Town has the capability to manage the impacts.	Same	Low
Flood	Increased	Increased	-	Increase due to more rain events	High
Geologic Hazards	Increased	Increased	Before the last 1.5 years wherein the Town experienced three small earthquakes (that resulted in no damage) the town did not experience earthquakes. Therefore, the risk remains low but the frequency has increased.	Increase	Low
Severe Weather	Increased	Increased	-	Increase	High
Severe Winter Weather	Increased	Increased	-	Increase	Medium
Wildfire	Same	Same	-	Same	Low

25.4.6 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		



Town of Hounsfield

Church -Dibnah Trustee	Place of Worship	X	X	Action 2025-HounsfieldT-04.	-
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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.



25.5 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.

25.5.1 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 issues zoning permits and building permits are issued through the County. They are tracked by both the Town and County.
Are permits tracked by hazard area? (For example, floodplain development permits.)	Yes, for the floodplain.
Does your community have a buildable land inventory? If yes, please describe.	The Town could use assessment records for this purpose.

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

	New Construction Permits Issued			
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	Total
2019				
Total Permits	9	0	2	11
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2020				
Total Permits	5	0	2	7
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2021				
Total Permits	5	0	5	10
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2022				
Total Permits	8	0	0	8
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2023				
Total Permits	24	0	1	25
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2024				
Total Permits	4	0	0	4
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
None identified.					

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
Heller and LaFlame Fuel	Commercial	Garages, Parking and Office Space	-	None Identified	In Progress
Solar Projects	Commercial	-	-	None Identified	In Progress

25.6 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.

25.6.1 NFIP Statistics

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

Table M. Hounsfield NFIP Summary of Policy and Claim Statistics

# Policies	8
# Claims (Losses)	1
Total Loss Payments	\$6,096
# 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 2025

25.6.2 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.	Described in the Vulnerable Community Assets section above as well as the proposed mitigation actions below.
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?	Jefferson County Code, Fire Prevention and Building Code department
What local department is responsible for floodplain management?	Jefferson County Code, Fire Prevention and Building Code department
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?	Local Law #1 of 1991
When was the latest effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) adopted, if applicable?	5/18/92
Explain NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, inspections, engineering capability, GIS, etc.)	Jefferson County Code, Fire Prevention and Building Code department
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in your community, if any?	None identified.



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?	N/A
How do you determine if proposed development on an existing structure would qualify as a substantial improvement?	Jefferson County Code, Fire Prevention and Building Code department
How many Substantial Damage determinations were declared for recent flood events in your jurisdiction?	None identified.
Does the community track the number of buildings in the floodplain? If so, how many structures are in special flood hazard area (SFHA)?	Yes
How many structures (residential and non-residential) are exposed to flood risk within the community outside of the regulatory maps?	FEMA regulatory maps are in the process of being updated and capture risk to structures in our Town.
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?	No Repetitive or Severe Repetitive Losses
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage.	None identified.
How does the community teach property owners or other stakeholders about the importance flood insurance?	None identified.
What digital sources (like the FEMA Map Service Center, National Flood Hazard Layer) or non-regulatory tools does your community use?	FIRMs



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?	
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?	CAC: January 27, 2017 CAV: November 1, 2022
Does your community plan to join the CRS program or is your community interested in improving your CRS classification?	



25.7 JURISDICTIONAL CAPABILITY INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

Hounsfield 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 Hounsfield to identify opportunities for integrating mitigation concepts into ongoing Town procedures.



25.7.1 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 Hounsfield 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 Hounsfield adheres to a building code through 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.	Planning Board and County
Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Yes, Local Law #1 of 1991	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.	Floodplain Administrator
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, Local Law #2 of 2006	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; Zoning Officer
Subdivision Code	Yes	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 Officer
Zoning/Land Use Code	Yes	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.	Planning Board; Zoning 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 Henderson. 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, Comprehensive Plan 2014	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
Emergency Operations Plan	TBD	The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is a comprehensive document that outlines procedures and protocols for emergency response.	Town Administration

25.7.2 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 Hounsfield. 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 Hounsfield. 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
Zoning Enforcement Official	Yes	The Town has a Zoning Enforcement Official.
Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes	Jefferson County and all municipalities related to road maintenance are part of mutual aid.
Personnel skilled or trained in website development	Yes	The Town just created a new website.



Capability Type	In Place in Municipality	Comments
Planning Board	Yes	The Planning Board has five members.
Public Works/Highway Department	Yes	The Highway Department has nine staff members.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Yes	The Zoning Board is made up of five members.

25.7.3 Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to Hounsfield.

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, for water and sewer district projects
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes
User fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes, for water
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	Yes
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	Yes, Public Assistance for 2024 Summer Rain/Flooding events
Other State funding programs	Rural Development via Ag & Markets ARPA CHIPS via NYSDOT
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No
Other (for example, Clean Water Act 319 Grants [Nonpoint Source Pollution])	No



25.7.4 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, for public notifications
Natural disaster/safety programs in place for schools	No
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

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



Hazard	Hazard Capability: Strong, Moderate, Weak, None
Extreme Temperatures	Strong
Flood	Strong
Geological Hazards	N/A
Severe Storm	Strong
Severe Winter Storm	Strong
Wildfire	N/A

25.8 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.

25.8.1 Past Mitigation Action Status

The Town did not participate in the last plan.

25.8.2 Additional Mitigation Efforts

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

- Cady Road used to regularly flood from overtopping. The Town ditched the road last year and it has not flooded since.
- Evans Road and County Rte. 61 both flood every year. The town has increased the culverts which has eliminated the issue.
- Private roads into cottages on the lake front were impacted in 2017 and homeowners received recovery funds. Town roads were not in the affected area.

25.8.3 Identified Issues

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

- The Town has reported flooding along County Route 75, Dodge Avenue, Military Road, Youngs Road, and Fields Road. These roadways need flood studies performed to determine whether upsizing culverts, elevating roadways, or ditching will reduce flooding problems.
- The Town-owned Town Barn is unable to perform continuity of operations during power outage events as the facility’s current generator is undersized and outdated.
- The Town knows of approximately 200 private residences (mainly camps and cottages) that are vulnerable to structural flooding. The Town does not have a streamlined way to assess overall trends in damage/impacts to these properties to determine properties of the highest risk of flood damage. It also does not track communications with property owners or the implementation or interest in potential mitigation efforts.
- There is a church located in the floodplain that is not Town owned.



25.8.4 Proposed Hazard Mitigation Actions for the HMP Update

Hounsfield 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-HounsfieldT-01. Flood Prone Roadways

Lead Agency:	Town Highway Department	
Supporting Agencies:	County Highway Department; State DOT	
Hazards of Concern:	Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm	
Description of the Problem:	The Town has reported flooding along County Route 75, Dodge Avenue, Military Road, Youngs Road, and Fields Road. These roadways need flood studies performed to determine whether upsizing culverts, elevating roadways, or ditching will reduce flooding problems.	
Description of the Solution:	The Town will conduct flood studies to determine the best and most cost-effective solution to reduce flooding along County Route 75, Dodge Avenue, Youngs Road, and Fields Road. Once the solutions are determined, the Town will implement the preferred solution.	
Estimated Cost:	TBD	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, FMA, Annual Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	
Benefits:	Future mitigation projects may be identified that will further increase overall community resiliency to flooding and other hazard events and flood risk will be reduced.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas vulnerable to flooding will be made aware to Town leadership and first responders which can place an emphasis on controlled future development. • If cost-effective mitigation actions are identified, they may be implemented in flood prone areas that could reduce their overall risk to loss of life and property. 	
Impact on Future Development:	Flood insurance costs may decrease.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation routes will be more likely to remain open if flooding is mitigated along them. • Hydration systems may remain potable for community usage if projects are identified to protect the existing infrastructure from flooding. 	
Impact on Capabilities:	This study will identify opportunities for mitigation funding to be spent in the areas in which it is most needed to increase resiliency and decrease damage from flood events.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Consideration should be taken to ensure any projects conducted have accounted for increased extreme rainfall events.	
Mitigation Category	Natural Systems Protection, Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Property Protection, Preventative Measures	
Priority	High	
Alternative	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Relocate all flood-prone road system	Not feasible
	Raise all flood prone roads	Cost prohibitive



Action 2025-HounsfieldT-02. Town Barn Generator

Lead Agency:	Town Highway Department	
Supporting Agencies:	Town Administration	
Hazards of Concern:	Extreme Temperature, Flood, Geologic Hazards, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm, Wildfire	
Description of the Problem:	The Town-owned Town Barn is unable to perform continuity of operations during power outage events as the facility's current generator is undersized and outdated.	
Description of the Solution:	The Town will conduct a generator study to determine what sized generator is needed to power to Town Barn in the event of a power outage. The Town will then acquire funding to purchase and install a fixed-mounted diesel-powered generator and necessary electrical components to supply backup power to the Town Barn.	
Estimated Cost:	TBD	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, Community Facilities Grant Program, Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program, Annual Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 Years	
Goals Met:	1, 6, 7	
Benefits:	This action protects public health and safety and ensures continued operation of a critical facility and its essential functions during a power outage.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Protection of critical facilities provides an opportunity for first responders, utility workers, and emergency managers to stage and deploy resources to vulnerable and hazard prone areas.	
Impact on Future Development:	This action results in protection of a critical facility that could support future development.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	This action protects public health and safety and ensures continued operation of a critical facility and its essential functions during a power outage.	
Impact on Capabilities:	This action ensures continuity of operations to maintain capabilities.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Climate change is likely to increase severe weather events such as flooding, wind, and extreme temperatures that result in power failures. This action accounts for a likely increase in power failure events.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Emergency Services	
Priority	High	
Alternative	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Microgrid	Costly and difficult to implement.
	Solar panels and battery backup	Solar power is unlikely to be able to provide battery power for extended power failure events.



Action 2025-HounsfieldT-03. Flood Mitigation Interest

Lead Agency:	Floodplain Administrator	
Supporting Agencies:	Town Administration; Town Home Owners	
Hazards of Concern:	Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm	
Description of the Problem:	The Town knows of approximately 200 private residences (mainly camps and cottages) that are vulnerable to structural flooding. The Town does not have a streamlined way to assess overall trends in damage/impacts to these properties to determine properties of the highest risk of flood damage. It also does not track communications with property owners or the implementation or interest in potential mitigation efforts.	
Description of the Solution:	The Floodplain Administration will develop a list for inventorying systems, or properties damaged by flood events and property owners who are interested in flood mitigation measures, such as elevation or acquisition. The Town will also conduct outreach to offer suggestions and mitigation measures that can be taken to reduce and eliminate flooding.	
Estimated Cost:	Staff Time	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, Staff Time	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 Years	
Goals Met:	1, 2, 6	
Benefits:	Keeping a list of damaged properties and property owners interested in flood mitigation efforts may lead to the elimination of flood damage to homes and residences, which creating an open space for the municipality and increase flood storage.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Collecting data regarding homeowners that reside within flood prone areas provides an opportunity to introduce location-specific opportunities for assistance. Removing homes from the floodplain immediately removes the risk to life and property.	
Impact on Future Development:	Increased outreach to homeowners within a flood prone area will limit construction in areas that are prone to hazard events. Homes may be acquired, which will remove those structures from the floodplain and prevent future development on those sites.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Removing structures from the floodplain decreases the demand for utilities and emergency services including health and medical, law enforcement, and search and rescue.	
Impact on Capabilities:	This action will create a new Town capability, while enhancing its current NFIP capabilities.	
Climate Change Considerations:	A warmer atmosphere means storms have the potential to be more intense and occur more often, including increased periods of intense rain events. Areas experiencing flooding may increase. Removing structures from the floodplain will reduce the response and recovery costs as a result of these events and decrease the loss of human life as a result of these events. Elevating structures will reduce the recovery costs as a result of these events.	
Mitigation Category	Local Plans and Regulations	
CRS Category	Preventative Measures	
Priority	High	
Alternative	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-



	Only share opportunities when notified of grant funding	May not be enough time to garner interest or write application
	Wait for information from the State on flood-damaged properties	May be a delay in notice



Action 2025-HounsfieldT-04. Critical Facilities in the Floodplain

Lead Agency:	Floodplain Administrator	
Supporting Agencies:	Town Administration, Facility Owners	
Hazards of Concern:	Flood, Severe Storm	
Description of the Problem:	There is a church located in the floodplain that is not Town owned.	
Description of the Solution:	<p>The Town will contact the facility owners and will explain the mitigation measures available, including conducting a feasibility assessment to determine what additional floodproofing measures would be needed at the church to protect it to the 500-year flood level. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevation of facility • Floodproofing of facility • Mobile flood barriers <p>Once the most cost-effective option is identified, the facility owners will work with the Town to carry out the option.</p>	
Estimated Cost:	TBD based on chosen option	
Potential Funding Sources:	FMA, HMGP, Town Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 Years	
Goals Met:	2, 5, 6, 7	
Benefits:	Ensures continuity of operations at facilities that are identified as critical to the County and/or municipality.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Protection of critical facilities provides an opportunity for first responders and emergency managers to maintain critical services that socially vulnerable populations rely on.	
Impact on Future Development:	The risk of significant damage occurring to the structure will be reduced, which will allow critical operations to be maintained or only briefly interrupted in severe events. This provides continued support to both current and future development in the service area.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	This action will protect Town, which is a critical facility, maintaining the critical services that it provides.	
Impact on Capabilities:	This action improves continuity of operations during a flood event, allows for a more rapid return to pre-disaster capabilities after a flood event, and faster deployment of post disaster capabilities.	
Climate Change Considerations:	This action addresses anticipated increases in flooding frequency and severity through protection to the 500-year (0.2-percent annual chance) flood level.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Emergency Services, Property Protection	
Priority	High	
Alternative	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Relocate facilities	Relocation is expensive and results in loss or delay of critical services in the immediate area
	Purchase moveable flood barriers	May not be cost effective



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-HounsfieldT-01.	Flood Prone Roadways	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
Action 2025-HounsfieldT-02.	Town Barn Generator	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
Action 2025-HounsfieldT-03.	Flood Mitigation Interest	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
Action 2025-HounsfieldT-04.	Critical Facilities in the Floodplain	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)