

Town of Westerlo

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Westerlo for the 2024 Albany County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). It includes information and guidance intended to assist public and private entities in reducing losses from future natural hazard events. This jurisdictional annex focuses on actions that can be implemented prior to a natural hazard event to reduce adverse impacts to people and property; it is not intended to serve as guidance for what to do when a natural hazard event occurs or how to recover following a natural hazard event. This jurisdictional annex provides an overview of the community and its critical facilities, evaluates the community's vulnerability to various natural hazards, assesses the community's existing capability to mitigate natural hazards, and identifies actions that could be implemented to mitigate natural hazard risks and, ultimately, reduce damages to people and property resulting from natural hazard events.

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1 CONTACT INFORMATION

The primary contacts for Albany County regarding this Jurisdictional Annex are identified as follows:

- Primary: Matthew A. Kryzak, Westerlo Town Supervisor, Supervisor@townofwesterlony.com
- Alternate: Highway Superintendent highwaydepartment@townofwesterlony.com (518) 797-3205
- Alternate: Lisa DeGroff, Confidential Administrator ConfidentialAdmin@townofwesterlony.com, (518) 797-3111 ext. 1014

Town Website: www.TownofWesterloNY.com

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2 COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

2.1 Demographics

The 2020 Census estimated that 3,194 people live in the Town of Westerlo. The Town of Westerlo's population has decreased by 5% since the 2010 Census (3,361). The median age in the Town of Westerlo is 44.4 years, and 21% of the population is over the age of 65. The median household income in the Town of Westerlo is \$85,144.

2.2 Location & Land Characteristics

The Town of Westerlo is located in the Helderberg Mountains on the southwestern border of Albany County. The Town of Westerlo covers approximately 57.8 square miles. The properties within the Town of Westerlo have a total assessed value of approximately \$2,908,524, which is distributed across a variety of property classes.

Major transportation corridors in the Town of Westerlo include New York State Route 143 and New York State Route 85. Key water features within the Town of Westerlo include the Onderdonk Lake, Eightmile Creek, Basic Creek, Hannacroix Creek, Alcove Reservoir, and Basic Reservoir.

2.3 Governing Body

A town supervisor and four council people govern the Town of Westerlo.

2.4 Recent and Anticipated Future Development

According to a review of 239 Referrals since the last County HMP (2018), several new developments have been approved or proposed within the Town. The proposals that the Town received are summarized in Table 2-1 below. Some of the proposals for the Town may be located in the 0.1% or 0.2% annual chance flood event area, but this was not specified in the proposal. Additionally, building permits that have been issued for the Town between 2018 to 2022 are summarized in Table 2-2 below, based on data from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC). These developments may affect the Town's vulnerability to the hazards identified in this HMP.

Table 2-1. Developments from 2018 to 2023

Project Name	Project Location	Consideration	Date
Westerlo A Community Solar Project	77 County Rte. 405 (intersection of CR 405 and SR 32)	Special use permit request to construct and operate a new photovoltaic (PV) community solar array (~1.98 MWac/ ~2.63 MWdc) on 11.2 acres of open fields. Each cluster of approximately 18 panels will be between 15'-20' high. Only 0.6 acres of ground disturbance will occur during construction, which includes minor grading, trenching, and pads. A chain link fence and silt fences will be installed around the project area.	2/15/2018
Medusa Clean Energy Collective	626 County Route 351, Medusa	Site plan review and special use permit for a +/- 8 acre solar farm. The project will involve the installation of ground mounted photovoltaic panels, an access road, electric utility upgrades, and perimeter fencing.	3/15/2018
Walter Hickey Minor Subdivision	708 County Route 405	Subdivision of +/- 155.5 acres. Lot #1 will be 68.3 acres and Lot #2 will be 87.2 acres.	3/15/2018
Costanza Solar, LLC	198 Sunset Hills Rd./ 252 CR Rte. 405	"Cypress Creek Renewables, LLC is proposing to construct a 2,000 kW solar photovoltaic array system on a portion of the parcel located at 198 Sunset Hills Road. The project will consist of ground-mounted, solar photovoltaic panels in a fixed-tilt tracking configuration, as well as 2 equipment pads, a 1,308 linear ft. access driveway, and security fencing. *This case was referred to the ACPB in September 2017. "	4/19/2018
Main Brothers Oil Co.	4338 Rt. 85	Area variance to install a 30,000 gallon LP tank on an existing commercial property.	5/14/2018
Costanza Solar Revised Site Plan	198 Sunset Hills Rd.	"Amendment to the original site plan and special use permit application to install an energy storage system, reduce the array footprint, and alter the ingress/egress. *The original plans were reviewed by the ACPB in April 2018. "	12/20/2018
Westerlo NY 01 Solar Farm LLC Revised Site Plan	77 County Route 405	"Amendment to site plans to include an energy storage system. *ACPB reviewed the original site plans for this project in February 2018. "	12/20/2018
Medusa A Solar Farm-Site Plan Amendment	626 County Route 351, Medusa	"Amendment to site plans to include an energy storage system. *ACPB reviewed the original site plans for this project in March 2018. "	12/20/2018

Project Name	Project Location	Consideration	Date
Jacob Irwin Garage		Construction of a garage for commercial purposes for J&J Construction and Escavation and Irwin Farms	2/25/2019
Jacob Irwin / J& J construction shop building	State Route 32 at mile marker 1046	Area variance for a 52' setback instead of required 100'. ACPB reviewed this site plan in February 2019 (18-190203201).	5/13/2019
Liehaber sub-division	708 CR 405	Subdivision of one lot into two.	5/13/2019
Slingerlands Variance	994 CR 401	An area variance request to enable the construction of a garage within the side yard setback.	7/18/2019
Scrafford	62 CR 401	Area variance to enable the construction of a replacement house within the front yard setback.	7/18/2019
Valentine Sub-division	1036 CR 402	Three lot subdivision of a 111.8 acre parcel, resulting in: one 87.36 acre lot, one 11.92 acres lot, and one 11.02 acre lot	8/15/2019
Thompson's Diner (new owners, same business)	585 State Route 143	A site plan review for a mini-mart with food service and retail space on a parcel that had similar uses before a year of vacancy	10/24/2019
Solid Waste Management Code - TOW	Town of Westerlo	To repeal and replace existing local laws, rules, and regulations related to the collection, transportation, disposal, management, and recycling of solid waste within the Town of Westerlo	10/24/2019
Westerlo Local Law No. 4 Notice of Highway Defects	Town of Westerlo	Adoption of Local Law No. 4 providing for written notification of defects and obstructions on town highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, and culverts in the Town of Westerlo.	11/21/2019
Local Law No 1. of 2020 of Westerlo	N/A	A proposed Local Law that incorporates the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and the State Energy Construction Code in the Town of Westerlo's Zoning Law and Town Law.	2/25/2020
Constanza Solar	252 Cty Rte 405 / 198 Sunset Hills Rd	"A site plan review to enable the construction of a large-scale solar energy system. The proposed project will include a permeable haul road, solar tables with associated appurtenances, equipment pads, perimeter fencing, driveway swales, and stormwater management practices. Access to the site will be provided by a permeable haul road. "	2/25/2020
Shell Inn Addition	4520 St Rte 85	An area variance to enable relief of 63' of the required 100' front setback.	5/21/2020
Barn Side Tower	6419 St Rte 32	Special use permit to enable 25 foot tower extension	8/20/2020

Project Name	Project Location	Consideration	Date
Hallen Beck	426 Cty Rte 1	Area Variance requesting to create a new lot without the required 200 feet of road frontage. Zoning Interpretations for Rural Development/Agricultural district.	8/20/2020
Ferguson	15 Anable Rd	Use Variance to enable construction of a second dwelling on a single lot.	8/20/2020
Town of Westerlo Local Law No.3 of 2020	N/A	Adoption/Amendment local law extending a temporary land use moratorium prohibiting commercial solar energy systems, energy storage systems and wind generation systems within the Town of Westerlo	8/20/2020
Shepard Farm East	6844 SR32 Greenville	Special use permit to convert an existing motel unit into a three unit office building.	8/20/2020
Barn Side Tower	6419 SR32 Greenville	Special Use Permit for 25 foot tower extension.	12/22/2020
Richardson Annexation	26 Richardson Lane	Annexation/lot line adjustment to annex a right-of-way.	2/18/2021
Katrina Wood/Lara McAneny - Kaaterskill Associates (SD 21-01, SD 21-01-A)	667 CR 403 Westerlo & Sunset Road	Subdivision review of two (2) parcels owned by the applicant for estate planning wants to divide each parcel into Two (2) lots with a total of four (4) lot minor subdivision.	2/18/2021
Hesel Subdivision Review	660 Cty Rte 403	Three lot minor subdivision to create three lots: proposed parcel #1 will be 4.27 acres, parcel #2 will be 26.93 acres and parcel #3 will be 15.20 acres.	4/15/2021
Leary Garage	54 Cty Rte 41	Area variance request to construct an accessory building within the side line set back.	4/15/2021
Prince - Area Variance	112 Righter Road	Area variance request to construct a storage building within the front yard setback.	4/15/2021
Prince - Special Use Permit	112 Righter Road	Special use permit to construct a storage building on a parcel without any residential use. This makes the storage building a commercial use requiring a SUP permit.	4/15/2021
Grant Kennel	241 Hill Top Road	Special use permit to use the built structure as kennel for the applicant's personal dogs and to be used as an office/storage.	5/20/2021
Maslowsky Subdivision	85 Woodstock Road	Three-lot minor subdivision to divide 88.8 acres into three (3) parcels.	6/17/2021
Town of Westerlo Local law No.01 of 2021	Town of Westerlo	Amendment of local law for renewable energy section of the zoning law.	7/15/2021

Project Name	Project Location	Consideration	Date
Angela Carkner Wedding Event Space	420 CR 404	Site plan review and special use permit to allow tents and port-a-potties for wedding events.	7/15/2021
Beers	608 Cty Rte 404	Site plan review and special use permit to install ground base solar array.	8/19/2021
Clickman Subdivision	Cty Rte 408	Subdivision review to divide 50 acres into four(4) large lots to be sold as vacant land.	8/19/2021
Town of Westerlo 2021 Comprehensive Plan	Town of Westerlo	Adoption/Amendment of Comprehensive Plan to guide current and future growth and development in the Town of Westerlo	8/19/2021
Pavicilin Solar	77 Cty Rte 405	Site plan review and special use permit for installation of ground based PV solar array.	10/21/2021
Town of Westerlo Local Law #5 of 2021	Town of Westerlo	Adoption of local law to opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption within the Town of Westerlo.	12/16/2021
Wedding Event Space	420 CR 404	Site plan review to use property as a wedding event space including rental tents, rental restroom units, and a space for events ending at 10pm.	2/17/2022
Shepard Farm/ Trysor LLC	6844 State Route 32	Special use permit to operate retail sales in existing building.	9/15/2022
Winni Subdivision	6648 St Rte 32, 6628 St Rte 32	Area variance to build new apartment complex.	9/15/2022
Bishop Appeal - Area Variance	3847 SR 85	Area variance for relief of 1 acre from the minimum 3 acres lot size requirement and 13 feet from the minimum 200 foot frontage requirement.	10/20/2022
Clickman Road Subdivision	CR 408	Three-lot minor subdivision of 50 acres of land to be sold as vacant lands.	1/19/2023
Hunter/Tarbox Subdivision	68 Cty Rte 413	Two lot subdivision of 35.26 acres into 17.633 acres each.	1/19/2023
Sharkey Subdivision	Cty Rte 403	Two lot minor subdivision of the existing 9 acres into 3.63 acres and 5.38 acres.	1/19/2023
Boomhower Trust	614 CR 405	Special use permit for the installation of tiny home.	5/18/2023
Denise Wright - Subdivision	708 CR 205 Westerlo	Two lot minor subdivision to divide the land into Lot 1 consisting 10 acres and Lot 2 consisting 49.9 acres.	5/18/2023
Hydrangea Farms/Carkner - Special Use Permit	420 County Route 404	Special use permit to hold events on the property to be known as Hydrangea Farms.	6/15/2023

Project Name	Project Location	Consideration	Date
Area Variance for Trailer	1082 CR 411, Westerlo	Area variance to use the mobile home as storage, seeking relief from zoning code Section 14.50 C.	8/17/2023
Bishop - Special Use Permit	3867 SR 85	Special use permit to place RV on a vacant lot as per Local Law 3 of 2022.	11/16/2023
Pecylak Minor Subdivision	646 Cty Rte 405	Two lot minor subdivision of the parcel into Lot 1 with 3 acres and Lot 2 with 36 acres.	12/21/2023

Table 2-2. Building Permit Issuance (2018 to 2022)

Year	Building Type	Units
2020	1	11
2021	1	12
2022	1	12
Total:		35

Data Source: Capital District Regional Planning Commission (<https://cdrpc.org/data/housing>)

3 CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1 Planning Mechanisms and Capabilities

The Town of Westerlo identified the following planning mechanisms and capabilities that can support the Town in hazard mitigation efforts. These capabilities can be used to support the mitigation strategy in several ways. For example, administrative capabilities can assist in implementing the mitigation actions as identified in the mitigation strategy. Existing building codes and land use regulations provide a foundation for mitigation planning and provide guidelines for infrastructure repair, new developments, and other actions. Educational programs may be developed further in order to more fully incorporate hazard mitigation. Table 3-1 elaborates on existing building codes, land use and development ordinances/regulations, and many other capabilities which can support hazard mitigation.

Table 3-1. Planning Mechanisms & Capabilities

Planning Mechanism	In Place? (Yes/No)	Notes (Does the plan address hazards? Can the capability be used to implement mitigation actions? When was it last updated?)
Administration		
Maintenance Programs	Yes	Highway Dept. does routine maintenance; also have grants from the County to do work along streams. Code enforcement officer makes sure buildings aren't creating hazards
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	Building Code Enforcement/Highway – work as a team to make sure the Town has the resources it needs; Town buildings have AEDs; Town Hall is on a gravity fed system, so has water access when power is down; Supervisor's Office-Town Hall has kitchen to prepare/heat meals and refrigerators/freezers to keep items cool/frozen as well as handicap accessible bathroom
Mutual Aid or Shared Services Agreements	Yes	Albany County EMS and ambulance; Police and Sheriff's Office; shared senior bus with Rensselaerville
Planning Board	Yes	Planning and Zoning Boards are now combined. PB/ZBA Board
Zoning Board	Yes	
Other		
Development Approvals		

Planning Mechanism	In Place? (Yes/No)	Notes (Does the plan address hazards? Can the capability be used to implement mitigation actions? When was it last updated?)
Building Code	Yes	International Building 2015, 2016 update
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Evaluation	No	
Fire Department ISO Rating	Yes	4/4Y
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	Part of the planning review process includes the environmental impacts; floodplains are taken into account and stormwater management / mitigation (site plan review conducted by Town Engineer)
Other		
Funding Resources		
Authority to Levy Taxes	Yes	
Capital Improvement Project Funds	Yes	Just transferred \$1.2M for building related infrastructure improvements and parking lots to deal with stormwater; this fund is relatively new as well as the capital improvement plan
Federal Funding Programs (i.e., USDA, FEMA, others)	Yes	FEMA during Hurricane Irene (3 major, several minor); broadband infrastructure improvement funding (\$1.5M) from USDA Rural Development Utilities Program
General Obligation Bonds and/or Special Tax Bonds	Yes	Water system installation
Impact Fees for New Development	Yes	Look at how projects will impact future maintenance costs; also looking to build a new fire house and create more shelter location – Town just set aside 3 acres to provide a new site for the fire department; fire dept. is also acquiring an old ambulance building to use for emergency management (EMS, police, and can be used by Albany County – kitchen, ADA accessible bathrooms, living area, shower facilities)
State Funding Programs (i.e., NYSEFC, NYSOGR, NYSDEC, others)	Yes	Not currently; get funding back from AIM

Planning Mechanism	In Place? (Yes/No)	Notes (Does the plan address hazards? Can the capability be used to implement mitigation actions? When was it last updated?)
Utility Fees (i.e., water, sewer, stormwater, gas, electric)	Yes	Water district only; No stormwater/sewer
Other		
Land Use Regulations		
Density Controls	Yes	Have minimum lot sizing (3 acre minimum); in the Hamlet, lots sizes are much smaller
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	
NFIP Participant / Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	See "Floodplain Administrator" row below (under "Staff Positions") Town Hall right next to Basic Creek; Basic Creek also runs through the Town's parks
Hillside Development Regulations	No	Nothing specifically preventing development on steep slopes; any new buildings must manage stormwater
Open Space Preservation	Yes	Parks, Nature Trails; updated comp plan focuses very heavily on open space preservation (worked closely with Hudson River Valley program)
Stormwater Management Regulations	Yes	For new construction; including some new solar farms
Streambank Setback Regulations	Yes	
Subdivision Regulations	Yes	Subdivision ordinance
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	
Other	Yes	Cell towers, solar law, wind law, battery energy storage law, flood damage prevention
Natural Resources		
Forest/Vegetation Management	Yes	Highway and Parks Dept. does active trimming along roadways; streambank preservation in parks (keep natural veg in tact); adjacent to bridges, there has been more streambank hardening to prevent erosion during storms
Stream Corridor Management	Yes	Preservation of natural stream corridor in parks and where possible on Town land; hardening is specific locations adjacent to vulnerable infrastructure (\$40K from Albany Co. SWCD)

Planning Mechanism	In Place? (Yes/No)	Notes (Does the plan address hazards? Can the capability be used to implement mitigation actions? When was it last updated?)
Stream Dumping Regulations	Yes	Have dumping regulations
Urban Forestry and Landscape Management	yes	Rural forestry (Park Department) – a lot of park land in the Town
Watershed Management	yes	Majority is done by the Albany Water Board around the drinking water reservoirs (Basic and Alcove)
Wetland Regulations	Yes	Local Law No. 1 of 1976 – may be a newer one; working to codify all laws in the zoning
Other	Yes	Article 13: Junk and Auto Parts
Plans		
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes	
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	Yes	Pods for medical provisions training (AED, bloodborne pathogens, and blood loss training) and safety training through NYMIR – would like training for emergency disasters
Comprehensive Plan	Yes	2021
Continuity of Operations Plan	No	
Economic Development Plan	No	Nothing beyond what's in the Comprehensive Plan
Other		Community Wildfire Protection Plan – managing brush, brush fires, and debris covered in Comprehensive Plan. Fire Co. set-up with brush equipment
Programs/Organizations		
Climate Smart Community	No	
Local Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Response Organizations	Yes	Town Board would be lead agency on this (liaising with Albany Co. Emergency Services)
Local Environmental Protection Organizations	Yes	Zoning enforcement (code enforcement officer); DEC Burn bans

Planning Mechanism	In Place? (Yes/No)	Notes (Does the plan address hazards? Can the capability be used to implement mitigation actions? When was it last updated?)
National Weather Service Storm Ready Certification	No	
Outreach Programs	Yes	Programming for seniors, veterans, Hilltown Community Resource Center (includes food bank run by Catholic Charities)
Partnerships with private entities addressing mitigation or disaster response	No	
School Programs or Adult Educational Programs	Yes	Hilltown Community Resource Center offers quite a bit of educational programming; library; lunch and learn for seniors
Other		
Staff Positions		
Civil Engineer	Yes	Permanent position designated annually; use a consultant for the service
Code Enforcement Officer	Yes	Jeff Pine
Emergency Manager	Yes	Town Supervisor and deputy Supervisor
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Code Enforcement Officer
Planner/GIS Coordinator	Yes	Use third party services as needed
Other		
Technical Abilities		
Grant Writing	Yes	Lisa DeGroff (Town staff)
Hazard Information Centers	Yes	In the Town Hall – bulletin board with all necessary information (e.g., DEC burn bans)
Hazard Warning Systems	Yes	Fire station and EMS pagers
Other		

The Town's HMP update will be incorporated into and referenced by future updates of the plans, policies, ordinances, programs, studies, and reports listed in Table 3-1. In particular, the Town should review Table 3-1 when completing updates to the Comprehensive Plan and amendments to the Zoning Code. As part of this review, the

Town may strategize opportunities for building the hazard mitigation mechanisms and capabilities currently marked “No” in the table (where feasible) by designating lead agencies in charge of closing such gaps, connecting with partners and technical support resources, establishing a timeline and next steps, estimating costs, and applying for grant funding when necessary. In an update to the Comprehensive Plan, this process may result in the development and inclusion of detailed proposed action items and implementation frameworks that address gaps in hazard mitigation mechanisms and capabilities. In an amendment to the Zoning Code, this process may result in the modification of existing laws or the drafting and adoption of new laws to address gaps in hazard mitigation mechanisms and capabilities.

Furthermore, the Town would like to expand and improve the capabilities listed in Table 3-1 in the following ways:

- There is a large veterans population in the Town. The Town has several programs for veterans (e.g., access to food resources) and would like to expand these resources/services.
- The Town would like to expand its senior lunch and learns (scams, weather, etc.).
- The Town primarily communicates with its residents through the Town website, social media, and a quarterly newsletter. The Town could integrate information related to hazard mitigation into these media platforms.
- The Town would love to have a text messaging system to expand communication.
- The biggest challenge during a disaster is getting the word out to the community given limited communications infrastructure and rural population.
- Would like more reliable cell phone coverage for the entirety of the Town. Currently, coverage is spotty and not reliable.

Additional strategies to expand and improve hazard mitigation capabilities are detailed in Section 10 of the main body of the HMP.

3.2 Integration of Planning Efforts

The Town of Westerlo understands the importance of considering an integrated approach when developing municipal plans, policies, programs, and regulations. The Town intends to reference the 2024 Albany County HMP as part of the process for future updates to the plans, policies, programs, and regulations listed in Table 3-1, above, and for creating new regulations as applicable. This may include adding hazard mitigation as an agenda item at Town Board meetings where local laws are being developed or updated, including hazard mitigation considerations in any templates used to make new laws, adopting an ordinance that all new local laws need to consider hazard mitigation if applicable, or simply making local officials aware of the need to consider hazard mitigation in any plan updates. Additionally, the Town of Westerlo may use the local laws assessment (included in Section 4 of the main body of the HMP) to reference hazard mitigation related regulations that other jurisdictions in the County have adopted and consider implementing similar regulations if desired.

The Town has also included a mitigation action in the mitigation strategy to review and update municipal regulations to incorporate hazard mitigation. Several hazard related mechanisms have been included in the comprehensive plan update.

All of these actions will help expand and improve upon these existing capabilities so that they reduce risk and better support hazard mitigation.

4 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Profiled Hazards

In this HMP Update, the County reviewed multiple natural hazards, and determined to profile five natural hazards: flooding, severe storm, drought, extreme temperatures, and landslide. Descriptions of each of these hazards are included in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

The Town of Westerlo has opted to add the following hazards to their annex. Town representatives gave the following reasons for this inclusion:

- Wildfire – Added due to recent brushfires in the Town.

Aside from the exception listed above, the Town of Westerlo profiled the same hazards as Albany County. The hazard analysis criteria used to evaluate the Town's vulnerability to each natural hazard are summarized in Table 4-1, and the results are presented in

Table 4-2. All rankings were completed subjectively, with the guidelines detailed in Table 4-1.

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Table 4-1. Hazard Analysis Criteria

Score	Impact (Damage to property, crops, people)	Frequency*	Extent	Level of Preparedness	Total Score	Overall Vulnerability
1	Minor	Rare	One or two problem areas within the jurisdiction	Well Prepared	4 to 5	Low
2	Moderate	Infrequent	A significant portion of the jurisdiction	Moderately Prepared	6 to 8	Moderate
3	Major	Regular	The entire jurisdiction	Not Prepared	9 to 12	High

*Frequency is defined roughly as follows:

- Rare – Every 15 years or less
- Infrequent: Less than once a year but greater than once every 15 years
- Regular: Approximately yearly or multiple times a year

Table 4-2. Hazard Vulnerability by Event

Hazard Event	Impact (Damage to property, crops, people, etc.)	Frequency of Occurrence	Extent of Impacts	Level of Preparedness	Overall Vulnerability	Jurisdiction Rank	Notes (Anticipated Future Changes)
Flooding (Riverine, Coastal, Urban, Flash, Ice Jam, Dam or Levee Break, Other)	2	1	1	1	5 – low	2	
Drought	1	1	1	2	5 – low	5	
Severe Storm (Hail, Ice Storms, Wind, Thunderstorms and Lightning, Winter Storms, Hurricane, Tropical Storms, Tornado, Power Outage)	2	2	3	1	8 – moderate	1	
Extreme Temperatures (Cold Wave, Heat Wave, Air Pollution Effects)	2	1	2	1	6 – moderate	3	
Landslide	1	1	1	2	5 – low	6	
Wildfire	1	1	1	1	4 – low	4	

4.2 Hazard Event History

A complete history of natural hazard events within the County – based on NOAA's Severe Storm Database – is included in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP. The following is a subset of events that occurred specifically within the Town. These records informed the development of mitigation actions by demonstrating which hazards have historically had the greatest impact on the Town.

Table 4-3. Hazard Event Records, 2018-2023

Event Type	Date	Magnitude	Estimated Property Damage	Estimated Crop Damage
Thunderstorm/Wind	8/8/2019	50	0	0
Thunderstorm/Wind	8/18/2019	50	0	0
Thunderstorm Wind	5/15/2020	50	0	0
Thunderstorm/Wind	10/7/2020	50	\$2,000	0
Flood	12/25/2020	-	0	0
Thunderstorm/Wind	3/7/2022	50	0	0
Thunderstorm/Wind	5/16/2022	50	0	0
Thunderstorm/Wind	7/24/2022	50	0	0
Total			\$2,000	0

Note: The table above lists only the hazard events that were recorded as occurring specifically within the Town. For records of County-wide hazard events, see the Albany County Annex. Units for magnitude are expressed as the following: Thunderstorm Wind: knots.

4.3 Floodplain Statistics

Key water features in the Town are described in Section 2.2 of this annex. FEMA provides flood insurance rate maps for the municipality and GIS data on the spatial location of floodplains. The 1% annual chance (100-year) flood event area generally corresponds with areas that are at high risk of flooding, and the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood event area generally corresponds with areas that are at moderate risk of flooding. Out of the 58.5 square miles in the Town, approximately 2.65% are located within the 1% annual chance flood event area and approximately 2.99% are located within 0.2% annual chance flood event area (inclusive of the 1% flood event area). The estimated number and structure value of parcels in the municipality that intersect mapped floodplains are summarized in Table 4-5. There are 157 parcels in the Town located within the 1% annual chance flood event area, with an estimated total structure value of \$263,955. Inclusive of these parcels in the 1% annual chance flood event area, there are 169 parcels in the Town located within the 0.2% annual chance flood event area, with an estimated total structure value of \$274,255.

Table 4-4. Summary of Areas in Floodplains*

Total Area (square miles)	Percent of Total Area in 1% Annual Chance Floodplain	Percent of Total Area in 0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain
58.5	2.65%	2.99%

* Calculated areas and percentages are informational estimates only and are not to be used for official purposes. The 0.2% annual chance floodplain in this table includes the area in the 1% annual chance floodplain.

Table 4-5. Estimated Number and Structure Value of Parcels within Mapped Floodplains

Property Class	Number of Parcels in 1% Annual Chance Floodplain	Approx. Structure Value* in 1% Annual Chance Floodplain	Number of Parcels in 0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain**	Approx. Structure Value* in 0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain**
Unclassified	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Agricultural	4	\$ 4,200	4	\$ 4,200
Residential	96	\$ 122,130	105	\$ 132,430
Vacant	47	\$ 1,150	50	\$ 1,150
Commercial	4	\$ 3,775	4	\$ 3,775
Recreation and Entertainment	1	\$ -	1	\$ -
Community Services	3	\$ 132,200	3	\$ 132,200
Industrial	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Public Services	1	\$ -	1	\$ -
Parks and Open Space	1	\$ 500	1	\$ 500
Total	157	\$ 263,955	169	\$ 274,255

*Structure Value for each parcel was estimated by subtracting Land Assessed Value from Total Assessed Value. If the entire parcel or a subset of the parcel was contained within the floodplain, the structure on that parcel was included regardless of the structure's location on the parcel.

** The 0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain in this table includes the area in the 1% Annual Chance Floodplain.

4.4 National Flood Insurance Program

Long-term mitigation of potential flood impacts can be best achieved through comprehensive floodplain management regulations and enforcement at a local level.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), regulated by FEMA, aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures by providing affordable insurance for property owners. The program encourages local jurisdictions to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations in order to mitigate the potential effects of flooding on new and existing infrastructure (<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>).

Communities that participate in the NFIP adopt floodplain ordinances. If an insured structure incurs damage costs that are over 50% of its market value, the owner must comply with the local floodplain regulations when repairing or rebuilding the structure. A structure could be rebuilt at a higher elevation, or it could be acquired and demolished by the municipality or relocated outside of the floodplain. Insured structures that are located within floodplains identified on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) may receive payments for structure and content losses if impacted by a flood event.

The NFIP and other flood mitigation actions are important for the protection of public and private property and public safety. Flood mitigation is valuable to communities because it:

1. Creates safer environments by reducing loss of life and decreasing property damage;
2. Allows individuals to minimize post-flood disaster disruptions and to recover quicker (homes built to NFIP standards generally experience less damage from flood events, and when damage does occur, the flood insurance program protects the homeowner's investment); and
3. Lessens the financial impacts on individuals, communities, and other involved parties (<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>).

The Town of Westerlo currently participates in the NFIP (community ID 360017A), and its current FIRM(s) became effective on [03/16/2015]. FIRMs are available via FEMA's Flood Map Service Center (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>). Digital FIRM data is also available for Albany County via FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer, which was referenced during the development of this annex. Information from this digital FIRM data was incorporated into this Hazard Mitigation Plan where appropriate (for example, when identifying which critical facilities are located in the floodplain).

The Town's local law governing floodplain development and NFIP compliance is located in Flood Damage Prevention 2015 LL01. The Town will continue to comply with the NFIP by enforcing floodplain management requirements and regulating new development in special flood hazard areas, among other required duties. Staff capabilities to implement the NFIP and local floodplain regulations are listed in Table 3-1 of this annex.

According to NFIP claims data provided by FEMA, there are 0 repetitive loss properties in the Town of Westerlo. Repetitive loss properties are properties that have had at least two paid flood losses of more than \$1,000 each in any 10-year period since 1978.

4.5 Considerations for Future Hazards

No concerns about future changes in hazard impacts specific to the Town were identified during the hazard mitigation planning process. The effects of climate change and other factors on future hazard events in Albany County are covered in more detail in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

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5 ASSETS AND VULNERABILITIES

5.1 Critical Facilities

FEMA defines a critical facility as one that provides services and functions essential to a community, especially during and after a disaster. Critical facilities should remain accessible and functional before, during and after disasters. Additionally, critical facilities include those that requires a special emergency response in the event of hazardous incidents, such as buildings that store hazardous materials. Examples of critical facilities include community lifelines, such as fire departments, EMS services, police stations, water and wastewater services, medical facilities, highway garages, and hazardous materials. They also include facilities such as Town halls, schools, and senior centers. In the hazard mitigation planning process, each jurisdiction ultimately decided which facilities they consider to be critical facilities for their community.

Table 5-1 denotes the name, type, and location of the critical facilities within the Town of Westerlo, and any particular vulnerabilities of note. More information about hazard vulnerability, including the vulnerability of community assets to natural hazard events, is included in Section 8 of the main body of the HMP. Additional vulnerabilities by location are assessed in the HAZUS analysis, included in the appendices of the HMP

Table 5-1. Critical Facilities*

[Table redacted due to sensitive content]

Per 2022 NYS Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards, jurisdictions must identify all of their critical facilities, determine the facilities' exposure to a 1% and 0.2% annual chance flood event, and document if the facilities are protected to a 0.2% annual chance flood event or previous worst case flood event (whichever is greater). For facilities that do not meet this level of protection, the jurisdiction must either include an action to meet or exceed this criterion or explain why it is not feasible to do so.

As indicated in Table 5-1, it is unknown whether several of the Town's critical facilities are protected to a 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood event or previous worst case flood event (whichever is greater). The Town has included an action in Section 7.2: New Mitigation Actions related to these critical facilities. Section 9 of the main body of the HMP provides additional detail on how the County and local municipalities may assess critical facilities' level of protection to the 1% and 0.2% annual chance flood event.

5.2 High Hazard Potential Dams

According to the NYSDEC Division of Water Bureau and Flood Protection and Dam Safety, there are four hazard classifications of dams in New York State. A High Hazard Potential Dam is a dam located in an area where dam failure may cause loss of human life; serious damage to homes, industrial, or commercial buildings; essential public utilities; main highways or railroads; and will cause extensive economic loss.

The Town of Westerlo has 1 high hazard potential dam located in the municipality: Basic Creek Dam. Information on this dam is included in Table 5-2. High Hazard Potential Dams can be an asset as well as pose risks to the jurisdiction and neighboring jurisdictions. Additional information about high hazard potential dams and their impacts is included in Sections 6 and 7 of the main body of the HMP.

The Town is also concerned about the Lake Onderdonk Dam, a Significant Hazard Potential Dam located in South Berne, within the Town of Westerlo. While not located in the Town of Westerlo, the Camp Givah dam located in East Berne, and the Alcove Reservoir Dam located in the Town of Coeymans, could impact the Town of Westerlo if they failed.

Table 5-2. High Hazard Potential Dams in the Town of Westerlo

Dam Name	Federal ID	Owner	Year Completed	Construction Type	Primary Purpose	Date of Last EAP Revision
Basic Creek Dam	NY00084	Albany Water Board	1928	Earth	Water Supply	6/30/2023

Source: National Inventory of Dams (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2023), NYSDEC Foil Request (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 2024)

5.3 Additional Jurisdiction/Public Identified Vulnerabilities

In addition to critical facilities, it is important to take a holistic approach to identifying assets in the jurisdiction and how they may be vulnerable to the hazards identified in the HMP. Examples of other assets considered include:

- o People (residents, workers, visiting populations, and socially vulnerable populations like seniors, individuals with disabilities, lower-income individuals, etc.)
- o Other structures (community centers, historic places, planned capital improvement)
- o Economic assets (major employers, primary economic sectors, key infrastructure like telecommunications networks)
- o Natural, historic and cultural resources (areas of conservation, beaches, parks, critical habitats)
- o Critical facilities and infrastructure (hospitals, law enforcement, water, power)
- o Community activities (major local events such as festivals or economic events like farming or fishing)

Aside from critical facilities listed in Table 5-1, the Town of Westerlo has identified the following additional assets for consideration in hazard mitigation planning and included the following notes:

Table 5-3. Additional Assets

[Table redacted due to sensitive content]

6 SUMMARY OF HAZARD IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES

6.1 Flood

The Town of Westerlo has ranked their overall vulnerability to flood events as low, as indicated in Table 4-2. According to Town representatives, flood events occur infrequently in the jurisdiction and affect one or two problem areas within the jurisdiction, causing moderate damage. The Town feels they are well prepared for flood events.

Information on flood event records (Section 4.2 of this annex), high hazard potential dams (Section 5.2), floodplain statistics (Section 4.3), and participation in the NFIP (Section 4.4) are described above, illustrating the impact of flooding on critical facilities and other structures. The Town is particularly concerned about the impacts of flooding on creeks and streams.

Future vulnerability to flood events is determined by many factors, such as climate change, land use, and population changes, as well as the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Climate change is expected to increase the Town's future vulnerability to flood events. These trends are further described in Section 4.1 of this annex and in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

6.2 Severe Storm

The Town of Westerlo has ranked their overall vulnerability to severe storm events as moderate, as indicated in Table 4-2. According to Town representatives, severe storms occur infrequently in the jurisdiction and affect the entire jurisdiction, causing moderate damage. The Town feels they are well prepared for severe storm events.

Records of severe storm events are described in Section 4.2 of this annex. Impacts to the Town from severe storm events include fallen trees from severe winds, which can damage overhead utility lines, resulting in power outages. These events are likely to result in damages to private and public infrastructure and property. In addition, during severe winter storm events, roadway safety is a primary concern and impacts the safety of residents and operation of critical facilities. Damages to the Town's critical infrastructure or primary transportation routes would be particularly impactful to residents. According to the Town, storms can have an especially damaging impact on bridges, internet, roads, and the power grid.

Future vulnerability to severe storm events is determined by many factors, such as climate change, land use, and population changes, as well as the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Climate change is expected to change the types of severe storm events that the Town is vulnerable to, likely making the Town more vulnerable to severe thunderstorm, windstorm, and hail events and less vulnerable to heavy snow, ice storms, winter storms and winter weather. These trends are further described in Section 4.1 of this annex and in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

6.3 Drought

The Town of Westerlo has ranked their overall vulnerability to drought events as low, as indicated in Table 4-2. According to Town representatives, drought events occur rarely in the jurisdiction and affect one or two problem areas within the jurisdiction, causing minor damage. The Town feels they are moderately prepared for drought events.

Some, but not all, residents of the Town of Westerlo are served by a public water supply. Residents who rely on private wells may be especially susceptible to low water yields during a drought, as well as water quality issues. Additionally, agricultural operators would experience significant impacts from drought, especially if they rely on natural rain events, rainwater collection, and healthy soils for crop maintenance and livestock care. The public water supply, and certain critical facilities (e.g. the water tower, pump houses #1 and #2 and the water testing facility) could be susceptible to impacts during a drought due to low water yields, particularly if a back-up water supply has not been formally established.

Future vulnerability to drought events is determined by many factors, such as climate change, land use, and population changes, as well as the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Climate change is expected to increase the Town's future vulnerability to drought events. These trends are further described in Section 4.1 of this annex and in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

6.4 Extreme Temperatures

The Town of Westerlo has ranked their overall vulnerability to extreme temperature events as moderate, as indicated in Table 4-2. According to Town representatives, extreme temperature events occur rarely in the jurisdiction and affect a significant portion of the Town, causing moderate damage. The Town feels they are well prepared for extreme temperature events.

Extreme temperature events tend to have greater impacts on vulnerable populations, including older adults (over 65 years), young children (under 5 years), individuals with health complications, and individuals who cannot afford to sufficiently heat or cool their homes. Approximately 3% of the population in the Town is under 5 years old, and 24% of the population is over 65 years old. Approximately 8.9% of the residents of the Town have a disability (excluding any institutionalized residents and active-duty military members) some of whom have health problems that make them more vulnerable to extreme heat or cold. Approximately 5% of the Town's population is below the poverty level. Many residents within these populations are at a higher risk of being impacted by extreme temperature events. In particular, the Town is concerned about the impacts of extreme temperature events on residents who do not have air conditioning.

Future vulnerability to extreme temperature events is determined by many factors, such as climate change, land use, and population changes, as well as the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Climate change is expected to increase the Town's future vulnerability to extreme heat events and decrease its vulnerability to extreme cold events. These trends are further described in Section 4.1 of this annex and in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

6.5 Landslide

The Town of Westerlo has ranked their overall vulnerability to landslide events as low, as indicated in Table 4-2. According to Town representatives, landslide events occur rarely in the jurisdiction and affect one or two problem areas within the jurisdiction, causing minor damage. The Town feels they are moderately prepared for landslide events.

Landslides can impact the structural integrity of buildings, roads, and other infrastructure in the Town. They can also impact transportation flow and the provision of supplies, can degrade the natural environment, and have the potential to cause injury and death.

Future vulnerability to landslide events is determined by many factors, such as climate change, land use, and population changes, as well as the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. For example, underlying conditions that impact landslides, such as bedrock stability and heavy rain events, are influenced by climate-related trends, such as temperature increases and extreme precipitation events. These trends are further described in Section 4.1 of this annex and in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

6.6 Wildfire

The Town of Westerlo has ranked their overall vulnerability to wildfire events as low, as indicated in

Table 4-2. According to Town representatives, wildfire events occur rarely in the jurisdiction, often in the form of brushfires, and affect one or two problem areas within the jurisdiction, causing minor damage. The Town feels they are currently well prepared for wildfire events.

Wildfires are especially dangerous when they occur in the wildland-urban interface. They can burn anything from vegetation and crops to buildings and structures. Wildfires can also decrease the structural integrity of infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, due to the heat. Smoke from wildfires can have serious health consequences, especially for people with preexisting health conditions and other vulnerable populations as described in Section 6.4.¹ In the Town of Westerlo, there have been recent occurrences of brushfires that have the potential to create broader negative impacts if not controlled. The Town would like to mitigate future brushfires and wildfires.

Future vulnerability to wildfire events is determined by many factors, such as climate change, land use, and population changes, as well as the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. Climate change is not likely to greatly increase the risk of wildfires in New York State, according to the New York State Climate Impacts Assessment, and the probability of wildfires is expected to remain very low even under high-emissions scenarios.² However, climate change is projected to increase the risk of wildfires and the duration of the wildfire season elsewhere in North America, leading to increased risks of smoke and air pollution in New York State. Future land management decisions, such as regulations regarding when and where burning is allowed, may have a greater impact on the probability of future wildfire events.

6.7 Jurisdictional Priorities

Taking into account the identified natural hazards, potential impacts, assets, and vulnerabilities identified above, key vulnerabilities and priorities to be addressed in this HMP were identified for the Town.

Top concerns about hazard mitigation in the Town included:

- **Flooding:** The Town experiences flooding along creeks and streams and experienced major flooding during Hurricane Irene (2011).
- **Ice storms:** These hazards impact the power grid, bridges, internet and communications systems, and road infrastructure. The Town can be very isolated during these events.
- **Extreme temperatures:** Many people do not have air conditioning units. All Town buildings have air conditioning and back-up generators and can be used as refuge during extreme heat.

¹ Source: New York State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2023): <https://mitigateny.org>

² <https://nysclimateimpacts.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Assessment-ch2-NYS-changing-climate-01-09-24.pdf>

The following populations were identified as being particularly vulnerable to hazards:

- Properties where this is a single access point that requires a bridge crossing. In these locations, residents can be stuck until the water level recedes and bridge integrity is confirmed.
- Homes next to creeks and in low lying areas.
- People who live in more remote locations.
- Elderly population.

The plan was revised to reflect the following changes in community priorities since the 2018 HMP Update:

- The Town has not identified any changes in priorities since the 2018 HMP Update because the Town did not participate in that update.

Additional concerns that the Town would like addressed in the plan include:

- The electrical grid and broadband needs to be more robust. Improvements related to these needs are starting to happen.
- Communications systems are a general concern. The Town primarily uses its website to communicate with the public, but when there is no power or internet the Town doesn't have a reliable way to communicate with residents. The Town has done mailers in the past for water system issues.
- The Town would like to explore the use of satellite boosters to increase cell coverage.
- The Town's biggest need is capacity. The Town relies on the County as an important partner, but the Town is responsible for maintaining all Town infrastructure.
- The Town is already doing a lot of culvert management and replacements, tree trimming, ditch clearing, and roadway maintenance to mitigate flood hazards. This work is all done by the Town Highway and Parks Departments, but the Town could always use additional support.

6.8 Additional Impacts

Additional impacts of the hazards are summarized in the problem descriptions in the Town's past and new mitigation actions, as described in the following sections.

7 MITIGATION STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Past, Completed, and Ongoing Initiatives

The Town had proposed two mitigation actions in the 2018 Albany County HMP Update. The status of each action is summarized below, along with the Town’s decision about whether to include the action in the 2024 HMP Update. Any revisions to actions proposed in 2018 are indicated below.

Table 7-1. Status of 2018 Mitigation Actions

Name	Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Agency	Status	
				(Completed, In Progress, No Progress, Discontinued)	Carried into 2024 HMP Update? (Yes/No)
Kropp Road	Elevate road and resurface	Flooding; elevated low-lying areas	Highway Department	Completed	No
Acquisition of repetitive loss (RL) and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties within municipal limits	Continued loss and damage to existing structures and belongings would be resolved at repetitive loss locations. No action alternative would result in additional and repeat damages from flood events and storms. Cost would depend on assessed value of the properties in question.	Flood events and Storms	Town Board, Town Consultant	Completed	No

7.2 New Mitigation Actions

In addition to the actions carried over from the 2018 HMP, the Town of Westerlo identified new mitigation actions for inclusion in the 2024 HMP Update, in conjunction with the project team. First, a list of actions was brainstormed based on the capabilities, hazard identification, impacts, and vulnerabilities described above. This included consideration to the ways that the Town could expand and improve the identified capabilities to achieve mitigation, as described in Section 3 of this annex. Then, a more comprehensive range of actions were evaluated as described in Section 9 of the main body of the HMP. Finally, actions that tied in most closely with the vulnerabilities identified by the Town were selected for inclusion in the HMP. These actions are included in the table below. (Note that in the table, CF = Critical Facility, EHP = Environmental and Historic Preservation.) The actions also help address climate change in the Town, since many of the hazards profiled in this HMP may be worsened by climate change. The effects of climate change on these hazards are described in Section 4.1 and Section 6 of this annex, as well as in Section 6 of the main body of the HMP.

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Table 7-2. New Mitigation Actions

Project #	Project Name	Goal/Objective being Met	Hazard to be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Related to CF?*	EHP Issues*	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
TWesterloF1	Vulnerability Assessment and Flood Protection for Critical Facilities	G1, G2, G3, G6	Flood	Some of the Town's critical facilities are not protected against the 0.2% chance flood event or previous worst case flood event, while others need assessment to determine their level of protection. This leaves these facilities vulnerable to becoming inoperable during flood events.	Conduct vulnerability assessments for the critical facilities identified in the Town's annex to this HMP update, to determine their level of protection against a 0.2% chance flood event (or previous worst case flood, if greater than the 0.2% chance flood), where unknown. If/when funding is available, protect any unprotected facilities to an 0.2% chance flood event (or previous worst case flood event, if applicable), through engineering design, building retrofits, or other measures, as necessary and feasible. These facilities are identified in Table 5-1 of the jurisdictional annex.	Yes	Potentially	1-3 years	Town of Westerlo Building Department with assistance from Albany County	Medium	This action would reduce the vulnerability of critical facilities to flood events.	US HMGP, US BRIC, US Flood Mitigation Assistance, US HUD CDBG-MIT, NYS HM RLF	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Goal/Objective being Met	Hazard to be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Related to CF?*	EHP Issues*	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
TWesterloMH1	Increase Resilience at Municipal Facilities and Key Assets	G1, G2, G3, G5, G6	Multiple Hazards (Flood, Severe Storm)	According to Albany County's Climate Resiliency Plan, several municipal facilities throughout the County are vulnerable to natural hazards such as flooding and severe storms, especially older buildings and buildings that serve vulnerable populations. Some Town of Westerlo facilities may fall into this category.	Partner with Albany County to assess additional opportunities to increase resilience at critical facilities and other key assets. This may include, but is not limited to, action items detailed in the Albany County Climate Resiliency Plan page 180-197, such as: 1) Assess municipal buildings for resilient retrofit opportunities, 2) Assess municipal properties for resilient site improvements, and 3) Assess climate risks and identify proactive solutions for climate resilience at a local level. Particular facilities of interest may include, but are not limited to, the ones listed in the Climate Resiliency Plan (Chapter 3 and pages 180-197), as well as the ones listed in the Critical Facilities section of the jurisdictional annex.	Yes	Potentially	3-5 years	Town of Westerlo Building Department with assistance from Albany County	High	This action would reduce the vulnerability of the community's critical facilities to natural hazards including floods and severe storms.	US HMGP, US BRIC, US HUD CDBG-MIT, NYS HM RLF	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Goal/Objective being Met	Hazard to be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Related to CF?*	EHP Issues*	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
TWesterloMH2	Stabilize Creek- and Streambanks	G1, G2, G3, G6	Multiple Hazards (Flooding, Landslide, Severe Storms)	Streambank erosion is a natural process, and it involves the gradual, and sometimes rapid, removal of sediments from the streambank. It is caused by a number of factors including severe storms, rain, ice, winds, stormwater runoff, and loss of trees and other vegetation. Although erosion is not intrinsically harmful, when it destabilizes adjacent critical facilities, such as roads, it can put the public at risk.	Stabilize creek- and streambanks on public properties, Town roads, and specifically along Tan Hollow Road to reduce risk to public and critical facilities. Streambank stabilization methods may include, but are not limited to: the revegetation of slopes, streambank hardening, and/or structural living shorelines.	Yes	Potentially	1-3 years	Town of Westerlo Highway Department	High	This action would reinforce streambanks and reduce the risk of erosion and slope destabilization during floods and severe storms.	US HMGP, US BRIC, US HUD CDBG-MIT, NYS HM RLF	Medium
TWesterloMH3	Upgrade Culverts on Town roads	G1, G2, G3, G6	Multiple Hazards (Flooding, Severe Storms)	Intense rain events frequently overwhelm the Town's roadway infrastructure and create flooding issues.	Identify under-sized culverts that are the source of localized flooding. Upgrade these under-sized culverts to culverts with larger hydraulic openings to prepare for larger, more intense rain events and reduce flooding. Culvert replacements should also consider ecological connectivity and preserve the stream/creek bed wherever possible.	Yes	Potentially	1-3 years	Town of Westerlo Highway Department	High	This action would reduce the flooding along Town roads by upgrading under-sized culverts.	US HMGP, US BRIC, US HUD CDBG-MIT, NYS HM RLF	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Goal/Objective being Met	Hazard to be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Related to CF?*	EHP Issues*	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
TWesterloMH4	Improved Emergency Communications	G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6	Multiple Hazards (Flooding, Severe Storms, Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Landslide, Brushfire)	Currently, cell phone coverage is limited and unreliable across the Town. This lack of access to technology makes it difficult to communicate with some Town residents before, during, and after an emergency.	Increase access to internet by expanding broadband and cell service infrastructure, subsidizing the cost of internet, and/or providing free Wi-Fi in and around public facilities. The Town would also like to consider the implementation of text messaging and/or auto dial out services to assist with emergency communications during a natural disaster.	No	No	3-5 years	Town of Westerlo Supervisors Office	High	This action would increase residents' ability to receive information from the Town and first responders in the event of a natural disaster / emergency. These systems could also be used to share information about hazard mitigation during blue sky days. By increasing the reach of emergency communications, injury and loss of life from natural hazards may also be reduced.	US HMGP, US BRIC, FEMA EMPG, CDBG PICP, NYS HM RLF	Medium
TWesterloMH5	Convert Former Ambulance Building into an Emergency Operations Center and Shelter	G1, G2, G5	Multiple Hazards (Flooding, Severe Storms, Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Landslide, Wildfire, Brushfire)	The Former Ambulance Building is currently vacant. It's central location in the Town makes it a good candidate for a new emergency shelter and emergency operations center to support residents and first responders during natural disasters.	Converting the former ambulance building into a well-supplied emergency operations center (i.e., stores emergency supplies, including food and water, stores emergency vehicles and equipment such as wilderness rescue capabilities), and manage all emergencies from this location. ft. Drone capabilities and First aid and emergency supplies; mass casualty supplies (palette of water on hand in one or two facilities; blankets)	Yes	Yes	3-5 years	Town of Westerlo Town Board	High	This action would increase emergency responders' ability to quickly assess and respond to natural disasters as they arise. Specifically, this action would support fire response, wilderness rescue, and human rescue. Furthermore, the facility would provide another emergency shelter for residents and would be stocked with equipment and supplies that could assist in a variety of natural disasters/emergencies.	NYSOCR CDBG, DASNY SMFP, NYS HM RLF, NYS CDBG PICP, USDA RDCFLGP	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Goal/Objective being Met	Hazard to be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Related to CF?*	EHP Issues*	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
TWesterloE1	Tick Education Campaign	G1	Extreme Temperatures	Ticks and tick-borne illnesses are increasing in the Town as a result of shorter freezes and warmer winters.	Develop and implement a public education campaign to inform the public about tick prevention, Lyme disease, and other tick-borne illnesses. The Town could develop a print and digital behavior change campaign to encourage preparation for outside activity and checking for ticks.	No	No	6 months - 1 year	Town of Westerlo Parks Department	Low	This action could reduce the incidence of tick-borne illnesses in the Town, which have been a recurring and increasing public health issue.	NYS DEC UCFG, EPA EJSG, US BRIC	High
TWesterloMH7	Establish Emergency Holding Facility for Displaced Animals	G1	Multiple Hazards (Flooding, Severe Storms)	The Town identified a need for an emergency holding facility for animals that are displaced during natural disasters, including flooding and severe storms. Currently, the Town has a shared service agreement with Town of Rensselaerville to temporarily shelter displaced animals.	Create a dedicated space for temporarily sheltering animals during natural disasters, such as flooding and severe storms. This new facility could also provide educational services to pet owners related to disaster relief preparedness and animal rescue to ensure pets are not abandoned or lost during a disaster.	No	Potentially	1-3 years	Town of Westerlo Building Department	Medium	This action would increase pet owners' comfort evacuating their homes during an emergency. This action would also provide a temporary shelter for animals in the event pet owners are displaced for an extended period of time.	US BRIC, DASNY SMFP	Low

*Note: CF = Critical Facility, EHP = Environmental and Historic Preservation

7.3 Mitigation Action Prioritization

Each of the Town’s proposed mitigation actions were evaluated and prioritized according to the criteria listed in Section 9 of the main body of the HMP. This includes a cost-benefit review of the proposed actions. The results are included in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3. New Mitigation Action Prioritization

Mitigation Action ID	Mitigation Action Name	Ability to Increase Resilience	Economic Feasibility	Low Environmental Impact	Ability to Implement	Total Score	Priority
TWesterloF1	Vulnerability Assessment and Flood Protection for Critical Facilities	2	2	3	2	9	Medium
TWesterloMH1	Increase Resilience at Municipal Facilities and Key Assets	3	2	2	2	9	Medium
TWesterloMH2	Stabilize Creek- and Streambanks	3	2	2	2	9	Medium
TWesterloMH3	Upgrade Culverts on Town roads	3	2	2	2	9	Medium
TWesterloMH4	Improved Emergency Communications	2	2	2	2	8	Medium

Mitigation Action ID	Mitigation Action Name	Ability to Increase Resilience	Economic Feasibility	Low Environmental Impact	Ability to Implement	Total Score	Priority
TWesterloMH5	Convert Former Ambulance Building into an Emergency Operations Center and Shelter	2	2	2	2	8	Medium
TWesterloE1	Tick Education Campaign	2	3	3	2	10	High
TWesterloMH7	Establish Emergency Holding Facility for Displaced Animals	1	2	2	1	6	Low

Note: Feasibility/effectiveness is rated as follows: 1 = Poor, 2 = Moderate, 3 = Good. Priority is determined as follows based on total score: 4-6 = Low, 7-9 = Medium, 10-12 = High.

7.4 Mitigation Action Implementation and Administration

The Town's new mitigation actions will be implemented and administered via the lead agencies listed in Table 7-2 of this annex, using the timeframes, prioritization, and funding sources in Sections 7.2 and 7.3 as a guide. Further details about implementation of mitigation actions for all jurisdictions in Albany County, as well as a description of funding sources, are described in Sections 9 and 10 of the main body of the HMP.

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8 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public input was solicited to guide the development of the HMP through two public information meetings and a community survey. A summary of the findings of these outreach activities can be found in Section 3 of the main body of the HMP. The Town of Berne may continue to seek public participation in hazard mitigation planning after HMP approval by including discussion of the HMP as an agenda item at public Town Board meetings and by offering opportunities for members of the public to participate in the implementation of relevant mitigation actions.

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