



Waterbury, Vermont  
2024 Local Hazard Mitigation  
Plan

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**Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**

*Cover photo from Waterbury Roundabout by  
Gordon Miller*

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

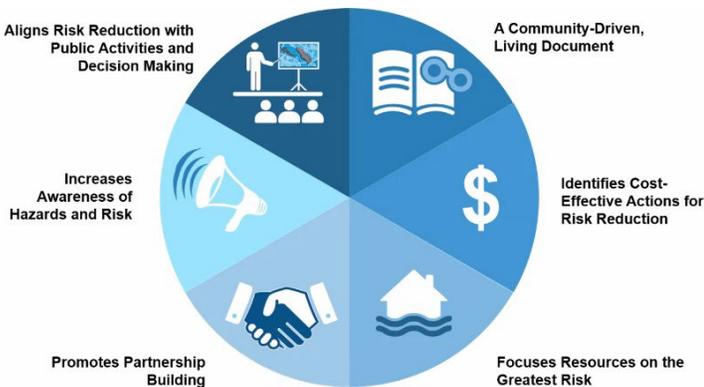
Mitigation planning provides an opportunity for local government to lessen the impact of the next natural disaster. The goal of this Plan is to advance and prioritize mitigation investment to reduce risks posed by natural hazards and to increase the Town of Waterbury’s resilience to damages from natural hazard impacts.

Hazard Mitigation is any sustained policy or action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from the effects of natural hazards. FEMA and state agencies have come to recognize that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after a disaster has struck. This Plan recognizes that opportunities exist for communities to identify mitigation strategies and measures during all the other phases of Emergency Management - Preparedness, Response and Recovery. While the hazards can never be completely eliminated, it is possible to identify what the hazards are, where their impacts are most severe, and identify local actions and policies that can be implemented to reduce or eliminate the severity of the impacts.

# 2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to assist the Town in identifying all-natural hazards facing the community, ranking them according to local vulnerabilities, and developing strategies to reduce risks from those hazards. Once adopted, this Plan is not legally binding; instead, it outlines goals and actions to prevent future loss of life and property.

The benefits of mitigation planning include:



Source: FEMA LHMP Skill Share Workshop 2021

**Furthermore, the Town seeks to be in accordance with the strategies, goals, and objectives of the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

# 3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

## Land Use and Development Patterns

According to the 2018 Waterbury Town Plan, the town charter was granted in 1763. First surveyed in 1782 with first permanent colonial settler following a year later. Many water powered mills fed by the tributaries of the Winooski River fueled the early development of the town.

The town grew into a regional transportation and hub providing access along the Winooski River through the Green Mountains for both Rail and Interstate commerce and connectivity. This allowed the town to grow as a major connection and commerce point.



Waterbury, Vermont is a vibrant community encompassing Waterbury village, Colbyville, and Waterbury Center - located in the northwest corner of Washington County, in the heart of Vermont’s Green Mountains. The Winooski River Valley, several mountain ranges, and the gently rolling hills surrounding Waterbury offer a spectacular year-round setting. Waterbury sits just a 20-minute drive from Montpelier, 30 minutes from Burlington, and midway between the popular resort areas of Stowe and the Mad River Valley.

With a lively downtown, numerous tourist attractions, an emphasis on healthy living and family life, and a business-friendly economic climate, our community has become a regional hub. Waterbury is home to Darn Tough, Ben & Jerry’s and the Vermont State Office Complex.

With its small-town values, employment opportunities, and disaster recovery experience, Waterbury faced the challenge of rebuilding after the destruction wrought by Irene and continues to maintain its thoughtful approach to future development.

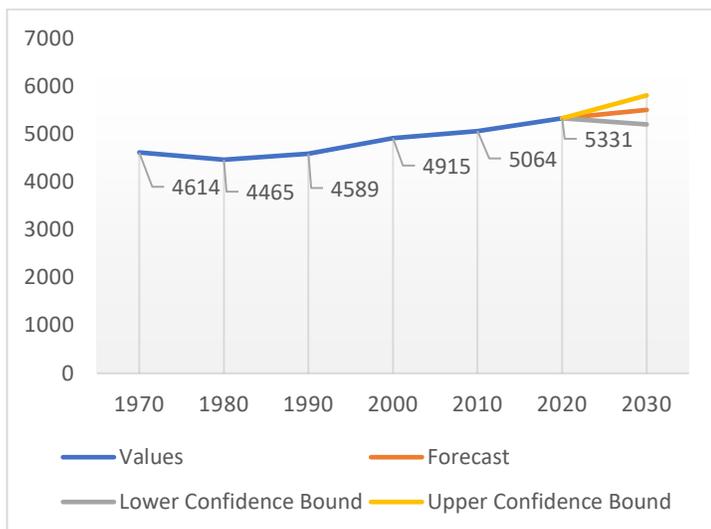
**Land Features**

Waterbury’s landscape is defined by the Green mountains, Thatcher Brook, Little River and the Winooski River. The Town is nestled between the Green Mountain Range and the Middlesex Range. The southern border of the town is the Winooski River. The lowest elevation of the Winooski River being ~340ft, the highest point being at 3,327 feet, on the side of Ricker Mountain with the summit being in neighboring Bolton.

Several extensive land areas are owned by the State including Mt. Mansfield State Forest, and C.C. Putnam State Forest.

**Demographics and Growth Potential**

The 2020 Decennial Census prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau shows an estimated population of 5,331 and 2,559 housing units. Over the last 40 years Waterbury has undergone slow and steady population growth.



Source: Census data with excel projection of expected growth

Between 2010 and 2020, the median age of Waterbury residents changed minimally by +0.9

to 42.8; almost matching the Vermont median age of 42.9. The portion of the population over 65 is 19.0%, compared to 20.6% in Vermont and 16% in the country. The population density of the Town is 111 people per square mile compared to an overall state density of 68.

Waterbury has seen growth since the 2018 plan but this has primarily been in the upland areas and is out side of the hazard prone area due to appropriate zoning.

**Precipitation and Water Features**

Average annual precipitation is 42 inches per year; with July being the wettest month. Average annual snowfall is 92.8 inches; with January being the snowiest month.

The Winooski River and its many tributaries (Graves Brook, Thatcher Brook, and the Little River) are a major water features in Waterbury.

The most significant water body in Waterbury is the Waterbury Reservoir. Waterbury Reservoir was created in 1935 with a total area of 850 acres and a maximum depth of 100ft. The reservoir was created by the construction of an 1,845 ft dam that stands 187 ft tall.

**Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer**

Public drinking water is supplied by the Edward Farrar Utility District. The district serves a population of 1200 accounts throughout the town. The district has 12 wells that serve the overall system. They maintain ~9 miles of pipeline and have 150 hydrants. This system is a gravity fed system with most of the wells being on Sweet Road or Waterworks Road along the Waterbury/Stowe town line.

**The Wastewater system**

The Edward Farrar Utility District supplies wastewater services for 800 connections. This system has ~45,000 linear feet of gravity sewer lines with an additional ~4,000 feet of 12” forced main line. There are 4 pump stations, 34 North Main Street, 200 Lincoln Street, 546 River Road Ice Center,

and 43 Grandview Heights. This system has 293 manholes and

### Transportation

Waterbury is ±50 square miles in size with primary access via US Interstate 89, a north-south major arterial route, US Route 2, VT Route 100, served by the New England Central Railroad and the Amtrak Vermonter.

The 2023 VTrans Town Highway data indicates that Waterbury has 55.63 municipal road miles: 1.49 Class 1; 7.94 miles of Class 2; 39.61 miles of Class 3; 6.59 miles of Class 4 (or functionally Class 4). Of the total municipal road miles, ~57% are paved and ~43% are gravel. In addition, there are 10.28 miles of State highway in Waterbury, and 7.998 of US interstate a for a total of ±67.3 traveled highways, including Class 4 roads.

According to the Town's 2017 road erosion inventory, 46% of Waterbury's Road mileage is hydrologically connected - meaning it is within 100-feet of a water resource (i.e., stream, wetland, lake, or pond). Proximity to water resources can make these sections of road more vulnerable to flooding and fluvial erosion. These sections must be up to the standards created for the Municipal Roads General Permit program with a requirement of 7.5% of non-compliant segments being upgraded per year.

According to the Town's 2023 bridge inventory, Waterbury has a total of 7 municipal bridges - 1 short structures (6'-20' length) and 6 long structures (>20' length). The town's 6 long structures are inspected every two years by VTrans through the Town Highway Bridge Program.

Waterbury has a total of 311 culverts in the municipal road right-of-way; all were inventoried in 2018 by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. Several culverts were listed in critical or poor condition and ideally been considered for replacement and/or upgrade in accordance with Town Road and Bridge Standards. The local road network is

maintained by the municipal highway department, whose garage is located on Guptil Road.

### Electric Utility Distribution System

Electric service to approximately 2,300 Structures with electricity provided by Green Mountain Power. Average annual outage statistics between 2017 and 2019 are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Power Outage Summary**

<b>Average Annual(2017-2019)</b>	
Avg # outages per year less than 24 hours	60
Number of outage greater than 24 hrs.	19

The above data was from Department of Public Service created for review of energy burdened communities.

There were 19 power outages that lasted longer than 24 hours between 2017 and 2019 and 180 between 1 and 24 hours. This negatively effects the town in life safety and economics. When combined with a storm event or extreme heat or cold, long power outages can be dangerous.

### Public Safety

Fire protection is provided by the Waterbury Fire Department, an all-volunteer organization. The Fire Department is a member of the Capital Fire Mutual Aid Association. Law enforcement is provided by the Vermont State Police resident trooper program with 2 troopers being involved. The nearest hospital is the Central Vermont Medical Center. Ambulance services are provided by Waterbury ambulance service.

### Emergency Management

Per the Town's Local Emergency Management Plan, the Town Manager serves as Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Chief serves as Local Emergency Management Director. They work with others in town to keep the LEMP up to date and coordinate with nearby towns and regional emergency planning efforts.

## 4 PLANNING PROCESS

## Plan Developers

The Town assembled a Hazard Mitigation Planning Team to participate in updating the Plan. Team members included: Community Planner, Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief, Municipal Manager, and Public Works Director.

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) assisted the Town with this Plan update. FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funds supported this process.

## Plan Development Process

The 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update to the 2018 single jurisdiction mitigation plan. A summary of the process taken to develop the 2023 update is provided in **Table 2**.

### Table 2: Plan Development Process

**Nov 9, 2023:** Kick-off meeting. Discussed what an LHMP is; benefits of hazard mitigation planning; current plan status; planning process; outreach strategy; and plan sections. Planning Team working meetings were not open to the public. Worked on Sections 1, 2, 3)

**Jan 9, 2024** Planning Team working meeting – confirmed plan purpose (Section 2) and completed community profile (Section 3). Completed hazard risk assessment (Section 5). Collected responses for previous plans mitigation actions.

**Jan/Feb 2024:** To notify the Whole Community\* of the plan update, the Town posted physical and online notices. Physical notices were posted at the Town Office, Waterbury Post Office, and Waterbury Center Post Office. Online notices were posted on the Town website (<https://www.waterburyvt.com/>), Town Facebook page, and Front Porch Forum.

\*Whole Community stakeholders include: 1) local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation; 2) entities with authority to regulate development; 3) neighboring towns; 4) representatives of business, schools/academia, and other private organizations that sustain community lifelines; and 5) representatives of nonprofit organizations that work directly with or provide support to vulnerable populations.

CVRPC posted online notices on the CVRPC website ([centralvtplanning.org](http://centralvtplanning.org)). CVRPC also direct emailed notice to 1) officials (Selectboard and Planning Commission chairs, Town Managers and Clerks, Emergency Management Directors) in neighboring towns of Duxbury, Bolton, Stowe, Middlesex, Moretown, and

2) Key Partners (Friend of the Winooski, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Harwood Unified School District, Winooski Basin CWSP, VDH Regional Emergency Preparedness Specialist, VTrans District 6 Projects Manager, Central VT Floodplain Manager). Notice included CVRPC contact for information on planning process and opportunities for public input – see Appendix C.

**April 11, 2024:** Planning Team working meeting – drafting mitigation actions and drafts of hazards. (Section 5 and 6) Also collecting information on town capabilities. Defined Mitigation Goal. Town chose to prioritize flooding as highest risk identified.

**May 2024:** To solicit input from the Whole Community, the Town utilized a survey (see **Appendix D**) and hosted an in-person Community Workshop on **May 2** with 5 individuals in attendance. The Town provided notice of the survey and workshop by posting physical notices at the Waterbury Municipal Office, Waterbury Post Office, and Waterbury Center Post Office, and online notices on the Town website, Town Facebook page, and Front Porch Forum. In addition to these physical and online methods, the Town also published notices for the May Workshop in the online newspaper of local circulation – Waterbury roundabout.

CVRPC posted online notices on the CVRPC website of the opportunities to provide input on where each hazard might impact the Town; assets most likely to be affected; and preferred types of mitigation actions (Sections 5 and 6). CVRPC also direct emailed notice of the survey and to local officials in neighboring towns and Key Partners – see **Appendix C**.

**June 3, 2024,** Selectboard utilized a meeting to discuss mitigation actions in scheduled meeting with this on the agenda. To review actions and determine which to pursue. (Section 6)

**June 17, 2024,** Selectboard approved actions and requested public comments on actions for inclusion in Plan. (Section 6)

**July 29, 2024,** Planning team met to discuss adoption and final reviews of plan.

**August 8, 2024,** Town posted draft copy of Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to website with request for public comments. No comments were received.

**August 19, 2024,** Selectboard voted to adopt plan and submit to VEM for review.

**November 6, 2024,** Met with planning team and discussed edits and additions requested by FEMA/VEM

## Mitigation Strategy Update - Changes Since 2018

The 2018 local hazard mitigation planning effort analyzed natural hazards and the risk they posed to Waterbury. The risk assessment resulted in the categorization of Highest risk level hazards and other hazards. Floods and fluvial erosion; severe storms, ice jams, and dam failure were ranked as the community's High-risk natural hazards. Actions proposed in 2018 focused on mitigating risks from flooding and fluvial erosion, severe storms and dam failures.

As the Town has sought to implement the 2018 mitigation strategy, they have looked for opportunities to incorporate information and recommendations from the 2018 Plan into other plans, programs, and procedures. They were successful in doing so in the 2018 Municipal Plan and Unified Development Ordinance updates.

The Waterbury Municipal Plan, adopted in 2018, serves as the Town's framework and guide for reaching community goals, including those for how future growth and development should proceed.

It includes flood resilience and land use policies and actions to support the goal of mitigating risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal investments posed by flooding and fluvial erosion.

The Municipal Plan is the basis for local land use controls such as those in the Phase I Area Bylaws, adopted in June of 2024. These Regulations are to ensure the selection, design, creation, and use of development in these hazard areas is reasonably safe and accomplished in a manner that is consistent with public wellbeing, does not impair stream equilibrium, flood plain services, or the stream corridor.

In addition, Waterbury made significant progress in completing other mitigation actions identified in the 2017 Plan – see **Appendix A**.

Noteworthy mitigation accomplishments are highlighted below:

Improvements to culverts and infrastructure throughout the Town have made the roads more resilient to flash flooding and fluvial erosion, and have achieved the intended results and performed well during the 2023-2024 flood events. These mitigation investments have 1) strengthened the community's Transportation lifeline; 2) reduced risk to infrastructure; and 3) supported Town efforts to comply with the Municipal Roads General Stormwater Discharge Permit and protect water quality by controlling erosion and stormwater runoff from municipal roads.

Mitigating risk of dam failure is being addressed at the Waterbury Reservoir. The dam is currently undergoing a study of the structure to develop a plan to improve the overall condition of the dam.

***Actions taken by Waterbury since 2018 have made the community more prepared and less vulnerable to future natural hazard impacts.***

The Town is attempting to utilize buyouts and elevations and continues to utilize permit requirements of raising utilities in damaged properties. Though this does not reduce the risk to the structures it does reduce the damages they would experience. The substantial damage requirements also have increased the resiliency of many structures as well.

Thus, changes in population and development since 2018 have not made Waterbury more vulnerable to natural hazards and therefore are not the primary drivers for the Town's mitigation priorities in 2024; rather changing weather conditions most influenced the Town's current mitigation strategy.

***Changes in population and development since 2018 have not made Waterbury more vulnerable to natural hazards. Rather changing weather conditions most influenced the Waterbury's current mitigation strategy.***

Climate change is increasing the frequency, duration, and intensity of storms, floods, fires, and extreme temperatures across the nation. Local communities are feeling the impacts of climate change now, and these multi-hazard trends are expected to continue to

increase in severity over the next century<sup>1</sup>

There have been no large changes to the population or development in the town since the last plan. With the continued increase of severe rain events areas of the lower village could be come more problematic but utilization of targeted buyouts is alleviating some of these issues. Updated zoning and development review board and NFIP compliance should be able to prevent increasing the risk to the community of any new development.

As a result, Waterbury considered the effects of future conditions, like climate change, on the type, location, and range of intensities of identified hazards when they conducted the risk assessment in 2024. The highest risk hazard impacts that the Town believes they are most vulnerable to remained essentially the same as those from 2018:

- **Inundation Flooding and Fluvial erosion/Flash Flooding**

In addition to the traditional natural hazards assessed in 2024, the Town also considered infectious disease and invasive species to align with the hazards identified in the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The primary mitigation goal in the 2024 Plan is to increase the Town's resilience to natural hazards by advancing mitigation investment to reduce or avoid long-term risk to people, homes, neighborhoods, the local economy, cultural and historic resources, ecosystems, and Community Lifelines.

When evaluating mitigation actions, the Town selected actions that support the mitigation goal and are acceptable and practical for the community to implement. Actions that directly benefit a vulnerable population were assigned a high prioritization score – see **Table 6**.

## 5 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

### Local Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment

One of the most significant changes from the 2018 Plan is the way hazards are assessed. To be consistent with the approach to hazard assessment in the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team conducted an initial analysis of known natural hazard events\* to determine their probability of occurring in the future (high probability events are **orange** in **Table 4**).

The Team then ranked the impacts associated with the natural hazard events based on 1) probability of occurrence and 2) potential impact to people, infrastructure, the environment, and local economy.

This assessment considered the effects of future conditions, like climate change, on the type, location, and range of intensities of identified hazards.

More focus was maintained on flooding as with the FEMA 2023 updates on natural threats were addressed primarily. The town chose to still include Hazardous Materials spills due to the rail and interstate corridors running through the town. Dam failure was included in the flooding section in this edition. Severe cold and snow ranked lower due to less perceived risk and with climate change limiting lessen the risk of these events.

The ranking results are presented in **Table 4** and reflect the following **highest risk hazard impacts** that the Town believes they are most vulnerable to:



**Floods** associated with thunder and/or winter storms and ice jams.

<sup>1</sup> FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide, March 23, 2023.

The **highest risk hazard impacts** are profiled in this section. Lower risk hazard impacts do not justify mitigation due to a low probability of occurrence and/or low impact and are not profiled in this Plan such as hail and earthquakes. See the State Hazard Mitigation Plan for information on the lower risk hazards.

This plan defines a natural hazard as a source of harm or difficulty created by a meteorological, environmental, or geological event.  
*FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook, May 2023*

**Table 4: Community Hazard Risk Assessment**

2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan - Hazard Assessment							
Hazard Impacts	Probabilit	Potential Impact					Score*:
		Infrastructur	Life	Economy	Environmen	Average:	
Fluvial Erosion	4	4	3.5	3.5	3	3.5	14
Inundation Flooding	4	4	3.5	3.5	2.5	3.375	13.55
Ice	2.5	2	1.5	2	1.5	1.75	4.375
Snow	3.5	2.5	2	2.5	2	2.25	7.88
Wind	4	3	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	10
Heat	3.5	1.5	3	2	2	2.125	7.43
Cold	3.5	1.5	3	2	2	2.125	7.43
Drought	2	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	1.875	3.75
Landslides	2	2	2	1	1.5	1.625	3.25
Wildfire	1.5	1	2	1.5	2	1.625	2.44
Dam Failure	2.5	2.5	4	4	3	3.375	8.44
Invasive Species	1.5	1	1	1	1	1.0	1.5
Infectious Disease Outbreak	3	2.5	3.5	3	2.5	2.875	8.625
Ice Jam Flooding	3	2	2	3	3	2.5	7.5
Hail	2	1	1	1	1	1	2.0
Earthquakes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.0
*Score = Probability x Average Potential Impact Other hazards removed from list							

\*Score = Probability x Average Potential Impact

	Frequency of Occurrence: Probability of a plausibly significant event	Potential Impact: Severity and extent of damage and disruption to population, property, environment, and the economy
1	<b>Unlikely:</b> <1% probability of occurrence per year	<b>Negligible:</b> isolated occurrences of minor property and environmental damage, potential for minor injuries, no to minimal economic disruption
2	<b>Occasionally:</b> 1–10% probability of occurrence per year, or at least one chance in next 100 years	<b>Minor:</b> isolated occurrences of moderate to severe property and environmental damage, potential for injuries, minor economic disruption
3	<b>Likely:</b> >10% but <75% probability per year, at least 1 chance in next 10 years	<b>Moderate:</b> severe property and environmental damage on a community scale, injuries or fatalities, short-term economic impact
4	<b>Highly Likely:</b> >75% probability in a year	<b>Major:</b> severe property and environmental damage on a community or regional scale, - multiple injuries or fatalities, significant economic impact

## IMPACT DEFINITIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACTS: (Effects on Roads, Bridges, Structures, Homes)

- 1 – Minor: Localized/Isolated impacts to Infrastructure (Temporary loss of use)
- 2 – Moderate: Neighborhood level impacts (1-2-day loss of use)
- 3 – Severe: Community-wide impacts (2-5-day Loss of use)
- 4 – Disastrous: Regional losses of roads, bridges, homes (Extensive replacement/rebuild)

LIFE SAFETY ISSUES: (Health and Welfare of Population)

- 1 – Minor scrapes/injuries
- 2 – Occasional Hospitalization required due to injuries
- 3 – Multiple hospitalizations required and/or fatality
- 4 – Community-wide hospitalizations and/or fatalities

ECONOMIC IMPACTS: (Direct recovery costs to municipality and residents)

- 1 – < \$10,000 in damages (Can generally be handled within budget or via insurance)
- 2 – \$10,000-\$100,000 (May require assistance for the uninsured or large impact on local budget)
- 3 – \$100,000-\$1,000,000 (Requests of assistance/FEMA eligible)
- 4 – > \$1,000,000- (All resources used, Possible National Guard use)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: (Effects to municipal operations and environment)

- 1 – Negligible: Short term impacts, low clean-up costs for spills
- 2 – Minor: Moderate clean-up costs, temporary redirection of municipal resources
- 3 – Moderate: Extended redirection of local resources/ impacts to normal operations, high clean-up costs
- 4 – Major: Long-term recovery efforts (could take years for full recovery or permanent loss of use)

## Highest Risk Hazard Profiles



Floods can damage or destroy property; disable utilities; destroy or make impassable roads and bridges; destroy crops and agricultural lands; cause disruption to emergency services; and result in fatalities.

People may be stranded in their homes for a time without power, heat, or communication or they may be unable to reach their homes. Long-term collateral dangers include the outbreak of disease, loss of livestock, broken sewer lines or wash out of septic and wastewater systems causing water supply pollution, downed power lines, loss of fuel storage tanks, fires, and release of hazardous materials.

As noted in the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan and 2021 Vermont Climate Assessment, the most common recurring hazard event impacting Vermont communities is flooding. There are two types of flooding: inundation and flash flooding. Inundation is when water rises onto low lying land. Flash flooding is a sudden, violent flood which often entails stream bank erosion (fluvial erosion).

Inundation flooding of land adjoining the normal course of a stream or river is a natural occurrence. If these floodplain areas are in their natural state, floods likely would not cause significant damage. However, most business districts within Vermont are built within this floodplain due to the historical significance of water power.

While inundation-related flood loss can be a significant component of flood disasters, the more common mode of damage in Vermont is fluvial erosion, often associated with physical adjustment of stream channel dimensions and location during flood events. These dynamic and often catastrophic adjustments are due to bed and bank erosion of naturally occurring unstable stream banks, debris and ice jams, or structural failure of or flow diversion by human-made structures.



December of 2023 North Main Street. -Photo by Lisa Scagliotti from Waterbury Roundabout

***Damage from high flows is the single most costly type of disaster in Vermont, primarily due to the erosive power of water. Many roads and culverts conflict with the room needed by streams and rivers."***

***2021 Vermont Climate Assessment***

Several major flooding events have affected the state in recent years, resulting in multiple Presidential Disaster Declarations. From 2003 to 2019, Washington County experienced roughly \$88.82 million in municipal property damage due to flood events. The totals from the most recent July 2023 flood event are still being totaled at the time of this writing.

The worst flooding event in recent years to strike the town of Waterbury came in August of 2011 from Tropical Storm Irene (DR4022), which dropped up to 5-7+ inches of rain in some areas of Washington County. Irene caused 2 deaths and \$60 million in reported property damages and \$2.5 million in crop damage in Washington County alone.

The December 2023 rain on snow flooding caused localized flooding in the town but the mitigations actions that were implemented post Irene helped to prevent any large damages, limiting the effects to minor flooding of low-lying areas and road closures due to inundation. For a short period of

the event the town was almost cut off and had to adjust medical transport to the local hospital to avoid inundation areas. The effects of these storms are profiled in this flooding section.

The town is concerned with the increased temperatures in winter seasons brought on by climate change. The increase in temperature fluctuations and associated precipitation is worrisome of rain on snow events impacting the region and specifically the town of Waterbury due to its location and associated mountains. The snowpack can become hazardous due to the rapid melting from rain on snow and sudden warming, fueling extreme and rapid runoff.

Waterbury is vulnerable to inundation flooding primarily along the Winooski River. A wide range of assets are at risk from inundation flooding in these areas. There are 175 buildings in the FEMA floodway; as well as roads, culverts, bridges well as roads, culverts, and bridges.

With inundation flooding, there are cascading impacts involving infectious disease as floodwater can contain numerous types of infectious agents and host insects that transmit disease. Mosquitos, for example, breed in standing water and when their population increases, so does the risk of diseases they transmit – such as West Nile Virus.

Flash flooding can occur any time the area has heavy rain. It can impact areas that are located outside of designated floodplains, including along streams confined by narrow valleys (also known as River Corridors). Again, a wide range of assets are at risk from flash flooding. There are 67 buildings in the State-mapped River Corridors (outside of designated floodplains); as well as roads, culverts, bridges, and dams.

The most common type of flash flood damage is road washouts. When runoff volumes exceed the capacity of the stormwater collection system (ditching and culverts), washouts can occur.



*Armory Drive bridge near Union Street-photo by Gordon Miller*

The town's structures and road erosion inventories as well as VTrans highway flood vulnerability and risk tools were used to help identify locations and assets at risk from flash flooding.

Sections of several roads have a history of flash flooding – Route 100 and US 2 at the traffic circle. Main Street, Winooski Street, and the Union Street. The locations all show as at risk of inundation or fluvial erosion in the Vermont Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool.

Culvert failures and road washouts can have a significant negative impact on the Town. Especially if they occur on roads considered locally important routes for through-traffic, short-cuts, detours, and/or access to critical facilities – such as VT Route 100, US Route 2, and Guptil Road.

When roads are impacted by flooding, the Town coordinates with the fire department, town road crew and State dispatch to close roads and set up detours. Road closures can create longer commute times and longer emergency service response times.

In addition to stormwater runoff from roads, ice jams and dam failures can result in flash flooding in Waterbury. Though historically there isn't much of a risk or documentation of Ice Jam flooding within the community.

There are eight dams in Waterbury listed in the Vermont Dam Inventory (a database managed by

the VT Dam Safety Program containing spatial, structural, historic, and regulatory information on dams in the state).

There is one high hazard potential dam in Waterbury. It is the Waterbury Dam, a flood control dam on the Little River a tributary of the Winooski River. This dam was built in 1938 and is 2130 ft long and 187 ft high and has a normal storage of 37000-acre feet and a maximum storage of 88000-acre feet. The drainage for the lake is 69760 square miles. The last reported inspection of the dam on the ANR dams inventory site was 10/10/2023 and lists the dam as in fair condition. There is currently a dam safety modification study underway and some interim risk reduction measures are to be completed in the Spring of 2024. With a time, frame laid out for design/permitting and construction pending available funding.

The other 7 dams are listed as either low or minimal hazards. With two of these have a low hazard rating. The Bolton Falls hydroelectric dam which is currently in production and a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission inspected structure and the Brisco on Bryant Brook with a 2-acre reservoir. The Colbyville Upper and Lower dams, and Ice pond dam which are all rated as minimal risk. There is one breached dam the Feed company dam and finally the Waterbury 7 dam which is listed in the Vermont dam inventory but has no information about the actual structure but has a small reservoir that can be seen on the map along Ruby Raymond Road.

Community survey respondents ranked damages to roads and bridges as particularly important (10 out of 14) to protect against future severe weather impacts.

Flash flooding often entails stream bank or fluvial erosion. Several existing studies were used to help identify locations and assets at risk from fluvial erosion, specifically, a Structure Stream Geomorphic Assessments.

Stream Geomorphic Assessments (SGAs) provide information about the physical condition of streams and factors that influence their stability. The Upper Winooski-above Bolton Dam SGA identifies priority locations for river corridor protection, planting stream buffers, stabilizing stream banks, removing berms, and removing/replacing human-placed structures (i.e., dams, bridges, culverts). This was used to analyze locations where structures may be undersized.

Stormwater Master Planning (SWMP) involves identifying stormwater, sediment, nutrient, and septic inputs to waterways and designing projects to mitigate those inputs; either eliminating them at the source through green stormwater infrastructure, septic system improvements, back road projects or improving floodplain access within the stream network to increase sediment attenuation. Waterbury is one of the few communities in the region that hasn't completed a Stormwater Master Plan but the town has applied for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant from FEMA for developing one with the primary focus being flood mitigation.

As demonstrated in the above referenced studies, environmental impacts from flooding can be significant, especially to the water quality in the Mad River and the Winooski River. This can in turn have an adverse impact on local tourism and recreation. Flood events with associated road closures can also have a short-term impact on the local economy due to fewer shopping trips and commuter delays.

**181 buildings are in the Special Flood Hazard Area, mostly single family dwellings and businesses with a value of \$238,597,400 in 2023 parcel value.**

**According to FEMA, 53% of these properties have flood insurance. In total, these 93 policies cover \$16,268,000 in value.**

***There are 6 repetitive loss properties with 2 of them being insured.***

*\*We don't currently have access to this information due to FEMA data sharing restrictions. From working with the town most of these repetitive loss properties are residential which at least some of the RL properties are currently in the buyout process.*

### Floods Hazard History

These are the most up to date significant events impacting Waterbury. Federal declarations are depicted in **bold**.

12/18-19/23: 2" of rain on snow event

**7/11/2023: DR4720** 5-9" rain: \$Still to be determined.

7/20/2021: Heavy rain: \$50,000 county damages

7/14/2020: 3-4" rain: \$5,000 town damages

11/1/2019: 2-4" rain: \$250,000 county damages

6/20/2019: Heavy rain: \$25,000 county damages

5/20/2019: Heavy rain: \$25,000 county damages

**4/15/2019: DR4445** 1" rain with significant snow melt:

**7/1/2017: DR4330** 3-4" rain the previous 3-4 days with flash flooding on 7/1/17: \$240,000 county damages

7/19/2015: Heavy rain: \$1,000,000 county damages

**4/15-18/2014: DR 4178** heavy rain on snow event \$250,000 county damages

**6/25-7/10/2013: DR4140** 1-3" of heavy rain over a half hour: \$625,000 county damages

**8/28/2011: DR4022** Tropical Storm Irene with 3-7+" rain: \$75,000,000 Public county damages

**5/26-27/2011: DR4001** 3-5+" rain on snow event: \$5,500,000 county damages

**5/20/2011: DR4043:** Heavy rain: \$400,000 county damages

**4/23-5/9/2011: DR4043** rain on snow event: \$1,000,000 county damages

***As weather patterns shift and we see larger storms and more frequent freeze-thaw cycles, the town will monitor for signs that rivers that have historically been stable becoming less stable, with increased erosion, widening, trees falling in from its banks, etc.***

### Other Hazards



**Landslides:** A landslide is the sliding of a large mass of rock, earth, or debris, down a sloped section of land. Landslides can be caused by rainstorms, fires, alternate

freezing or thawing and/or by the steepening of slopes by erosion or human modification. In Waterbury, landslides tend to occur or are exacerbated by fluvial erosion as most of the landslides occur on or near a stream bank, or during extreme wet conditions in areas of clay substrate.



**Severe Storms with Snow, Wind and Ice** events typically occur between the months of December and March in the Central Vermont Region. They can

include snow, sleet, freezing rain, or a mix of these wintry forms of precipitation. Events can also be associated with strong wind or floods, increasing the potential hazard.

The costs of these storms come in the form of power outages due to heavy snow or ice, damaged trees, school closings, and traffic accidents. From 2014 to

Landslides have three major causes: geology, morphology, and human activity. Geology refers to characteristics of the material itself. The earth or rock might be weak or fractured, or different layers may have different strengths and stiffness.

Morphology refers to the structure of the land. For example, slopes that lose their vegetation to fire or drought are more vulnerable to landslides. Vegetation holds soil in place, and without the root systems of trees, bushes, and other plants, the land is more likely to slide away.

Human activity, such as agriculture and construction, can increase the risk of a landslide. Irrigation, deforestation, excavation, and water leakage are some of the common activities that can help destabilize, or weaken, a slope.

The Town of Waterbury has 69 landslide locations within the town as listed on the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Landslide map that was last updated in 2020. Most of the slide locations are found within the Little River State Park and Mount Mansfield State Forest.

Total damages for landslides are not tracked well within the State of Vermont since often landslides are in association with Fluvial Erosion the damages are often lumped together there. With the increase in precipitation trends due to climate change the risk from landslides is increasing. This can be addressed through land use regulations and mitigation of surface runoff from human actions and development.

2022, Washington County experienced \$585,000 in property and crop damage from winter storms.

There have been two winter storm-related federally declared disasters in the county (the ice storm of January 2020 – DR 4474; and December 2014 DR 4207, respectively (see table below).

Extreme cold can have impacts on public health and safety, especially if extreme temperatures coincide with power outages, which can cut off heat and communication services. Severe winter storm impacts can put vulnerable populations (e.g., older adults, children, sick individuals, pets) at even greater risk.

See the strong wind profile below for more information about the town's vulnerability to power outages.

Snow accumulation typically does not result in loss of road accessibility. The town's fleet of snowplows ensures all roads are accessible, even in major accumulation events. Roads adjacent to critical facilities are well maintained and along with connector routes, are prioritized in winter

storm events.

Environmental impacts are predominantly tree damage. Extreme snow and ice events typically have a short-term impact on the local economy – fewer shopping trips and commuter delays.



**Invasive Species** the National Invasive Species Council defines an invasive species as one that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose

introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species can overwhelm native species and their habitats, forcing the native species out. They are considered to pose the second greatest threat to biodiversity globally. Invasive plants in Vermont, such as Japanese knotweed, common reed (Phragmites), purple loosestrife, and garlic mustard can change soil composition, change water tables, and disrupt insect cycles. They often lack food value upon which wildlife depends. Some invasive animals prey heavily upon native species while others, such as the alewife and zebra mussel, out-compete native species for food and nutrients with significant impacts reverberating up and down food chains.

Invasive pests such as Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), first found in Vermont in 2018, have serious financial implications for forest landowners and municipalities alike. EAB feeds on ash trees in Vermont, deeply damaging each tree and hindering its ability to move carbohydrates and water resources as necessary. Infected trees will die between three and five years after the introduction of EAB. Productive timber is destroyed by EAB and trees along roads become hazards as they die and disrupt powerlines. Preventative measures can slow the further spread of these insects and protect native ash populations. Additionally, invasive species can directly or indirectly cause harm to human health. Giant hogweed, wild parsnip and wild chervil are three invasive plant species in Vermont that have phytophototoxic properties, meaning direct contact of their sap with human skin can cause a chemical reaction that makes skin hypersensitive to ultraviolet light. Vermonters

### **Extreme Cold, Snow, and Ice Hazard History**

These are the most up to date significant events impacting Waterbury. Federal declarations are depicted in **bold**.

- 1/11-14/2022: 10-40 below zero with winds: no reported damages
- 12/18/2021: 5-7" snow \$10,000 county damages
- 1/16/2021: 3-6" wet snow: \$50,000 county damages
- 3/23/2020: 7-10" snow: \$5,000 county damages
- 2/7/2020: 10-16"; ¼" ice: \$20,000 county damages
- 1/16/2020: DR 4474** 6-10" snow: \$10,000 county damages
- 3/22/2019: 9" snow: \$25,000 county damages
- 2/12/2019: 7-15" snow: \$10,000 county damages
- 1/29/2019: 6-10" snow: \$10,000 county damages
- 1/19/2019: 10-18" snow: \$25,000 county damages
- 1/8/2019: 8-20+" snow: \$25,000 county damages
- 11/26/2018: 6-14" heavy snow: \$125,000 county damages
- 3/13/2018: 12-30" snow: \$20,000 county damages
- 3/7/2018: 7-13" snow: \$10,000 county damages
- 1/7/2015: 0-10 degrees with wind of 15-30 mph creating wind chills colder than 20-30 below zero: no reported local damage
- 12/9/2014: DR4207** 10-20" snow: \$250,000 county damages

have received serious skin burns from the toxicity of the sap of these plants combined with exposure to sunlight. Another example is that of Japanese barberry, which has been proven to increase the incidence of Lyme disease by providing sheltered habitat that increases the abundance of small rodents, which act as hosts to the ticks that carry Lyme disease pathogens.

The risk are invasive species is higher in more disturbed soils and developed areas. But the extent is varied Emerald Ash Borer is more likely to be found in the heavily wooded upland slopes with Japanese knot weed along the river and stream banks. The Town generally will follow the State of Vermont guidance from the Agency of Natural Resources on how to deal with invasives and work with partners to mitigate their damages.



**Infectious Disease** The Vermont Department of Health defines an infectious disease as one that is caused by micro-organisms, such as bacteria, viruses or parasites.

A vector-borne disease is an infectious disease that is transmitted to humans by blood-feeding arthropods, including ticks, mosquitoes and fleas, or in some cases by mammals (e.g. rabies).

According to the Vermont Department of Health, infectious disease dynamics depend on a range of factors, including land use, human behavior, climate, efficacy of healthcare services, population dynamics of vectors, population dynamics of intermediate hosts and the evolution of the pathogens themselves. Many of these diseases require continuous monitoring, as they present seasonal threats to the general population. An epidemic emerges when an infectious disease occurs suddenly in numbers that are in excess of normal expectancy. Infectious disease outbreaks put a strain on the healthcare system, can cause continuity of operations challenges for local businesses, impact the economy, and interrupt daily life for everyone within a community. These outbreak incidents are a danger to emergency responders, healthcare providers, schools, and the public.

Examples include Coronavirus 19 (Covid-19) which was a federally declared disaster DR-4532, influenza (e.g. H1N1), pertussis, West Nile virus, and many other diseases.

Upon consideration of five climate and health reviews, The Vermont Department of Health has separated vector-borne and other infectious diseases into five threat categories (Table 27). More details on this classification system and the diseases can be found in the 2016 Vermont Climate Health Report.

There is no scale or metric for prioritizing infectious disease at the Town level. The easiest method would be to track hospitalizations by day increase above the average. Or in a pandemic scenario record of days with closed businesses due to risk of infection.

The primary vulnerability would be to those who are immune compromised, elderly and young populations and are most susceptible to respiratory viruses.

Readers should look to the Vermont Department of Health for more information on significant infectious disease outbreaks, such as epidemics and pandemics. The Town will monitor these for up-to-date threat information and follow the appropriate protocols developed by these agencies as necessary

**Table 27: Threat Categories of Vector-Borne and Other Infectious Disease**

Threat Classification	Disease
Diseases already present in Vermont that may be exacerbated by climate change	West Nile Virus
	Eastern Equine Encephalitis
	Lyme Disease
	Anaplasmosis
	Babesiosis
	Tularemia
	Powassan
Diseases that may spread to Vermont even without contribution of climate change, whose spread to and transmission of Vermont could be exacerbated by climate change	St. Louis Encephalitis
	Western Equine Encephalitis
	La Crosse Encephalitis
	Ehrlichiosis
	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Diseases with vectors that may spread to Vermont by the end of the century under a higher emission scenario	Dengue
	Chikungunya
Disease that have competent vectors or may in the future have competent vectors in Vermont, but are unlikely to become established in Vermont despite a vector presence	Yellow Fever
	Malaria
	Chagas Disease
	Rift Valley Fever
Diseases that may be present in Vermont or may spread to Vermont in the future but whose link with climate changes expected in Vermont is tenuous	Bartonellosis
	Rabies
	Hanta Virus
	Leptospirosis
	Plague
	Valley Fever
	Anthrax
	Q Fever

Source: Vermont Department of Health



**Strong wind** can occur alone, such as during straight-line wind events, or it can accompany other natural hazards, including severe thunder and/or winter storms.

FEMA's National Risk Index defines strong wind as damaging winds that exceed 58 mph. Strong wind poses a threat to lives, property, and vital utilities primarily because of flying debris or downed trees and power lines.

From 1996 to 2022, wind events caused more than \$1.270 million in property damage in Washington County, with \$450,000 due to one event in December 2022.

***Strong wind is possible here; Waterbury is susceptible to high directional winds town wide. Many storms with high winds result in downed trees as well as damaged phone and power lines, buildings, and other property.***

Downed trees within the road right-of-way are the root cause of many power outages. Roads that pass through dense wooded areas are prone to downed trees, which often can lead to fallen power lines.

Power outages are the main reason for disrupting communications, which are crucial in times of crisis. For example, the loss of phone service is of particular concern for Waterbury's vulnerable populations and residents. Landline phones that have been converted from copper wire to fiber rely on an in-home battery back-up. The battery life is typically less than eight hours, whether the phone is used or not. Though many residents use cell phones, longer power outages and damage from high winds further complicating the problem of contacting emergency services during power outages.

Telecommunications are also needed for warning systems before a disaster, as well as for response during and recovery after. During a disaster, municipal response is managed by the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC), this would include all communications – from phone calls to internet browsing and 2-way radio.

To mitigate the impacts of power outages, the following public buildings/critical facilities have been equipped with backup power or generator hookup: Water supply pump house, fire station, Waterbury ambulance, and Brookside Primary school (as emergency shelter).

The town has installed backup power for all its critical infrastructure. Wastewater and water treatment, town garage, both town fire stations, and the town office all have generator backups to facilitate continuity of operations during power outages.

In addition to power outages, downed trees during strong wind (and heavy snow/ice) events can damage buildings and other property and in rare cases result in fatality. One hundred percent (100%) of community survey respondents reported having seen areas in the community damaged during a past severe weather event. The most common type of damage that survey respondents reported seeing was downed trees. Fifty Seven percent (57.1%) of community survey respondents reported having experienced damage during a past severe weather event.

Environmental impacts are predominantly tree and roof damages. Strong wind events with associated power outages can have a short-term impact on the local economy due to business closures.

Vermont's Emerald Ash Borer infestation was first detected in 2018 in northern Orange County. The potential risk to public and private structures and impacts on the local economy have not been quantified. But the impact of invasive pests has a real economic effect on landowners and utilities in dealing with dead trees and their potential to cause damages.

***As weather patterns shift and we see larger storms and more frequent freeze-thaw cycles, the Town will monitor for signs that rivers and streams that have historically been stable are becoming less stable, with increased erosion, widening and trees falling in from its banks, etc.***

### Strong Wind Hazard History

These are the most up to date significant events impacting Waterbury. Federal declarations are depicted in **bold**. Damages are to Washington County.

**12/23/2022:** 50-60+ wind gusts: \$450,000  
 10/30/2017: 40 mph wind: \$250,000  
 2/26/2010: 55 mph wind: \$15,000  
 2/17/2006: 37 mph wind: \$10,000  
 9/29/2005: 35 mph wind: \$50,000  
 11/13/2003: 35 mph wind: \$10,000  
 10/15/2003: 50 mph wind: \$10,000  
 3/10/2002: strong wind: \$5,000  
 12/12/2000: strong wind: \$5,000  
 3/28/2000: strong wind: \$5,000  
 9/17/1999: strong wind: \$75,000  
 11/23/1998: strong wind: \$10,000  
 2/22/1997: 50 mph wind: \$15,000



**Droughts** in the Northeast. We frequently experience what are referred to as "flash" droughts, defined as rapid onset of intense dry periods that can follow periods of normal or above normal precipitation. These may last from

2-6 months, and can have profound impacts within the region, on agricultural losses, shortages of water supply and very low stream flows. This pendulum often swings from a dry year to a wet year.

The Town's risk of droughts is mainly addressed through the Ordinances for the Town water supply. Most residents of the Town are on private wells and bear the costs and risks of mitigation themselves. The Town's Water Ordinance has the appropriate language for conserving water and limiting non-essential usage during a drought emergency.



**Wildfires** are not often much of a concern within our region, although the spring and fall can be times when dry hazardous conditions exist. Opportunity for wildfires occur due to the lack of foliage in these seasons, before spring green up or in the fall after foliage has died back when combined with dry conditions. Historically, Vermont has seen the most wildland fires between March and June. These are generally times when dry conditions exist for an extended period causing drought conditions.

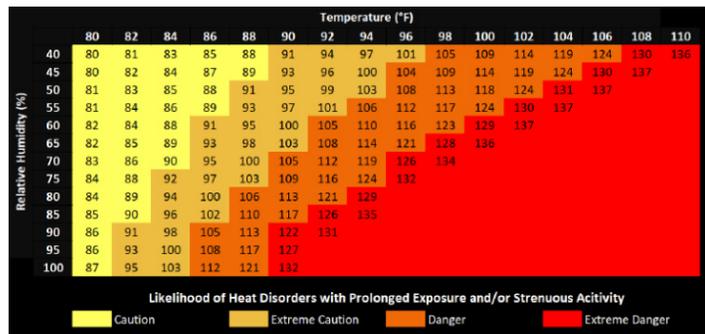
Ignition of wildfires is predominantly caused by human activity and mainly from debris fires that are not contained or not supervised. Thus, messaging when conditions exist is very important to convince individuals not to make mistakes in relation to ignition sources. This messaging is handled by the town fire warden in association with the fire department.



**Extreme heat and cold** Heat warnings are becoming increasingly more prevalent due to our shifting climate. Vermont has been seeing an increase in 90+ degree temperature days. This trend is expected to continue. Most of our housing stock and individuals are well adapted to dealing with cold temperature, but the quick swings to higher temperatures do not allow for acclimation, and many of our structures are designed to retain, rather than shed, heat.

Epidemiological analyses completed by the Vermont Department of Health indicate that Vermonters are five times as likely to visit the emergency department for heat-related illnesses when the heat index reaches the 80s, 10 times as likely when the heat index reaches the low 90s, and over 20 times as likely when the heat index reaches the upper 90s or hotter. These risks are greatly modified by how acclimated a person is to hot weather – the risk for heat-related health impacts is higher early in the heat season, and lower if it has been consistently hot over the past week or more. Consecutive days of hot weather with warm overnight temperatures further increase the risk of experiencing severe heat-related health impacts. Risk also depends on the “normal” level of heat experienced in an area – places that are relatively cooler will typically experience health impacts at lower heat index values than a place that is relatively warmer. June of 2024 saw forecasted heat index of 102. Below are the 4-heat related listing from the SHMP of 2023.

WASHINGTON (ZONE)	8/1/2006	Heat
WASHINGTON (ZONE)	8/2/2006	Heat
WASHINGTON (ZONE)	7/21/2011	Heat
WASHINGTON (ZONE)	7/1/2018	Heat



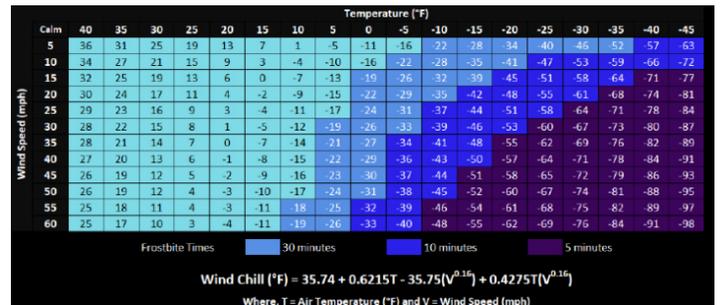
-Hot weather temperature scale

Older adults, people with chronic health conditions, and people with disabilities are at particularly high risk, especially if they live in housing without air conditioning or are unhoused and cannot access cooling facilities and other support resources. The unhoused may not be or feel welcomed at cooling centers, sleep in hot tents, and carry heavy loads of their possessions in the heat.

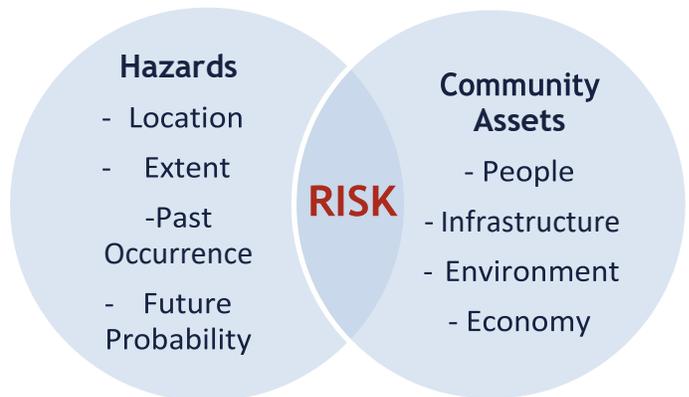
There is increasing risk to multiday heat events in Waitsfield with a greater increase in heat warning. With there being at least 1 multiday heat advisory on average per year.

In the region, extreme cold can still be an issue. If it is a long-lasting cold without snow cover, frost can migrate deep into the ground freezing pipes and heaving roadways. Most of this would be dealt with by the town either through their utility contracts or by the town road crew in keeping the transportation infrastructure in usable condition. Loss of power during one of these cold snaps may require use of the town shelter and is planned for in the town Local Emergency Management Plan.

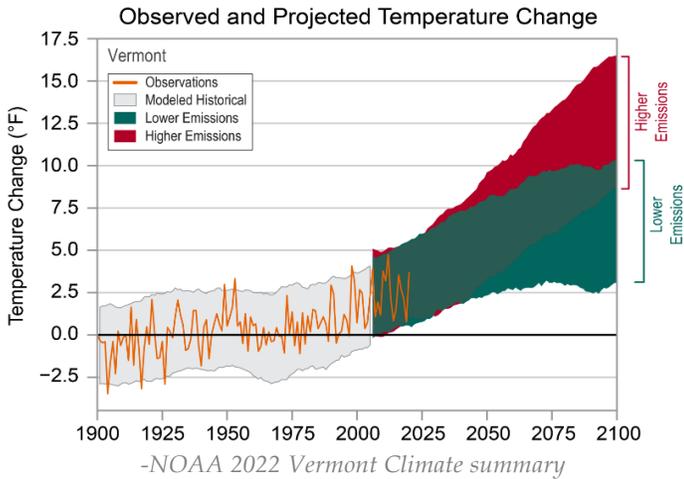
What constitutes “extreme cold” can vary across different areas of the country based on what the population is accustomed to in their respective climates. Vermont is adapted to cold conditions; however very cold temperatures remain a threat despite their commonality during Vermont winters. For cold weather events the City uses the same sites plus has the capacity to open the Elementary School as an additional shelter if in association with a power outage.



-cold weather temperature scale w/ wind chill



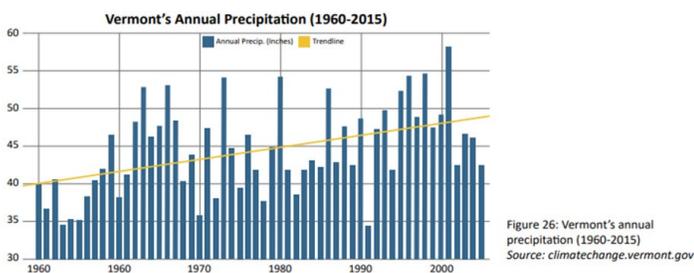
## Climate change



***The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment is the foundation for the Mitigation Strategy to reduce future risk.***

With the increasing risks of events from our changing climate, all weather-related natural events are expected to have an increase in both frequency and in intensity. Vermont is predicted to experience increases in heat waves, downpours and flooding. This also can lead to flash droughts and cold snaps without the time for acclimation.

The Northeastern United States has already seen an increase of seventy one percent precipitation totals increase since 1950 and an increase in extreme weather events. It is imperative that we have solid plans of mitigating future disasters proactively to minimize risk.



-precipitation data showing increased precipitation trends from VT state climate action plan

The increase in Atlantic Ocean temperatures as well as the overall climate will create drastic increases in storm potential. This will increase the storm severity indeterminate of the time of year. There should be a realization that due to higher windspeeds and greater moisture capacity many

previous records will be exceeded. This has been documented by the surpassing of the 400 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> tipping point and will continue as permafrost melts and releases more naturally occurring greenhouse gases.



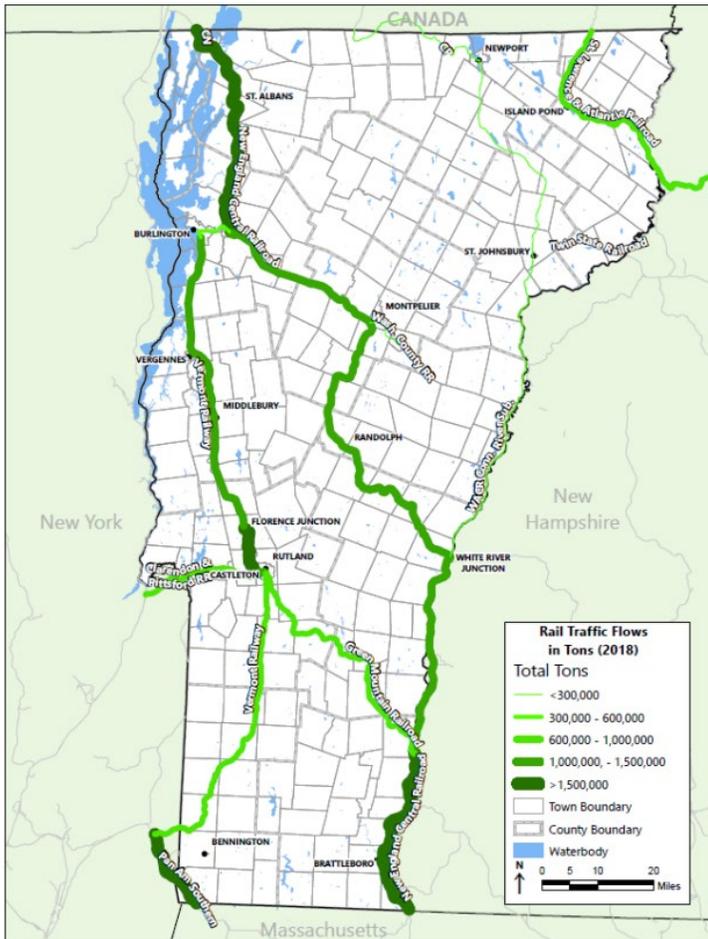
**Hazardous Materials** The Village of Waterbury has a high concentration of population, an elementary school, public facilities, commerce, industry, a railroad, an interstate with an

interchange, and major highways. The Village is situated in a precarious position in the middle of several major intersecting transportation routes that have frequent and large volumes of heavy traffic. Whether a train derailment or a severe weather event (flood, snow, ice, wind) triggers a traffic incident with a train or truck carrying hazardous materials traveling within the Village boundaries, or an incident occurs due to another factor, a response effort including evacuation could pose a significant problem in the densely populated downtown area.

A 2017 Vermont State Commodity Flow Study by the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission was released in October 2017 that inventories and describes hazardous materials traveling within Vermont's State Emergency Planning Committee (SEPC) district.

A 2019 Hazardous Material Commodity Flow Study on roads and rail with chemical placards traveling through Washington County and Waterbury was conducted by the Two Rivers Outaquechee Regional Commission. The content of deliverables hadn't changed significantly from the 2009 Railroad commodity flow study. While most of the vehicles were carrying butane/propane, diesel, gasoline, heating oil, and other petroleum products, there were also many with anhydrous ammonia, sulfuric acid, hypochlorite solutions, and fluorosilicic acid.

The fire department trains regularly to assure safety with chemicals and the State HazMat team.



Commodity flow study from the Vermont Freight and Rail Plan-2021

## 6 HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

The highest risk natural hazards and vulnerabilities identified in the previous section of this Plan directly inform the hazard mitigation strategy outlined below, which the community will strive to accomplish over the coming years. The mitigation strategy chosen by the Town includes the most appropriate activities to reduce future risk from potential hazards.

### Mitigation Goals

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team identified the following as the community's primary mitigation goal:

**Increase the Town of Waterbury's resilience to natural hazards by advancing mitigation investment to reduce or avoid long-term risk to people, homes, neighborhoods, the local economy, cultural and historic resources, ecosystems, and Community Lifelines such as transportation, water, sewer, energy, and communications.**

See Community Survey Results in **Appendix D** for which assets survey respondents thought were most important to protect against potential future severe weather

### Community Capabilities Strengths

Each community has a unique set of capabilities, including authorities, programs, staff, funding, and other resources available to accomplish mitigation and reduce long-term vulnerability. Waterbury's mitigation capabilities that reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities are listed below.

**Administrative & Technical** This capability refers to the Town's staff and their skills and tools that can be used for mitigation planning and to implement actions.

In addition to the Emergency Management staff described in Section 3, municipal staff that can be used for mitigation planning and to implement specific mitigation actions include: Municipal Manager, Zoning Administrator, Town Clerk & Treasurer, Planning Director, Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk, Public Works Director, Town and EFUD Engineer. Highway Supervisor.

In addition to paid staff, there is a 5-member Selectboard, 5-member Planning Commission, Fire Warden, Town Health Officer, Development Review Board, and Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee.

To augment local resources, the Town has formal mutual aid agreement for emergency response – fire. Technical support is available through the CVRPC in the areas of land use planning, emergency management, transportation, GIS mapping, and grant writing. Technical support is

also available through the State ANR for floodplain bylaw administration and VTrans Districts for hydraulic analyses.

**Planning & Regulatory** These capabilities are the plans, policies, codes, and ordinances that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards. Examples of planning capabilities that can either enable or inhibit mitigation include land use plans, capital improvement programs, transportation plans, stormwater management plans, disaster recovery and reconstruction plans, and emergency preparedness and response plans. Examples of regulatory capabilities include the enforcement of zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and building codes<sup>2</sup> that regulate how and where land is developed, and structures are built.

**Town Plan:** December 2018

Description: A framework and guide for how future growth and development should proceed.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Includes goals and policies related to flood resilience and land use.

**Town of Waterbury Unified Development Bylaws:**

June 2024 Description: Provides for orderly community growth promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. These bylaws are for the area of the town south of I-89.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Establish site plan review requirements and zoning districts, including Flood Hazard Overlay Districts, with specific standards for proposed development. Requirements are designed to prevent overdevelopment; to mitigate negative impacts to the natural and human environment; minimize effects to the historical and aesthetic character of the community; and ensure design and construction of development in flood and other hazard areas are accomplished in a manner that minimizes or eliminates the potential for flood loss or damage to life and property.

**Town and Village of Waterbury Zoning Regulations and Bylaws:**

May 2016 Description: Provides for orderly community growth promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. These bylaws are for the area of the town North of I-89 or areas not under the new unified bylaws.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Establish

site plan review requirements and zoning districts, including Flood Hazard Overlay Districts, with specific standards for proposed development. Requirements are designed to prevent overdevelopment; to mitigate negative impacts to the natural and human environment; minimize effects to the historical and aesthetic character of the community; and ensure design and construction of development in flood and other hazard areas are accomplished in a manner that minimizes or eliminates the potential for flood loss or damage to life and property.

**Road and Bridge Standards:** April 2021

Description: Provide minimum codes and standards for construction, repair, maintenance of town roads and bridges.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Standards include management practices and are designed to ensure travel safety, minimize damage to road infrastructure during flood events, and enhance water quality protections.

**Road Erosion Inventory Report:** 2019

Description: Prioritizes those infrastructure projects necessary to improve transportation network resiliency and water quality.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Improvements are designed to minimize or eliminate flood impacts on hydrologically connected road segments.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Includes actions for tracking events and response actions including damage reports to facilitate funding requests during recovery. This type of information can be essential to preparing hazard mitigation project applications for FEMA funding.

**Fire Department ISO Rating:** Description: Where

municipal water is available, the rating is 4 and 9 in rest of community.. This rating is a score from 1 to 10 that indicates how well- protected the community is by the local fire department.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Everyone wants to keep family, home, and business safe from fires. The ISO rating is a measure of the effectiveness of a community's fire services.

**EFUD Water Ordinance:** February 2023

Description: Establish minimum standards for design, construction, installation, control, operation of public drinking water system.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Adopted standards that reduce risk, make the system more resilient, and conserve water.

**Source Protection Plan:** April 2023 Description: Defines the area of land that likely recharges a public drinking water source

Code (IBC); 2017 NFPA 70 National Electrical Code; 2021 International Code Council (ICC) International Plumbing Code; and the 2015 National Board Inspection Code from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

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<sup>2</sup> Waterbury does not have any local building codes. Vermont has adopted statewide codes for commercial building fire safety and energy standards. The energy code also applies to residential buildings. Codes enforced by Vermont's Division of Fire Safety are the 2015 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code; 2015 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code; the 2015 International Building

and addresses actions a public water system will perform to minimize the contaminant risks to the source(s).

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Source water protection can complement a broad sweep of community objectives, including protection of water quality, open space, natural systems, and disaster resilience.

**EFUD Sewer Ordinance:** February 2023

Description: Establish minimum standards for design, construction, installation, control, operation of public sewage and sewage disposal systems.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Adopted standards that reduce risk and make the system more resilient.

**Town of Waterbury Tree Care Ordinance:** July 2023

Description: Establish minimum standards for design, construction, installation, control, operation of public sewage and sewage disposal systems.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Adopted standards that reduce risk of damages from downed trees and removal of shade trees in the community.

**Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan:** March 2020

Description: Establish minimum standards for design, construction, installation, control, operation of public sewage and sewage disposal systems.

Relationship to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Planning to reduce risk of damages from downed trees and removal of impacted trees in the community.

**Financial** These capabilities are the resources that a community has access to or is eligible to use to fund mitigation actions.

Waterbury's 2023-2024 town budget is \$6,305,174, with \$1,958,716 to fund the Highway Department. In addition to property tax revenues, the Town collects separate fees for water and sanitary sewer services as part of the Edward Farrar Utility District.

Fire Department annual budget for Waterbury Fire is \$824,317.

**Outreach & Education** Waterbury has several outreach and education opportunities that could be used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard-related information:

- *A River runs Through it Garden Club(AARTI), Community Awareness Services Team (CAST), Revitalizing Waterbury, Waterbury LEAP, Rotary, Community Resilience for the greater Waterbury area (CReW)*
- *Town website, Front Porch Forum, several Department Facebook pages,*

**National Flood Insurance Program Compliance**

The Town joined the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1982. The effective date of the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) is March 19, 2013. The Zoning Administrator enforces NFIP compliance through permit review requirements in its Flood Hazard Area regulations. Waterbury's regulations outline detailed minimum standards for development in flood hazard areas defined as FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas and Floodway Areas. The regulations also require administering Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage (SI/SD) requirements in accordance with FEMA P- 758 SI/SD Desk Reference, May 2010:

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE:** Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its pre-damaged conditions would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT:** Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of the which, over three years, or over the period of a common plan of development, cumulatively equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before start of construction of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred substantial damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either (1) any project for improvement of the structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specification that have been identified by the local code enforcement official and that are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or (2) the elevation of a "historic structure" as described in Sections 604(a)(6) and (7), provided that the substantial improvement of the

“historic structure” will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a “historic structure.” page 84 of the bylaws, and referred to in Section 603: Development Review in Hazard Areas

The Town discussed the following as possible actions to continue NFIP compliance:

- 1) *Prepare, distribute, or make available NFIP insurance explanatory pamphlets or booklets.*
- 2) *Participate in NFIP training offered by the State and/or FEMA.*

The town has been utilizing the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program buyouts and elevations to address the NFIP repetitive loss properties. There are currently multiple properties on each of these lists attempting to secure funding to mitigate their risk.

**State Incentives for Flood Mitigation** Vermont’s Emergency Relief Assistance Funding (ERAF) provides state funding to match FEMA Public Assistance after federally declared disasters. Eligible public costs are generally reimbursed by FEMA at 75% with a 7.5% State match. The State will increase its match to 12.5% or 17.5% if communities take steps to reduce flood risk as described below.

12.5% funding for communities that have adopted four (4) mitigation measures:

- 1) *NFIP participation.*
- 2) *Town Road and Bridge Standards.*
- 3) *Local Emergency Plan; and*
- 4) *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

17.5% funding for communities that also participate in FEMA’s Community Rating System OR adopt Fluvial Erosion Hazard or other river corridor protection bylaw that meets or exceeds the Vermont ANR model regulations.

***Waterbury’s current ERAF rate is 7.5%. Upon adoption of the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and district 6 verifying the town’s adoption of the 2019 bridge and road standards, their ERAF rate will increase to 17.5% because the Town has adopted River Corridor Bylaws.***

## Improvements

- The town has chosen to pursue engineering to perform a flood study to determine locations for mitigation actions.
- Capital Planning addressing climate change.
- Increase outreach notifications during flooding events.
- Education campaign about FEMA and assistance post disaster for real world expectations before damages.

## Mitigation Action Identification

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team discussed the mitigation strategy, reviewed projects from the 2018 Plan, and identified possible new actions from the following categories for each of the highest risk natural hazards identified in Section 5.



**Local Plans & Regulations** These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.



**Structure & Infrastructure Projects** These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This applies to public or private structures as well as critical facilities.



**Natural Systems Protection** These actions minimize damage and losses and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.



**Outreach & Education Programs** These actions inform and educate the public about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Although this type of action reduces risk less directly than structure projects or regulation, it is an important foundation. Greater awareness is more likely to lead to community support for direct actions.

**Integrate Mitigation into Capital Improvement Programs:** Incorporate risk assessment and hazard mitigation principles into capital planning.

**Reduce Impacts to Roadways:** The leading cause of death and injury during winter storms is automobile accidents, so it is important to plan for and maintain adequate road and debris clearing capabilities.

**Develop a Road Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Plan:** Identify community priorities and plan of action for site-specific tree and roadside forest management to increase roadside resilience.

**Improve Flood Resilience with a Flood Study:** The aim of a flood study is to define existing flood behavior for a particular catchment, river, or creek. The study helps inform building, land use planning, community awareness and disaster management.

**Improve Stormwater Management Planning:** Rain and snowmelt can cause flooding and erosion in developed areas. A community-wide stormwater management plan can address stormwater runoff-related flooding.

**Manage Development in Erosion Hazard Areas:** The intent of River Corridor Bylaws is to allow for wise use of property within river corridors that minimizes potential damage to existing structures and development from flood-related erosion.

### **Structure & Infrastructure Project Examples**

**Protect Power Lines:** Protect power lines by 1) inspecting and maintaining hazardous trees in the road right-of-way and 2) burying power lines.

**Protect Critical Roadways:** Use snow fences or living snow fences (e.g., rows of trees) to limit blowing and drifting of snow.

**Retrofit Critical Facilities:** Critical facilities can be protected from the impacts of high winds and winter storms by 1) retrofitting them to strengthen structural frames to withstand wind and snow loads; 2) anchoring roof-mounted mechanical equipment; and 3) installing back-up generators or quick connect wiring for a portable generator.

**Remove Existing Structures from Flood Hazard Areas:** FEMA policy encourages the removal of structures from flood-prone areas to minimize

future flood losses and preserve lands subject to repetitive flooding.

**Improve Stormwater Drainage Capacity:** Minimize flooding and fluvial erosion by 1) increasing drainage/absorption capacities with green stormwater management practices; 2) increasing dimensions of undersized drainage culverts in flood-prone areas; 3) stabilizing outfalls with riprap and other slope stabilization techniques; and 4) re-establishing roadside ditches.

**Conduct Regular Maintenance for Drainage Systems:** Help drainage systems and flood control structures function properly with 1) routine cleaning and repair; 2) cleaning debris from support bracing underneath low-lying bridges; and 3) inspecting bridges and identifying if any repairs are needed to maintain integrity or prevent scour.

**Protect Infrastructure and Critical Facilities:** Minimize infrastructure losses and protect critical facilities from flooding by 1) elevating roads above base flood elevation to maintain dry access; 2) armoring streambanks near roadways to prevent washouts; 3) rerouting a stream away from a vulnerable roadway; and 4) floodproofing facilities.

### *Natural Systems Protection Examples*

**Protect and Restore Natural Flood Mitigation Features:** Natural conditions can provide floodplain protection, riparian buffers, groundwater infiltration, and other ecosystem services that mitigate flooding. Preserving such functionality is important. Examples include 1) adding riparian buffers; 2) stabilizing stream banks; 3) removing berms; 4) minimizing impervious area development; 5) restore floodplain; and 6) restore incision areas.

### *Outreach & Education Program Examples*

**Educate Residents about Extreme Winter Weather:** Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Educational outreach can help minimize these risks.

**Assist Vulnerable Populations:** Measures can be taken to protect vulnerable populations from natural hazards, such as 1) organizing outreach and

2) establishing and promoting accessible heating or cooling centers in the community.

#### Mitigation Action Evaluation

For each mitigation action identified, the Planning Team evaluated its potential benefits and/or likelihood of successful implementation. Actions were evaluated against a range of criteria, including a planning level assessment of whether the costs are reasonable compared to the probable benefits. Results of this evaluation are presented in **Table 5**.

See Community Survey results in **Appendix D** for which category of mitigation actions survey respondents wanted the Town to prioritize.

#### Mitigation Action Plan for Implementation

After careful evaluation, the Planning Team agreed on a list of actions that support the Mitigation Goals of this Plan and are acceptable and practical for the community to implement.

***Actions without overall public support/political will were not selected for implementation. Actions whose costs were not reasonable compared to probable***

***benefits were also not selected.***

For the selected actions, the Planning Team then 1) assigned a responsible party to lead the completion of each action; 2) identified potential grant funding; 3) defined a timeframe for implementation; and ranked each action's priority (high, medium, low).

Natural hazards pose a unique threat to the Town's vulnerable populations. Data has shown that underserved and marginalized populations tend to live in at-risk hazard-prone areas or in homes with substandard construction. The data also suggests that this segment of the community is less likely to fully recover after a disaster.<sup>3</sup> When ranking an action's priority, those that directly benefit a vulnerable population were ranked high.

The action plan is presented in **Table 6**.

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<sup>3</sup> FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide, March 23, 2023

## Mitigation actions reviewed

Waterbury	Life	Prop	Tech	Political	Admin	Other	Benefit	Est	C/B	
Mitigation Actions	Safety	Protect				Obj	Score	Cost		
<b>Fluvial Erosion</b>										Mitigation type
Upsize culvert on Graves Brook and restore floodplain along the northern bank to prevent additional sediment transport downstream	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.67	1.00	0.33	4.67	3.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Establish Vegetative Buffers in Riparian Areas	0.33	1.00	0.67	0.67	0.33	0.33	3.33	1.00	Y	Natural Systems
Restore Incision Areas when threatening structures	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.67	0.33	5.00	2.00	Y	Natural Systems
Armor ditches on identified segments of road per Municipal Roads General Permit requirements	0.67	1.00	0.67	0.33	1.00	0.33	4.00	2.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Upsize culvert on Sweet Road just south of town line. From TRPT tool	0.33	1.00	1.00	0.67	1.00	0.00	4.00	3.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Upsize culvert on Blush Hill Road just North of Mist Hollow Road. From TRPT tool	0.67	0.67	0.67	1.00	0.67	-0.33	3.33	2.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Increase Dimension of Drainage Culverts to Bank full width standard	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	5.33	2.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Routinely Clean and Repair Stormwater Infrastructure	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	5.33	2.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Update Road Erosion and Culvert Inventories	0.67	1.00	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.33	4.67	1.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations
Stabilize Stream Banks where necessary	0.33	0.67	0.67	0.67	1.00	0.33	3.67	2.00	Y	Natural Systems
Floodproof Critical Facilities	1.00	1.00	0.33	0.33	1.00	0.33	4.00	2.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure

Inspect Town Short-Structures and Review VTrans Bridge Inspection Reports for Town Long-Structures and Plan for Repairs to Prevent Flood-related Impacts like Scour	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.33	3.67	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Education program about rain gardens and what individuals can do to lessen runoff	0.00	0.67	0.33	0.67	1.00	0.00	2.67	1.00	N	Outreach and Education
<b>Inundation Flooding</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Increase Drainage/Absorption Capacities with Green Stormwater Management Practices	0.67	0.67	1.00	0.67	1.00	0.33	4.33	2.00	Y	Structures and Infrastructure
Depending on its infrastructure capabilities, using check valves, sump pumps, and backflow prevention devices in homes and other buildings.	0.67	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	5.00	2.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Elevate Roads Above Base Flood Elevation to Maintain Dry Access where possible	0.33	0.67	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.33	2.00	3.00	N	Structures and infrastructure
Utilize buyouts where appropriate to mitigate flood damages in low lying areas	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.67	1.00	0.33	5.00	3.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Pursue projects to lower flooding at mouth of Thatcher Brook	1.00	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.67	0.33	4.67	3.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations
Elevate structures to Base Flood Elevation	1.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.33	2.00	3.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Elevate and upsize bridges to increase debris passage	1.00	1.00	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.33	4.33	3.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Remove Existing Structures from Flood-Prone Areas	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.33	1.00	0.33	3.67	3.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Routine Clear Debris from Support Bracing Underneath Low-Lying Bridges	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	5.33	1.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure

Initiative to restore floodplains where possible	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.67	5.67	3.00	Y	Natural Systems
Increasing drainage or absorption capacities with detention and retention basins	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	1.00	0.67	5.00	3.00	Y	Natural Systems
Plan for registering flood recovery groups for post incident response and process for them working in the community	0.67	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	5.00	1.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations
Education campaign on banning fill along streams, river and how it leads to increased flooding	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.67	4.33	1.00	Y	Outreach and Education
Implement stormwater management projects from Stormwater Master Plan	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.67	5.67	3.00	Y	Natural Systems
Develop fuel retailer's ordinance for anchoring fuel and propane tanks	0.00	0.67	0.67	0.33	0.00	0.00	1.67	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Identify and restore wetlands in appropriate locations for flood storage	1.00	0.33	1.00	0.33	0.33	0.00	3.00	3.00	Y	Natural Systems
Floodproof downtown businesses	0.67	1.00	0.33	0.00	0.33	0.67	3.00	3.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
Dry flood proofing non-residential structures by strengthening walls, sealing openings, or using waterproof compounds or plastic sheeting on walls to keep water out.	-0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	3.00	N	Structures and infrastructure
Implement stormwater management projects from Stormwater Master Plan	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	5.33	3.00	Y	Natural Systems
Remove Berms and/or Accumulated Debris from Stream to Restore Flood Capacity	1.00	0.33	0.67	0.00	0.67	0.67	3.33	3.00	Y	Natural Systems
Snow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				

Adopt Local Building Codes for Roof Wind and Snow Loads	0.00	0.33	0.33	-0.33	0.33	0.00	0.67	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Retrofit Critical Facilities to Strengthen Structural Frames to Withstand Wind and Snow Loads	0.67	0.00	0.67	0.67	0.33	0.33	2.67	2.00	N	Structures and infrastructure
Anchor Roof-Mounted Mechanical Equipment on Critical Facilities	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.67	0.33	2.33	2.00	N	Structures and infrastructure
<b>Ice</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Protect Power Lines and Roads by Inspecting and Removing Hazardous Trees in Road ROW	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.33	5.33	2.00	Y	Structures and infrastructure
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
<b>High Winds</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Bury Power Lines	0.33	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.67	2.00	2.00	N	Structures and infrastructure
Update Zoning Ordinance to Require New Subdivision Development to Bury Power Lines	0.00	-0.33	0.33	-1.00	-0.33	0.67	-1.33	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Retrofit Critical Facilities to Strengthen Structural Frames to Withstand Wind and Snow Loads	0.67	0.67	0.00	-0.67	0.33	0.33	1.33	2.00	N	Structures and infrastructure
<b>Wildfires</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Burn Bans and outreach for fire danger	0.33	1.00	0.33	0.00	0.33	0.33	2.33	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Public education campaign on fire permits and possible handout.	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.67	0.67	0.67	4.67	1.00	Y	Outreach and Education
<b>Landslides</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Defining steep slope/high-risk areas in land use and comprehensive plans and creating guidelines or restricting new development in those areas	1.00	1.00	0.67	0.33	1.00	0.67	4.67	1.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations
Implementing monitoring mechanisms/procedures (i.e., visual inspection)	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.67	0.33	0.67	2.67	1.00	N	

<b>Infectious Disease Outbreak</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Educate the Public About the Risks of Infectious Disease and vectors such as lyme disease, West Nile Virus	0.67	0.00	0.67	0.33	0.33	0.67	2.67	1.00	N	Outreach and Education
Train with VDH emergency Specialist staff for outbreak response	0.33	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.67	0.67	2.33	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
<b>Invasive Species</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Outreach on programs for managing and care of aging and diseased trees by Tree Warden to prevent power outages and road debris	0.33	1.00	0.67	0.00	1.00	0.67	3.67	1.00	Y	Outreach and Education
Outreach and education program on invasive pests and risks of ticks	0.33	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	3.67	1.00	Y	Outreach and Education
Outreach/education program on native plants and invasive plant removal	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.67	0.33	0.33	1.67	1.00	N	Outreach and Education
<b>Heat</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Outreach during severe cold or heat of risks to exposure	0.67	0.33	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.67	4.67	1.00	Y	Outreach and Education
Hot and Cold Weather Planning	0.33	0.33	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	3.33	1.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations
<b>Cold</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Hot and Cold Weather Planning	0.33	0.33	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	3.33	1.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations
Outreach during severe cold or heat of risks to exposure	0.33	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.67	4.00	1.00	Y	Outreach and Education
<b>Drought</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Outreach program on water efficiency opportunities	0.00	0.33	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	3.00	1.00	Y	Outreach and Education
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
<b>All Hazards</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Develop debris removal plan	0.33	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	3.67	1.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations

Integrate Mitigation into Capital Improvement Programs and Planning	0.67	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.67	5.33	1.00	Y	Local Plans and Regulations
Plan for Road Right-of-Way Vegetation Management	0.33	0.00	0.67	0.33	0.67	0.33	2.33	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Adopt public works mutual aid agreement with other municipalities within Central Vermont Regional Emergency Management Committee area.	0.00	0.33	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.00	2.33	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Develop 10 yr. strategic or capital plan	0.33	0.67	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2.33	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations
Add emergency management fund as budget item to Town budget with yearly rollover to save for large mitigation projects	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1.67	1.00	N	Local Plans and Regulations

#### Table 5 Evaluation Criteria:

**Life Safety** – Will the action be effective at protecting lives and preventing injuries?

**Property Protection** – Will the action be effective at eliminating or reducing damage to structures and infrastructure?

**Technical** – Is the action a long-term, technically feasible solution?

**Political** – Is there overall public support/political will for the action?

**Administrative** – Does the community have the administrative capacity to implement the action?

**Other Community Objectives** – Does the action advance other community objectives, such as capital improvements, economic development, benefit a vulnerable population, environmental quality, or open space preservation?

**Rank each of the above criteria in Table 5 with a 0, 1, or 2 using the following table:**

1 = Highly effective or feasible

0 = Neutral

-1 = Ineffective or not feasible

**Estimated Cost** – 1 = less than \$50,000; 2 = \$50,000 to \$100,000; 3 = more than \$100,000

**C/B** – Are the costs reasonable compared to the probable benefits? Yes or No

Table 6: Mitigation Action Plan

<b>Waterbury</b>	Who	Funding	When
<b>Mitigation Actions</b>			
<b>Fluvial Erosion</b>			
Upsize culvert on Graves Brook and restore floodplain along the northern bank to prevent additional sediment transport downstream	Public Works	Town Budget, VTrans structures, CWSP	2026
Restore Incision Areas when threatening structures	Public Works	Town Budget, CWSP	2024-2029
Increase Dimension of Drainage Culverts to Bank full width standard	Public Works	Town Budget, (VTRANS- Better Roads)	2024-2029
Update Road Erosion and Culvert Inventories	CVRPC	Town Budget, Better Roads, CVRPC	REI-within next 3 years, Culverts-2026
Armor ditches on identified segments of road per Municipal Roads General Permit requirements	Road Crew	Town Budget, Better Roads	2024-2029
Upsize culvert on Sweet Road just south of town line. From TRPT tool	Public Works	Town Budget, VTrans Better Roads, Grants in Aid.	2027
Stabilize Stream Banks where necessary	Public Works, CVRPC	Town Budget, Grants (EWP)	2026
Floodproof Critical Facilities	Town Manager	Town Budget, Grants (HMGP)	2027
<b>Inundation Flooding</b>			
Initiative to restore floodplains where possible	Conservation Committee, Friends of the Winooski	CWSP	2026
Study watershed for stormwater projects	Conservation Committee, Friends of the Winooski	BRIC	2025
Depending on its infrastructure capabilities, using check valves, sump pumps, and backflow prevention devices in homes and other buildings.	Public Works	Public Works budget, HMGP, FMA	2025
Elevate and upsize bridges to increase debris passage	Public Works	Town Budget, Grants(HMGP, VTRANS)	2025-2029
Utilize buyouts were appropriate to mitigate flood damages in low lying areas	Town Manager	FEMA, VEM FRCF	2025
Pursue projects to lower flooding at mouth of Thatcher Brook	Town Manager, CVRPC	BRIC, FMA, Swiftwater	2026
Increasing drainage or absorption capacities with detention and retention basins	CVRPC, Friends of the Winooski,	CWSP	

Plan for registering flood recovery groups for post incident response and process for them working in the community	CRew	Town Budget, volunteers	2025
Identify and restore wetlands in appropriate locations for flood storage	Conservation Committee	CWSP, ANR funding	2025
<b>Snow</b>			
Retrofit Critical Facilities to Strengthen Structural Frames to Withstand Wind and Snow Loads	Public Works	HMPG	as necessary
<b>Ice and High Winds</b>			
Protect Power Lines and Roads by Inspecting and Removing Hazardous Trees in Road ROW	Highway Department	Town Budget, GMP	2025
<b>Wildfires</b>			
Public education campaign on fire permits and possible handout.	Fire Department, Fire Warden	as necessary	ongoing
<b>Landslides</b>			
Defining steep slope/high-risk areas in land use and comprehensive plans and creating guidelines or restricting new development in those areas	Conservation Commission	MPG Grant	2025
<b>Infectious Disease Outbreak</b>			
Educate the Public About the Risks of Infectious Disease and vectors such as lyme disease, West Nile Virus	Health Officer	Town budget	2024
<b>Invasive Species</b>			
Outreach and education program on invasive pests and risks of ticks	Conservation, Health Officer	Town budget,	2025-2029
<b>Heat</b>			
Outreach during severe cold or heat of risks to exposure	Fire Dept., Town Manager	Fire Dept. or town budget	2025
<b>Cold</b>			
Outreach during severe cold or heat of risks to exposure	Fire Dept., Town Manager	Fire Dept. or town budget	2025
<b>Drought</b>			
Outreach program on water efficiency opportunities	Water Department	Water Dept. budget, efficiency VT	2025-2029
<b>All Hazards</b>			
Integrate Mitigation into Capital Improvement Programs and Planning	Town Manager	Town Budget	2025

## Integrating Into Existing Plans and Procedures

For Waterbury to succeed in reducing long-term risk, information from this Plan should be integrated throughout government operations. When activities are connected, they can not only reduce risk and increase resilience, but also accomplish other objectives such as environmental protection, economic development, financial stability, and land use planning.

There are several ways the Town can achieve integration into existing plans and procedures to support risk-informed community planning. They can include the community's primary mitigation goal as stated on page 20, information from the risk assessment, and mitigation actions as follows:

- *Funding for mitigation actions can be prioritized in the annual budget process and in capital planning.*
- *The mitigation goal and risk assessment information can support the Town's interest in expanding local capacity to enforce State building codes as part of the development review process.*
- *The mitigation goal and risk assessment information can be incorporated into the next Town Plan update (Land Use and Flood Resilience chapters in particular) to help steer growth and redevelopment away from high-risk locations this will begin in 2024..*
- *The mitigation goal and risk assessment information can be incorporated into future zoning ordinance updates. Of interest is exploring the possibility of requiring new subdivision development to bury power lines.*
- *The mitigation goal and risk assessment information can be incorporated into any plans to expand public water and sewer utilities to ensure they are not expanded into high-hazard areas.*
- *Several flood-related mitigation actions for increasing road resiliency can be implemented under the existing Municipal Road General Permit (8273-9040) for controlling stormwater discharges from town roads.*

The Town in July of 2024 adopted Unified Development Bylaws- Phase 1: These bylaws cover the area between the interstate and the Winooski River. This directly addresses development in the main inundation zone for flooding and sets standards for any development within this area as well as limiting development from increasing risk to the community.

**The Town will make every effort to maximize use of future Public Assistance Section 406 Mitigation opportunities when available during federally declared disasters.**

## 7 PLAN MAINTENANCE

This Plan is dynamic. To ensure it remains current and relevant, it should be annually evaluated and monitored and updated every five years, in accordance with FEMA guidelines in effect at the time. Town planning staff will collect comments for the plan maintenance and report on at the yearly meeting that also has the local emergency management plan adoption.

### Annual Evaluation and Monitoring

Within 12 months of FEMA Final Approval, the Plan will be annually evaluated and monitored as follows:



**1** The Municipal Manager and Selectboard will evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan in meeting the stated goals. Things to consider during this evaluation:

- *What disasters has the town (or region) experienced?*
- *Should the list of highest risk natural hazard impacts be modified?*
- *Are new data sources, maps, plans, or reports available? If so, what have they revealed, and should the information be incorporated into this plan?*
- *Has development in the region occurred and could it create or reduce risk?*
- *Has the town adopted new policies or regulations that could be incorporated into this plan?*
- *Have elements of this plan been incorporated into new plans, reports, policies, or regulations?*
- *Are there different or additional community capabilities available for mitigation implementation?*

**2** Next, the Municipal Manager and Selectboard will monitor mitigation action progress. Things to consider:

- *Is the mitigation strategy being implemented as anticipated?*
- *Were the cost and timeline estimates accurate?*
- *Should new mitigation actions be added?*
- *Should proposed actions be revised or removed?*
- *Are there new funding sources to consider?*

The status (e.g., in progress, complete) of each action should be recorded in **Table 7**. If the status is “in progress” note whether the action is on schedule. If not, describe any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will impair the ability to complete the action.

**3** The Municipal Manager and Selectboard will seek public comment from the Whole Community on plan implementation. Things to consider:

- *Are there any new stakeholders to include?*
- *What public outreach activities have occurred?*
- *How can public involvement be improved?*

**4** Based on input received, the mitigation strategy and/or actions will be modified, if needed.

**5** A report (or record in the form of meeting minutes) of the annual evaluation and monitoring will be made available to the public.

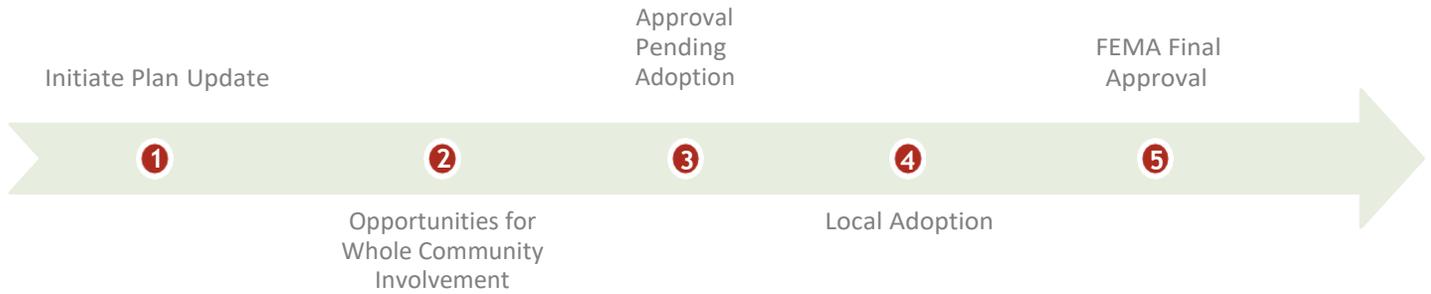
**Table 7: Mitigation Action Status**

<b>Waterbury</b>	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Mitigation Actions</b>						
<b>Fluvial Erosion</b>						
Upsize culvert on Graves Brook and restore floodplain along the northern bank to prevent additional sediment transport downstream						
Restore Incision Areas when threatening structures						
Increase Dimension of Drainage Culverts to Bank full width standard						
Update Road Erosion and Culvert Inventories						
Armor ditches on identified segments of road per Municipal Roads General Permit requirements						
Upsize culvert on Sweet Road just south of town line. From TRPT tool						
Stabilize Stream Banks where necessary						
Floodproof Critical Facilities						
<b>Inundation Flooding</b>						
Initiative to restore floodplains where possible						
Study watershed for stormwater projects						
Depending on its infrastructure capabilities, using check valves, sump pumps, and backflow prevention devices in homes and other buildings.						
Elevate and upsize bridges to increase debris passage						
Utilize buyouts were appropriate to mitigate flood damages in low lying areas						
Pursue projects to lower flooding at mouth of Thatcher Brook						
Increasing drainage or absorption capacities with detention and retention basins						
Plan for registering flood recovery groups for post incident response and process for them working in the community						
Identify and restore wetlands in appropriate locations for flood storage						
<b>Snow</b>						
Retrofit Critical Facilities to Strengthen Structural Frames to Withstand Wind and Snow Loads						
<b>Ice and High Winds</b>						

Protect Power Lines and Roads by Inspecting and Removing Hazardous Trees in Road ROW						
<b>Wildfires</b>						
Public education campaign on fire permits and possible handout.						
<b>Landslides</b>						
Defining steep slope/high-risk areas in land use and comprehensive plans and creating guidelines or restricting new development in those areas						
<b>Infectious Disease Outbreak</b>						
Educate the Public About the Risks of Infectious Disease and vectors such as Lyme disease, West Nile Virus						
<b>Invasive Species</b>						
Outreach and education program on invasive pests and risks of ticks						
<b>Heat</b>						
Outreach during severe cold or heat of risks to exposure						
<b>Cold</b>						
Outreach during severe cold or heat of risks to exposure						
<b>Drought</b>						
Outreach program on water efficiency opportunities						
<b>All Hazards</b>						
Integrate Mitigation into Capital Improvement Programs and Planning						

## 5-Year Updates

This Plan will be updated at a minimum every five (5) years as follows:



- 1 Currently, funding to assist municipalities in paying for planning services to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is available through FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program. If using this grant, Waterbury should contact Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) to apply for funding in 2026 – approximately 2 years before the Plan expires.

Once funding is secured and the grant agreement between the Town and State is in place, the Town Manager can issue a request for proposals (RFP) to procure planning services in accordance with the grant agreement. The RFP should be issued approximately 14 months before the Plan expires.

Once a consultant is procured, the Plan update can begin with a kick-off meeting including the consultant and local hazard mitigation planning team. The kick-off meeting should be scheduled approximately 12 months before the Plan expires. The Town should allot approximately 8 months for the Plan update process.

- 2 Opportunities for Whole Community involvement throughout the Plan update process need to be factored into the schedule. These opportunities may include a community survey, planning workshop, and public meetings at critical milestones agreed to at the project kick-off meeting.
- 3 Once the local hazard mitigation planning team has prepared a final draft, they can seek authorization from the Selectboard to submit the Plan for VEM/FEMA approval. Plan approval is accomplished in two steps – the first is Approval Pending Adoption. The Town should submit for Approval Pending Adoption approximately 4 months before the Plan expires to allow for time to respond to any review comments received from VEM/FEMA.
- 4 Once the Town receives Approval Pending Adoption, the Selectboard should adopt the Plan as soon as their next regular meeting.
- 5 Once adopted, the Town can submit the Plan for VEM/FEMA Final Approval. The Town should submit for Final Approval approximately 1 month before the Plan expires to ensure there is no gap in coverage between updates. The FEMA Final Approval date starts the clock on the effective dates of the 5-year Plan.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

Town of Waterbury, Vermont  
Selectboard

A Resolution Adopting the Waterbury, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS the Waterbury Selectboard recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the Town of Waterbury; and

WHEREAS the Waterbury Selectboard has prepared a natural hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the Waterbury, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS the Waterbury, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the Town of Waterbury from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Waterbury Selectboard demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Waterbury, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF WATERBURY, VERMONT, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with 24 VSA §872, the Waterbury Selectboard adopts the Waterbury, Vermont 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. While content related to the Town of Waterbury may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require the Town of Waterbury to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

ADOPTED by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against, and 0 abstaining, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

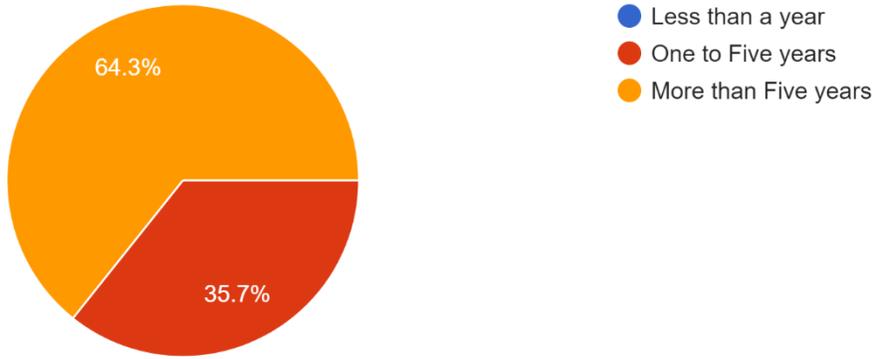
By: [Signature] Robert Clapp (print name) Selectboard Chair

ATTEST: By: [Signature] Thomas Leitz (print name)

## Public Survey Questions and Responses

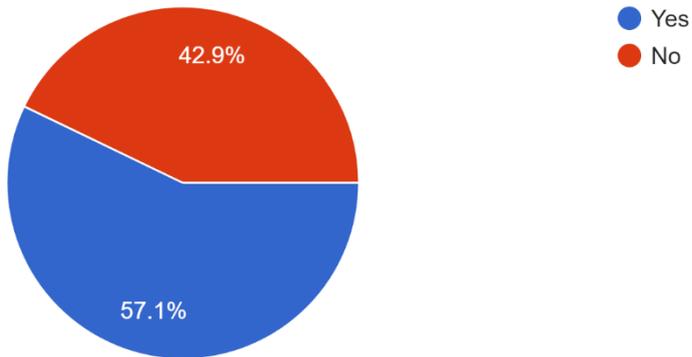
1) How long have you lived in or owned a business or property in Waterbury?

14 responses



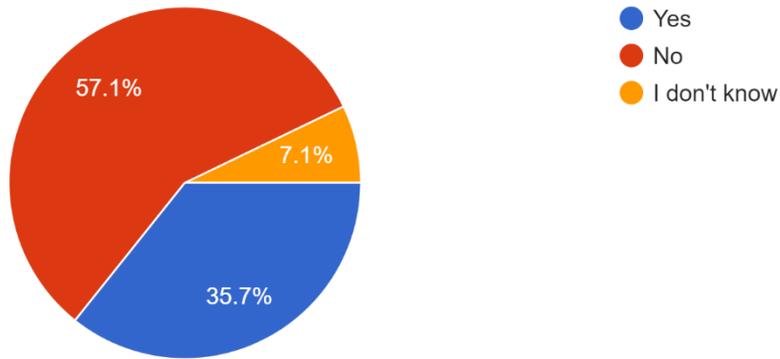
2) Have you experienced damage during a past severe weather event?

14 responses



3) Is your home or business property located in a FEMA designated floodplain? If yes, do you have insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)?

14 responses



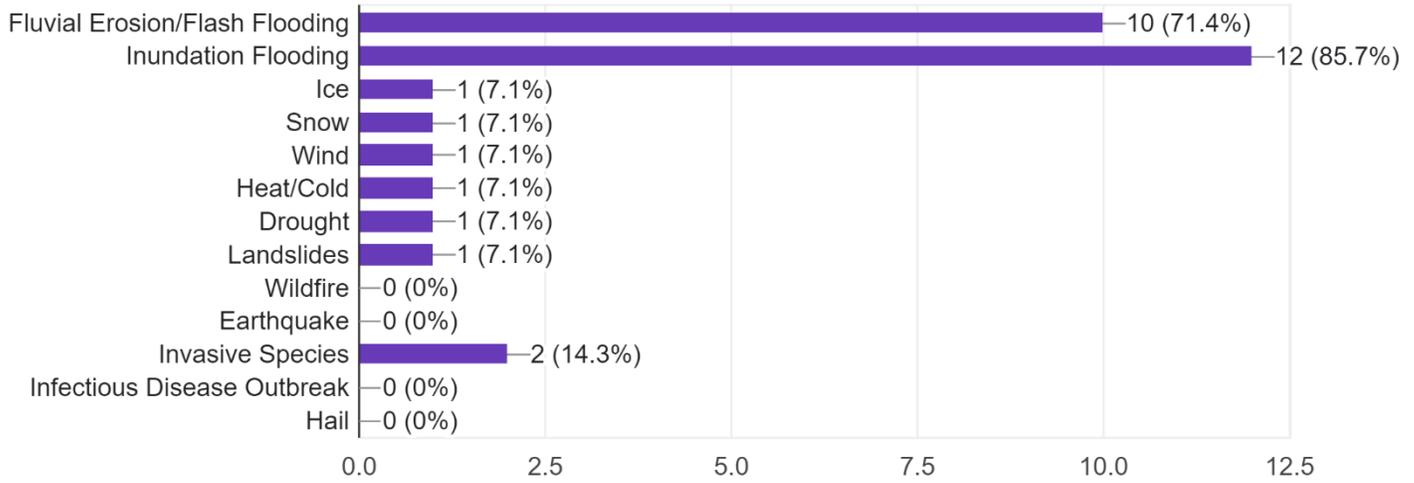
4) Have you seen areas in the community damaged during a past severe weather event?

14 responses



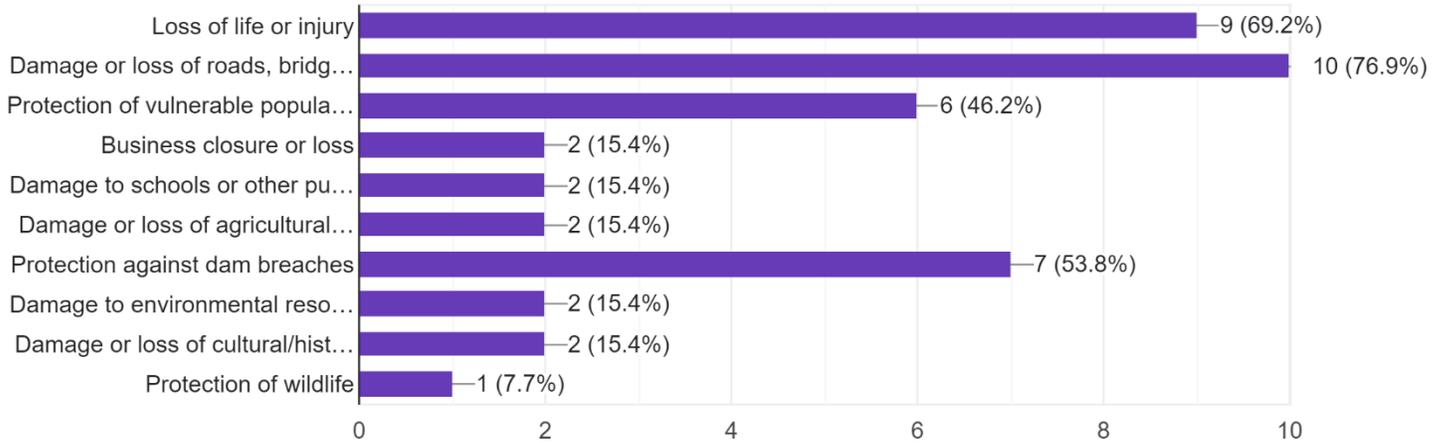
### 5) Which hazard are you most concerned about?

14 responses



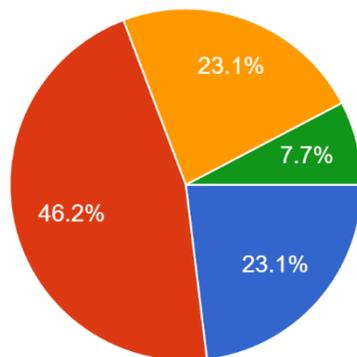
### 6) In your opinion, which of the following are most important to protect against potential future severe weather impacts in Waterbury? Please check up to 3 boxes.

13 responses



7) In this context, hazard mitigation is a sustained measure that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from the effects of nat...res would you like to see the community prioritize?

13 responses



- Structures and Infrastructure Projects (e.g., culvert upsizing, bridge replacement, property buyouts)
- Natural Systems Protection (e.g., streambank restoration, berm removal, floodplain restoration)
- Local Plans & Regulations (e.g., adoption of river corridor bylaws, upda...)
- Outreach and Education Programs (e.g., mailings to business and homeowners...)

8) Anything else you would like to provide for consideration and incorporation into the Waterbury Local Hazard Mitigation Plan?

6 responses

I work in climate impact mitigation and planning, and I feel that in question number 7, the first two items 'structures and infrastructure projects' and 'natural systems protection' are best utilized in tandem. Ideally we're considering the ecosystem services provided by the nature based solutions to help make the argument for (much needed) infrastructure improvements.

This is an awful survey. How is property damage (not business) not an option? And do you not have dredging the river and preventing municipal sewers from backing up into peoples homes as potential mitigations? You are not serious people.

1) It's a fools mission to reshape land to "hold" flood waters. Villages and towns in flood plains have never been a good idea throughout human history - and they're there because of industrialization. Plan to get our towns out of the floodplain and develop elsewhere. 2)Talk with Ben Falk of Whole Systems Design. Not every solution needs to be expensive engineering.

Obviously flooding is a huge issue. I would like to see increased effort to mitigate/deal with our dirt roads during our mud season(s).

Do something about flood mitigation!

The village of Waterbury may be a bit of a liability with its proximity to the Winooski river. I would like to see any future development including housing to be located out of the floodplain. Maybe encourage Waterbury center development.

# MITIGATION ACTIONS FROM 2017 PLAN

Vulnerability: Flooding

## Improve Physical Infrastructure.

Main Street Reconstruction, upsizing culverts, manage village stormwater drainage, protect utilities.

Who: Town, Village, VTrans, Revitalizing Waterbury, CVRPC    When: Summer 2018-Fall 2020

How: VTrans, Municipal Funds    Priority: High

**2024 Update:** Completed 2023 new drainage along Main St. helps with flash flooding.

## Floodplain

Implement floodplain reconnection strategies to increase low-lying areas that can accommodate floodwater and reduce flooding.

Who: State of VT, VEM, Town, Village

How: HMGP

When: 2020-2022

Priority: High

**2024 Update:** The town has pursued these where possible. Included in new mitigation actions with updated language. Initiative to restore floodplains where possible.

## Vulnerability: Infrastructure

Colbyville drainage along Route 100, possible ROW expansion.

Who: State of Vermont, State Highway

How: HMGP, VTrans

When: Spring 2018-Fall 2019

Priority: High

**2024 Update:** Corrected and improved 2018

## Stowe Street Bridge

Replace and upsize functionally deficient bridge that was installed following the Flood of 1927. This is a critical connection for pedestrians and access to the VTrans Park and Ride.

Who: Town of Waterbury, State of Vermont

How: VTrans, Town of Waterbury

When: 2020-2023

Priority: High

**2024 Update:** Preliminary engineering is completed. Bridge is on VTrans bridge list to be replaced in 2025.

## Lincoln Street

Upsize culvert on Graves Brook and restore floodplain along the northern bank to prevent additional sediment transport downstream.

Who: Select Board, Public Works Director, VTrans, Road Commissioner When: 2018-2022  
 How: HMGP, EPA, VTrans Priority: High

**2024 Update:** Not completed but carried through to new mitigation actions.

### Culverts and Bridge

Upsize culvert and bridge on Guptil Road, Shaw Mansion Road, and Ripley Road.

Who: Select Board, VTrans, Road Commissioner When: 2018-2022  
 How: HMGP, VTrans Priority: High

**2024 Update:** Shaw Mansion Road culvert failed in July of 2024 the town has chosen to recently chosen to rebuild the road. Bridge on Guptil Road replaced in 2024. Unclear which culvert was referenced on Ripley but new mitigation action addresses upsizing to bank full width standard.

### Planning/ Regulations

Update Flood Hazard area regulations to include river corridors.

Who: Selectboard, Village Trustees When: 2019-2021  
 How: Municipal Funds Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** The Planning Commission has finalized this update in April 2024

### Planning/Emergency Preparedness

Coordinate with Duxbury for emergency evacuation communication and coordination on River Road and flood areas.

Who: Emergency Services, Waterbury, Duxbury When: Ongoing  
 How: Municipal Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** The town has not completed this task to date and did not rise to the level of a priority in the LHMP process.

### Mitigation

Consider fuel tank tiedowns for properties in floodprone areas. Consider educational campaign in partnership with Vermont Fuel Dealers Association

Who: Town staff with public and private entities When: 2020-2022  
 How: Estimated costs \$500-700/home Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** Not progress to date. The planning commission advised they still may consider this in the future but currently not listed as a mitigation action.

## Planning/Mitigation

Plan for long-term growth outside of the floodplain. Consider suitable areas for future village development.

Who: Planning Commission, Town, Village

When: 2021-2023

How: Plan update, Municipal grant

Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** The Planning Commission has finalized a complete update to the zoning regulations and is adopting in April 2024.

## Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms

Identify strategies and opportunities, including permanent easements, for protecting open space/undeveloped land in the floodplain and river corridor from future development, ID potential areas for easements and restoration.

Who: Town Selectboard, Village trustees, Friends of the Winooski River, Conservation Commission

When: Ongoing

How: Municipal funds

Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** The Planning Commission has finalized a complete update to the zoning regulations and is adopting in April 2024.

## Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms

Engage with State of Vermont and Duxbury to explore mitigation opportunities along state lands, farm lands and River Road.

Who: State of Vermont

When: Ongoing

How: Grant funds

Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** Due to Duxbury landowner's choice to not participate with largest piece of project, overall project did not proceed. The town has been coordinating with the State to do flood plain reconnection in the cornfield between Randall Street and the River.

## Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms

Support state regulations, install signage to prohibit dumping in stream channels, riverbank areas, and wetlands.

Who: Town, Village Green-Up, ANR

When: 2019-2021

How: Municipal funds

Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** The town has supported state regulations. No signage was installed to date.

### **Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms**

Consider stormwater management regulations requiring that peak runoff from new development be no greater than pre-development runoff.

Who: Planning Commission, Town, Village  
How: Municipal Planning Grant, Municipal funds

When: 2022+  
Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** The town has not implemented but followed state policy on this. This has primarily been handled by the Vermont new 3-acre rule and DEC rules on stormwater mitigation.

### **Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms**

Consider regulations that require Erosion and Sedimentation Control on land that is disturbed during development. Utilize technical bulletins and research publications were available.

How: Planning Commission, Town, Village  
How: Municipal Planning Grant, Municipal funds

When: 2022+  
Priority: Low

**2024 Update:** The town has not implemented but followed state policy on this. State changed rules for this in 2022 that VT DEC mandates sedimentation controls on any disturbance larger than ½ acre.

### **Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms**

Consider mandatory use of connectors, brackets, and mobile home tie downs with new mobile home applications in and outside of flood prone areas. Utilize technical bulletins and research publications were available.

Who: Planning Commission, Town, Village  
How: Municipal funds

When: 2020-2021  
Priority: Low

**2024 Update:** Town is implementing under required NFIP rules in the SFHA.

### **Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms**

Encourage and support use of public and private riparian buffers using the River Corridor Plan as guidance. Utilize technical bulletins and research publications were available.

Who: Conservation Commission  
How: Grant or municipal funds

When: 2020-2021  
Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** Have promoted through watershed organizations on private land.

### **Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms**

Support educational campaign program for installation of sewer line valves on properties in 500-year floodplain. Utilize technical bulletins and research publications were available.

Who: Village Trustees/ Town Selectboard  
How: Public, private

When: 2020-2022  
Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** Town has not pursued but did install new valves during main street revitalization.

### **Flooding, flash floods, fluvial erosion/Severe Storms, hurricane, tropical storms**

Utilize the Stream/Flume table as an educational tool at public events.

Who: Friends of the Winooski, Planning commission  
How: Public, private

When: Ongoing  
Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** Town was unaware of this being done. Currently unaware if Friends of the Winooski has this resource. Though good educational idea not currently listed in new mitigation activity.

### **Flooding- NFIP compliance.**

Promote NFIP/CRS compliance by continuous communication, training, and education. Utilize technical bulletins and research publications were available.

Who: Village Trustees/ Town Selectboard  
How: HMGP

When: Ongoing  
Priority: Medium

**2024 Update:** The town has continued in the CRS/NFIP program and continues to promote its benefits.

### **Vulnerability: Dams**

#### **Dam Safety/Emergency Preparedness**

Public education for residents and communities downstream on evacuation and early notification procedures.

Who: ANR, Public Works, EMD  
How: Municipal/State Funds

When: Fall 2018  
Priority: High

**2024 Update:** Town did not pursue this. State of Vermont owns the structure, and this action should be coordinated and included on the Dam Emergency Action Plan.

#### **Dam Safety**

Coordinate with dam owner and community on Emergency Action Plan (EAP) contacts and information

flow for dam safety and preparedness.

Who: Emergency Services, GMP, CVRPC, Town, Village  
 How: EMPG, Municipal Funds

When: Spring 2019 ongoing  
 Priority: High

**2024 Update:** The town has worked with the appropriate partners and will continue to work to strengthen the dam EAP as necessary.

**Vulnerability: Winter Storms/ Severe Cold**

Support LEAP members, Capstone and Efficiency Vermont to conduct outreach to residents on how to insulate homes (pipes, attics) for efficiency and extreme cold spells. Snow and ice loads are regulated by state building codes. Utilize technical bulletins and research publications were available.

Who: Town, Village, Planning Commission, Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Fuel Dealers, LEAP, Capstone

When: Ongoing

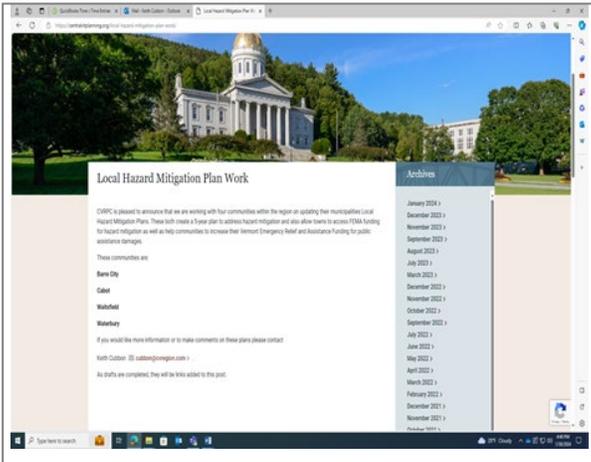
How: Efficiency Vermont, LEAP

Priority: Low

**2024 Update:** The town supports LEAP and shares information about the energy fair that is held yearly at the Crossett Brook Middle School.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT PLAN

Public comments received throughout the plan development process are summarized here. For detailed information about how the Whole Community was invited to participate reference **Table 2**.



Example Plan update kick-off public notice from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission website.

No inquiries received in response to the kick-off notice.

Neighbor towns were notified of the work on the Waterbury LHMP along with key partners via email.

### The Town of Waterbury is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan! This is your chance to contribute!

Hazard Mitigation is action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property due to natural disasters.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans are updated every 5 years




**A Hazard Mitigation Plan helps our community to:**

- Identify cost-effective actions for risk reduction
- Focus resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities
- Build partnerships between residents, organizations, and businesses
- Increase education and awareness of hazards and risk
- Communicate our priorities to state and federal officials
- Align risk reduction with other community objectives.





Waterbury Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey  
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/123456789

**Benefits of having an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

- Municipalities can receive federal funds, e.g. from
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the
  - Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF), and
  - Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)
- The town gets a higher level of post-disaster reimbursement through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF).
- Town Officials and First Responders are better prepared!



Example of poster to advertise the LHMP process and the survey.



Example of the poster advertising the public meeting. We also announced this meeting in the Waterbury Roundabout online newspaper as well as the town website. Comments and input were received at this meeting and integrated into the Section 5 hazard areas portion of the plan.

The town website and Front Porch Forum were utilized in requesting comment on the draft plan.

Mitigation actions were reviewed and discussed at town Selectboard meetings. No comments were received outside of the meetings for adjustments.

## Existing Plans, Studies, Reports & Technical Information

2017-2019 VT DPS Power Outage Data Used to develop Table 1 in Section 3.

2024 Zoning Ordinance Referenced to develop Community Capabilities, Integrating into Existing Plans and Procedures, Mitigation Strategy Updates – Changes Since 2017 Plan in Section 6.

2020 US Census Data Used to develop the Demographics and Growth Potential information in Section 3.

2023 State of Vermont Hazard Mitigation Plan Primarily referenced to develop the risk assessment and profiles in Section 5.

2017 FEMA Region 1 Mitigation Ideas for Natural Hazards Used to develop mitigation actions to address impacts from severe winter storms, high wind, and floods.

2023 Road Erosion Inventory Referenced to develop the risk profile in Section 5 and mitigation actions to address floods in Section 6.

2013 FEMA Mitigation Ideas Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards Used to develop mitigation actions to address impacts from severe winter storms, high wind, and floods.

VTrans Town Highway Bridge Inspection Reports Referenced to develop the risk profile in Section 5 and mitigation actions to address floods in Section 6.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center's Storm Events Database Referenced to develop the risk profile and hazard history in Section 5.

FEMA Disaster Declarations for Vermont Referenced to develop the risk profile and hazard history in Section 5.

Vermont Department of Health Referenced to develop the risk profile in Section 5.

Vermont Department of Conservation Stream Geomorphic Assessments-Structures Used to identify bridges and culverts that are undersized and prone to failure mitigation actions to address floods in Section 6.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Natural Resources Atlas Referenced to develop the risk profile in Section 5.

2021 Vermont Climate Assessment Referenced to develop the flood risk profile in Section 5.

2024 Local Emergency Management Plan Primarily used to identify local organizations that support vulnerable populations to ensure these organizations are invited to participate in the plan update.

2006 Structures Inventory (culverts and short structures) Referenced to develop the risk profile in Section 5 and mitigation actions to address floods in Section 6.

2023 FEMA NFIP Insurance Reports Used to determine how many structures are insured, number of repetitive loss properties, and describe NFIP compliance in Section 6.

Mitigation Assistance Program Policy Guide Used to ensure plan meets the Federal mitigation planning requirements, including those for addressing climate change.

Vermont Dam Inventory (VDI) Referenced to develop the risk profile in Section 5 and mitigation actions to address floods in Section 6.

2018 Waterbury Municipal Plan Referenced to develop Community Capabilities, Integrating into Existing Plans and Procedures, Mitigation Strategy Updates – Changes Since 2017 Plan in Section 6.

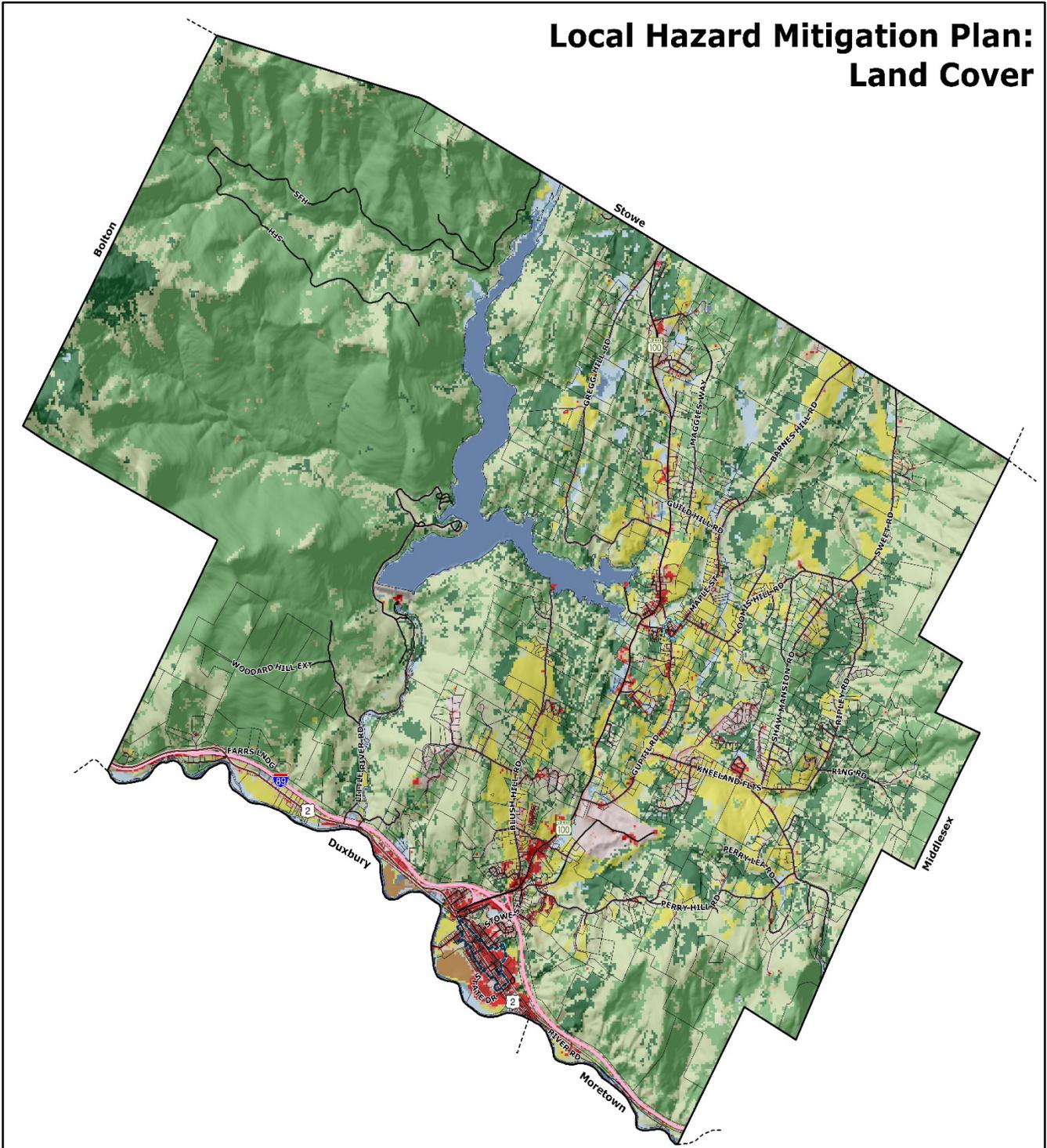
2023 Waterbury Zoning Regulations Referenced to develop Community Capabilities, Integrating into Existing Plans and Procedures, Mitigation Strategy Updates – Changes Since 2017 Plan in Section 6.

2023 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook Used to ensure plan meets the Federal mitigation planning requirements, including those for addressing climate change.

VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Tool Referenced to develop the risk profile in Section 5 and mitigation actions to address floods in Section 6.

FEMA FIS Report 3/19/2013 50023CV001A-3A- To review structures with the stream channels to determine structures for replacement

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 19 September 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvrregion.com

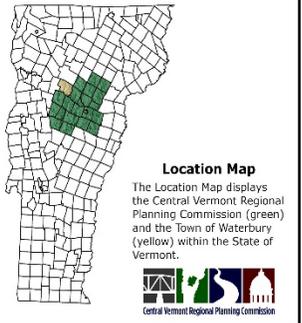
**Disclaimer**  
 This map is for planning & assessment purposes only. It is neither a survey product nor intended to be used for conveyance, legal boundary definition or property title. Users are encouraged to examine the data documentation for information related to its accuracy, currency and limitations.

**Legend**

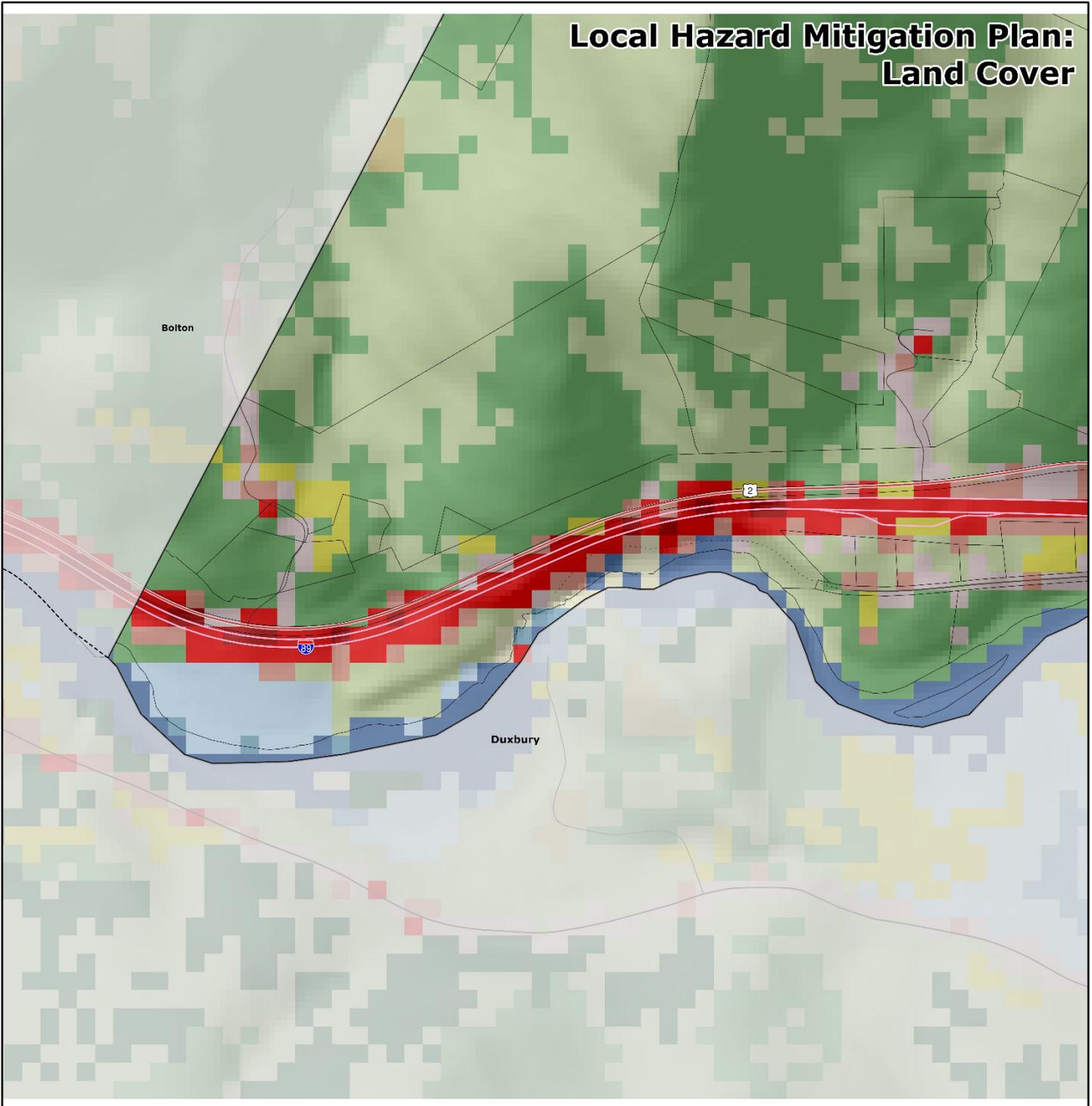
<b>National Land Cover Dataset (2021)</b>	
Open Water	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)
Developed, Open Space	Deciduous Forest
Developed, Low Intensity	Evergreen Forest
Developed, Medium Intensity	Mixed Forest
Developed High Intensity	Shrub/Scrub
Grassland/Herbaceous	Pasture/Hay
Cultivated Crops	Woody Wetlands
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	

<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>Roads</b>
Parcel Boundary	Class I, II & III Town Highways
Town Boundary	Class IV & Forest Highways
Designated Downtown	Private Road
Designated Village Center	Interstate Highway
	US Route
	VT Route
	Discontinued Road

Scale: 0 to 5 km / 0 to 3 mi



# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 23 October 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

**Disclaimer**  
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**Legend**

**National Land Cover Dataset (2021)**

- Open Water
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed High Intensity
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Shrub/Scrub
- Grassland/Herbaceous
- Pasture/Hay
- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands

**Boundaries**

- Parcel Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Designated Downtown

**Roads**

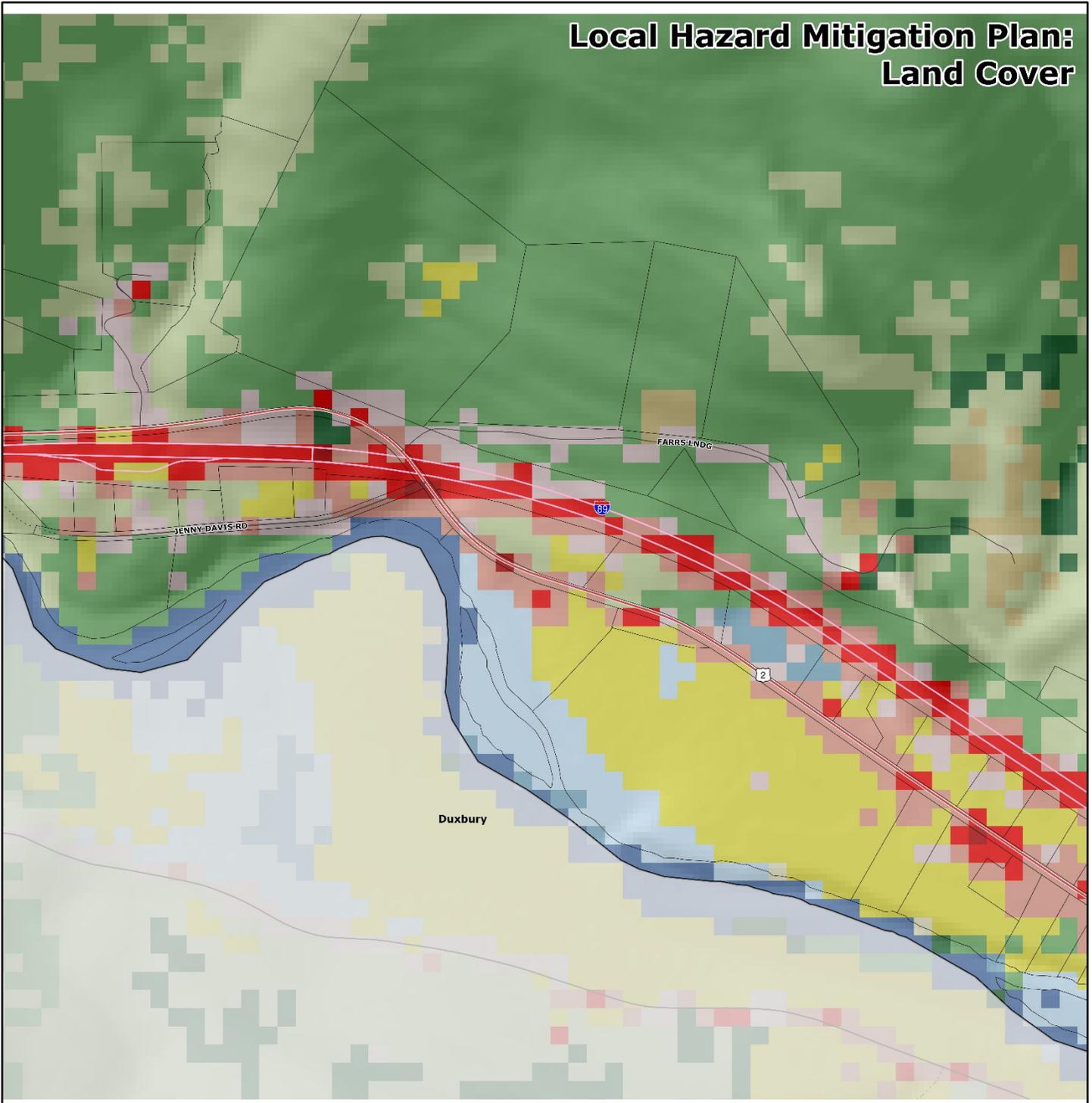
- Class I, II & III Town Highways
- Private Road
- Interstate Highway
- US Route
- Discontinued Road

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 mi  
 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 km

**Location Map**

The Location Map (left) displays the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (green) and the Town of Waterbury (yellow) within the State of Vermont. The Inset Map (right) displays the location of the eight panels in this map series along the southwest border of town. This is Map 1 of 8.

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 23 October 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

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**Legend**

Open Water	Deciduous Forest	Pasture/Hay
Developed, Open Space	Evergreen Forest	Woody Wetlands
Developed, Low Intensity	Mixed Forest	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
Developed, Medium Intensity	Shrub/Scrub	
Developed High Intensity	Grassland/Herbaceous	

**Boundaries**

Parcel Boundary	Class I, II & III Town Highways	US Route
Town Boundary	Private Road	Discontinued Road
Designated Downtown	Interstate Highway	

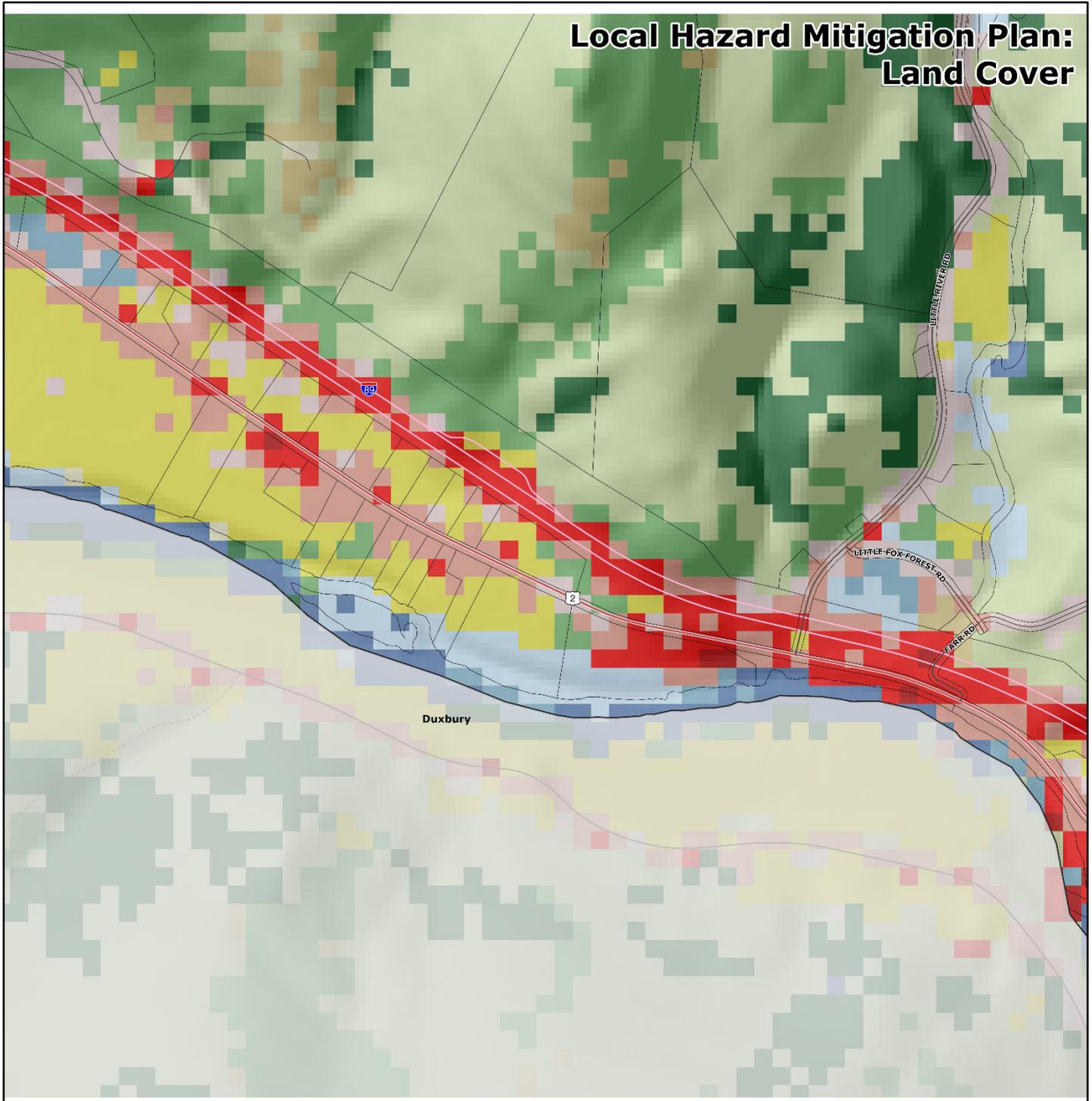
**Scale:** 0 to 0.3 miles / 0 to 0.5 kilometers

**Logos:** Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

**Location Map**

The Location Map (left) displays the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (green) and the Town of Waterbury (yellow) within the State of Vermont. The Inset Map (right) displays the location of the eight panels in this map series along the southwest border of town. This is Map 2 of 8.

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 23 October 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

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**Legend**

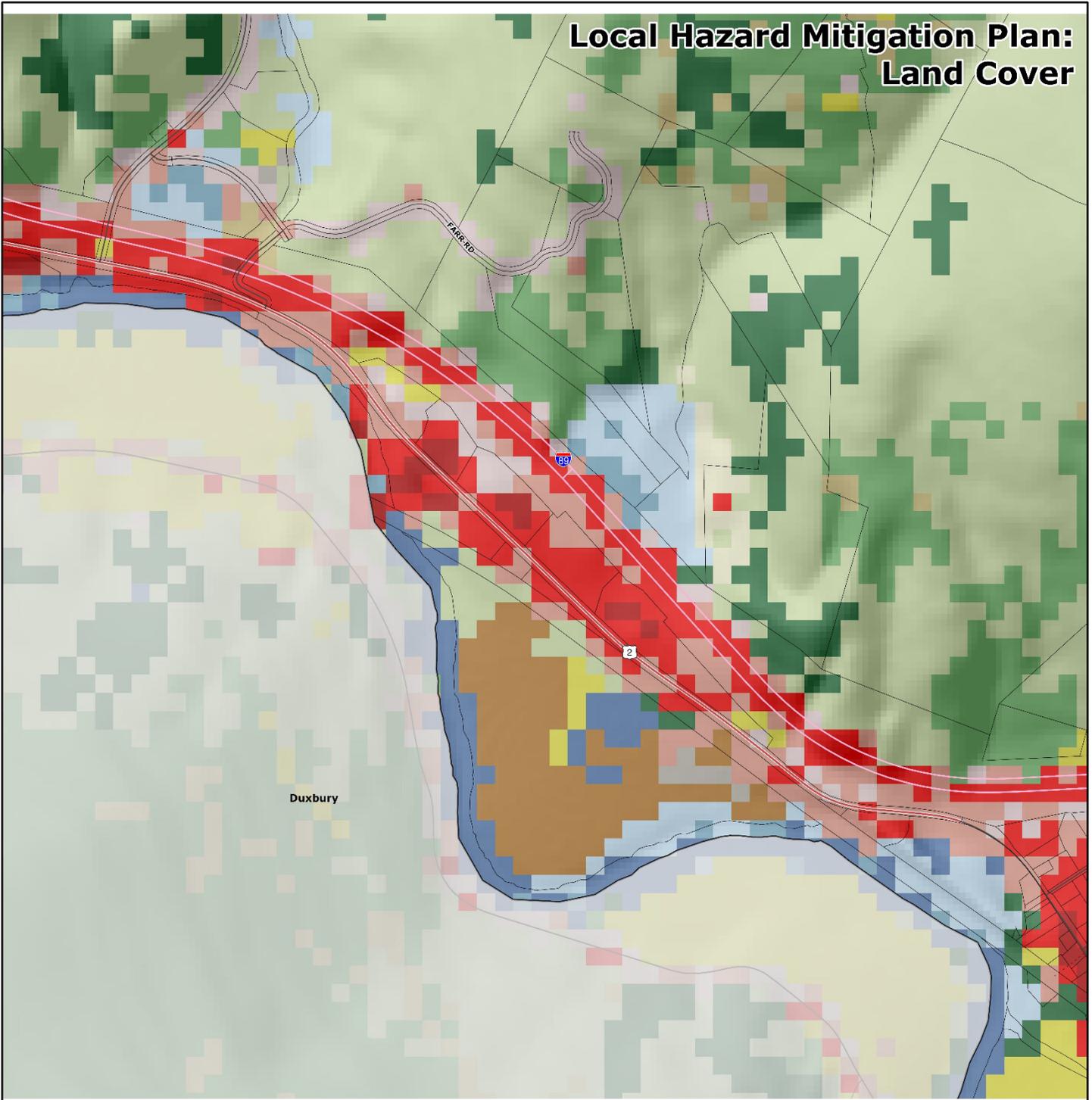
<b>National Land Cover Dataset (2021)</b>		Grassland/Herbaceous
Open Water	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)	Pasture/Hay
Developed, Open Space	Deciduous Forest	Woody Wetlands
Developed, Low Intensity	Evergreen Forest	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
Developed, Medium Intensity	Mixed Forest	
Developed High Intensity	Shrub/Scrub	
<b>Boundaries</b>		
Parcel Boundary	Roads	Private Road
Town Boundary	Class I, II & III Town Highways	Interstate Highway
Designated Downtown	Class IV & Forest Highways	US Route
	Legal Trail	

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 mi  
 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 km

**Location Map**

The Location Map (left) displays the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (green) and the Town of Waterbury (yellow) within the State of Vermont. The Inset Map (right) displays the location of the eight panels in this map series along the southwest border of town. This is Map 3 of 8.

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 23 October 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

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**Legend**

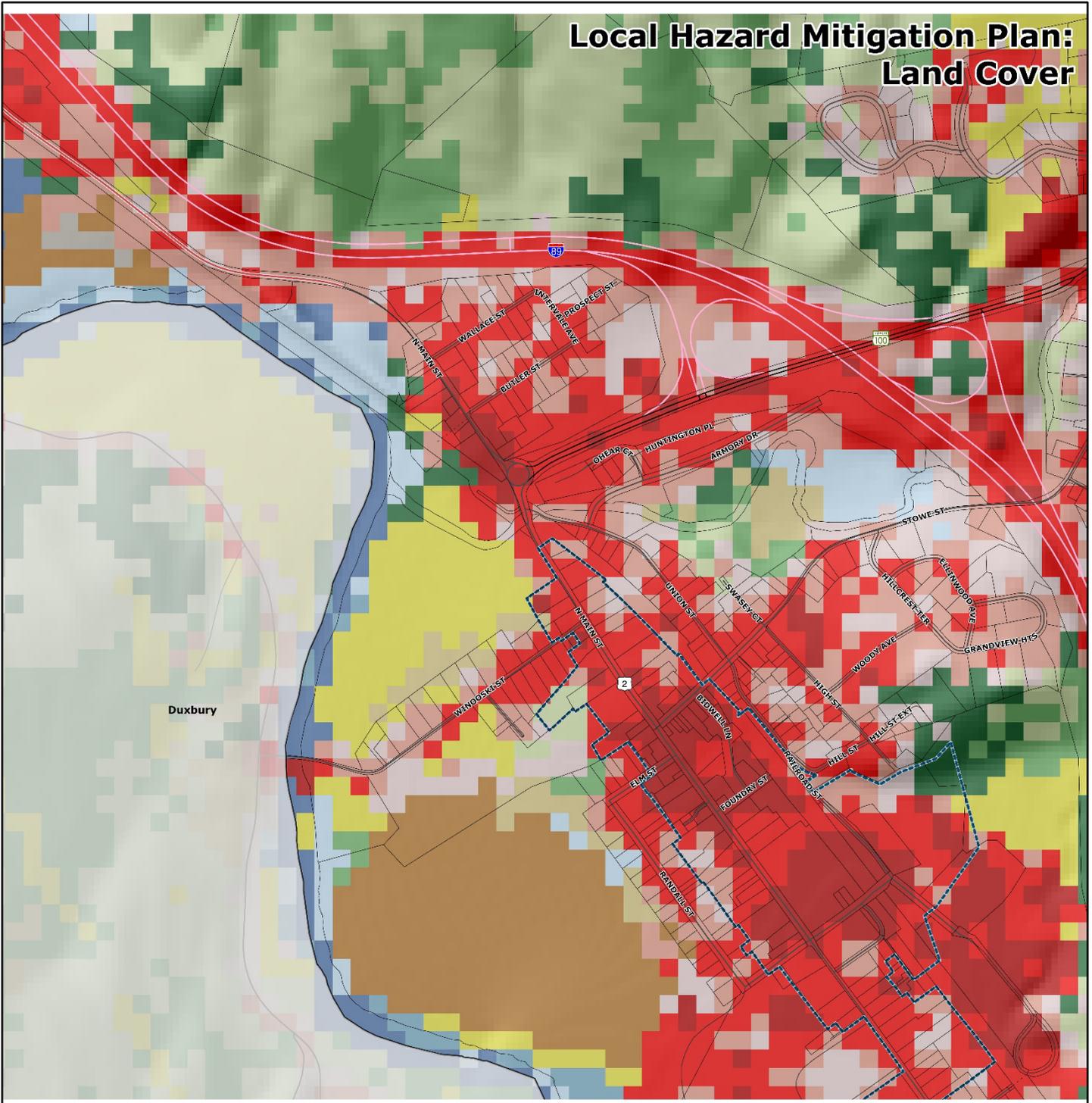
<b>National Land Cover Dataset (2021)</b>		Grassland/Herbaceous
Open Water	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)	Pasture/Hay
Developed, Open Space	Deciduous Forest	Cultivated Crops
Developed, Low Intensity	Evergreen Forest	Woody Wetlands
Developed, Medium Intensity	Mixed Forest	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
Developed High Intensity	Shrub/Scrub	
<b>Boundaries</b>		
Parcel Boundary	Class I, II & III Town Highways	Interstate Highway
Town Boundary	Class IV & Forest Highways	US Route
Designated Downtown	Private Road	

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 mi  
 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 km

**Location Map**

The Location Map (left) displays the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (green) and the Town of Waterbury (yellow) within the State of Vermont. The Inset Map (right) displays the location of the eight panels in this map series along the southwest border of town. This is Map 4 of 8.

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



Duxbury

**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 23 October 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

**Disclaimer**  
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**Legend**

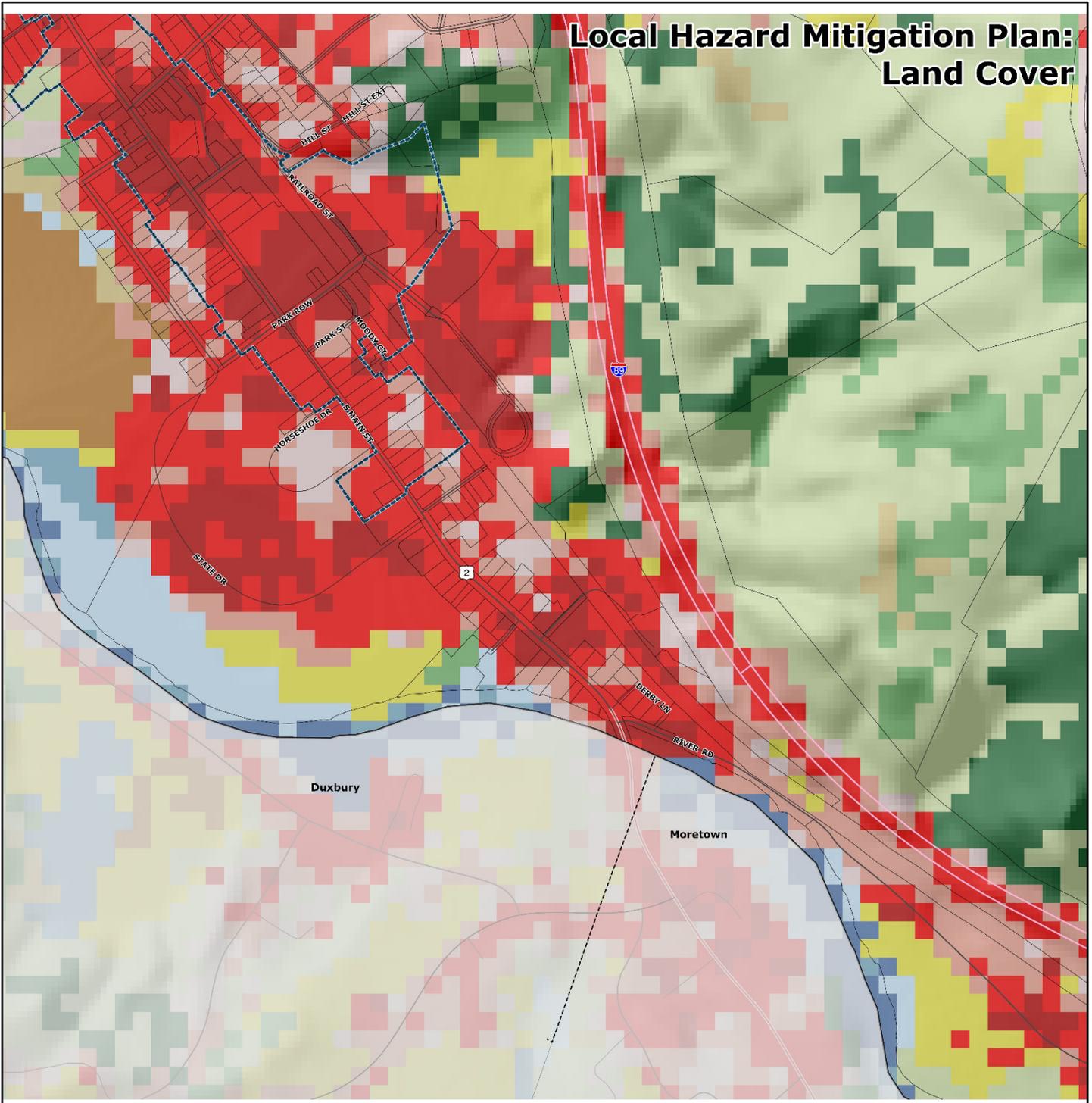
<b>National Land Cover Dataset (2021)</b>	
Open Water	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)
Developed, Open Space	Deciduous Forest
Developed, Low Intensity	Evergreen Forest
Developed, Medium Intensity	Mixed Forest
Developed High Intensity	Shrub/Scrub
<b>Boundaries</b>	
Parcel Boundary	Class I, II & III Town Highways
Town Boundary	Private Road
Designated Downtown	Interstate Highway
Grassland/Herbaceous	US Route
Pasture/Hay	VT Route
Cultivated Crops	Discontinued Road
Woody Wetlands	
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 mi  
 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 km

**Location Map**

The Location Map (left) displays the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (green) and the Town of Waterbury (yellow) within the State of Vermont. The Inset Map (right) displays the location of the eight panels in this map series along the southwest border of town. This is Map 5 of 8.

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 23 October 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

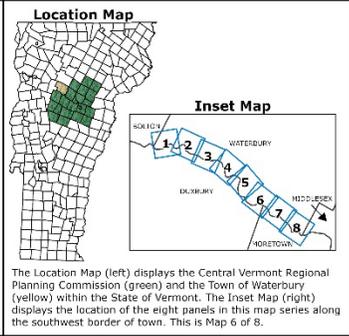
**Disclaimer**  
 This map is for planning & assessment purposes only. It is neither a survey product nor intended to be used for conveyance, legal boundary definition or property title. Users are encouraged to examine the data documentation for information related to its accuracy, currency and limitations.

**Legend**

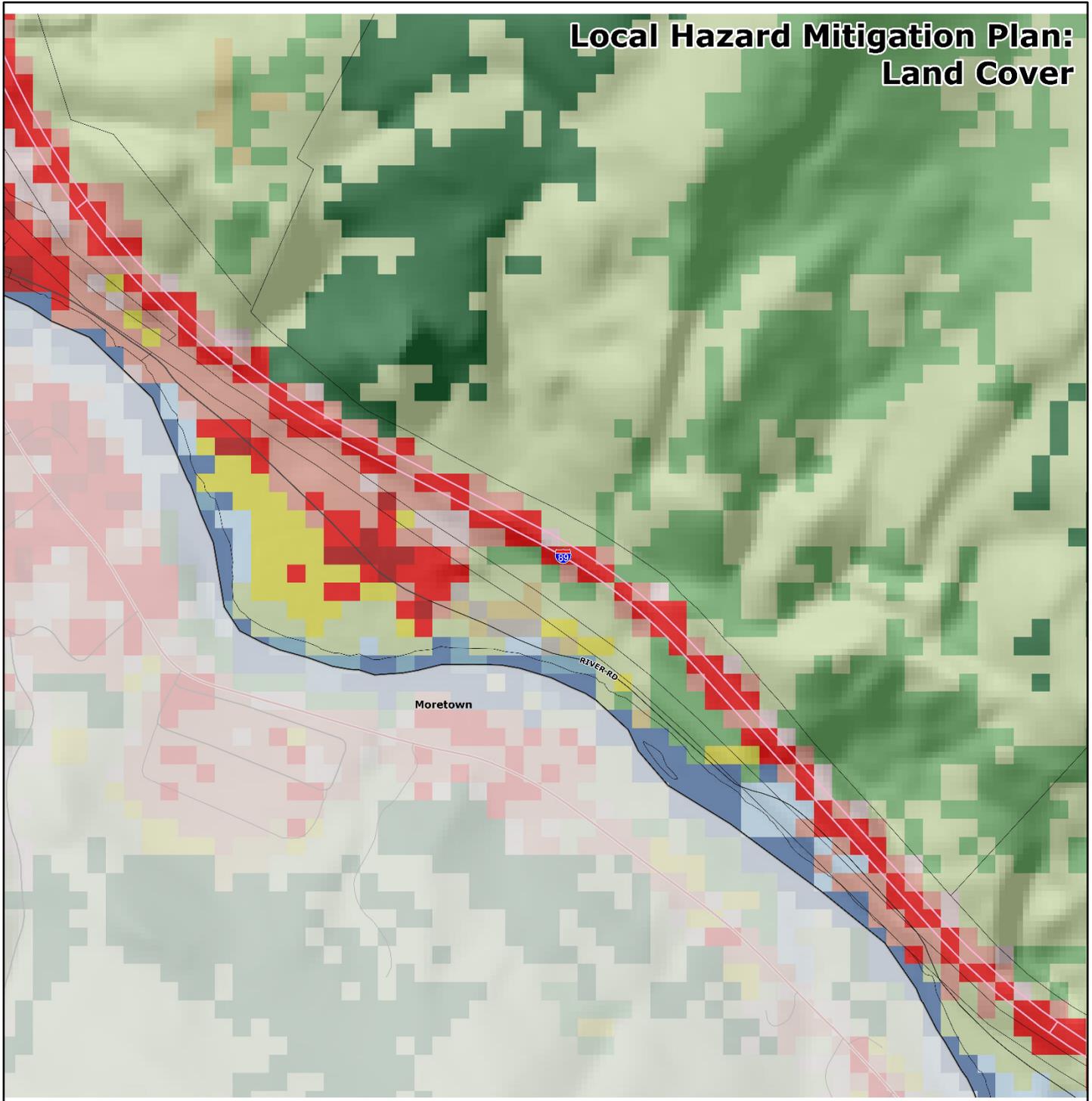
<p><b>National Land Cover Dataset (2021)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4682B4; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Open Water</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #D3D3D3; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Developed, Open Space</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F08080; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Developed, Low Intensity</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FF4500; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Developed, Medium Intensity</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #DC143C; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Developed High Intensity</li> </ul> <p><b>Boundaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Parcel Boundary</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Town Boundary</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Designated Downtown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Deciduous Forest</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #228B22; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Evergreen Forest</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #9ACD32; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Mixed Forest</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #BDB76B; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Shrub/Scrub</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F0E68C; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Grassland/Herbaceous</li> </ul> <p><b>Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Class I, II &amp; III Town Highways</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid gray; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Class IV &amp; Forest Highways</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed gray; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Private Road</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Interstate Highway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFFF00; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Pasture/Hay</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Cultivated Crops</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Woody Wetlands</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #4682B4; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands</li> </ul> <p><b>Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid red; margin-right: 5px;"></span> US Route</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> VT Route</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Discontinued Road</li> </ul>
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Scale: 0 to 0.5 mi / 0 to 0.5 km

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission



# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 23 October 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

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**Legend**

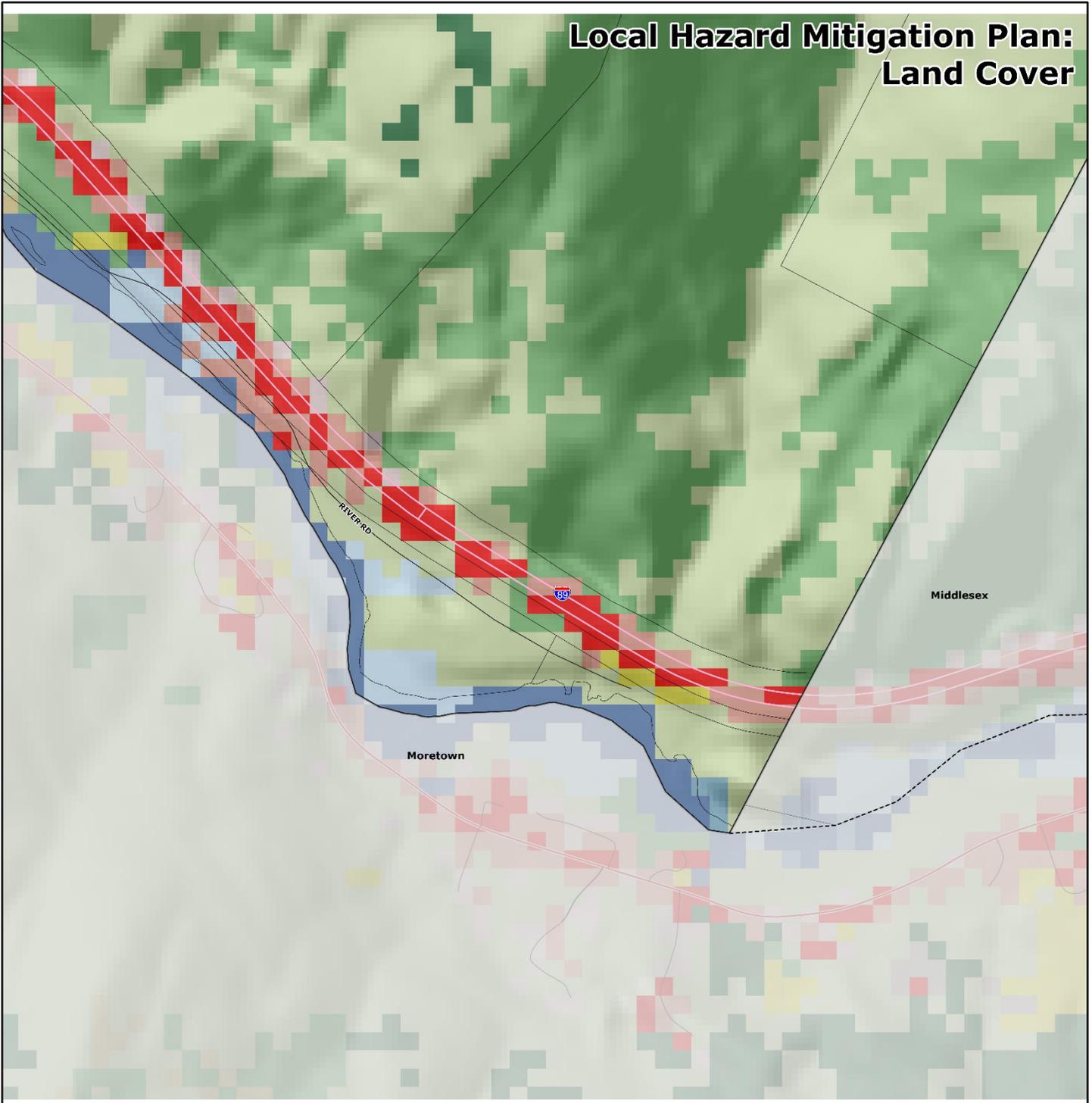
<b>National Land Cover Dataset (2021)</b>		Grassland/Herbaceous
Open Water	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)	Pasture/Hay
Developed, Open Space	Deciduous Forest	Woody Wetlands
Developed, Low Intensity	Evergreen Forest	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
Developed, Medium Intensity	Mixed Forest	
Developed High Intensity	Shrub/Scrub	
<b>Boundaries</b>		
Parcel Boundary		
Town Boundary		
Designated Downtown		
<b>Roads</b>		Interstate Highway
Class I, II & III Town Highways		US Route
Class IV & Forest Highways		
Private Road		

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 mi  
 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 km

**Location Map**

The Location Map (left) displays the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (green) and the Town of Waterbury (yellow) within the State of Vermont. The Inset Map (right) displays the location of the eight panels in this map series along the southwest border of town. This is Map 7 of 8.

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Land Cover



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 National Land Cover Dataset - (2021, Multi-Resolution Land Cover Consortium)

**Map Notes**  
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**Legend**

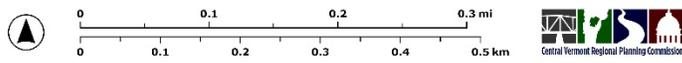
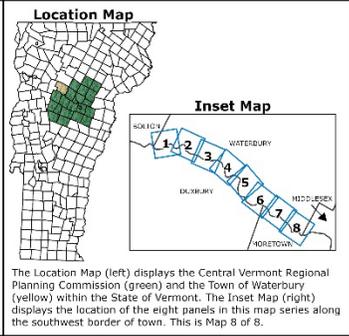
<b>National Land Cover Dataset (2021)</b>	
Open Water	Deciduous Forest
Developed, Open Space	Evergreen Forest
Developed, Low Intensity	Mixed Forest
Developed, Medium Intensity	Shrub/Scrub
Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)	Grassland/Herbaceous
Pasture/Hay	
Woody Wetlands	
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	

**Boundaries**

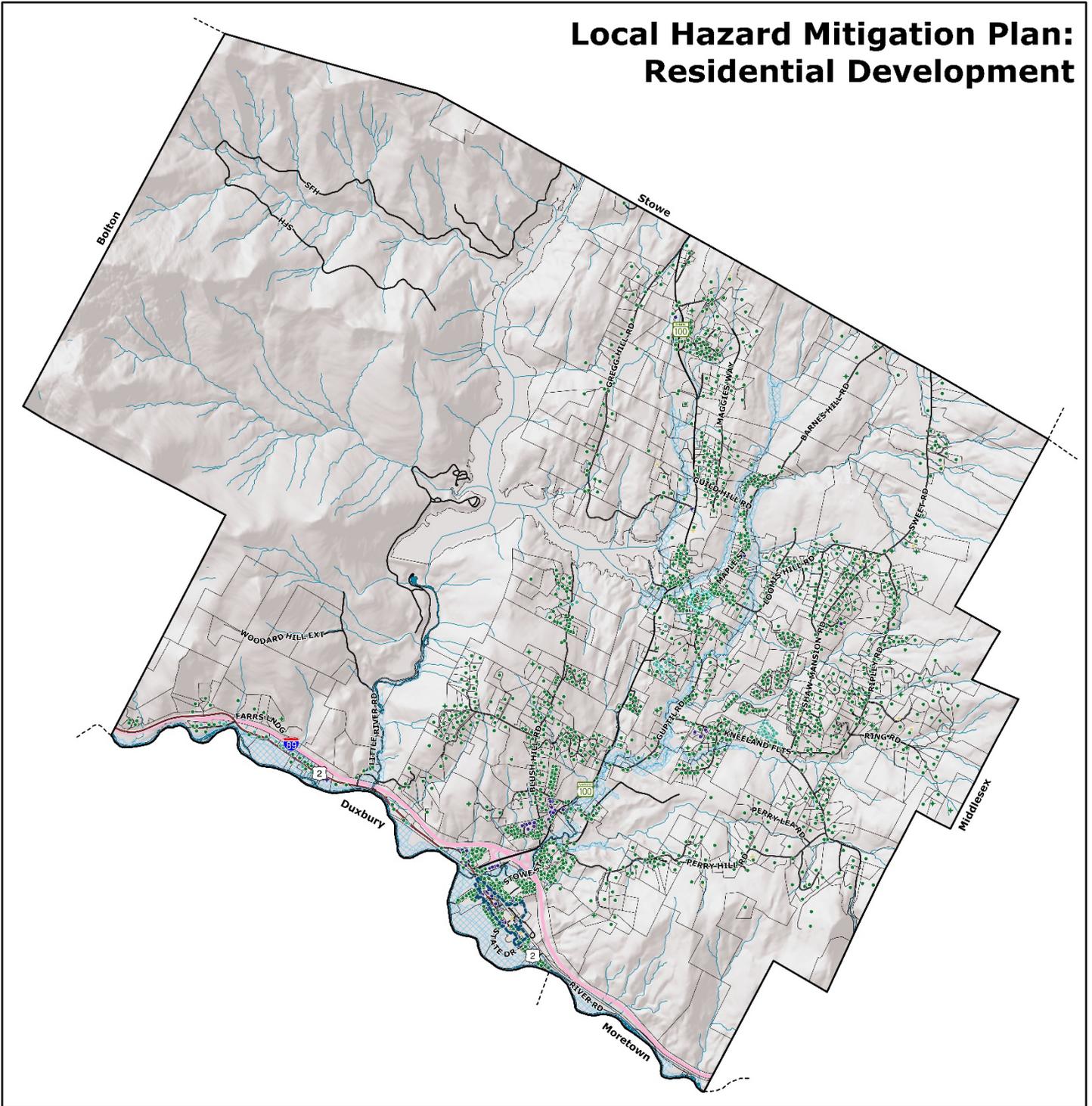
- Parcel Boundary
- Town Boundary
- Designated Downtown

**Roads**

- Class I, II & III Town Highways
- Class IV & Forest Highways
- Private Road
- Interstate Highway
- US Route



# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Residential Development



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 Surface Water: Vermont Hydrography Dataset (2020, VCGI)  
 FEMA Flood Hazard Area: National Flood Hazard Layer (2015, FEMA)  
 Structures: E911 Site Location (address points) (2024, VCGI)

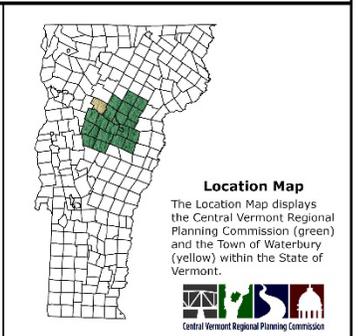
**Map Notes**  
 Date: 19 September 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

**Disclaimer**  
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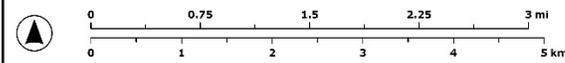
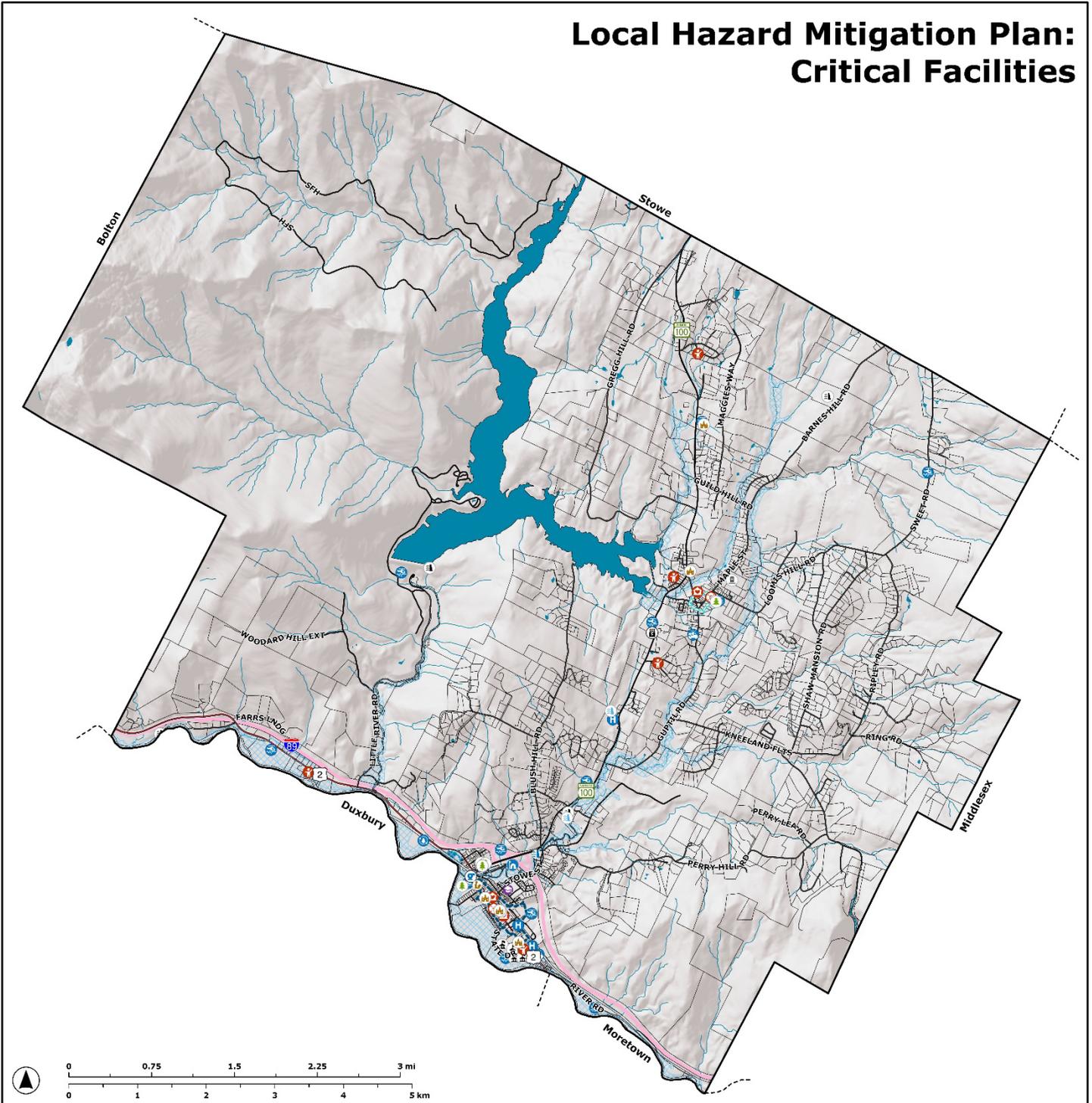
**Legend**

<p><b>Boundaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Parcel Boundary</li> <li>▭ Town Boundary</li> <li>▭ Designated Downtown</li> <li>▭ Designated Village Center</li> <li>▭ Special Flood Hazard Area</li> </ul> <p><b>Surface Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Rivers &amp; Streams</li> <li>■ Lakes &amp; Ponds</li> </ul>	<p><b>Residential Development</b></p> <p><b>Pre-2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mobile Home</li> <li>● Single Family Dwelling</li> <li>● Multi-Family Dwelling</li> <li>● Other Residential</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Single Family Dwelling</li> <li>● Multi-Family Dwelling</li> <li>● Other Residential</li> </ul>	<p><b>Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Class I, II &amp; III Town Highways</li> <li>— Class IV &amp; Forest Highways</li> <li>— Private Road</li> <li>— Interstate Highway</li> <li>— US Route</li> <li>— VT Route</li> <li>⋯ Discontinued Road</li> </ul>
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0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 mi  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 km



# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Critical Facilities

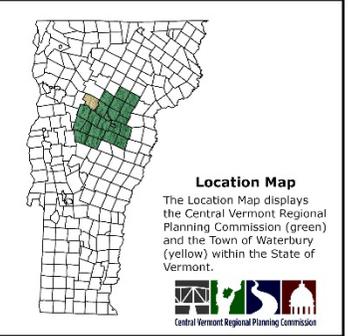


**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Surface Water: Vermont Hydrography Dataset (2020, VCGI)  
 Special Flood Hazard Area: National Flood Hazard Layer (2015, FEMA)  
 Dam Inventory: DEC Dam Safety and Hydrology (VCGI, 2022)  
 Critical Facilities: E911 Site Location (2022, VCGI)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)

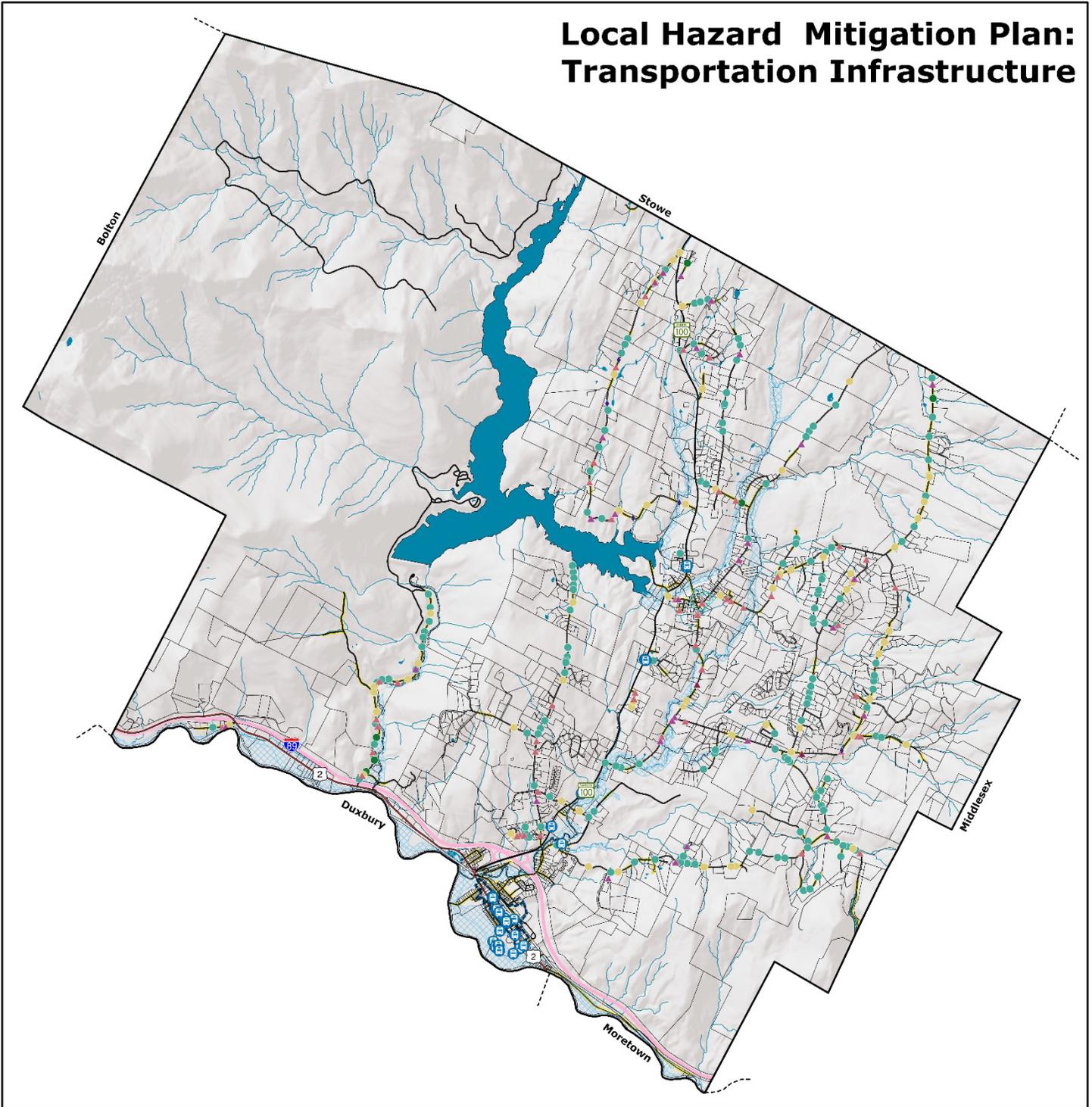
**Map Notes**  
 Date: 19 September 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

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Legend	
Parcel Boundary	Recreation
Designated Village Center	House of Worship
Town Boundary	Cemetery
Special Flood Hazard Area	Library
Rivers & Streams	Group Home
Lakes & Ponds	Daycare / Pre-school
Dam	School (K - 12)
Breached	Government Facilities
Breached (Partial)	State / Federal Government
In Service	Public Health
Utilities	Health Clinic
Substation	
Wastewater Treatment Plant	
Pump Station	
	<b>Emergency Services</b>
	Fire Station
	Ambulance Service
	Helipad / Heliport
	Health Clinic
	National Guard / Armory
	<b>Roads</b>
	Class I, II & III Town Highways
	Class IV & Forest Highways
	Private Road
	Interstate Highway
	US Route
	VT Route
	Discontinued Road



# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Transportation Infrastructure



**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Surface Water: Vermont Hydrography Dataset (2020, VCGI)  
 Special Flood Hazard Area: National Flood Hazard Layer (2015, FEMA)  
 Infrastructure Condition: Bridge & Culvert Inventory (2023, CVRPC)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 Hydrologically Connected Road Segments: Agency of Natural Resources (2019, VCGI)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 19 September 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

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**Legend**

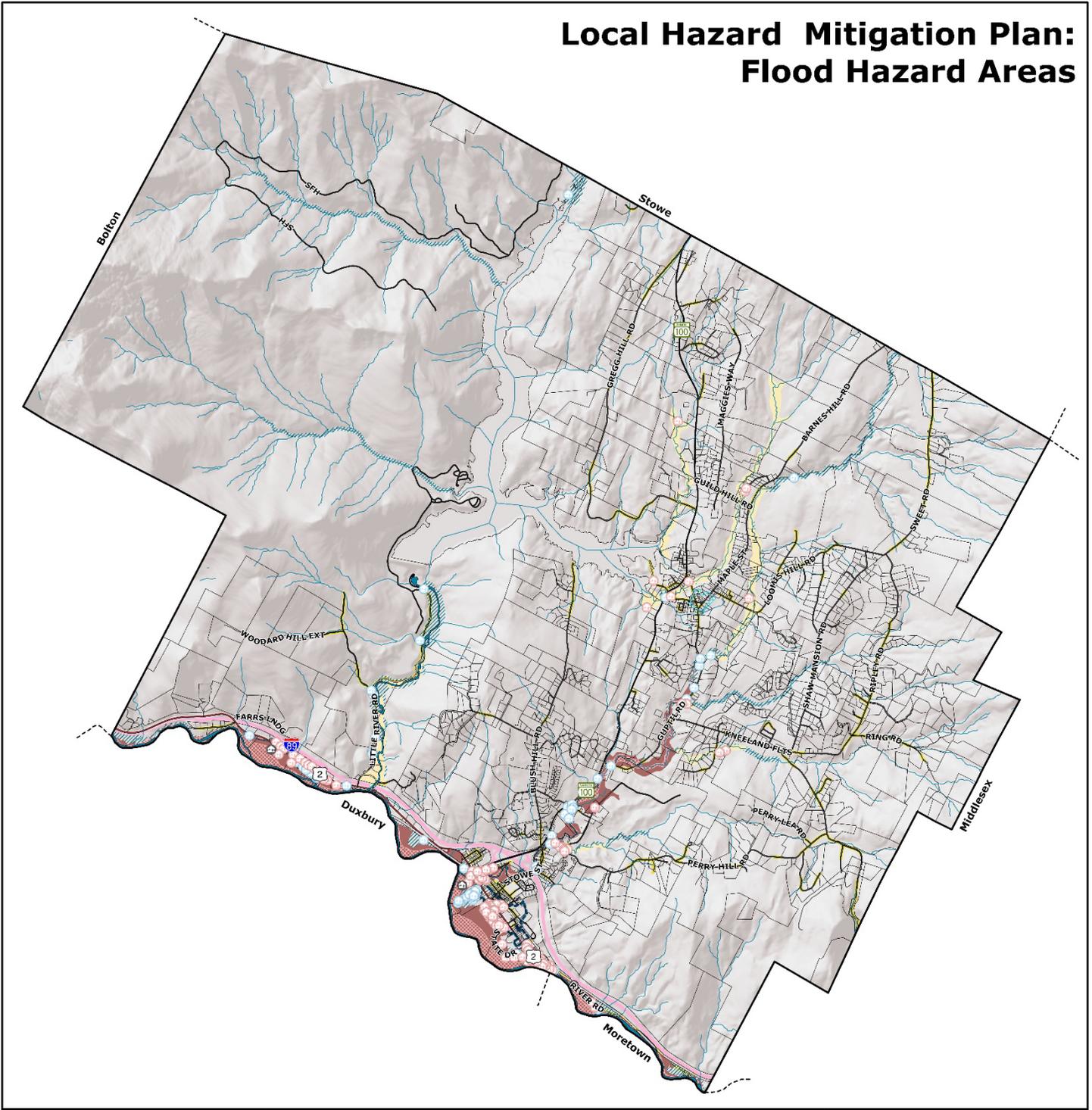
<p><b>Boundaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel Boundary</li> <li>Town Boundary</li> <li>Special Flood Hazard Area</li> </ul> <p><b>Surface Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rivers &amp; Streams</li> <li>Lakes &amp; Ponds</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Transit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus Stops</li> </ul>	<p><b>Culvert Condition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent</li> <li>Good</li> <li>Fair</li> <li>Poor</li> <li>Closed</li> <li>Urgent / Critical</li> <li>Unknown</li> </ul> <p><b>Bridge Condition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fair</li> </ul>	<p><b>Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class I, II &amp; III Town Highways</li> <li>Class IV &amp; Forest Highways</li> <li>Private Road</li> <li>Interstate Highway</li> <li>US Route</li> <li>VT Route</li> <li>Discontinued Road</li> <li>Hydrologically Connected Road Segment</li> </ul>
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0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 mi  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 km

**Location Map**  
 The Location Map displays the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (green) and the Town of Waterbury (yellow) within the State of Vermont.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Flood Hazard Areas



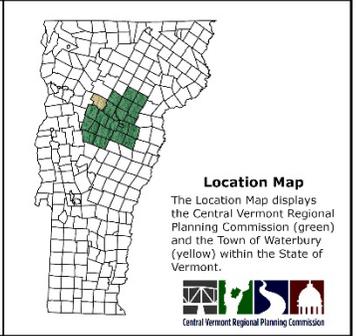
**Data Resources**  
 Parcels: Waterbury Parcel Boundaries (2024, VCGI)  
 State Village Center Designation: Village Center Boundary (2024, ACCD)  
 Surface Water: Vermont Hydrography Dataset (2020, VCGI)  
 At-risk Structures: Derived data (CVRPC, 2024)  
 FEMA Flood Hazard Area: National Flood Hazard Layer (2015, FEMA)  
 Roads: Vermont Agency of Transportation - Road Centerlines (2021, VCGI)  
 Hydrologically Connected Road Segments: Agency of Natural Resources (2019, VCGI)

**Map Notes**  
 Date: 19 September 2024  
 File: N:\Towns\Waterbury\Waterbury.aprx  
 Contact: cvrpc@cvregion.com

**Disclaimer**  
 This map is for planning & assessment purposes only. It is neither a survey product nor intended to be used for conveyance, legal boundary definition or property title. Users are encouraged to examine the data documentation for information related to its accuracy, currency and limitations.

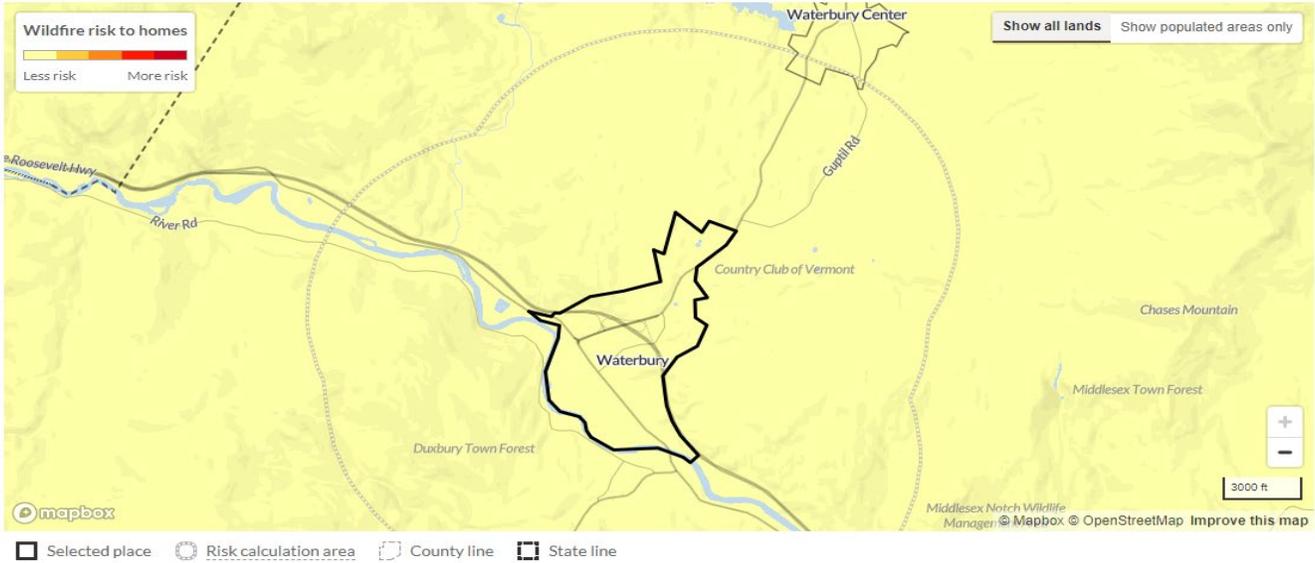
Legend	
<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>At-risk Structures</b>
Parcel Boundary	River Corridor
Designated Village Center	Flood Hazard Area
<b>Surface Water</b>	Floodway
Rivers & Streams	<b>Flood Hazard Areas</b>
Lakes & Ponds	Zone A
	Zone AE
	Floodway
	River Corridor
<b>Roads</b>	
Class I, II & III Town Highways	
Class IV & Forest Highways	
Private Road	
Interstate Highway	
US Route	
VT Route	
Discontinued Road	
Hydrologically Connected Road Segment	

0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 mi  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 km



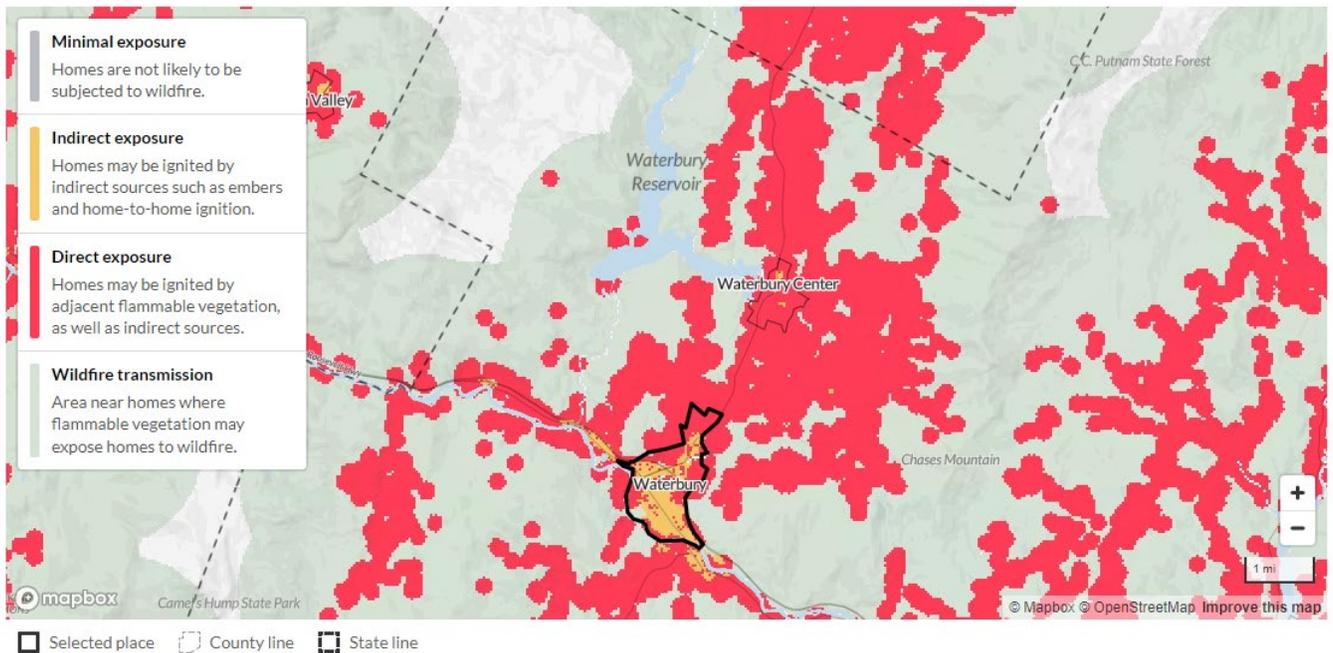
## Risk to homes

Homes in Waterbury have, on average, greater risk than 13% of communities in the US.



## Risk Reduction Zones

Homes and other buildings in Waterbury are predominantly in the Indirect Exposure Zone.



Extent of Risk for Barre City	Risk	Area/ Type of Risk	~ \$ of damages possible	Disasters
<b>Fluvial Erosion</b>	anything greater than 1"/hr. for more than 2 hours	Special Flood Hazard Area and within 50' of stream channels or stormwater inlets/ Structures, Utilities, Transportation, People	\$235,897,500	See Table Section 5
<b>Inundation Flooding</b>	4-6" of flooding	Special Flood Hazard Area and within 50' of stream channels or stormwater inlets/ Structures, Utilities, People	\$238,597,400	See Table Section 5
<b>Snow</b>	up to 30"	town wide/ Utilities, Transportation	Undetermined	See Table Section 5
<b>Ice</b>	1/4" or greater	town wide/Utilities, Transportation	Undetermined	See Table Section 5
<b>High Winds</b>	50-60 mph	town wide, but more prominent on higher slopes/ Utilities, Structures	Undetermined	See Table Section 5
<b>Wildfires</b>	less than 1 acre	town wide/primarily upper elevations and town boundaries/ Structures, Environment	Undetermined based off of no structures damaged	None
<b>Landslides</b>	~.1 of an acre	town wide, primarily along steeper slopes or fill material when saturated/Structures, Transportation	~\$800,000	DR-4720
<b>Infectious Disease Outbreak</b>	206 cases of COVID/weekly avg.	town wide/People	Undetermined	DR-4532
<b>Invasive Species</b>	unknown	town wide/Environment, Agriculture	Undetermined	None
<b>Heat</b>	97 degrees	town wide/People	Undetermined	None
<b>Cold</b>	-20 degrees	town wide/People, Utilities	Undetermined	See Table Section 5
<b>Drought</b>	D3	town wide/Water system/private wells	Undetermined	None