

Section 8. Planning Partnership

8.1 Background

Section 201.6.a(4) of Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR) states: “Multi-jurisdictional plans (e.g. watershed plans) may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.” The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) both encourage multi-jurisdictional planning. Therefore, in the preparation of the Westchester County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), a planning partnership was formed to meet the requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) for as many eligible local governments in Westchester County as possible.

In addition to the County’s participation, Westchester County Department of Emergency Services – Office of Emergency Management (WCDES-OEM) solicited the participation of all incorporated cities, towns and villages within the County at the outset of this project. Jurisdictions that expressed interest signed a “Letter of Intent” and/or an authorizing resolution committing their participation and resources to the development of the Westchester County HMP Update.

Table 8-1 lists those jurisdictions that elected to participate in the 2015 Westchester County HMP Update process, and have met the minimum requirements of participation as established by the County and Steering Committee:

Table 8-1. Participating Jurisdictions in Westchester County

Jurisdictions		
Westchester County		
City of Mount Vernon	Town of Ossining	Village of Hastings-On-Hudson
City of New Rochelle	Town of Pelham	Village of Irvington
City of Peekskill	Town of Pound Ridge	Village of Larchmont
City of Rye	Town of Rye	Village of Mamaroneck
City of Yonkers	Town of Somers	Village of Mount Kisco
Town of Bedford	Town of Yorktown	Village of Ossining
Town of Cortlandt	Village of Ardsley	Village of Pelham
Town of Eastchester	Village of Briarcliff Manor	Village of Pelham Manor
Town of Greenburgh	Village of Bronxville	Village of Pleasantville
Town of Lewisboro	Village of Buchanan	Village of Port Chester
Town of Mamaroneck	Village of Croton-On-Hudson	Village of Rye Brook
Town of New Castle	Village of Dobbs Ferry	Village of Scarsdale
Town of North Castle	Village of Elmsford	Village of Tarrytown
Town of North Salem	Village of Harrison	Village of Tuckahoe

8.1.1 Jurisdictional Annexes

This update is organized according to a two-volume format, including jurisdictional annexes for each participating jurisdiction. While the local annex format is designed to document and assure local compliance with the DMA 2000 regulations, its greater purpose and function includes:

- Providing a locally-relevant synthesis of the overall mitigation plan that can be readily presented, distributed, and maintained;
- Facilitating local understanding of the community’s risk to natural and certain man-made hazards;
- Facilitating local understanding of the community’s capabilities to manage natural hazard risk, including opportunities to improve those capabilities;
- Facilitating local understanding of the efforts the community has taken, and plans to take, to reduce their natural hazard risk;
- Facilitating the implementation of mitigation strategies, including the development of grant applications;
- Providing a framework by which the community can continue to capture relevant data and information for future plan updates.

It is recognized that each jurisdiction’s annex is a “living” document, and will continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, its design is intended to promote and accommodate continued efforts to maintain the currency and improve the effectiveness of the annex as the key tool, reference and guiding document by which the jurisdiction will implement hazard mitigation locally.

The following provides a description of the various elements of the jurisdictional annex.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points of Contact: Identifies the hazard mitigation planning primary and alternate(s) contacts, identified by the jurisdiction as of June, 2015.

Jurisdictional Profile: Provides an overview and profile of the jurisdiction, including an identification of areas of known and anticipated future development and the vulnerability of those areas to the hazards of concern.

Natural Hazard Event History Specific to the Jurisdiction: Identifies hazard events that have caused significant impacts within the jurisdiction, including a summary characterization of those impacts as identified by the jurisdiction. The documentation of events and losses is critical to supporting the identification and justification of appropriate mitigation actions, including providing critical data for benefit-cost analysis. It is recognized that this “inventory” of events and losses is a work-in-progress, and may continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, the lack of data or information for a specific event does not necessarily mean that the jurisdiction did not suffer significant losses during that event.

Hazard Vulnerabilities and Ranking: Hazard Risk/Vulnerability Risk Ranking: The Westchester County HMP Update identifies and characterizes the broad range of hazards that pose risk to the entire planning area; however each jurisdiction has differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability aside from the whole. The local risk ranking serves to identify each jurisdiction’s degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to them, supporting the appropriate selection and prioritization of initiatives that will reduce the highest levels of risk for each community.

Full data and information on the hazards of concern, the methodology used to develop the vulnerability assessments, and the results of those assessments that serve as the basis of these local risk rankings may be found in Section 5.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary: Provides NFIP summary statistics for the jurisdiction.

Critical Facilities: Identifies potential flood losses to critical facilities in the jurisdiction, based on the flood vulnerability assessment process presented in Section 5.

Other Vulnerabilities Identified by the Jurisdiction: Presents other specific hazard vulnerabilities as identified by the jurisdiction.

Capability Assessment:

This subsection provides an inventory and evaluation of the jurisdiction’s tools, mechanisms and resources available to support hazard mitigation and natural hazard risk reduction, organized as planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal capabilities, respectively. Further, the municipality’s level of participation in state and federal programs designed to promote and incentivize local risk reduction efforts has been identified.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): This subsection documents the NFIP as implemented within the jurisdiction. This summary was based on surveys prepared by, and/or interviews conducted with, the NFIP Floodplain Administrators for each NFIP-participating community in the County.

This subsection also identifies actions to enhance implementation and enforcement of the NFIP within the community.

Integration of Hazard Mitigation into Existing Planning Mechanisms: This subsection identifies how the jurisdiction has integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”), and/or how they intend to promote this integration (“integration actions”).

Further information regarding Federal, State and local capabilities may be found in the Capability Assessment portion of Section 6.

Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization

Past Mitigation Initiative Status: Where applicable, a review of progress on the jurisdiction’s prior mitigation strategy is presented, identifying the disposition of each prior action, project or initiative in the jurisdiction’s updated mitigation strategy. Other completed or on-going mitigation activities that were not specifically part of a prior local mitigation strategy may be included in this sub-section as well.

Proposed Mitigation Strategy: The table in this subsection presents the jurisdiction’s updated mitigation strategy. As indicated, applicable mitigation actions, projects and initiatives are further documented on an Action Worksheet which provides details on the project identification, evaluation, and prioritization and implementation process. The following prioritization table provides a summary of the local mitigation strategy prioritization process discussed in Section 6.

Hazard Area Extent and Location Map: Each annex includes a map (or series of maps) illustrating identified hazard zones, critical facilities, and areas of NFIP Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss (RL/SRL).

FEMA Action Worksheets: Appended to the end of annexes as applicable.