



9.12 TOWN OF LAURENS

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Laurens. It includes resources and information to assist public and private sectors to reduce losses from future hazard events. This annex is not guidance of what to do when a disaster occurs. Rather, this annex concentrates on actions that can be implemented prior to a disaster to reduce or eliminate damage to property and people. This annex includes a general overview of the municipality and who in the town participated in the planning process, an assessment of the Town of Laurens’s risk and vulnerability, the different capabilities used in the town, and an action plan that will be implemented to achieve a more resilient community.

9.12.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

The following individuals have been identified as the Town of Laurens’s hazard mitigation plan primary and alternate points of contact.

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Name: Barbara Monroe Title: Land Use Officer, Floodplain Administrator Phone Number: (607)-267-7687 Address: PO Box 134 Laurens NY 13796 Email: milfordnyzeo@gmail.com	Name: Patricia Brockway Title: Town Supervisor Phone Number: (607)-435-7068 Address: 37 Brook St Laurens NY 13796 Email: laurensupervisor@hotmail.com
Floodplain Administrator	
Name: Barbara Monroe Title: Land Use Officer, Floodplain Administrator Phone Number: (607)-267-7687 Address: PO Box 134 Laurens NY 13796 Email: milfordnyzeo@gmail.com	

9.12.2 Municipal Profile

The Town of Laurens lies just south of the center of Otsego County in central New York State. The Town of Laurens has a total area of 42.7 square miles of which 42.6 square miles is land and 0.1 square miles is water. Otego Creek flows southward through the eastern part of the town. The Town of Laurens is bordered to the north by Towns of New Lisbon and Hartwick, to the south by Towns of Oneonta and Otego, to the east by the Town of Milford, and to the west by the Town of Morris. The Village of Laurens lies within the town at the crossroads of County Roads 10, 11, and 12 near Otsego Creek. Section 9.13 (Village of Laurens) provides the village’s individual annex. A sulfur spring can be found roughly a mile north of the Village of Laurens. In addition to the village, several communities are located within the town: Butts Corners, Mount Vision (hamlet), Naylor’s Corners, and West Laurens (hamlet). The estimated 2016¹ population was 2,453 persons, a 13.5 percent increase in population from 2010 (2,161 persons).

Data from the 2016 U.S. Census American Community Survey indicates that 3.2 percent of the town population is 5 years of age or younger and 24.6 percent is 65 years of age or older. Communities must deploy a support system that enables all populations to safely reach shelters or to quickly evacuate a hazard area.

¹ A full set of 2017 demographics data was not available, so 2016 data was used.



History and Cultural Resources

The Town of Laurens was first settled in 1773. The raiding party responsible for the Cherry Valley Massacre also pillaged part of Laurens and burned some property. The town was formed from a portion of the Town of Otsego in 1810. It was named for Revolutionary War hero Henry Laurens.

A resort developed by the Oneonta Mohawk trolley line called Otsego Park was formerly located in the eastern part of Laurens. Cotton mills once were an industry in Laurens, powered by the water of Gilbert Lake.

Growth/Development Trends

Table 9.12-1 summarizes major residential/commercial development as of 2013 and any known or anticipated major residential, commercial, and major infrastructure development that is likely to occur within the town in the next 5 years. The map in Figure 9.12-1 of this annex illustrates the hazard areas along with the location of potential new development.

Table 9.12-1. Growth and Development

Property or Development Name	Type (e.g. Res., Comm.)	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or Parcel ID)	Known Hazard Zone(s)*	Description/Status of Development
Recent Development from 2013 to present					
Otsego County Solar Array	Comm.	N/A	225.00-1-30.00	None	Complete
Delaware River Solar Array	Comm.	N/A	240.00-2-9.02	None	Complete
Known or Anticipated Development in the Next Five (5) Years					
Mt. Vision Fire Dept.	Comm.	1	208.01-1-19.00	None	In Progress

* Only location-specific hazard zones or vulnerabilities identified.

9.12.3 Hazard Event History Specific to the Town of Laurens

Otsego County has a history of natural events as detailed in Volume I, Section 5.0 (Risk Assessment). A summary of historical events is provided in each of the hazard profiles and includes a chronology of events that have affected the county and its municipalities. The Town of Laurens’ history of federally-declared (as presented by FEMA) and significant hazard events (as presented in NOAA-NCEI) is consistent with that of Otsego County. Table 9.12-2 provides details regarding municipal-specific loss and damages the town experienced during hazard events. Information provided in the table below is based on reference material or local sources.

Table 9.12-2. Hazard Event History

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration if applicable)	Otsego County Designated?	Summary of Event	Municipal Summary of Damages and Losses
June 26- July 11, 2013	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4129)	Yes	Severe thunderstorms across central New York resulted in flash flooding.	Although the county was impacted, the town did not report damages.
May 13- 22, 2014	Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4180)	Yes	On May 16, heavy rainfall resulted in flash flooding and washed out roads.	Although the county was impacted, the town did not report damages.



Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration if applicable)	Otsego County Designated?	Summary of Event	Municipal Summary of Damages and Losses
November 17-27, 2014	Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding (DR-4204)	No	A snowstorm developed on November 26 th . Snowfall amounts ranged from 7-11 inches across the county. The highest amount of 11 inches fell in Cooperstown.	Although the county was impacted, the town did not report damages.
March 14-15, 2017	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm (DR-4322)	Yes	Snowfall ranged between 3 and 4 feet in Otsego County. Many municipalities, and counties declared states of emergencies and/or travel bans. New York State also declared a state of emergency.	Although the county was impacted, the town did not report damages.

Notes:

DR Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)

9.12.4 Hazard Ranking and Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities

The hazard profiles in Section 5.0 (Risk Assessment) of this plan have detailed information regarding each plan participant’s vulnerability to the identified hazards. The following summarizes the hazards of greatest concern and risk to the Town of Laurens.

Hazard Risk Ranking

Table 9.12-3 presents a county-level ranking of all hazards of concern as included in Volume I of this hazard mitigation plan, as well as the community specific identification of the primary hazard concerns based on identified problems, impacts, and the results of the risk assessment, as presented in Section 5 (Risk Assessment). The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard, along with its potential impacts on people, property, and the economy, as well as community capability and changing future climate conditions. This input supports the mitigation action development to target those hazards with highest level of concern.

During the review of the hazard/vulnerability risk ranking, the town indicated the following:

- The town changed the hazard ranking for earthquake from medium to low.
- The town changed the hazard ranking for extreme temperature from high to medium.
- The town changed the hazard ranking from wildfire from high to low.

Table 9.12-3. Hazard Risk/Vulnerability Risk Ranking

Hazard of Concern	County Hazard Ranking	Community Hazard Ranking
Drought	Medium	Medium
Earthquake	High	Low*
Extreme Temperature	High	Medium*
Flood	Medium	Medium
Landslide	Low	Low
Severe Storm	High	High
Severe Winter Storm	High	High
Wildfire	High	Low*

Notes:

* The municipality changed the initial ranking of this hazard based on event history and municipal experience.



Critical Facilities Flood Risk

NYS DEC Statute 6 CRR-NY 502.4 sets forth floodplain management criteria for state projects located in flood hazard areas. The law provides that no such projects related to critical facilities shall be undertaken in a SFHA unless constructed according to specific mitigation specifications, including being raised 2 feet above the BFE. This statute is outlined at <http://tinyurl.com/6-CRR-NY-502-4>. While all vulnerabilities should be assessed and documented, the state places a high priority on exposure to flooding. Critical facilities located in an SFHA, or having ever sustained previous flooding, must be protected to the 500-year flood event or worst damage scenario. For those that do not meet these criteria, the jurisdiction must identify an action to achieve this level of protection. (NYS DHSES 2017)

The table below identifies critical facilities in the community located in the 1-percent and 0.2-percent floodplain and presents HAZUS-MH indicates the damage and loss of use to critical facilities as a result of a 1-percent annual chance flood event.

Table 9.12-4. Potential Flood Losses to Critical Facilities

Name	Type	Exposure		Addressed by Proposed Action
		1% Event	0.2% Event	
Bridge 2227600 on Route 205 near Angel Road	Bridge	X	X	T. Laurens-3
Bridge 3353870 on Route 205 south of Caroline Avenue	Bridge	X	X	T. Laurens-3
Bridge 3353880 on Water Street next to Village of Laurens	Bridge	X	X	T. Laurens-3

Source: FEMA 2017; Otsego County 2018

Identified Issues

The municipality has identified the following vulnerabilities within their community:

- The town lacks an outreach program on hazards.

9.12.5 Capability Assessment

This section identifies the following capabilities of the local jurisdiction:

- Planning and regulatory capability
- Administrative and technical capability
- Fiscal capability
- Community classification
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Integration of mitigation planning into existing and future planning mechanisms

Planning and Regulatory Capability

The table below summarizes the regulatory tools that are available to the Town of Laurens.



Table 9.12-5. Planning and Regulatory Tools

Tool / Program (code, ordinance, plan)	Do you have this? (Yes/No) If Yes, date of adoption or update	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Dept. /Agency Responsible	Code Citation and Comments (Code Chapter, name of plan, explanation of authority, etc.)
Planning Capability				
Comprehensive Plan	No	-	-	-
Capital Improvements Plan	No	-	-	-
Floodplain Management / Basin Plan	No	-	-	-
Stormwater Management Plan	No	-	-	-
Open Space Plan	No	-	-	-
Stream Corridor Management Plan	No	-	-	-
Watershed Management or Protection Plan	No	-	-	-
Economic Development Plan	No	-	-	-
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	No	-	-	-
Emergency Operation Plan	No	-	-	-
Evacuation Plan	No	-	-	-
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	No	-	-	-
Transportation Plan	No	-	-	-
Strategic Recovery Planning Report	No	-	-	-
Other Plans:	No	-	-	-
Regulatory Capability				
Building Code	Yes	State & Local	County	NYS Building Code
Zoning Ordinance	No	-	-	-
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	Local	Information unavailable from town	Code citation unavailable from town
NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Yes	Federal, State, Local	FPA	Code citation unavailable from town
NFIP: Cumulative Substantial Damages	No	-	-	-
NFIP: Freeboard	Yes	State, Local	FPA	State mandated BFE+2 for all construction, both residential and non-residential
Growth Management Ordinances	No	-	-	-
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	Local	Information unavailable from town	Code citation unavailable from town
Stormwater Management Ordinance	No	-	-	-
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)	No	-	-	-
Natural Hazard Ordinance	No	-	-	-



Tool / Program (code, ordinance, plan)	Do you have this? (Yes/No) If Yes, date of adoption or update	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Dept. /Agency Responsible	Code Citation and Comments (Code Chapter, name of plan, explanation of authority, etc.)
Post-Disaster Recovery Ordinance	No	-	-	-
Real Estate Disclosure Requirement	Yes	State	NYS Department of State, Real Estate Agent	NYS mandate, Property Condition Disclosure Act, NY Code - Article 14 §460-467
Other (Special Purpose Ordinances [i.e., sensitive areas, steep slope])	No	-	-	-

Administrative and Technical Capability

The table below summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to the Town of Laurens.

Table 9.12-6. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Resources	Is this in place? (Yes or No)	Department/ Agency/Position
Administrative Capability		
Planning Board	Yes	Planning Board
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	-
Environmental Board/Commission	No	-
Open Space Board/Committee	No	-
Economic Development Commission/Committee	No	-
Maintenance programs to reduce risk	No	-
Mutual aid agreements	No	-
Technical/Staffing Capability		
Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	No	-
Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	No	-
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	No	-
NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA)	Yes	Land Use Officer
Surveyor(s)	No	-
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS and/or Hazards United States (HAZUS) – Multi-Hazards (MH) applications	No	-
Scientist familiar with natural hazards	No	-
Warning systems/services	No	-
Emergency Manager	No	-
Grant writer(s)	No	-
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	No	-
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	No	-



Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to the Town of Laurens.

Table 9.12-7. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No)
Community development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)	No
Capital improvements project funding	No
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	No
User fees for water, sewer, gas or electric service	No
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	No
Stormwater utility fee	No
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	No
Incur debt through special tax bonds	No
Incur debt through private activity bonds	No
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No
Other federal or state Funding Programs	No
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No
Other	No

Community Classifications

The table below summarizes classifications for community programs available to the Town of Laurens.

Table 9.12-8. Community Classifications

Program	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Classification (if applicable)	Date Classified (if applicable)
Community Rating System (CRS)	No	-	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	No	-	-
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	No	-	-
NYSDEC Climate Smart Community	No	-	-
Storm Ready Certification	Yes	Storm Ready County	2015
Firewise Communities classification	No	-	-
Natural disaster/safety programs in/for schools	No	-	-
Organizations with mitigation focus (advocacy group, non-government)	No	-	-
Public education program/outreach (through website, social media)	No	-	-
Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	No	-	-
Other	No	-	-

Note:

- Unavailable

The classifications listed above relate to the community’s ability to provide effective services to lessen its vulnerability to the hazards identified. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community’s capabilities in all phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation) and are used as an underwriting parameter for determining the costs of various forms of insurance. The CRS class applies



to flood insurance while the BCEGS and Public Protection classifications apply to standard property insurance. CRS classifications range on a scale of 1 to 10, with class 1 being the best possible classification and class 10 representing no classification benefit. Firewise classifications include a higher classification when the subject property is located beyond 1,000 feet of a creditable fire hydrant and is within 5 road miles of a recognized fire station.

Criteria for classification credits are outlined in the following documents:

- The Community Rating System Coordinators Manual.
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (<https://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/>).
- The ISO Mitigation online ISO’s Public Protection (<https://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/>).
- New York State Climate Smart Communities (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/56876.html>).
- The National Weather Service Storm Ready (<https://www.weather.gov/stormready/communities>).
- The National Firewise Communities (<http://firewise.org/>).

Self-Assessment of Capability

The table below provides an approximate measure of the Town of Laurens’ capability to work in a hazard-mitigation capacity and/or effectively implement hazard mitigation strategies to reduce hazard vulnerabilities.

Table 9.12-9. Self-Assessment Capability for the Municipality

Area	Degree of Hazard Mitigation Capability		
	Limited (If limited, what are your obstacles?)	Moderate	High
Planning and regulatory capability	X – staff and budget		
Administrative and technical capability	X – staff and budget		
Fiscal capability	X – staff and budget		
Community political capability	X – staff and budget		
Community resiliency capability	X – staff and budget		
Capability to integrate mitigation into municipal processes and activities	X – staff and budget		

National Flood Insurance Program

This section provides specific information on the management and regulation of the regulatory floodplain.

NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA)

Barbara Monroe, Land Use Officer/Floodplain Administrator

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary

The Town of Laurens does not maintain lists/inventories of properties that have been flood damaged or make Substantial Damage Determinations. No property owners are currently interested in mitigation.

The following table summarizes the NFIP statistics for the Town of Laurens.

Table 9.12-10. NFIP Summary

Municipality	# Policies	# Claims (Losses)	Total Loss Payments	# RL Properties	# SRL Properties	# Policies in the 1% Flood Boundary





Laurens (T)	4	3	\$6,039	0	0	0
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Source: FEMA 2018

Notes:

(1) Policies, claims, RL, and SRL statistics provided by FEMA Region 2, and are current as of June 30, 2018. Total number of RL properties does not include SRL properties. Number of claims represents claims closed by July 31, 2018.

(2) Total building and content losses from the claims file provided by FEMA Region 2.

(3) Number of policies inside and outside of flood zones is based on latitude and longitude coordinates provided by FEMA Region 2 in the policy file. FEMA noted that for a property with more than one entry, more than one policy may have been in force or more than one Geographic Information System (GIS) specification was possible. Number of policies and claims, and claims total, exclude properties outside Otsego County boundary, based on provided latitude and longitude coordinates.

Resources

The FPA is the sole person responsible for floodplain administration. NFIP administration services and functions provided by the town include permit review, inspections, record keeping (elevation certificates). The town does not provide any education or outreach to the community regarding flood hazards/risk and flood risk reduction. The FPA stated that they feel adequately supported and trained to fulfill their responsibilities as the municipal floodplain administrator and did not identify any barriers to running an effective floodplain management program. The FPA would consider attending continuing education and/or certification training on floodplain management if it were offered in the county for all local floodplain administrators.

Compliance History

The Town of Laurens is in good-standing with the NFIP. The most recent compliance audit of a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) took place on August 26, 2008.

Regulatory

The Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for the Town of Lauren meets state and federal standards. The FPA noted that other local ordinances, plans or programs (e.g. site plan review) that support floodplain management and meeting the NFIP requirements. The town would consider joining the Community Rating System (CRS) program to reduce flood insurance premiums for their insured and would attend a CRS seminar if offered locally.

Integration of Hazard Mitigation into Existing and Future Planning Mechanisms

For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into the day-to-day local government operations. As part of this planning effort, each community was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of their community’s progress in plan integration. A summary is provided below. In addition, the community identified specific integration activities that will be incorporated into municipal procedures, which is also indicated below.

Planning

Existing Integration

The Town of Laurens does not have a Comprehensive Plan, Re-Development Plan, Growth Plan, Economic Development Plan, Open Space Plan, Watershed or Stream Corridor Management Plan, Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, a Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) plan(s), Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, or Post-Disaster Recovery Plan/Strategic Recovery Plan.

Opportunities for Future Integration

New plans for the Town of Laurens could include information on natural hazard risk and refer to the Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan.



Regulatory and Enforcement (Ordinances)

Existing Integration

Municipal zoning and subdivision regulations, and/or site plan review process, consider natural hazard risk but do not require developers to take additional actions to mitigate natural hazards. The Planning Board/ZBA is provided with GIS and SEQR to guide their decisions with respect to natural hazard risk management.

Opportunities for Future Integration

The Town of Laurens could require developers to take additional actions to mitigate natural hazards.

Operational and Administration

Existing Integration

The Town of Laurens does not have a municipal planner, contract planning firm, boards, or committees that include functions with respect to managing natural hazard risk. NFIP Floodplain Management functions are performed by the Floodplain Administrator. The town does not have staff or contract with firms that have experience with developing Benefit-Cost Analysis, can perform Substantial Damage Determinations, or have experience in preparing grant applications for mitigation projects. No town staff have job descriptions that involve natural hazard risk and staff do not receive training or continuing professional education which supports natural hazard risk reduction. Town staff do participate in associations, organizations, groups or other committees that support natural hazard risk reduction and build hazard management capabilities. The town does not have other hazard management programs in place.

Opportunities for Future Integration

Staff could receive training regarding natural hazard mitigation. The town could contract with firms that have experience with developing Benefit-Cost Analysis, can perform Substantial Damage Determinations, and have experience in preparing grant applications for mitigation projects

Funding

Existing Integration

The Town of Laurens does not have a line item for mitigation projects/activities in the municipal budget or have a Capital Improvements Budget. The town has not pursued or been awarded grant funds for mitigation-related projects. The town does not have any other mechanisms to fiscally support hazard mitigation projects.

Opportunities for Future Integration

The town could apply for grants and allocate funding from the municipal budget funding to support hazard mitigation projects.

Education and Outreach

Existing Integration

The Town of Laurens currently does not have any public outreach mechanisms or programs to inform citizens on natural hazards.

Opportunities for Future Integration

The town could create a public outreach and education program.



Sheltering, Evacuation, and Temporary Housing

Temporary housing, evacuation routes, and sheltering measures must be in place and available for public awareness to protect residents, mitigate risk, and relocate residents, if necessary, to maintain post-disaster social and economic stability.

Evacuation and Sheltering Needs

The Town of Laurens has not established emergency shelters, evacuation routes, or evacuation procedures. In the event of an emergency, the town would follow the county's guidance.

Temporary and Permanent Housing

The Town of Laurens has identified the following potential sites for the placement of temporary housing for residents displaced by a disaster:

- Laurens Central School: 55 Main Street, Laurens, NY 13796
- Laurens Fire Department: 34 Main Street, Laurens, NY 13796
- Mt. Vision Fire Department: 179 Co. Highway 11B, Laurens, NY 13796

The town has not identified potential sites suitable for relocating houses of the floodplain and/or building new homes once properties in the floodplain are acquired but would work with the county to identify appropriate locations.

9.12.6 Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization

This section discusses past mitigations actions and status, describes proposed hazard mitigation initiatives, and provides their prioritization.

Past Mitigation Initiative Status

The following table indicates progress on the community's mitigation strategy identified in the 2013 Plan. Actions that are carried forward as part of this plan update are included in the following subsection in its own table with prioritization. Previous actions that are now on-going programs and capabilities are indicated as such in the following table and may also be found under 'Capability Assessment' presented previously in this annex.



Table 9.12-11. Status of Previous Mitigation Actions

Project #	Project	Hazard(s) Addressed	Brief Summary of the Original Problem	Responsible Party	Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if project status is complete)		Next Steps 1. Project to be included in 2021 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2021 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
						Cost	Level of Protection Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success	
	Initiate a public awareness program county-wide to increase awareness of climate change affected by natural hazards and promote water and air quality countywide.	Wildfire, Flood, Drought, Extreme Temperature	The public needs education on climate change impacts.	Planning, Health & Human Services, EOC	No progress			1. Include in 2021 HMP 2. Establish municipal outreach program 3.
	Identify the location of beaver dams near municipalities/ structures via GPS unit.	Flood	Beaver dams can cause flooding.	County Planning, County Highway	No progress			1. Discontinue 2. 3. No longer a priority
	Work with communities to identify public or private land to place temporary short-term and long-term housing units for residents displaced by a disaster.	Flood	Locations for temporary and long-term housing need to be identified.	Emergency Services, Public Works, Hazard Mitigation Committee Rep.	Complete			1. Discontinue 2. 3. Complete
	Work with communities to develop, coordinate, and implement a program to protect critical facilities to the 500-year flood before, during, and following a flood event.	Flood	Critical facilities need to be protected to the 500-year flood level.	Emergency Services, Public Works, Hazard Mitigation Committee Rep.	No progress			1. Discontinue 2. 3. No critical facilities in floodplain
	Implement emergency stream intervention training for municipal highway departments.	Flood	Stream intervention training is needed.	Otsego County Soil and Water	No progress			1. Discontinue 2. 3. No longer a priority
		Flood			No progress			1. Discontinue





Project #	Project	Hazard(s) Addressed	Brief Summary of the Original Problem	Responsible Party	Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if project status is complete)		Next Steps 1. Project to be included in 2021 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2021 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
						Level of Protection	Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success	
	Implement Certified Floodplain Manager Training for soil and water personnel.		Soil and water staff need additional training.	Otsego County Soil and Water		Level of Protection		2.
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		3. No longer a priority
	Improve natural hazard dataset(s) to increase technical data availability for spatial data to mitigate against landslide and subsidence.	Landslide, Subsidence	Improved datasets are needed to mitigate geological hazards.	Otsego County Planning Dept. OES, County Highway	No progress	Cost		1. Discontinue
						Level of Protection		2.
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		3. No longer a priority
	Work with communications providers and local jurisdictions for expanding cell phone coverage in areas of the county where there are no cell towers or limited service.	Winter Storm, Extreme Temperature, Drought, Flood, Wildfire, Tornado, Hurricane, Landslide, Earthquake, Dam Failure	Cell phone coverage is limited, leading to communication limitations during hazard events.	County Planning Dept.	No progress	Cost		1. Discontinue
						Protection		2.
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		3. No longer a priority
	Educate property owners about potential contamination and applicable restrictions in municipal water supplies and watersheds draining to affected county and municipalities' water supplies.	Flood, Thunderstorm, Winter Storm	Property owners require education on water supplies and watersheds.	County OES, County Planning	No progress	Cost		1. Include in 2021 HMP
						Level of Protection		2. Include as part of natural hazard outreach program.
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		3.
	Purchase laptop and other equipment to assist county in implementing, monitoring, and updating the Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan as Subgrantee and Planning Team lead.	Winter Storm, Extreme Temperature, Drought, Flood, Wildfire, Tornado, Hurricane, Landslide, Earthquake, Dam Failure	Additional technology access is needed.	County Planning Dept.	No progress	Cost		1. Discontinue
						Level of Protection		2.
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		3. No longer a priority





Completed Mitigation Initiatives Not Identified in the Previous Mitigation Strategy

The Town of Laurens has performed ongoing maintenance projects to reduce the impact of flooding but has not identified specific mitigation projects/activities that were completed but not identified in the previous mitigation strategy in the 2013 Plan.

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives for the Plan Update

The Town of Laurens participated in a mitigation action workshop on February 19, 2019.

Table 9.12-12 summarizes the comprehensive-range of specific mitigation initiatives the Town of Laurens would like to pursue in the future to reduce the effects of hazards. Some of these initiatives may be previous actions carried forward for this plan update. These initiatives are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities. Both the 4 FEMA mitigation action categories and the 6 CRS mitigation action categories are listed in the table below to further demonstrate the wide-range of activities and mitigation measures selected.

As discussed in Section 6, 14 evaluation/prioritization criteria are used to complete the prioritization of mitigation initiatives. For each new mitigation action, a numeric rank is assigned (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the 14 evaluation criteria to assist with prioritizing your actions as 'High', 'Medium', or 'Low.' The table below summarizes the evaluation of each mitigation initiative, listed by Action Number.

Table 9.12-13 provides a summary of the prioritization of all proposed mitigation initiatives for the plan update.



Table 9.12-12. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Project Number	Project Name	Description of the Problem and Solution	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Goals Met	Critical Facility (Yes / No)	EHP Issues?	Estimated Timeline	Lead and Support Agencies	Estimated Cost	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Mitigation Category/ CRS Category
T. Laurens-1	Outreach Program	<p>Problem: The Town of Laurens lacks an education or outreach program regarding natural hazards that could impact the town. Residents need to be educated to properly prepare for hazard events and mitigate private property.</p> <p>Solution: The Town of Laurens will develop and implement a multi-hazard public awareness program. This will include developing a municipal website to include information on the types of hazards that can impact the town, how residents can prepare for the different types of events, and how to sign up to receive emergency notifications issued by the county. The town will also provide hazard-related information in tax bills and municipal newsletters. Information could include generator safety, how to drive in winter weather, preparing for long-term power outages, etc.</p>	All Hazards	3	No	None	Within 5 years	Town Board	\$2,000	Public educated on hazards and preparedness	Municipal budget	High	EAP/ PI
T. Laurens-2	Vegetation Management Program	<p>Problem: High hazard trees pose a risk for falling on private property and utilities during storm events. The town does not have a program in place to monitor and inspect trees and identify ones that need to be trimmed or removed.</p> <p>Solution: The town will develop a vegetation management program. This program will include routine inspections of trees in the municipal rights-of-way, identify trees that are in need of trimming or removal, and conduct the trimming and removal. This will help</p>	Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm	1	No	None	Within 5 years	Highway Department	\$10,000	Reduction in falling tree risk, reduce power outages, protect infrastructure	Municipal budget	High	NSP/ NR



Table 9.12-12. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Project Number	Project Name	Description of the Problem and Solution	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Goals Met	Critical Facility (Yes / No)	EHP Issues?	Estimated Timeline	Lead and Support Agencies	Estimated Cost	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Mitigation Category/ CRS Category
		reduce tree damage, road closures, and power outages during severe weather events. A majority of the tree work will be conducted by the Highway Department; however, outside contractors might be used if removal is beyond the Department’s capability.											
T. Laurens-3	Flood Study of flood prone bridges	<p>Problem: Several local bridges are within the 100-year floodplain and can be damaged during a flood. The exposure to flooding is unknown.</p> <p>Solution: The Town of Laurens will complete a flood study of local flood prone bridges to determine flood sources. Possible mitigation actions to protect the bridges to the 500-year flood level will be researched.</p>	Flood	2	Yes	None	Within 5 years	Town Board, Highway Department	\$5,000	Flood exposure known, mitigation options identified.	HMGP, PDM, Municipal budget	High	LPR, SIP/ PP

Notes:

Not all acronyms and abbreviations defined below are included in the table.

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

- CAV Community Assistance Visit
- CRS Community Rating System
- DPW Department of Public Works
- EHP Environmental and Historic Preservation
- FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FPA Floodplain Administrator
- HMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- N/A Not applicable
- NFIP National Flood Insurance Program
- OEM Office of Emergency Management

Potential FEMA HMA Funding Sources:

- FMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- HMGP Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- PDM Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

Timeline:

The time required for completion of the project upon implementation

Cost:

The estimated cost for implementation.

Benefits:

A description of the estimated benefits, either quantitative and/or qualitative.

Mitigation Category:

- Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) – These actions include government authorities, policies or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.





- *Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)* - These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.
- *Natural Systems Protection (NSP)* – These are actions that minimize damage and losses, and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- *Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)* – These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady and Firewise Communities.

CRS Category:

- *Preventative Measures (PR)* - Government, administrative or regulatory actions, or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.
- *Property Protection (PP)* - These actions include public activities to reduce hazard losses or actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.
- *Public Information (PI)* - Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and educational programs for school-age children and adults.
- *Natural Resource Protection (NR)* - Actions that minimize hazard loss and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.
- *Structural Flood Control Projects (SP)* - Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, setback levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.
- *Emergency Services (ES)* - Actions that protect people and property during and immediately following a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities.

Critical Facility:


- Yes  - Critical Facility located in the 1% floodplain.



Table 9.12-13. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Technical	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social	Administrative	Multi-Hazard	Timeline	Agency Champion	Other Community	Total	High / Medium / Low
T. Laurens-1	Outreach Program	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	13	High
T. Laurens-2	Vegetation Management	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	13	High
T. Laurens-3	Flood Study of flood prone bridges	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	10	High

Note: Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) conveys guidance on prioritizing mitigation actions.



9.12.7 Future Needs To Better Understand Risk/Vulnerability

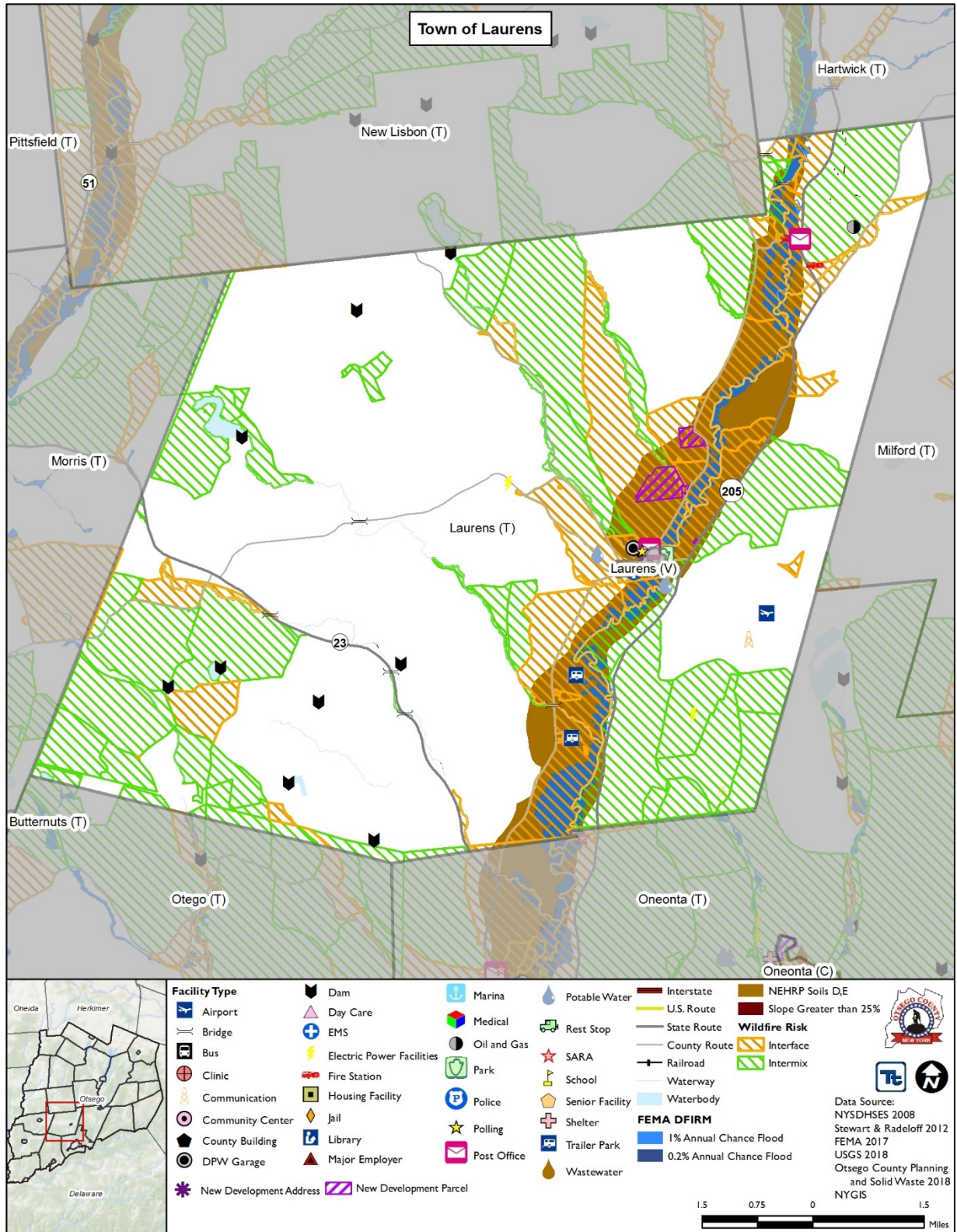
None at this time.

9.12.8 Hazard Area Extent and Location

A hazard area extent and location map has been generated for the Town of Laurens that illustrates the probable areas impacted within the municipality. The map is based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan and is adequate for planning purposes. The map has been generated only for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies and for which the Town of Laurens has significant exposure. The map is illustrated below.



Figure 9.12-1. Town of Laurens Hazard Area Extent and Location Map





9.12.9 Staff and Local Stakeholder Involvement in Annex Development

The Town of Laurens followed the planning process described in Section 3 (Planning Process) in Volume I of this plan update. This annex was developed over the course of several months with input from many town departments, including the Land Use Officer/Floodplain Administrator and the Town Supervisor. The Land Use Officer/Floodplain Administrator represented the community on the Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Partnership and supported the local planning process requirements by securing input from persons with specific knowledge to enhance the plan. All departments were asked to contribute to the annex development through reviewing and contributing to the capability assessment, reporting on the status of previously identified actions, and participating in action identification and prioritization.

Additional documentation on the municipality's planning process through Planning Partnership meetings is included in Section 3 (Planning Process) and Appendix C (Meeting Documentation).

9.12.10 Additional Comments

None at this time.



Town of Laurens Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Outreach Program		
Project Number:	T. Laurens-1		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	All Hazards		
Description of the Problem:	The Town of Laurens lacks an education or outreach program regarding natural hazards that could impact the town. Residents need to be educated to properly prepare for hazard events and mitigate private property.		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	The Town of Laurens will develop and implement a multi-hazard public awareness program. This will include developing a municipal website to include information on the types of hazards that can impact the town, how residents can prepare for the different types of events, and how to sign up to receive emergency notifications issued by the county. The town will also provide hazard-related information in tax bills and municipal newsletters. Information could include generator safety, how to drive in winter weather, preparing for long-term power outages, etc.		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	N/A	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	Public educated on hazards and preparedness
Useful Life:	1 year (outreach to be annual)	Goals Met:	3
Estimated Cost:	\$2,000	Mitigation Action Type:	Education and Awareness Project
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	5 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	1 year	Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal budget
Responsible Organization:	Town Board	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:	N/A
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action	\$0	Problem continues.
	Encourage residents to educate themselves	\$0	Residents might not be aware of where to access information
	Ask non-profits to conduct outreach	\$0	Non-profits might not be able or willing to provide outreach
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			



Action Worksheet		
Project Name:	Outreach Program	
Project Number:	T. Laurens-1	
Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	1	Project will encourage better citizen preparedness.
Property Protection	1	Project will encourage private home and business mitigation.
Cost-Effectiveness	1	
Technical	1	
Political	1	
Legal	1	The town has the legal authority to conduct outreach.
Fiscal	1	Municipal budget
Environmental	1	
Social	1	
Administrative	1	
Multi-Hazard	1	All hazards
Timeline	0	
Agency Champion	1	Town Board
Other Community Objectives	1	
Total	13	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	



Town of Laurens Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Vegetation Management		
Project Number:	T. Laurens-2		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm		
Description of the Problem:	High hazard trees pose a risk for falling on private property and utilities during storm events. The town does not have a program in place to monitor and inspect trees and identify ones that need to be trimmed or removed.		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	The town will develop a vegetation management program. This program will include routine inspections of trees in the municipal rights-of-way, identify trees that are in need of trimming or removal, and conduct the trimming and removal. This will help reduce tree damage, road closures, and power outages during severe weather events. A majority of the tree work will be conducted by the Highway Department; however, outside contractors might be used if removal is beyond the Department's capability.		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	N/A	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	Reduction in falling tree risk, reduce power outages, protect infrastructure
Useful Life:	5 years	Goals Met:	1
Estimated Cost:	\$10,000	Mitigation Action Type:	Natural Systems Protection
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	Within 5 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	6 months	Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal budget
Responsible Organization:	Highway Department	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:	N/A
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action	\$0	Problem continues.
	Remove all trees with fall risk on power lines and private property	N/A	Private property issues.
	Encourage residents to report problem trees	\$100	Reactive instead of preemptive. Not as effective in controlling risk.
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			



Action Worksheet		
Project Name:	Vegetation Management	
Project Number:	T. Laurens-2	
Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	0	
Property Protection	1	Project will protect property from damage from falling trees.
Cost-Effectiveness	1	
Technical	1	
Political	1	
Legal	1	Town has the legal authority to conduct the project.
Fiscal	1	Municipal budget
Environmental	1	
Social	1	
Administrative	1	
Multi-Hazard	1	
Timeline	0	Within 5 years
Agency Champion	1	Highway Department
Other Community Objectives	1	
Total	12	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	