

# CITY OF FITCHBURG



## 2020 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN- MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PLAN



Prepared by:

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hazard mitigation planning is a proactive process used to systematically identify policies, actions, and tools that can be used to reduce the dangers to life and property from natural hazard events. Climate adaptation planning recognizes that climate change will exacerbate the vulnerabilities and risks associated with natural hazards. The City of Fitchburg completed a planning process focused on both hazard mitigation planning and climate adaptation, which provides a robust assessment and implementation plan to build the City's resilience. The City is now eligible for hazard mitigation funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and climate adaptation funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Program.

### Planning Process

The Hazard Mitigation Plan and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (HMP-MVP Plan) was led by the Fitchburg's Department of Public Works and completed through the following steps.

- 1) Convened a core team of municipal department heads who provided key input through meeting, online surveys, and interviews.
- 2) Created a set of hazard mitigation and climate adaptation goals.
- 3) Engaged the public through a Community Resilience Building Workshop and online public engagement techniques.
- 4) Established a list of critical facilities and assets.
- 5) Conducted a vulnerability and risk assessment of historic hazards and the potential impact of climate change.
- 6) Documented the City's capacity to mitigate and respond to hazards.
- 7) Detailed progress on the Fitchburg's previously identified action items.
- 8) Developed an action and implementation strategy.
- 9) Sought public feedback on the final document.

### Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goals

The City endorsed the following set of hazard mitigation and climate adaptation goals.

- Develop programs and mitigation measures to protect the following from current natural hazards and future impacts anticipated from climate change:
  - Vulnerable populations and residents.
  - Economic development, commercial, industrial, and residential property.
  - Cultural and historic resources.
  - Critical infrastructure and the built environment.
  - Essential services, such as electric power delivery and drinking water supply.
  - Conservation land, open space, and other natural assets.
- Develop hazard mitigation and climate adaptation measures that employ nature-based solutions and protect the natural environment.
- Incorporate climate adaptation strategies and climate change projections as an integral factor in all City departments, committees, and boards.
- Incorporate climate adaptation and hazard mitigation measures into local plans, bylaws, regulations, and other planning tools to protect critical infrastructure and property, and to encourage resilient development.
- Stay up to date on emerging risks associated with climate change.
- Prioritize payment for all phases of the emergency management cycle, including mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.

- Increase awareness and provide resources for hazard mitigation to businesses and residents through outreach and education.
- Identify and seek funding for measures to mitigate or eliminate each known significant hazard area and reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Facilitate collaboration in hazard mitigation planning and climate adaptation with local businesses, institutions, non-profits, surrounding communities, and state, regional and federal agencies.
- Prevent and reduce the loss of life, injury, public health impacts, and property damages from natural hazards and the anticipated impacts of climate change.

### Vulnerability and Risk

Among the communities of Middlesex County, hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning tend to focus on flooding because it is one of the most likely natural hazards to impact these communities. However, the Fitchburg's HMP-MVP Plan assesses the potential impacts from a variety of natural disasters including:

#### Flooding



#### Extreme Temperatures



#### Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, and Tornadoes



#### Nor'easters, Ice Storms, and Severe Snowstorms



The HMP-MVP Plan documents the location and exposure hundreds critical facilities and assets. Among them are emergency services, roads, utilities, social services, and natural resources.

### Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Strategy

Through the planning process, forty-two high priority hazard mitigation and climate adaptation measures were identified covering the following topics:

- Dam Safety
- Culverts and Stormwater Drainage
- Roads and Bridges
- Erosion Control and Critical Facilities Protection
- Communications with Residents
- Shelters
- Municipal Buildings and Services
- Tree Canopy

### Next Steps

Fitchburg is dedicated to implementing the findings of this plan and documenting the process. As a now eligible community for funding through the MVP Program and FEMA, the City will look to secure resources, and to work with regional and local stakeholders, to complete the projects identified herein. The City will also continue to document hazard impacts and needed improvements to the City's capacity to mitigate and adapt. Lastly, the City will proactively incorporate the hazard mitigation and climate adaptation goals into municipal planning, budgeting, and operations. By doing so, Fitchburg will be ready to update this plan in five years to maintain its eligibility for grant funding.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Fitchburg, led by the Department of Public Works, prepared a joint Hazard Mitigation Plan and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (HMP-MVP Plan) to create a strategy to reduce the impacts of natural hazards and climate change within the community and the region. The Fitchburg HMP-MVP Plan was adopted by the City Council on **Date** to update and replace the Montachusett Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2015 Update.

### 1.1 What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Natural hazards, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding, can result in loss of life, disruptions to everyday life, and property damage. Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce these impacts through community planning, policy changes, education programs, infrastructure projects, and other activities (FEMA, 2020a). Hazard mitigation planning uses a stepped process with participation from a wide range of stakeholders to:

1. define local hazards,
2. assess vulnerabilities and risks,
3. review current mitigation measures, and
4. develop priority action items.

The resulting plan and implementation saves lives and money. For every dollar spent on federal hazard mitigation grants, an average of six dollars are saved (FEMA, 2018a). In other words, investments in preventative measures to reduce property damage and other negative impacts caused by natural hazards is less costly compared to the costs of repair or disaster response if nothing was done. There are many additional benefits of mitigation planning. HMPs increase public awareness of natural hazards that may affect the community. They allow state, local, and tribal governments to work together and combine hazard risk reduction with other community goals and plans. HMPs focus resources and attention on the community's greatest vulnerabilities.

By completing an HMP, municipalities also become eligible for specific federal funding and allow the use of potential funding sources to reflect a community's priorities. Hazard mitigation funding is available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as summarized in the table below. To be eligible for FEMA Grants, local governments are required to prepare an HMP meeting the requirements established in the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*, and as amended by the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*.



**Figure 1-1. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Saves Money Graphic (FEMA, 2018a)**

Table 1-1. FEMA Grants

FEMA Grants	Purpose
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Helps communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)	Assists in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program, in order to reduce risk to the population and structures from future hazard events.
Public Assistance Grant Program (PA)	Provides supplemental grants so that communities can quickly respond and recover from major disasters or emergencies.
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG)	Available for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands.

(FEMA, 2020b)

## 1.2 What is a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan?

In 2017, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) initiated the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program to help communities become more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The program provides two grant phases. The first grant phase is the planning grant, which funds a planning process to identify priorities action items to address vulnerabilities and utilize strengths in preparation for climate change. The MVP planning process includes convening a team of municipal staff, engaging stakeholders in a Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop following a guidebook developed by the Nature Conservancy (n.d.) and engaging the public. Communities that complete the planning grant program become eligible for the second phase of MVP grant funding (action grants) and receive increased standing in other state grant programs. MVP action grants fund the implementation of priority climate adaptation actions described in the MVP Plan. Since these action grants are only distributed to Massachusetts municipalities, they are much less competitive than similar grants awarded at the national level.

### Community Resilience Building Workshop Guidebook

The Community Resilience Building Workshop Guidebook provides a process for developing resilience action plans. The process has been implemented and successful in over four hundred communities. The process is rich in information and dialogue and results in actionable plans and strong collaboration.



The Community Resilience Building Workshop Guidebook's central objectives are to:

- Define top local natural and climate-related hazards of concern.
- Identify existing and future strengthen and vulnerabilities.
- Develop prioritized actions for the Community.
- Identify immediate opportunities to collaboratively advance actions to increase resilience.

### 1.3 Combining Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning in Fitchburg

The City of Fitchburg received an MVP Planning Grant to prepare a combined MVP and HMP plan. Many of the required steps of the MVP process also satisfy requirements for updating an HMP. As a result, the City prepared this joint HMP-MVP Plan in accordance with FEMA guidelines for hazard mitigation planning (*Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 201.6*) and with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' (EEA) requirements. This enabled Fitchburg to consider the impacts of climate change in its hazard mitigation planning, following the lead established by the Commonwealth when it adopted the first-ever Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). Fitchburg was specifically interested in incorporating climate resilience and future rainfall data into capital planning and design of its stormwater infrastructure to reduce flooding.

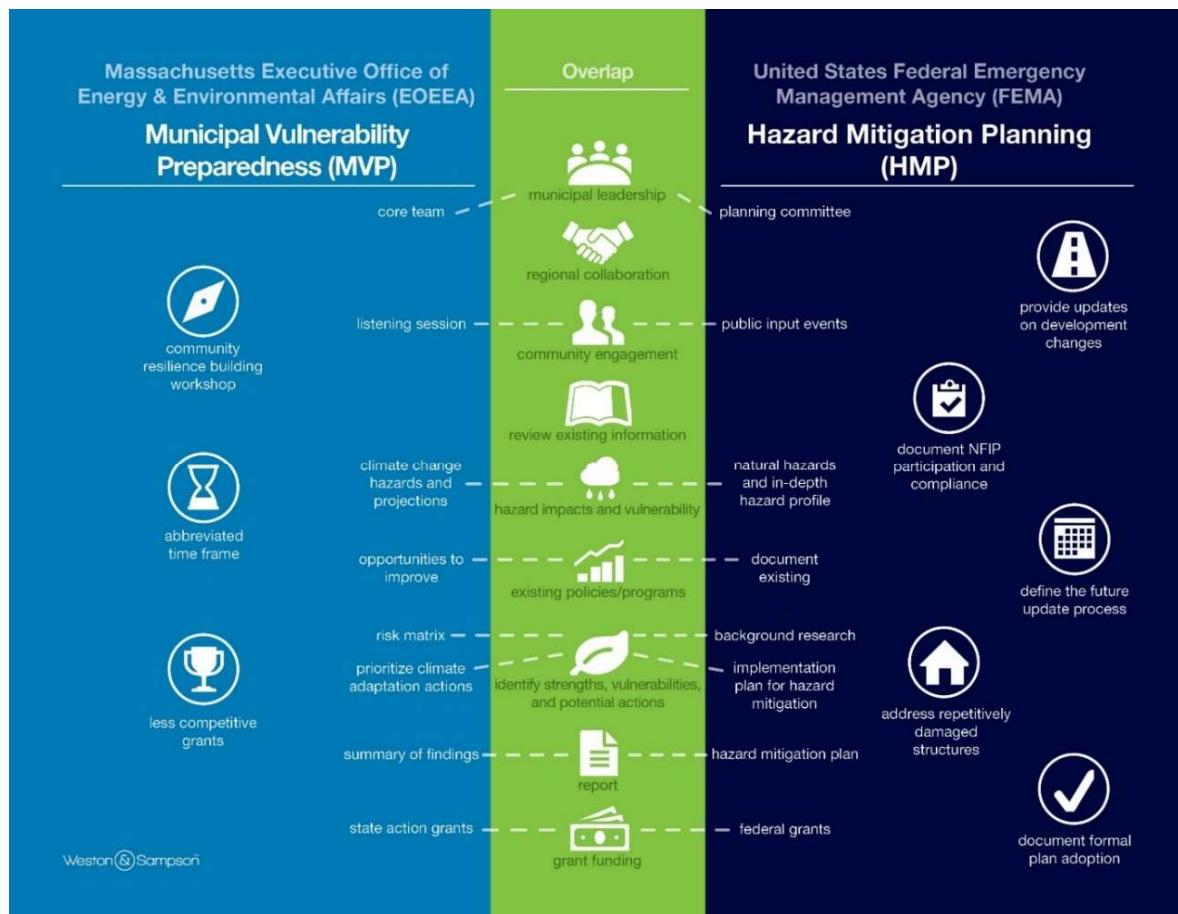


Figure 1-2. Comparison of the MVP and HMP Process (Weston & Sampson)

Facilitating discussion among stakeholders about creating a safer, more resilient community is an important aspect of the natural hazard and climate change impact mitigation planning process. The involvement of a variety of stakeholders in the development of a plan leads to results that better reflect the City's values and priorities. Additionally, the plan is more likely to have greater community support and success in implementing mitigation strategies that reduce risk.

The planning and outreach strategy used to develop this HMP-MVP Plan collected input from three categories of stakeholders:

1. The Core Team, which includes representation from municipal leadership
2. Local, regional, and State stakeholders who could be vulnerable to, or provide strength against, natural hazards and climate change
3. The public, who live and work in the City

## 1.4 Planning Process Summary

### 1.4.1 Core Team

The City of Fitchburg convened the Core Team to act as a steering committee for the development of the HMP-MVP Plan. The Core Team met on November 1, 2019 to set goals for the planning process, provide input on historic hazard events, and to plan for the Workshop. The Core Team was then continuously engaged through regular emails, interviews, and the review of deliverables. The Core Team met a second time on April 23, 2020 to discuss the hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategies and updates to the previous plan. More information on these meetings is included in Appendix A. The Core Team played an important role in identifying critical infrastructure, involving key stakeholders, and capturing the City's current capacity to mitigate hazards alongside ongoing operations. Members of the Core Team are listed in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2. Fitchburg's Core Team

Name	Title/Organization
Ralph Baker	Nashua River Watershed Association/ Fitchburg Greenway Committee
Mark Barbadoro	Building Commissioner
Nicolas Bosonetto	Public Works Commissioner/City Engineer
Stephen Curry	Director of the Health Department
John Deline, Jr.	Deputy Commissioner of Water Supply
Stephen DiNatale	Mayor
Nick Erickson	Civil Engineer
Joel Kaddy	City Councilor, Ward 3
Richard Liberatore	Lieutenant, Fire Department / FEMA Director
Ernest Martineau	Police Chief
Jeffrey Murawski	Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater
Mike O'Hara	Principal Planner / Planning Board Agent
Tricia Pistone	Montachusett Opportunity Council
Tom Skwierawski	Executive Director of Community Development
AJ Tourigny	Chief of Staff
Beth Walsh	City Councilor, Ward 6

The Core Team also suggested or made available reports, maps, and other pertinent information related to natural hazards and climate change impacts in Fitchburg. These included:

- Economic Development Strategic Plan (City of Fitchburg, 2018)
- Fitchburg Open Space & Recreation Plan (Fitchburg, 2014)

- USACE Inspection Report of Nashua River Flood Control System (2018)
- Community Resource Guide (n.d.)
- Montachusett Region Hazard Mitigation Plan (MRPC, 2016)
- City of Fitchburg Master Plan 2017 (Fitchburg, 2017)
- Massachusetts Climate Change Projections (NECSC, 2018)
- Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report (EEA, 2011)
- Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation (EEA and EOPSS, 2018)
- Local Mitigation Planning Handbook, May 2017 (FEMA, 2017a)
- Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FEMA, 1991)
- Storm Event Database, National Center for Environmental Information (NOAA, 2019)
- National Water Information System (USGS)
- Decennial Census (US Census Bureau, 2010)
- American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (US Census Bureau, 2014-2018)

#### *1.4.2 Stakeholder Involvement - Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop and Beyond*

Stakeholders with subject matter expertise and local knowledge and experience, including public officials, regional organizations, neighboring communities, environmental organizations, and local institutions, were invited to engage throughout the planning process. The stakeholder list available in Appendix C represented various perspectives and was used as an invitee list to the CRB Workshop, to promote both listening sessions, and to seek comment on the draft report. The stakeholder list included:

- Members of agencies that have the authority to regulate development, including the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Fire Department, Building Department, and the Department of Public Works.
- Municipal staff members of the Engineering Division, Water and Sewer Division, Police Department, and Health Department, among many others.
- Representatives of organizations that serve vulnerable populations, including schools, Arc of Opportunity, and Montachusett Opportunity Council.
- State and regional representatives, including members of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Nashua River Watershed Association, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and Army Corps of Engineers.
- Neighboring communities of Westminster, Lunenburg, Ashby, and Leominster.

On March 10, 2020, twenty-three of the stakeholders met to participate in the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop. During the first part of the CRB Workshop, Weston & Sampson provided information about natural hazards and climate change. Participants also identified top hazards and infrastructural, societal, and environmental features in the City that are vulnerable to, or provide strength against, these climate challenges. During the second part of the Workshop, participants identified and prioritized key actions that would improve the City's resiliency to natural and climate-related hazards. Materials related to the workshop are included in Appendix C.

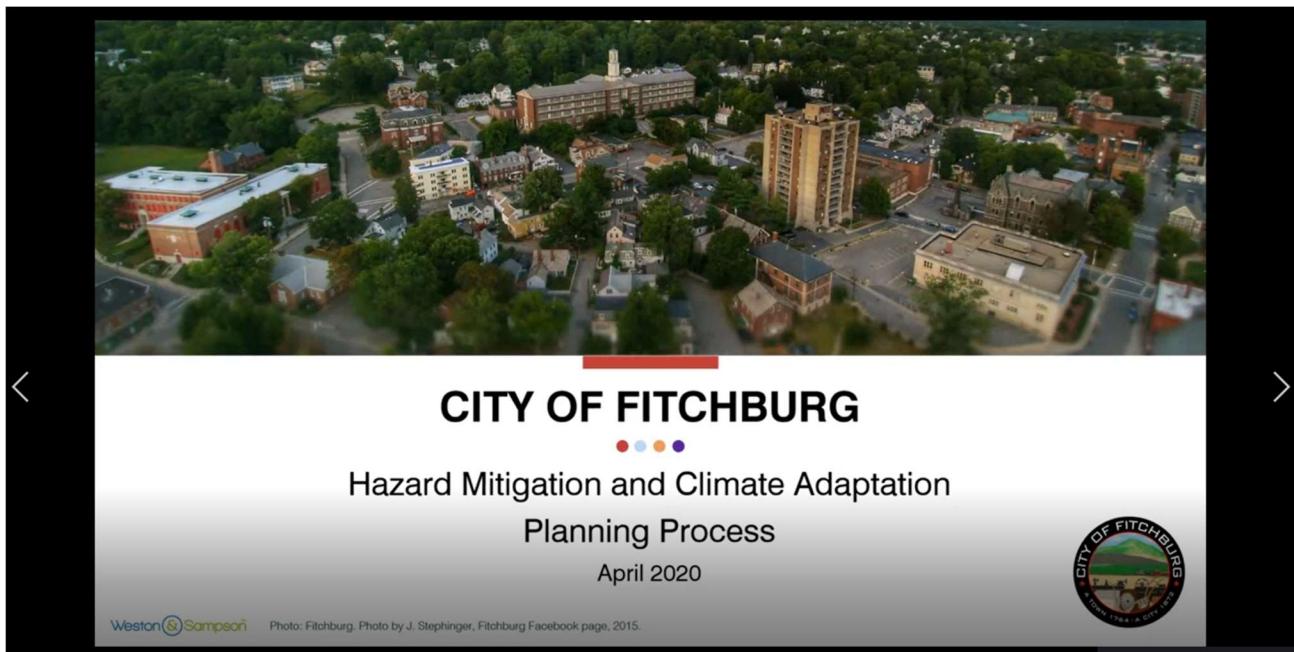


**Figure 1-3. Mayor DiNatale at Fitchburg's CRB Workshop**  
(Photo courtesy: Weston and Sampson)

#### 1.4.3 Listening Session

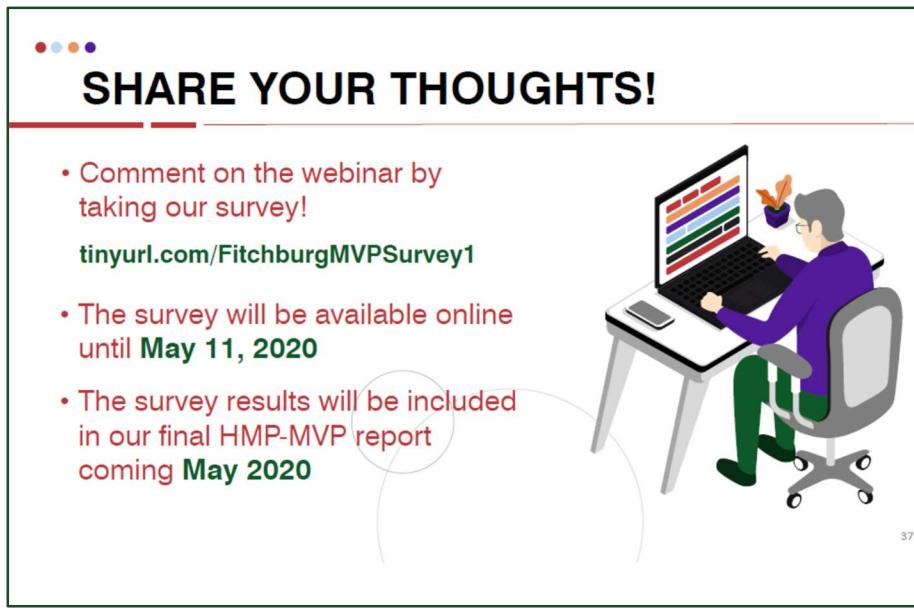
To gather information from the public and to educate the public on hazard mitigation and climate change, the City hosted two public listening sessions. Both listening sessions were advertised online through the website and social media in both English and Spanish. We also solicited support to post flyers and to advertise the event through the stakeholder list, which included help from Montachusett Opportunity Council to reach their network of over 400 people. The first listening session was at the Senior Center, held prior to the workshop on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, to discuss the overall strengths and vulnerabilities in Fitchburg. The project team had planned to dynamically poll the audience and collect feedback in real-time. However, three people attended the workshop, so the team adapted and was able to spend more time discussing the questions in more depth with attendees.

The second listening session was held virtually due to the public health concerns surrounding COVID-19 on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The second listening session presented the results of Community Resilience Building Workshop and a summary of the HMP-MVP Plan in both English and Spanish. A screenshot of the Webinar presentation is shown in Figure 1-4.



**Figure 1-4. Screenshot of Fitchburg's Virtual Public Listening Session Webinar**

The second listening session was recorded for posting online, and online surveys have been developed in both Spanish and English. Figure 1-5 shows the announcement for the online survey. Using the City's website for community engagement has facilitated a robust discussion between the project team and Fitchburg residents through both in-person and virtual formats. More information about the meetings and public comments are available in Appendix C.



**Figure 1-5. A screenshot of the announcement for the Online Survey**

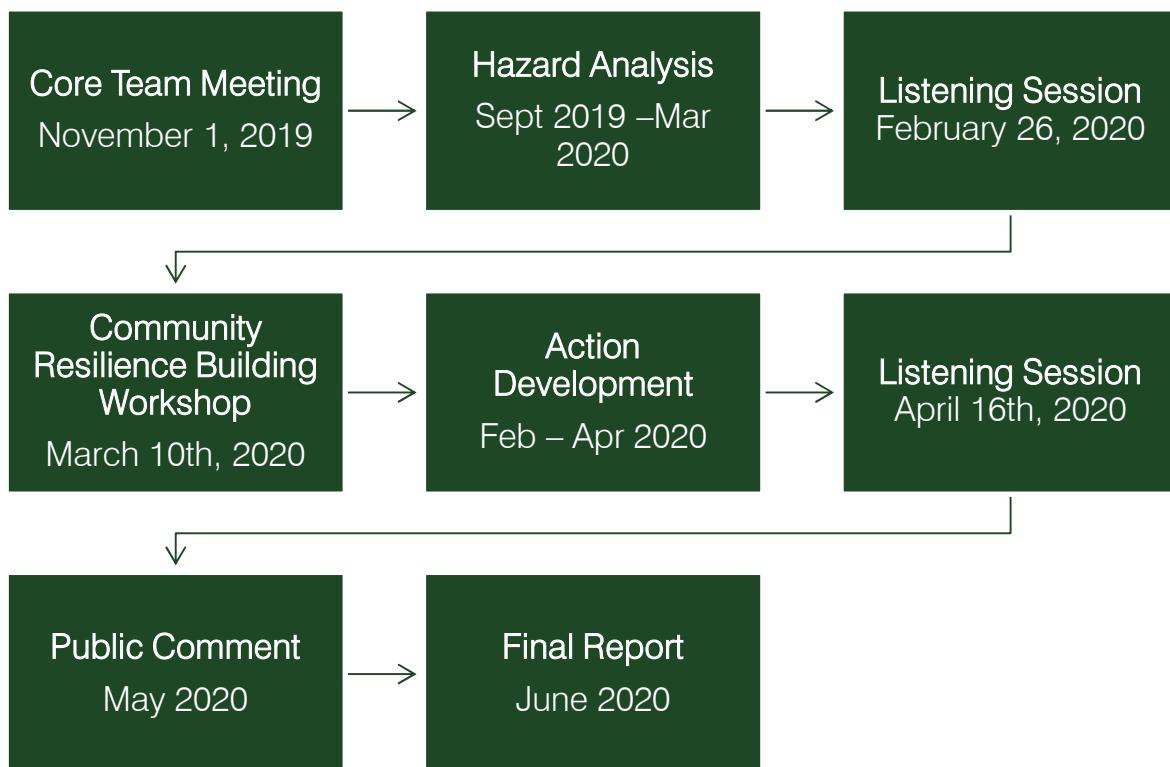
#### 1.4.4 Report Layout

The report presents the results of the planning process, which was informed by input received from the Core Team and during the CRB Workshop and Listening Sessions. This report is organized as follows:

1. Chapter 1: Project introduction and overview
2. Chapter 2: Hazard mitigation and climate adaptation goals
3. Chapter 3: Community profile; societal, economic, infrastructural, and environmental features; land use and development, critical facilities, and vulnerable populations
4. Chapter 4: Detailed assessment of the City's vulnerability and strengths by hazard type. The hazard types include flooding, wind-related risks (such as hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, nor'easters, and severe thunderstorms), winter storms, geological hazards (such as earthquakes and landslides), brush fires, extreme temperatures, and drought. Each profile also describes the hazards historic occurrences and impact, frequency, level of risk, and climate change projections.
5. Chapter 5: Summary of the existing mitigation measures the City is currently undertaking
6. Chapter 6: An update of the progress made since the last HMP
7. Chapter 7: An action plan for next steps
8. Chapter 8: Plan adoption, maintenance, and implementation

#### 1.5 Planning Timeline

The HMP-MVP planning process proceed according to the timeline below.



## 2.0 HAZARD MITIGATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION GOALS

The City of Fitchburg Core Team convened to review and discuss the hazard mitigation and climate adaptation goals for the HMP-MVP Plan. The following goals were developed and endorsed by the Core Team:

- Develop programs and mitigation measures to protect the following from current natural hazards and future impacts anticipated from climate change:
  - Vulnerable populations and residents.
  - Economic development, commercial, industrial, and residential property.
  - Cultural and historic resources.
  - Critical infrastructure and the built environment.
  - Essential services, such as electric power delivery and drinking water supply.
  - Conservation land, open space, and other natural assets.
- Develop hazard mitigation and climate adaptation measures that employ nature-based solutions and protect the natural environment.
- Incorporate climate adaptation strategies and climate change projections as an integral factor in all City departments, committees, and boards.
- Incorporate climate adaptation and hazard mitigation measures into local plans, bylaws, regulations, and other planning tools to protect critical infrastructure and property, and to encourage resilient development.
- Stay up to date on emerging risks associated with climate change.
- Prioritize payment for all phases of the emergency management cycle, including mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.
- Increase awareness and provide resources for hazard mitigation to businesses and residents through outreach and education.
- Identify and seek funding for measures to mitigate or eliminate each known significant hazard area and reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Facilitate collaboration in hazard mitigation planning and climate adaptation with local businesses, institutions, non-profits, surrounding communities, and state, regional and federal agencies.
- Prevent and reduce the loss of life, injury, public health impacts, and property damages from natural hazards and the anticipated impacts of climate change.

## 3.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

### 3.1 Community Background

The City of Fitchburg is a former industrial city in the State of Massachusetts. Founded in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, the City received its name in 1764 (City of Fitchburg website). Participants in the CRB Workshop commented on the City's sense of community and residents' willingness to offer a helping hand. The City is diverse in many aspects, with a varied topography, neighborhood types that range from rural to urban, and residents that represent diverse backgrounds.

Fitchburg was originally wilderness used for hunting and gathering by local Native Americans. European colonization of the area began in the mid-1600s (University of Massachusetts Boston, 2018). Fitchburg was an agrarian community for the next 150 years, before emerging as the industrial and textile center of north-central Massachusetts. The City's population quadrupled between 1870 and 1920. However, after the closing of textile factories, the population growth was stagnant, and the composition of the population changed. Many higher-income families left for surrounding suburban communities and lower-income households moved into the City's neighborhoods. Fitchburg's economic challenges continued with the decline of local manufacturing. However, over the last decade, Fitchburg has begun to see improvements with active local efforts to bolster economic activity. As one CRB Workshop participant noted, a visitor can walk around Fitchburg and see the City's potential.



**Figure 3-1. Left to right: Societal, Infrastructural, and Environmental features of the City of Fitchburg**  
(Photo courtesy: City Staff and Website)

### 3.2 Societal Features

Fitchburg is classified as a Gateway City, which is defined under Section 3A of Chapter 23A of the General Laws of Massachusetts as, "a municipality with a population greater than 35,000 and less than 250,000 with a median household income below the Commonwealth's average and a rate of educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or above that is below the Commonwealth's average." The City strives to preserve its historic characteristics, including those represented by the Crocker Field Historic District and the Monument Park Historic District (City of Fitchburg, 2014). Fitchburg also has one documented ancient Native American site and twelve documented historic archaeological sites (Fitchburg Reconnaissance Report, DCR).

Fitchburg has approximately 40,737 residents and in many respects is similar to Massachusetts as a whole (US Census Bureau, 2014-2018). The City of Fitchburg is similar to the State's demographic averages for age distribution, residents with disabilities, and households with limited English fluency. Fitchburg differs from the State's demographic averages for race and ethnicity representation, income

and poverty statistics, educational attainment, and renter occupancy. Fitchburg is home to more residents who are white and fewer people of color than Massachusetts overall. Fitchburg's percentage of Hispanic residents is nearly double the Commonwealth's average. Many of the City's Hispanic residents are Puerto Rican. The City's median household income is nearly \$25,000 less than the state's average. Fitchburg's poverty rate is 6% higher. The number of Fitchburg residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is approximately half that of the Commonwealth. More information is included in the table below.

**Table 3-1. Population Demographics**

	2018	Fitchburg	Massachusetts
	Population	40,737	6,602,149
	Under 18	22%	20%
<b>65+</b>	Over 65 Years Old	14%	17%
	White	81%	77%
	Black or African American	5%	8%
	Asian	4%	7%
	Two or More Races	4%	4%
	Other Races	7%	5%
	Hispanic	26%	12%
	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	21%	45%
	Median Household income	\$55,277	\$79,835
	Poverty Rate	16%	10%
	With a Disability	15%	12%
	Limited English-Speaking Households	5%	6%
	Renter-Occupancy Rate	47%	38%
	Renters Burdened by Housing Cost	53%	50%

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018)

Residents who are at a high degree of risk during their day-to-day lives are also more vulnerable during an extreme event. In Fitchburg, seniors, youth, people with disabilities, and low-income residents are considered vulnerable. Vulnerable populations may be at a greater risk of isolation for a variety of reasons, including lack of access to personal transportation, lack of social support, and limited English fluency (if emergency communications are shared in English). Residents with barriers to building personal resilience may also be vulnerable, including those with limited income. Fitchburg also has

several Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhoods. According to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP, 2010), EJ neighborhoods have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Income: Block group whose annual median household income is equal to or less than 65 percent of the statewide median (\$62,072 in 2010).
- Minority: 25% or more of the residents identify as a race other than white.
- English Isolation: 25% or more of households have no one over the age of 14 who speaks English only or very well.

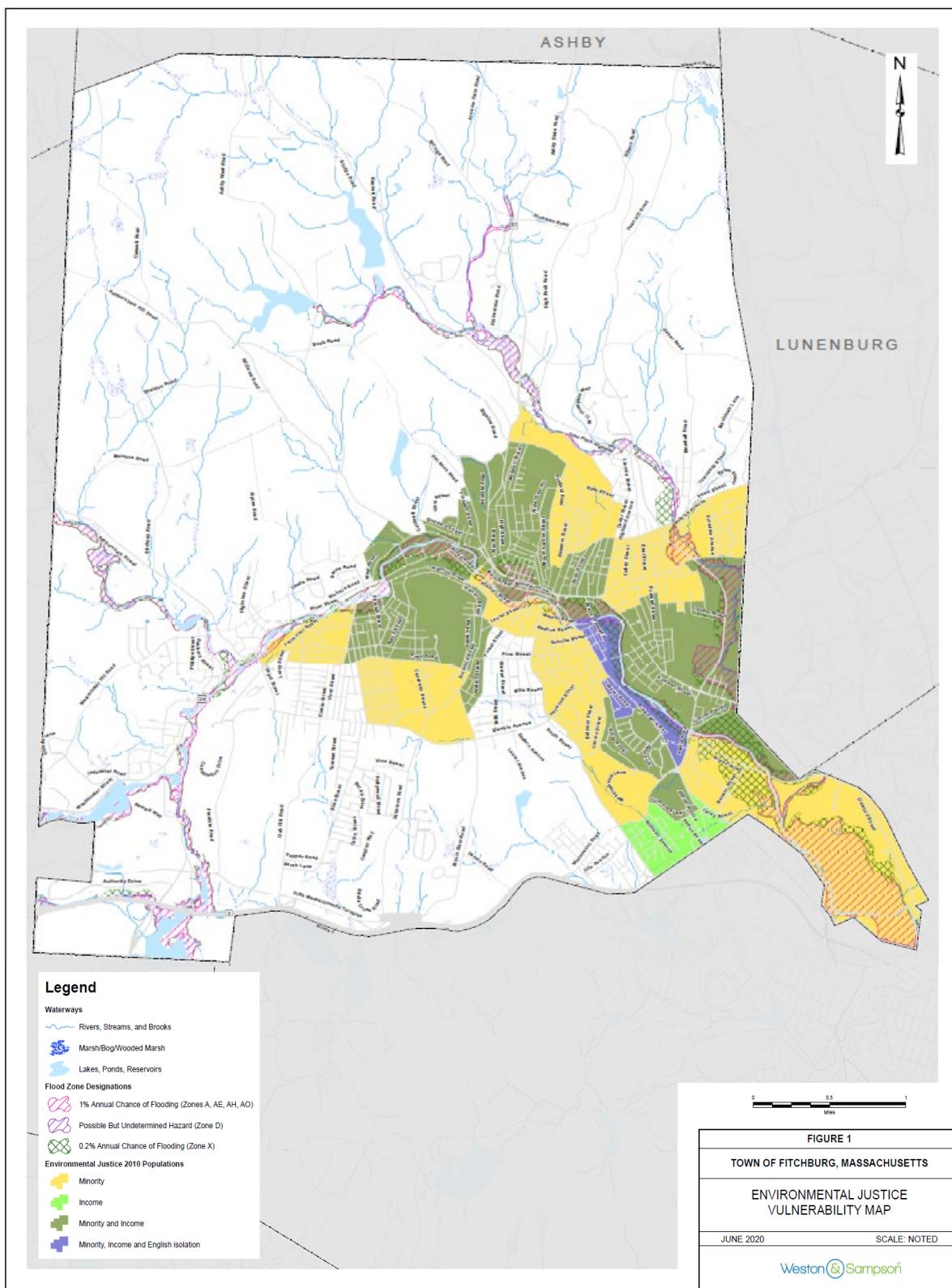
Figure 3-2 identifies Environmental Justice communities in the City of Fitchburg (next page). The State has defined these neighborhoods in recognition that extreme events have historically disproportionately impacted vulnerable communities. Engaging vulnerable residents in decision making is a critical part of equitable climate change planning processes.

### 3.2.1 CRB Workshop Discussion of Societal Features

CRB Workshop participants identified key societal features of Fitchburg that are most vulnerable to, or provide protection against, natural hazards and climate change impacts.

**Table 3-2. Societal Features in Fitchburg**

Strengths	Vulnerabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnership with Salvation Army and surrounding communities</li><li>• Heating and cooling stations and shelters</li><li>• Fitchburg State University</li><li>• Communication systems</li><li>• Grocery stores and local businesses</li><li>• Certified Emergency Response Team and volunteers</li><li>• Services provided by schools, emergency services, private, and non-profit entities</li><li>• Diverse community with many talents and perspectives</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pets during emergencies</li><li>• Need for programs to support growing mental health and substance use concerns</li><li>• Need for more emergency training</li><li>• Households with limited English-speaking abilities if communication is not translated</li><li>• Residents at-risk of isolation or in need of additional support (possibly youth and seniors)</li><li>• Residents with barriers to building personal resilience (possibly low-income residents or residents experiencing homelessness)</li><li>• Flooding of businesses and the economic impact of hazards</li><li>• Aging housing stock</li></ul>



**Figure 3-2. Environmental Justice Community Map**

### 3.3 Economic Features

Economic growth and development will positively influence the City's ability to adapt to climate change. Since 2001, the number of businesses in Fitchburg has increased nearly 16%, but almost all are small employers with fewer than five employees (Economic Development Strategic Plan, City of Fitchburg, 2018). The number of jobs fell by 10% during this time. Nearly half of all businesses have fewer than five employees. Large employers with more than 100 employees are primarily in the healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing, and retail fields. Other top employment industries in the City include education, leisure, and hospitality. Communication between the City and businesses about hazard mitigation planning efforts, communication, and developing emergency protocols are key to improving resilience. By supporting local businesses and smart economic growth, Fitchburg also ensures that supplies and food are locally available in the aftermath of an extreme event. As a regional hub for grocery shopping and retail, this is critical to supporting regional resilience.

The health care, social services, and education industries are expected to experience the most growth in the region in the future (Economic Development Strategic Plan, City of Fitchburg, 2018). There is significant unmet demand in the City's food service and drinking retail sector. Fitchburg envisions a future with more mixed-use development and is encouraging its identity as a university city. Future economic growth and strategic planning should consider the needs of a changing environment. For example, improving internet access and bandwidth to allow employees to work from home when roads are impassable. In addition, employers should consider how to keep employees safe during increased temperature and heat wave conditions.

How and where development occurs is critical. There is significant commercial activity in the City center and along John Fitch Highway, which are also in or near the floodplain. New development and redevelopment in this area should account for future flood levels in building design and should invest in resiliency measures. More broadly, new development should be encouraged outside of the floodplain with resiliency considerations for additional hazards such as earthquakes and extreme temperatures. Resilient, mixed-use development that provides public co-benefits such as walkability and sustainable designs that reduce energy demands is also recommended.

### 3.4 Infrastructure Features

The City of Fitchburg covers 28 square miles in the northern section of Worcester County in the Wachusett Valley. Route 2, or the George Stanton Highway, provides direct access to and from Boston, which is only 46 miles east. Fitchburg is also just north of I-190, which connects the City to Worcester. Fitchburg maintains over two hundred miles of roads, while State roadways are maintained by MassDOT. The City and MassDOT are also responsible for bridge maintenance. There are several bridges with low load restrictions, are not highly rated, or are in need of repair, including Oak Hill Road Bridge, Rindge Road, First Street/Railroad Street (which is a rail bridge), and Westminster Hill Road. Fitchburg has two MBTA commuter rail stations: Fitchburg Station is located on Main Street and Wachusett Station is located on Authority Drive. Local and area bus service is provided by the Montachusett Area Regional Transit. The City's urbanized core has several painted bicycle lanes and sidewalks. Fitchburg has identified several priority projects to improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility in their Complete Streets Implementation Plan, which could possibly overlap with resilient roadway upgrades.

Most of Fitchburg is connected to the public drinking water supply. A small portion of residents in the northern rural areas of the City have private wells. The City sources most of the drinking water from the Meetinghouse and Lovell Reservoirs, where the drinking water treatment plants are located. Bickford

Pond can be pumped into Mare Meadow Reservoir and then pumped from Mare Meadow into Meetinghouse as needed. Wachusett Lake reserved as a backup water supply. Ashby Compensating Reservoir flows into Fitchburg Reservoir, which then flows into Lovell Reservoir. Scott Reservoir can be used as a backup to feed into Lovell by backflowing through an old transmission conduit (the Shattuck conduit). The Water Division needs a new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. Approximately 93% of the population is serviced by the public sewer system and the remaining 7% is supported by on-site septic. In some places in the City, the sewer and stormwater systems are combined. The City is currently working to eliminate all combined stormwater-sewer systems to reduce water pollution and provide better service as part of a Consent Decree. Since 2012, the City has successfully completed three sewer separation projects, two phases of their sewer system evaluation survey (SSES), a hydraulic model and capacity assessment, a Water Management Plan, and a chemically enhanced primary treatment upgrade project. Util is the City's electric and gas provider.

The City has many municipal facilities that are aging. City Hall is currently being updated, but the Department of Public Works, Fire Department, and Police Department all need new facilities. See Section 3.7 for more information on critical facilities in Fitchburg. See Chapter 4 for information on dams and the North Nashua River Flood Reduction System.

#### 3.4.1 CRB Workshop Discussion of Existing Infrastructure

CRB Workshop participants identified key infrastructure features in Fitchburg that are most vulnerable to, or provide protection against, natural hazards and climate change impacts.

**Table 3-3. Infrastructural Features in Fitchburg**

Strengths	Vulnerabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater management facility</li> <li>• Water supply and surrounding protected forested area</li> <li>• School could serve as possible shelter space</li> <li>• Public transit provides additional mobility</li> <li>• Municipal and emergency services</li> <li>• Improved redundancies in electric grid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roadways and bridges prone to flooding</li> <li>• Aging bridges</li> <li>• Undersized stormwater conveyance</li> <li>• Combined stormwater-sewer system</li> <li>• Lack of emergency response capacity and equipment</li> <li>• Downtown public safety</li> <li>• Aging dams</li> <li>• Emergency service facilities in the floodplain</li> <li>• Aging municipal buildings</li> <li>• Bank erosion near airport and wastewater treatment plant</li> <li>• Electric substation flooding and need for maintenance</li> </ul>

#### 3.5 Environmental Features

Steep topography and the North Nashua River are iconic environmental features in Fitchburg. Fitchburg also has a substantial amount of open space, recreational, and agricultural land owned by the Commonwealth, the City, non-profits, and private entities. More than half of the open space is owned by the City. Two land trusts preserve over 500 acres of publicly accessible land, primarily around the Mass Audubon Society's Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary and the North County Land Trust's Crocker Conservation Area (City of Fitchburg, 2018). The City has a plethora of ponds, streams, wetland crossings, lakes, and brooks.

Like many New England communities, Fitchburg has environmental challenges linked to their industrial past. Many sites have had real or perceived soil and groundwater contamination, and several have been remediated (City of Fitchburg, 2014). Although several brownfield locations are scattered throughout Fitchburg, there are no EPA superfund sites. Several potentially hazardous locations are identified in Section 3.7.

Contaminated sites located along the North Nashua river are vulnerable to flooding and leaching, which could spread contamination downstream. Stormwater runoff from roadways, yards, and the previously mentioned combined stormwater-sewer system are other contributors to water quality concerns.

Fitchburg has several areas classified as BioMap 2 Core Habitats or BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 2012). Core Habitat is a specific area necessary to promote the long-term persistence of rare species. Critical Natural Landscapes are areas that are minimally impacted by development and, if protected, will provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience. Five of Fitchburg's roads are designated Scenic Roads (City of Fitchburg, 2014). There are three farms in the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions. Seventeen percent of Fitchburg's lands is conserved in perpetuity (MassAudubon, 2020).

### 3.5.1 CRB Workshop Discussion of the Environment

CRB Workshop participants identified key environmental features in Fitchburg that are most vulnerable to, or provide protection against, natural hazards and climate change impacts.

**Table 3-4. Environmental Features in Fitchburg**

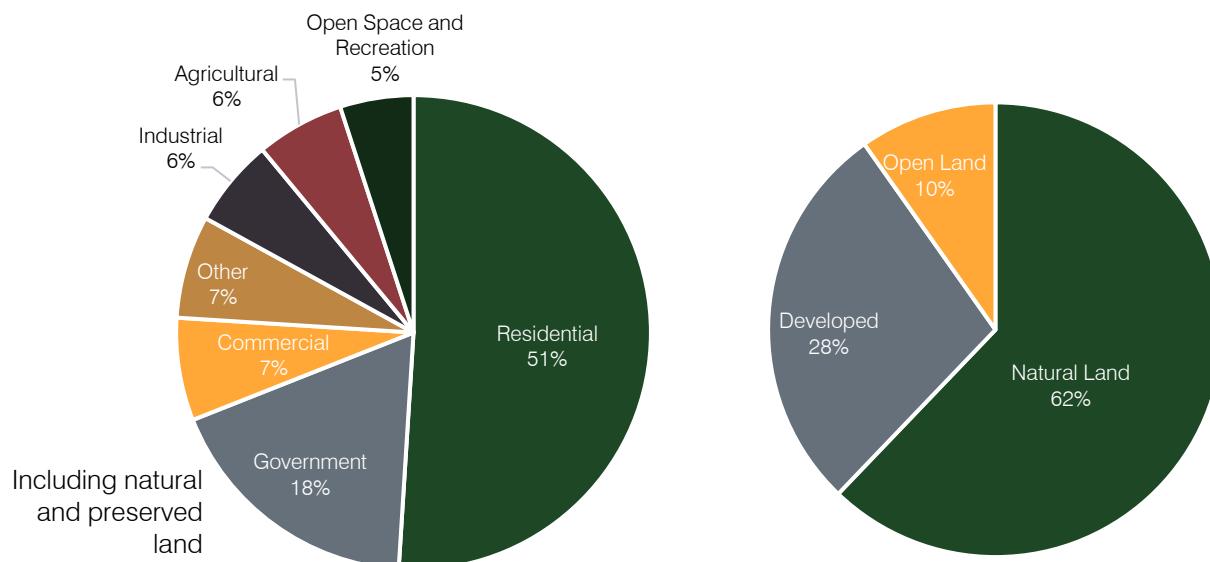
Strengths	Vulnerabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open Space, parks, trails</li><li>• Nashua River Watershed Association</li><li>• Urban and rural dimensions</li><li>• Opportunity for green infrastructure and renewable energy sources</li><li>• Tree canopy and grant award to plant more trees</li><li>• Recreational opportunities on North Nashua River and tributaries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flooding of waterbodies</li><li>• Pollutants in waterbodies</li><li>• Hazardous commercials/industrial landfills/brownfields</li><li>• Topography and steep terrain</li><li>• Trees and forested areas vulnerable to wind damage and drought</li><li>• Invasive species</li></ul>

## 3.6 Land Use and Recent Development

According to the Massachusetts Assessor Database (2020), which was also used in the flood vulnerability analysis in Chapter 4, Fitchburg has the following land use compilation. Residential is the primary land use (51%). Governmental properties make up 18% of Fitchburg, however, many of the governmental properties are forested natural land or open space (Figure 3-3). To supplement this analysis, MassAudubon's most recent Losing Ground Statistics are reported following the lead of the Fitchburg Open Space and Recreation Plan. Fitchburg had 83 acres of new development between 2012

and 2017. Between 2012 and 2019, 492 acres were permanently conserved. Much of the northern tier of the city is undeveloped.

The city's largest retail area is along the John Fitch Highway and other major arterial roads in the city. Industrial uses are predominately located along the North Nashua River and in the areas of Princeton Road and Airport Road.



**Figure 3-3. Land Use in Fitchburg using the Massachusetts Assessor's Database (Left); MassAudubon's Development Statistics (Right)**

The Estimated Build-out table (Table 3-5) provides comparison between number of constructed homes in each Census Tract vs. the total number of homes that could be built in that area. A residential buildout analysis under Vision 2020 plan of City's Master Plan indicated the highest potential for additional development would be in The South Side neighborhood (City of Fitchburg, 1998). The Upper Cleghorn neighborhood has the highest percent build out at 86.6%. The remaining privately owned and forested land encompassing 58% of the City of Fitchburg may be attractive for development. There is potential for zoning updates to preserve the forested areas of the City. Besides loss of natural habitat, stormwater impacts are a growing concern and new regulatory updates may be necessary to reduce polluted runoff from entering waterways.

**Table 3-5. Estimated Build-Out for City of Fitchburg**

Census Tract	Location	Current Lots	Additional Lots	Total Buildout	% Built Out
7101	South-east Fitchburg, east of the River, to Lunenburg Street	932	84	1016	91.7%
7102	South-Central Fitchburg	1919	1792	3711	51.7%
7103	West Fitchburg	968	1657	2625	36.9%
7104	Upper Cleghorn	697	108	805	86.6%
7105	Lower Cleghorn	632	119	751	84.2%
7106	The South Side	1689	517	2206	76.6%
7107	Downtown, lower Main Street to Academy Street	200	38	238	84.0%
7108	The College Neighborhood, Intown north of Academy Street	1067	586	1653	64.5%
7109	Fitchburg State College	5	11	16	31.3%
7110	South of Pearl Street, North of Lunenburg Street	752	151	903	83.3%
7111	Northern Fitchburg	1382	3895	5277	26.2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,243</b>	<b>8958</b>	<b>19,201</b>	<b>53.3%</b>

Source: Land Use Section, City of Fitchburg Master Plan (1998)

The Community Development Department provided a list of recent developments (which were defined as occurred during the last ten years) and planned developments (see Table 3-6). The list includes several multifamily units and residential complexes, a brewery, multiple cannabis cultivation developments, two manufacturing and industrial sites, and some mixed-use properties.

**Table 3-6. Current and Future Developments in Fitchburg**

Name of Development	Address	Type of Development	# housing units	Sqft. commercial /industrial	Date of completion
Gionet	587 South St.	Mixed-use (Multifamily) & Professional (Medical office)	20	4,500	Residential 2021, Office: TBD
Harper Furniture	10 Main St., Summer St.	Mixed-use (multifamily) & Retail/Office	44	10,000	2021
Game on Fitchburg	Westminster Hill Rd.	Indoor/Outdoor Facility for soccer, etc.	N/A	115,000	2021
Gateway Village	255 Main St.	Multifamily Residential	112	N/A	TBD
Gateway Apts II	Snow/North Street	Multifamily Residential	150	5000	TBD

Name of Development	Address	Type of Development	# housing units	Sqft. commercial /industrial	Date of completion
Fitchburg Arts Community	62, 82 Academy St.	Residential - Artist's preferred housing	62	N/A	TBD
Seney PUD	Off Meadowbrook rd.	11 duplexes	22	N/A	TBD
Green Rd Brewing	265 Summer St.	Brewery/Taproom	N/A	3,200	Fall 2020
Garden Remedies	307 Airport Rd	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 115,000;Max. 20,000 grow canopy	2017
Apothca	99 Development Dr.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 36,500;Max. 22,000 grow canopy	2018
Revolutionary Clinics	One Oak Hill Rd.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Max. 70,000 grow canopy	2018
Atlantic Medicinal Partners	744 Crawford St.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Max. 20,000 grow canopy	Summer 2020
Blue Collar Botany	644 River St.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 9,000; Max. 4,600 grow canopy	TBD
Native Sun Wellness	140 Industrial Rd.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 75,000;Max. 10,000 grow canopy	TBD
NS AJO Holdings	20 Authority Dr	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 9,000; Max. 5,000 grow canopy	Late 2020
The Hub Craft	25 Newport St.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 23,000; Max. 5,000 grow canopy	2021 (Proposed)
The Fresh Connection-Boston	175 Kimball St.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 48,000; Max. 10,000 grow canopy	2021 (Proposed)
A Cannabis Grower (to be named later)	310 Broad St.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 58,000;Max. 1000 grow canopy	TBD
Apical, LLC	431 Westminster St.	Cannabis Cultivation	N/A	Total 204,000;Max. 50,000 grow canopy	2021
Wastewater Treatment Adaptive Reuse	230 Princeton Road	Green Energy Manufacturing		16 acres (30,000 square feet)	TBD, currently out to an

Name of Development	Address	Type of Development	# housing units	Sqft. commercial /industrial	Date of completion
					RFEI, then RFP
Fitchburg Sandpit Site	0 Airport Road	Industrial	N/A	43.5 acres owned by FRA	2023

*(Shared by Community Development Staff, 2020)*

### 3.7 Critical Facilities and Vulnerable Populations

Critical facilities are extremely essential components to the City's function and protecting them from natural hazards is paramount. Critical facilities include:

1. Resources that can be utilized to respond and recover from natural hazards
2. Facilities where additional assistance might be needed
3. Hazardous sites that could be dangerous if compromised during a natural disaster

Critical facilities in the City of Fitchburg have been identified with help from knowledgeable City staff, MassGIS data, existing city and regional plans, and the assessment of other City features presented in previous sections. Critical facilities and vulnerable populations have been broken into four categories: Emergency Response, Non-Emergency Response, Dangerous/Hazard Materials and Facilities, and Facilities and Populations to Protect.

**Table 3-7. Category 1 - Emergency Response Facilities**

Police and Fire Department	
Fitchburg- Central Fire Station	33 North Street
Fitchburg- Summer Street Fire Station	42 John Fitch Highway
Fitchburg- Oak Hill Fire Station	231 Fairmont Street
Fitchburg Police Department	20 Elm Street
Emergency Operations Center	
Fitchburg Senior Citizen's Center	14 Wallace Avenue
Communications Infrastructure	
Communication Tower	Flat Rock Road
Verizon Switching Facility MA873207	676 Main Street
Verizon Tower	259 High Rock Road
Verizon Tower	609 Wanoosnoc Road
Radio Towers	Alpine Road
Fitchburg Radio Towers	1080 Franklin Road
Fitchburg Communication Tower	795 High Rock Road

Fire Department Communication Tower	Pratt Road
<b>Emergency Shelters</b>	
FSC- McKay Public School	67 Rindge Road
Fitchburg High School	140 Arnhow Farm Road
Memorial Intermediate School	615 Rollstone Street
Reingold Elementary School	70 Reingold Avenue
BF Brown Arts Vision School	62 Academy Street
Crocker Elementary School	200 Bigelow Road
Saint Bernard's Central Catholic High School	45 Harvard Street
South Street Elementary School	376 South Street
Wallace Civic Center	1000 John Fitch Highway
Fitchburg Senior Citizen's Center	14 Wallace Avenue
<b>Emergency Dispensing Sites</b>	
Crocker Elementary School	200 Bigelow Road
Fitchburg High School	140 Arnhow Farm Road
Fitchburg Senior Citizen's Center	14 Wallace Avenue
FSC- McKay Public School	67 Rindge Road
Memorial Intermediate School	615 Rollstone Street
Reingold Elementary School	70 Reingold Avenue
Saint Bernard's Central Catholic High School	45 Harvard Street
South Street Elementary School	376 South Street
Wallace Civic Center	1000 John Fitch Hwy.
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	563 Crawford Street

**Table 3-8. Category 2 - Non-Emergency Response Facilities**

<b>City Facilities</b>	
Fitchburg City Hall	166 Boulder Drive
Fitchburg Department of Public Works	301 Broad Street
Fitchburg District Courthouse	100 Elm Street
Fitchburg Public Library	610 Main Street
<b>Water Supply System</b>	
Meetinghouse Reservoir	West Princeton Road, Westminster
Regional Filtration Plant	18 Hager Park Road, Westminster
Lovell Reservoir and Treatment Plant	1200 Rindge Road
Scott Tank and Reservoir	Thurston Road
Oakhill Tank	Franklin Road
Overlook Tank	Flat Rock Road
Falulah Filtration Plant	1200 Rindge Road
Booster Pump Station	25 Royal Plaza Dr
Bickford Pond	

Mare Meadow Reservoir	
Wachusett Lake	
Ashby Compensating Reservoir	
Fitchburg Reservoir	
Falulah Water Storage Tanks	990 Rindge Road
<b>Wastewater Supply System</b>	
West Wastewater Facility	401 Princeton Road
East Wastewater Facility	0 Lanides Lane
Pump Station 1	49 Cobbler Drive
Pump Station 2	75 Sawyer Passway
Pump Station 3	230 Princeton Rd
<b>Transportation Facilities</b>	
First Student Bus	203 Airport Road
Van Pool Transportation Services	47 Summit Street
Train Station MBTA Commuter Rail	100 Main Street
Train Station MBTA Wachusett Commuter Rail	55 Authority Drive
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	567 Crawford Street
<b>Utilities</b>	
Unitil	357 Electric Avenue, Lunenburg

**Table 3-9. Category 3 - Dangerous/Hazardous Materials and Facilities**

<b>Hazmat Sites</b>	
Omnova Solutions Inc.	119 Authority Drive
DRS Technologies	166 Boulder Drive
Fitchburg State University	160 Pearl Street
Neward America	100 Neward Way
Mocron Products Inc.	25 Sawyer Passway
Steel Fab Inc.	Oak Hill Road
Central Steam Plant	465 Westminster Street
Mar Lee Mold Company, Inc.	207 Authority Drive
Airgas East Inc.	510 Crawford Street
Ryder Fuel Services #0152A	215 Crawford Street
First Student Bus	203 Airport Road
Simonds International Corp.	139 Intervale Road
Jiffy Lube	541 John Fitch Highway
Grief	100 Newark Ave
Micron Products Inc.	41 Sawyer Passway
Verizon Switching Facility MA873207	676 Main Street
Fitchburg Communication Tower	795 High Rock Road
Falulah Filtration Plant	1200 Rindge Road
Fitchburg- East Wastewater Treatment Facility	24 Lanides Lane
MART Garage	R1427 Water Street
Montouri Oil Corp.	125 Main Street
Penske	210 Airport Road
Avery Dennison Corp	224 Industrial Road
Fitchburg Blueberry Lane Landfill (closed)	41 Blueberry Lane
Fitchburg Landfill (Inactive)	1 Collide Park Ave

Former James River Mill 8 Sludge (Inactive)	85 Princeton Road
Star Cleaners	278-280 Lunenburg
British American Club	1 Simonds Rd
Conquest Video	227 Lunenburg Street
Seaboard Folding Box Corp.	35 Daniels Street
Apt Complex	12 - 16 Boyle Court
Independent Cleaners	1 Wallace Rd
Chemdesign Corp	99 Development Road
Matthews Realty Trust	314 John Fitch Hwy
Ast Vault Willow St. Trust	26 Willow Street
Pauls Plate Glass	289 Water Street
Warehouse	640 Crawford Street
Central Plaza Shopping Center	130 Water Street
Commercial Street Realty Trust	40 Commercial Street
Winthrop Steel Co Inc.	53 Prescott Street
Fitchburg Department of Public Works	301 Broad Street
Route 2A	321 Lunenburg Street
Coolidge Park	Pearl Street at John Fitch Hwy
Former Vogue Wall Coverings	68 Airport Road
Proposed CVS Pharmacy 505	Main Street and North Street
Arrhythmia Research Technology	24 Sawyer Passway
Solar Farms	115 Sawyer Passway
Midtown Beef Co	87 Water Street
<b>Underground Storage Tanks</b>	
Ryder Truck Maint.	215 Cranford Street
Francis L. Piermarocchi	232 Airport Road
Petrullo Construction Co. Inc.	28 King Street
East Fitchburg Yard	0 Summer Street
United Co-Operative Farmers, Inc.	402 Broad Street
Montachusett Reg. Vocat. School	1050 Westminster Street
Sunoco	569 Electric Ave
Wachusett Potato Chip Co., Inc	783 Water Street
Francis L. Piermarocchi, Inc	232 Falulah Road
Webber Lumber & Supply Co., Inc	275 Summer Street
West Wastewater Facility	401 Princeton Road
East Wastewater Facility	0 Lanides Lane
City of Fitchburg/Dept of Public Works	301 Broad Street
Demers Bros Inc.	269 Summer Street
George's Citgo Station	130 Lunenburg Street
Paul J. Leclair - Paul's Mobil	938 Main Street
Leon Bellio Eastside Mobil	115 Lunenburg Street
Chemdesign Corporation	99 Development Road
Frank Swett	6 Lunenburg Street
Frank A Swett	10 Lunenburg Street
Nissen Baking Co., Inc	189 Crawford Road
B&D Auto Repair	228 Bemis Road Rear
Paul's Service Station	252 Kimball Street
East Side Energy Group	1200 Main Street
Fitchburg State College	160 Pearl Street
Coca-Cola Co Lowell & Futch	201 Lunenburg Street
Sumer Street Fire Station	0 John Fitch Hwy

Simonds Industries Inc.	0 Intervale Road
Pearson's Auto Radiator Serv.	173 Bemis Road
Montuori Oil Corp.	0 Laurel Street
Delongchamp Automobile Co., Inc.	222 Lunenburg Street
Benson Realty Corp	161 Benson Street
General Electric Company	166 Boulder Drive
Mc Cues Getty	656 Water Street
Main Street Self Serv	0 Main Street
Rohmteck Inc.	119 Authority Drive
Dufour Motors	356 River Street
Oak Hill Contry Club	0 Oak Hill Road
Kmart #4444	140 Whalon Street
Fire Department, City of Fitchburg	28 Oliver Street
Mobil Oil #06GG6	129 South Street & Whalen Street
Rivers Bros Inc.	112 Lunenburg Street
Exxon Co. #-5764	511 Electric Ave
Pelletier's Building Supply Co	133 Water Street
Fitchburg Gas & Electric	285 John Fitch Hwy
Gasoline Merchants, Inc.	249 Kimball Street
Water Street Gulf	447 Water Street
P.B. Morrill	2 Ashby State Road
Main Street Gulf	1022 Main Street
Sherman V. Allen Inc.	0 Garland Street
Sherman V. Allen Inc.	236 Lunenburg Street
Sherman V. Allen Inc.	237 Lunenburg Street
Ronald Boudreao	20 Pratt Street
Fitcburg Sunoco	880 Water Street
Technographics Fitchburg Paper C	601 River Street
James River-Fitchburg, Inc.	0 Old Princeton Road
American Can Company	16 Benson Street
D & D Truck Service, Inc	91 Laurel Street
Mechanic Street Texaco	267 Mechanic Street
Cumberland Farms	479 Electric Avenue
Cumberland Farms #2071	347 River Street
Wanno Sunoco	942 South Street
New England Telephone	676 Main Street
Citgo	449 Mechanic Street
Vogue Wallcoverings	68 Auroirt Road
Ami Trucklease Corporation	210 Falulah Road
Burbank Hospital	0 Nichols Road
Fitchburg Creamery Inc.	25 Ashby State Road
Roadway Express, Inc.	88 Benson Street
Sanitoy Inc	0 Nursery Lane
Cleghorn Oil Inc	25 Pratt Street
Airport Comm., City of Fitchburg	0 Fitchburg Municipal Airport
Cristy Corporation	260 Authority Dr
Sunoco	240 Lunenburg Street
Booster Pump Station	25 Royal Plaza Dr
Montachusett Reg Transit Authority	1427 R Water Street
Speedee Oil Change & Tune-Up	370 John Fitch Hwy
Montvori Oil Corp	2 Boulder Dr

Johnny's Service Station	339 River Street
Joseph R. Morin Inc.	23 Woodbury Ave
Fitchburg Plumbing Supply Co.Inc.	64 Main Street
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	0 Crawford Street
Fitchburg United	1289 Water Street
Fairway Construction Inc.	12 Linda Street
Sherman Allen Inc.	0 Route 2
Chartered Buses Inc.	203 Airport Road

**Table 3-10. Category 4 - Vulnerable Populations and Community Facilities**

<b>Housing Authority Properties, Elderly Housing Communities, and Long-Term Care Centers</b>	
Durkin Apartments	50 Day Street
Daniel Heights	16 Daniel Street
Wallace Tower	54 Wallace Avenue
Canion Valley Terrace	1 Valley Street
Pleasant Street Residence	132 Pleasant Street
Group/Town View Tower	16 Prichard Street
Fitchburg Green Apartments	350 Water Street
Joseph's House	279 Daniels Street
The Sundial	29 Merriam Parkway
Green Acres Village	13 Normandy Road
Blossom Court Apartments	37-43 Blossom Street
The Gables of Fitchburg	935 John Fitch Hwy.
Golden Living Center	1199 John Fitch Highway
Caldwell Home- Extended Care	10 Prospect Street
The Highlands, A Life Care Center	335 Nichols Street
Hillcrest Nursing Center	94 Summer Street
James Manor Rest Home	222 South Street
Bethel House Rest Home	82 Mechanic Street
<b>Homeless Shelter</b>	
	199 Summer Street
	53 Lunenburg St
	356B Broad Street #4
<b>Institutions of Higher Learning</b>	
Fitchburg State University- Main Campus	160 Pearl Street
Mount Wachusett Community College	326 Nichols Road
<b>Schools and Daycares</b>	
McKay Arts Academy	67 Rindge Road
Crocker Elementary School	200 Bigelow Road
Reingold Elementary School	70 Reingold Avenue
South Street Elementary School	376 South Street
Longsjo Middle School	98 Academy Street
Memorial Middle School	615 Rollstone Street
Fitchburg High School	140 ArnHow Farm Road
Goodrich Academy	111 Goodrich Street
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School	1050 Westminster Street
North Central Charter Essential School	500 Rindge Road
Applewild School	120 Prospect Street
St. Bernard's Elementary	254 Summer Street
St. Bernard's High School	45 Harvard Street
Irfan, Rebecca	32 3RD Street

Deitzel, Sharon	372 Franklin Road
MOC Child Care & Head Start Services Center / Hosp	110 South Street
Del Orbe, Fatima	179 Summer Street
Northwest Child Development Center of Fitchburg	1400 John Fitch Hwy
Cintron, Adela F.	177 Harrison Avenue
Ngah, Jennifer	541 Arnhow Farm Rd
Barbagallo, Sandra	37 Anita Drive
Stewart, Cheryl	81 Legros Street
Acevedo, Cornelia	9 Ross Street
MOC Child Care and Head Start Services	133 Prichard Street
Fernandez, Rachael	213 Bishop Road
Sosa, GABRIELA	194 Summer Street
Burgos, Aida	355 Pearl Street
Montachusett Regional YMCA Preschool / Kindergarten	55 Wallace Avenue
Slattery, Erin C.	132 Canton Street
Montoya, Giovany	937 Main St Floor 2
Gomez, Patricia	43 Maple Street
Leone, Cheryl	226 Ashby State Road
Silvera, Silvia	107 Daniels Street
Burbank Child Development Center	265 Nichols Road
Children's Aid Child Care Center	1480 John Fitch Hwy
Diaz, Amber	174 Sanborn Street
Cintron, Ana	80 Lawrence Street
Fisher, Julie	46 Farmer Avenue
Aubuchon, Kathleen	491 5th Massachusetts Tpk
Bourque, Kimberly	145 East Street
Spare, Nano T.	12 William Street
Sicard, Diane	149 Highview Street
Selin, Kelly	510 Rollstone Road
Benoit-St. Onge, Pamela	470 Blossom Street
Sinkus, Diana	48 Kaysha Drive
Lizardo, Yisel	22 Columbia Ave
Fuentes, Julie	18 Davis St. #1
Torres, Maragaria	112 Cedar Street
Sanderson, Carol	60 Phillips Passway
Emma, Amy Beth	21 Gloria Avenue
Maclean, Marites	44 Townsend Street
Rojas, Brenda	9 Crown St. Apt. 2
Sadowski, Rebecca L.	74 Whittemore Street
Sacred Heart Preschool and Child Care Center	22 Cottage Street
Becerril, Isabel	111 Canton Street
Manning, Erica	391 Mount Elam Road
Alvarado, Jacqueline	9 Sheridan Street
Tammaro, Melissa	104 Loiselle Avenue
Tabales, Nicole	4 Harrison Ave
Tabales, Nicole	42 Skyview Drive
Maverick Street Family Center	98 Maverick Street
Reyes, Mayra	33 Pearl Street
Ramos, Olga	185 Hazel Street Apt 2
Lacourse, Angelica	21 Hazel Street
Howe, Patricia	31 Charles Street

Guild of St. Agnes - Fitchburg Preschool/School	62 Dover Street
Mendoza, Maria	494 Rollstone Street
Messiah Lutheran Preschool	780 Rindge Rd
Meyer, Heidy	52 Winter Street
Amezcua, Eva	22 Hale Street
Kinsman, Xan	12 Pleasantview Ave
Christian, Diane	100 Abbott Ave
Rodriguez, Elisa I.	15 Wildwood Drive
Cote, Debra T.	124 Depot Street
Hernandez, Maria E.	35 Nutting Street
Caban, Robin	418 Pratt Road
Daigle, Denise	48 Exeter Street
Bylund, Pamela L.	85 Highview Street
Rodriguez, Gretchen	7 Orchard Street
Busy Bees Preschool Center, Inc.	3 Harugari Street
Kids Stop	184 Clarendon Street
Kozy Kids Day Care	372 Franklin Road
<b>Healthcare Services</b>	
Radiology Program @Health Alliance CAN	275 Nichols Road
Veterans Hospice	69 High Street
Health Alliance Hospital-BURBANK CA	275 Nichols Road
Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center	326 Nichols Road
Community Health Connections	275 Nichols Road
LUK Crisis Center	545 Westminster Street
Action Health Services-mobile	275 Nichols Road
Community Health Link Lipton Counsel	275 Nichols Road
Community Health Connection FHC	140 Arnhow Farm Road
Counseling & Assessment Clinic	76 Summer Street
Multicultural Wellness Center	76 summer Street
Reliant Medical Group	370 Lunenburg Street
Riverfront Counseling Center	76 Summer Street
Spectrum Health Systems Inc.	76 Summer Street
Umass Memorial MRI & Imaging Center	275 Nichols Road
CareWell Urgent Care	380 John Fitch Highway
<b>Residential Program Facility</b>	
Seven Hills	149 Pepper Road
Horizon House Male STARR Program	27 Myrtle Avenue
Bridge - STARR	101 South Street
Crisis Center - Therapeutic Foster Care	545 Westminster Street
Seven Hills	33 Cathy Street
Horizon House Female Program	846 Westminster Street
Seven Hills - Kimball Road Program	83 Kimball Road
<b>Food Supply Stores</b>	
CVS Pharmacy	57 Rollstone Road
CVS Pharmacy	96 Water Street
CVS Pharmacy	436 John Fitch Highway
Walgreens	571 John Fitch Highway
Market Basket	399 John Fitch Highway
Market Basket	130 Water Street
JD's Variety	259 Franklin Road
Twin City Market	59 Whalon Street

Millbury Fish Market	60 Bemis Road
Family Dollar	133 Water Street
Dollar Tree	1011 Water Street
<b>Gas Stations</b>	
	115 Lunenburg Street
	129 Whalon Street
	240 Lunenburg Street
	267 Mechanic Street
	656 Water Street
	75 Main Street
	880 Water Street
	237 Lunenburg Street
	449 Mechanic Street
	942 South Street
	479 Electric Avenue
	1313 Water Street
	120 Mass State Hwy, MA-2A
	249 Kimball Street
	2 Boulder Drive
	376 River Street
	339 River Street
	216 Bemis Street
	487 Princeton Road
<b>Hotel/Motel</b>	
Great Wolf Lodge	150 Great Wolf Drive
Howarth House Bed and Breakfast	81 Ross Street
<b>Religious Center</b>	
Masjid Baitul Zikr	370 Main Street
First Baptist Church of Fitchburg	1400 John Fitch Highway
Horizon Christian Fellowship	356 Broad Street
Salvation Army Corps	739 Water Street
Faith Christian Ministries	40 Bouteille Street
Fitchburg Church of the Nazarene	800 South Street
Christ Church	569 Main Street
St Anthony of Padua Church	84 Salem Street
Fitchburg Seventh Day Advent	205 Summer Street
First Parish Unitarian	923 Main Street
St Joseph's Catholic Church	49 Woodland Street
Emanuel Lutheran Church	1200 John Fitch Highway
St Francis of Assisi	Sheridan Street
Messiah Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	750 Rindge Road
Beth Eden Baptist Church	350 Ashburnham Street
New Life Spanish Christian Church	63 Fairmount Street
Elm Street Congregational	264 Elm Street
Fitchburg Spanish SDA Church	179 Pratt Street
Rollstone Congregational Church	199 Main Street

**Table 3-11. Category 5 - Dams**

<b>Dams in Fitchburg</b>	
Arden Mills Dam	Nichols St. Dam
Arden-Duck Mill Dam	North Nashua River Mill #4 Dam
Electric Station Dam	North Nashua River Mill #6 Dam
Falulah Reservoir Dam	North Nashua River Mill #9 Dam
Greene's Pond Dam	Overlook Reservoir Dam
James Pond Dam	Overlook Reservoir Dike
Kimball Rd. Dam	Putnams Pond Dam
Lovell Reservoir Dam	Saima Pond Dam
Lovell Reservoir Dike	Scott Reservoir Dam
Lower Spring Pond Dam	Snows Mill Pond Dam
Marshal Reservoir Dam	Swimming Pool Dam
McTaggarts Pond Dam	Upper Sawmill Pond Dam
Mill Pond #1 Dam	Upper Spring Pond Dam
Mirror Lake Dam	Wastewater Treatment Plant Dam
Nichols Pond Dam	Weyerhauser Dam
<b>Dams Owned by Fitchburg Outside of City Limits</b>	
Ashby Reservoir Dam	Mare Meadow Reservoir Dam
Bickford Pond Dam	Meetinghouse Pond Reservoir Dam
Bickford Pond Dike	Smith Pond Dam
Fitchburg Reservoir North Dam	Wachusett Lake Dam
Fitchburg Reservoir South Dam	Wyman Pond Compensating Reservoir Dam
Fitchburg Reservoir South Dike	

## 4.0 HAZARD PROFILES, RISK ASSESSMENT & VULNERABILITIES

Each hazard profile contains information on the areas vulnerable to the hazard, documentation of historic events, a risk and vulnerability assessment, and related climate change projections. The risk and vulnerability assessment examines both the frequency and severity of hazards and their potential impact to the City of Fitchburg. Each hazard risk and vulnerability assessment uses previous occurrences and climate projections to identify high risk areas and the likelihood that a hazard will occur. The vulnerability analysis looks at various factors in the community, including existing and future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities. In some cases, an estimate of the potential dollar loss to vulnerable structures is available. Land uses and development trends were also considered as part of the flood vulnerability assessment.

The hazard profiles were updated with information from the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan (MEMA and DCR, 2013); the 2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP; EEA and EOPSS, 2018) and additional research and assessment conducted by the project team. The Core Team, CRB Workshop, and Listening Session results provided local accounts of each hazard. A Geographic Information System (GIS) assessment was conducted to analyze the potential impact of flooding in Fitchburg on current and future development. FEMA's Hazus software was used to model the potential damage of hurricanes and earthquakes.

### 4.1 Overview of Hazards and Impacts

#### 4.1.1 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation

The 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan (MEMA and DCR, 2013) and the 2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP; EEA and EOPSS, 2018) examined the natural hazards that have the potential to impact the Commonwealth. These plans summarize the frequency and severity of hazards of greatest concern. The frequency classification ranges from very low to high. Severity classifications are a range from minor severity to catastrophic.

#### Definitions used in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan

##### Frequency

- *Very low frequency*: events that occur less frequently than once in 100 years (less than 1% per year)
- *Low frequency*: events that occur from once in 50 years to once in 100 years (1% to 2% per year)
- *Medium frequency*: events that occur from once in 5 years to once in 50 years (2% to 20% per year)
- *High frequency*: events that occur more frequently than once in 5 years (Greater than 20% per year)

##### Severity

- *Minor*: Limited and scattered property damage; limited damage to public infrastructure and essential services not interrupted; limited injuries or fatalities.
- *Serious*: Scattered major property damage; some minor infrastructure damage; essential services are briefly interrupted; some injuries and/or fatalities.
- *Extensive*: Widespread major property damage; major public infrastructure damage (up to several days for repairs); essential services are interrupted from several hours to several days; many injuries and/or fatalities.
- *Catastrophic*: Property and public infrastructure destroyed; essential services stopped; numerous injuries and fatalities.

Table 4-1 summarizes the frequency and severity of hazard risk in the overall State. These frequency and severity classifications for the State will provide an idea to the City in prioritizing mitigation actions for each hazard.

**Table 4-1. Massachusetts Hazard Risk Summary**

Hazard	Frequency Massachusetts	Severity Massachusetts
Inland Flooding	High (1 flood disaster declaration event every 3 years; 43 floods per year of lesser magnitude)	Serious to Catastrophic
Dam failures	Very Low	Extensive to Catastrophic
Coastal Hazards	High (6 events per year over past 10 years)	Serious to Extensive
Tsunami	Very Low (1 event every 39 years on East Coast, 0 in MA)	Extensive to Catastrophic
Hurricane/Tropical Storm	High (1 storm every other year)	Serious to Catastrophic
High Wind (Severe Weather)	High (43.5 events per year)	Minor to Extensive
Tornadoes (Severe Weather)	High (1.7 events per year)	Serious to Extensive
Thunderstorms	High (20 to 30 events per year)	Minor to Extensive
Nor'easter	High (1 to 4 events per year)	Minor to Extensive
Snow and Blizzard (Severe Winter Weather)	High (1 per year)	Minor to Extensive
Ice Storms (Severe Winter Weather)	High (1.5 per year)	Minor to Extensive
Earthquake	Very Low (10-15% probability of magnitude 5.0 or greater in New England in 10 years)	Minor to Catastrophic
Landslide	Low (once every two years in western MA)	Minor to Extensive
Brush Fires	High (at least 1 per year)	Minor to Extensive
Extreme Temperatures	High (1.5 cold weather and 2 hot weather events per year)	Minor to Serious

Hazard	Frequency	Severity
	Massachusetts	Massachusetts
Drought	High (8% chance of "Watch" level drought per month [recent droughts in 2016 and 1960s])	Minor to Serious

Table adapted from the 2018 SHMCAP and 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan

Not all hazards included in the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan or the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan apply to the City of Fitchburg. Given Fitchburg's inland location, coastal hazards and tsunamis are unlikely to affect the City. Given the type of fires that have occurred in Fitchburg's history, the City will focus on brush fires rather than wildfires. It is assumed that the entire City of Fitchburg and its critical facilities are exposed to earthquakes, high wind events, hurricanes, winter storms, temperature extremes, and snow and ice, to a similar extent. Flood risk from riverine flooding is elevated in the vicinity of flood zones. Landslides are more likely in areas with more unstable soils types.

#### 4.1.2 Federally Declared Disasters in Massachusetts

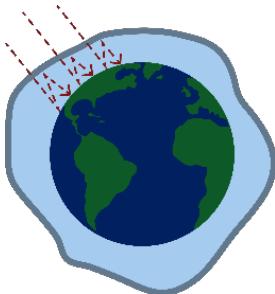
Tracking historic hazards and federally declared disasters that occur in Massachusetts, and more specifically Worcester County, helps planners understand the possible extent and frequency of hazards. Historically, Massachusetts has experienced multiple types of hazards, including flooding, blizzards, and hurricanes. Since 2000, there have been 29 storms in Massachusetts that resulted in federal or state disaster declarations. 22 disaster declarations occurred in Worcester County. Federally declared disasters present additional FEMA grant opportunities for regional recovery and mitigation projects. The hazard profiles included in this chapter contain more information about federally declared disasters.

#### 4.1.3 Impacts of Climate Change

Many of the hazards that Fitchburg commonly experiences are projected to worsen due to climate change. Climate change refers to changes in regional weather patterns that are linked to warming of the Earth's atmosphere as a result of both human activity and natural fluctuations. The Earth's atmosphere

has naturally occurring greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that capture heat and contribute to the regulation of the Earth's climate. When fossil fuels (including oil, coal and gas) are burned, GHGs are released into the atmosphere and the Earth's temperature tends to increase. The global temperature increase affects the jet stream and climate patterns. Due to these changes, the future climate in Massachusetts is expected to resemble historic climate patterns of Southern New England or Mid-Atlantic States more closely, depending upon GHG emission scenarios. Climate change has already started to impact Massachusetts and these trends are likely to continue. Climate

change is likely to affect Massachusetts's typical precipitation cycle, leading to more intense rainfall and storms and more episodic or flash droughts. Temperatures will increase in both summer and winter. Each of the hazard profiles provided below includes more detail on how hazard frequency and intensity is likely to shift with climate change.



#### 4.1.4 Top Hazards as Defined in the CRB Workshop

Workshop participants were asked to identify the four top hazards/climate change impacts that Fitchburg faces. Extensive discussion led to the selection of the following:

-  Flooding
-  Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, and Tornadoes
-  Extreme Temperatures
-  Nor'easters, Ice Storms, and Severe Snowstorms

The workshop was designed to bring stakeholders together to brainstorm action items that will facilitate a climate resilient future while also supporting the City's unique features and characteristics. Concerns related to hazardous events such as flooding, and snowstorms were topics of discussion. Stakeholders cited building placements in flood zones and limited parking during snowstorms and discussed possible improvements. Workshop participants also reviewed challenges impacting the school system, vulnerable populations, and available housing. There was extensive discussion about winter storms, wind causing power outages, and the potential for future events to worsen in frequency and severity. Stakeholders described how power outages from severe storms can leave many residents without power for extended periods. Fitchburg has a large number of trees, which can be a great strength to the community, but can also be a challenge when they cause damage to overhead power lines and strong storms. Workshop participants highlighted that access to power and backup power sources during natural hazard events is one of the most pressing issues. There was discussion about cutting back tree cover to eliminate tree hazards over power lines.

Another prevalent natural hazard identified for Fitchburg was flooding of the North Nashua River. Workshop participants discussed examples of localized flooding experienced during extreme precipitation events. Areas that experience recurring flooding may limit emergency access to assist vulnerable populations during an extreme event. There was discussion about emergency evacuation procedures for these populations. The sizing of storm water drainpipes in lower lying areas, as well as hilly areas where drainage issues occur, is critical. These drains will need to be updated to accommodate flash flooding events.

## 4.2 Flood-Related Hazards

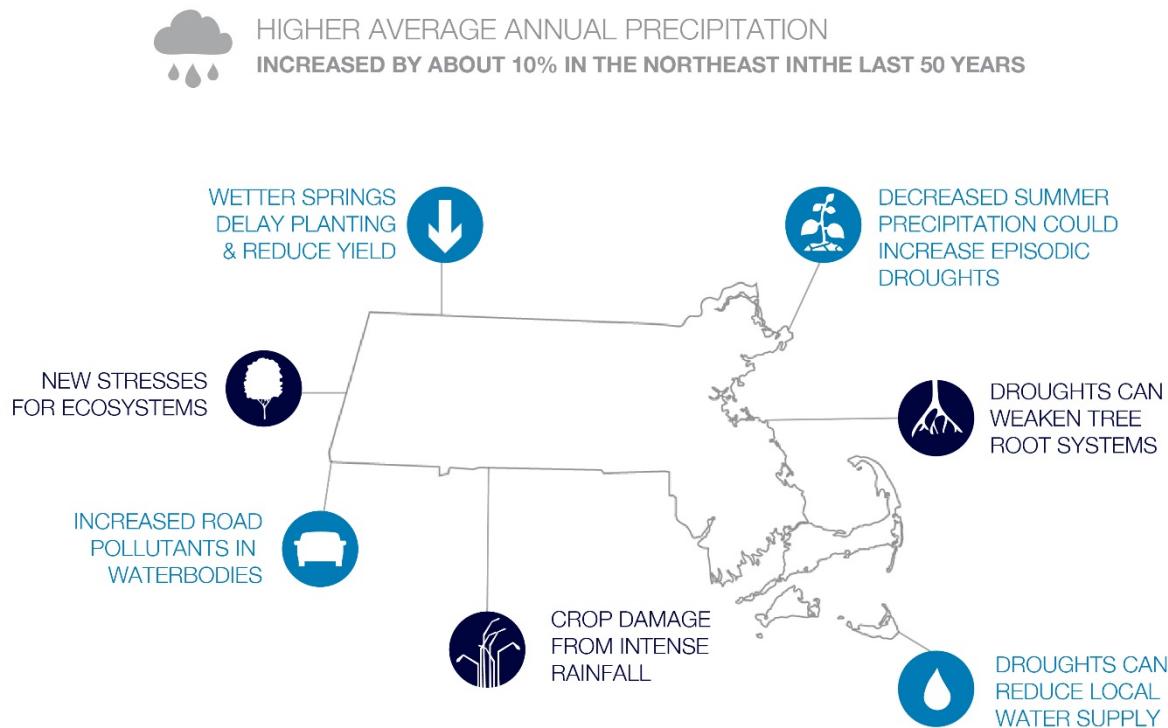
Flooding was among the four main hazards identified by participants during Fitchburg's CRB Workshop. Flooding can be caused by various weather events including hurricanes, extreme precipitation, thunderstorms, nor'easters, and winter storms. Flooding can be both riverine (topping the banks of streams, rivers, ponds) and from stormwater that is not properly infiltrated into the ground. While Fitchburg experiences these events, the impacts of climate change will likely lead to increasingly severe storms and increasingly severe impacts. The impacts of flooding include injury or death, property damage, and traffic disruption. The winter and spring thaw can also bring flooding challenges to the city, with clogged catch basins or ice flowing into dams.

Flood hazards are directly linked to erosion, which can compromise receiving water quality, slope stability, and the stability of building foundations. This puts current and future structures and populations

located near steep embankments at risk. Erosion can also undercut streambeds and scour around stream crossing, creating a serious risk to roadways. Residents identified erosion occurring near the airport and the South Wastewater Treatment Plant. Figure 4-1 shows the impact of precipitation on the State.

Weston & Sampson

## IMPACTS OF CHANGING PRECIPITATION



Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. 2019. "Changes in Precipitation." Massachusetts Climate Change Clearinghouse. <http://www.resilientma.org/changes/changes-in-precipitation>

Figure 4-1. Impact of changing precipitation in future on the State of Massachusetts

Areas within the FEMA Flood Zones, repetitive loss sites, and local areas identified as flood prone are more vulnerable to the impacts of flooding. The following sub-sections provide more information on historic flooding events, potential flood hazards, a vulnerability assessment, locally identified areas of flooding, and information on the risk of dam failures. The vulnerability assessment of flood hazard areas was informed by the FEMA NFIP Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and a GIS vulnerability analysis. Flooding events in Fitchburg have been classified as a high frequency event. 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan, this hazard occurs more frequently than once in 5 years or greater than 20% per year.

### 4.2.1 Areas Vulnerable to Flooding

#### 4.2.1.1 Riverine Flooding

The entire City of Fitchburg is located within the North Nashua River Watershed. There are numerous rivers, streams, ponds, wetland crossings, lakes, and reservoirs. The North Nashua River runs through the southern portion of the City and is at some points parallel to Main Street. Greene Pond is located

east of John Fitch Highway. Overlook, Falulah, Lowell, and Scotts Reservoirs are in the west/northwest area within the City boundaries of Fitchburg. Residents identified flooding in the area surrounding John Fitch Highway.

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) designate areas likely to experience flooding. The FIRM delineates both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones under the NFIP. This includes high risk areas that have a one percent chance of being flooded in any year (often referred to as the "100-year floodplain"), which under the NFIP, is linked to mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements for federally backed mortgage loans. It also identifies moderate to low risk areas, defined as the area with a 0.2 percent chance of flooding in any year (often referred to as the "500-year floodplain"). The definitions of these flood zones are provided below. FEMA-designated flood zones for Fitchburg (FEMA, 1991) are included in Appendix B. The FEMA flood zone surrounds most of the water bodies and wetlands areas listed in the previous paragraph.

### Flood Insurance Rate Map Zone Definitions

**Zone A** (1% annual chance): Zone A is the flood insurance rate zone corresponding to the 100-year floodplains that are determined in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) by approximate methods. Detailed hydraulic analyses are not performed for such areas, therefore, no BFEs (Base Flood Elevations) or depths are shown within this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply.

**Zone AE and A1-A30** (1% annual chance): Zones AE and A1-A30 are the flood insurance rate zones that correspond to the 100-year floodplains that are determined in the FIS by detailed methods. In most instances, BFEs derived from the detailed hydraulic analyses are shown at selected intervals within this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply.

**Zone X** (0.2% annual chance): Zone X is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 500-year floodplains that are determined in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) by approximate methods. Because detailed hydraulic analyses are not performed for such areas, no BFEs or depths are shown within this zone.

Source: (FEMA, 2019b) <https://www.fema.gov/flood-zones>

### Repetitive Loss Sites

As defined by FEMA and the NFIP, a repetitive loss property is any insured property which the NFIP has paid two or more flood claims of \$1,000 or more in any given 10-year period since 1978 (FEMA, 2019e). There are 4 repetitive loss properties in Fitchburg (Table 4-2). Three properties are residential buildings and one property is a non-residential building (FEMA, 2019g). Two of the City's repetitive loss buildings are located within the Zone A floodplain. The remaining two repetitive loss buildings are located within B, C, or X zones, which are defined by FEMA as areas of moderate or minimal flood hazard. One of the repetitive loss structures is not insured (DCR, 2020a).

**Table 4-2. Summary of Repetitive Loss Properties**

Repetitive loss structure details	Number of properties
Repetitive Loss Buildings (Total)	4
Repetitive Loss Buildings (Insured)	3
Repetitive Losses (Total)	15
Repetitive Losses (Insured)	13
Repetitive Loss Payments (Total)	\$197,562.54
Building	\$192,043.53
Contents	\$5,519.01
Repetitive Loss Payments (Insured)	\$186,513.17
Building	\$180,994.16
Contents	\$5,519.01

(Source: FEMA 2019g; DCR, 2020a)

Notably, repetitive loss data only includes buildings that qualify for the repetitive loss designation, which does not represent all losses due to flooding. The number of buildings that experience losses due to flooding is likely higher than what is reported above.

#### Stormwater Flooding

Stormwater flooding occurs during a precipitation event where the rate of rainfall is greater than the capacity of the stormwater management system. This may be due to an undersized culvert, poor drainage, topography, high amounts of impervious surfaces, or debris that causes the stormwater system to function below its design standard. In these cases, the stormwater management system becomes overwhelmed, causing water to inundate roadways and properties. In the City of Fitchburg, the combined stormwater sewer system causes additional capacity and public health concerns. The City has many old stone culverts that were installed over 100 years ago and only some of their locations are known. They are often undersized and structurally deficient.

Most stormwater systems in Massachusetts are aging and have been designed with rainfall data that is no longer accurate. Figure 4-2 shows how anticipated rainfall during design storms has increased from 1961 to 2015, especially for the larger 24-hour, 100-year event. Green infrastructure or low impact development improvements can help reduce demand on the existing stormwater system by increasing infiltration on-site. Rain gardens and pervious pavement are two examples of possible strategies. Upsizing culverts with new rainfall data is also recommended.

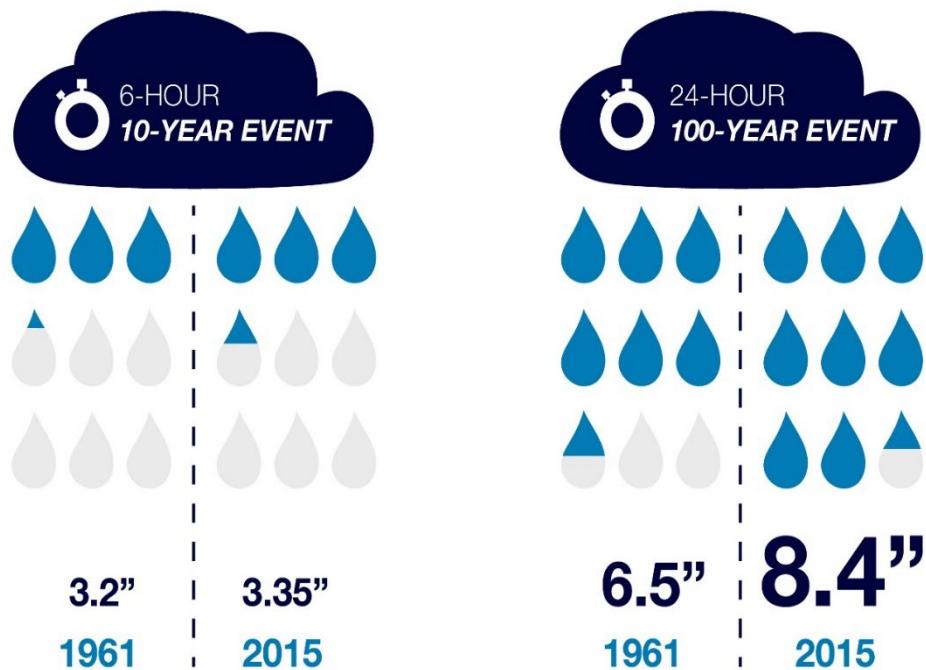


Figure 4-2. Stormwater Design Standards (NOAA TP 40, 1961 and

Hydrographs, or graphs of the streamflow, can be used to illustrate the impact of impervious surface and stormwater runoff. Hydrographs of natural streams generally see a gradual increase in the amount of flow during rain events as stormwater flows into the waterways via the surface and groundwater. Hydrographs of urban streams generally have a large spike, which indicates stormwater rushing into the waterbody through conveyance systems and off impervious surfaces.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) manages a streamflow gauging station on the North Nashua River. As Figure 4-3 indicates, the discharge exceeded seven hundred cubic feet on April 13, 2020 (USGS 01094400 North Nashua River at Fitchburg, MA, as of April 20, 2020) after a large spike in the flow. The large spike could indicate that much of the stormwater is not being infiltrated into the ground, but rather directed into the North Nashua River. Fitchburg's terrain is also very hilly in places with ledge and hard pan soil layers, which can create high volumes of runoff and challenges for groundwater recharge.

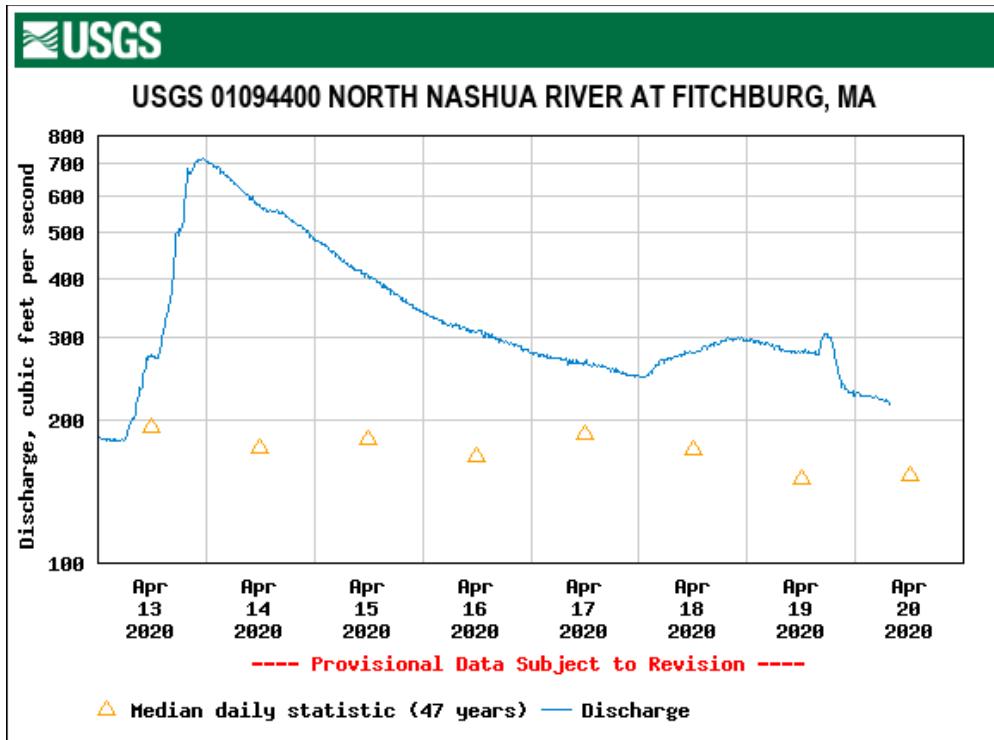


Figure 4-3 USGS Streamflow Discharge (USGS water data as of April 20, 2020)

#### Locally Identified Areas of Flooding

Fitchburg City staff and CRB Workshop participants helped identify local areas of flooding. These areas may not directly overlap with the FEMA-designated flood zones previously discussed. However, these areas have been noted to flood during a significant rain event. This is often due to topography and/or insufficient drainage. The City has recently made some repairs to the flood reduction system in the Downtown area, improved drainage on Columbia Road, and made several other updates to reduce the impact of flood events. Table 4-3 below identifies the local areas that are prone to flooding.

**Table 4-3. Locally Identified Areas of Flooding**

Location	Description
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	In flood zone
Fitchburg City Hall	In flood zone
Fitchburg DPW Headquarters	In flood zone
Fitchburg Senior Citizen's Center	In flood zone
Electrical Substation #4	
The Arc of Opportunity	In flood zone
Fitchburg-East Wastewater Treatment Facility	In flood zone
John Fitch Highway, Pearl Hill Road, Main Street	Poor drainage
Princeton Road (Rt. 31) underpass	

Location	Description
Punch Brook	Causes Downtown and basement flooding in many buildings on Main Street, leading to power outages
River Street @ Wallace Road	Updated/fixed
Shea Street	
Columbia Ave./Dewey Street	
Broad Street	
Boulder Ave	
Fitchburg Commuter Rail Station	In flood zone
Homeless Shelter	In flood zone
Riverfront Park	In flood zone

#### 4.2.2 Historic Flood Events

##### Flood Events in Fitchburg

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information Storm Events Database (NOAA, 2019a) provides information on previous flood and flash flood events for Worcester County. Flash flood events are considered by the NOAA's Storm Events Database as "A life-threatening, rapid rise of water into a normally dry area beginning within minutes to multiple hours of the causative event (e.g., intense rainfall, dam failure, ice jam)" (US Department of Commerce et al., 2018, p.A-15). Floods are considered, "Any high flow, overflow, or inundation by water which causes damage. In general, this would mean the inundation of a normally dry area caused by an increased water level in an established watercourse, or ponding of water, that poses a threat to life or property" (US Department of Commerce et al., 2018, p.A-20).

Between 2000 and 2019, the City of Fitchburg had 14 floods and flash flood events that are identified below in Table 4-4. Although some of the events caused property damages, there were no deaths reported.

**Table 4-4: Fitchburg Flooding Events 2000-2019**

Event Date	Type of Flooding	Property Damage (\$)	Description
4/22/2000	Flood and Flash Flood	\$0	Low pressure moving across southeast New England brought heavy rain to much of central and eastern Massachusetts. Many areas received 3 to 5 inches of rain, resulting in widespread urban flooding and minor flooding of rivers and streams. Specific crests of rivers which went into flood include the North Nashua River at Fitchburg (6.54 feet at 315 am on the 22nd).
9/25/2001	Flash Flood	\$0	Localized torrential rainfall caused significant urban flooding in Fitchburg and Leominster. The official storm total at Fitchburg Airport was 4.03 inches, most of which fell in a three-hour period. Over one foot of water flooded Route 2 near the intersection with Route 12.

Event Date	Type of Flooding	Property Damage (\$)	Description
4/1/2004	Flood	\$0	Widespread minor to moderate flooding impacted many rivers in southern New England, as a result of 2 to 4 inches of rain over a three-day period. North Nashua River at Fitchburg caused flooding in the surrounding area.
4/16/2007	Flood	\$500,000	An unusually strong and slow-moving coastal storm caused major flooding along the North Nashua River in Fitchburg. A crest of 8.6 feet was recorded at 5:30 AM on the 16th (flood stage is 6.5 feet). This may have surpassed the previous record high crest, which occurred in April 2007. Widespread flooding was reported along the river in Fitchburg, where several roads were impassable.
7/2/2009	Flash Flood	\$5,000	Thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain and flooding across southern New England from a slow-moving front. Numerous streets were closed in Fitchburg, Leominster, and Sterling due to flooding. A car was stuck in flood waters on Shay Street in Fitchburg.
3/14/2010	Flood	\$2,700,000	A stacked low-pressure system and a strong southeasterly wind event caused widespread rainfall totals of up to ten inches. This resulted in major flooding across eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including small stream, urban, and poor drainage flooding, prompting the Governor of Massachusetts to declare a state of emergency followed by a federal disaster declaration for seven Massachusetts counties. Several roads in Fitchburg and surrounding cities were closed due to flooding.
3/29/2010	Flood	\$4,050,000	A low-pressure system brought heavy rain to much of Southern New England during this time. Three to seven inches of rain fell across portions of Worcester County. Several roads and basements flooded in Fitchburg and surrounding cities.
7/19/2010	Flood	\$0	Scattered severe thunderstorms produced wind damage and large hail, mainly in central Massachusetts. Several cars were stuck in flood waters on Route 12 in Fitchburg.
3/7/2011	Flood	\$25,000	An area of low pressure resulted in heavy rains with amounts ranging from 2 to 5 inches across coastal and interior New England on top of melting snows. This large amount of water flowing into various basins resulted in flooding of tributaries and major rivers, inundating local neighborhoods and roadways. In Fitchburg, several roadways flooded, including John

Event Date	Type of Flooding	Property Damage (\$)	Description
			Fitch Highway, River Street at Wallace Road, and Columbia, Shea, and Cathy Streets. In addition, the Fire Department pumped out about two dozen basements that were flooded.
7/1/2013	Flash Flood	\$0	Heavy rain and rotating thunderstorms caused two feet of flooding along portions of Route 2 in Fitchburg.
8/13/2016	Flash Flood	\$40,000	Heat, humidity, and a following cold front all contributed to the development of showers and thunderstorms across southern New England. These storms resulted in damaging winds and localized flooding. In Fitchburg, water was a foot deep on John Fitch Highway and the adjoining parking lot.
10/21/2016	Flash Flood	\$75,000	Three to five inches of rain fell within the matter of a few hours during the evening of October 21, which resulted in urban flash flooding in Worcester and surrounding areas. In Fitchburg, flash flooding closed a section of the John Fitchburg Highway and a car was stuck in flood waters on Shelley Avenue.
8/2/2017	Flash Flood	\$0	Showers and storms produced heavy downpours and strong wind gusts. Water two feet deep was reported on State Route 31 north of Fitchburg.
10/29/2017	Flood	\$15,000	An area of low pressure generated strong to damaging winds, especially in Eastern Massachusetts. Tropical moisture flowing north ahead of the cold front contributed to heavy downpours with one to five inches of rain reported. John Fitch Highway in Fitchburg was flooded.
9/18/2018	Flash Flood	\$0	Post-Tropical Cyclone Florence moved up the East Coast. Moderate flooding was reported under several railroad underpasses southwest of Fitchburg, including Princeton Road and State Route 2A.

*NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information Storm Events Database (data downloaded on 04/2020)*

### Worcester County Flooding Events

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information Storm Events Database provides information on previous flood events for Worcester County, which includes the City of Fitchburg. A disaster declaration is a statement made by a community when the needs required by a disaster or emergency is beyond the capabilities of that community. Ten disaster declarations were made in Worcester County due to flooding between 2000 and 2019, as can be seen in Table 4-5 on the next page.

**Table 4-5. Previous Federal Disaster Declarations - Flooding**

Disaster Name and Date of Event	Disaster Number	Type of FEMA Assistance	Counties Under Declaration
<b>Severe Storms and Flooding</b> March 5-April 16, 2001	DR-1364	None	Counties of Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Plymouth, Worcester
<b>Flooding</b> April 1-30, 2004	DR-1512	Individual & Households Program	Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Worcester
<b>Severe Storms and Flooding</b> October 7-16, 2005	DR-1614	Public Assistance; Individual & Households Program	All 14 Massachusetts Counties
<b>Severe Winter Storm and Flooding</b> December 11-18, 2008	DR-1813	Public Assistance	All 14 Massachusetts Counties
<b>Severe Storm and Flooding</b> March 12-April 26, 2010	DR-1895	Public Assistance; Individual & Households Program	Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Worcester
<b>Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding</b> February 8-9, 2013	DR-4110	Public Assistance	All 14 Massachusetts Counties
<b>Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding</b> January 26-28, 2015	DR-4214	Public Assistance	Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester

(FEMA, 2019d)

#### 4.2.3 GIS Flooding Exposure Analysis

Hazard location and extent of riverine flooding was determined using the current effective FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) data for Fitchburg, dated 1991. For purposes of this exposure analysis, the following special flood hazard areas as identified in the City of Fitchburg's current FIRMs were included:

- Flood Zone A – 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Flood Zone X – 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

The City's existing tax parcel and property value data were used to estimate the number of parcels (developed and undeveloped) and buildings located in identified hazard areas along with their respective assessed values. The parcel data set provides information about the parcel size, land use type, and assessed value among other characteristics. The parcel data was also classified into various land use types based on the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Property Type Classification Code for Fiscal Year 2019.

To determine the vulnerability of each parcel and building, a GIS overlay analysis was conducted in which flood hazard extent zones were overlaid with the parcel data and existing building footprint data.

To calculate the exposure of parcels and buildings to flood hazards, parcels with buildings that are located completely or partially within recognized hazard zones were identified using the ArcGIS overlay analysis (i.e. select by location using the intersect function). The number of parcels and buildings for each land use category was then totaled, along with the value of buildings and real estate properties associated with those parcels. These figures provide a strong indication of current hazard vulnerability, as well as potential future vulnerability as it relates to vacant and potentially developable parcels.

#### Flooding Vulnerability Assessment

A flood exposure analysis was conducted for critical facilities and vulnerable populations throughout the municipality utilizing MassGIS data, FEMA flood maps, and information gathered from the municipality. Table 4-6 below displays critical facilities in Fitchburg that are located within either the 100-year or 500-year FEMA flood zone and Table 4-7 shows the Census Blocks in Fitchburg that contain a high concentration of vulnerable populations.

**Table 4-6. Critical Facilities Located within the FEMA Flood Zone**

Facility	Address	100-Year Flood Zone	500-Year Flood Zone
Verizon Switching Facility MA873207	676 Main Street		X
Guild of St. Agnes - Fitchburg Preschool/School	62 Dover Street		X
MOC Child Care and Head Start Services	133 Prichard Street		X
Montachusetts Regional YMCA Preschool / Kindergarten	55 Wallace Avenue		X
Sawmill Pond Dam	N/A	X	
Greenes Pond Dam	N/A	X	
Mill Pond #1 Dam	N/A	X	
James Pond Dam	N/A	X	
Arden Mill Dam	N/A	X	
Swimming Pool Dam	N/A	X	
North Nashua River Mill #4 Dam	N/A	X	
North Nashua River Mill #9 Dam	N/A	X	
North Nashua River Mill #6 Dam	N/A	X	
Fitchburg Gas & Electric Dam	N/A	X	
Putnams Pond Dam	N/A	X	
Falulah Reservoir Dam	N/A	X	
Trotting Park or Coolidge Park Dam	N/A	X	
Wastewater Treatment Plant Dam	N/A	X	
Electric Station Dam	N/A	X	
McTaggarts Pond Dam	N/A		X
Department of Public Works	301 Broad Street	X	
Electric Substation	Sawyer Passway		X
Emergency Shelter	14 Wallace Avenue	X	

Facility	Address	100-Year Flood Zone	500-Year Flood Zone
Fitchburg Blueberry Lane Landfill	41 Blueberry Lane	X	X
Fitchburg City Hall	166 Boulder Drive	X	
Fitchburg District Courthouse	100 Elm Street	X	
Fitchburg Law Library	84 Elm Street	X	
Fitchburg Public Library	610 Main Street	X	
Pelletier's Building Supply Co	133 Water Street	X	
Market Basket	130 Water Street	X	
CVS Pharmacy	96 Water Street	X	
CVS Pharmacy	436 John Fitch Highway	X	
Gas Station Sunoco	240 Lunenburg Street	X	
Gas Station	376 River Street	X	
Gas Station and Johnny's Service Station	339 River Street	X	
Gas Station and Montvori Oil Corp	2 Boulder Drive		X
DRS Technologies	166 Boulder Drive	X	
British American Club	1 Simonds Road	X	
Midtown Beef Co	87 Water Street	X	
Seaboard Folding Box Corp.	35 Daniels Street	X	
Mocron Products Inc.	25 Sawyer Passway	X	
Matthews Realty Trust	314 John Fitch Highway	X	
Central Plaza Shopping Center	130 Water Street	X	
Commercial Street Realty Trust	40 Commercial Street	X	
Jiffy Lube	541 John Fitch Highway	X	
Verizon Switching Facility MA873207	676 Main Street	X	
Fitchburg- East Wastewater Treatment Facility	24 Lanides Lane	X	
Independent Cleaners	1 Wallace Road		X
Simonds International Corp.	139 Intervale Road		X
Penske	210 Airport Road		X
Coolidge Park	Pearl Street at John Fitch Highway		X
Arrhythmia Research Technology	24 Sawyer Passway	X	
Hazardous Material Site - Solar Farms	115 Sawyer Passway		X
Foster Insurance Agency	321 Lunenburg Street		X
Central Steam Plant	465 Westminster Street		X
Former Vogue Wall Coverings	68 Airport Road		X
Homeless Shelter	356B Broad Street #4		X
CareWell Urgent Care	380 John Fitch Highway	X	
MOC's Child Care & Head Start School	63 Fairmount Street		X
North Central Charter Essential School	1 Oak Hill Road, Suite 100	X	
Wallace Tower	54 Wallace Avenue		X

Facility	Address	100-Year Flood Zone	500-Year Flood Zone
Christ Church Religious Center	569 Main Street	X	
Masjid Baitul Zikr Religious Center	370 Main Street		X
Horizon Christian Fellowship Religious Center	356 Broad Street		X
New Life Spanish Christian Church Religious Center	63 Fairmount Street		X
Sewer Pump Station	75 Sawyer Passway	X	
Train Station MBTA Commuter Rail	100 Main Street		X
First Student Bus	203 Airport Road		X
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	567 Crawford Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	401 Princeton Road	X	
Underground Storage Tank	0 Lanides Lane	X	
Underground Storage Tank	301 Broad Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	1200 Main Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	222 Lunenburg Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	166 Boulder Drive	X	
Underground Storage Tank	356 River Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	133 Water Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	236 Lunenburg Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	91 Laurel Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	347 River Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	0 Nursery Lane	X	
Underground Storage Tank	240 Lunenburg Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	370 John Fitch Highway	X	
Underground Storage Tank	339 River Street	X	
Underground Storage Tank	23 Woodbury Avenue	X	
Underground Storage Tank	232 Airport Road		X
Underground Storage Tank	402 Broad Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	232 Falulah Road		X
Underground Storage Tank	0 Intervale Road		X
Underground Storage Tank	1022 Main Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	237 Lunenburg Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	16 Benson Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	676 Main Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	68 Airport Road		X
Underground Storage Tank	210 Falulah Road		X
Underground Storage Tank	88 Benson Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	64 Main Street		X
Underground Storage Tank	203 Airport Road		X
Water Storage Tank	909 Rindge Road	X	

Out of 265 critical facilities in Fitchburg, 100 are located in 100-year or 500-year flood zone (Table 4-6). Some of the critical facilities include locations with vulnerable populations, hazardous material sites, gas stations, and underground storage tanks. It is important to protect these facilities from flooding that could threaten public health and cause water quality and contamination issues downstream if hazardous sites were to leach or erode.

**Table 4-7. Vulnerable Populations and Environmental Justice Community Located within the FEMA Flood Zone**

Census Block Number	Vulnerable Population	Total Area (acres)	Area in 100 Year Flood Plain	Percent in 100 Year Flood Plain	Area in 500 Year Flood Plain	Percent in 500 Year Flood Plain
250277101001000	Minor*	4.4	0.05	1.06	0.11	2.42
250277101001003	Minor*	3.0	0.67	22.25	0.51	16.95
250277101001005	Elderly	3.7	0.75	20.48	0.50	13.63
250277101001053	Minor*	2.2	0	0.00	0.31	14.21
250277101002007	Minor*	2.9	0	0.00	1.64	55.59
250277101002008	Minor* and Elderly	1.7	0	0.00	1.72	100
250277101002009	Minor*	1.8	0	0.00	1.19	67.39
250277101002011	Minor*	1.3	0	0.00	0.33	25.42
250277101003000	Minor*	19.7	8.26	41.90	2.36	11.96
250277101003012	Minor*	21.9	7.01	31.95	4.99	22.75
250277101004000	Minor*	2.5	0.01	0.24	0.05	2.04
250277102006002	Minor*	208.8	3.82	1.83	2.75	1.32
250277103001008	Minor*	2.5	0.01	0.25	0.07	2.62
250277103001009	Minor*	17.3	11.31	65.19	2.27	13.08
250277103001019	Minor*	464.0	27.92	6.02	6.93	1.49
250277103001030	Minor*	4.0	0	0.00	0.02	0.59
250277103002006	Minor*	12.7	4.32	34.02	2.85	22.46
250277103002007	Minor*	4.8	0.01	0.17	0	0.00
250277103002024	Minor*	58.4	5.80	9.94	2.97	5.08
250277103002030	Elderly	3.1	0.00	0.00	0.05	1.71
250277103002033	Minor*	6.2	0.66	10.64	0.46	7.34
250277103002034	Minor*	1.3	0.15	11.59	0.81	62.11
250277103002036	Elderly	1.4	0.00	0.00	0	0.01
250277103002073	Elderly	17.7	0.76	4.31	0.45	2.54
250277105002000	Elderly	6.8	6.34	93.84	0.39	5.71
250277105002006	Minor*	3.0	0.53	17.97	1.16	39.26
250277106001001	Minor*	3.0	0	0.00	0.45	15.06
250277106001002	Minor*	6.9	4.61	67.09	0.41	5.92
250277106001018	Minor*	6.9	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

Census Block Number	Vulnerable Population	Total Area (acres)	Area in 100 Year Flood Plain	Percent in 100 Year Flood Plain	Area in 500 Year Flood Plain	Percent in 500 Year Flood Plain
250277106003007	Minor*	13.7	4.34	31.72	2.01	14.71
250277106003008	Minor*	2.4	0	0.00	0.004	0.17
250277106003010	Minor*	9.6	0	0.00	0.01	0.14
250277106005003	Minor*	11.7	0.72	6.18	2.03	17.38
250277106005010	Minor*	4.6	0.40	8.59	1.13	24.43
250277107001000	Minor*	5.1	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.80
250277107002002	Minor*	1.0	0	0.35	0.36	36.05
250277107002005	Elderly	1.5	0.09	6.15	1.12	76.37
250277107002014	Minor*	0.8	0.01	1.60	0.02	2.93
250277107002030	Elderly	0.3	0	0.00	0.004	1.28
250277107002031	Minor*	1.9	0	0.12	0.14	7.67
250277107002035	Minor*	4.5	3.77	84.06	0.71	15.88
250277108001000	Minor*	82.4	0.25	0.31	0.01	0.01
250277108003014	Minor*	2.0	0.00	0.05	0.34	17.28
250277108003019	Minor*	9.8	6.48	66.14	0.57	5.85
250277108003033	Minor*	11.6	6.40	55.21	1.30	11.19
250277110001009	Elderly	16.0	10.55	65.88	1.86	11.59
250277110001010	Elderly	0.7	0.45	63.84	0.25	34.96
250277110001011	Minor*	1.8	0	0.00	0.01	0.62
250277111001007	Elderly	24.2	0.60	2.46	1.37	5.67
250277111001009	Elderly	2.1	0.05	2.22	0.01	0.29
250277111001011	Minor*	7.5	0.94	12.55	0.86	11.38
250277111001017	Elderly	20.0	0.99	4.92	0.80	3.97
250277111001023	Minor*	2.3	0.00	0.00	0.07	2.85
250277111002010	Minor*	434.5	2.19	0.50	0.48	0.11
250277111002011	Minor*	1059.2	9.07	0.86	0.75	0.07
250277111002020	Elderly	865.0	10.52	1.22	3.21	0.37
250277111002032	Elderly	6.2	3.48	55.94	0.30	4.78
250277111002036	Minor* and Elderly	10.5	0.62	5.95	0.34	3.28
0189937	MI	415	98	24	65	16
0189938	M	646	254	39	114	18
0189939	MI	114	17	15	8	7
0189940	M	82	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.07
0189955	MI	74	1	1	1	2
0189956	MI	59	7	12	3	4
0189957	M	99	7	7	2	2
0189959	MIE**	123	18	14	26	21

Census Block Number	Vulnerable Population	Total Area (acres)	Area in 100 Year Flood Plain	Percent in 100 Year Flood Plain	Area in 500 Year Flood Plain	Percent in 500 Year Flood Plain
0189961	M	115	18	16	7	6
0189963	MI	281	28	10	17	6
0189965	MI	62	15	24	11	17
0189966	MI	81	35	44	12	14
0189968	M	209	0.25	0.12	0.01	0.01
0189970	MI	208	22	11	5	2
0189972	M	164	20	12	3	2
0189974	MI	40	0	0	0.06	0.15

\*Minor is a person under the age of full legal responsibility.

\*\*MIE stands for M=minority, I=Income, E=English isolation

During the CRB Workshop, stakeholders discussed concern for residents who may experience social isolation, including elderly residents and children. 58 Census Blocks in Fitchburg with a higher concentration of youth or seniors and 16 Census Blocks with a higher concentration of Environmental Justice Communities are located partially within a FEMA flood zone.

#### Flood Exposure Tables

The results of the vulnerability assessment conducted for Fitchburg's existing community assets are summarized on the following pages. These include an exposure table for natural hazards with geographically defined risk areas (FIRM zones). Table 4-8 and 4-9 below show the detailed exposure of buildings in 100-year flood zones and in 500-year flood zones by parcel type. The value of all buildings and their exposure to flooding within the FIRM zones is also listed. A total of 784 parcels are in both the 100- and 500-year flood zone (Table 4-8, 4-9). Overall, 15% of Fitchburg's total property is at risk to flooding. An analysis of developable vacant parcels has shown that 854 parcels remain undeveloped, with 98 of them, or 19% of the total, located in flood zones.

**Table 4-8. Exposure of Parcels in 100 Year Flood Zones by Land Use Type**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Parcels	Total Area of Parcels (acres)	Number of Parcels in the Flood Zone	Area of Parcels in the Flood Zone (acres)	Percentage of Parcels in the Flood Zone	Property Value in the Flood Zone
Residential	9326	6137	141	161	2	\$21,637,900
Commercial	598	999	148	203	20	\$51,417,600
Industrial	139	734	49	371	50	\$29,644,200
Institutional	62	1060	20	588	55	\$127,207,600
Agricultural	1	44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Recreation & Open Space	3	10	2	10	99	\$3,207,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,129</b>	<b>8987</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1334</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$233,114,900</b>

**Table 4-9. Exposure of Parcels in 500 Year Flood Zones by Land Use Type**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Parcels	Total Area of Parcels (acres)	Number of Parcels in the Flood Zone	Area of Parcels in the Flood Zone (acres)	Percentage of Parcels in the Flood Zone	Property Value in the Flood Zone
Residential	9,326	6,137	211	172	2.8	\$30,023,900
Commercial	598	999	135	237	23	\$52,110,200
Industrial	139	734	61	430	58	\$36,458,400
Institutional	62	1060	15	544	51	\$88,536,500
Agricultural	1	44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Recreation & Open Space	3	10	2	10	99	\$3,207,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,129</b>	<b>8,987</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$210,336,600</b>

There are 360 parcels with 1,334 acres in the 100-year floodplain. In contrast, there were 303 structures totaling 876.54 acres documented in 2015 (MRPC, 2015). Building and parcel data are not comparable and therefore these cannot be used to infer if flood vulnerability has increased since the 2015 plan. However, 20% of developable, vacant parcels are in the 100-year floodplain and 19% are in the 500-year floodplain (please see Tables 4-10 and 4-11). Therefore, future flood vulnerability in Fitchburg could increase without proactive action to mitigate future flood risk. In addition, one recently developed parcel (Garden Remedies) is partially located in the 100- and 500-year flood zone, which may indicate a slight increase in flood vulnerability (Table 4-12). Several planned developments are also in the flood zones (Table 4-12).

To further resiliency in the City, a flood exposure analysis was completed on all vacant, developable parcels. The analysis was conducted utilizing MassGIS data, FEMA flood maps, and information from the City. The result of this analysis identifies future flooding that could occur on these parcels if they were to be developed. Undeveloped parcels in Fitchburg are summarized in Tables 4-10 and 4-11.

**Table 4-10. Exposure of Developable, Vacant Land to the 100-Year Flood Zone**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Parcels	Total Area of Parcels (acres)	Number of Parcels in Flood Zone	Area of Parcels in the Flood Zone (acres)	Percentage of the Parcels in the Flood Zone
Residential	571	1,770	22	268	15
Commercial	31	16	9	5	34
Industrial	23	50	6	23	45
Government	212	2,012	47	370	18
Agricultural	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Open Space	17	466	2	195	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4315</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>20</b>

**Table 4-11. Exposure of Developable, Vacant Land to the 500-Year Flood Zone**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Parcels	Total Area of Parcels (acres)	Number of Parcels in Flood Zone	Area of Parcels in the Flood Zone (acres)	Percentage of the Parcels in the Flood Zone
Residential	571	1,770	30	256	14
Commercial	31	16	11	5	31
Industrial	23	50	12	26	51
Government	212	2,012	43	359	18
Agricultural	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Open Space	17	466	2	195	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>4315</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>19</b>

The output of the ArcGIS overlay analysis showed all vacant, developable parcels that intersected with a flood zone. The number of parcels was totaled for each land use type within each of the FEMA Flood Zones. While 4315 acres of land in Fitchburg are vacant and developable, 20% of that land is located within the 100-year flood zone and an additional 19% in the 500-year flood zone. It is recommended that, as the City expands development, additional analysis be conducted on these parcels to reduce future damage from flooding.

Recent and planned development (Table 3-6) were overlaid with FEMA flood zone maps to determine their vulnerability to flooding. Parcels were categorized by development type. The exposure of potential development within each land use type was documented by the area and percentage of parcels that overlap with a flood zone. Five of the potential developments are in the 100-year flood zone. Two additional potential developments are located on parcels in the 500-year flood zone. Please refer to Tables 4-12 and 4-13 below.

**Table 4-12. Recent\* and Planned Development in the 100-Year FEMA Flood Zone**

Development Name	Development Address	Land Use Type	Total Area of Parcels (acres)	Area of Parcels in the Flood Zone (acres)	Percentage of the Parcels in the Flood Zone
Garden Remedies*	307 Airport Rd.	Industrial	8.0	1.6	20
The Hub Craft	25 Newport St.	Industrial	5.1	1.1	21
Fitchburg Sandpit Site	0 Airport Road	Government	21.7	4.5	21
Apical, LLC	431 Westminster St.	Industrial	9.2	3.7	41
Wastewater Treatment Adaptive Reuse	230 Princeton Road	Government	16.3	7.7	47
Blue Collar Botany	644 River St.	Industrial	2.65	1.3	50
<b>Total</b>			<b>62.9</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>32</b>

**Table 4-13. Recent\* and Planned Development in the 500-Year FEMA Flood Zone**

Development Name	Development Address	Land Use Type	Total Area of Parcels (acres)	Area of Parcels in the Flood Zone (acres)	Percentage of the Parcels in the Flood Zone
Garden Remedies*	307 Airport Rd.	Industrial	8.0	5.5	68
Harper Furniture	10 Main St., Summer St.	Commercial	0.2	0.2	100
The Hub Craft	25 Newport St.	Industrial	5.1	4.0	79
Fitchburg Sandpit Site	0 Airport Road	Government	21.7	6.8	31
A Cannabis Grower to Be Named Later	310 Broad St.	Industrial	0.5	0.3	57
Apical, LLC	431 Westminster St.	Industrial	9.2	0.5	6
Wastewater Treatment Adaptive Reuse	230 Princeton Road	Government	16.3	1.4	9
Blue Collar Botany	644 River St.	Industrial	2.7	0.9	32
<b>Total</b>			<b>63.6</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>31</b>

#### 4.2.4 Dams and Dam Failure

Dam failure is defined as a collapse of an impounding structure resulting in an uncontrolled release of impounded water from a dam (DCR, 2017a). There are two types of dam failures that can occur. Catastrophic failure occurs when there is a sudden, rapid, uncontrolled release of impounded failure. The second type is design failure, which occurs as a result of minor overflow events. Dam overtopping occurs when floods exceed the capacity of the dam, which can be due to inadequate spillway design or other outside factors such as settlement of the dam crest or back of spillways. Thirty-four percent of all dam failures that occur in the United States are a result of overtopping (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). Many dam failures in the United States have been secondary results of other disasters. The prominent causes include earthquakes, landslides, extreme storms, massive snowmelt, equipment malfunction, structural damage, foundation failures, and sabotage (MEMA and DCR, 2013). Dam failures during flood events are of concern in Massachusetts, given the high density of dams constructed in the 19th century (MEMA and DCR, 2013).

Climate change may indirectly affect dam breaches for a variety of reasons. Dams are typically designed based on historic water flows and known hydrology. Climate change projections indicate that the frequency, intensity, and amount of precipitation will increase in New England. Increased precipitation may push dams over capacity. Therefore, dams will have to be monitored for safety. There are several mechanisms in place to manage increases in water, such as slowly releasing water. It is advised that these events are monitored as they can add additional stress on the dam infrastructure.

Dam failure can cause property damage, injuries, and potentially fatalities. These impacts can be at least partially mitigated through advance warning to communities impacted by a dam failure. In addition, the breach may result in erosion on the rivers and stream banks that are inundated. Dam failure is classified as a low frequency event in the City. As defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard

Mitigation Plan, a very low frequency hazard may occur less frequently than once in 100 years (less than a 1% chance per year). A dam failure can still present a high level of risk, which is indicated through a dam's classification. These classifications are defined by DCR as:

*High:* Dams located where failure or mis-operation will likely cause loss of life and serious damage to home(s), industrial or commercial facilities, important public utilities, main highway(s) or railroad(s).

*Significant:* Dams located where failure or mis-operation may cause loss of life and damage home(s), industrial or commercial facilities, secondary highway(s) or railroad(s), or cause interruption of use or service or relatively important facilities.

*Low:* Dams located where failure or mis-operation may cause minimal property damage to others. Loss of life is not expected.

As of February 2017, all dams classified as high hazard potential or significant hazard potential were required to have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) (DCR, 2019a). This plan must be updated annually and submitted to the Commissioner and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The plan should also be retained by the dam owner and the City in which the dam is located. Guidelines and a template were established by the Office of Dam Safety to ensure that all EAPs follow the proper format.

According to City officials and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Office of Dam Safety, there are 31 dams in Fitchburg. Information related to these dams is summarized in Table 4-14. The City is currently pursuing the removal of McTaggarts Dam. Scott reservoir is still used for drinking water purposes. Fitchburg residents and municipal staff have proposed removing the Overlook Reservoir Dam. Parkhill Park and Trotting Park/Coolidge Park dams have been removed.

**Table 4-14. Inventory of Dams in Fitchburg or Owned by Fitchburg**

Dam Name	Location	Dam Owner	Hazard Potential Classification
Arden Mills Dam	Fitchburg	Arden Mills, LLC c/o Global Property Development Corp.	Low
Arden-Duck Mill Dam	Fitchburg	Arden Mills, LLC c/o Global Property Development Corp.	Low
Electric Station Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Co.	Low
Falulah Reservoir Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	Significant
Greene's Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg, Dept. of Public Works	Significant
James Pond Dam	Fitchburg	No. 1 Mill Warehouse, LLC	Significant
Kimball Rd. Dam	Fitchburg	Unknown	N/A
Lovell Reservoir Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	High
Lovell Reservoir Dike	Fitchburg	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	High
Lower Spring Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Unknown	N/A
Marshal Reservoir Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	N/A
McTaggarts Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	Significant
Mill Pond #1 Dam	Fitchburg	Munksjo Paper Inc.	Significant
Mirror Lake Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg, Parks Department	Significant

Nichols Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Unknown	N/A
Nichols St. Dam	Fitchburg	Thomas E. Donnelly	N/A
North Nashua River Mill #4 Dam	Fitchburg	Munksjo Paper Inc.	Low
North Nashua River Mill #6 Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	N/A
North Nashua River Mill #9 Dam	Fitchburg	291 Westminster Street, LLC	Low
Overlook Reservoir Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	High
Overlook Reservoir Dike	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	High
Putnams Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	N/A
Saima Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Finnish American Club of Saima	N/A
Scott Reservoir Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	High
Snows Mill Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Carraustar Fitchburg Paperboard	High
Swimming Pool Dam	Fitchburg	Unknown	N/A
Upper Sawmill Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	Significant
Upper Spring Pond Dam	Fitchburg	Unknown	N/A
Wastewater Treatment Plant Dam	Fitchburg	Fitchburg	Low
Weyerhauser Dam	Fitchburg	Unknown	N/A

#### Dams Located Outside of Fitchburg

Ashby Reservoir Dam	Ashby	Fitchburg	Significant
Bickford Pond Dam	Hubbardston	Fitchburg	High
Bickford Pond Dike	Hubbardston	Fitchburg	High
Fitchburg Reservoir North Dam	Ashby	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	Low
Fitchburg Reservoir South Dam	Ashby	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	Low
Fitchburg Reservoir South Dike	Ashby	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	Low
Mare Meadow Reservoir Dam	Hubbardston	Fitchburg	High
Meetinghouse Pond Reservoir Dam	Westminster	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	Significant
Smith Pond Dam	Westminster	Fitchburg	N/A
Wachusett Lake Dam	Westminster	Fitchburg, Division of Water Supply	Significant
Wyman Pond Compensating Reservoir Dam	Westminster	Fitchburg, DPW	High

(US Army Corps of Engineers, 2020)

#### 4.2.5 Flooding and Climate Change

Fitchburg's average annual precipitation is 47.9 inches (NEIC, 2019). Extreme rain and snow events are becoming increasingly common and severe, particularly in the Northeast region of the country (Figure 4-4). Large rain or snow events that happened once a year in the middle of the 20th century now occur approximately every nine months. Additionally, the largest annual events now generate 10% more rain than in 1948. Regionally, New England has experienced the greatest increase in the frequency of extreme rain and snow events. These events now occur 85% more frequently than they did 60 years ago (Madsen and Willcox, 2012).

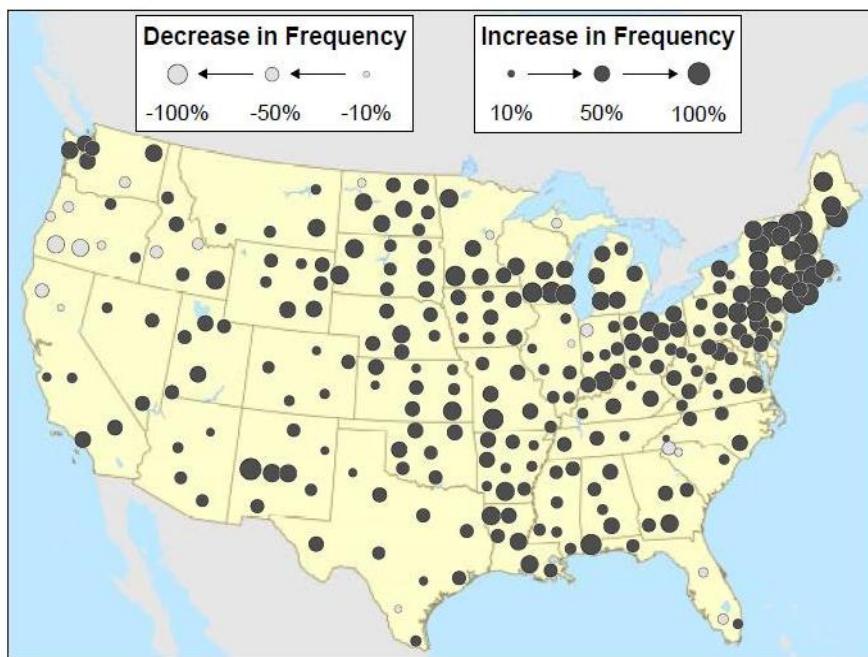


Figure 4-4. Changes in Frequency of Extreme Downpours  
(Madsen and Willcox, 2012)

### 4.3 Wind Related Hazards

High winds can occur during hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, nor'easters, and thunderstorms. The entire City of Fitchburg is vulnerable to the impacts of high wind. Wind may down trees and power lines. High wind and storm events can cause property damage and hazardous driving conditions. While Fitchburg's current 100-year wind speed is 110 mph, climate change will likely increase events and severity (ASCE, 2017).

The planning process identified vulnerabilities related to potential storm damage to power and phone wires from overhanging trees that have not been trimmed by the electric utilities (Unitil) or the phone or cable companies. The utilities' tree maintenance program should be upgraded to reduce the risk associated with tree damage to utility lines. High winds and heavy snow loads caused significant power line damage in Fitchburg during a nor'easter in 2018. Falling trees and branches can also block traffic and emergency routes. This is a regional issue that affects cities and towns beyond Fitchburg.

During Fitchburg's MVP Workshop in March 2020, attendees discussed the impact of past storms on power systems and service disruption. In 2016, a storm led to a downed power line which resulted in

the loss of power at a wastewater pumping station. The gas for the generator at the same pumping station caught on fire and eliminated backup power. Workers were able to bypass the pumping station and Eversource was able to get the pumps back online. However, backup power to the area impacted was cut off for an estimated four hours.

Fitchburg does have reliable communications towers that house equipment for the Police and several other City departments. City officials stated that their communications systems may be at risk during flooding and high wind events. The development of emergency communication plans for vulnerable populations should be developed, that includes an inventory of current resources and an identification of additional needs.

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information offers thunderstorm wind, high wind, and strong wind data for Worcester County. Between 2000 and 2019, 248 wind entries were uploaded into the database and 135 were related to thunderstorms. Other wind events were related to coastal storms, low pressure cells, rains, and other hazard events. During this time period, there was one death, seven injuries, and nearly \$4.7 million worth of damages. Winds ranged from 39 to 65 miles per hour.

#### *4.3.1 Severe Storms and Thunderstorms*

Thunderstorms are typically less severe than other hazard events discussed in this section. However, thunderstorms can cause local damage and are a city-wide risk in Fitchburg. The entire city area is equally susceptible to impacts from thunderstorms, which can include lightning, strong winds, heavy rain, hail, and sometimes tornados. Thunderstorms typically last for about 30 minutes and can generate winds of up to 60 mph. Winds associated with thunderstorms can knock down trees, resulting in power outages and blocked evacuation and transportation routes. Extreme rain during thunderstorms can cause inland flooding around waterbodies or due to surcharged drainage systems. During periods of drought, lightning from thunderstorm cells can result in fire ignition. Thunderstorms with little or no rainfall are rare in New England but have occurred (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). Thunderstorms are considered high frequency events in Fitchburg. As defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan, this hazard may occur more frequently than once in 5 years (a greater than 20% chance per year).

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information offers thunderstorm and hail data for Worcester County (NOAA, 2019a). Between 2000 and 2019, 135 thunderstorm events caused \$3.2 million in property damages in Worcester County. Five injuries and one death were reported. Out of the 135 events, Fitchburg was severely affected by 10 storms. Up to \$180,000 worth of property damage was reported, but no deaths or injuries occurred. All the major thunderstorm events that affected Fitchburg caused downed trees and powerlines, leading to roadblocks and power outages in parts of the City. Between 2000 and 2019, there were 80 hail events that caused \$125,000 in property damage. No deaths or injuries were reported. The size of hail typically ranges from 0.75" up to 2" (NOAA, 2019a).

#### *4.3.2 Hurricanes and Tropical Storms*

Tropical cyclones (including tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) form over the warm waters of the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico. A tropical storm is defined as having sustained winds from 39 to 73 mph. If sustained winds exceed 73 mph, it is categorized a hurricane. The Saffir-Simpson scale ranks hurricanes based on sustained wind speeds from Category 1 (74 to 95 mph) to Category 5 (156 mph or more). Category 3, 4, and 5 hurricanes are considered "Major" hurricanes. Wind gusts associated with hurricanes may exceed the sustained winds and cause more severe localized damage (MEMA and DCR, 2013). The Saffir/Simpson scale (Table 4-15) categorizes or rates hurricanes

from 1 (minimal) to 5 (catastrophic) based on their intensity. This is used to provide an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall. Wind speed is the determining factor in the scale, as storm surge values are highly dependent on context (EEA and EOPSS, 2018).

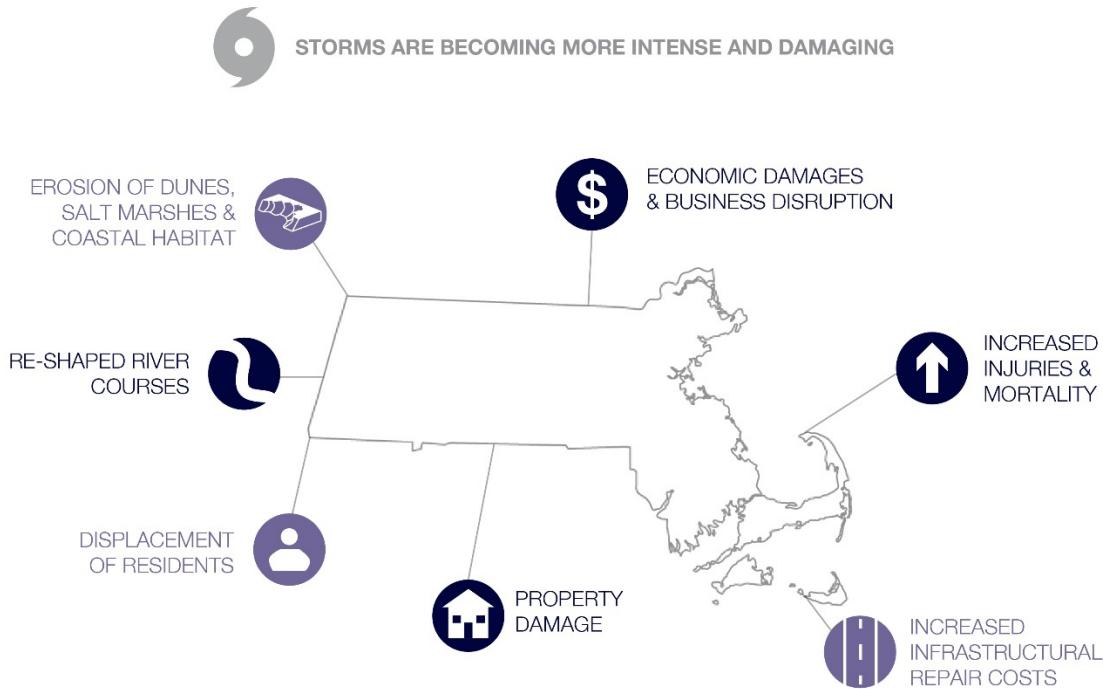
**Table 4-15. Saffir/Simpson Scale**

Scale No. (Category)	Winds (mph)	Potential Damage
1	74 – 95	Minimal: damage is primarily to shrubbery and trees, mobile homes, and some signs. No real damage is done to structures.
2	96 – 110	Moderate: some trees topple, some roof coverings are damaged, and major damage is done to mobile homes.
3	111 – 130	Extensive: large trees topple, some structural damage is done to roofs, mobile homes are destroyed, and structural damage is done to small homes and utility buildings.
4	131 – 155	Extreme: extensive damage is done to roofs, windows, and doors; roof systems on small buildings completely fail; and some curtain walls fail.
5	> 155	Catastrophic: roof damage is considerable and widespread, window and door damage are severe, there are extensive glass failures, and entire buildings could fail.

*MEMA and DCR, 2013, page 325 (table originally created by NOAA)*

The official hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. However, storms are more likely to occur in New England during August, September, and October (MEMA and DCR, 2013). When hurricanes and tropical storms occur, they will impact the entire planning area. Vulnerable populations and all existing and future buildings, including critical facilities, are at risk to hurricane and tropical storm hazards. Hurricane events have a large spatial extent and could potentially affect the entire City of Fitchburg. Impacts include water damage to buildings from building envelope failure, business interruption, loss of communications, and power failure. Flooding is a major concern, as slow-moving hurricanes can discharge tremendous amounts of rain on an area. Figure 4-5 shows the impacts of extreme events on the State. Hurricanes are a city-wide hazard in Fitchburg and are considered a medium frequency event. As defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan, this hazard can occur between once in 5 years to once in 50 years (a 2% to 20% chance per year).

## IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER



Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. 2019. "Extreme Weather." Massachusetts Climate Change Clearinghouse. <http://www.resilientma.org/changes/extreme-weather>

**Figure 4-5. Impacts of extreme events and stronger storms on the State of Massachusetts**

The region has been impacted by hurricanes throughout its history, starting with the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635. Massachusetts experienced 11 hurricanes and one named tropical storm between 1851 and 2012. This includes six category 1 hurricanes, two category 2 hurricanes, and three category 3 hurricanes (Blake et al., 2011). Worcester County faced three major Tropical Storms in the last 10 years. During the August 2011 Tropical Storm, the Automated Surface Observing System at Fitchburg Municipal Airport (KFIT) recorded sustained wind speeds of 29 knots (33 mph) and gusts to 40 knots (46 mph). Hurricanes that have occurred in the region since 1938 are listed in Table 4-16.

**Table 4-16. Hurricane Records for Eastern Massachusetts, 1938 to 2019**

Hurricane/Tropical Storms Event	Date
Great New England Hurricane*	September 21, 1938
Great Atlantic Hurricane*	September 14-15, 1944
Hurricane Doug	September 11-12, 1950
Hurricane Carol*	August 31, 1954
Hurricane Edna*	September 11, 1954
Hurricane Diane	August 17-19, 1955
Hurricane Donna	September 12, 1960
Hurricane Gloria	September 27, 1985
Hurricane Bob	August 19, 1991
Hurricane Grace	October 31, 1991

Hurricane/Tropical Storms Event		Date
Hurricane Floyd		September 1999
Hurricane Katrina		September 13, 2005
Tropical Storm Hanna		September 6, 2008
Hurricane Bill		August 22, 2009
Tropical Storm - Hurricane Earl		September 4, 2010
Tropical Storm Irene		August 28, 2011
Hurricane Sandy		October 29-30, 2012
Tropical Storm-Hurricane Arthur		July 4, 2014
Tropical Storm Hermine		September 5, 2016
Tropical Storm Jose		September 20, 2017
Hurricane Florence		September 18, 2018
Tropical Storm Dorian		September 7, 2019

\* Category 3      National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, 2019a)

Hurricane damage in Fitchburg was estimated using a hurricane modeling software. Hazus Multi-Hazard (Hazus) is a GIS model developed by FEMA to estimate losses in a defined area due to a specified natural hazard. The Hazus hurricane model allows users to input specific parameters in order to model a defined hurricane magnitude, which is based on wind speed. The largest hurricane ever witnessed in Massachusetts was a Category 3 hurricane, which occurred in 1954. For the purpose of this analysis, in order to estimate potential damage, both a Category 2 and a Category 4 hurricane were modeled. Although there have been no recorded Category 4 hurricanes in Massachusetts, the storm was modeled to show the impact that could occur from an extreme scenario. A Category 4 hurricane could potentially occur in the future due to climate change.

In Massachusetts, the return period for a Category 2 hurricane is approximately 0.01 percent, and for a Category 4 hurricane it is approximately 0.005 percent. Hazus models hurricanes based upon their return period. Therefore, a Category 2 was modeled as a 100-year hurricane and a Category 4 was modeled as a 500-year hurricane. To model each of these hurricanes, the study region was defined. The City of Fitchburg was outlined by the Census Tracts in the City, and the probabilistic scenario was used. This scenario considers the impact of thousands of storms that have a multitude of tracks and intensities. The output shows the potential impact that could occur in Fitchburg if either a Category 2 or a Category 4 hurricane passed by. Hazus is based on 2010 Census data and 2014 dollars. The tables below show the estimated damage from both a Category 2 and a Category 4 hurricane in the City.

**Table 4-17. Category 2 Hurricane Damage**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Buildings	Total Number of Buildings Damaged <sup>1</sup>	Percent of Buildings Damaged <sup>1</sup>	Total Value of Building Damage <sup>2</sup>
Residential	10,661	109	1.03	\$10,955.61
Commercial	929	10	1.04	\$249.94
Industrial	318	3	1.13	\$122.64
Others	200	2	3.83	\$73.19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,108</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>8.06</b>	<b>\$11,401.38</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Slight, Moderate, Extensive, and Complete Damage

<sup>2</sup>Includes Building, Content and Inventory

**Table 4-18. Category 4 Hurricane Damage**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Buildings	Total Number of Buildings Damaged <sup>1</sup>	Percent of Buildings Damaged <sup>1</sup>	Total Value of Building Damage <sup>2</sup>
Residential	10,659	1066	10%	\$52,899.12
Commercial	930	71	7%	\$2,301.78
Industrial	317	24	1%	\$2,472.48
Others	201	16	30%	\$847.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,108</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>\$58,521.34</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Slight, Moderate, Extensive, and Complete Damage

<sup>2</sup>Includes Building, Content and Inventory

In addition to infrastructural damage, Hazus also calculates the potential societal impact, property damage, and business interruption loss. A full Hazus risk report for each hurricane category can be found in Appendix B.

#### 4.3.3 Tornados

A tornado is a narrow, rotating column of air that extends from the base of a cloud to the ground. Tornadoes are the most violent of all atmospheric storms (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). According to the 2018 SHMCAP, the following are common factors in tornado formation:

- Very strong winds in the middle and upper levels of the atmosphere
- Clockwise turning of the wind with height
- Increasing wind speed in the lowest 10,000 feet of the atmosphere (i.e., 20 mph at the surface and 50 mph at 7,000 feet)
- Very warm, moist air near the ground, with unusually cooler air aloft
- A forcing mechanism such as a cold front or leftover weather boundary from previous shower or thunderstorm activity

Tornadoes can be spawned by tropical cyclones or the remnants thereof, and weak tornadoes can even form from little more than a rain shower if air is converging and spinning upward. The most common months for tornadoes to occur are June, July, and August. There are exceptions: The 1995 Great Barrington, Massachusetts tornado occurred in May; and the 1979 Windsor Locks, Connecticut tornado occurred in October (EEA and EOPSS, 2018).

The Fujita Tornado Scale measures tornado severity through estimated wind speed and damage. The National Weather Service began using the Enhanced Fujita-scale (EF-scale) in 2007, which led to increasingly accurate estimates of tornado severity. Table 4-19 provides more detailed information on the EF Scale.

**Table 4-19. Enhanced Fujita Scale**

Fujita Scale			Derived		Operational EF Scale	
F Number	Fastest 1/4 mile (mph)	3-second gust (mph)	EF Number	3-second gust (mph)	EF Number	3-second gust (mph)
0	40 – 72	45 – 78	0	65 – 85	0	65 – 85
1	73 – 112	79 – 117	1	86 – 109	1	86 – 110
2	113 – 157	118 – 161	2	110 – 137	2	111 – 135
3	158 – 207	162 – 209	3	138 – 167	3	136 – 165
4	208 – 260	210 – 261	4	168 – 199	4	166 – 200
5	261 – 318	262 – 317	5	200 – 234	5	Over 200

(MEMA and DCR, 2013, p.416)

Massachusetts experiences an average of 1.7 tornadoes per year. The most tornado-prone areas of the State are the central counties. In 2018 there were three EF1 tornadoes that touched down in Worcester County causing damage to the surrounding areas. On June 23rd, 2015, a tornado with maximum winds estimated at 75 mph, wreaked havoc near the Wachusett Mountain which is close to Fitchburg. Tornadoes are comparatively rare in eastern Massachusetts, although Worcester County is considered an at-risk location (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). There have been 33 recorded tornadoes in Worcester County since 1950 (NOAA, 2019a). Table 4-20 below provides additional information. The most devastating tornado in Massachusetts in the history of recorded weather occurred in Worcester County in 1953, it killed 90 people, injured more than 1,200, and caused more than \$250 million in damages (NOAA, 2019a) (not adjusted for inflation).

**Table 4-20. Tornado Records for Worcester County, 1950-2019**

Date	Fujita	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage
6/9/1953	F4	90	1228	\$250,000,000
10/24/1955	F1	0	0	\$2,500
6/1/1956	F1	0	14	\$25,000
11/21/1956	F2	0	0	\$2,500,000
6/19/1957	F1	0	0	\$25,000
7/5/1957	F2	0	0	\$2,500
7/11/1958	F1	0	0	\$250
7/16/1958	F1	0	1	\$2,500
7/29/1958	F1	0	0	\$2,500
10/12/1962	F2	0	0	\$25,000
5/20/1963	F2	0	0	\$25,000
8/31/1966	F2	0	0	\$0
7/17/1968	F1	0	0	\$2,500
5/29/1969	F1	0	0	\$2,500
10/3/1970	F3	0	0	\$250,000
7/1/1971	F1	0	2	\$25,000
11/7/1971	F1	0	0	\$2,500
8/9/1972	F2	0	1	\$25,000
5/3/1976	F1	0	0	\$2,500

Date	Fujita	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage
8/10/1979	F2	2	2	\$2,500,000
6/22/1981	F3	0	3	\$25,000
8/8/1986	F1	0	0	\$2,500
7/10/1989	F1	0	0	\$250,000
8/10/1990	F0	0	0	\$30
6/17/2001	F1	0	0	\$25,000
7/23/2002	F1	0	0	\$50,000
7/19/2007	EF0	0	0	\$0
6/1/2011	EF3	0	0	\$0
8/31/2014	EF0	0	0	\$100,000
6/23/2015	EF0	0	0	\$25,000
7/26/2018	EF1	0	0	\$25,000
8/4/2018	EF1	0	1	\$5,000,000
10/23/2018	EF1	0	0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>92</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>\$260,922,780</b>

(NOAA, 2019a)

There have been no recorded tornadoes in the city. If a tornado were to occur in Fitchburg, damages would depend on the track of the tornado and would be most likely be high due to the prevalence of older construction and the density of development that exist. Structures built before current building codes may be more vulnerable. Evacuation, sheltering, debris clearance, distribution of food and other supplies, search and rescue, and emergency fire and medical services may be required. Critical evacuation and transportation routes may be impassable due to downed trees and debris, and recovery efforts may be complicated by power outages.

Tornado events in Fitchburg are a very low frequency event and the entire city area is equally susceptible. As defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan, this hazard may occur less than once in 100 years (a less-than 1% chance per year). Tornadoes are difficult to simulate well in climate models because of their small size. However, it is predicted that the frequency of tornadoes in eastern Massachusetts will rise in the future due to climate change.

#### 4.3.4 Nor'easters

A nor'easter is characterized by large counterclockwise wind circulation around a low-pressure center that often results in heavy snow, high winds, waves, and rain along the East Coast of North America. The term nor'easter refers to their strong northeasterly winds blowing in from the ocean. The storm radius is often as much as 100 miles and sustained wind speeds of 20 to 40 mph are common, with short-term gusts of up to 50 to 60 mph. Nor'easters are commonly accompanied by a storm surge equal to or greater than two feet. High surge and winds during a hurricane can last from 6 to 12 hours, while these conditions during a nor'easter can last from 12 hours to three days (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). These winter weather events are among the season's most ferocious storms, often causing beach erosion, flooding, and structural damage (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). Due to its inland location, Fitchburg is not subject to the coastal hazards often associated with nor'easters. The City of Fitchburg is vulnerable to high winds, snow, and extreme rain during nor'easters. These impacts can lead to property damage, downed trees, power service disruptions, surcharged drainage systems, and localized flooding. These

conditions can impact evacuation and transportation routes and complicate emergency response efforts. Some of the historic events described in the “Flood-Related Hazards” section of this report was preceded by nor’easters, including the 1991 “Perfect Storm.” The Blizzard of ’78 was a particularly notable storm. More recently, winter storms in 2015 and 2018 caused significant snowfall amounts.

Nor’easters generally occur on at least an annual basis, typically in late fall and early winter. Some years bring up to four nor’easter events. Nor’easters in Fitchburg are high frequency events. As defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan, this hazard may occur more frequently than once in 5 years (a greater than 20% chance per year).

#### 4.3.5 Climate Change and Severe Storms

There is evidence suggesting that nor’easters along the Atlantic coast are increasing in frequency and intensity. Future nor’easters may become more concentrated during the coldest winter months when atmospheric temperatures are still low enough to result in snowfall rather than rain (EEA and EOPSS, 2018).

### 4.4 Winter Storms

Winter storm events are atmospheric in nature and can impact the entire planning area. All current and future buildings and populations are at risk of winter storms, which have a variety of potential impacts. Fitchburg’s hilly topography magnifies winter storms impacts. Heavy snow loads may cause roofs and trees to collapse, leading to structural damage. Deaths and injury are also possible impacts. Additional impacts can include road closures, power outages, business interruption, business losses (i.e. due to road closures), hazardous driving conditions, frozen pipes, fires due to improper heating, and second-hand health impacts caused by shoveling (such as a heart attack). Public safety issues are also a concern, as streets and sidewalks can become difficult to pass. This issue may be especially difficult for vulnerable populations such as elderly people who may have trouble crossing at intersections due to large accumulations of snow. Impassable streets can also complicate emergency response efforts during an extreme event.

Winter storms are a potential town-wide hazard in Fitchburg. These events can include wind, heavy snow, blizzards, and ice storms. Blizzards and ice storms in Massachusetts can range from an inconvenience, to extreme events that cause significant impacts and require a large-scale, coordinated response.

**Table 4-21. Previous Federal Disaster Declarations – Winter Weather**

Disaster Name and Date of Event	Disaster Number	Type of Assistance	Counties Under Declaration
Snowstorm March 05, 2001 - March 07, 2001	EM-3165	FEMA Public Assistance	Middlesex, Essex, Norfolk, Worcester, Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire
Snowstorm December 6-7, 2003	EM-3191	FEMA Public Assistance	Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Worcester, Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, Berkshire

Disaster Name and Date of Event	Disaster Number	Type of Assistance	Counties Under Declaration
<b>Snowstorm</b> January 22 - 23, 2005	EM-3201	FEMA Public Assistance	All 14 Massachusetts Counties
<b>Severe Winter Storm and Flooding</b> December 11-18, 2008	DR-1813	FEMA Public Assistance; FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	All 14 Massachusetts Counties
<b>Severe Winter Storm</b> December 11-18, 2008	EM-3296	None	Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Bristol, Worcester, Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, Berkshire
<b>Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding</b> February 8-9, 2013	DR-4110	FEMA Public Assistance	All 14 Massachusetts Counties
<b>Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding</b> January 26-28, 2015	DR-4214	FEMA Public Assistance	Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester
<b>Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm</b> March 13-14, 2018	DR-4379	FEMA Public Assistance	Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Worcester

(FEMA, 2019d)

#### 4.4.1 Heavy Snow and Blizzards

A blizzard is a winter snowstorm with sustained wind or frequent wind gusts of 35 mph or more, accompanied by falling or blowing snow that reduces visibility to or below a quarter of a mile. These conditions must be the predominant condition over a 3-hour period. Extremely cold temperatures are often associated with blizzard conditions but are not a formal part of the criteria. However, the hazard created by the combination of snow, wind, and low visibility increases significantly with temperatures below 20°F. A severe blizzard is categorized as having temperatures near or below 10°F, winds exceeding 45 mph, and visibility reduced by snow to near zero (EEA and EOPSS, 2018).

Winter storms pose multiple risks, including wind, ice, and heavy snow. The National Weather Service defines “heavy snow” as snowfall accumulating to 4" or more in 12 hours or less; or snowfall accumulating to 6" or more in 24 hours or less (NOAA and National Weather Service, 2019). Winter storms can be combined with the nor’easters discussed previously in the “Wind-Related Hazards” section.



**Figure 4-6. Fitchburg after heavy snow.**

(Source: Wx1box - National Weather Service  
Boston/Norton Amateur Radio Skywarn Group  
Facebook Page)

Hazard Mitigation Plan, this hazard can occur more than once in five years (a greater than 20% chance of occurring each year).

#### 4.4.2 Ice Storms

Ice storm conditions are defined by liquid rain falling and freezing on contact with cold objects creating ice build-ups of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or more that can cause severe damage. An ice storm warning, now included in the criterion for a winter storm warning, is for severe icing. This is issued when  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch or more of accretion of freezing rain is expected. This may lead to dangerous walking or driving conditions and the weighing down of power lines and trees. Icy roads can also complicate emergency response efforts during an extreme event. There were four ice storms in Worcester County between 2000 to 2019, during which \$23 million worth of property damage came from just one ice storm on 12/11/2008. Up to six tenths of an inch of ice accumulated on exposed surfaces across southern Worcester County. Trees, large limbs, and wires were downed in Worcester, Auburn, Charlton, Grafton, Oxford, Worcester, and Shrewsbury. Several trees landed on houses and one landed on a boat (NOAA, 2019a). Cities and towns were without power for days and school were canceled due to power outages.

Ice storms are classified as medium frequency events in Fitchburg and the entire city area is equally susceptible. As defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan, this hazard can occur between once in five years and once in 50 years (a 2% to 20% chance of occurring each year).

Sleet occurs when raindrops fall into subfreezing air thick enough that the raindrops refreeze into ice before hitting the ground. Sleet differs from hail. Sleet is a wintertime phenomenon, while hail usually falls during thunderstorms in the spring and summer (MEMA and DCR, 2013).

### 4.5 Geological Hazards

Geologic hazards can include earthquakes, landslides, sinkholes, and subsidence. City officials did not identify any local areas that were previously recorded as being vulnerable to geologic hazards.

#### 4.5.1 Earthquakes

An earthquake is the vibration, sometimes violent, of the earth's surface that follows a release of energy in the earth's crust due to fault fracture and movement. The magnitude or extent of an earthquake is a seismograph-measured value of the amplitude of the seismic waves. The Richter Magnitude Scale (Richter Scale) was developed in 1932 as a mathematical device to compare the size of earthquakes. The Richter Scale is the most widely known scale that measures earthquake magnitude. It has no upper limit and is not a direct indication of damage. An earthquake in a densely populated area, which results in many deaths and considerable damage, can have the same magnitude as an earthquake in a remote area that causes no damage. Table 4-22 summarizes Richter Scale magnitudes and corresponding earthquake effects (MEMA and DCR, 2013).

**Table 4-22. Richter Scale and Effects**

Richter Magnitudes	Earthquake Effects
Less than 3.5	Generally, not felt, but recorded
3.5- 5.4	Often felt, but rarely causes damage
Under 6.0	At most slight damage to well-designed buildings. Can cause major damage to poorly constructed buildings over small regions.
6.1-6.9	Can be destructive in areas up to about 100 km across where people live.
7.0- 7.9	Major earthquake. Can cause serious damage over larger areas.
8 or greater	Great earthquake. Can cause serious damage in areas several hundred meters across.

(Louie, 1996)

Earthquakes occur occasionally in New England compared to other parts of the country and are often so small that they are not felt. The first recorded earthquake was noted by the Plymouth Pilgrims and other early settlers in 1638. Of the over 5,000 earthquakes recorded in the Northeast Earthquake Catalog through 2008, 1,530 occurred within the boundaries of the six New England States, with 366 earthquakes recorded for Massachusetts between 1627 and 2008. Historically, moderately damaging earthquakes strike somewhere in the region every few decades, and smaller earthquakes are felt approximately twice per year (MEMA and DCR, 2013). A summary of historic earthquakes in Massachusetts is included in Table 4-23 below.

**Table 4-23. Historical Earthquakes in Massachusetts and Surrounding Area, 1727-2020**

Location	Date	Magnitude
MA - Cape Ann	11/10/1727	5
MA - Cape Ann	12/29/1727	NA
MA - Cape Ann	2/10/1728	NA
MA - Cape Ann	3/30/1729	NA
MA - Cape Ann	12/9/1729	NA
MA - Cape Ann	2/20/1730	NA
MA - Cape Ann	3/9/1730	NA
MA - Boston	6/24/1741	NA
MA - Cape Ann	6/14/1744	4.7
MA - Salem	7/1/1744	NA
MA - Off Cape Ann	11/18/1755	6

Location	Date	Magnitude
MA - Off Cape Cod	11/23/1755	NA
MA - Boston	3/12/1761	4.6
MA - Off Cape Cod	2/2/1766	NA
MA - Offshore	1/2/1785	5.4
MA - Wareham/Taunton	12/25/1800	NA
MA - Woburn	10/5/1817	4.3
MA - Marblehead	8/25/1846	4.3
MA - Brewster	8/8/1847	4.2
MA - Boxford	5/12/1880	NA
MA - Newbury	11/7/1907	NA
MA - Wareham	4/25/1924	NA
MA - Cape Ann	1/7/1925	4
MA - Nantucket	10/25/1965	NA
MA - Boston	12/27/1974	2.3
MA - Nantucket	4/12/2012	4.5
MA - Newburyport	2/20/2013	2.3
MA - Freetown	1/9/2014	2.0
MA - Bliss Corner	2/11/2014	2.2
MA - off Northshore	8/18/2014	2.0
MA - Rockport Coast	6/1/2016	2.2
MA - Nantucket	8/18/2018	2.4
MA - Templeton	12/21/2018	2.1
MA - Gardner	12/23/2018	2.2
MA - Rockport	4/27/2019	2.1
MA - North Plymouth	12/3/2019	2.1

(USGS, 2020)

Ground shaking or ground motion is the primary cause of earthquake damage to man-made structures. Ground motion from earthquakes is amplified by soft soils and reduced by hard rock. Ground motion is measured by maximum peak horizontal acceleration expressed as a percentage of gravity (%g). Peak ground acceleration in the State ranges from 10 %g to 20 %g, with a 2% probability of exceedance in 50 years.

A serious earthquake in Massachusetts is possible. Fitchburg is located in an area with a PGA of 12%g with a 2% probability of exceedance in 50 years (Figure 4-7). This is the fourth highest zone in the state with two reported earthquakes of magnitude 3 in the past. However, none of the earthquakes have their epicenter recorded in Fitchburg. Thus, Fitchburg is a moderate area of earthquake risk. Although new construction under the most recent building codes generally will be built to seismic standards, much of the development in the city pre-dates the current building code. These events can strike without warning and can have a devastating impact on infrastructure and buildings constructed prior to earthquake resistant design considerations. It can be assumed that all existing and future buildings and populations are at risk to an earthquake hazard. If an earthquake occurs, the entire region, not just the City, would face significant challenges.

Impacts from earthquakes can range from slight to moderate building damage, to catastrophic damage and fatalities, depending on the severity of the earthquake event. Events may cause minor damage such as cracked plaster and chimneys, or broken windows, or major damage resulting in building collapse. Based on the Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, the degree of exposure “depends on many factors, including the age and construction type of the structures where people live, work, and go to school; the soil type these buildings are constructed on; and the proximity of these building to the fault location.” Furthermore, the time of day exposes different sectors of the community to the hazard. Earthquakes can lead to business interruptions, loss of utilities and road closures which may isolate populations. People who reside or work in unreinforced masonry buildings are vulnerable to liquefaction (liquefaction is the phenomenon that occurs when the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake). Earthquakes often trigger fires and the water distribution system may be disrupted, thus posing a risk for public health and safety.

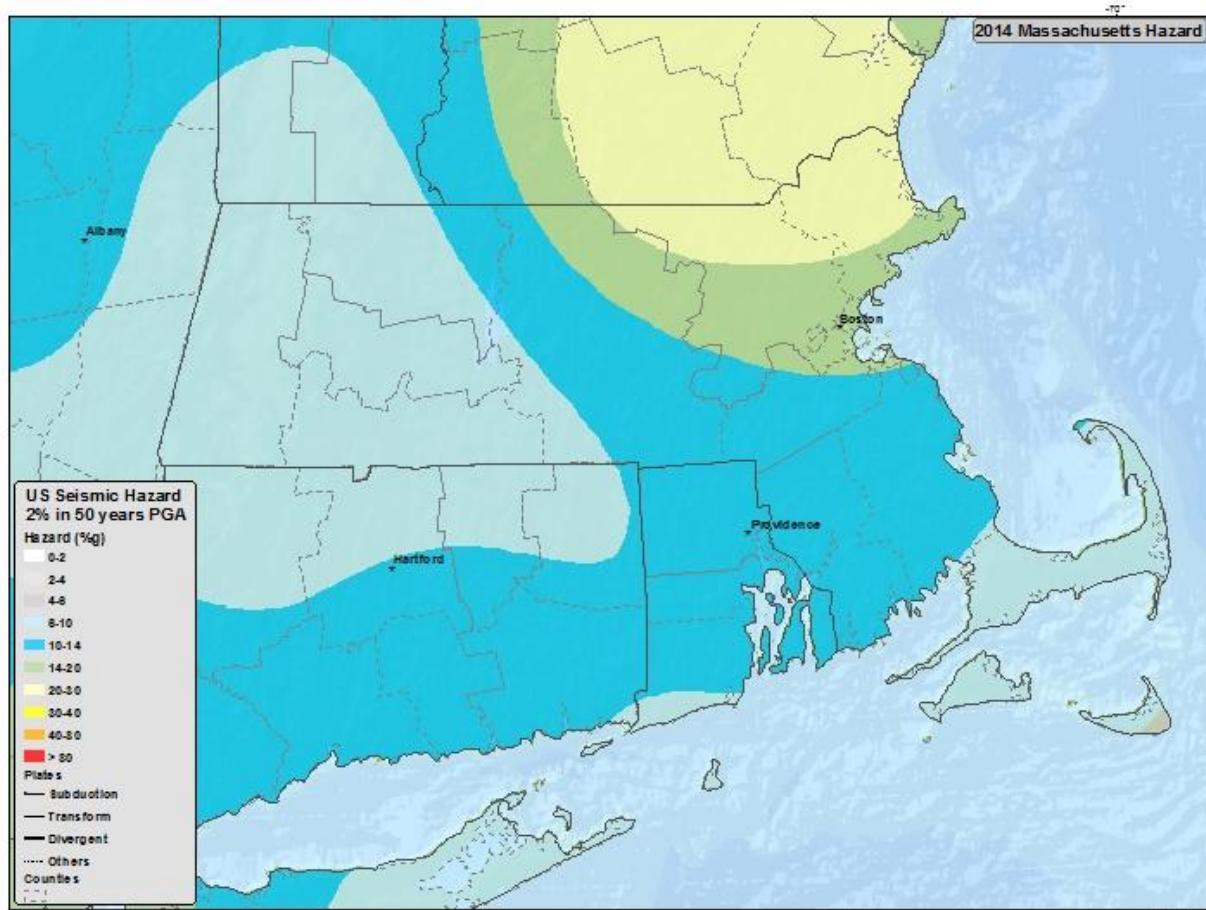


Figure 4-7. 2014 Seismic Hazard Map- Massachusetts  
(USGS)

Potential earthquake damage was modeled for Fitchburg using Hazus. The Hazus earthquake model allows users to input specific parameters in order to model a defined earthquake magnitude, with the epicenter located at the center of the municipality. In this analysis, two earthquakes were modeled: a magnitude 5.0 and a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. While large earthquakes are rare in Massachusetts,

there was a magnitude 5.0 earthquake recorded in 1963. The tables below show the estimated damage from both a magnitude 5.0 and a magnitude 7.0 earthquake in the municipality. In addition to the infrastructural damage, Hazus also calculated the potential social impact, property damage, and business interruption loss. A full Hazus risk response report for each earthquake category can be found in Appendix B.

**Table 4-24. Estimated Infrastructural Damage in Fitchburg from Magnitude 5 Earthquake**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Buildings	Total Number of Buildings Damaged	Percent of Buildings Damaged	Total Value of Building Damage <sup>1</sup>
Residential	10,658	5232	49%	\$174,000,000
Commercial	930	720	77%	\$170,000,000
Industrial	317	248	78%	\$103,000,000
Others	198	130	65%	\$93,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,103</b>	<b>6330</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>\$ 756,000,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Slight, Moderate, Extensive, and Complete Damage

<sup>2</sup>Includes Building, Content and Inventory

**Table 4-25. Estimated Infrastructural Damage in Fitchburg from Magnitude 7 Earthquake**

Land Use Type	Total Number of Buildings	Total Number of Buildings Damaged	Percent of Buildings Damaged	Total Value of Building Damage <sup>1</sup> (millions of dollars)
Residential	10658	10,621	99%	\$2,989.3136
Commercial	930	929	99%	\$1,065.8684
Industrial	317	316	99%	\$637.5407
Others	198	196	99%	\$586.8761
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,103</b>	<b>12,062</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>\$ 5,279.9680</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Slight, Moderate, Extensive, and Complete Damage

<sup>2</sup>Includes Building, Content and Inventory

Earthquakes are classified as a low frequency event in Fitchburg. As defined by the 2013 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, these events occur from once in 50 years to once in 100 years, or 1% to 2% per year. According to the 2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, the probability of a magnitude 5.0 or greater earthquake centered in New England is about 10-15% in a 10-year period.

#### 4.5.2 Landslides

Landslides include a wide range of ground movement, such as rock falls, deep failure of slopes, and shallow debris flows. Although gravity acting on an over steepened slope is the primary reason for a landslide, there are other contributing factors. These contributing factors can include erosion by rivers or ocean waves over steepened slopes, rock and soil slopes weakened through saturation by snowmelt or heavy rains, earthquake-created stresses that make weak slopes fail, excess weight from accumulation of rain or snow, and stockpiling of rock or ore from waste piles or man-made structures (USGS, 2019).

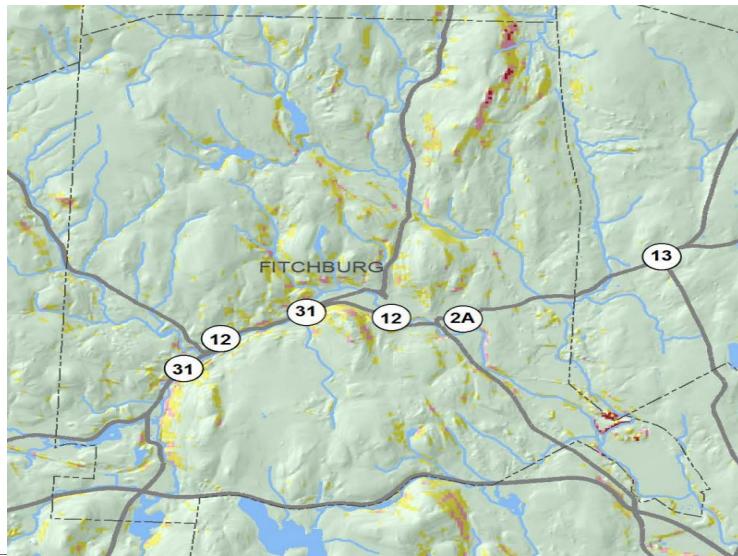
Landslides occur throughout the United States, causing an estimated \$1 billion in damages and 25-50 deaths each year. Any area composed of very weak or fractured materials resting on a steep slope will likely experience landslides. Although the physical cause of many landslides cannot be removed, geologic investigations, good engineering practices, and effective enforcement of land-use management regulations can reduce landslide hazards (USGS, 2019). Landslides can damage buildings and infrastructure and cause sedimentation of water bodies. Landslide intensity can be measured in terms of destructiveness, as demonstrated by Table 4-26 below.

**Table 4-26. Landslide Volume and Velocity**

Estimate Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Expected Landslide Velocity		
	Fast moving (rock fall)	Rapid moving (debris flow)	Slow moving (slide)
<0.001	Slight intensity	--	--
<0.5	Medium intensity	--	--
>0.5	High intensity	---	--
<500	High intensity	Slight intensity	--
500-10,000	High intensity	Medium intensity	Slight intensity
10,000 – 50,000	Very high intensity	High intensity	Medium intensity
>500,000	--	Very high intensity	High intensity
>>500,000	--	--	Very high intensity

(Cardinali et al., 2002)

Fitchburg is classified as stable and therefore having a low risk for landslides (Fig. 4-8). No significant landslides have been recorded for Fitchburg or Worcester County (Appendix B of EEA and EOPSS, 2018). Rather, local officials indicate that there are occasionally localized issues of erosion during construction as a result of development, or as a result of clearing vegetation. Landslides are classified as low frequency events in Fitchburg. According to the 2013 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, these events occur from once in 50 years to once in 100 years, or 1% to 2% per year.



Map Color Code	Predicted Stability Zone	Relative Slide Ranking <sup>1</sup>	Stability Index Range <sup>2</sup>	Factor of Safety (FS) <sup>3</sup>	Probability of Instability <sup>4</sup>	Predicted Stability With Parameter Ranges Used in Analysis	Possible Influence of Stabilizing or Destabilizing Factors <sup>5</sup>
	Unstable	High	0	Maximum FS<1	100%	Range cannot model stability	Stabilizing factors required for stability
	Upper Threshold of Instability		0 - 0.5	>50% of FS1	>50%	Optimistic half of range required for stability	Stabilizing factors may be responsible for stability
	Lower Threshold of Instability	Moderate	0.5 - 1	≥50% of FS>1	<50%	Pessimistic half of range required for instability	Destabilizing factors are not required for instability
	Nominally Stable	Low	1 - 1.25	Minimum FS=1	—	Cannot model instability with most conservative parameters specified	Minor destabilizing factors could lead to instability
	Moderately Stable		1.25 - 1.5	Minimum FS=1.25	—	Cannot model instability with most conservative parameters specified	Moderate destabilizing factors are required for instability
	Stable	Very Low	>1.5	Minimum FS=1.5	—	Cannot model instability with most conservative parameters specified	Significant destabilizing factors are required for instability

Figure 4-8. Slope Stability Map of Massachusetts focusing on Fitchburg  
(Source: The Massachusetts Geological Survey, 2013)

#### 4.6 Fire Related Hazards

Fitchburg is more likely to experience a brushfire compared to a wildfire (or a fire with a large impact area). Wildfires and brushfires can occur in the vegetative wildland, including grass, shrub, leaf litter, and forested tree fuels. Fires can be caused by natural events, human activity or in an intentional controlled manner, as in the case of prescribed fire (MEMA and DCR, 2013, 252). The State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (EEA and EOPPS, 2018) states:

*"The ecosystems that are most susceptible to the wildfire hazard are pitch pine, scrub oak, and oak forests, as these areas contain the most flammable vegetative fuels. Other portions of the Commonwealth are also susceptible to wildfire, particularly at the urban-wildland interface.... Interface communities are defined as those in the vicinity of contiguous vegetation, with more than one house per 40 acres and less than 50 percent vegetation, and within 1.5 miles of an area of more than 500 hectares (approximately 202 acres) that is more than 75 percent vegetated."*

Brush fires are classified as medium frequency events in Fitchburg and occur frequently in the City (Fig. 4-9). As defined by the 2013 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, these events occur between once in five years to once in 50 years (a 2% to 20% chance of occurring per year). Fire risk is influenced by fuel (the type

of material), terrain and weather. Strong winds can exacerbate extreme fire conditions, especially wind events that persist for long periods, or ones with significant sustained wind speeds that quickly promote fire spread through the movement of embers or exposure within tree crowns. Fires can spread quickly into developed areas.

Brush fires can lead to property damage and injury. The areas of Fitchburg most vulnerable to brush fire are primarily heavily wooded areas, such as the green spaces within and directly adjacent to downtown, such as Rollstone Hill and the City Forest area. The fire department has equipment and resources to respond to fires in these and other areas. Fitchburg had 458 fire incidents in 2017, out of which 406 were structure fires. The fire incidents caused one civilian death and two injuries. The number of fire incidents decreased to 428 (359 structure fires) in 2018, but four civilian injuries were reported. As described by the core team members, in 1940 Fitchburg experienced a large fire that caused significant property damages.

Brushfires can lead to death and property damage. All homes or workplaces located in brush fire hazard zones are exposed to this hazard. The most vulnerable members of this population are those who would be unable to evacuate quickly, including those over the age of 65, households with young children under the age of 5, people with mobility limitations, and people with low socioeconomic status (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). Secondary effects from brush fire include contamination of reservoirs, destroyed power, gas, water, broadband, and oil transmission lines. Brush fires can also contribute to flooding as they strip slopes of vegetation, thereby exposing them to greater amounts of runoff which may cause soil erosion and ultimately the chance of flooding. Additionally, subsequent rains can worsen erosion because brush fires burn ground vegetation and ground cover.

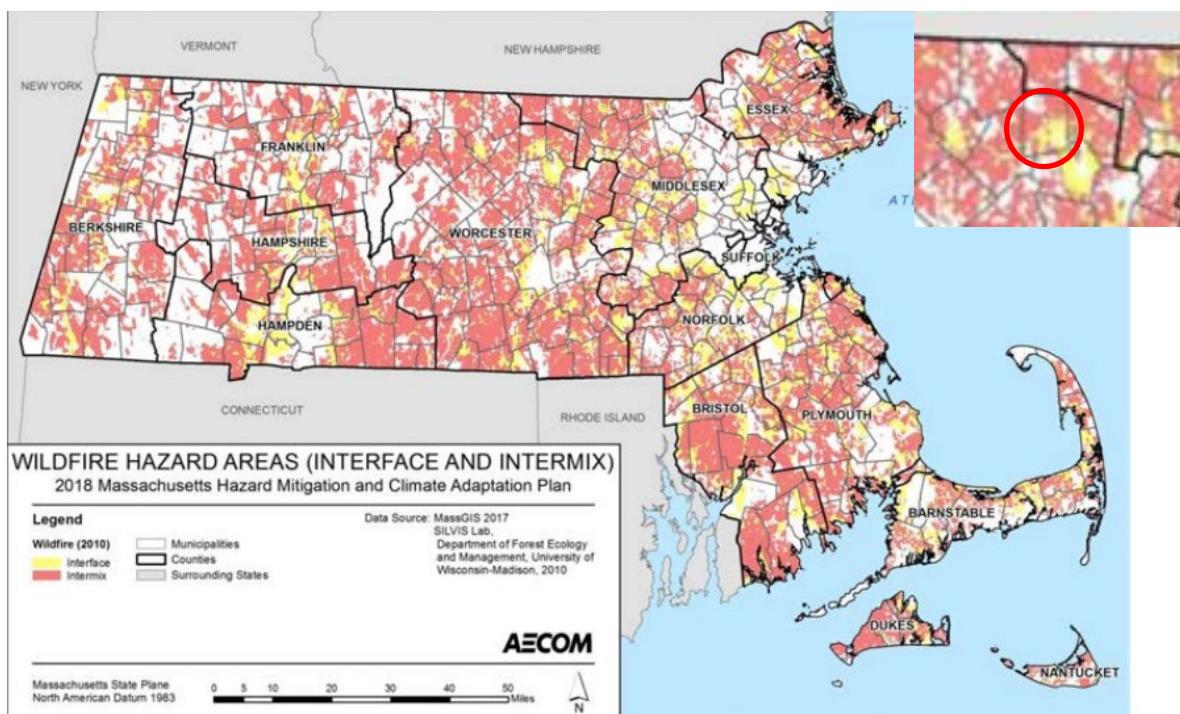


Figure 4-9. Wildfire related hazard areas in Massachusetts, Fitchburg is outlined in red.

Source: (EEA and EOPSS, 2018)

## 4.7 Extreme Temperatures

Massachusetts has four clearly defined seasons. Extreme temperatures are considered outliers, or temperatures that fall outside the typical range for each season. Extreme temperatures can last from an afternoon to a few days. Day and nighttime temperatures also play a role when considering the effect of temperature. For example, when the temperature does not cool off at night during an extreme heat wave, the risk of heat related illnesses is intensified. During extreme cold, pipes may freeze and burst in many buildings with unreinforced masonry.

### 4.7.1 Extreme Cold

Extremely cold temperatures are measured using the Wind Chill Temperature Index provided by the National Weather Service (NWS). The updated index was implemented in 2001 and helps explain the impact of cold temperatures on unexposed skin. Figure 4-10 below provides more information. Extreme temperatures are considered a City-wide hazard in Fitchburg and generally last from an afternoon to a few days. Extremely cold temperatures can create dangerous conditions for homeless populations, stranded travelers, and residents without sufficient insulation or heat. The homeless, the elderly, and people with disabilities are often most vulnerable. In Fitchburg, 14% of the population is over 65 years old and 15% of the population has a disability (US Census Bureau, 2018). Cold weather events can also have significant health impacts such as frostbite and hypothermia. Furthermore, power outages during cold weather may result in inappropriate use of combustion heaters, cooking appliances, and generators in poorly ventilated areas, which can lead to increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information Storm Events Database provides data for extreme cold events. Between 2000 and 2019, Worcester County experienced seven extreme cold and will chill events, which caused no deaths, injuries, or property damage.

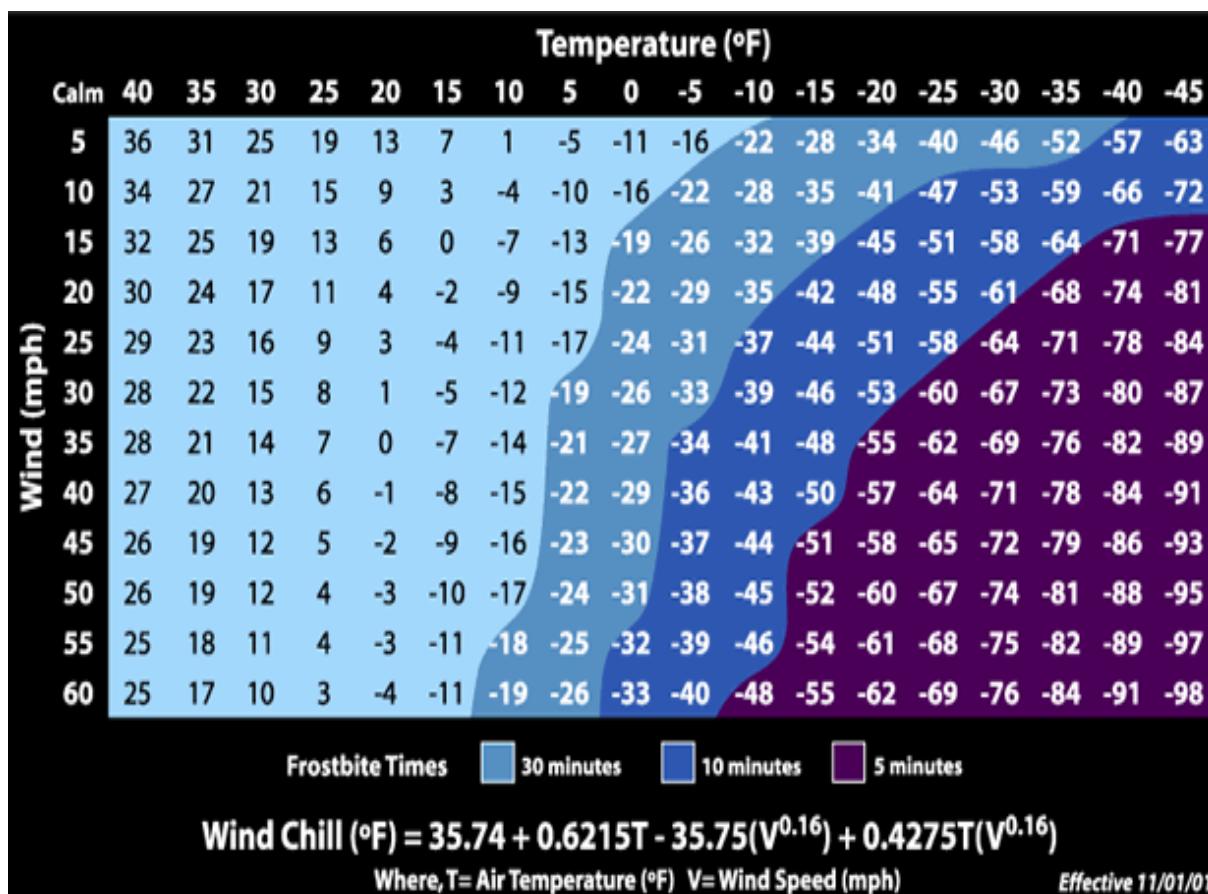


Figure 4-10. Windchill Temperature Index and Frostbite Risk  
(NOAA, n.d.)

#### 4.7.2 Extreme Heat

Increased temperatures will impact all locations within Fitchburg. Extreme heat is when the maximum temperature reaches above 90°F during the day. Projected heat days and heat waves can have an increased impact in densely settled urban areas. These can become “heat islands” as dark asphalt and roofs store the heat from the sun. Impacts from heat stress can exacerbate pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The City of Fitchburg does not collect data on heat occurrences. July is the hottest month in Fitchburg and average temperature in July is around 81°F (NEIC, 2019). NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information Storm Events Database provides data on excessive heat. Between 2000 and 2019, Worcester County experienced three extreme heat days, which did not result in injury or property damage. An event in 2013 did result in a fatality. Extreme temperatures are classified as medium frequency events. As defined by the 2013 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, these events occur from once in 5 years to once in 50 years, or 2% to 20% per year. According to the 2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, between four and five heat waves (3 or more consecutive days of 90°+F temperatures) occur annually in Massachusetts.

The NWS issues a Heat Advisory when the Heat Index (Figure 4-11) is forecast to reach 100-104° F for two or more hours (NOAA, n.d.). The NWS issues an Excessive Heat Warning if the Heat Index is forecast to reach 105° +F for two or more hours. Heat waves cause more fatalities in the U.S. than the total of all other meteorological events combined. From 1979-2012, excessive heat exposure caused in excess of 8,000 deaths in the United States (MEMA and DCR, 2013). During this period, more people in this country died from extreme heat than from hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes combined.

		Temperature (°F)															
		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
Relative Humidity (%)	40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
	45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
	50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
	55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
	60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
	65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
	70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
	75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
	80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
	85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
	90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
	95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
	100	87	95	103	112	121	132										
Category		Heat Index			Health Hazards												
Extreme Danger		130 °F – Higher			Heat Stroke or Sunstroke is likely with continued exposure.												
Danger		105 °F – 129 °F			Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.												
Extreme Caution		90 °F – 105 °F			Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.												

Figure 4-11. Heat Index Chart

(NOAA, n.d.)

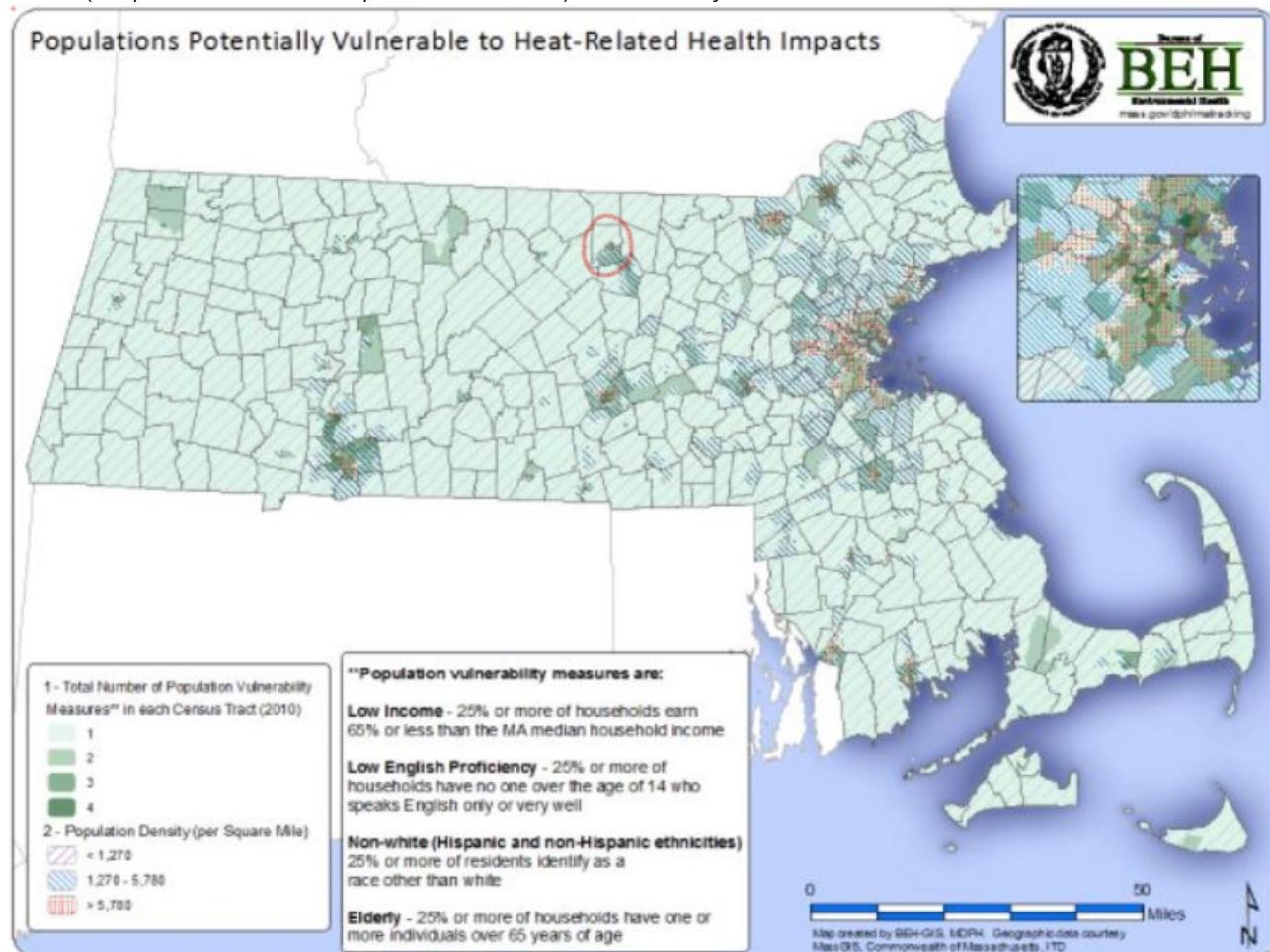
Because most heat-related deaths occur during the summer, people should be aware of who is at greatest risk and what actions can be taken to prevent a heat-related illness or death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the populations most vulnerable to extreme heat impacts include the following:

- People over the age of 65.
- Children under the age of five.
- Individuals with pre-existing medical conditions that impair heat tolerance.
- Individuals without proper cooling.
- Individuals with respiratory conditions.
- Individuals that overexert themselves during extreme heat events.

Homeless people are increasingly vulnerable to extreme heat. The capacity of homeless shelters is typically limited. In Fitchburg, children under five years old make up 22% of the population, and 14% are over 65 years old. However, even young, and healthy individuals can succumb to heat if they participate in strenuous physical activities during hot weather. Some behaviors also put people at greater risk, including drinking alcohol, taking part in strenuous outdoor physical activities in hot weather, and taking

medications that impair the body's ability to regulate its temperature or that inhibit perspiration (MEMA and DCR, 2013; ACS 2014-2018).

Based on Figure 4-12 below, compiled by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health (MA DPH, 2019), Fitchburg has a population density of 1478 people per square mile. The total number of population vulnerability measures in each Census Tract (2010) varies between 2 and 3. These population vulnerability measures include: low income, low English proficiency, non-white (Hispanic and non-Hispanic ethnicities), and elderly residents.



**Figure 4-12. Populations Potentially Vulnerable to Heat Related Health Impacts**  
(Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health, 2019)

#### 4.7.3 Climate Change Impacts: Extreme Temperatures

Between 1961 and 1990, Boston experienced an average of one day per year in excess of 100°F. That could increase to six days per year by 2070, and 24 days per year by 2099. Under these conditions, by the end of the century, Massachusetts's climate could more closely resemble that of Maryland or the Carolinas (refer to Figure 4-13 below). These changes in temperature would also have a detrimental impact on air quality and public health concerns, including asthma and other respiratory conditions (Frumhoff et al., 2007). Increased temperatures can lead to a longer growing season, which in turn leads to a longer pollen season. Warmer weather can also support the migration of invasive species and lead

to an increase in vector-borne diseases. Increasing temperatures can also worsen air pollution, which can lead to negative health impacts such as respiratory problems.

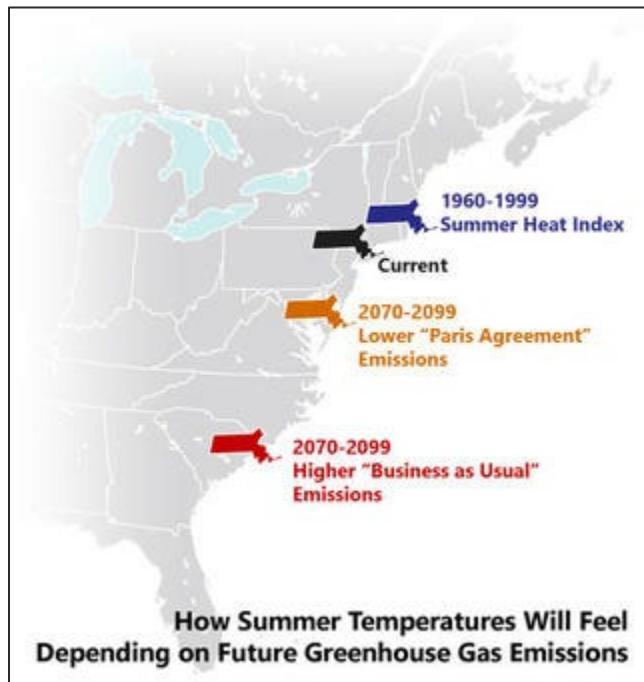


Figure 4-13. Massachusetts Extreme Heat Scenarios.

(Frumhoff et al., 2007)

#### 4.8 Drought

Drought is an extended period of deficient precipitation and occurs in virtually all climatic zones. Since each region has a different baseline precipitation amount, the characteristics of drought vary significantly from one region to another. Agriculture, the water supply, aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and the economy are vulnerable to the impacts of drought (EEA and EOPSS, 2018).

Although Massachusetts is relatively small, it has a number of distinct regions that experience significantly different weather patterns and varying impacts from changes in precipitation. In accordance with the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, the Drought Management Task Force provides recommendations to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs about the location and severity of drought in the Commonwealth. The Drought Management Plan (2019) divides the state into seven regions: Western, Central, Connecticut River Valley, Northeast, Southeast, Cape, and Islands. Fitchburg is located within the central region (EEA and MEMA, 2019).

According to the updated Drought Management Plan (2019) there are five levels of drought to characterize drought severity.

- Level 0 – Normal,
- Level 1 - Mild Drought,
- Level 2 - Significant Drought,
- Level 3 - Critical Drought, and
- Level 4 – Emergency Drought,

The drought levels are based on the severity of drought conditions and their impacts on natural resources and public water supplies.

Although the City of Fitchburg experienced water supply restrictions in 2015, the City usually has adequate water supply. The drinking water supply system was built to support the paper mill industry, which was a significant water user. Since the mills are no longer in operation, there is typically abundant water supply in Fitchburg.

The Drought Management Plan specifies agency response and interagency coordination and communication based on various drought levels. During normal conditions, data are routinely collected and distributed. There is additional data collection during an advisory, and increased assessment and proactive education during a watch. Water restrictions might be appropriate at the watch or warning stage, depending on the capacity of each individual water supply system. A warning level indicates a severe situation and the possibility that a drought emergency may be necessary. A drought emergency is one in which use of emergency supplies become necessary, or in which the Governor may exercise his authority to require mandatory water restrictions (EEA and MEMA, 2019).

A variety of drought indices are available to assess the various impacts of dry conditions. The Commonwealth uses a multi-index system to determine the severity of a drought or extended period of dry conditions. A determination of drought level is based on seven indices:

1. Standardized Precipitation Index
2. Precipitation (percent of normal)
3. Crop Moisture Index
4. Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)
5. Groundwater levels
6. Stream flow levels
7. Index Reservoir levels

In the updated Drought Management Plan, the Drought Management Task Force has eliminated the precipitation index that is based on percent of normal precipitation.

Drought level is determined monthly, based on the number of indices that have reached a certain level. A majority of the indices would need to be triggered in a region in order for a drought designation to move to a more severe level. Drought levels are declared on a regional basis for each of the six regions in Massachusetts. Drought levels may also be made county by county, or be watershed specific. The end of a drought is determined by precipitation and groundwater levels, since these have the greatest long-term impact on streamflow, water supply, reservoir levels, soil moisture and potential for forest fires (EEA and MEMA, 2013).

Worcester county had 13 drought periods from 2000 to 2019, according to the National Center for Environmental Information. Six of these events were declared Extreme Droughts by The U.S. Drought Monitor (NOAA, 2019a). Figure 4-14 illustrates statewide drought levels in Massachusetts from 1850 to 2012, using the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI). Table 4-27 below summarizes a history of Massachusetts droughts between 1879 and 2017.

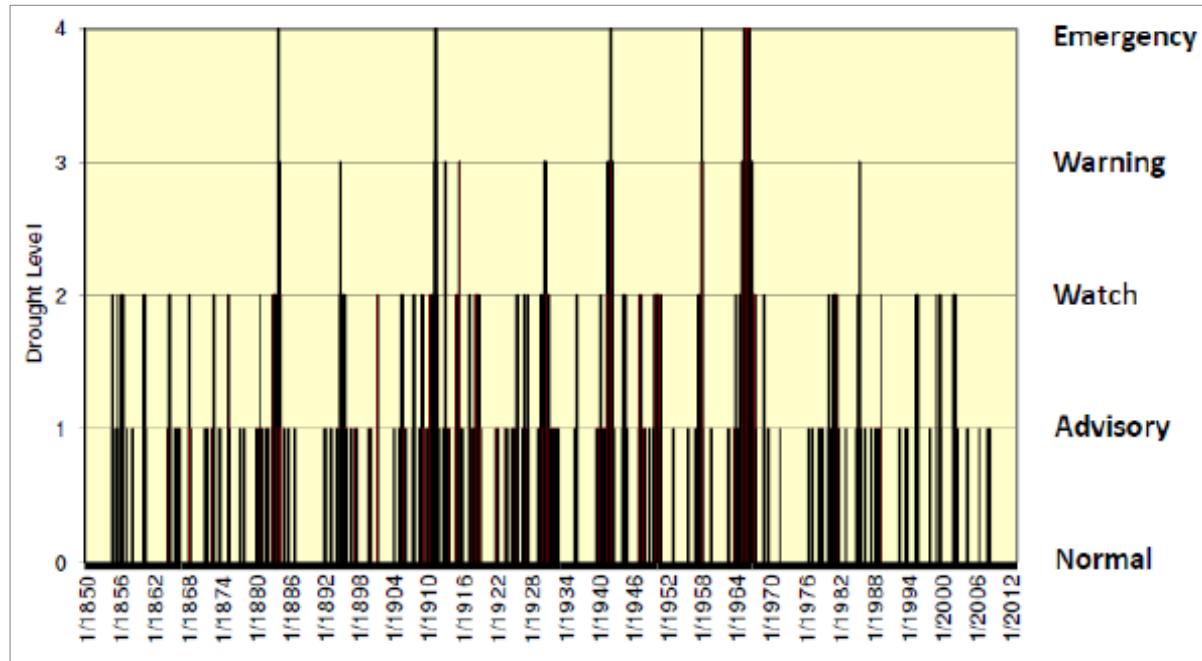


Figure 4-14 Statewide Drought Levels Using SPI Thresholds, 1850 to 2012.

Source: EEA and MEMA, 2013, page 37.

**Table 4-27. Droughts in Massachusetts Based on Instrumental Records**

Date	Area Affected	Recurrence Interval (years)	Remarks
1879 to 1883	—	—	—
1908 to 1912	—	—	—
1929 to 1932	Statewide	10 to >50	Water-supply sources altered in 13 communities. Multistate.
1939 to 1944	Statewide	15 to >50	More severe in eastern and extreme western Massachusetts. Multistate.
1957 to 1959	Statewide	5 to 25	Record low water levels in observation wells, northeastern Massachusetts.
1961 to 1969	Statewide	35 to >50	Water-supply shortages common. Record drought. Multistate.

Date	Area Affected	Recurrence Interval (years)	Remarks
1980 to 1983	Statewide	10 to 30	Most severe in Ipswich and Taunton River basins; minimal effect in Nashua River basin. Multistate.
1985 to 1988	Housatonic River Basin	25	Duration and severity unknown. Streamflow showed mixed trends elsewhere.
1995	—	—	Based on statewide average precipitation.
1998 to 1999	—	—	Based on statewide average precipitation.
2001 to 2003	Statewide	—	Level 2 drought (out of 4 levels) was reached statewide for several months.
2007 to 2008	Statewide except West and Cape and Islands regions	—	Level 1 drought (out of 4 levels)
2010	Connecticut River Valley, Central and Northeast regions	—	Level 1 drought (out of 4 levels)
2014	Southeast and Cape and Islands regions	—	Level 1 drought (out of 4 levels)
2016-2017	Statewide	—	Level 3 drought (out of 4 levels).

(EEA and EOPSS, 2018, page 4-45)

Drought Watches not associated with higher levels of drought generally would have occurred three to four times per decade between 1850 and 1950. The Drought Emergency declarations dominated the 1960s. There were no Drought Watches, or more severe drought conditions, in the 1970s. In the 1980s, there was a lengthy Drought Watch level of precipitation between 1980 and 1981, followed by a Drought Warning in 1985. A frequency of Drought Watches at a rate of three years per decade resumed in the 1990s (1995, 1998, 1999). In the 2000s, Drought Watches occurred in 2001 and 2002. The overall frequency of being in a Drought Watch is eight percent on a monthly basis over the 162-year period of record (EEA and MEMA, 2019). There were six Drought Watches in Massachusetts in 2002, five Drought Watches in 2016, and two drought watches in 2017 (DCR, 2017b). Figure 4-15 presents an example of drought conditions in the six drought regions.

Drought is a potential city-wide hazard in Fitchburg. As noted previously, temperature is projected to increase and may lead to exacerbated drought conditions especially in summer and fall months. Droughts can also increase fire risk: fires can be caused by lightning, and a 2014 study found that the frequency of lightning strikes could increase by more than 10% for every degree Celsius of warming (EEA and EOPSS, 2018). During Fitchburg's CRB Workshop in February 2020, workshop participants

discussed the connections between multiple hazards and their potential impact on the City. One example given was the potential for a severe drought to increase the risk of brush fires.

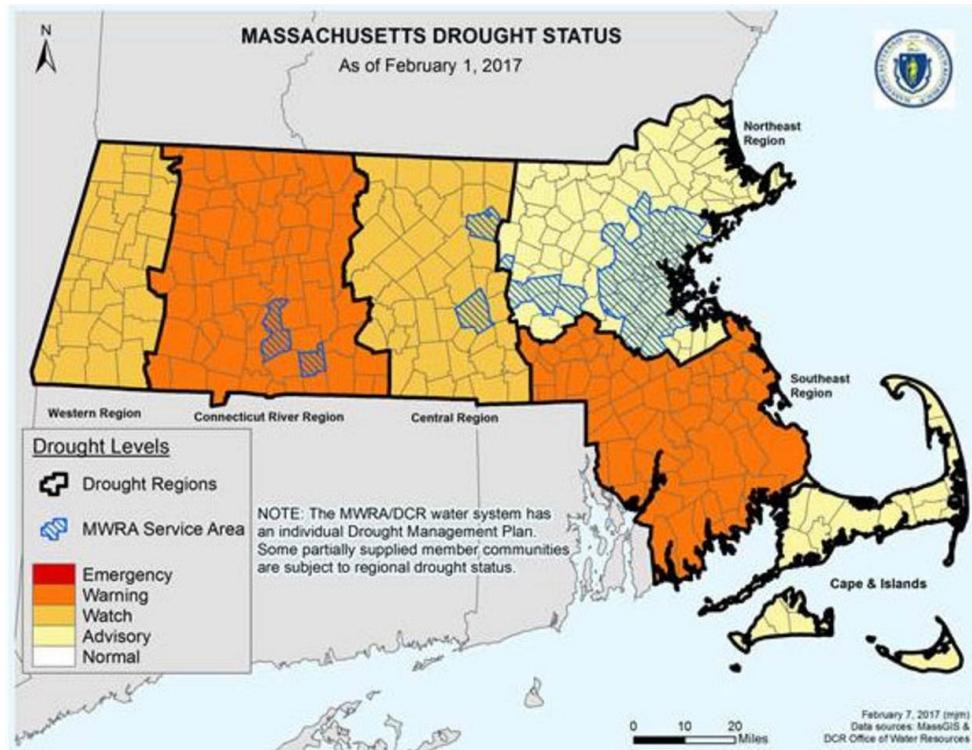


Figure 4-15. Massachusetts Drought Status, February 2017  
(DCR, 2017b)

A long-term drought could lead to impacts to Fitchburg's wetlands and streams, North Nashua River and several drinking water reservoirs. Commercial, municipal, and residential water conservation is important during times of drought or low water levels. In a drought emergency affecting the water supply, water use restrictions would be implemented in Fitchburg, which could result in loss of landscaped areas and business revenues depending on the length of the water use restriction.

Droughts are classified as a low frequency natural hazard event. As defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan, these events can occur between once in 50 years to once in 100 years (a 1% to 2% chance of occurring per year).

#### 4.8.1 Drought and Climate Change

Under climate change, drought conditions will be exacerbated with projected increasing air temperatures and changes in precipitation. Between 1970 and 2000, the median number of consecutive dry fall days in Massachusetts was 11.4 days. This is in comparison to a projected median of 13.5 consecutive days by the end of the century (EEA, 2018a). The same report also mentions that the occurrence of droughts lasting 1 to 3 months could go up by as much as 75% over existing conditions by the end of the century, under the high emissions scenario in the Northeastern States.

## 5.0 EXISTING MITIGATION MEASURES

The City of Fitchburg is already undertaking measures to mitigate local hazards. Chapter 5 documents the City's current operations and discusses potential improvements. FEMA's *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* categorizes hazard mitigation measures into four types, as displayed in Table 5-1 below (FEMA, 2013). As this chapter will demonstrate, Fitchburg uses many of these tools.

Table 5-1. FEMA's Types of Mitigation Actions

Measure	Action	Examples
Local Plans and Regulations	These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive plans</li> <li>• Land use ordinances</li> <li>• Subdivision regulations</li> <li>• Development review</li> <li>• Building codes and enforcement</li> <li>• NFIP Community Rating System</li> <li>• Capital improvement programs</li> <li>• Open space preservation</li> <li>• Stormwater management regulations and master plans</li> </ul>
Structure and Infrastructure Projects	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisitions and elevations of structures in flood prone areas</li> <li>• Utility undergrounding</li> <li>• Structural retrofits</li> <li>• Floodwalls and retaining walls</li> <li>• Detention and retention structures</li> <li>• Culverts</li> <li>• Safe rooms</li> </ul>
Natural Systems Protection	These are actions that minimize damage and losses and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sediment and erosion control</li> <li>• Stream corridor restoration</li> <li>• Forest management</li> <li>• Conservation easements</li> <li>• Wetland restoration and preservation</li> </ul>
Education and Awareness Programs	These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential mitigation strategies. A greater understanding and awareness of hazards and risk among local officials, stakeholders, and the public is more likely to lead to direct actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio or television spots</li> <li>• Websites with maps and information</li> <li>• Real estate disclosure for properties in the floodplain</li> <li>• Presentations to school groups or neighborhood organizations</li> <li>• Mailings to residents in hazard-prone areas.</li> </ul>

Measure	Action	Examples
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in the National Weather Service's StormReady community preparedness program</li> <li>Participation in Firewise Communities through the National Fire Protection Association's community preparedness program</li> </ul>

(FEMA, 2013)

There are numerous existing natural hazard mitigation measures already in place in Fitchburg. These were identified through feedback from the Core Team, CRB Workshop participants, interviews with local experts, and additional research by the project team. The hazard mitigation measures outlined below are organized by hazard type, including multi-hazards, floods, dam mitigation, wind, winter weather, drought, fire, extreme temperatures, and geologic hazards. The City is also involved in sustainability measures that offer public co-benefits that include improved pedestrian and cycling conditions.

## 5.1 Existing Multi-Hazard Mitigation Measures

### *Montachusett Emergency Response Committee –*

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986, communities are required to establish Emergency Planning Committees to develop a response plan for chemical emergencies. Fitchburg is a part of a regional emergency response committee, which includes Fitchburg, Leominster, and Lunenburg. In accordance with this legislation, the City of Fitchburg has identified locations where hazardous materials are stored, used, and transported.

Fitchburg Emergency Management is the lead department, but other representatives are invited to attend such as the Board of Health, Fire Department, and Mayor's Office.

### *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)*

Fitchburg has a CEMP that was last updated in 2014. The plan could be updated with new contact information and moved online. Every community in Massachusetts is required to have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. This plan addresses mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from a variety of natural and man-made emergencies. Included in this plan is important information regarding flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, dam failures, earthquakes, and winter storms.

***List of Critical Facilities*** – The list of critical facilities was updated during this planning process. The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission offers an interactive mapping application to update critical infrastructure.

### Recommended Improvements

Continue to update materials and communicate with regional partners.

Update CEMP.

Use MRPC software to simulate real time evacuation scenarios to mitigate hazards to the public.

***Regional Support from Surrounding Communities –***

Fitchburg has provided and received additional support from surrounding communities. The support is informally structured. The Fitchburg Emergency Management Director maintains contact with surrounding communities.

Formalize or document support systems to retain institutional knowledge and increase transparency in case of an emergency when additional support from other departments and municipalities may be needed.

***FEMA Deployment –*** FEMA can deploy vehicles in the case of an emergency.

None at this time.

***Salvation Army Emergency Assistance and Disaster Services –*** Assistance is offered by Salvation Army Emergency Assistance for families and individuals experiencing financial hardships, including food, clothing, and utility/heating assistance. Additionally, Service Units volunteers act as first responders and assist those impacted by fires, flood and other disasters using mobile kitchen truck, as part of the Salvation Army Disaster Services.

None at this time.

***Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) –*** A team of trained volunteers organized by the Fire Department who can be called upon to assist and respond during emergencies.

Expand the number of volunteers.

***Waschusett Medical Reserve Corp –*** A non-profit organization providing medical care, counseling, and other social services in north Worcester County.

None at this time.

***Emergency Management Training –*** The Emergency Manager has attended Texas A&M “TEEX” emergency management training.

Expand training for more municipal staff.

***CodeRED –*** The City of Fitchburg has the CodeRED system, which provides City officials the ability to deliver messages to targeted areas or the entire City quickly through a reverse calling system. Residents may update their CodeRED information on the City website.

Expand outreach to increase the number of residents receiving alerts.

***Emergency Shelters –*** The Senior Center is the City’s designated FEMA shelter. If needed, all schools could be used as a shelter, but the Memorial Middle School and Fitchburg State’s Recreation Centers would be the likely be best. The City also has a large portable shelter. The Fitchburg Public Library may also be used as a warming and cooling facility.

Develop a shelter plan for pets. Upgrade Senior Center or find a new building to serve as a shelter. Expand outreach about location of emergency shelters.

### ***Backup Generators –***

Every city building has backup emergency generators, including the Senior Center, City Hall, the schools, Fire Stations, and the Police Station. Smaller generators are available if needed for residential homes or command posts. The Fire Department and CERT have access to these. The Water Division also has one portable generator for pump stations.

Install backup generators at critical facilities, including private entities (gas stations and grocery stores)

***Buried Utilities*** – Although not required, many new developments have installed underground utilities. Buried utilities are required for Assisted and Independent Living Facilities and within the Mill Conversion Overlay District. The Community Development Department and the City's electric provider, Until, would lead any changes related to burying utility lines.

None at this time.

***Permits for Construction*** – Permits are required from the Building Department to ensure the building code and utility connections are properly made. Public Works requires permits to ensure safe excavation, sewer connections and other stormwater regulations are met. The Fire Department inspects certain aspects of all new construction for fire prevention safety.

Develop an online permitting system to increase cross departmental coordination, streamline the process, and set easier to understand expectations.

***Multi-Department Review of Developments*** – Depending upon the type of development, extent of construction, and location, multiple departments, including the Planning Board, Building Department, Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission, the Fire Department, and Zoning Board of Appeals, may review site plans prior to approval.

Streamline the system and increase coordination between departments.

***Massachusetts State Building Code*** – The Massachusetts State Building Code contains many detailed regulations regarding wind loads, earthquake resistant design, flood-proofing, and snow loads.

None at this time.

***Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) 2014-2021*** – The City has a wealth of conservation areas and recreation spaces that help reduce urban heat island effect and provide flood storage, among other climate resilient co-benefits. The OSRP aims to maintain, promote use, and increase the number of these spaces.

Update the OSRP in the next few years with climate resilience and hazard mitigation in mind.

***Zoning Ordinance*** – Chapter 181 of the City Code, Zoning regulates the land use of new and redeveloped parcels. Zoning allows, regulates, or guides landscaping, the siting of small energy systems, environmental performance, and safety standards for various land use types. Zoning can be used as a tool to promote affordable housing, proper communication facilities, and smart development. The Zoning Code includes a Floodplain Protection Overlay District and a Water Resource

The zoning is currently undergoing revision to include smart growth policies.

Protection Overlay District, which are further described in the following sections.

***Rules and Regulations for Special Permits & Site Plan Review –*** Procedures and guidelines set forth by the Planning Board corresponding to the Section 181.9397 Special Permits of the Zoning Ordinance. Special permits are required for construction of large residential, commercial, institutional, municipal, and industrial developments or expansions.

Consider incorporating climate resilience into the site plan review process through the completion of a climate resilience design guideline or scoring system.

## 5.2 Existing City-Wide Mitigation for Flood Related Hazards

Fitchburg employs a number of practices to help minimize potential flooding, reduce impacts from flooding, and proactively maintain existing drainage infrastructure. Existing City-wide mitigation measures include the following.

***Participation in the NFIP –*** Fitchburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (FEMA, 2019c). The NFIP is a Federal program administered by FEMA enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for State and community floodplain management regulations that reduce future flood damages. NFIP offers flood insurance to communities that comply with the minimum standards for floodplain management.

Fitchburg participates in the NFIP with 52 policies in force as of January 28th, 2020 (DCR, 2020). FEMA maintains a database on flood insurance policies and claims. This database can be found on the FEMA website.

The City complies with the NFIP by enforcing floodplain regulations, maintaining up-to-date floodplain maps, and providing information to property owners and builders regarding floodplains and building requirements.

NFIP uses a Community Rating System (CRS) to award communities that go beyond the minimum standards with lower flood insurance premiums for property owners. The incentives are awarded upon a credit system for various activities. Points are awarded to communities that prepare, adopt, implement, and update a comprehensive flood hazard mitigation plan using a standard planning process. As of May 2019, Fitchburg is not currently participating in the CRS Program (FEMA, 2019c).

***FEMA FIRMS –*** Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) denote areas of the 100-year and 500-year floodplain, which is used for the NFIP and other regulatory controls. For example, the Building Inspector

### Recommended Improvements

Continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program to enable property owners to purchase insurance protection against flood losses. Increase outreach to property owners with the floodplain.

Once the new FEMA FIRMs are finished, update regulations referencing the old map.

and the Fitchburg Conservation Commission enforce a federal law requiring elevation above the 100-year flood level of new and substantially improved residential structures in the floodplain. These floodplains are also used in wetland protection and floodplain control regulation. Fitchburg's FEMA FIRMs were last updated in 1991. A more recent update was initiated in 2019 but was still in progress at the time of report writing.

**Street Sweeping** – The Department of Public works is responsible for street sweeping, which occurs twice per year on all roads. Every spring, sweeping begins on the main lines of the city, followed by side streets on a ward-by-ward basis.

**Stormwater System Maintenance** – The Department of Public Works regularly clears debris from its catch basins, storm drains, and culverts across the City. Catch basins that regularly have more debris and manage more stormwater (like at the bottom of hills) are prioritized. The City rebuilt 40-50 catch basins in the last year. Road salt can cause erosion of catch basins. The City repaired two high priority culverts in the last five years to reduce flooding.

**Stormwater – Sewer Separation Plan and Implementation** – The Department of Public Works' Wastewater Division leads the separation of the combined sewer overflow system in coordination with the Street (Stormwater) Division. The Wastewater Division has a capital plan and is currently implementing design and construction projects. The City has a consent decree from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to separate the system. There were 250 transfer areas to be fixed and 20-30 have been fixed within the last few years.

**Maintenance of Public Water Bodies** – Many community groups help clear debris and keep the waterways clean. The Department of Public Works complies with the Army Corp of Engineers Sediment and Debris Controls in flood protection areas. The City is also working on an erosion control project near the southern wastewater treatment plant and airport.

**NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit** – The City continues to implement an aggressive NPDES stormwater program that includes measures for public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction and post-construction controls, and City-wide good housekeeping and stormwater maintenance procedures. The City continues to implement its NPDES Phase II

Consider requiring regulatory controls out to the 500-year floodplain to account for climate change.

None at this time.

Map and inventory catch basins, culverts, and outfalls. Include stormwater systems in private housing developments, especially the detention basins that have been turned over to the City. Continue to upgrade and rehabilitate stormwater system using climate projections and green infrastructure where possible.

Incorporate climate projections in the stormwater system upgrades.

None at this time.

None at this time.

stormwater program, which includes public education programs. In addition, the City provides educational stormwater materials on the City website and annual mailings. The City also has a Stormwater Management Plan as part of their Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit.

***Massachusetts Stormwater Management Standards and Handbook*** – Massachusetts administers stormwater standards through provisions of the Wetlands Protection regulations, 310 CMR 10.00 for wetland notices of intent and surface water discharge permits. The local Conservation Commission and Planning Board regulates this at the local level. The Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook provides guidance on how to meet the regulations and manage stormwater pollution.

***Stormwater Management Ordinance and Stormwater Management Rules and Regulations*** – Chapter 154, Stormwater Management of the City Code regulates non-stormwater discharge, connections, and obstructions in addition to stormwater management during and post construction. The corresponding Stormwater Management Rules and Regulations was recently updated in 2019 to conform with the requirements of the MS4 permit. The rules and regulations require proper planning, implementation, and maintenance of stormwater management and erosion control measures. It also establishes minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased post-development stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution associated with new development and redevelopment.

***Floodplain Protection Overlay District (FPOD)*** – The City's FPOD (Section 181.81 of the Zoning Ordinance) is defined by the 100-year floodplain as designated by FEMA. The Floodplain Overlay District regulates certain activities within a flood zone enhancing federal/state laws. The Floodplain Overlay District is enforced by the Building Inspector (municipal staff) and regulated by Board of appeals.

***Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Local Wetlands Protection*** – The Commonwealths' Wetlands Protection Act (Chapter 131, Section 40 MGL) regulates the protection of resource areas in and around wetlands, including land subject to flooding. This regulates development and activity within a 100-foot buffer around wetlands, and a 200-foot buffer around riverfront areas. The Wetlands Protection Act is locally enforced by the Conservation Commission and Department of Community Development. The City further regulates wetlands through the local Wetlands Protection Ordinance (Ch. 178) and the Wetlands Protection Rules and Regulations (2012).

The Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook is currently being updated by MassDEP.

The stormwater standards currently reference the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Standards that are being reviewed and updated to incorporate climate resilience. Update fees and fines to appropriately cover expenses of program.

Considering increased the FPOD to the 500-year floodplain to accommodate the anticipated impacts of climate change.

The local Wetlands Protection Ordinance and corresponding Rules and Regulations could consider the incorporation of climate change.

**Beaver Management** – The City has outsourced help to install "beaver diverters" and water control devices to mitigate flooding caused by beaver dams. When necessary, beavers are removed from the site.

**Grants** – Several grants have been submitted in the last five years to improve flooding and the stormwater system including MassDEP 319 Grants; EPA Urban Waters; two Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grants; several FEMA Flood Mitigation Grants for Columbia Avenue drainage, Shea Street culvert replacement, and Elizabeth St and Mountain Ave for erosion control, and Dam and Seawall Removal.

**City Assistance** – The Fitchburg Fire Department assist in pumping out flooded basements or yards, but it is at a cost to the city.

None at this time.

Continue to apply for grants to support the implementation of this plan.

Apply for flood mitigation related funding opportunities

### 5.3 Existing Dam Mitigation Measures

**Dam Rehabilitation and Removal** – Fitchburg's long-term plan is to rehabilitate or remove aging dams throughout the city. The City is currently planning for the removal of McTaggart's Pond Dam. Overlook Dam is a priority for removal. Scott Reservoir Dam is part of the water supply system and needs a drain installed, among other improvements.

**Dam and Levee Maintenance** – Fitchburg completes regular maintenance on dams and levees when finances are available. The City's MVP Planning grant provided funding to review the condition of the Nashua River Flood Reduction System and develop recommendations for future action.

**DCR Dam Safety Regulations and Inspections (2017)** – All jurisdictional dams are subject to the Division of Conservation and Recreation's dam safety regulations (302 CMR 10.00). The dams must be inspected regularly, and reports filed with the DCR Office of Dam Safety.

**Permits Required for Construction** – State law requires a permit for the construction of any dam.

**Emergency Action Plans (2017)** – DCR requires that all dams classified or reclassified as high hazard potential and significant hazard potential have an Emergency Action Plan. Through the MVP planning grant, Fitchburg received funding to develop an emergency action plan template.

### Recommended Improvements

Apply for grants including the Dam and Seawall Grant and the MVP Action Grant to support these efforts.

Implement the findings of the current assessment of the Nashua River Flood Reduction System.

Develop a new process for streamlining and completing inspections, possibly with the help of a consultant.

None at this time.

Develop updated Emergency Action Plans using the template.

## 5.4 Existing City-Wide Mitigation for Wind-Related Hazards

**Massachusetts State Building Code (Ninth Edition, 2018)** – The City enforces the Massachusetts State Building Code whose provisions are generally adequate to protect against most wind damage. The code's provisions are the most cost-effective mitigation measure against tornados given the extremely low probability of occurrence. If a tornado were to occur, damages would depend on the track of the tornado and would most likely be high due to the prevalence of older construction and the density of development.

**Tree Maintenance** – The Tree Warden and Unitil maintain trees to reduce the risk of power outages and damage to powerlines during high wind events. Unitil increased maintenance after the 2008 ice storm. Information is shared between the City and Unitil regularly and during wind hazard events.

### Recommended Improvements

None at this time.

Expand maintenance program.

## 5.5 Existing City-Wide Mitigation for Winter-Related Hazards

**Snow Removal Requirements in the General Ordinance** – Ordinance Number 157-33 requires private property owners or tenants to clear snow from public sidewalks abutting their property (Snow and Ice Control Manual, City of Fitchburg, 2017).

**Snow Plowing and De-icing Operations** – The Public Works Department provides standard snow plowing operations on main arterials, including salting. Certain roads in the City are subject to ice build-up and require additional attention during cold weather, regardless of snowfall. The City scrapes ice off the pavement with a grader and keeps the area treated with salt. The City started experimenting with using only salt in some areas, instead of a combination of salt and sand, which required investing in new equipment.

**Snow Emergency Parking Bans** – The City places parking restrictions when a snow emergency is declared.

**Fuel Assistance** – Available to renters and homeowners meeting income guidelines through the New England Farm Workers' Council.

### Recommended Improvements

None at this time.

Need proper training with new equipment and continued monitoring and improvements to salt and sand mixture pilot. Develop an efficient practice for tracking snow plowing operations.

None at this time.

Expand programs to assist low-income households by providing fuel assistance.

## 5.6 Existing City-Wide Mitigation for Drought-Related Hazards

**Water Resource Protection Overlay District (WRPOD)** – The WRPOD regulates land uses to protect the surface water and groundwater used for drinking water supplies.

### Recommended Improvements

None at this time.

**Land Acquisitions for Public Water Supply Protection** – The City has an ongoing program of land acquisition for water supply, and an additional 318 acres of land were recently approved at public hearing for purchase.

**Water Conservation** – The Nashua River USGS stream flow gauge is used to determine if water use restrictions are necessary. Water restrictions have been used in the past (2015). The Water department has done outreach about water conservation on their website and provided giveaways (including low-flow showerheads and other devices) to encourage residents to follow water conservation guidelines. The City's water supply is adequate for the foreseeable future.

## 5.7 Existing City-Wide Mitigation for Fire-Related Hazards

**Open Burning Permits Required** – The City allows controlled open burning of agricultural products (not construction or building materials) in accordance with state regulations from January 15 to May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Fitchburg Board of Health requires a permit.

**Review of Construction** – The Fire Department and Building Department review buildings for proper fire protection systems, alarms, and sprinklers.

**Public Education** – The Fire Department educates residents about home fire prevention through a variety of avenues, including the development and distribution of pamphlets.

**Fire Department Services** – There are currently two fire stations in Fitchburg, one which is staffed and one of which is used for storage. Additionally, the City has portable water pumps that are available for firefighting.

**Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan (Massachusetts Fire and EMS Mobilization Plan, 2018)** – The state has a fire mobilization plan for brush fires, as well as a separate plan for Fitchburg's Fire District. Fitchburg is prepared to respond to brushfires smaller than five acres.

**“Senior SAFE” program** – Fitchburg received grant funding for the Senior SAFE Program, which aids in providing fire safety to seniors through the fire department. It also aims to improve safety in senior housing.

Continue to purchase land and preserve natural resources through conservation restrictions.

Add water restriction policies to the City website.

## Recommended Improvements

None at this time.

None at this time.

Continue public education efforts and update materials, as necessary. Expand outreach into new forms.

Need a new emergency response center.

None at this time.

Look to secure other grants for continued outreach to vulnerable populations.

**Brush Clearing** - Brush clearing to provide access to Emergency Service vehicles

None at this time.

## 5.8 Existing City-Wide Mitigation for Extreme Temperature-Related Hazards

**Tree Maintenance by City** – The City maintains street trees and numerous trees on public grounds, historic sites, conservation areas, park areas and cemeteries. The City has recently received a grant from the Greening the Gateways program to plant additional trees. There are some designated roads in Fitchburg where the Scenic Road Act applies, and tree removal must be approved by the Planning Board and Tree Warden after a public hearing. The City provides information on tree maintenance, planting, and removal on their website. Unitil, the area's electric provider, also complete preventive maintenance and education on planting tips and tree removal on their website.

**Heating and Cooling Shelter** – The Fitchburg Public Library can be used as a heating or cooling facility.

### Recommended Improvements

Continue to plant trees in areas with less tree canopy.

Explore other ways to provide refuge to the heat, such as splash pads or other shade features.

## 5.9 Existing City-Wide Mitigation for Geologic Hazards

Massachusetts State Building Code – The State Building Code contains a section on designing for earthquake loads (780 CMR 1612.0). Section 1612.1 states that the purpose of these provisions is “to minimize the hazard to life to occupants of all buildings and non-building structures, to increase the expected performance of higher occupancy structures as compared to ordinary structures, and to improve the capability of essential facilities to function during and after an earthquake”. This section goes on to state that due to the complexity of seismic design, the criteria presented are the minimum considered to be “prudent and economically justified” for the protection of life safety. The code also states that absolute safety and prevention of damage, even in an earthquake event with a reasonable probability of occurrence, is not economically achievable for most buildings.

Section 1612.2.5 establishes seismic hazard exposure groups and assigns all buildings to one of these groups according to a Table 1612.2.5. Group II includes buildings which have a substantial public hazard due to occupancy or use and Group III are those buildings having essential facilities which are required for post-earthquake recovery, including fire, rescue and police stations, emergency rooms, power-generating facilities, and communications facilities.

### Recommended Improvements

None at this time.

## 5.10 Existing City-Wide Sustainability Measures

*Complete Street Implementation Plan* – The City has developed a list of priority project to encourage walking and biking, which will reduce greenhouse gases.

*Green Communities Program* – Fitchburg is a member of the Green Communities program. Fitchburg has received funding for energy conservation measures in buildings and streetlights.

### Recommended Improvements

None at this time.

None at this time.

## 5.11 Mitigation Capabilities and Local Capacity for Implementation

Under the Massachusetts system of “Home Rule,” the City of Fitchburg is authorized to adopt and, from time to time amend, a number of local ordinances and regulations that support the City’s capabilities to mitigate natural hazards. These include the Zoning Ordinance, Stormwater Ordinance, Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations, and Wetlands Ordinance. Local ordinances may be amended to improve the City’s capabilities, and changes to most regulations simply require a public hearing and a vote of the authorized board or commission. The City of Fitchburg has recognized several existing mitigation measures that require implementation or improvements, and has the capacity based on these Home Rule powers within its local boards and departments to address them. The City also has the ability to expand on and improve the existing policies and programs listed above.

## 6.0 STATUS OF MITIGATION MEASURES FROM THE 2015 DRAFT PLAN

### 6.1 Implementation Progress on the Previous Plan

The City of Fitchburg has taken steps to integrate the 2015 Montachusett Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update into several planning mechanisms, including updates to the Emergency Action Plans for the dams owned by the City, and the Fire Department's Disaster Response plans created by the City's Emergency Management Director.

In addition, the City updated its stormwater ordinance (Ch. 154 of the City Code) in 2019 and created a companion Stormwater Rules & Regulations document to address requirements of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The City also updated its zoning ordinance (Ch. 181 of the City Code) in 2020. The stormwater and zoning ordinance changes improve the City's ability to regulate water quality and reduce potential flooding associated with new and redevelopment. The City also participated in the process of updating Fitchburg's FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), which was led by the USGS, and will impact the Floodplain Protection Overlay District.

Additionally, the 2015 Montachusett Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan listed several priority actions items specific to the City of Fitchburg. Fitchburg staff and Core Team members reviewed these previous mitigation measures for completion and to determine if the measures were still a priority. As indicated in Table 6-1, the City completed several mitigation measures. Some of the measures have become continual operation and maintenance and are captured in Chapter 5. Some actions were deferred because of the lack of funding or capacity. The measures that were not completed were evaluated with the Core Team. The decision on whether to remove or retain a particular measure was based on the members' assessment of continued relevance or effectiveness. Table 6-1 summarizes the status of the mitigation measures and their priority.

Table 6-1. Status of Mitigation Measures from the 2015 HMP

Description of Action	Implementation Responsibility	Carry forward?
Utilize interactive mapping application prepared by MRPC/CMRPC to update critical infrastructure and simulate real time evacuation scenarios to mitigate hazards to the public.	Emergency Management Director, Police Department mostly responsible for emergency evacuation plan.	Critical infrastructure list is up to date. Add simulation to next plan.
Increase awareness by educating property owners regarding actions that they can take to reduce risk to property by hosting an Open House at the Fire Department, develop and distribute Pamphlets on Fire Safety and Prevention (SAFE PROGRAM and SENIOR SAFE) and wildfire prevention.	Fire Department	Education completed and can be continued through the operation section of plan. Various forms of community engagement will be included in the next plan.
Develop storm related debris management plan to mitigate identified hazards.	Public Works, Board of Health	Include in next plan.

Table 6-1. Status of Mitigation Measures from the 2015 HMP

Description of Action	Implementation Responsibility	Carry forward?
Develop a priority list and possibly seek funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the replacement of undersized culverts throughout the City to reduce or eliminate flooding risk.	Public Works	Include in next plan. Fixed two problem areas, but culverts are in need of repair.
Implement recommendations regarding natural hazard mitigation in existing planning documents, the five-year action plan of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and the emergency evacuation plan.	Conservation Commission, City Council, Planning Board, Emergency Management Director, Fire Department, and Police Department	Include, and add Economic Development Strategic Plan to the list.
Develop a Mitigation Plan to provide access to water, information, shelter and food stores to people in remote locations of the City and integrate this information into community comprehensive plans.	Emergency Management Director	Include, need to document institutional knowledge of emergency response, especially to the ice storm in 2008.
Increase hazard education and risk awareness to public by updating and disseminating information on local Radio/TV Stations to educate the public and alert them of emergency information including shelter locations and other instructions related to natural hazards.	Emergency Management Director	Include, related to ideas that came out of the CRB Workshop.
Continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program to enable property owners to purchase insurance protection against flood losses.	Conservation Commission, City Council	Remove, move to operation and maintenance section of plan.
Ensure that all identified shelters have sufficient back-up utility service in the event of a primary power failure to reduce or eliminate risk to human life.	Building Inspector, Emergency Management Director	Remove, all shelters do have a backup generator. However, add an action to add backup generators at other critical facilities.
Implement the standards in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations to require temporary and permanent erosion control measures to improve floodplain management.	Planning Board	Remove, erosion control is regulated by the Stormwater Management Regulations and floodplain management is regulated by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. Move to

Table 6-1. Status of Mitigation Measures from the 2015 HMP

Description of Action	Implementation Responsibility	Carry forward?
		operation section and maintenance section of plan.
Pursue efforts to demolish vacant buildings to mitigate the potential of fire related hazard.	Building Department Program	Remove, no longer a top priority for this plan.
Develop a preliminary project proposal and cost estimate for updating current 911 system, including feasibility of Reverse 911 to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.	Emergency Management Director	Remove, the City has a Reverse911 system in place.
Install "beaver diverters" and water control devices to mitigate flooding caused by beaver dams.	Public Works	Remove, this has been addressed. Move to operation and maintenance section of plan.
Hire trapper for removal of beavers to mitigate flooding caused by beaver dams.	Public Works	Remove, this has been addressed. Move to operation and maintenance section of plan.

## 7.0 HAZARD MITIGATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

### 7.1 Identification of Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Strategies

The City developed a list of priority hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategies through a multi-faceted approach. Strategies were discussed and developed upon review of the:

- Community profile, including the City's strengths and vulnerabilities.
- Hazard and climate change risk assessment.
- Existing measures.
- Updates to the previous mitigation plan.
- Input from stakeholders.

Stakeholders were engaged through Core Team meetings, the CRB Workshop, and the virtual public listening sessions. The full list of action items from the CRB Workshop is available in Appendix C and was integrated into the final list of action items vetted by the Core Team. Table 7-1 below represents the City's high, medium, and low priority action items. Each of these action items was analyzed for its overall benefit, estimated cost, timeframe, and implementation responsibility, which informed prioritization. A description of each prioritization category is included below.

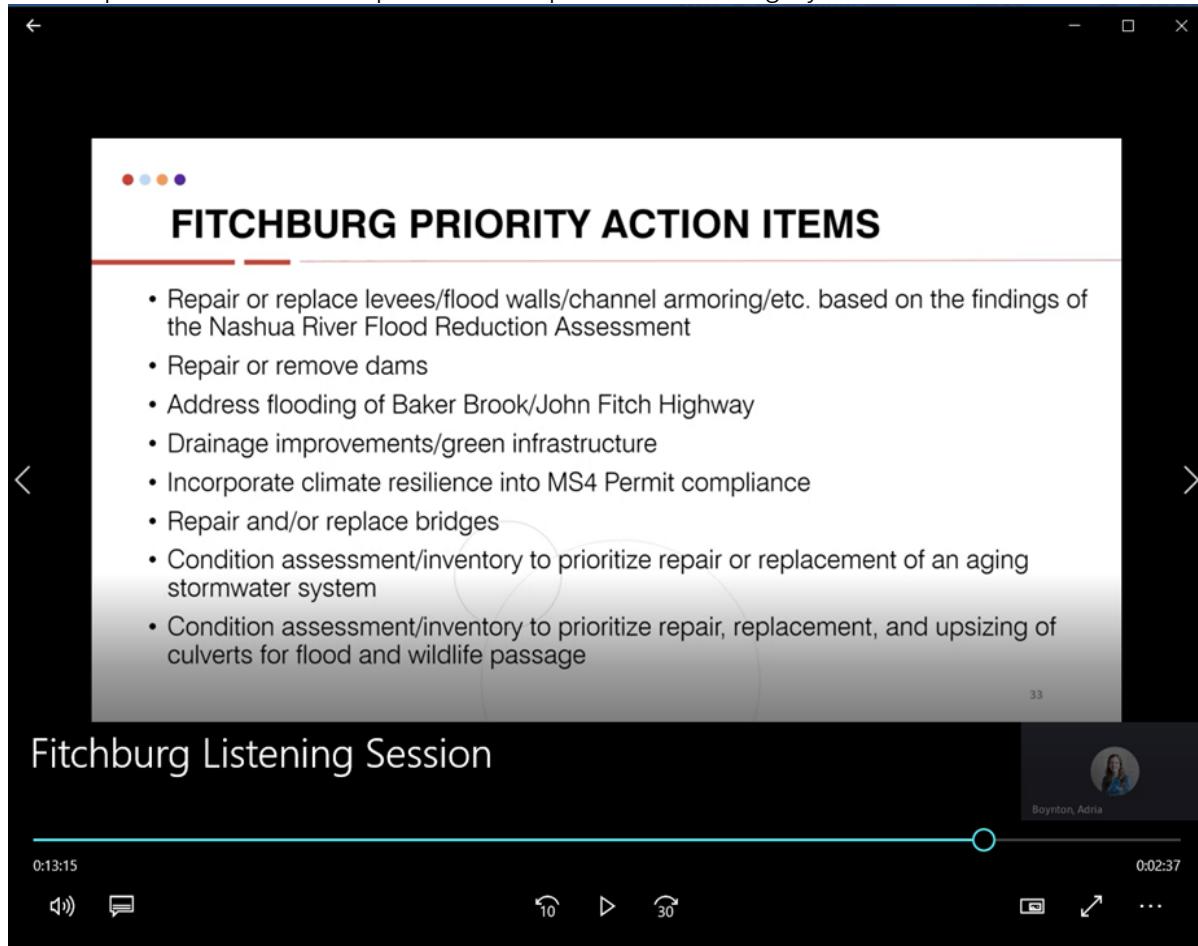


Figure 7-1 Some of the priority action items that were presented during Fitchburg's virtual Public Listening Session Webinar

**Priority** – Designation of high, medium, or low priority was based on overall potential benefits. A High Priority action is very likely to have political and public support and necessary maintenance can occur following the project. A medium priority action may have political and public support and necessary maintenance may have potential to occur following the project. A low priority action may not have political and public support for implementation or the necessary maintenance support following the project.

**Mitigation Action** – A brief description of each mitigation measure that was identified in this plan.

**Implementation Responsibility** – Most mitigation measures will require a multi-department approach where several City departments share responsibility. The designation of implementation responsibility in the table was assigned based on general knowledge of the responsibilities of each municipal department.

**Implementation Timeframe** – The timeframes represented below are assigned based on the length of time necessary to complete the project, the projected funding availability, and staff capacity. The timeframe is noted in years.

**Approximate Implementation Cost** – Approximate implementation costs are given for all mitigation measures. All cost data would need to be updated at the time of design and construction and is only provided as an estimate.

\$: <\$10,000	\$\$\$\$: \$250,000-\$500,000
\$\$: \$10,000-\$100,000	\$\$\$\$\$: \$500,000+
\$\$\$: \$100,000-\$250,000	

**Potential Funding Sources** – Sources of potential funding for each action item are identified in Table 7-1 and summarized in Table 7-2. While acronyms are used in Table 7-1, the full names of potential funding sources can be found in Table 7-2. The “Potential Funding Sources” column in Table 7-1 lists the funding sources to which the priority project would be most competitive and therefore is not comprehensive. For example, a project may be eligible to apply for an MVP Action Grant, but it may not be competitive, and so the MVP Action grant is not listed. Please note that each grant source should also be reviewed prior to applying as granting agencies change eligibility criteria frequently and sometimes have very specific requirements. For example, the DER culvert replacement grant does not currently provide funding for all culvert replacements, but rather for a specific type. In addition, DER Priority Projects do not fund standalone dam removal projects but will remove dams as a part of a larger project. FEMA FMA Grants were not listed under potential funding sources at this time because projects must mitigate or eliminate flooding for a repetitive loss site. Fitchburg does not currently have the specific addresses of repetitive loss sites but does plan to request this information. FEMA HMPG grants were also not listed in Table 7-1 as this funding is only available after a disaster declaration occurs. FEMA FMA and HMPG grants, however, may be possible funding sources in certain circumstances. The City’s General Fund is considered a default potential funding source, unless the City pursues additional funding. An additional description of municipal funding is available in Section 7.2.

**Table 7-1. Priority Action Items**

ID	Priority	Mitigation Action	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Approximate Implementation Cost	Potential Funding Sources
A	H	Remove dams, especially McTaggart's Pond and Overlook Reservoir Dam.	DPW	McTaggart: 1-3 years. Other dams: 10+ years.	\$\$\$\$\$	EEA Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program, MET
B	H	Assess dams for rehabilitation or removal, especially Green's Pond Dam and Putt's Pond Dam.	DPW	1-3 years.	\$\$\$	EEA Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program, MET, MVP Action Grant
C	H	Rehabilitate dams, especially Scott Dam.	DPW	10+ years.	\$\$\$\$\$	EEA Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program, MET, MVP Action Grant
D	H	Repair and/or replace bridges, especially Oak Hill Road Bridge, Rindge Road, First Street/Railroad Street (a rail bridge), and Westminster Hill Road Bridge.	MassDOT, DPW	Westminster Hill Road: 3-5 years Others: 10+ years.	\$\$\$\$\$	Chapter 90 Program, Municipal Small Bridge Program
E	H	Repair or replace levees, flood walls, channel armoring, etc. based on the findings of the Nashua River Flood Reduction Assessment.	DPW	Immediate action, but completion take 10+ years.	\$\$\$\$\$	EEA Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program, BRIC, DER Priority Projects
F	H	Conduct a condition assessment and	DPW	Assessment: 1-3 years.	Assessment: \$\$	BRIC, DER Culvert

**Table 7-1. Priority Action Items**

ID	Priority	Mitigation Action	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Approximate Implementation Cost	Potential Funding Sources
		inventory to prioritize repair or replacement of an aging stormwater system and to eliminate combined sewer overflows.		Construction: 10+	Construction: \$\$\$\$\$	Grant, MVP Action Grant, Sewer Enterprise Funds
G	H	Perform drainage improvements and incorporate green infrastructure where possible, especially on Pearl Hill Road and Main Street.	DPW	3-5 years.	\$\$\$	MVP Action Grant, MET, 319 grants, 604b, CDBG, EPA Urban Waters, MassDEP MS4 Municipal Assistance, MassDEP SWMA Grants
H	H	Reduce stormwater flows into Baker Brook from John Fitch Highway by designing the roadway with complete street principles and address flooding of roadway.	DPW	1-3 years.	Design: \$\$\$ Construction: \$\$\$\$\$	Complete Streets Funding Program, MVP Action Grant, MassDOT TIP
I	H	Conduct a condition assessment and inventory to prioritize repair, replacement, and upsizing of culverts for flood and wildlife passage.	DPW	1-3 years.	Assessment: \$\$\$ Culvert Design: \$\$\$ Construction: \$\$\$	DER Culvert Grant, MVP Action Grant, BRIC
J	H	Continue efforts to reduce erosion along the North Nashua River riverbank to protect airport and wastewater treatment facility.	Wastewater, Airport	3-5 years.	\$\$\$	MassDEP Restoration Grants, Sewer Enterprise Funds, MVP Action Grant, BRIC

**Table 7-1. Priority Action Items**

ID	Priority	Mitigation Action	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Approximate Implementation Cost	Potential Funding Sources
K	H	Increase community awareness/participation in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).	Emergency Management	1-3 years.	\$	CCP Grant
L	H	Upgrade Water Department's SCADA equipment.	DPW	< 1 year.	\$\$\$	Water Enterprise Funds
M	H	Develop an asset management plan with a condition assessment and inventory of old stone retaining walls to prioritize repair or replacement.	DPW	1-3 years.	\$\$	General Fund, Free cash appropriation
N	H	Plant more trees in areas with minimal urban tree canopy.	DPW	1-3 years.	\$\$	MVP Action Grant, Greening the Gateway Cities Program, Community Forest Grant Program
O	H	Develop emergency communication plans and improve awareness and community participation through Facebook, CodeRed, etc. Engage vulnerable residents in particular, which could include renters, seniors, youth, low-income households, and people experiencing homelessness.	Emergency Management, Fire Department, Police Department	1-3 years.	\$	General Fund, Nonprofit Funding

**Table 7-1. Priority Action Items**

ID	Priority	Mitigation Action	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Approximate Implementation Cost	Potential Funding Sources
P	H	Examine shelter capacity and accessibility, including for residents and animals, temporary emergency shelters and permanent shelters.	Emergency Management, Building Dept, DPW	1-3 years.	\$	EMPG, BRIC
Q	H	Develop an emergency response plan to provide access to water, information, shelter, and food for people in remote locations. Document institutional knowledge on current response operations.	Emergency Management, Fire Department, Police Department	1-3 years.	\$	CCP Grant
R	H	Increase hazard education and risk awareness to public by updating and disseminating information on Local Radio/TV Stations to educate the public and alert them of emergency information including shelter locations and other instructions related to natural hazards.	Emergency Management, Fire Department, Police Department	1-3 years.	\$	General Fund, MVP Action Grant
S	H	Explore options of acquiring land and redesigning the large commercial parking lot with Low Impact Development Techniques to address flooding of Baker Brook.	DPW, Community Development, Private Property Owners	10+ years.	Land acquisition - \$\$\$\$\$	LAND Grant, Land & Water Conservation Fund, MVP Action Grant, PARC, BRIC

**Table 7-1. Priority Action Items**

ID	Priority	Mitigation Action	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Approximate Implementation Cost	Potential Funding Sources
T	H	Incorporate climate resilience into MS4 Permit compliance.	DPW	1-3 years.	\$\$	MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant, MVP Action Grant
U	M	Implement recommendations regarding climate adaptation and hazard mitigation in existing planning documents such as the Economic Development Strategy, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and Master Plan. Update plans with climate resilience considerations when appropriate.	Community Development	3-5 years.	\$\$	MVP Action Grant
V	M	Identify, prioritize, and acquire properties for flood and drought mitigation. Assist displaced residents.	DPW, Community Development	10+ years.	Identify: \$ Purchase Land: \$\$\$\$\$	Community Forest Grant, LAND Grant, Land & Water Conservation Fund, PARC, FMA
W	M	Acquire properties in water supply watershed areas to protect drinking water sources.	Water	5-10 years.	\$\$\$\$\$	DWSP, Land and Water Conservation Fund
X	M	Relocate two of the emergency management facilities into larger buildings and away from the floodplain.	Emergency Management	5-10 years.	\$\$\$\$\$	BRIC

**Table 7-1. Priority Action Items**

ID	Priority	Mitigation Action	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Approximate Implementation Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Y	M	Upgrade municipal buildings with cooling, flood protection, and other resiliency measures, especially the Senior Center, Library, City Hall, Police Department, Fire Department, and DPW.	Emergency Management, Building Dept, DPW	3-5 years.	\$\$\$\$\$	BRIC, MVP Action Grant
Z	M	Design and construct stormwater system upgrades at the DPW facility.	DPW	3-5 years.	\$\$	BRIC, MVP Action Grant, 319 grants, 604b, CDBG, EPA Urban Waters, MassDEP MS4 Municipal Assistance, MassDEP SWMA Grants
AA	M	Improve electricity redundancy at critical facilities, including shelters, grocery stores, and gas stations.	Emergency Management, Building Dept, DPW	3-5 years.	\$\$\$\$	General Fund, MVP Action Grant
BB	M	Increase emergency response training and develop clear policy and procedures, public education, etc.	Emergency Management, Fire Department, Police Department	1-3 years.	\$	CCP Grant, EMPG
CC	M	Utilize interactive mapping application prepared by MRPC/CMRPC to simulate real time evacuation scenarios to	Emergency Management, Fire Department, Police Department	1-3 years.	\$	General Fund

**Table 7-1. Priority Action Items**

ID	Priority	Mitigation Action	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Approximate Implementation Cost	Potential Funding Sources
		mitigate hazards to the public.				
DD	M	Explore opportunities for additional flood storage at City-owned properties along the Nashua River, including parks such as Riverfront Park.	DPW, Community Development	3-5 years.	\$\$	Land & Water Conservation Fund, PARC, MVP Action Grant, Gateway City Parks Program
EE	L	Develop a long-term remediation assessment and maintenance plan of landfills.	DPW	1-3 years.	\$\$	EPA Brownfields Grant, Mass Development Brownfields Fund
FF	L	Develop a renewable energy master plan.	Unitil	5-10 years.	\$\$	DOER Grant, EEA Planning Assistance, Unitil
GG	L	Develop storm-related debris management plan to mitigate identified hazards.	Public Works, Board of Health	1-3 years.	\$	General Fund

## 7.2 Potential Funding Sources

The identification of potential funding sources is preliminary and may vary depending on numerous factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, if a mitigation measure is conceptual or has been studied, evaluated, or designed. In most cases, the measure will require a combination of funding sources. The funding sources identified are not a guarantee that a specific project will be eligible for, or receive, funding. Upon adoption of this plan, the local representatives responsible for implementation should begin to explore potential funding sources in more detail.

Traditional funding sources within the City of Fitchburg, such as funding from the operating and capital budgets, may be able to cover some of the costs associated with the action items detailed in Table 7-1. The addition of a stormwater utility in Fitchburg could provide funding for many stormwater-related

projects. State revolving funds and other no- or low-interest loans may also be of interest. There is a great variety of funding available for Massachusetts municipalities, both through the state and federal governments. A full list of funding opportunities can be found on the [Community Grant Finder webpage](#). The Community Grant finder provides a streamlined interface where municipalities can easily learn about grant opportunities.

Table 7-1 in the previous section identifies potential funding sources for each action item. However, combining several action items into a single grant proposal may make an application more competitive, depending on the grant's criteria. Therefore, Table 7-2 below outlines more information on potential funding sources, to assist the City in matching grants with appropriate project types.

**Table 7-2. Potential Funding Sources**

Source	Grant	Description of Funding
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development	MassWorks Infrastructure Program	Provides grants for public infrastructure projects that support and accelerate housing production, spur private development, and create jobs
HUD	HUD Community Development Block Grant Programs (CDBG)	To develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities.
Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	Massachusetts Downtown Initiative	Offers services and assistance to communities seeking help on how to revitalize their downtowns
FEMA	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Provides funding after a disaster to significantly reduce or permanently eliminate future risk to lives and property from natural hazards
FEMA	FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)	Provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event, with a focus on infrastructure projects and "community lifelines." Replaced FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program.
EDA	Disaster Supplemental Funding	Funding available to communities impacted by natural disasters and flooding
MEMA	MEMA Citizen Corps Program (CCP) Grant	Supports local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) in preparing for all-hazards. Can be used for planning activities, equipment, training, and exercises.
FEMA	Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)	Supports local emergency management agencies in implementing the National Preparedness System and national Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. Funds projects related to logistics/distribution management planning, evacuation plan/annex, disaster

**Table 7-2. Potential Funding Sources**

Source	Grant	Description of Funding
		financial management, catastrophic disaster housing, resilient communities, and implementing community lifelines.
FEMA	FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program	FEMA reimburses government agencies and nonprofits for disaster response and recovery costs, including debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair of publicly owned facilities.
MA DOER	MA DOER Green Communities Designation and Grant Program	The designation allows communities to access grants for clean, affordable, and resilient energy projects
MA DEP	MA Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP) Fleets Incentives	Helps public entities acquire electric vehicles and install charging stations for their fleets
EPA	EPA Smart Growth Grants	Support activities that improve the quality of development and protect human health and the environment.
EPA	Healthy Communities Grant Program	Reduce environmental risk to protect and improve human health and the quality of life
MA DEP	Statewide Water Management Act (SWMA) Grant	Funds planning projects to identify implementation actions to improve ecological conditions, conservation projects and drought resiliency planning, and withdrawal mitigation projects that increase porosity and water quality.
US Forest Service	US Forest Service Community Forest Grant Program	Funding to acquire private forest land threatened by conversion and establish community forests
MA DER	MA DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program	Grant to replace undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts located in an area of high ecological value
MA DEP	Federal Clean Water Act, 604b Grant Program: Water Quality Management Planning	Funds nonpoint source assessment and planning projects, including projects related to green infrastructure
MA DEP	Federal Clean Water Act, Section 319 Nonpoint Source	Implementation projects that address the prevention, control, and abatement of NPS pollution.

**Table 7-2. Potential Funding Sources**

Source	Grant	Description of Funding
	(NPS) Competitive Grants Program	
MA DEP	MassDEP Water Quality Monitoring Grant Program	Enhance MassDEP surface water quality assessment data by building or expanding capacity for bacteria monitoring data collection.
EEA	EEA Planning Assistance Grants	Funds zoning for sustainable housing production, regulations that reduce energy use and GHG emissions, and zoning that results in permanent land conservation.
EEA	Land Use Planning Grants	Supports efforts to plan, regulate, and act to conserve and develop land consistent with the Massachusetts' Sustainable Development Principles
EEA	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant Program	Helps cities and towns acquire land for conservation and passive recreation
NPS	Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program	Funding for the acquisition, development, creation and/or renovation of parks, trails, and conservation areas.
EEA	Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant	Provides support to implement climate change resiliency priority projects. Project types include planning, assessment and regulatory updates; nature-based solutions; and resilient redesigns and retrofits for critical facilities and infrastructure.
MassDEP	MassDEP Restoration Grants	Funding for restoration projects. Opportunities are announced as settlement funds become available.
MassDEP	MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program	Funds community efforts to meet the requirements of the 2016 MS4 permit and reduce stormwater pollution through partnerships
EEA	EEA Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program	Intended to promote public health, public safety, and ecological restoration.
MET	Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET)	Grants to support projects that protect and restore natural resources, including dam removal.
DER	DER Priority Projects	Funds cranberry bog wetland restoration, streamflow restoration, and urban stream revitalization projects.
EPA	EPA Drinking Water State Revolving fund (DWSRF)	A federal-state partnership to help ensure safe drinking water and provide financial support to water systems.
MA DEP	MA DEP PFAS Treatment Grant	Supports designs for treatment of drinking water in PFAS-impacted communities.

**Table 7-2. Potential Funding Sources**

Source	Grant	Description of Funding
DEP	Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program	Financial assistance for protection of existing DEP-approved public drinking water supplies, protection of planned future public drinking water supplies, and protection of planned future public drinking water supplies.
EPA	EPA Brownfields Grant Funding Program	Funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, environmental job training, technical assistance, training, and research.
MassDevelopment	MassDevelopment Brownfields Redevelopment Fund	Finances the environmental assessment and remediation of brownfield sites in Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs) of the Commonwealth.
DCR	Greening the Gateways Program	Tree planting program for the Massachusetts Gateway communities.
EEA	Gateway City Parks Program	This program funds the creation and restoration of parks and recreational facilities in underserved urban neighborhoods.
EEA	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program	Assists municipalities in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Can be used to acquire parkland, build a new park, or renovate an existing park.
MassTrails	MassTrails Grants	Grants to design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences.
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grants	Provides funding to projects that sustain, restore, and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats.
MA Department of Fire Services	Senior SAFE	Supports fire and life safety education for seniors
MA Department of Fire Services	Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.)	Grants for local fire departments to teach fire and life safety to schools
MassDOT	Chapter 90 Program	Reimbursable grants for capital improvements such as highway construction, preservation and improvement projects that extend the life of capital facilities.
MassDOT	Community Transit Grant Program	Funding to meet the transportation and mobility needs of seniors and people with disabilities
MassDOT	Complete Streets Funding Program	Technical assistance for creating a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan and construction funding for implementation
MassDOT	Municipal Small Bridge Program	Funding for small bridge replacement, preservation, and rehab projects

**Table 7-2. Potential Funding Sources**

Source	Grant	Description of Funding
MassDOT	State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)	Funding for bicycle paths, bridges, roadways, sidewalks, and transit investments
USDA NRCS	Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program	Helps municipalities protect and restore watersheds
USDA NRCS	Emergency Watershed Protection Program	Funds to help communities quickly address serious and long-lasting damages to infrastructure and the land
USDA NRCS	Regional Conservation Partnership Program	NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions

### 7.3 Regional Partnerships

Mitigating natural hazards is not confined to a local issue. The drainage systems that service communities are often complex systems of storm drains, roadway drainage infrastructure, pump stations, dams, and other facilities owned and operated by a wide variety of agencies, including the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of these structures are integral to the hazard mitigation efforts of communities. These agencies are the City's regional partners in hazard mitigation efforts, and the City will also coordinate with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission on locally relevant support and outreach.

The state agencies also operate with the same constraints as communities, including budgetary and staffing limitations. Similarly, to municipalities, these agencies must make decisions about numerous competing priorities. In order to implement many of the mitigation measures identified by the City of Fitchburg, all parties will need to work together towards a mutually beneficial solution.

## 8.0 PLAN ADOPTION AND MAINTENANCE

### 8.1 Plan Adoption

The City of Fitchburg 2020 HMP-MVP Plan was adopted by the City Council on [ADD DATE]. See Appendix E for documentation. The plan was approved by FEMA on [ADD DATE] for a five-year period that will expire on [ADD DATE].

### 8.2 Plan Implementation

The Core Team will use Table 7.1 as a guide for taking action to mitigate hazards and improve the City's climate resilience. The time frame, responsible department, and funding mechanisms in Table 7.2 layout out an implementation plan for the Core Team. The Core Team will be held accountable through the tracking mechanisms explained in the following sections. The HMP-MVP Plan will also inform future planning and budgeting processes.

### 8.3 Plan Maintenance

#### 8.3.1 *Tracking Progress and Updates*

FEMA's initial approval of this plan is valid for five years. During that time, the City will need to continue to track progress, document hazards, and identify future mitigation efforts. This can be achieved through a combination of two methods:

1. **Meetings:** The Core Team, coordinated by the Department of Public Works, will meet once a quarter during regularly scheduled project meetings to monitor plan implementation. The Core Team will be amended as needed but will include representatives from the Department of Public Works, Police, Fire, the Building Commissioner, FEMA Coordinator, and others. These meetings will provide an opportunity for regular check-ins, identifying overlaps and capital planning needs related to hazard mitigation, and forward-looking discussions regarding next steps.
2. **Surveys:** The coordinator of Core Team will also prepare and distribute a survey every year. The survey will be made available to all Core Team members and any other interested local stakeholders. The questions in the survey will reference the tables of existing and proposed action items listed in the HMP-MVP Plan. The survey will assist in determining any necessary changes or revisions to the plan that may be needed. In addition, it will provide written documentation of status updates, accomplishments, and progress related to the action items listed in the HMP-MVP Plan. The surveys will also help document new hazards or problem areas that have been identified since the 2020 Plan. The information collected through the survey will be used to formulate an update and/or addendum to the plan.

#### 8.3.2 *Continuing Public Participation*

The adopted plan will be posted on the City's website. The posting of the plan on the City's website will provide a mechanism for citizen feedback, such as an e-mail address for interested parties to send comments. The City will encourage local participation whenever possible during the next five-year planning and implementation cycle. The Core Team will incorporate engagement into the implementation of the priority action items. All updates to the plan, including implementation progress, will be placed on the City's website. All public meetings related to the HMP-MVP Plan will be publicly noticed in accordance with City and State open meeting laws.

### *8.3.3 Integration of the Plans with Other Planning Initiatives*

Upon approval of the City of Fitchburg 2020 HMP-MVP Plan by FEMA, the Core Team will make the plan available to all interested parties and all departments with an implementation responsibility. The group will initiate a discussion with those various departments regarding how the plan can be integrated into their ongoing work. At a minimum, the plan will be reviewed and discussed with the following departments:

- Community Development
- Conservation Commission
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Health Department
- Public Works Department
- Building and Zoning Department

Appropriate sections of the HMP-MVP Plan will be integrated into other plans, policies and documents as those are updated and renewed, including the writing of, or updates to, the City's Master Plan, Open Space Plan, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and Capital Investment Program. Coordination with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, local organizations, businesses, watershed groups, and state agencies will be required for successful implementation and continued updating.

## **8.4 Process of Updating**

By maintaining the 2020 HMP-MVP Plan, the City will have a competitive application when applying to FEMA for funding to update the plan. Once the resources have been secured to update the plan, the Core Team will need to determine whether to undertake the update itself or hire a consultant. If the Core Team decides to update the plan itself, the group will need to review the current FEMA hazard mitigation plan guidelines for any change in the requirements. The update to the City of Fitchburg 2020 HMP-MVP Plan will be forwarded to MEMA for review and to FEMA for ultimate approval. The Core Team will begin drafting the full update of the plan in four years. This will help the City avoid a lapse in its approved plan status and grant eligibility when the current plan expires at the end of year five.

## 9.0 LIST OF REFERENCES

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## Appendix A

### Core Team Materials



## Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Project

Core Team Meeting  
November 1, 2019  
10:00 am – 11:30 am

Introductions	5 minutes
Project Overview	15 minutes
Core Team Role	2 minutes
Goal Setting and Endorsement	15 minutes
Community Resilience Building Workshop and Review of Materials	35 minutes
Data Sources	3 minutes
Workshop Participants	10 minutes
Wrap Up and Next Steps	5 minutes



Name	Present- Mark with X or Sign
Tom Skwierawski	<i>A</i>
AJ Tourigny	<i>AJ Tourigny</i>
Jeffrey Murawski	<i>Jeffrey A. Murawski</i>
John Deline, Jr.	<i>John Deline</i>
Mike O'Hara	<i>Mike O'Hara</i>
Stephen DiNatale	
Ernest Martineau	
Richard Liberatore	<i>Richard Liberatore</i>
Stephen Curry	<i>Stephen Curry</i>
Tricia Pistone	<i>Tricia Pistone</i>
Nick Erickson	<i>Nick Erickson</i>
Mark Barbadoro	<i>Mark Barbadoro</i>
Joel Kaddy	
Beth Walsh	<i>Beth Walsh</i>
Ralph Baker	<i>Ralph Baker</i>
Nicolas Bosonetto	<i>Nicolas Bosonetto</i>
Hillary King	<i>Hillary King</i>



**CITY OF FITCHBURG**

Core Team Meeting  
Friday, November 1, 2019

Weston & Sampson Photo: Fitchburg. Photo by J. Stephinger. Fitchburg Facebook page, 2015.

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**WELCOME CORE TEAM**

Nicolas Bosonetto	Mike O'Hara	Joel Kaddy
Nick Erickson	Stephen DiNatale	Mark Barbadoro
AJ Tourigny	Ernest Martineau	Beth Walsh
Tom Skwierawski	Richard Liberatore	Ralph Baker
Jeffrey Murawski	Stephen Curry	
John Deline, Jr.	Tricia Pistone	

Weston & Sampson Photo: Amanda Kohr, Weston & Sampson

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**CORE TEAM**

**ROLE**

- Confirm framework for process
- Provide data and local expertise
- Participate in the stakeholder workshop
- Finalize priority actions for the final report

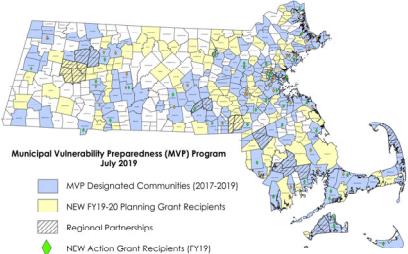
**TODAY'S OBJECTIVES**

- Review Process
- Set Goals
- Prepare for Stakeholder Meeting

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**MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (MVP)**

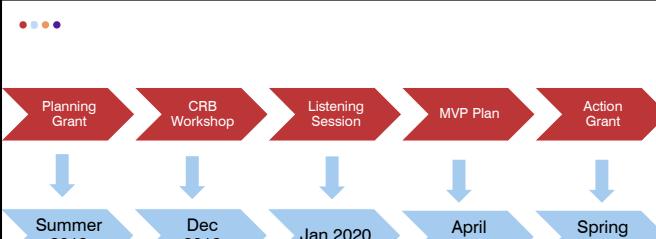


Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program July 2019

- MVP Designated Communities (2017-2019)
- NEW FY19-20 Planning Grant Recipients
- Regional Partnerships
- NEW Action Grant Recipients (FY19)
- Action Grant Recipients (FY18)

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Planning Grant (Summer 2019) → CRB Workshop (Dec 2019) → Listening Session (Jan 2020) → MVP Plan (April 2020) → Action Grant (Spring 2020)

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**MVP PLANNING GRANT COMPONENT**

**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

- Aligns with MVP Process
- Extended hazard profiles and vulnerability assessment
- Update to previous mitigation measures table

**EXPANDED OUTREACH**

- Public engagement strategy to reach up to four target populations
- Develop up to additional outreach and promotional materials
- Translation services

**RIVER FLOOD REDUCTION ASSESSMENT**

- Project future flood flows and critical elevations at flood reduction sites
- Create maps and evaluate vulnerability
- Prepare an template for an Emergency Action Plan

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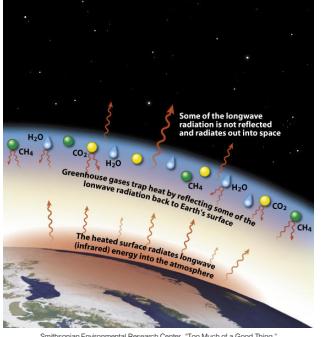
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## GREENHOUSE GASES (GHG)

- Naturally occurring
- Act as a blanket
- Examples: carbon dioxide and methane

Climate mitigation ensures there is less to adapt to and is a key component of our community's resilience



Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, "Too Much of a Good Thing," [http://heresies.si.edu/otherweb/02\\_04\\_07.html](http://heresies.si.edu/otherweb/02_04_07.html)

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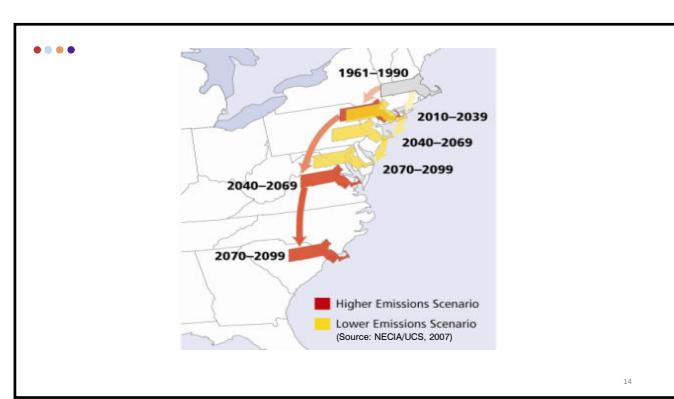
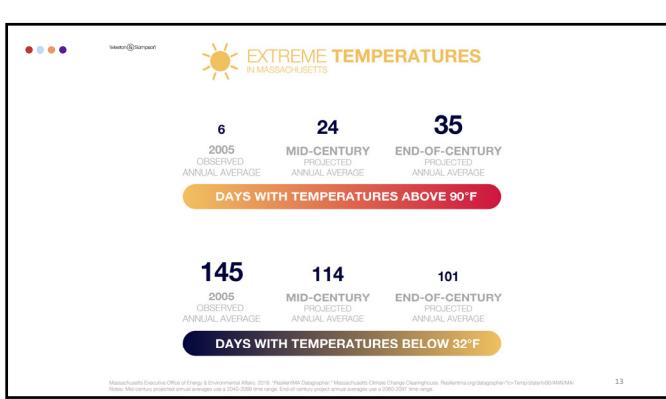
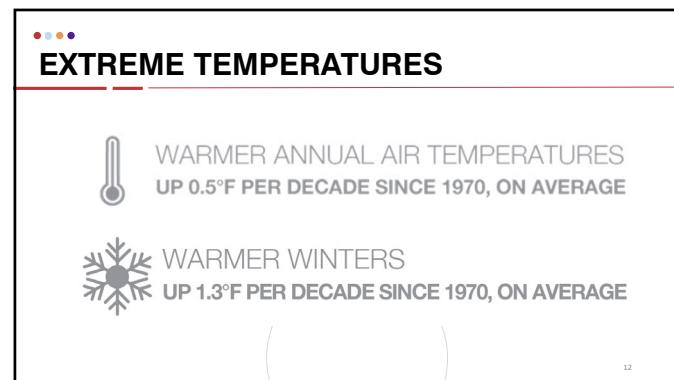
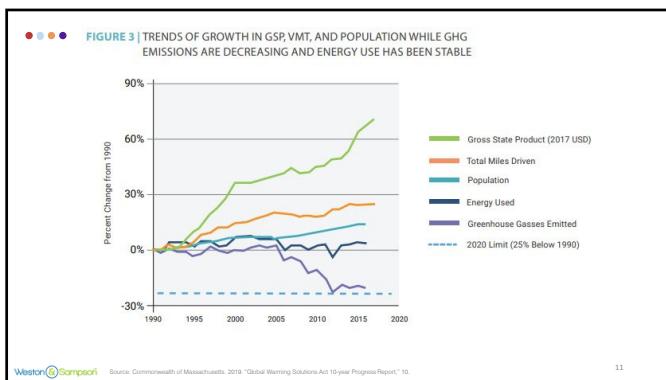
## MASSACHUSETTS GHG GOALS

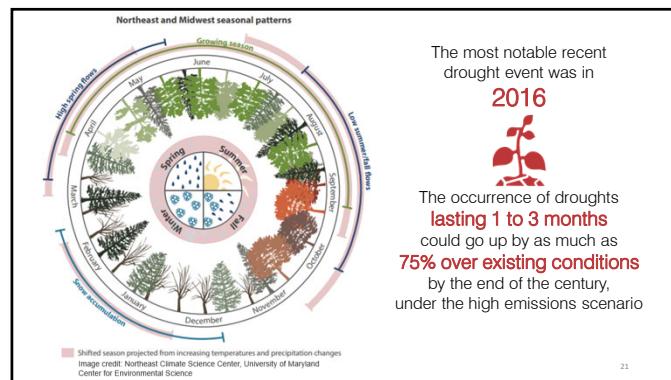
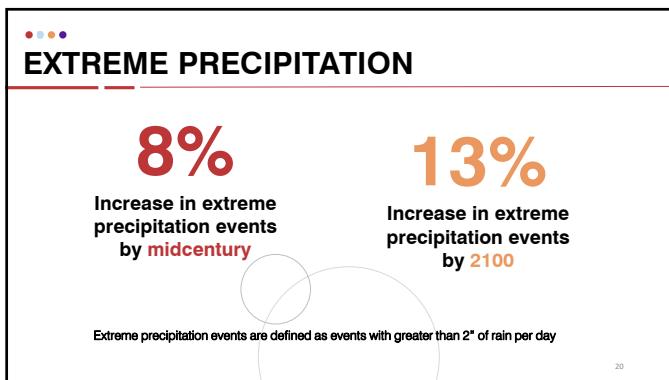
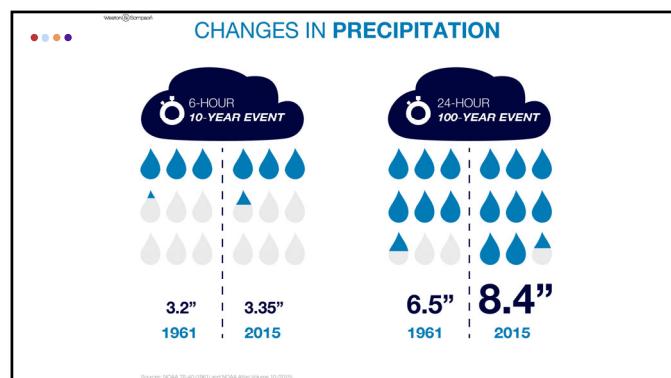
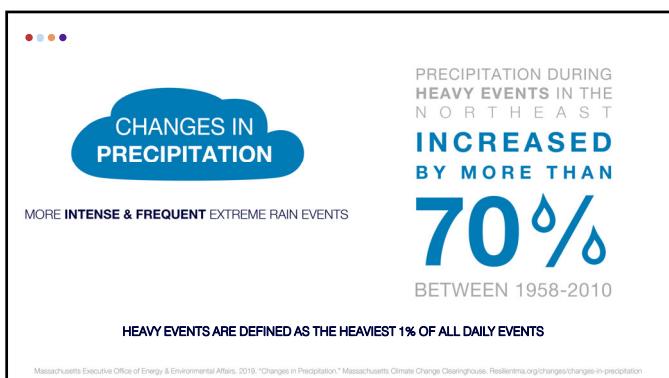
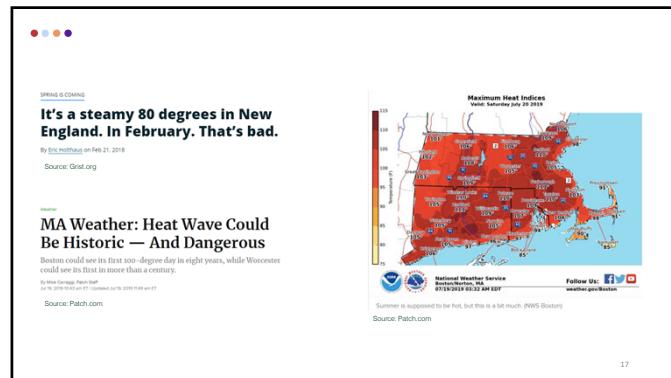
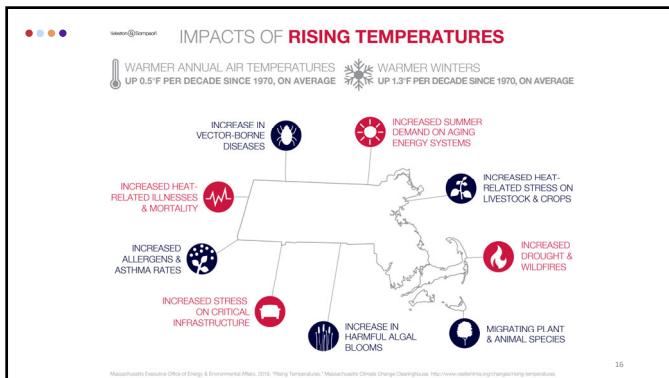
- Established by the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) of 2008
- 25% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020
- 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050
- 1990 is the baseline year

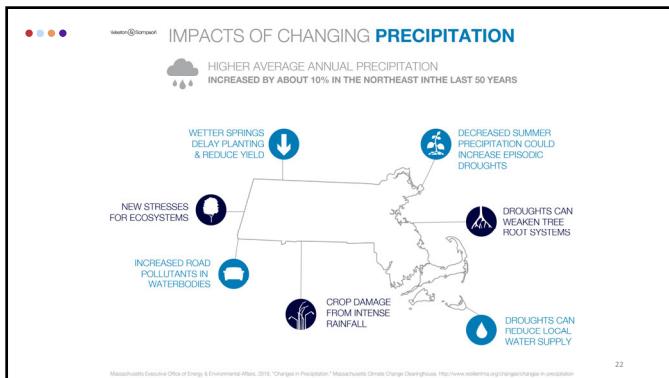


Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2018, "Global Warming Solutions Act 10-year Progress Report," 10

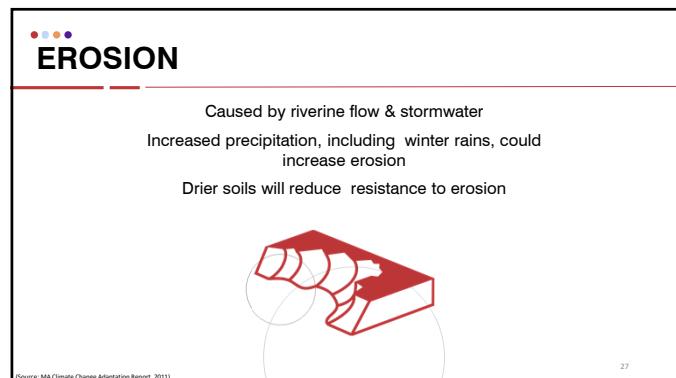
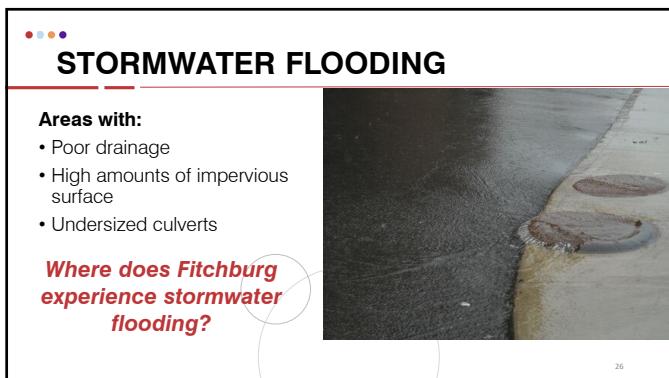
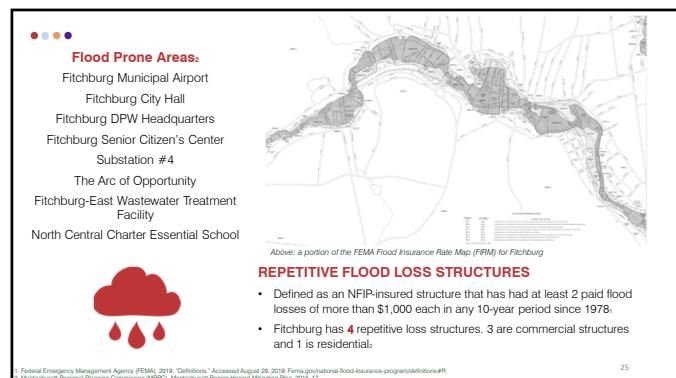
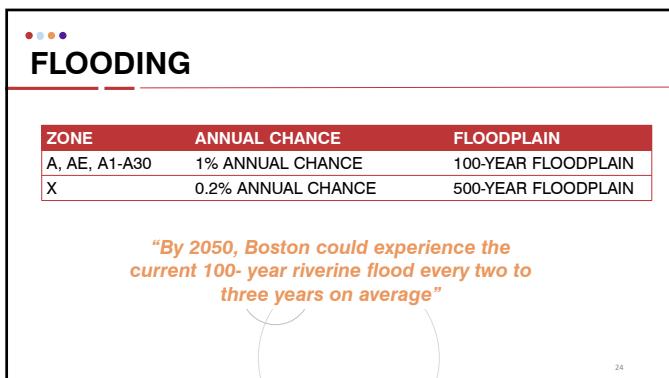
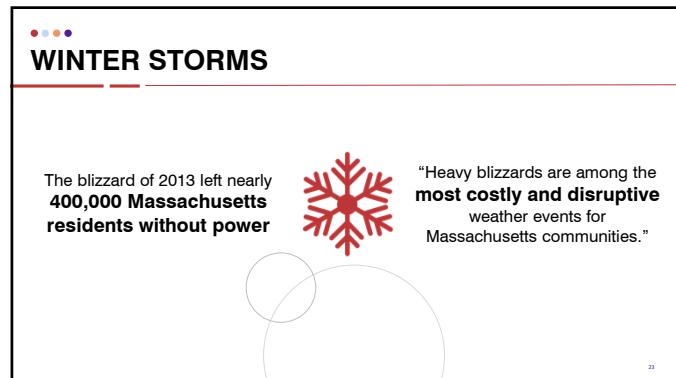
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## WILDFIRE

WILDFIRE HAZARD AREAS (INTERFACE AND INTERIOR) 2018 Massachusetts Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan

Legend: White (2018) - No Hazards; Yellow - Low Hazard; Red - Moderate Hazard; Orange - High Hazard; Green - Very High Hazard

Source: Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (MRPC); Massachusetts Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2018, 44.

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## HURRICANES AND EARTHQUAKES

**HURRICANE**  
Sandy was the most recently identified hurricane

**EARTHQUAKE**  
30-40 Earthquakes occur in New England each year, although most are not felt.

Upward trend in North Atlantic hurricane activity since 1970

Nor'easters along the Atlantic coast are increasing in frequency and intensity

Source: Climate Science Special Report, Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4); Volume prepared by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP); Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 2018, "Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Northern Middlesex Region," 158-160.

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## IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER

STORMS ARE BECOMING MORE INTENSE AND DAMAGING

EROSION OF DUNES, SALT MARSHES & COASTAL HABITAT

RE-SHAPED RIVER COURSES

DISPLACEMENT OF RESIDENTS

PROPERTY DAMAGE

INCREASED INJURIES & MORTALITY

ECONOMIC DAMAGES & BUSINESS DISRUPTION

INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURAL REPAIR COSTS

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 2018, "Extreme Weather," Massachusetts Climate Change Clearinghouse, <http://www.mass.gov/energy/climate-change/weather>

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## HAZARD POTENTIAL OF DAMS

Dam	Hazard Code	Owner	Dam	Hazard Code	Owner
Scott Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	Arden Mill Dam	Low Hazard	Private
Lovell Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	North Nashua River Mill #9 Dam	Low Hazard	Private
Green's Pond Dam	High Hazard	Public	Fitchburg Gas & Electric Dam	Low Hazard	Private
Overlook Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	Wastewater Treatment Plant Dam	Low Hazard	Public
Snows Mill Pond Dam	High Hazard	Private	Electric Station Dam	Low Hazard	Private
McTaggarts Pond Dam	High Hazard	Public	Swimming Pool Dam	N/A	Private
Lovell Reservoir Dike	High Hazard	Public	Weyerhauser Dam	N/A	Private
Overlook Reservoir Dike	High Hazard	Public	Lower Spring Pond Dam	N/A	Private
Falulah Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	Upper Spring Pond Dam	N/A	Private
Sawmill Pond Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Putnam Pond Dam	N/A	Public
Mill Pond #1 Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Parkhill Park Swimming Pool Dam	N/A	Public
James Pond Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Trotting Park Or Coolidge Park Dam	N/A	Public
North Nashua River Mill #4 Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Kimball Rd. Dam	N/A	Private
North Nashua River Mill #6 Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Marshal Reservoir Dam	N/A	Public
Mirror Lake Dam	Significant Hazard	Public	Nichols Pond Dam	N/A	Private
Nichols St. Dam	N/A	Private			

Source: Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC); Montachusett Region Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2018, 210-211.

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## NORTH NASHUA RIVER FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION SYSTEM

- 4.4-mile reach of the North Nashua River in Fitchburg
- Consists of dams, floodwalls, and stone-protected riverbanks
- Inspected by the US Army Corps of Engineers

Source: US Army Corps of Engineers, "North Nashua River Local Protection Project," US Army Corps of Engineers New England District, 2019

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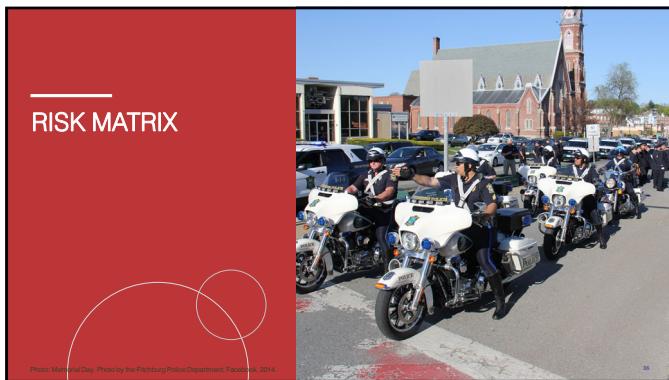
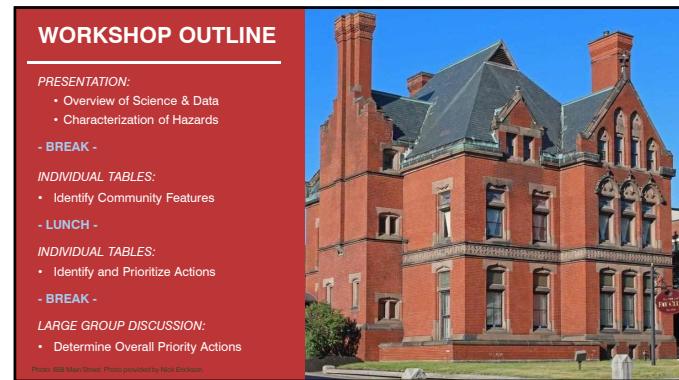
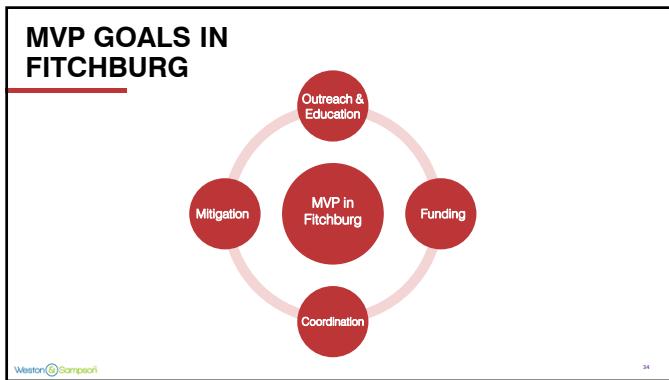
## As an FYI: Boston Sea Level Rise Projections (ft)

Increased coastal flooding  
Permanently inundated low-lying coastal areas  
Increased shoreline erosion

Emission Scenario	2030	2050	2070	2100
Intermediate	0.7	1.4	2.3	4.0
Intermediate-High	0.8	1.7	2.9	5.0
High	1.2	2.4	4.2	7.6
Extreme	1.4	3.1	5.4	10.2

Source: Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center

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**RISK MATRIX**

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix  www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com

Top Priority Hazards (storms, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Photo: 658 Main Street. Photo provided by Nick Erikson

Features	Location (Description)	Version
Infrastructural		
Societal		
Environmental		

37

**RISK MATRIX: HAZARDS**

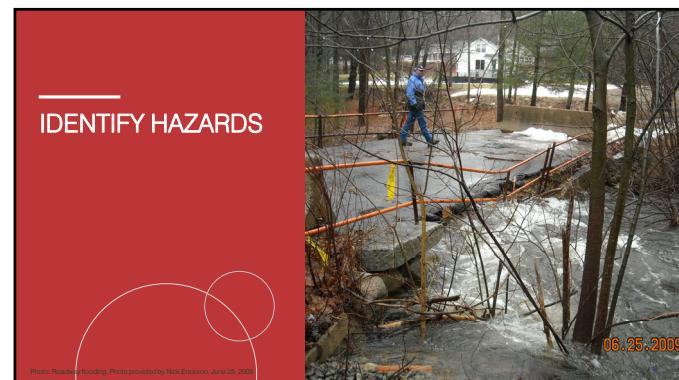
Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix  www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com

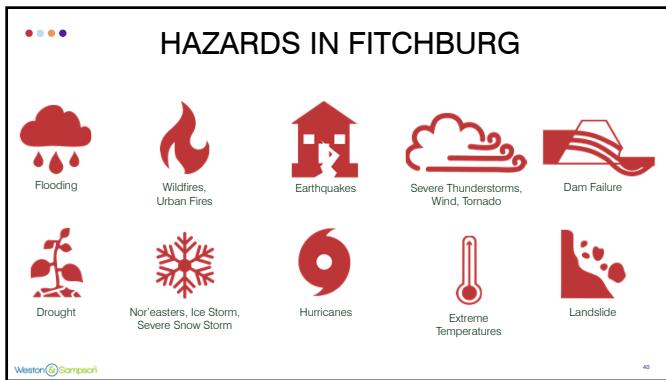
Top Priority Hazards (storms, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

Photo: 658 Main Street. Photo provided by Nick Erikson

Features	Location (Description)	Version
Infrastructural		
Societal		
Environmental		

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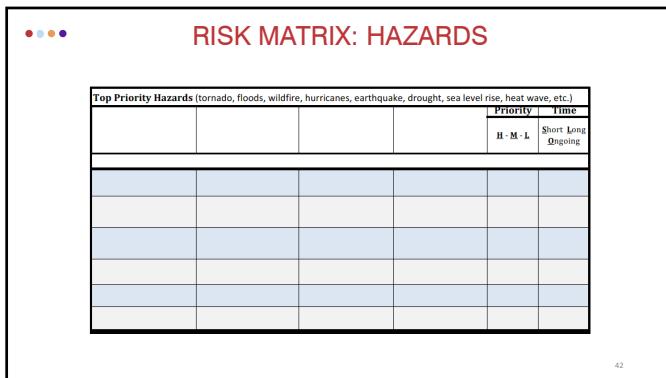




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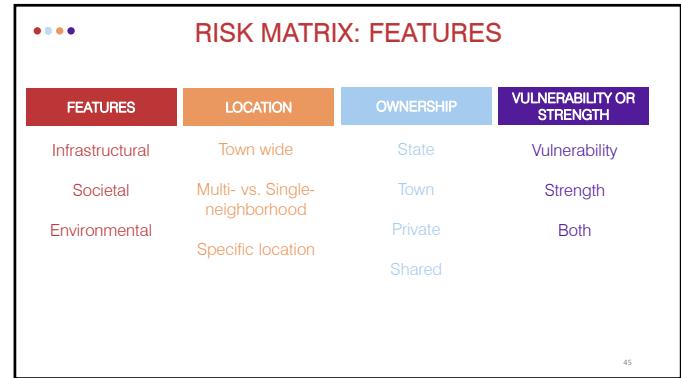
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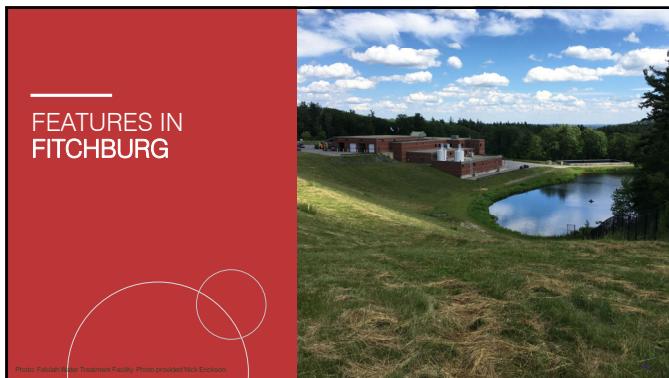
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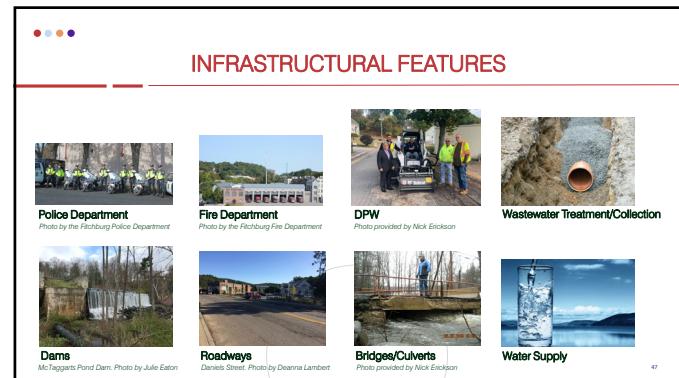
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SOCIETAL FEATURES

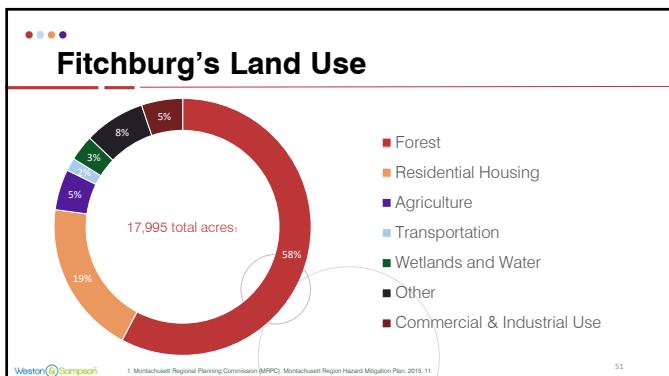
	Fitchburg	Massachusetts
<b>Population</b>	40,318 residents	6,547,790
2010:	40,318 residents	6,547,790
2018:	40,882 residents	6,902,149
<b>Age</b>		
Under 18 years:	22.7%	20%
65+ years:	14.2%	17%
<b>Education</b>		
Bachelor's degree or higher:	20.7%	42.1%
<b>Additional Information</b>		
Median household income:	\$51,412	\$74,167
Persons in poverty:	17.9%	10.5%
With a disability:	12.7%	7.9%
Language other than English spoken at home:	28.5%	23.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019

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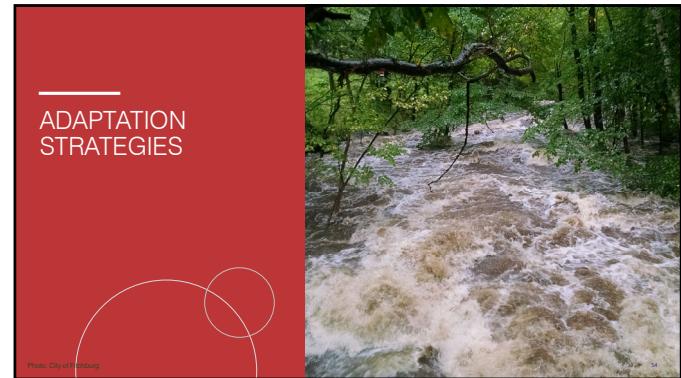
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HAZARD MITIGATION MEASURES

Photo: 658 Mass., City of Fitchburg

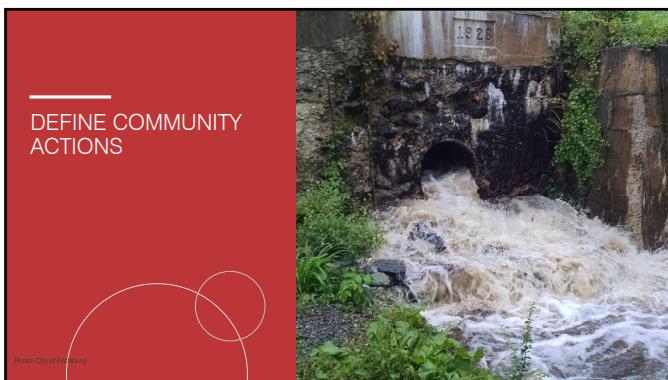
- Stormwater management standards
- Enforcing regulations related to FEMA Flood Zones, wetlands, and the City Flood Plain Protection Overlay
- Maintenance of municipal storm drain
- Inspection of major dams
- Tree maintenance
- Limited brush cleaning
- Residential parking bans during snowstorms
- Clearing of snow from major arterials

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15 MINUTE BREAK!

Photo: 658 Mass., City of Fitchburg

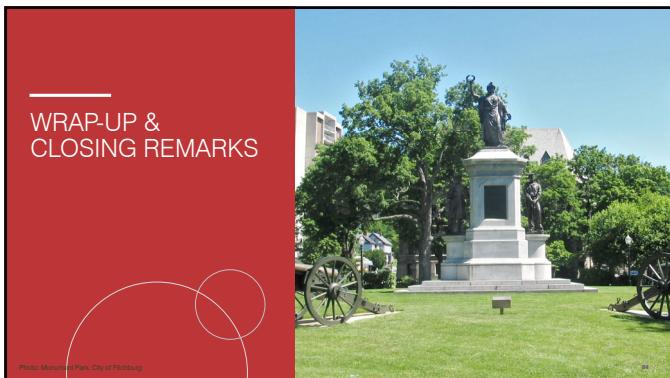
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## Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Project

Core Team Meeting  
November 1, 2019

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Introductions 5 minutes

Project Overview 15 minutes

1. MVP Program Overview
  - a. Brief Introduction to Climate Change in Fitchburg
  - b. MVP Planning Process
  - c. MVP Action Grants
  - d. Hazard Mitigation Plan Overlap

Core Team Role 2 minutes

1. Develop/approve list of stakeholders
2. Active participants in the Community Resilience Building Workshop
3. Promote the listening session/attend listening session
4. Inform community priorities/Determine how decisions from Workshop will be used

Goal Setting and Endorsement 15 minutes

1. Large group activity on what a successful hazard mitigation and climate preparedness plan means to them.
2. Presentation of goals and large group discussion on how to incorporate comments

Community Resilience Building Workshop and Review of Materials 35 minutes

1. MVP Risk Matrix
  - a. Discuss hazards and key features (infrastructure, society, environment)
    - Stone arch dam collapse
    - Top hazards: flooding, severe thunderstorms/wind, snowstorms, extreme temps
2. Review map of key resources/assets
3. Prioritization Process MVP Key Actions
4. Workshop Schedule
  - b. One 8-hour or two 4-hour meetings
  - c. Weekday or weekend
  - d. Day or evening
5. Presentation Feedback

**W&S Action Item:** Finalize Workshop materials based on Core Team input

**Fitchburg Action Item:** Help to fill mapping and PowerPoint gaps

Data Sources 3 minutes

1. Interviews with municipal officials
2. Applicable reports and materials

- a. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2016)
  - b. Open Space and Recreation (2014)
  - c. Critical assets and infrastructure
  - d. Demographics
3. Ask:
- a. Other ongoing efforts?
    - Riverfront park: Ramp into river for snow
    - Flood reduction system to help downtown flooding
    - River St @ Wallace St – updated/fixed
    - Rotary at legion was recently done
    - Water department is acquiring a few hundred acres of land a year in the northern section of town, which is helping to mitigate flooding
    - Comp WW Management Plan
    - Trail vision plan about to circulate
    - Zoning updates
    - Promote CID/GI
    - Community Preservation Act
    - Trails and Bike Paths
    - WW in consent decree on
    - Working with state and MEMA
    - Mutual aid agreements
    - Code red – landline
    - Police, fire and utilities are working together
  - b. Local hazards/experiences to highlight? - previous flood events, issue areas
    - More events with saturated soil
    - Ice storms – power outages
    - John Fitch Highway
    - WWTF – Letter
    - Railroad near Princeton Road
    - Punch Brook – downtown, main st basements flooding, cutting power
    - Dam building concerns:
    - Buildings freeze and lines pop
    - Unreinforced masonry – earthquake hazard
    - Eroding Riverbank at airport

**W&S Action Item:** Review materials and incorporate into Workshop and Report(s)

**Fitchburg Action Item:** Identify and provide any additional resources

Workshop Participants 10 minutes

1. Respond to a list of workshop invitees

**W&S Action Item:** Draft invitation to stakeholders

**Fitchburg Action Item:** Finalize list of invitees; send invitation and track RSVPs, assign participants to tables

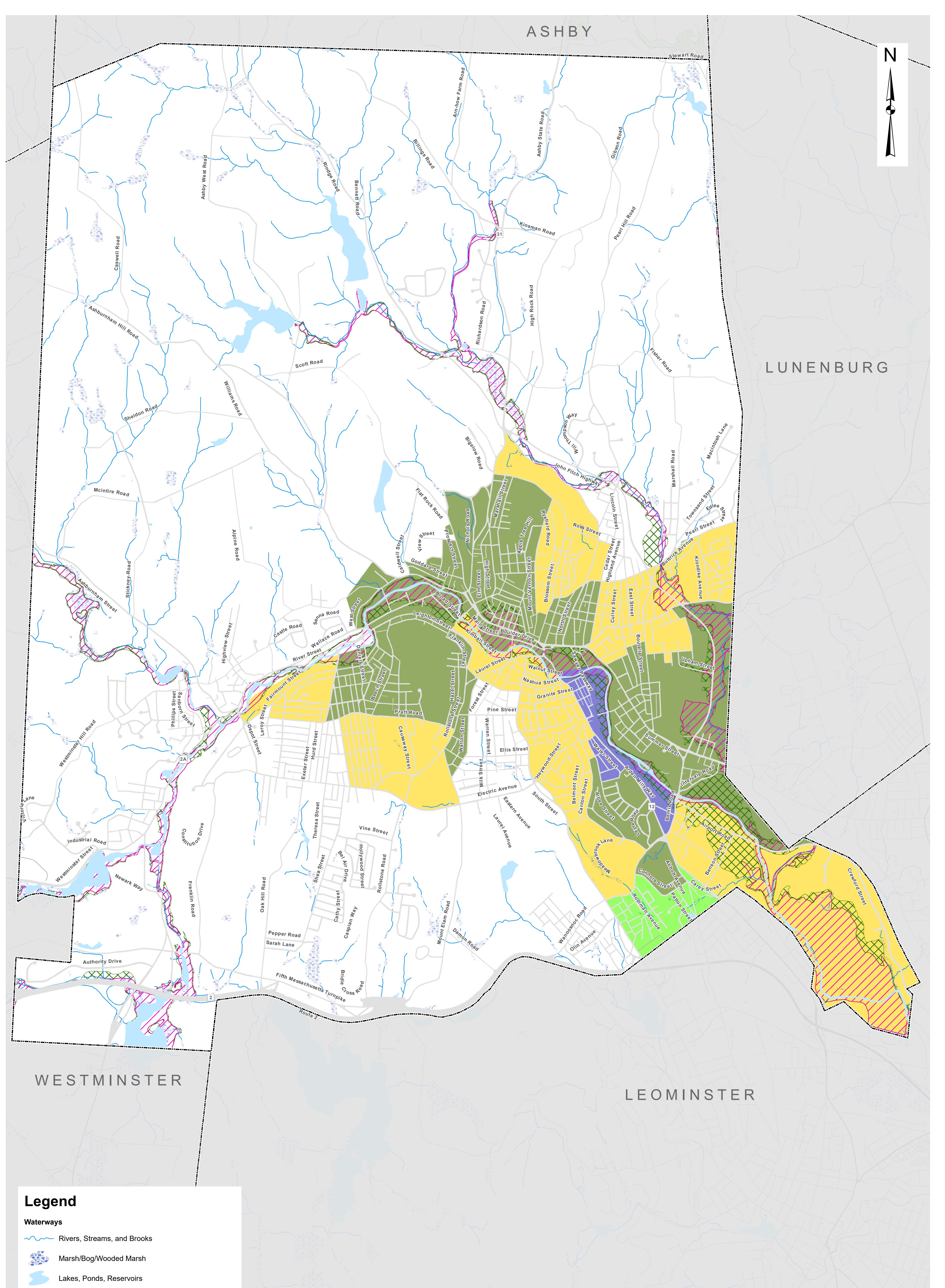
Wrap Up and Next Steps 5 minutes

1. Confirm draft schedule

Workshop: Fitchburg State has rooms – Hammond Building, Falcon Hub  
Late Jan and early Feb Listening Session and Workshop

## Appendix B

### Additional Hazard Data



## Legend

## Waterways

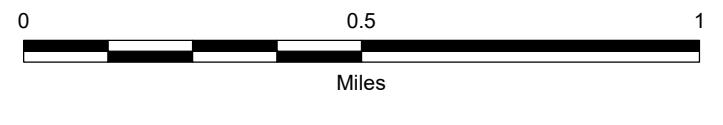
-  Rivers, Streams, and Brooks
  -  Marsh/Bog/Wooded Marsh
  -  Lakes Ponds Reservoirs

## Flood Zone Designations

-  1% Annual Chance of Flooding (Zones A, AE, AH, AO)
  -  Possible But Undetermined Hazard (Zone D)
  -  0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding (Zone X)

 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding

-  Minority
  -  Income
  -  Minority and Income
  -  Minority, Income and English isolation



## FIGURE 1

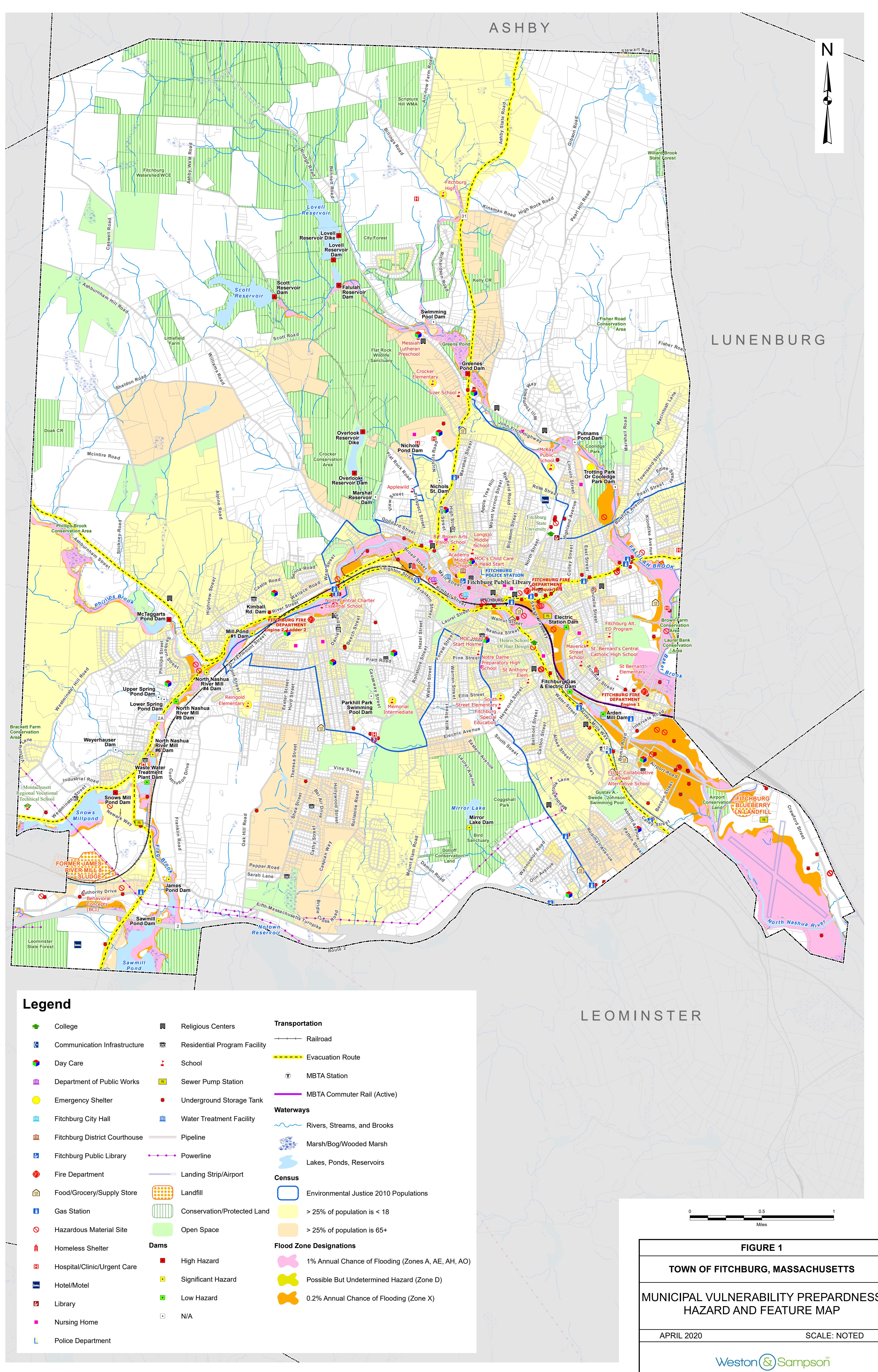
## **TOWN OF FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS**

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE VULNERABILITY MAP

JUNE 2020

SCALE: NOTED

Weston & Sampson



**Category 1 – Emergency Response Facilities**

Emergency response facilities that are necessary for the City in the event of a disaster.

<b>Police and Fire Department</b>	
Fitchburg- Central Fire Station	33 North Street
Fitchburg- Summer Street Fire Station	42 John Fitch Highway
Fitchburg- Oak Hill Fire Station	231 Fairmont Street
Fitchburg Police Department	20 Elm Street
<b>Emergency Operations Center</b>	
Fitchburg Senior Citizen's Center	14 Wallace Avenue
<b>Communications Infrastructure</b>	
Communication Tower	Flat Rock Road
Verizon Switching Facility MA873207	676 Main Street
Verizon Tower	259 High Rock Road
Verizon Tower	609 Wanoosnoc Road
Radio Towers	Alpine Road
Fitchburg Radio Towers	1080 Franklin Road
Fitchburg Communication Tower	795 High Rock Road
Fire Department Communication Tower	Pratt Road
<b>Emergency Shelters</b>	
FSC- McKay Public School	67 Rindge Road
Fitchburg High School	140 Arnhow Farm Road
Memorial Intermediate School	615 Rollstone Street
Reingold Elementary School	70 Reingold Avenue
BF Brown Arts Vision School	62 Academy Street
Crocker Elementary School	200 Bigelow Road
Saint Bernard's Central Catholic High School	45 Harvard Street
South Street Elementary School	376 South Street
Wallace Civic Center	1000 John Fitch Highway
Fitchburg Senior Citizen's Center	14 Wallace Avenue
<b>Emergency Dispensing Sites</b>	
Crocker Elementary School	200 Bigelow Road
Fitchburg High School	140 Arnhow Farm Road
Fitchburg Senior Citizen's Center	14 Wallace Avenue
FSC- McKay Public School	67 Rindge Road
Memorial Intermediate School	615 Rollstone Street
Reingold Elementary School	70 Reingold Avenue
Saint Bernard's Central Catholic High School	45 Harvard Street
South Street Elementary School	376 South Street

Wallace Civic Center	1000 John Fitch Hwy.
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	563 Crawford Street

*Category 2 – Non-Emergency Response Facilities*

The City has identified these facilities as non-emergency facilities; however, they are considered essential for the everyday operation of Fitchburg.

<b>Town Facilities</b>	
Fitchburg City Hall	166 Boulder Drive
Fitchburg Department of Public Works	301 Broad Street
Fitchburg District Courthouse	100 Elm Street
Meeting House Reservoir	West Princeton Road, Westminster
Fitchburg Wastewater Office	718 Main Street
Fitchburg Public Library	610 Main Street
<b>Water Supply System</b>	
Meeting House Reservoir	West Princeton Road, Westminster
Regional Filtration Plant	18 Hager Park Road, Westminster
Lovell Reservoir and Treatment Plant	1200 Rindge Road
Scott Tank	Thurston Road
Oakhill Tank	Franklin Road
Overlook Tank	Flat Rock Road
Falulah Filtration Plant	1200 Rindge Road
Falulah Water Storage Tanks	990 Rindge Road
<b>Transportation Facilities</b>	
First Student Bus	203 Airport Road
Van Pool Transportation Services	47 Summit Street
Train Station MBTA Commuter Rail	100 Main Street
Train Station MBTA Wachusett Commuter Rail	55 Authority Drive
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	567 Crawford Street
<b>Utilities</b>	
Unitil	357 Electric Avenue, Lunenburg

*Category 3 – Dangerous/Hazardous Materials and Facilities*

<b>Hazmat Sites</b>	
Omnova Solutions Inc.	119 Authority Drive
DRS Technologies	166 Boulder Drive
Fitchburg State University	160 Pearl Street
Neward America	100 Neward Way

Mocron Products Inc.	25 Sawyer Passway
Steel Fab Inc.	Oak Hill Road
Central Steam Plant	465 Westminster Street
Mar Lee Mold Company, Inc.	207 Authority Drive
Airgas East Inc.	510 Crawford Street
Ryder Fuel Services #0152A	215 Crawford Street
First Student Bus	203 Airport Road
Simonds International Corp.	135 Intervale Road
Jiffy Lube	541 John Fitch Highway
Grief	100 Newark Ave
Micron Products Inc.	41 Sawyer Passway
Verizon Switching Facility MA873207	676 Main Street
Fitchburg Communication Tower	795 High Rock Road
Falulah Filtration Plant	1200 Rindge Road
Fitchburg- East Wastewater Treatment Facility	24 Lanides Lane
MART Garage	R1427 Water Street
Montouri Oil Corp.	125 Main Street
Penske	210 Airport Road
Avery Dennison Corp	224 Industrial Road
Fitchburg Blueberry Lane Landfill (closed)	41 Blueberry Lane
Fitchburg Landfill (Inactive)	1 Collide Park Ave
Former James River Mill 8 Sludge (Inactive)	85 Princeton Road
Star Cleaners	278-280 Lunenburg
British American Club	1 Summonds Rd
Conquest Video	227 Lunenburg Street
Seaboard Folding Box Corp.	35 Daniels Street
Apt Complex	12 - 16 Boyle Court
Independent Cleaners	1 Wallace Rd
Chemdesign Corp	99 Development Road
Matthews Realty Trust	314 John Fitch Hwy
Ast Vault Willow St. Trust	26 Willow Street
Pauls Plate Glass	289 Water Street
Warehouse	640 Crawford Street
Central Plaza Shopping Center	130 Water Street
Commercial Street Realty Trust	40 Commercial Street
Winthrop Steel Co Inc.	53 Prescott Street
Fitchburg Department of Public Works	301 Broad Street
Route 2A	321 Lunenburg Street
Coolidge Park	Pearl Street at John Fitch Hwy
Former Vogue Wall Coverings	68 Airport Road
Proposed CVS Pharmacy 505	Main Street and North Street
<b>Underground Storage Tanks</b>	
Ryder Truck Maint.	215 Cranford Street
Francis L. Piermarocchi	232 Airport Road
Petrullo Construction Co. Inc.	28 King Street
East Fitchburg Yard	0 Summer Street
United Co-Operative Farmers, Inc.	402 Broad Street

Montachusett Reg. Vocat. School	1050 Westminster Street
Sunoco	569 Electric Ave
Wachusett Potato Chip Co., Inc	783 Water Street
Francis L. Piermarocchi, Inc	232 Falulah Road
Webber Lumber & Supply Co., Inc	275 Summer Street
West Wastewater Facility	401 Princeton Road
East Wastewater Facility	0 Lanides Lane
City of Fitchburg/Dept of Public Works	301 Broad Street
Demers Bros Inc.	269 Summer Street
George's Citgo Station	130 Lunenburg Street
Paul J. Leclair - Paul's Mobil	938 Main Street
Leon Bellio Eastside Mobil	115 Lunenburg Street
Chemdesign Corporation	99 Development Road
Frank Swett	6 Lunenburg Street
Frank A Swett	10 Lunenburg Street
Nissen Baking Co., Inc	189 Crawford Road
B&D Auto Repair	228 Bemis Road Rear
Paul's Service Station	252 Kimball Street
East Side Energy Group	1200 Main Street
Fitchburg State College	160 Pearl Street
Coca-Cola Co Lowell & Futch	201 Lunenburg Street
Sumer Street Fire Station	0 John Fitch Hwy
Simonds Industries Inc.	0 Intervale Road
Pearson's Auto Radiator Serv.	173 Bemis Road
Montuori Oil Corp.	0 Laurel Street
Delongchamp Automobile Co., Inc.	222 Lunenburg Street
Benson Realty Corp	161 Benson Street
General Electric Company	166 Boulder Drive
Mc Cues Getty	656 Water Street
Main Street Self Serv	0 Main Street
Rohmteck Inc.	119 Authority Drive
Dufour Motors	356 River Street
Oak Hill Contry Club	0 Oak Hill Road
Kmart #4444	140 Whalon Street
Fire Department, City of Fitchburg	28 Oliver Street
Mobil Oil #06GG6	129 South Street & Whalen Street
Rivers Bros Inc.	112 Lunenburg Street
Exxon Co. #-5764	511 Electric Ave
Pelletier's Building Supply Co	133 Water Street
Fitchburg Gas & Electric	285 John Fitch Hwy
Gasoline Merchants, Inc.	249 Kimball Street
Water Street Gulf	447 Water Street
P.B. Morrill	2 Ashby State Road
Main Street Gulf	1022 Main Street
Sherman V. Allen Inc.	0 Garland Street
Sherman V. Allen Inc.	236 Lunenburg Street
Sherman V. Allen Inc.	237 Lunenburg Street

Ronald Boudreau	20 Pratt Street
Fitcburg Sunoco	880 Water Street
Technographics Fitchburg Paper C	601 River Street
James River-Fitchburg, Inc.	0 Old Princeton Road
American Can Company	16 Benson Street
D & D Truck Service, Inc	91 Laurel Street
Mechanic Street Texaco	267 Mechanic Street
Cumberland Farms	479 Electric Avenue
Cumberland Farms #2071	347 River Street
Wanno Sunoco	942 South Street
New England Telephone	676 Main Street
Citgo	449 Mechanic Street
Vogue Wallcoverings	68 Auroirt Road
Ami Trucklease Corporation	210 Falulah Road
Burbank Hospital	0 Nichols Road
Fitchburg Creamery Inc.	25 Ashby State Road
Roadway Express, Inc.	88 Benson Street
Sanitoy Inc	0 Nursery Lane
Cleghorn Oil Inc	25 Pratt Street
Airport Comm., City of Fitchburg	0 Fitchburg Municipal Airport
Cristy Corporation	260 Authority Dr
Sunoco	240 Lunenburg Street
Booster Pump Station	25 Royal Plaza Dr
Montachusetts Reg Transit Authority	1427 R Water Street
Speedee Oil Change & Tune-Up	370 John Fitch Hwy
Montvori Oil Corp	2 Boulder Dr
Johnny's Service Station	339 River Street
Joseph R. Morin Inc.	23 Woodbury Ave
Fitchburg Plumbing Supply Co.Inc.	64 Main Street
Fitchburg Municipal Airport	0 Crawford Street
Fitchburg United	1289 Water Street
Fairway Construction Inc.	12 Linda Street
Sherman Allen Inc.	0 Route 2
Chartered Buses Inc.	203 Airport Road

*Category 4 – Vulnerable Populations and Community Facilities*

<b>Housing Authority Properties, Elderly Housing Communities, and Long-Term Care Centers</b>	
Durkin Apartments	50 Day Street
Daniel Heights	16 Daniel Street
Wallace Tower	54 Wallace Avenue
Canton Valley Terrace	1 Valley Street
Pleasant Street Residence	132 Pleasant Street
Group/Town View Tower	16 Prichard Street
Fitchburg Green Apartments	350 Water Street
Joseph's House	279 Daniels Street

The Sundial	29 Merriam Parkway
Blossom Court Apartments	37-43 Blossom Street
The Gables of Fitchburg	935 John Fitch Hwy.
Golden Living Center	1199 John Fitch Highway
Caldwell Home- Extended Care	10 Prospect Street
The Highlands, A Life Care Center	335 Nichols Street
Hillcrest Nursing Center	94 Summer Street
James Manor Rest Home	222 South Street
Bethel House Rest Home	82 Mechanic Street
<b>Homeless Shelter</b>	
	199 Summer Street
	53 Lunenburg St
	356B Broad Street #4
<b>Institutions of Higher Learning</b>	
Fitchburg State University- Main Campus	160 Pearl Street
Mount Wachusett Community College	326 Nichols Road
<b>Schools and Daycares</b>	
McKay Arts Academy	67 Rindge Road
Crocker Elementary School	200 Bigelow Road
Reingold Elementary School	70 Reingold Avenue
South Street Elementary School	376 South Street
Longsjo Middle School	98 Academy Street
Memorial Middle School	615 Rollstone Street
Fitchburg High School	140 ArnHow Farm Road
Goodrich Academy	111 Goodrich Street
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School	1050 Westminster Street
North Central Charter Essential School	500 Rindge Road
Applewild School	120 Prospect Street
St. Bernard's Elementary	254 Summer Street
St. Bernard's High School	45 Harvard Street
Irfan, Rebecca	32 3RD Street
Deitzel, Sharon	372 Franklin Road
MOC Child Care & Head Start Services Center / Hosp	110 South Street
Del Orbe, Fatima	179 Summer Street
Northwest Child Development Center of Fitchburg	1400 John Fitch Hwy
Cintron, Adela F.	177 Harrison Avenue
Ngah, Jennifer	541 Arnhow Farm Rd
Barbagallo, Sandra	37 Anita Drive
Stewart, Cheryl	81 Legros Street
Acevedo, Cornelia	9 Ross Street
MOC Child Care and Head Start Services	133 Prichard Street
Fernandez, Rachael	213 Bishop Road
Sosa, GABRIELA	194 Summer Street
Burgos, Aida	355 Pearl Street

Montachusetts Regional YMCA Preschool / Kindergarten	55 Wallace Avenue
Slattery, Erin C.	132 Canton Street
Montoya, Giovany	937 Main St Floor 2
Gomez, Patricia	43 Maple Street
Leone, Cheryl	226 Ashby State Road
Silvera, Silvia	107 Daniels Street
Burbank Child Development Center	265 Nichols Road
Children's Aid Child Care Center	1480 John Fitch Hwy
Diaz, Amber	174 Sanborn Street
Cintron, Ana	80 Lawrence Street
Fisher, Julie	46 Farmer Avenue
Aubuchon, Kathleen	491 5th Massachusetts Tpk
Bourque, Kimberly	145 East Street
Spare, Nano T.	12 William Street
Sicard, Diane	149 Highview Street
Selin, Kelly	510 Rollstone Road
Benoit-St. Onge, Pamela	470 Blossom Street
Sinkus, Diana	48 Kaysha Drive
Lizardo, Yisel	22 Columbia Ave
Fuentes, Julie	18 Davis St. #1
Torres, Maragaria	112 Cedar Street
Sanderson, Carol	60 Phillips Passway
Emma, Amy Beth	21 Gloria Avenue
Maclean, Marites	44 Townsend Street
Rojas, Brenda	9 Crown St. Apt. 2
Sadowski, Rebecca L.	74 Whittemore Street
Sacred Heart Preschool and Child Care Center	22 Cottage Street
Becerril, Isabel	111 Canton Street
Manning, Erica	391 Mount Elam Road
Alvarado, Jacqueline	9 Sheridan Street
Tammaro, Melissa	104 Loiselle Avenue
Tabales, Nicole	4 Harrison Ave
Tabales, Nicole	42 Skyview Drive
Maverick Street Family Center	98 Maverick Street
Reyes, Mayra	33 Pearl Street
Ramos, Olga	185 Hazel Street Apt 2
Lacourse, Angelica	21 Hazel Street
Howe, Patricia	31 Charles Street
Guild of St. Agnes - Fitchburg Preschool/School	62 Dover Street
Mendoza, Maria	494 Rollstone Street
Messiah Lutheran Preschool	780 Rindge Rd
Meyer, Heidy	52 Winter Street
Amezcuia, Eva	22 Hale Street
Kinsman, Xan	12 Pleasantview Ave
Christian, Diane	100 Abbott Ave

Rodriguez, Elisa I.	15 Wildwood Drive
Cote, Debra T.	124 Depot Street
Hernandez, Maria E.	35 Nutting Street
Caban, Robin	418 Pratt Road
Daigle, Denise	48 Exeter Street
Bylund, Pamela L.	85 Highview Street
Rodriguez, Gretchen	7 Orchard Street
Busy Bees Preschool Center, Inc.	3 Harugari Street
Kids Stop	184 Clarendon Street
Kozy Kids Day Care	372 Franklin Road
<b>Healthcare Services</b>	
Radiology Program @Health Alliance CAN	275 Nichols Road
Veterans Hospice	69 High Street
Health Alliance Hospital-BURBANK CA	275 Nichols Road
Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center	326 Nichols Road
Community Health Connections	275 Nichols Road
LUK Crisis Center	545 Westminster Street
Action Health Services-mobile	275 Nichols Road
Community Health Link Lipton Counsel	275 Nichols Road
Community Health Connection FHC	140 Arnhow Farm Road
Counseling & Assessment Clinic	76 Summer Street
Multicultural Wellness Center	76 summer Street
Reliant Medical Group	370 Lunenburg Street
Riverfront Counseling Center	76 Summer Street
Spectrum Health Systems Inc.	76 Summer Street
Umass Memorial MRI & Imaging Center	275 Nichols Road
CareWell Urgent Care	380 John Fitch Highway
<b>Residential Program Facility</b>	
Seven Hills	149 Pepper Road
Green Acres Village	13 Normandy Road
Horizon House Male STARR Program	27 Myrtle Avenue
Bridge - STARR	101 South Street
Crisis Center - Therapeutic Foster Care	545 Westminster Street
Seven Hills	33 Cathy Street
Horizon House Female Program	846 Westminster Street
Seven Hills - Kimball Road Program	83 Kimball Road
<b>Food Supply Stores</b>	
CVS Pharmacy	57 Rollstone Road
CVS Pharmacy	96 Water Street
CVS Pharmacy	436 John Fitch Highway
Walgreens	571 John Fitch Highway
Market Basket	399 John Fitch Highway
Market Basket	130 Water Street
JD's Variety	259 Franklin Road
Twin City Market	59 Whalon Street
Millbury Fish Market	60 Bemis Road

Family Dollar	133 Water Street
Dollar Tree	1011 Water Street
<b>Gas Stations</b>	
	115 Lunenburg Street
	129 Whalon Street
	240 Lunenburg Street
	267 Mechanic Street
	656 Water Street
	75 Main Street
	880 Water Street
	237 Lunenburg Street
	449 Mechanic Street
	942 South Street
	479 Electric Avenue
	1313 Water Street
	120 Mass State Hwy, MA-2A
	249 Kimball Street
	2 Boulder Drive
	376 River Street
	339 River Street
	216 Bemis Street
	487 Princeton Road
<b>Hotel/Motel</b>	
Great Wolf Lodge	150 Great Wolf Drive
Howarth House Bed and Breakfast	81 Ross Street
<b>Religious Center</b>	
Masjid Baitul Zikr	370 Main Street
First Baptist Church of Fitchburg	1400 John Fitch Highway
Horizon Christian Fellowship	356 Broad Street
Salvation Army Corps	739 Water Street
Faith Christian Ministries	40 Boutelle Street
Fitchburg Church of the Nazarene	800 South Street
Christ Church	569 Main Street
St Anthony of Padua Church	84 Salem Street
Fitchburg Seventh Day Advent	205 Summer Street
First Parish Unitarian	923 Main Street
St Joseph's Catholic Church	49 Woodland Street
Emanuel Lutheran Church	1200 John Fitch Highway
St Francis of Assisi	Sheridan Street
Messiah Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	750 Rindge Road
Beth Eden Baptist Church	350 Ashburnham Street
New Life Spanish Christian Church	63 Fairmount Street
Elm Street Congregational	264 Elm Street

Fitchburg Spanish SDA Church	179 Pratt Street
Rollstone Congregational Church	199 Main Street
<b>Pump Stations</b>	
Pump Station	
Pump Station	
Pump Station	

*Category 5 – Dams*

<b>Dams</b>	
Scott Reservoir Dam	
Lovell Reservoir Dam	
Sawmill Pond Dam	
Greenes Pond Dam	
Overlook Reservoir Dam	
Mill Pond #1 Dam	
Snows Mill Pond Dam	
McTaggarts Pond Dam	
James Pond Dam	
Lovell Reservoir Dike	
Arden Mill Dam	
Swimming Pool Dam	
North Nashua River Mill #4 Dam	
North Nashua River Mill #9 Dam	
North Nashua River Mill #6 Dam	
Fitchburg Gas & Electric Dam	
Weyerhauser Dam	
Lower Spring Pond Dam	
Upper Spring Pond Dam	
Putnams Pond Dam	
Parkhill Park Swimming Pool Dam	
Overlook Reservoir Dike	
Falulah Reservoir Dam	
Trotting Park or Cooledge Park Dam	
Wastewater Treatment Plant Dam	
Kimball Rd. Dam	
Marshal Reservoir Dam	
Mirror Lake Dam	
Nichols Pond Dam	
Nichols St. Dam	
Electric Station Dam	

## Hazus: Hurricane Global Risk Report

**Region Name:** Fitchburg

**Hurricane Scenario:** Probabilistic 100-year Return Period

**Print Date:** Friday, April 3, 2020

**Disclaimer:**

*This version of Hazus utilizes 2010 Census Data.*

*Totals only reflect data for those census tracts/blocks included in the user's study region.*

*The estimates of social and economic impacts contained in this report were produced using Hazus loss estimation methodology software which is based on current scientific and engineering knowledge. There are uncertainties inherent in any loss estimation technique. Therefore, there may be significant differences between the modeled results contained in this report and the actual social and economic losses following a specific Hurricane. These results can be improved by using enhanced inventory data.*

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## General Description of the Region

Hazus is a regional multi-hazard loss estimation model that was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Institute of Building Sciences. The primary purpose of Hazus is to provide a methodology and software application to develop multi-hazard losses at a regional scale. These loss estimates would be used primarily by local, state and regional officials to plan and stimulate efforts to reduce risks from multi-hazards and to prepare for emergency response and recovery.

The hurricane loss estimates provided in this report are based on a region that includes 1 county(ies) from the following state(s):

- Massachusetts

Note:

Appendix A contains a complete listing of the counties contained in the region.

The geographical size of the region is 28.12 square miles and contains 10 census tracts. There are over 15 thousand households in the region and a total population of 40,318 people (2010 Census Bureau data). The distribution of population by State and County is provided in Appendix B.

There are an estimated 12 thousand buildings in the region with a total building replacement value (excluding contents) of 5,570 million dollars (2014 dollars). Approximately 88% of the buildings (and 69% of the building value) are associated with residential housing.

## Building Inventory

### General Building Stock

Hazus estimates that there are 12,110 buildings in the region which have an aggregate total replacement value of 5,570 million (2014 dollars). Table 1 presents the relative distribution of the value with respect to the general occupancies. Appendix B provides a general distribution of the building value by State and County.

### Building Exposure by Occupancy Type

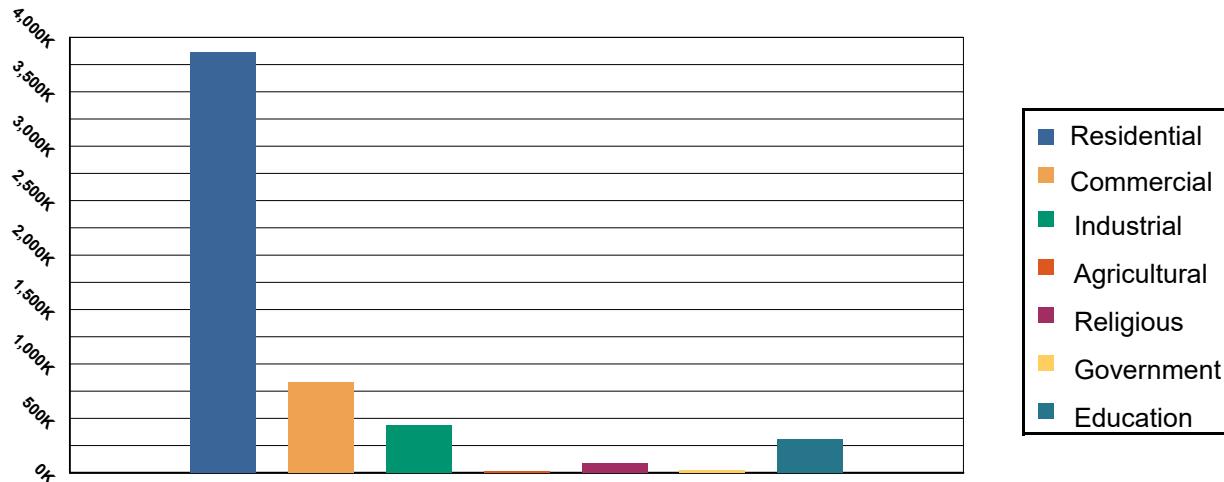


Table 1: Building Exposure by Occupancy Type

Occupancy	Exposure (\$1000)	Percent of Tot
Residential	3,860,252	69.30 %
Commercial	833,098	14.96%
Industrial	435,824	7.82%
Agricultural	15,030	0.27%
Religious	89,947	1.61%
Government	26,373	0.47%
Education	309,612	5.56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,570,136</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Essential Facility Inventory

For essential facilities, there are no hospitals in the region with a total bed capacity of no beds. There are 18 schools, 1 fire stations, 3 police stations and 2 emergency operation facilities.

## Hurricane Scenario

Hazus used the following set of information to define the hurricane parameters for the hurricane loss estimate provided in this report.

**Scenario Name:** Probabilistic

**Type:** Probabilistic

## Building Damage

### General Building Stock Damage

Hazus estimates that about 11 buildings will be at least moderately damaged. This is over 0% of the total number of buildings in the region. There are an estimated 0 buildings that will be completely destroyed. The definition of the 'damage states' is provided in the Hazus Hurricane technical manual. Table 2 below summarizes the expected damage by general occupancy for the buildings in the region. Table 3 summarizes the expected damage by general building type.

### Expected Building Damage by Occupancy

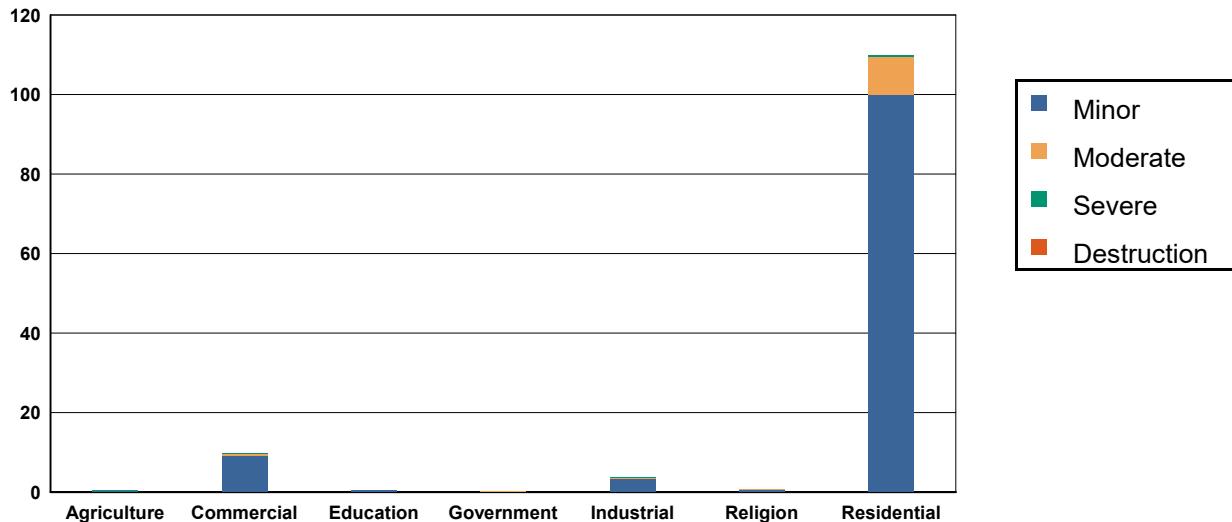


Table 2: Expected Building Damage by Occupancy : 100 - year Event

Occupancy	None		Minor		Moderate		Severe		Destruction	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
Agriculture	39.58	98.94	0.39	0.97	0.03	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00
Commercial	920.29	98.96	9.21	0.99	0.50	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education	57.49	99.12	0.51	0.88	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Government	21.77	98.94	0.23	1.05	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Industrial	314.40	98.87	3.48	1.09	0.11	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
Religion	80.32	99.16	0.66	0.82	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Residential	10,551.00	98.97	99.87	0.94	9.65	0.09	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,984.84</b>		<b>114.35</b>		<b>10.30</b>		<b>0.51</b>		<b>0.00</b>	

Table 3: Expected Building Damage by Building Type : 100 - year Event

Building Type	None		Minor		Moderate		Severe		Destruction	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
Concrete	109	98.73	1	1.26	0	0.01	0	0.00	0	0.00
Masonry	1,090	97.73	21	1.89	4	0.36	0	0.02	0	0.00
MH	59	99.95	0	0.03	0	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
Steel	619	98.90	7	1.06	0	0.04	0	0.00	0	0.00
Wood	9,350	99.25	67	0.71	3	0.03	0	0.00	0	0.00

## Essential Facility Damage

Before the hurricane, the region had no hospital beds available for use. On the day of the hurricane, the model estimates that 0 hospital beds (0%) are available for use by patients already in the hospital and those injured by the hurricane. After one week, none of the beds will be in service. By 30 days, none will be operational.

### Thematic Map of Essential Facilities with greater than 50% moderate



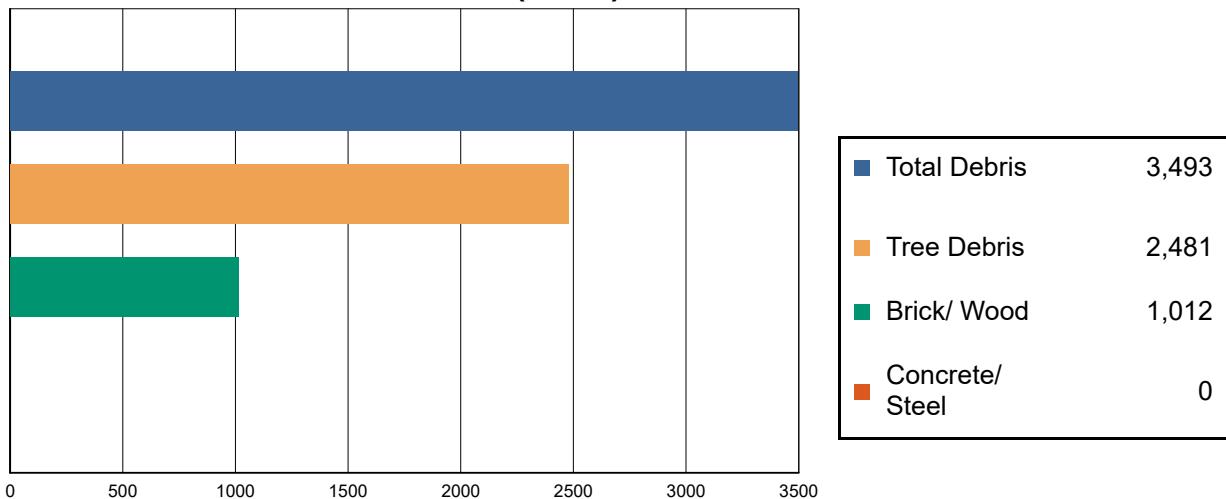
Table 4: Expected Damage to Essential Facilities

Classification	Total	# Facilities		
		Probability of at Least Moderate Damage > 50%	Probability of Complete Damage > 50%	Expected Loss of Use < 1 day
EOCs	2	0	0	2
Fire Stations	1	0	0	1
Police Stations	3	0	0	3
Schools	18	0	0	18

## Induced Hurricane Damage

### Debris Generation

Estimated Debris (Tons)

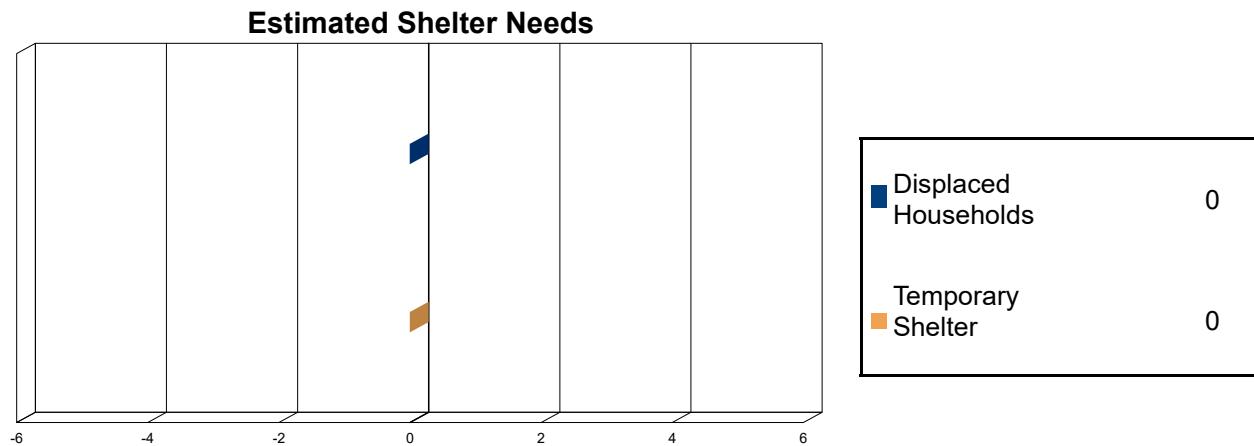


Hazus estimates the amount of debris that will be generated by the hurricane. The model breaks the debris into four general categories: a) Brick/Wood, b) Reinforced Concrete/Steel, c) Eligible Tree Debris, and d) Other Tree Debris. This distinction is made because of the different types of material handling equipment required to handle the debris.

The model estimates that a total of 3,493 tons of debris will be generated. Of the total amount, 1,558 tons (45%) is Other Tree Debris. Of the remaining 1,935 tons, Brick/Wood comprises 52% of the total, Reinforced Concrete/Steel comprises of 0% of the total, with the remainder being Eligible Tree Debris. If the building debris tonnage is converted to an estimated number of truckloads, it will require 40 truckloads (@25 tons/truck) to remove the building debris generated by the hurricane. The number of Eligible Tree Debris truckloads will depend on how the 923 tons of Eligible Tree Debris are collected and processed. The volume of tree debris generally ranges from about 4 cubic yards per ton for chipped or compacted tree debris to about 10 cubic yards per ton for bulkier, uncompacted debris.

## Social Impact

### Shelter Requirement



Hazus estimates the number of households that are expected to be displaced from their homes due to the hurricane and the number of displaced people that will require accommodations in temporary public shelters. The model estimates 0 households to be displaced due to the hurricane. Of these, 0 people (out of a total population of 40,318) will seek temporary shelter in public shelters.

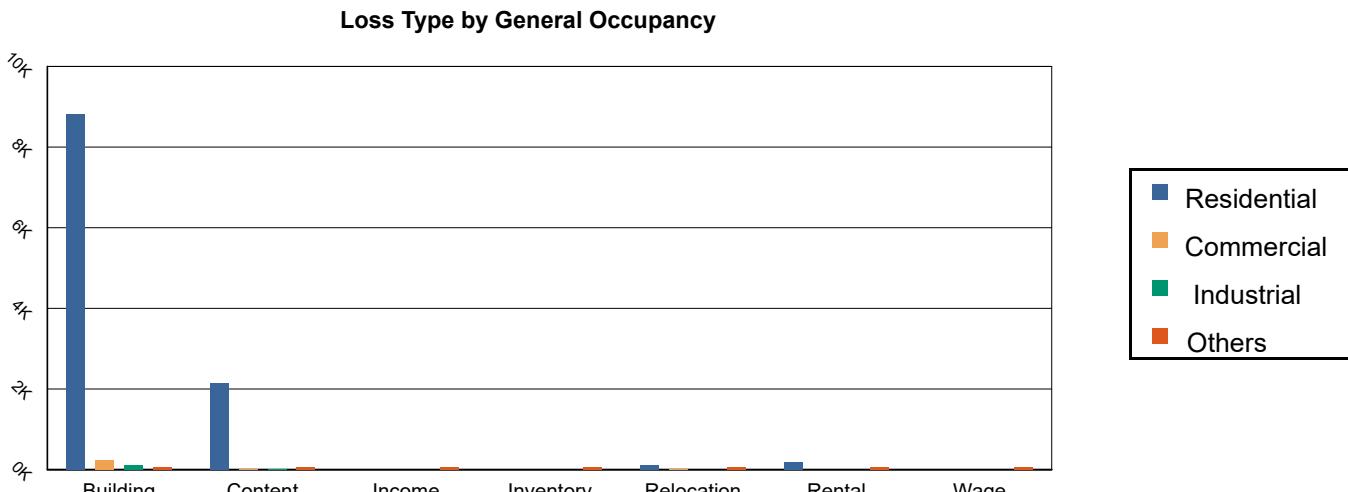
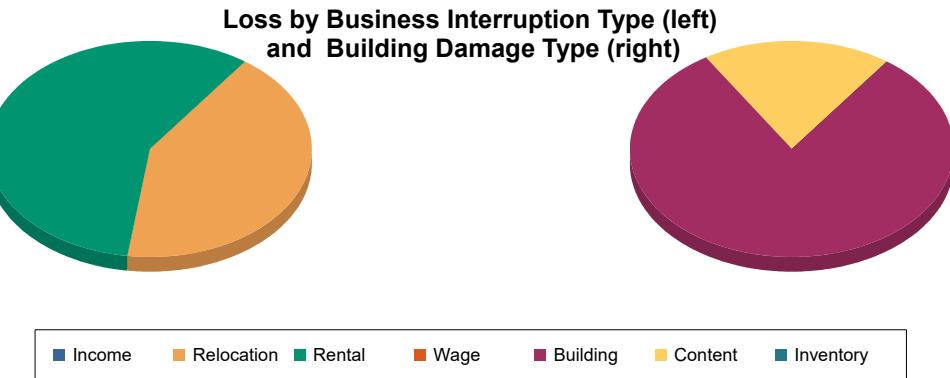
## Economic Loss

The total economic loss estimated for the hurricane is 11.7 million dollars, which represents 0.21 % of the total replacement value of the region's buildings.

### Building-Related Losses

The building related losses are broken into two categories: direct property damage losses and business interruption losses. The direct property damage losses are the estimated costs to repair or replace the damage caused to the building and its contents. The business interruption losses are the losses associated with inability to operate a business because of the damage sustained during the hurricane. Business interruption losses also include the temporary living expenses for those people displaced from their homes because of the hurricane.

The total property damage losses were 12 million dollars. 3% of the estimated losses were related to the business interruption of the region. By far, the largest loss was sustained by the residential occupancies which made up over 96% of the total loss. Table 5 below provides a summary of the losses associated with the building damage.



**Table 5: Building-Related Economic Loss Estimates**  
(Thousands of dollars)

Category	Area	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Others	Total
<u>Property Damage</u>						
Building		8,819.52	247.57	120.61	73.17	9,260.86
Content		2,136.09	2.36	1.73	0.02	2,140.20
Inventory		0.00	0.01	0.30	0.00	0.32
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>10,955.61</b>	<b>249.94</b>	<b>122.64</b>	<b>73.19</b>	<b>11,401.38</b>
<u>Business Interruption Loss</u>						
Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Relocation		126.23	3.88	0.22	0.23	130.56
Rental		178.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	178.67
Wage		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>304.90</b>	<b>3.88</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>309.23</b>



Total

Total	11,260.51	253.82	122.86	73.43	11,710.61
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## Appendix A: County Listing for the Region

Massachusetts

- Worcester

**Appendix B: Regional Population and Building Value Data**

	Building Value (thousands of dollars)			
	Population	Residential	Non-Residential	Total
<b>Massachusetts</b>				
Worcester	40,318	3,860,252	1,709,884	5,570,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,318</b>	<b>3,860,252</b>	<b>1,709,884</b>	<b>5,570,136</b>
<b>Study Region Total</b>	<b>40,318</b>	<b>3,860,252</b>	<b>1,709,884</b>	<b>5,570,136</b>

# Hazus: Hurricane Global Risk Report

**Region Name:** Fitchburg

**Hurricane Scenario:** Probabilistic 500-year Return Period

**Print Date:** Friday, April 3, 2020

***Disclaimer:***

*This version of Hazus utilizes 2010 Census Data.*

*Totals only reflect data for those census tracts/blocks included in the user's study region.*

*The estimates of social and economic impacts contained in this report were produced using Hazus loss estimation methodology software which is based on current scientific and engineering knowledge. There are uncertainties inherent in any loss estimation technique. Therefore, there may be significant differences between the modeled results contained in this report and the actual social and economic losses following a specific Hurricane. These results can be improved by using enhanced inventory data.*

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## General Description of the Region

Hazus is a regional multi-hazard loss estimation model that was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Institute of Building Sciences. The primary purpose of Hazus is to provide a methodology and software application to develop multi-hazard losses at a regional scale. These loss estimates would be used primarily by local, state and regional officials to plan and stimulate efforts to reduce risks from multi-hazards and to prepare for emergency response and recovery.

The hurricane loss estimates provided in this report are based on a region that includes 1 county(ies) from the following state(s):

- Massachusetts

Note:

Appendix A contains a complete listing of the counties contained in the region.

The geographical size of the region is 28.12 square miles and contains 10 census tracts. There are over 15 thousand households in the region and a total population of 40,318 people (2010 Census Bureau data). The distribution of population by State and County is provided in Appendix B.

There are an estimated 12 thousand buildings in the region with a total building replacement value (excluding contents) of 5,570 million dollars (2014 dollars). Approximately 88% of the buildings (and 69% of the building value) are associated with residential housing.

## Building Inventory

### General Building Stock

Hazus estimates that there are 12,110 buildings in the region which have an aggregate total replacement value of 5,570 million (2014 dollars). Table 1 presents the relative distribution of the value with respect to the general occupancies. Appendix B provides a general distribution of the building value by State and County.

### Building Exposure by Occupancy Type

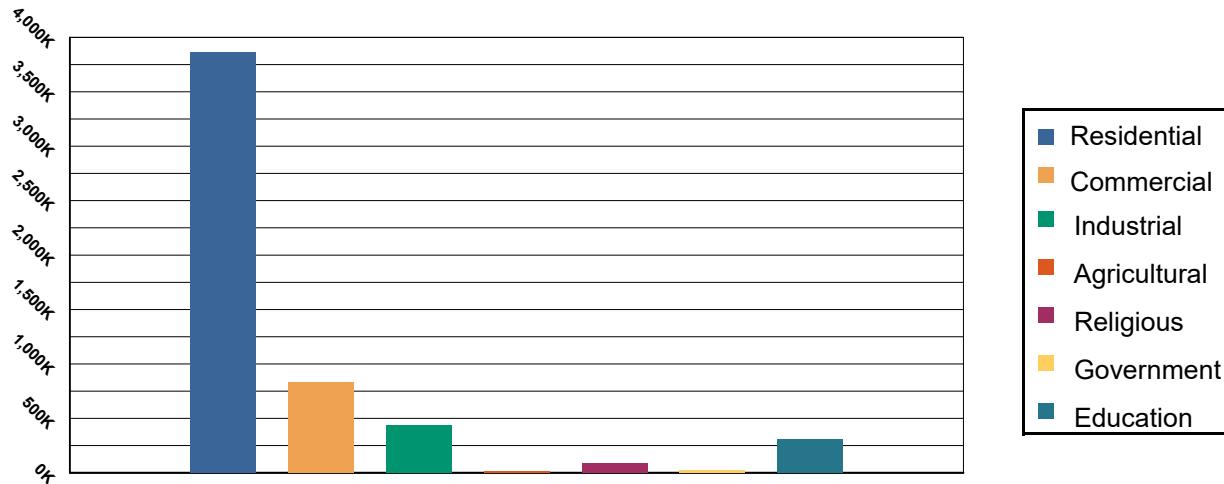


Table 1: Building Exposure by Occupancy Type

Occupancy	Exposure (\$1000)	Percent of Tot
Residential	3,860,252	69.30 %
Commercial	833,098	14.96%
Industrial	435,824	7.82%
Agricultural	15,030	0.27%
Religious	89,947	1.61%
Government	26,373	0.47%
Education	309,612	5.56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,570,136</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Essential Facility Inventory

For essential facilities, there are no hospitals in the region with a total bed capacity of no beds. There are 18 schools, 1 fire stations, 3 police stations and 2 emergency operation facilities.

## Hurricane Scenario

Hazus used the following set of information to define the hurricane parameters for the hurricane loss estimate provided in this report.

**Scenario Name:** Probabilistic

**Type:** Probabilistic

## Building Damage

### General Building Stock Damage

Hazus estimates that about 154 buildings will be at least moderately damaged. This is over 1% of the total number of buildings in the region. There are an estimated 1 buildings that will be completely destroyed. The definition of the 'damage states' is provided in the Hazus Hurricane technical manual. Table 2 below summarizes the expected damage by general occupancy for the buildings in the region. Table 3 summarizes the expected damage by general building type.

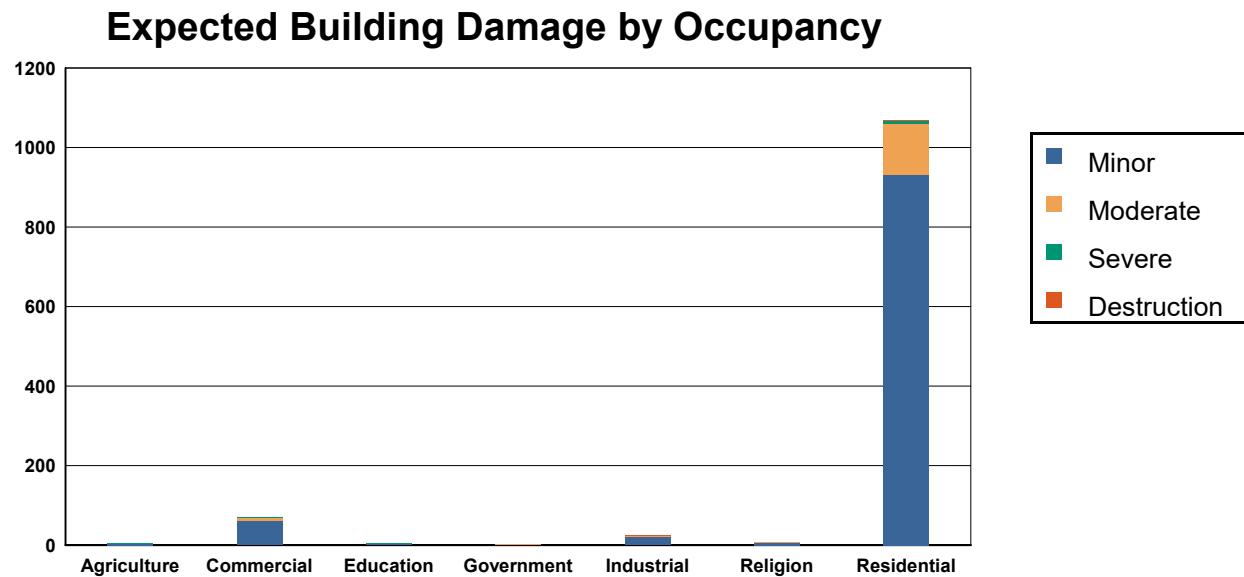


Table 2: Expected Building Damage by Occupancy : 500 - year Event

Occupancy	None		Minor		Moderate		Severe		Destruction	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
Agriculture	36.05	90.12	3.05	7.63	0.61	1.53	0.27	0.67	0.02	0.05
Commercial	859.12	92.38	60.04	6.46	9.78	1.05	1.07	0.11	0.00	0.00
Education	54.21	93.47	3.43	5.92	0.34	0.59	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Government	20.40	92.74	1.43	6.49	0.16	0.75	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
Industrial	293.27	92.22	20.32	6.39	3.48	1.09	0.88	0.28	0.05	0.02
Religion	75.09	92.71	5.42	6.69	0.47	0.58	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Residential	9,593.31	89.99	930.93	8.73	130.64	1.23	5.39	0.05	0.73	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,931.45</b>		<b>1,024.61</b>		<b>145.49</b>		<b>7.64</b>		<b>0.80</b>	

Table 3: Expected Building Damage by Building Type : 500 - year Event

Building Type	None		Minor		Moderate		Severe		Destruction	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
Concrete	101	91.64	8	7.36	1	0.99	0	0.01	0	0.00
Masonry	974	87.37	96	8.61	42	3.81	2	0.20	0	0.01
MH	58	97.66	1	1.62	0	0.52	0	0.01	0	0.19
Steel	581	92.81	38	6.05	6	1.02	1	0.12	0	0.00
Wood	8,538	90.64	817	8.68	60	0.64	4	0.04	1	0.01

## Essential Facility Damage

Before the hurricane, the region had no hospital beds available for use. On the day of the hurricane, the model estimates that 0 hospital beds (0%) are available for use by patients already in the hospital and those injured by the hurricane. After one week, none of the beds will be in service. By 30 days, none will be operational.

### Thematic Map of Essential Facilities with greater than 50% moderate



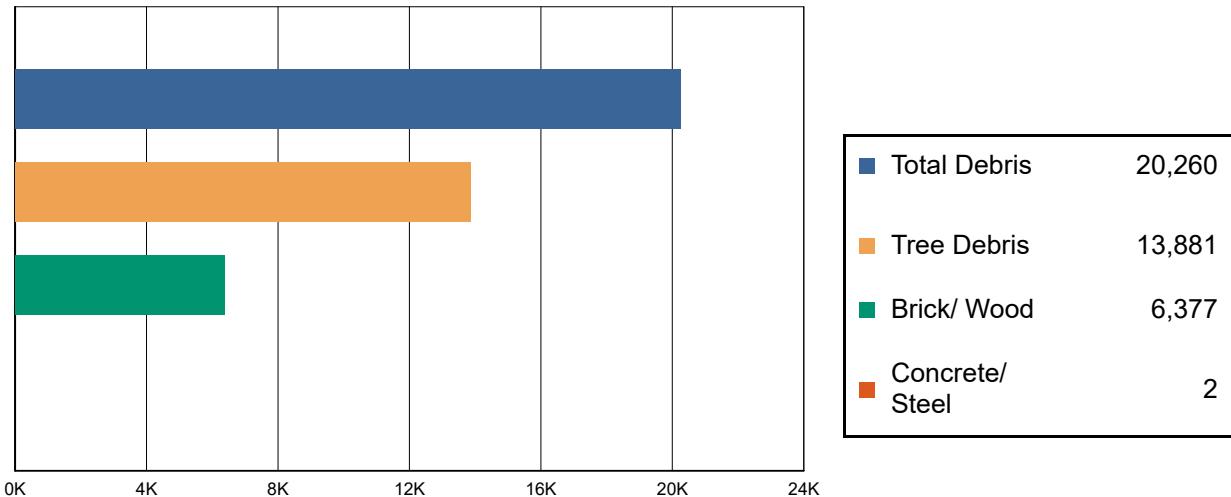
Table 4: Expected Damage to Essential Facilities

Classification	Total	# Facilities		
		Probability of at Least Moderate Damage > 50%	Probability of Complete Damage > 50%	Expected Loss of Use < 1 day
EOCs	2	0	0	2
Fire Stations	1	0	0	1
Police Stations	3	0	0	3
Schools	18	0	0	18

## Induced Hurricane Damage

### Debris Generation

**Estimated Debris (Tons)**

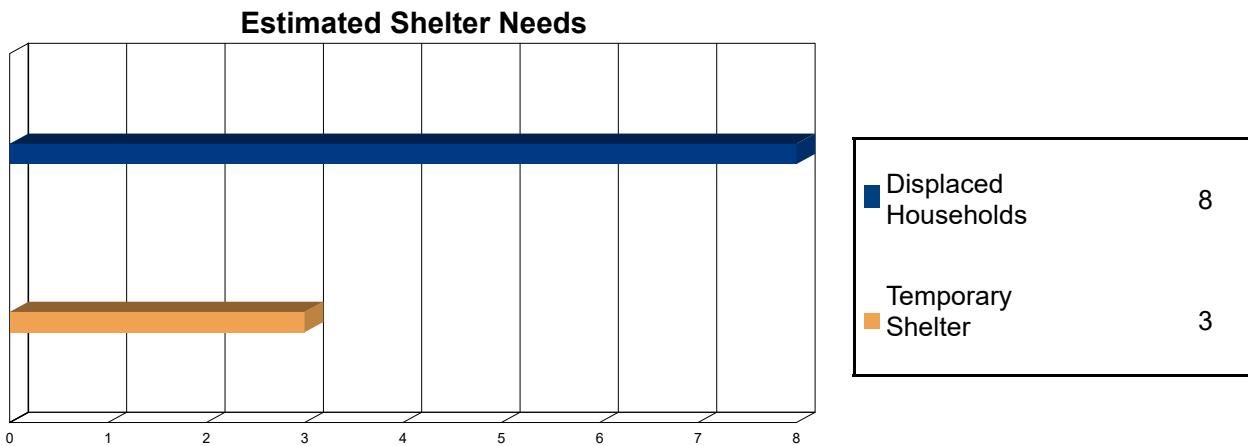


Hazus estimates the amount of debris that will be generated by the hurricane. The model breaks the debris into four general categories: a) Brick/Wood, b) Reinforced Concrete/Steel, c) Eligible Tree Debris, and d) Other Tree Debris. This distinction is made because of the different types of material handling equipment required to handle the debris.

The model estimates that a total of 20,260 tons of debris will be generated. Of the total amount, 9,673 tons (48%) is Other Tree Debris. Of the remaining 10,587 tons, Brick/Wood comprises 60% of the total, Reinforced Concrete/Steel comprises of 0% of the total, with the remainder being Eligible Tree Debris. If the building debris tonnage is converted to an estimated number of truckloads, it will require 255 truckloads (@25 tons/truck) to remove the building debris generated by the hurricane. The number of Eligible Tree Debris truckloads will depend on how the 4,208 tons of Eligible Tree Debris are collected and processed. The volume of tree debris generally ranges from about 4 cubic yards per ton for chipped or compacted tree debris to about 10 cubic yards per ton for bulkier, uncompacted debris.

## Social Impact

### Shelter Requirement



Hazus estimates the number of households that are expected to be displaced from their homes due to the hurricane and the number of displaced people that will require accommodations in temporary public shelters. The model estimates 8 households to be displaced due to the hurricane. Of these, 3 people (out of a total population of 40,318) will seek temporary shelter in public shelters.

## Economic Loss

The total economic loss estimated for the hurricane is 62.7 million dollars, which represents 1.13 % of the total replacement value of the region's buildings.

### Building-Related Losses

The building related losses are broken into two categories: direct property damage losses and business interruption losses. The direct property damage losses are the estimated costs to repair or replace the damage caused to the building and its contents. The business interruption losses are the losses associated with inability to operate a business because of the damage sustained during the hurricane. Business interruption losses also include the temporary living expenses for those people displaced from their homes because of the hurricane.

The total property damage losses were 63 million dollars. 7% of the estimated losses were related to the business interruption of the region. By far, the largest loss was sustained by the residential occupancies which made up over 89% of the total loss. Table 5 below provides a summary of the losses associated with the building damage.

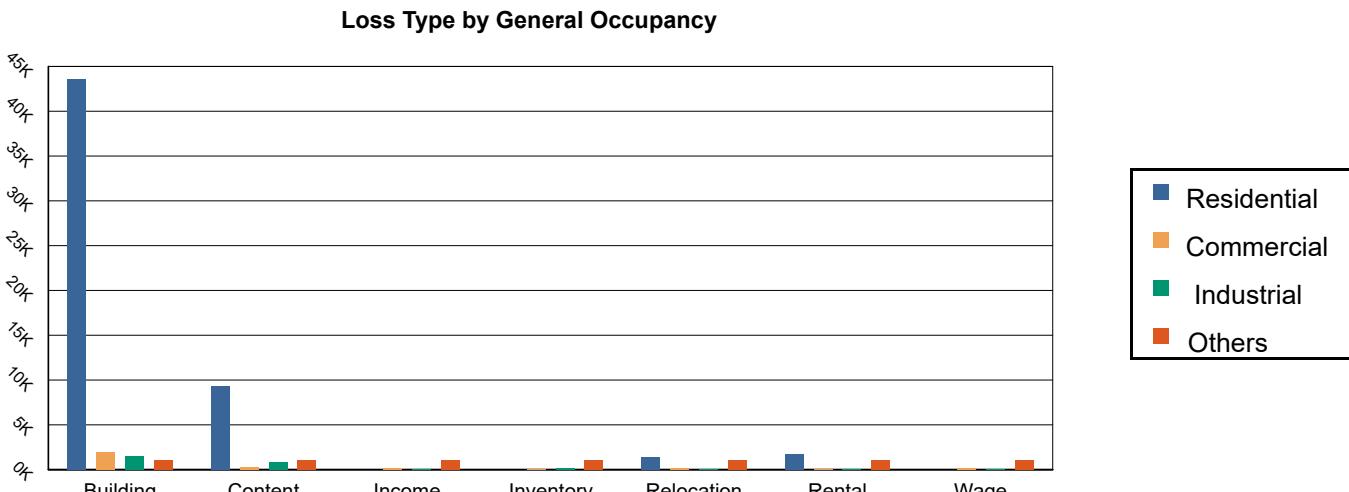
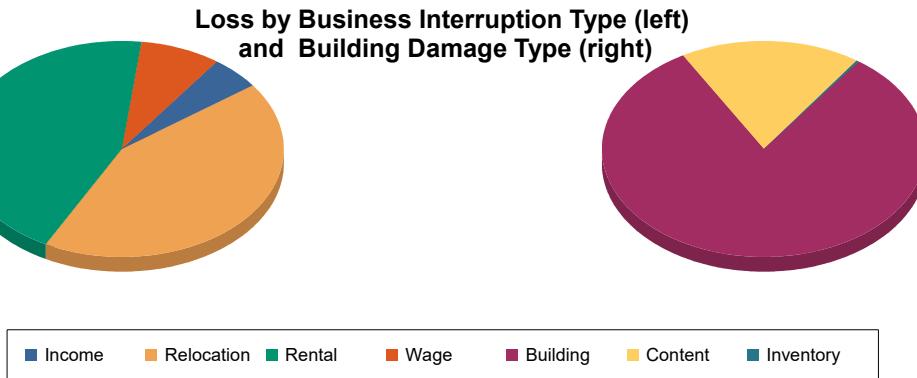


Table 5: Building-Related Economic Loss Estimates

(Thousands of dollars)

Category	Area	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Others	Total
<u>Property Damage</u>						
Building		43,614.93	1,957.52	1,502.25	737.92	47,812.64
Content		9,284.18	336.02	833.48	107.81	10,561.49
Inventory		0.00	8.23	136.75	2.23	147.21
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>52,899.12</b>	<b>2,301.78</b>	<b>2,472.48</b>	<b>847.96</b>	<b>58,521.34</b>
<u>Business Interruption Loss</u>						
Income		0.00	142.20	12.08	51.15	205.43
Relocation		1,458.55	214.81	43.49	55.89	1,772.74
Rental		1,723.48	102.82	10.01	3.89	1,840.19
Wage		0.00	191.84	19.97	119.89	331.69
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>3,182.03</b>	<b>651.67</b>	<b>85.55</b>	<b>230.81</b>	<b>4,150.05</b>

Total

Total	56,081.14	2,953.45	2,558.03	1,078.77	62,671.39
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## Appendix A: County Listing for the Region

Massachusetts

- Worcester

**Appendix B: Regional Population and Building Value Data**

	Building Value (thousands of dollars)			
	Population	Residential	Non-Residential	Total
<b>Massachusetts</b>				
Worcester	40,318	3,860,252	1,709,884	5,570,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,318</b>	<b>3,860,252</b>	<b>1,709,884</b>	<b>5,570,136</b>
<b>Study Region Total</b>	<b>40,318</b>	<b>3,860,252</b>	<b>1,709,884</b>	<b>5,570,136</b>

# Hazus: Earthquake Global Risk Report

**Region Name** Fitchburg

**Earthquake Scenario:** Fitchburg Magnitude 5.0 Earthquake

**Print Date:** April 03, 2020

**Disclaimer:**

*This version of Hazus utilizes 2010 Census Data.*

*Totals only reflect data for those census tracts/blocks included in the user's study region.*

*The estimates of social and economic impacts contained in this report were produced using Hazus loss estimation methodology software which is based on current scientific and engineering knowledge. There are uncertainties inherent in any loss estimation technique. Therefore, there may be significant differences between the modeled results contained in this report and the actual social and economic losses following a specific earthquake. These results can be improved by using enhanced inventory, geotechnical, and observed ground motion data.*

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**Appendix A: County Listing for the Region**

**Appendix B: Regional Population and Building Value Data**

## General Description of the Region

Hazus-MH is a regional earthquake loss estimation model that was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Institute of Building Sciences. The primary purpose of Hazus is to provide a methodology and software application to develop multi-hazard losses at a regional scale. These loss estimates would be used primarily by local, state and regional officials to plan and stimulate efforts to reduce risks from multi-hazards and to prepare for emergency response and recovery.

The earthquake loss estimates provided in this report was based on a region that includes 1 county(ies) from the following state(s):

Massachusetts

Note:

Appendix A contains a complete listing of the counties contained in the region.

The geographical size of the region is 28.11 square miles and contains 10 census tracts. There are over 15 thousand households in the region which has a total population of 40,318 people (2010 Census Bureau data). The distribution of population by Total Region and County is provided in Appendix B.

There are an estimated 12 thousand buildings in the region with a total building replacement value (excluding contents) of 5,570 (millions of dollars). Approximately 88.00 % of the buildings (and 69.00% of the building value) are associated with residential housing.

The replacement value of the transportation and utility lifeline systems is estimated to be 890 and 742 (millions of dollars), respectively.

## Building and Lifeline Inventory

### Building Inventory

Hazus estimates that there are 12 thousand buildings in the region which have an aggregate total replacement value of 5,570 (millions of dollars). Appendix B provides a general distribution of the building value by Total Region and County.

In terms of building construction types found in the region, wood frame construction makes up 79% of the building inventory. The remaining percentage is distributed between the other general building types.

### Critical Facility Inventory

Hazus breaks critical facilities into two (2) groups: essential facilities and high potential loss facilities (HPL). Essential facilities include hospitals, medical clinics, schools, fire stations, police stations and emergency operations facilities. High potential loss facilities include dams, levees, military installations, nuclear power plants and hazardous material sites.

For essential facilities, there are 0 hospitals in the region with a total bed capacity of beds. There are 18 schools, 1 fire stations, 3 police stations and 2 emergency operation facilities. With respect to high potential loss facilities (HPL), there are no dams identified within the inventory. The inventory also includes 11 hazardous material sites, no military installations and no nuclear power plants.

### Transportation and Utility Lifeline Inventory

Within Hazus, the lifeline inventory is divided between transportation and utility lifeline systems. There are seven (7) transportation systems that include highways, railways, light rail, bus, ports, ferry and airports. There are six (6) utility systems that include potable water, wastewater, natural gas, crude & refined oil, electric power and communications. The lifeline inventory data are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

The total value of the lifeline inventory is over 1,632.00 (millions of dollars). This inventory includes over 60.89 miles of highways, 35 bridges, 840.71 miles of pipes.

Table 1: Transportation System Lifeline Inventory

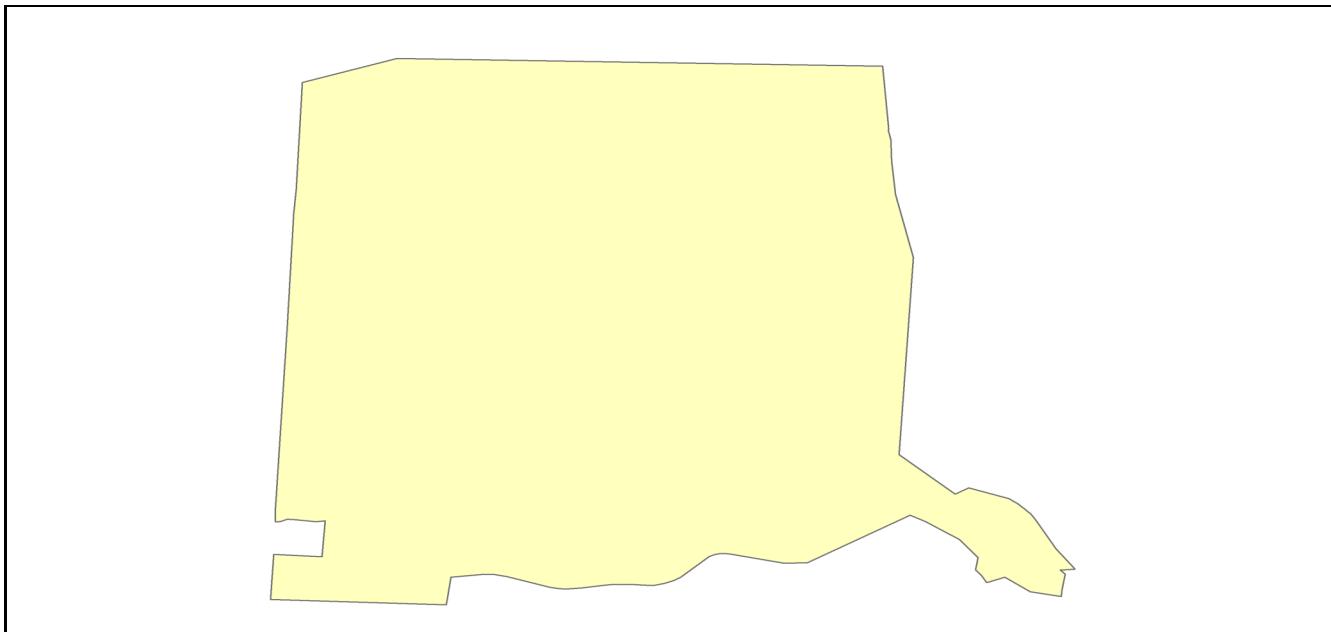
System	Component	# Locations/ # Segments	Replacement value (millions of dollars)
Highway	Bridges	35	246.6833
	Segments	34	499.5874
	Tunnels	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>746.2707</b>
Railways	Bridges	0	0.0000
	Facilities	1	2.6630
	Segments	24	34.8220
	Tunnels	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>37.4850</b>
Light Rail	Bridges	0	0.0000
	Facilities	1	2.6630
	Segments	2	13.7156
	Tunnels	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>16.3786</b>
Bus	Facilities	3	3.7932
	Subtotal		<b>3.7932</b>
Ferry	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>0.0000</b>
Port	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>0.0000</b>
Airport	Facilities	1	10.6510
	Runways	2	75.9280
	Subtotal		<b>86.5790</b>
	Total		<b>890.50</b>

Table 2: Utility System Lifeline Inventory

System	Component	# Locations / Segments	Replacement value (millions of dollars)
<b>Portable Water</b>	Distribution Lines	NA	13.5342
	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>13.5342</b>
<b>Waste Water</b>	Distribution Lines	NA	8.1205
	Facilities	1	77.2560
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>85.3765</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	Distribution Lines	NA	5.4137
	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>5.4137</b>
<b>Oil Systems</b>	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>0.0000</b>
<b>Electrical Power</b>	Facilities	5	638.0000
	Subtotal		<b>638.0000</b>
<b>Communication</b>	Facilities	3	0.3480
	Subtotal		<b>0.3480</b>
	Total		<b>742.70</b>

## Earthquake Scenario

Hazus uses the following set of information to define the earthquake parameters used for the earthquake loss estimate provided in this report.



<b>Scenario Name</b>	Fitchburg Magnitude 5.0 Earthquake
<b>Type of Earthquake</b>	Arbitrary
<b>Fault Name</b>	NA
<b>Historical Epicenter ID #</b>	NA
<b>Probabilistic Return Period</b>	NA
<b>Longitude of Epicenter</b>	-71.81
<b>Latitude of Epicenter</b>	42.58
<b>Earthquake Magnitude</b>	5.00
<b>Depth (km)</b>	10.00
<b>Rupture Length (Km)</b>	NA
<b>Rupture Orientation (degrees)</b>	NA
<b>Attenuation Function</b>	Central & East US (CEUS 2008)

## Direct Earthquake Damage

### Building Damage

Hazus estimates that about 2,916 buildings will be at least moderately damaged. This is over 24.00 % of the buildings in the region. There are an estimated 184 buildings that will be damaged beyond repair. The definition of the 'damage states' is provided in Volume 1: Chapter 5 of the Hazus technical manual. Table 3 below summarizes the expected damage by general occupancy for the buildings in the region. Table 4 below summarizes the expected damage by general building type.

### Damage Categories by General Occupancy Type

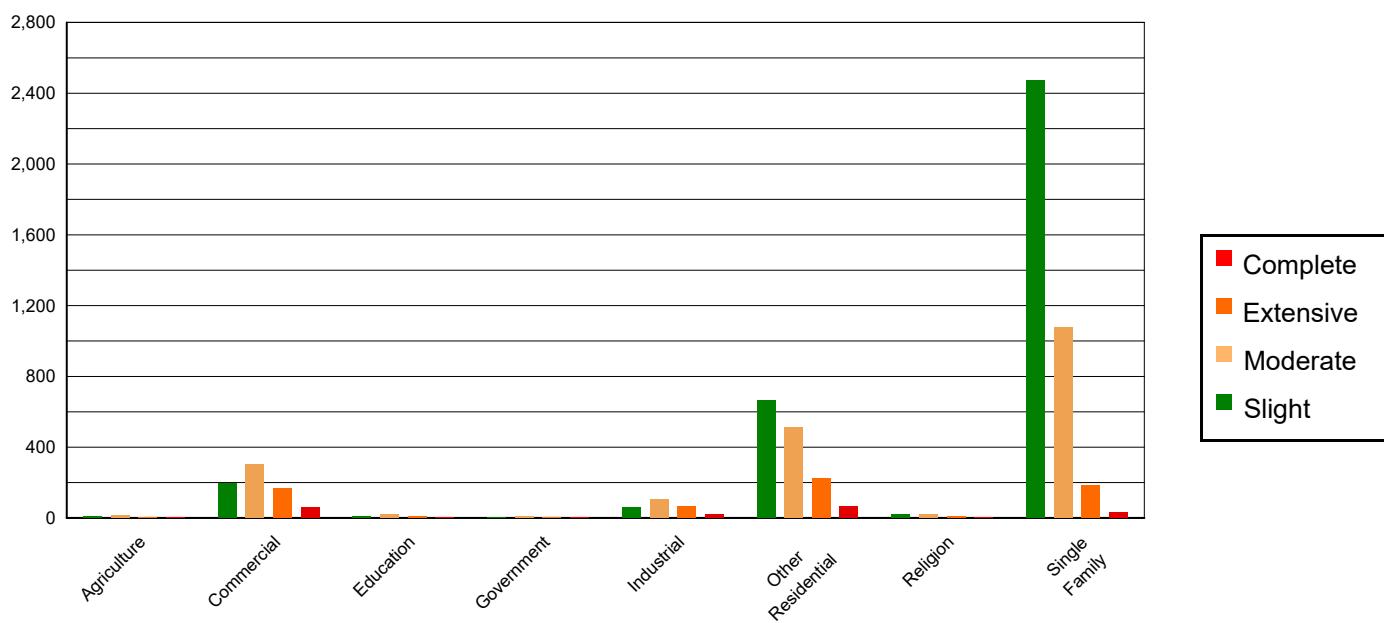


Table 3: Expected Building Damage by Occupancy

	None		Slight		Moderate		Extensive		Complete	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
<b>Agriculture</b>	8.80	0.15	9.71	0.28	13.30	0.65	6.13	0.91	2.06	1.11
<b>Commercial</b>	208.08	3.62	193.46	5.63	302.35	14.70	168.83	25.02	57.28	30.98
<b>Education</b>	13.53	0.24	11.34	0.33	18.87	0.92	10.73	1.59	3.53	1.91
<b>Government</b>	4.60	0.08	4.06	0.12	7.36	0.36	4.46	0.66	1.52	0.82
<b>Industrial</b>	67.49	1.17	58.85	1.71	105.20	5.11	64.61	9.58	21.83	11.81
<b>Other Residential</b>	1073.12	18.64	665.86	19.37	513.02	24.94	226.37	33.55	65.63	35.49
<b>Religion</b>	28.74	0.50	19.15	0.56	19.34	0.94	10.38	1.54	3.40	1.84
<b>Single Family</b>	4351.62	75.60	2474.90	72.00	1077.55	52.38	183.27	27.16	29.65	16.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,756</b>		<b>3,437</b>		<b>2,057</b>		<b>675</b>		<b>185</b>	

**Table 4: Expected Building Damage by Building Type (All Design Levels)**

	None		Slight		Moderate		Extensive		Complete	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
<b>Wood</b>	5148.90	89.45	2944.82	85.67	1262.44	61.37	175.24	25.97	13.90	7.52
<b>Steel</b>	140.36	2.44	118.66	3.45	253.12	12.31	160.75	23.82	56.89	30.77
<b>Concrete</b>	34.46	0.60	31.14	0.91	72.78	3.54	47.93	7.10	14.36	7.76
<b>Precast</b>	8.98	0.16	6.45	0.19	16.37	0.80	16.15	2.39	4.83	2.61
<b>RM</b>	104.38	1.81	48.45	1.41	98.24	4.78	76.54	11.34	13.31	7.20
<b>URM</b>	307.51	5.34	272.22	7.92	322.29	15.67	176.38	26.14	76.16	41.19
<b>MH</b>	11.40	0.20	15.59	0.45	31.76	1.54	21.79	3.23	5.46	2.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,756</b>		<b>3,437</b>		<b>2,057</b>		<b>675</b>		<b>185</b>	

\*Note:

RM Reinforced Masonry  
 URM Unreinforced Masonry  
 MH Manufactured Housing

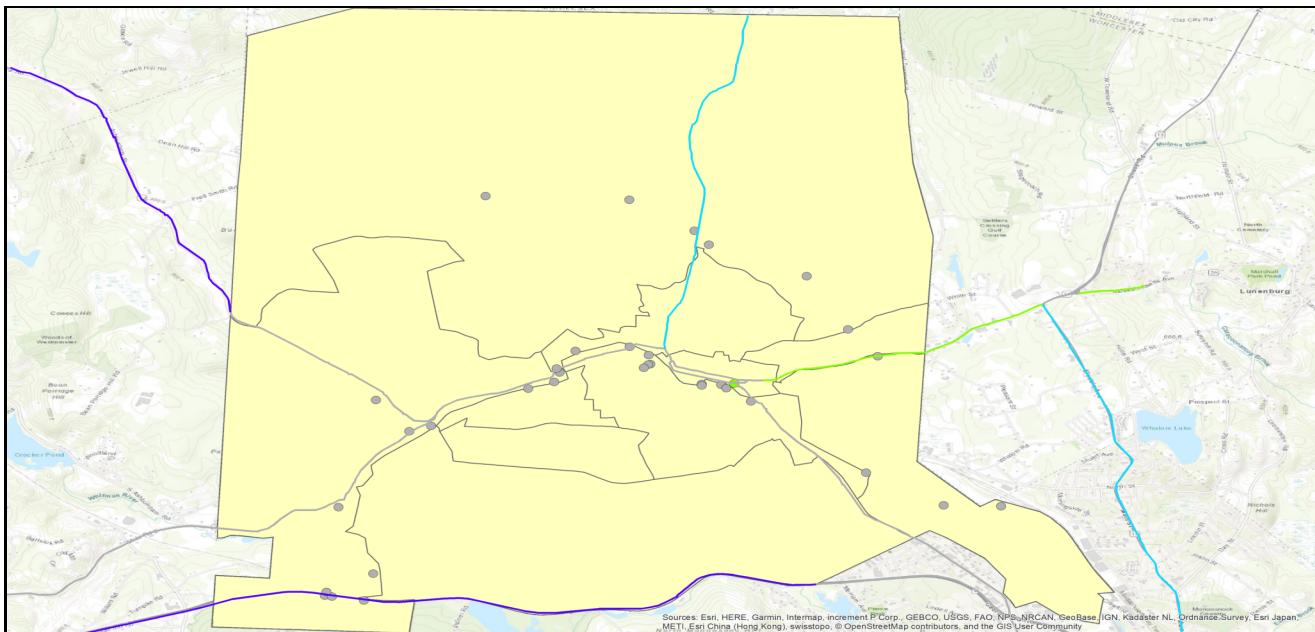
## Essential Facility Damage

Before the earthquake, the region had hospital beds available for use. On the day of the earthquake, the model estimates that only hospital beds (%) are available for use by patients already in the hospital and those injured by the earthquake. After one week, % of the beds will be back in service. By 30 days, % will be operational.

**Table 5: Expected Damage to Essential Facilities**

Classification	Total	# Facilities		
		At Least Moderate Damage > 50%	Complete Damage > 50%	With Functionality > 50% on day 1
<b>Hospitals</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Schools</b>	18	18	0	0
<b>EOCs</b>	2	2	0	0
<b>Police Stations</b>	3	3	0	0
<b>Fire Stations</b>	1	1	0	0

## Transportation Lifeline Damage



**Table 6: Expected Damage to the Transportation Systems**

System	Component	Locations/ Segments	Number of Locations		
			With at Least Mod. Damage	With Complete Damage	With Functionality > 50 %
			After Day 1	After Day 7	
Highway	Segments	34	0	0	32
	Bridges	35	6	0	29
	Tunnels	0	0	0	0
Railways	Segments	24	0	0	24
	Bridges	0	0	0	0
	Tunnels	0	0	0	0
	Facilities	1	0	0	1
Light Rail	Segments	2	0	0	1
	Bridges	0	0	0	0
	Tunnels	0	0	0	0
	Facilities	1	0	0	1
Bus	Facilities	3	3	0	3
Ferry	Facilities	0	0	0	0
Port	Facilities	0	0	0	0
Airport	Facilities	1	1	0	1
	Runways	2	0	0	2

Table 6 provides damage estimates for the transportation system.

Note: Roadway segments, railroad tracks and light rail tracks are assumed to be damaged by ground failure only. If ground failure maps are not provided, damage estimates to these components will not be computed.

Tables 7-9 provide information on the damage to the utility lifeline systems. Table 7 provides damage to the utility system facilities. Table 8 provides estimates on the number of leaks and breaks by the pipelines of the utility systems. For electric power and potable water, Hazus performs a simplified system performance analysis. Table 9 provides a summary of the system performance information.

Table 7 : Expected Utility System Facility Damage

System	Total #	# of Locations			with Functionality > 50 %	
		With at Least Moderate Damage	With Complete Damage		After Day 1	After Day 7
Potable Water	0	0	0		0	0
Waste Water	1	1	0		0	1
Natural Gas	0	0	0		0	0
Oil Systems	0	0	0		0	0
Electrical Power	5	5	0		0	5
Communication	3	3	0		0	3

Table 8 : Expected Utility System Pipeline Damage (Site Specific)

System	Total Pipelines Length (miles)	Number of Leaks	Number of Breaks
Potable Water	420	109	27
Waste Water	252	55	14
Natural Gas	168	19	5
Oil	0	0	0

Table 9: Expected Potable Water and Electric Power System Performance

	Total # of Households	Number of Households without Service				
		At Day 1	At Day 3	At Day 7	At Day 30	At Day 90
Potable Water	15,165	2	0	0	0	0
Electric Power		12,716	8,410	3,495	622	15

## Induced Earthquake Damage

### Fire Following Earthquake

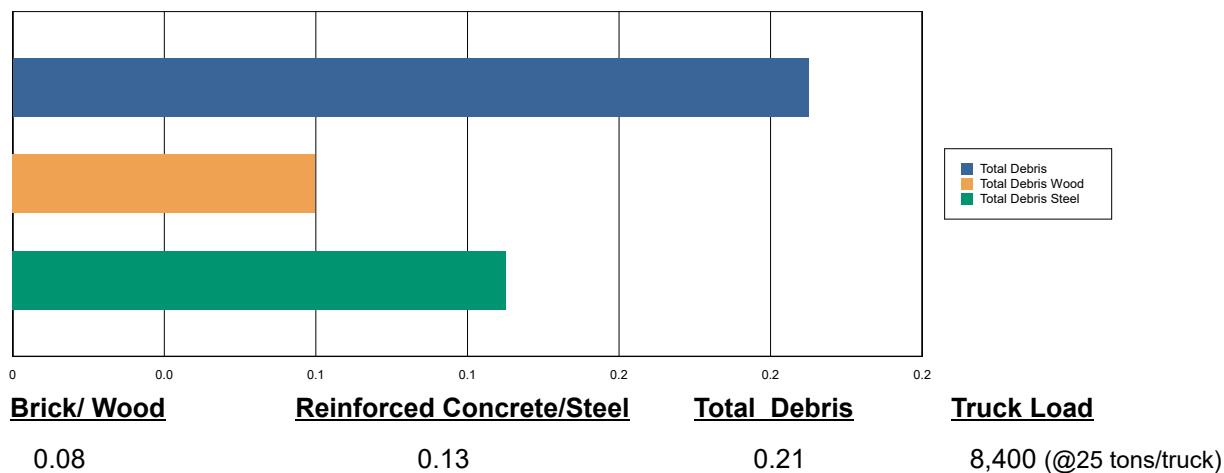
Fires often occur after an earthquake. Because of the number of fires and the lack of water to fight the fires, they can often burn out of control. Hazus uses a Monte Carlo simulation model to estimate the number of ignitions and the amount of burnt area. For this scenario, the model estimates that there will be 0 ignitions that will burn about 0.00 sq. mi 0.00 % of the region's total area.) The model also estimates that the fires will displace about 0 people and burn about 0 (millions of dollars) of building value.

### Debris Generation

Hazus estimates the amount of debris that will be generated by the earthquake. The model breaks the debris into two general categories: a) Brick/Wood and b) Reinforced Concrete/Steel. This distinction is made because of the different types of material handling equipment required to handle the debris.

The model estimates that a total of 210,000 tons of debris will be generated. Of the total amount, Brick/Wood comprises 38.00% of the total, with the remainder being Reinforced Concrete/Steel. If the debris tonnage is converted to an estimated number of truckloads, it will require 8,400 truckloads (@25 tons/truck) to remove the debris generated by the earthquake.

**Earthquake Debris (millions of tons)**

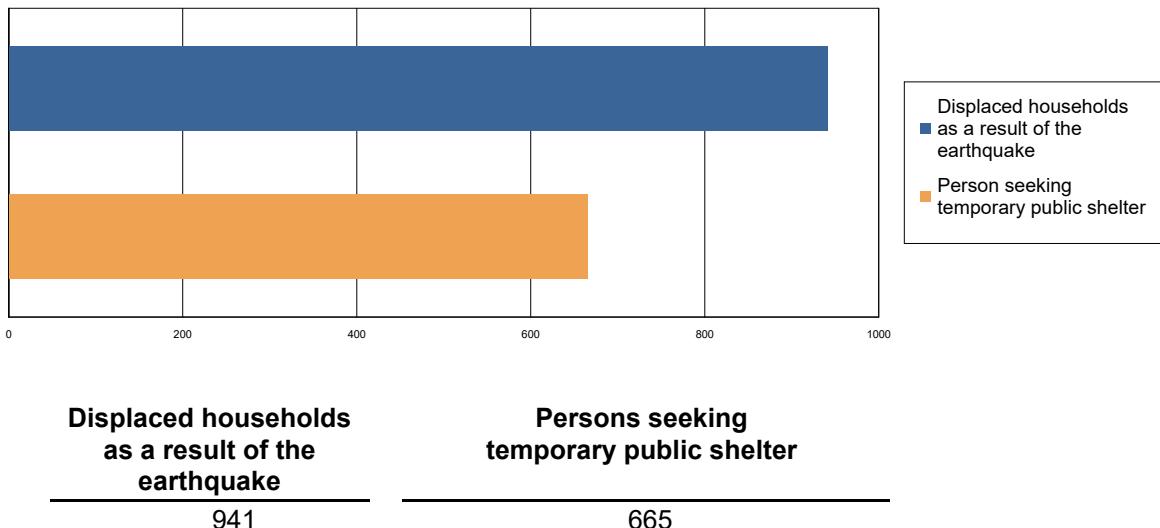


## Social Impact

### **Shelter Requirement**

Hazus estimates the number of households that are expected to be displaced from their homes due to the earthquake and the number of displaced people that will require accommodations in temporary public shelters. The model estimates 941 households to be displaced due to the earthquake. Of these, 665 people (out of a total population of 40,318) will seek temporary shelter in public shelters.

#### **Displaced Households/ Persons Seeking Short Term Public Shelter**



## **Casualties**

Hazus estimates the number of people that will be injured and killed by the earthquake. The casualties are broken down into four (4) severity levels that describe the extent of the injuries. The levels are described as follows;

- Severity Level 1: Injuries will require medical attention but hospitalization is not needed.
- Severity Level 2: Injuries will require hospitalization but are not considered life-threatening.
- Severity Level 3: Injuries will require hospitalization and can become life threatening if not promptly treated.
- Severity Level 4: Victims are killed by the earthquake.

The casualty estimates are provided for three (3) times of day: 2:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. These times represent the periods of the day that different sectors of the community are at their peak occupancy loads. The 2:00 AM estimate considers that the residential occupancy load is maximum, the 2:00 PM estimate considers that the educational, commercial and industrial sector loads are maximum and 5:00 PM represents peak commute time.

Table 10 provides a summary of the casualties estimated for this earthquake

**Table 10: Casualty Estimates**

		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>2 AM</b>	Commercial	2.42	0.60	0.08	0.16
	Commuting	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00
	Educational	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Hotels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Industrial	3.59	0.90	0.13	0.25
	Other-Residential	97.06	23.94	3.50	6.88
	Single Family	23.89	4.08	0.42	0.82
	<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2 PM</b>	Commercial	142.89	35.27	4.88	9.50
	Commuting	0.10	0.12	0.21	0.04
	Educational	67.47	17.28	2.59	5.02
	Hotels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Industrial	26.53	6.66	0.94	1.83
	Other-Residential	22.09	5.52	0.83	1.56
	Single Family	5.06	0.90	0.10	0.18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5 PM</b>	Commercial	102.42	25.37	3.55	6.81
	Commuting	1.59	1.98	3.50	0.67
	Educational	14.09	3.62	0.54	1.06
	Hotels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Industrial	16.58	4.16	0.59	1.14
	Other-Residential	38.42	9.61	1.44	2.72
	Single Family	9.39	1.66	0.18	0.34
	<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>

## Economic Loss

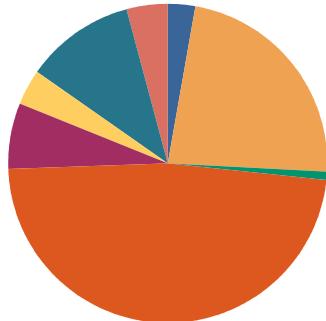
The total economic loss estimated for the earthquake is 1,170.50 (millions of dollars), which includes building and lifeline related losses based on the region's available inventory. The following three sections provide more detailed information about these losses.

## Building-Related Losses

The building losses are broken into two categories: direct building losses and business interruption losses. The direct building losses are the estimated costs to repair or replace the damage caused to the building and its contents. The business interruption losses are the losses associated with inability to operate a business because of the damage sustained during the earthquake. Business interruption losses also include the temporary living expenses for those people displaced from their homes because of the earthquake.

The total building-related losses were 910.62 (millions of dollars); 17 % of the estimated losses were related to the business interruption of the region. By far, the largest loss was sustained by the residential occupancies which made up over 47 % of the total loss. Table 11 below provides a summary of the losses associated with the building damage.

Earthquake Losses by Loss Type (\$ millions)



Earthquake Losses by Occupancy Type (\$ millions)

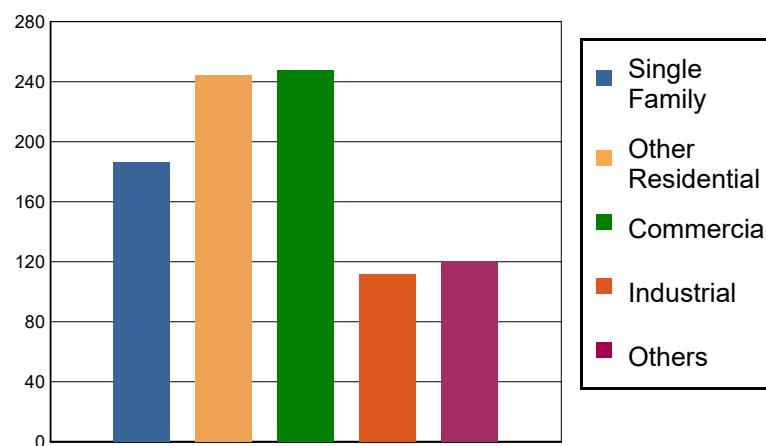


Table 11: Building-Related Economic Loss Estimates

(Millions of dollars)

Category	Area	Single Family	Other Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Others	Total
<b>Income Losses</b>							
	Wage	0.0000	4.9767	25.6597	2.4967	3.9850	37.1181
	Capital-Related	0.0000	2.1083	20.5325	1.4997	1.4950	25.6355
	Rental	2.4434	14.4537	11.8127	0.7563	2.2664	31.7325
	Relocation	8.7517	9.1086	19.0721	3.2134	19.9124	60.0582
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>11.1951</b>	<b>30.6473</b>	<b>77.0770</b>	<b>7.9661</b>	<b>27.6588</b>	<b>154.5443</b>
<b>Capital Stock Losses</b>							
	Structural	17.6059	26.9673	32.2350	14.2631	12.0498	103.1211
	Non_Structural	106.1658	143.0868	88.6448	47.9930	49.9294	435.8198
	Content	51.0456	43.5771	48.7955	34.9114	30.9249	209.2545
	Inventory	0.0000	0.0000	1.1653	6.6076	0.1025	7.8754
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>174.8173</b>	<b>213.6312</b>	<b>170.8406</b>	<b>103.7751</b>	<b>93.0066</b>	<b>756.0708</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>186.01</b>	<b>244.28</b>	<b>247.92</b>	<b>111.74</b>	<b>120.67</b>	<b>910.62</b>

## Transportation and Utility Lifeline Losses

For the transportation and utility lifeline systems, Hazus computes the direct repair cost for each component only. There are no losses computed by Hazus for business interruption due to lifeline outages. Tables 12 & 13 provide a detailed breakdown in the expected lifeline losses.

**Table 12: Transportation System Economic Losses**  
(Millions of dollars)

System	Component	Inventory Value	Economic Loss	Loss Ratio (%)
Highway	Segments	499.5874	0.0000	0.00
	Bridges	246.6833	19.0627	7.73
	Tunnels	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>746.2707</b>	<b>19.0627</b>	
Railways	Segments	34.8220	0.0000	0.00
	Bridges	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Tunnels	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	2.6630	0.0188	0.71
	Subtotal	<b>37.4850</b>	<b>0.0188</b>	
Light Rail	Segments	13.7156	0.0000	0.00
	Bridges	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Tunnels	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	2.6630	0.0886	3.33
	Subtotal	<b>16.3786</b>	<b>0.0886</b>	
Bus	Facilities	3.7932	1.6281	42.92
	Subtotal	<b>3.7932</b>	<b>1.6281</b>	
Ferry	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
Port	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
Airport	Facilities	10.6510	4.2827	40.21
	Runways	75.9280	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>86.5790</b>	<b>4.2827</b>	
	Total	<b>890.51</b>	<b>25.08</b>	

Table 13: Utility System Economic Losses

(Millions of dollars)

System	Component	Inventory Value	Economic Loss	Loss Ratio (%)
<b>Potable Water</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Distribution Line	13.5342	0.4918	3.63
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13.5342</b>	<b>0.4918</b>	
<b>Waste Water</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	77.2560	22.4456	29.05
	Distribution Line	8.1205	0.2470	3.04
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>85.3765</b>	<b>22.6926</b>	
<b>Natural Gas</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Distribution Line	5.4137	0.0846	1.56
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5.4137</b>	<b>0.0846</b>	
<b>Oil Systems</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
<b>Electrical Power</b>	Facilities	638.0000	211.4198	33.14
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>638.0000</b>	<b>211.4198</b>	
<b>Communication</b>	Facilities	0.3480	0.1184	34.02
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.3480</b>	<b>0.1184</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>742.67</b>	<b>234.81</b>	

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**Appendix A: County Listing for the Region**

Worcester, MA

**Appendix B: Regional Population and Building Value Data**

State	County Name	Population	Building Value (millions of dollars)		
			Residential	Non-Residential	Total
Massachusetts	Worcester	40,318	3,860	1,709	5,570
Total Region		<b>40,318</b>	<b>3,860</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>5,570</b>

# Hazus: Earthquake Global Risk Report

**Region Name** Fitchburg

**Earthquake Scenario:** Fitchburg Magnitude 7.0 Earthquake

**Print Date:** April 03, 2020

**Disclaimer:**

*This version of Hazus utilizes 2010 Census Data.*

*Totals only reflect data for those census tracts/blocks included in the user's study region.*

*The estimates of social and economic impacts contained in this report were produced using Hazus loss estimation methodology software which is based on current scientific and engineering knowledge. There are uncertainties inherent in any loss estimation technique. Therefore, there may be significant differences between the modeled results contained in this report and the actual social and economic losses following a specific earthquake. These results can be improved by using enhanced inventory, geotechnical, and observed ground motion data.*

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**Appendix A: County Listing for the Region**

**Appendix B: Regional Population and Building Value Data**

## General Description of the Region

Hazus-MH is a regional earthquake loss estimation model that was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Institute of Building Sciences. The primary purpose of Hazus is to provide a methodology and software application to develop multi-hazard losses at a regional scale. These loss estimates would be used primarily by local, state and regional officials to plan and stimulate efforts to reduce risks from multi-hazards and to prepare for emergency response and recovery.

The earthquake loss estimates provided in this report was based on a region that includes 1 county(ies) from the following state(s):

Massachusetts

Note:

Appendix A contains a complete listing of the counties contained in the region.

The geographical size of the region is 28.11 square miles and contains 10 census tracts. There are over 15 thousand households in the region which has a total population of 40,318 people (2010 Census Bureau data). The distribution of population by Total Region and County is provided in Appendix B.

There are an estimated 12 thousand buildings in the region with a total building replacement value (excluding contents) of 5,570 (millions of dollars). Approximately 88.00 % of the buildings (and 69.00% of the building value) are associated with residential housing.

The replacement value of the transportation and utility lifeline systems is estimated to be 890 and 742 (millions of dollars), respectively.

## Building and Lifeline Inventory

### Building Inventory

Hazus estimates that there are 12 thousand buildings in the region which have an aggregate total replacement value of 5,570 (millions of dollars). Appendix B provides a general distribution of the building value by Total Region and County.

In terms of building construction types found in the region, wood frame construction makes up 79% of the building inventory. The remaining percentage is distributed between the other general building types.

### Critical Facility Inventory

Hazus breaks critical facilities into two (2) groups: essential facilities and high potential loss facilities (HPL). Essential facilities include hospitals, medical clinics, schools, fire stations, police stations and emergency operations facilities. High potential loss facilities include dams, levees, military installations, nuclear power plants and hazardous material sites.

For essential facilities, there are 0 hospitals in the region with a total bed capacity of beds. There are 18 schools, 1 fire stations, 3 police stations and 2 emergency operation facilities. With respect to high potential loss facilities (HPL), there are no dams identified within the inventory. The inventory also includes 11 hazardous material sites, no military installations and no nuclear power plants.

### Transportation and Utility Lifeline Inventory

Within Hazus, the lifeline inventory is divided between transportation and utility lifeline systems. There are seven (7) transportation systems that include highways, railways, light rail, bus, ports, ferry and airports. There are six (6) utility systems that include potable water, wastewater, natural gas, crude & refined oil, electric power and communications. The lifeline inventory data are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

The total value of the lifeline inventory is over 1,632.00 (millions of dollars). This inventory includes over 60.89 miles of highways, 35 bridges, 840.71 miles of pipes.

Table 1: Transportation System Lifeline Inventory

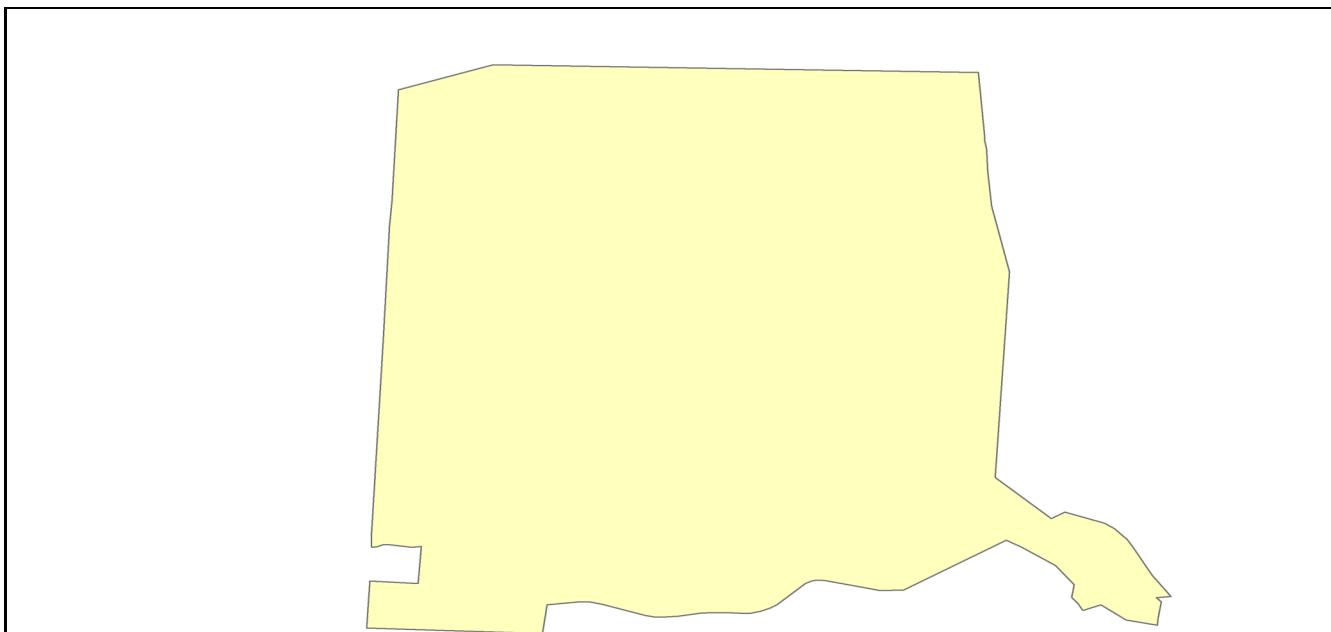
System	Component	# Locations/ # Segments	Replacement value (millions of dollars)
Highway	Bridges	35	246.6833
	Segments	34	499.5874
	Tunnels	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>746.2707</b>
Railways	Bridges	0	0.0000
	Facilities	1	2.6630
	Segments	24	34.8220
	Tunnels	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>37.4850</b>
Light Rail	Bridges	0	0.0000
	Facilities	1	2.6630
	Segments	2	13.7156
	Tunnels	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>16.3786</b>
Bus	Facilities	3	3.7932
	Subtotal		<b>3.7932</b>
Ferry	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>0.0000</b>
Port	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>0.0000</b>
Airport	Facilities	1	10.6510
	Runways	2	75.9280
	Subtotal		<b>86.5790</b>
	Total		<b>890.50</b>

Table 2: Utility System Lifeline Inventory

System	Component	# Locations / Segments	Replacement value (millions of dollars)
<b>Portable Water</b>	Distribution Lines	NA	13.5342
	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>13.5342</b>
<b>Waste Water</b>	Distribution Lines	NA	8.1205
	Facilities	1	77.2560
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>85.3765</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	Distribution Lines	NA	5.4137
	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>5.4137</b>
<b>Oil Systems</b>	Facilities	0	0.0000
	Pipelines	0	0.0000
	Subtotal		<b>0.0000</b>
<b>Electrical Power</b>	Facilities	5	638.0000
	Subtotal		<b>638.0000</b>
<b>Communication</b>	Facilities	3	0.3480
	Subtotal		<b>0.3480</b>
	Total		<b>742.70</b>

## Earthquake Scenario

Hazus uses the following set of information to define the earthquake parameters used for the earthquake loss estimate provided in this report.



<b>Scenario Name</b>	Fitchburg Magnitude 7.0 Earthquake
<b>Type of Earthquake</b>	Arbitrary
<b>Fault Name</b>	NA
<b>Historical Epicenter ID #</b>	NA
<b>Probabilistic Return Period</b>	NA
<b>Longitude of Epicenter</b>	-71.81
<b>Latitude of Epicenter</b>	42.59
<b>Earthquake Magnitude</b>	7.00
<b>Depth (km)</b>	12.00
<b>Rupture Length (Km)</b>	NA
<b>Rupture Orientation (degrees)</b>	NA
<b>Attenuation Function</b>	Central & East US (CEUS 2008)

## Direct Earthquake Damage

### Building Damage

Hazus estimates that about 11,646 buildings will be at least moderately damaged. This is over 96.00 % of the buildings in the region. There are an estimated 6,020 buildings that will be damaged beyond repair. The definition of the 'damage states' is provided in Volume 1: Chapter 5 of the Hazus technical manual. Table 3 below summarizes the expected damage by general occupancy for the buildings in the region. Table 4 below summarizes the expected damage by general building type.

### Damage Categories by General Occupancy Type

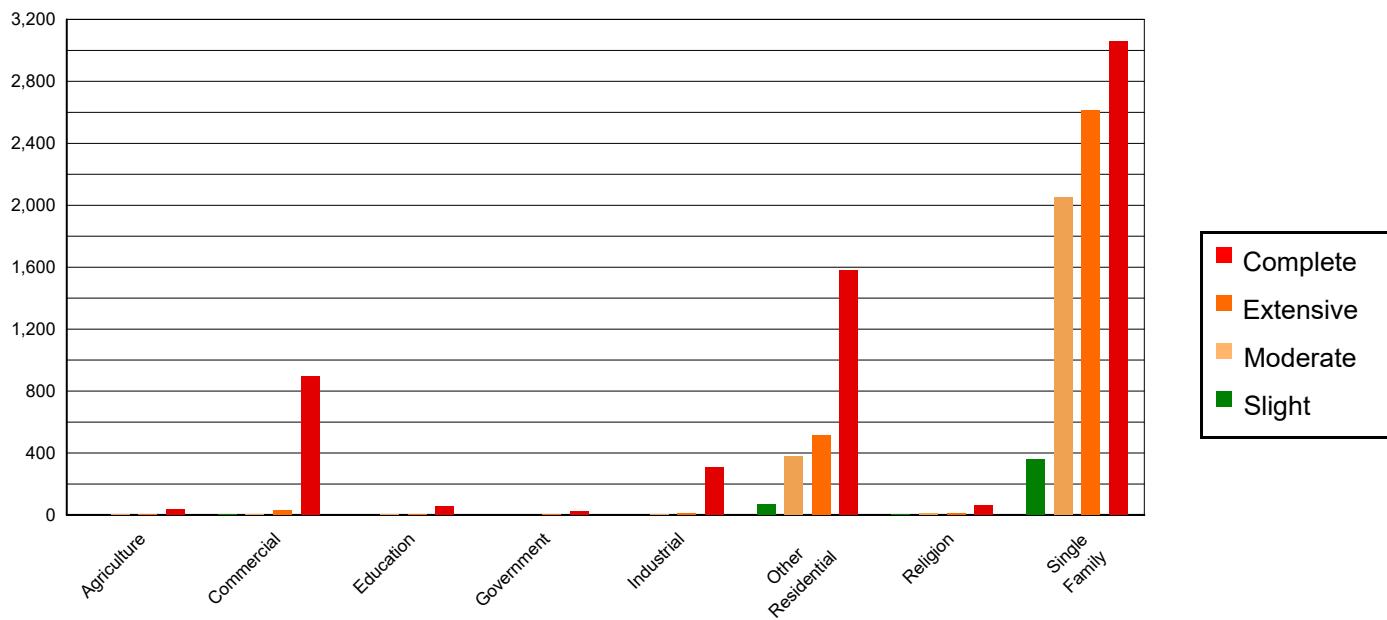


Table 3: Expected Building Damage by Occupancy

	None		Slight		Moderate		Extensive		Complete	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
<b>Agriculture</b>	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.21	0.01	2.20	0.07	37.57	0.62
<b>Commercial</b>	0.04	0.11	0.25	0.06	3.66	0.15	32.89	1.03	893.16	14.83
<b>Education</b>	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.01	1.61	0.05	56.19	0.93
<b>Government</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.52	0.02	21.43	0.36
<b>Industrial</b>	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.84	0.03	8.14	0.26	308.94	5.13
<b>Other Residential</b>	6.08	16.21	65.51	15.39	377.08	15.43	513.25	16.13	1582.08	26.28
<b>Religion</b>	0.13	0.36	1.38	0.33	7.71	0.32	10.81	0.34	60.96	1.01
<b>Single Family</b>	31.23	83.27	358.48	84.21	2,053.51	84.05	2,613.42	82.11	3,060.35	50.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>426</b>		<b>2,443</b>		<b>3,183</b>		<b>6,021</b>	

**Table 4: Expected Building Damage by Building Type (All Design Levels)**

	None		Slight		Moderate		Extensive		Complete	
	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)	Count	(%)
<b>Wood</b>	37.38	99.67	424.81	99.79	2432.78	99.57	3121.42	98.07	3528.91	58.61
<b>Steel</b>	0.03	0.09	0.04	0.01	0.64	0.03	12.69	0.40	716.39	11.90
<b>Concrete</b>	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.24	0.01	2.54	0.08	197.85	3.29
<b>Precast</b>	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.39	0.01	52.27	0.87
<b>RM</b>	0.07	0.19	0.10	0.02	1.63	0.07	5.19	0.16	333.92	5.55
<b>URM</b>	0.01	0.04	0.71	0.17	7.66	0.31	38.40	1.21	1107.77	18.40
<b>MH</b>	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.22	0.01	2.20	0.07	83.56	1.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>426</b>		<b>2,443</b>		<b>3,183</b>		<b>6,021</b>	

\*Note:

RM Reinforced Masonry  
 URM Unreinforced Masonry  
 MH Manufactured Housing

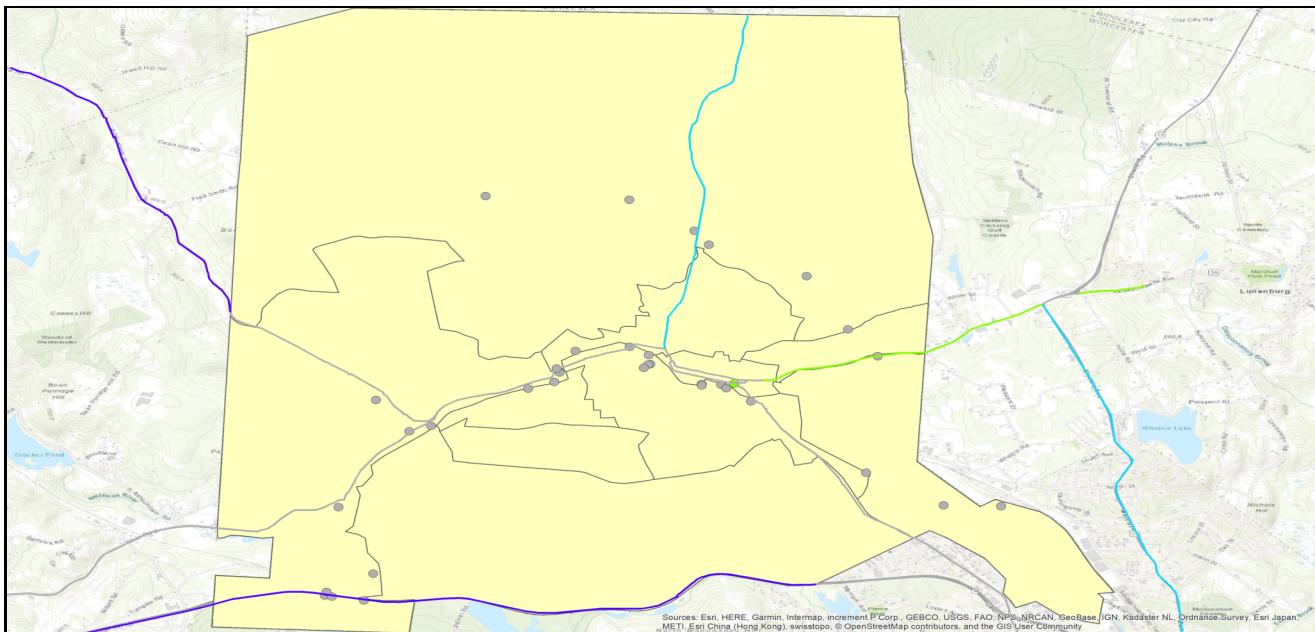
## Essential Facility Damage

Before the earthquake, the region had hospital beds available for use. On the day of the earthquake, the model estimates that only hospital beds (%) are available for use by patients already in the hospital and those injured by the earthquake. After one week, % of the beds will be back in service. By 30 days, % will be operational.

**Table 5: Expected Damage to Essential Facilities**

Classification	Total	# Facilities		
		At Least Moderate Damage > 50%	Complete Damage > 50%	With Functionality > 50% on day 1
<b>Hospitals</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Schools</b>	18	18	18	0
<b>EOCs</b>	2	2	2	0
<b>Police Stations</b>	3	3	3	0
<b>Fire Stations</b>	1	1	1	0

## Transportation Lifeline Damage



**Table 6: Expected Damage to the Transportation Systems**

System	Component	Locations/ Segments	Number of Locations		
			With at Least Mod. Damage	With Complete Damage	With Functionality > 50 %
Highway	Segments	34	0	0	32
	Bridges	35	32	30	3
	Tunnels	0	0	0	0
Railways	Segments	24	0	0	24
	Bridges	0	0	0	0
	Tunnels	0	0	0	0
	Facilities	1	1	0	0
Light Rail	Segments	2	0	0	1
	Bridges	0	0	0	0
	Tunnels	0	0	0	0
	Facilities	1	1	0	1
Bus	Facilities	3	3	3	0
Ferry	Facilities	0	0	0	0
Port	Facilities	0	0	0	0
Airport	Facilities	1	1	1	0
	Runways	2	0	0	2

Table 6 provides damage estimates for the transportation system.

Note: Roadway segments, railroad tracks and light rail tracks are assumed to be damaged by ground failure only. If ground failure maps are not provided, damage estimates to these components will not be computed.

Tables 7-9 provide information on the damage to the utility lifeline systems. Table 7 provides damage to the utility system facilities. Table 8 provides estimates on the number of leaks and breaks by the pipelines of the utility systems. For electric power and potable water, Hazus performs a simplified system performance analysis. Table 9 provides a summary of the system performance information.

Table 7 : Expected Utility System Facility Damage

System	Total #	# of Locations			with Functionality > 50 %	
		With at Least Moderate Damage	With Complete Damage		After Day 1	After Day 7
Potable Water	0	0	0		0	0
Waste Water	1	1	1		0	0
Natural Gas	0	0	0		0	0
Oil Systems	0	0	0		0	0
Electrical Power	5	5	5		0	0
Communication	3	3	3		0	0

Table 8 : Expected Utility System Pipeline Damage (Site Specific)

System	Total Pipelines Length (miles)	Number of Leaks	Number of Breaks
Potable Water	420	3455	864
Waste Water	252	1736	434
Natural Gas	168	595	149
Oil	0	0	0

Table 9: Expected Potable Water and Electric Power System Performance

	Total # of Households	Number of Households without Service				
		At Day 1	At Day 3	At Day 7	At Day 30	At Day 90
Potable Water	15,165	15,140	15,134	15,115	11,066	0
Electric Power		14,608	13,752	11,291	4,749	15

## Induced Earthquake Damage

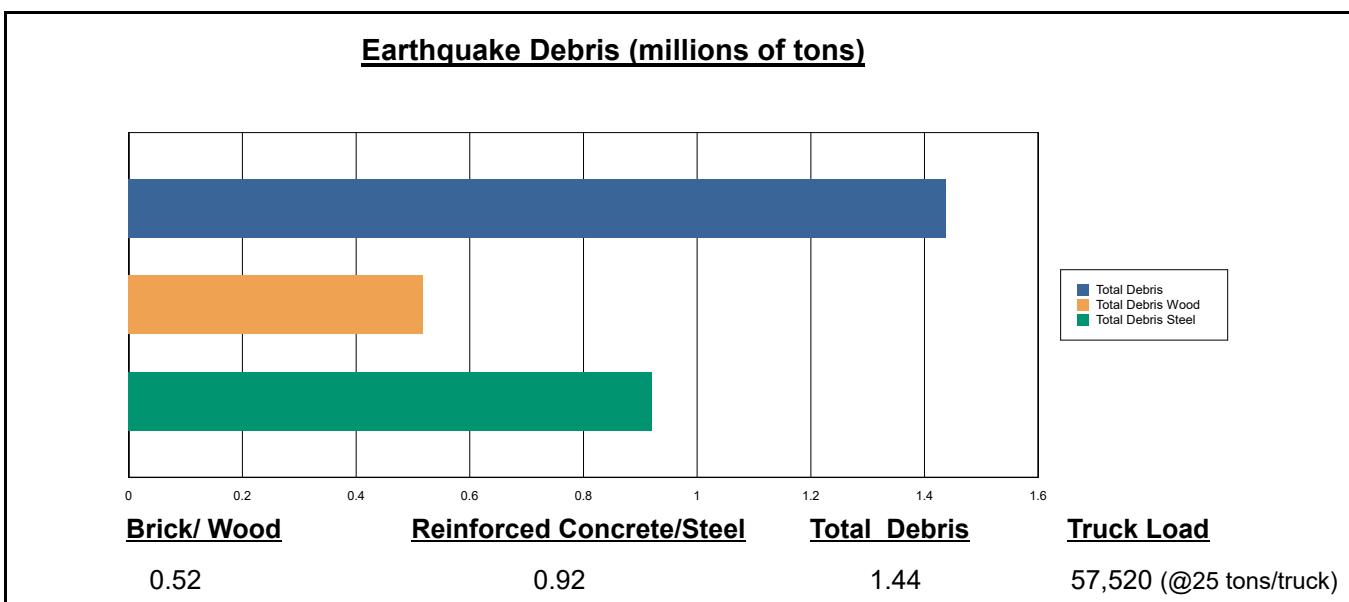
### Fire Following Earthquake

Fires often occur after an earthquake. Because of the number of fires and the lack of water to fight the fires, they can often burn out of control. Hazus uses a Monte Carlo simulation model to estimate the number of ignitions and the amount of burnt area. For this scenario, the model estimates that there will be 0 ignitions that will burn about 0.00 sq. mi 0.00 % of the region's total area.) The model also estimates that the fires will displace about 0 people and burn about 0 (millions of dollars) of building value.

### Debris Generation

Hazus estimates the amount of debris that will be generated by the earthquake. The model breaks the debris into two general categories: a) Brick/Wood and b) Reinforced Concrete/Steel. This distinction is made because of the different types of material handling equipment required to handle the debris.

The model estimates that a total of 1,438,000 tons of debris will be generated. Of the total amount, Brick/Wood comprises 36.00% of the total, with the remainder being Reinforced Concrete/Steel. If the debris tonnage is converted to an estimated number of truckloads, it will require 57,520 truckloads (@25 tons/truck) to remove the debris generated by the earthquake.

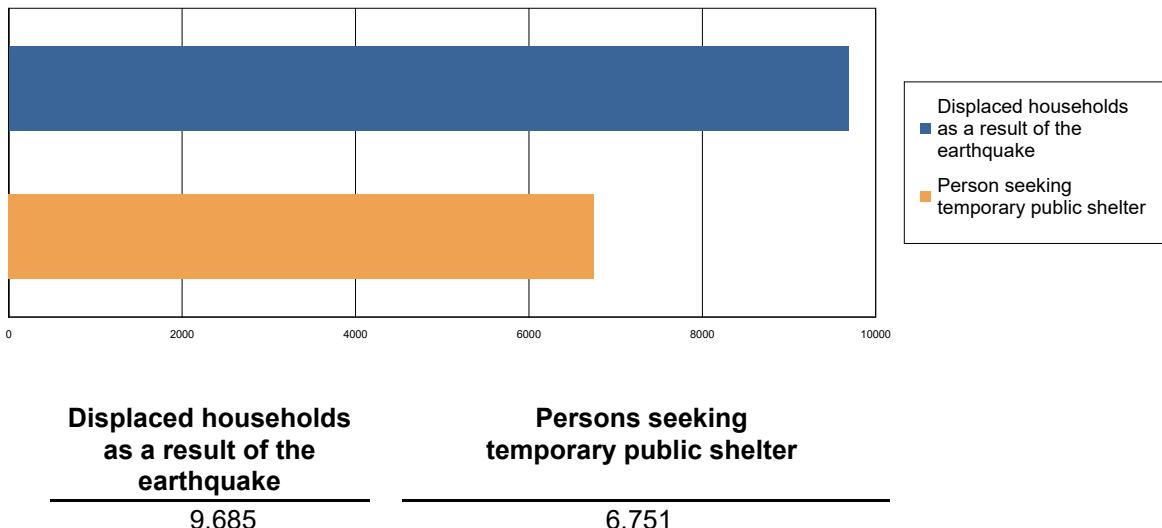


## Social Impact

### **Shelter Requirement**

Hazus estimates the number of households that are expected to be displaced from their homes due to the earthquake and the number of displaced people that will require accommodations in temporary public shelters. The model estimates 9,685 households to be displaced due to the earthquake. Of these, 6,751 people (out of a total population of 40,318) will seek temporary shelter in public shelters.

#### **Displaced Households/ Persons Seeking Short Term Public Shelter**



### **Casualties**

Hazus estimates the number of people that will be injured and killed by the earthquake. The casualties are broken down into four (4) severity levels that describe the extent of the injuries. The levels are described as follows;

- Severity Level 1: Injuries will require medical attention but hospitalization is not needed.
- Severity Level 2: Injuries will require hospitalization but are not considered life-threatening.
- Severity Level 3: Injuries will require hospitalization and can become life threatening if not promptly treated.
- Severity Level 4: Victims are killed by the earthquake.

The casualty estimates are provided for three (3) times of day: 2:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. These times represent the periods of the day that different sectors of the community are at their peak occupancy loads. The 2:00 AM estimate considers that the residential occupancy load is maximum, the 2:00 PM estimate considers that the educational, commercial and industrial sector loads are maximum and 5:00 PM represents peak commute time.

Table 10 provides a summary of the casualties estimated for this earthquake

Table 10: Casualty Estimates

		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>2 AM</b>	Commercial	24.65	7.87	1.25	2.46
	Commuting	0.12	0.21	0.30	0.06
	Educational	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Hotels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Industrial	33.90	11.03	1.80	3.55
	Other-Residential	1194.80	374.41	57.28	111.96
	Single Family	582.04	146.16	12.36	21.91
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>2 PM</b>	Commercial	1459.61	466.01	74.23	145.12
	Commuting	1.11	1.87	2.68	0.54
	Educational	697.01	229.58	38.82	75.46
	Hotels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Industrial	251.62	81.83	13.43	26.20
	Other-Residential	276.13	86.80	13.69	25.33
	Single Family	126.76	32.01	3.14	4.82
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>5 PM</b>	Commercial	1051.71	336.14	54.10	103.94
	Commuting	19.09	33.23	46.69	9.52
	Educational	145.25	48.18	8.20	16.05
	Hotels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Industrial	157.27	51.14	8.40	16.37
	Other-Residential	477.08	150.27	23.79	44.06
	Single Family	234.76	59.28	5.82	8.93
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>199</b>

## Economic Loss

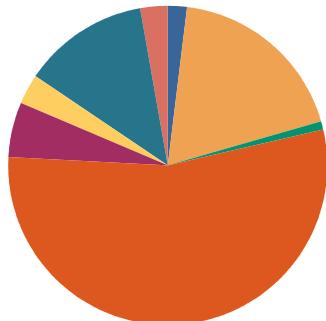
The total economic loss estimated for the earthquake is 6,890.75 (millions of dollars), which includes building and lifeline related losses based on the region's available inventory. The following three sections provide more detailed information about these losses.

## Building-Related Losses

The building losses are broken into two categories: direct building losses and business interruption losses. The direct building losses are the estimated costs to repair or replace the damage caused to the building and its contents. The business interruption losses are the losses associated with inability to operate a business because of the damage sustained during the earthquake. Business interruption losses also include the temporary living expenses for those people displaced from their homes because of the earthquake.

The total building-related losses were 6,103.34 (millions of dollars); 13 % of the estimated losses were related to the business interruption of the region. By far, the largest loss was sustained by the residential occupancies which made up over 55 % of the total loss. Table 11 below provides a summary of the losses associated with the building damage.

Earthquake Losses by Loss Type (\$ millions)



Earthquake Losses by Occupancy Type (\$ millions)

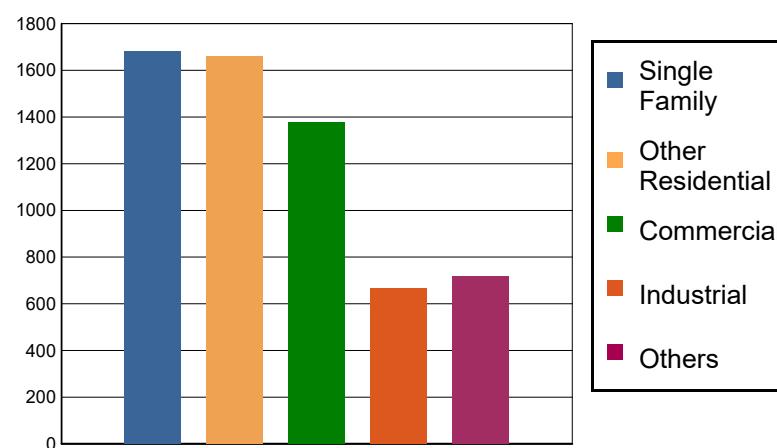


Table 11: Building-Related Economic Loss Estimates

(Millions of dollars)

Category	Area	Single Family	Other Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Others	Total
<b>Income Losses</b>							
	Wage	0.0000	29.0114	110.8569	9.3774	19.2552	168.5009
	Capital-Related	0.0000	12.2902	91.6370	5.6087	7.5659	117.1018
	Rental	36.2074	100.5944	43.5482	2.5907	10.6509	193.5916
	Relocation	119.4559	56.4009	65.7376	9.7476	92.8340	344.1760
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>155.6633</b>	<b>198.2969</b>	<b>311.7797</b>	<b>27.3244</b>	<b>130.3060</b>	<b>823.3703</b>
<b>Capital Stock Losses</b>							
	Structural	288.1116	188.5976	166.3320	67.4153	64.5136	774.9701
	Non_Structural	1010.0542	1049.4120	597.8253	320.8353	336.9799	3,315.1067
	Content	229.2794	224.8588	294.0267	209.5455	184.7445	1,142.4549
	Inventory	0.0000	0.0000	7.0536	39.7446	0.6381	47.4363
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1527.4452</b>	<b>1462.8684</b>	<b>1065.2376</b>	<b>637.5407</b>	<b>586.8761</b>	<b>5279.9680</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1683.11</b>	<b>1661.17</b>	<b>1377.02</b>	<b>664.87</b>	<b>717.18</b>	<b>6103.34</b>

## Transportation and Utility Lifeline Losses

For the transportation and utility lifeline systems, Hazus computes the direct repair cost for each component only. There are no losses computed by Hazus for business interruption due to lifeline outages. Tables 12 & 13 provide a detailed breakdown in the expected lifeline losses.

**Table 12: Transportation System Economic Losses**  
(Millions of dollars)

System	Component	Inventory Value	Economic Loss	Loss Ratio (%)
Highway	Segments	499.5874	0.0000	0.00
	Bridges	246.6833	157.2978	63.77
	Tunnels	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>746.2707</b>	<b>157.2978</b>	
Railways	Segments	34.8220	0.0000	0.00
	Bridges	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Tunnels	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	2.6630	1.4013	52.62
	Subtotal	<b>37.4850</b>	<b>1.4013</b>	
Light Rail	Segments	13.7156	0.0000	0.00
	Bridges	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Tunnels	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	2.6630	0.9814	36.85
	Subtotal	<b>16.3786</b>	<b>0.9814</b>	
Bus	Facilities	3.7932	3.2965	86.91
	Subtotal	<b>3.7932</b>	<b>3.2965</b>	
Ferry	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
Port	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
Airport	Facilities	10.6510	9.1207	85.63
	Runways	75.9280	0.0000	0.00
	Subtotal	<b>86.5790</b>	<b>9.1207</b>	
	Total	<b>890.51</b>	<b>172.10</b>	

Table 13: Utility System Economic Losses

(Millions of dollars)

System	Component	Inventory Value	Economic Loss	Loss Ratio (%)
<b>Potable Water</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Distribution Line	13.5342	15.5495	114.89
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13.5342</b>	<b>15.5495</b>	
<b>Waste Water</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	77.2560	62.0045	80.26
	Distribution Line	8.1205	7.8109	96.19
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>85.3765</b>	<b>69.8154</b>	
<b>Natural Gas</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Distribution Line	5.4137	2.6760	49.43
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5.4137</b>	<b>2.6760</b>	
<b>Oil Systems</b>	Pipelines	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	Facilities	0.0000	0.0000	0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
<b>Electrical Power</b>	Facilities	638.0000	526.9797	82.60
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>638.0000</b>	<b>526.9797</b>	
<b>Communication</b>	Facilities	0.3480	0.2896	83.22
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.3480</b>	<b>0.2896</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>742.67</b>	<b>615.31</b>	

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**Appendix A: County Listing for the Region**

Worcester, MA

**Appendix B: Regional Population and Building Value Data**

State	County Name	Population	Building Value (millions of dollars)		
			Residential	Non-Residential	Total
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Worcester	40,318	3,860	1,709	5,570
<b>Total Region</b>		<b>40,318</b>	<b>3,860</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>5,570</b>

## Appendix C

### Workshop Materials



## Resilience Building Workshop

idea21, 117 Main Street, Fitchburg

March 10th, 2020 8:30-4:30

# Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Project

8:30 am – 8:45 am	Registration and Refreshments
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:00 am – 9:15 am	MVP Workshop Purpose and Overview
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Overview of Climate Science
10:00 am – 10:20 am	Large Group Exercise #1 – Top Hazards
10:20 am – 10:40 am	Small Group Exercise #1 – Infrastructure Features
10:40 am – 11:00 am	Small Group Exercise #2 – Societal Features
11:00 am – 11:20 am	Small Group Exercise #3 – Environmental Features
11:20 am -12:00 pm	MVP Community Actions
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Small Group Exercise #4 – Infrastructure Actions
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Small Group Exercise #5 – Societal Actions
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	BREAK
2:45 pm – 3:30 pm	Small Group Exercise #6 – Environmental Actions
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	Large Group Exercise #2 – Prioritization
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

## Stakeholders Invited to Attend Fitchburg's Community Resilience Building Workshop

Attended	Name	Title	Affiliation
<b>Core Team</b>			
x	Jeffrey Murawski	Deputy Commissioner	Wastewater Division
x	Ernest Martineau	Police Chief	Police Department
	John Deline, Jr.	Deputy Commissioner	Water Supply Division
x	Richard Liberatore	Lieutenant / FEMA Director	Fire Department
x	Nicolas Bosonetto	Commissioner	Public Works Department
x	Mike O'Hara	Principal Planner / Planning Board Agent	Conservation Commission
x	Stephen Curry	Director	Health Department
x	Nick Erickson	Civil Engineer	Public Works Department, Engineering Division
x	Stephen DiNatale	Mayor	Mayor's Office
x	Tricia Pistone		Montachusett Opportunity Council
	Mark Barbadoro	Building Commissioner	Building and Zoning Department
x	Tom Skwierawski	Executive Director	Community Development
	AJ Tourigny	Chief of Staff	Mayor's Office
	Joel Kaddy	City Councilor, Ward 3	City Council
	Beth Walsh	City Councilor, Ward 6	City Council
x	Ralph Baker		Nashua River Watershed Association/Fitchburg Greenway Committee
<b>Local</b>			
x	Liz Murphy	Director of Housing and Development	Community Development
x	Craig Chalifoux	Director of Finance & Operations	Fitchburg Public School
	Michael Cloutier	Chief of University Police	Fitchburg State University, University Police
x	<u>Mary Heafy</u>	CEO	The Arc of Opportunity
x	Samantha Squailia	City Council Member	City Council
x	Tom Peterson		Fitchburg Public Schools
x	Nathan LaRose	Director	Recreation Department
x	Scott Ellis	Airport Manager	Fitchburg Municipal Airport
	Kevin Roy	Fire Chief	Fire Department
x	Sharon Bernard	Library Director	Fitchburg Public Library
	Jeff Crowley	Owner	Wachusett Mountain Ski
	Mark Kasperian		Fitchburg Public Schools
x	Douglas M. Bushman	Executive Director	Housing Authority
	Bill McSheehy	President	Fitchburg Historical Society
	Steve Marsden		Game on Sports Complex
	Marcus DiNatale	City Council Member	City Council
	Anthony Zarrella	City Council Member	City Council

	E. Thomas Donnelly	City Council Member	City Council
	Elizabeth Walsh	City Councilor, Ward 6	City Council
	Mary Jo Bohart	Director	Economic Development
	Joan Goodwin	Executive Director	Senior Center
	Tracey Sarefield	Chair	Conservation Commission
	Stephen Twining	Chair	Historical Commission
	Tammy LaFalam		Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School
x	Michael Clark	Head of Schools	St. Bernard's School
	Amy Jolly		Applewild School
	Robert Jokela	Superintendent	Fitchburg Public School
	Sheila Lumi	Chair	Agricultural Commission
	John Bogdasarian	Chair	Board of Health
	William Walsh	Commissioner	Council on Aging
	Basil Tolos	Chair	Disability Commission
	Stephen Twining	Chair	Historical Commission
	Barbara Nealon	Chair	Human Rights Commission
	James McGrath	Chair	Parks Board
	Kelly Johnson	Chairperson	Energy Commission
	Paula Caron	Chair	Planning Board
	Paul Fontaine	Vice Chair	Planning Board
	Richard Healey/Missy Eckstein	Chair	Water and Wastewater Commission
	Solveig Schilling	Chair	Youth Commission
	Joseph Bowen	Chair	Cultural Council
	Marilyn Siderwicz	Executive Director	Fitchburg State University, Presidents Office
	Michele Marino	Veteran Services Commissioner	City of Fitchburg
	Sally Crain	Member	School Committee
	Jody Athansiou	Director of Resource Development	United Way of North Central Massachusetts
			NewVue Communities
	Pam Supernant	Regional Associate Executive Director	Montachusett Community Branch YMCA
			The Sundial
	Meagen Donoghue	Executive Director	Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority
		IT Manager	Fiber Connections
	Chris Hendry		Health Alliance Hospital
	Jim Latanzi		Hollis Hills Farm
<b>State and Regional</b>			
	Brigitte Ndikum-Nyada	Risk Analysis Community Planner Specialist	FEMA Region 1

x	Hillary King	Regional Coordinator	MVP Program
	Richelle Brown	President	North County Land Trust
x	Margaret Kurth	Risk and Decision Science Team Research Engineer	Army Corps of Engineers
	Glenn Eaton	Executive Director	Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
	Dean Tran	State Senator, Worcester and Middlesex	Massachusetts Senate
	Lori Trahan	Congresswoman, 3rd District	US House of Representatives
	Stephan Hay	State Representative, 3rd Worcester District	Massachusetts House of Representatives
	Jennie Caissie	Governor's Councilor, 7th District	MA Governor's Council
	Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell	Executive Director	Nashua River Watershed Association
	Roy Nasamento		North Central Chamber of Commerce
			US EPA
			MA Department of Environmental Protection
	Priscilla Geigis		DCR
	Christine Jerome		MEMA
	John Hume	Planning and Development Director	Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
	Arthur Frost	District 3 Regional Coordinator	MassDOT
			Comcast
	<a href="#">Bruno Fisher</a>		Montachusett Regional Transportation Authority (MART)
			New England Farm Workers Council

#### Neighboring Communities

	Joshua W. Hall, PE	Director of Public Works	Westminster
	Kevin Nivala	Emergency Management Director	Westminster
	Jack Rodriquenz	DPW Director	Lunenburg
	Steve Beauregard	Highway Department Superintendent	Ashby
	Raymond Racine	DPW Director	Leominster
	Christopher Knuth, RS	Emergency Planning Director	Leominster



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning Grant Project  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Table Number	Name	Sign
1	Jeffrey Murawski	<i>Jeffrey A. Murawski</i>
1	Ernest Martineau	<i>Ernest Martineau</i>
1	Ralph Baker	<i>R. S. Baker</i>
1	Liz Murphy	<i>Liz Murphy</i>
1	Craig Chalifoux	<i>Craig Chalifoux</i>
1	Michael Cloutier	
1	Mary Heafy	<i>Mary Heafy</i>
1	Jeff Zukowski	<i>Jeff Zukowski</i>
1	Kameko Landry	<i>Kameko Landry</i>
2	John Deline, Jr.	
2	Rich Liberatore	<i>Rich Liberatore</i>
2	Nicholas Bosonetto	<i>Nicholas Bosonetto</i>
2	Samantha Squilia	<i>Samantha Squilia</i>
2	Tom Peterson	<i>Tom Peterson</i>
2	Nathan LaRose	<i>Nathan LaRose</i>
2	Peter Kettle	<i>P. E. Kettle</i>
2	Brigitte Ndikum-Nyada	



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning Grant Project  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Table Number	Name	Sign
2	Joshua W. Hall (T)	
3	Mike O'Hara	<i>Mike O'Hara</i>
3	Stephen Curry	<i>Stephen D. Curry</i>
3	Nick Erickson	<i>Nick D. Erickson</i>
3	Kevin Roy (T)	
3	Sharon Bernard	<i>Sharon A. Bernard</i>
3	Jeff Crowley	
3	Hillary King	<i>Hillary King</i>
3	Emma Wilkins	
4	Stephen DiNatale	<i>Stephen DiNatale</i>
4	Tricia Pistone	<i>Tricia Pistone</i>
4	Mark Barbadoro	
4	Mark Kasperian	



## Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning Grant Project Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:30 am – 4:30 pm



**CITY OF FITCHBURG**

Community Resilience Building Workshop  
Tuesday, March 10th, 2020

Weston & Sampson Photo: Fitchburg. Photo by J. Stephinger. Fitchburg Facebook page. 2015.

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**WELCOME PARTICIPANTS**

Your name  
Organization/Relationship to Fitchburg  
Favorite thing about Fitchburg

Weston & Sampson Photo: Amanda Kohn, Weston & Sampson 4

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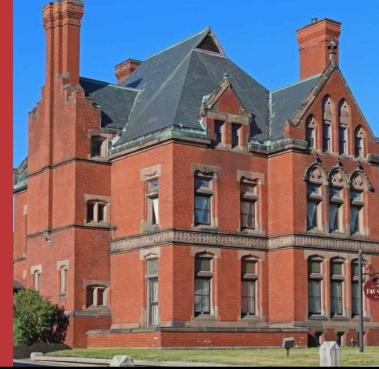


**WELCOME FROM W&S**

Amanda Kohn  
Steve Roy  
Lindsey Adams  
Deanna Lambert  
Caroline Wells

Weston & Sampson Photo: Amanda Kohn, Weston & Sampson 2

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**WORKSHOP OUTLINE**

**PRESENTATION:**

- Overview of Science & Data
- Characterization of Hazards

**- BREAK -**

**INDIVIDUAL TABLES:**

- Identify Community Features

**- LUNCH -**

**INDIVIDUAL TABLES:**

- Identify and Prioritize Actions

**- BREAK -**

**LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:**

- Determine Overall Priority Actions

Photo: 458 Main Street. Photo provided by Nick Erickson

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**WELCOME CORE TEAM**

Nicolas Bosonetto	Mike O'Hara	Joel Kaddy
Nick Erickson	Stephen DiNatale	Mark Barbadoro
AJ Tourigny	Ernest Martineau	Beth Walsh
Tom Skwierawski	Richard Liberatore	Ralph Baker
Jeffrey Murawski	Stephen Curry	Tricia Pistone
John Deline, Jr.		

Weston & Sampson Photo: Amanda Kohn, Weston & Sampson 3

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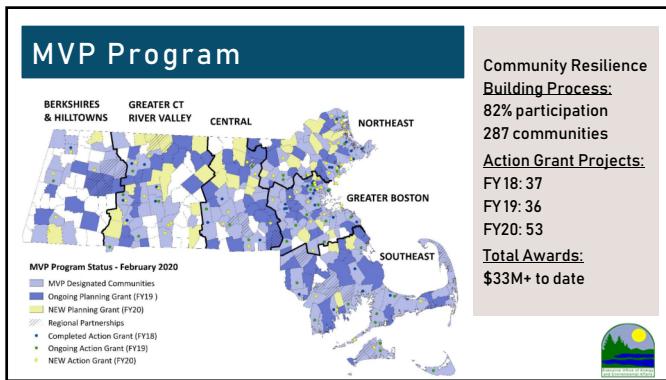
Photo Sources:  
Right: City of Fitchburg website, Sentinel & Enterprise/Ashley Green  
Left: Nick Allen; licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

**Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program**  
**Community Resilience Building in Fitchburg**

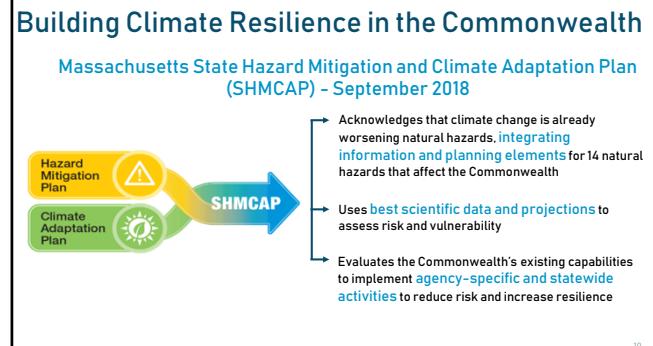
 Hillary B. King  
MVP Central Regional Coordinator  
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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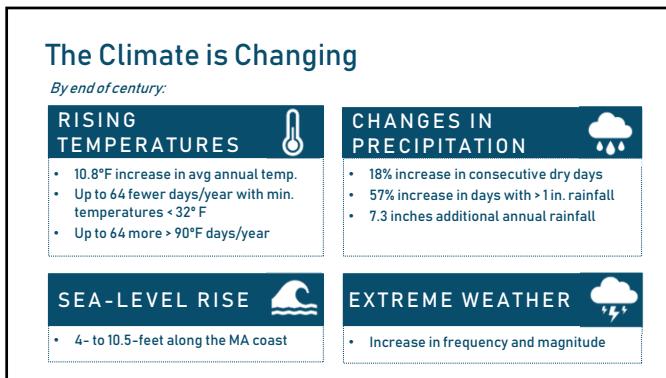
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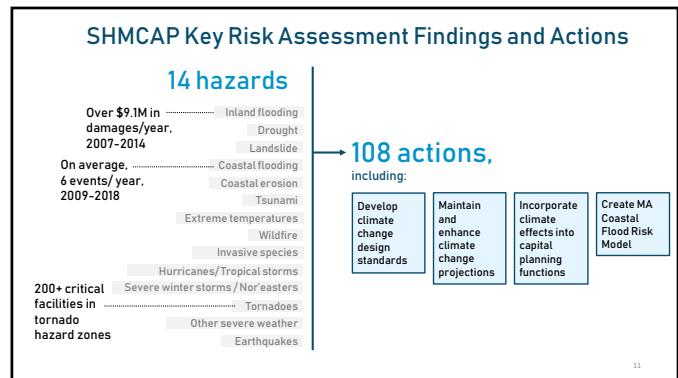
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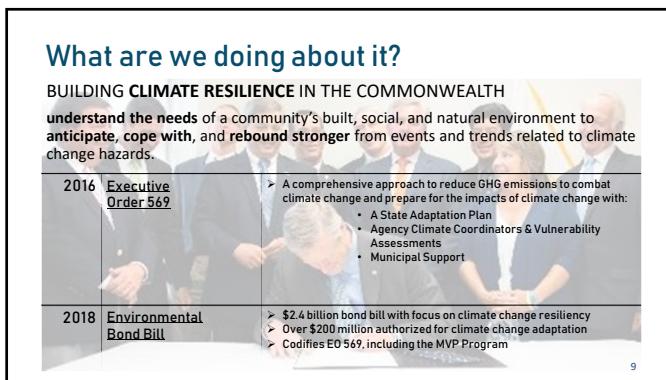
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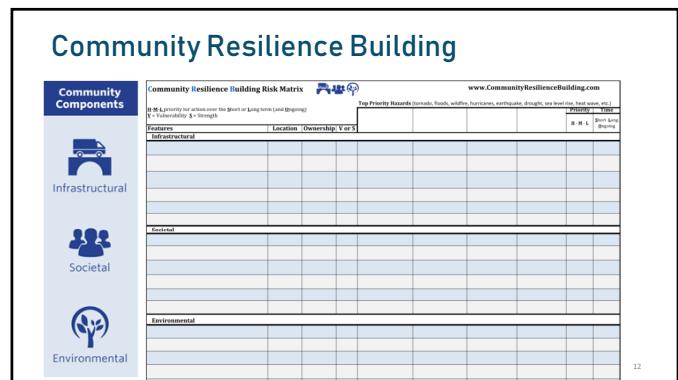
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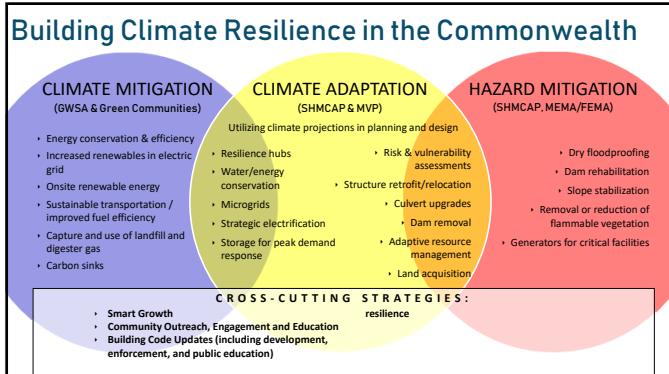
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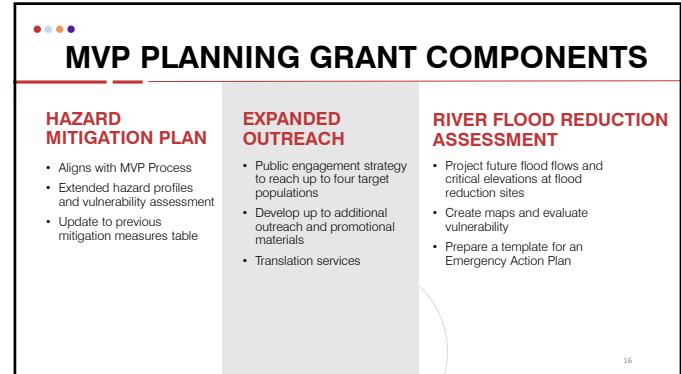
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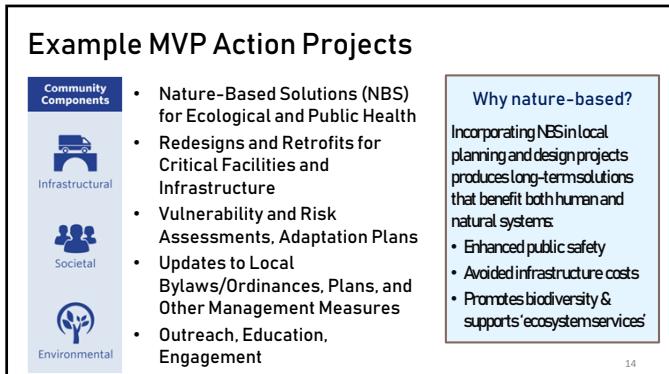
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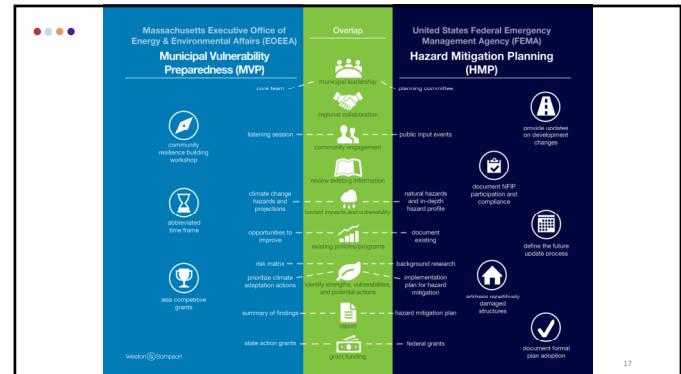
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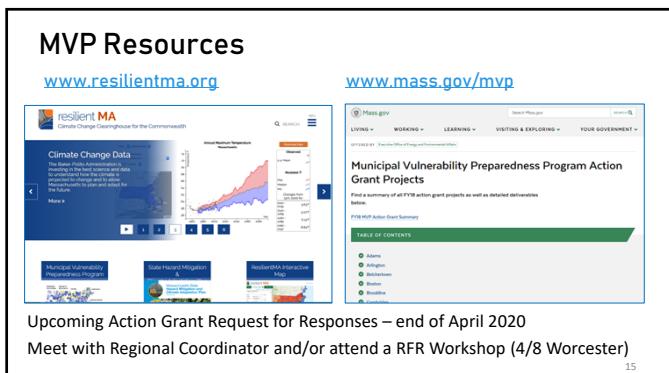
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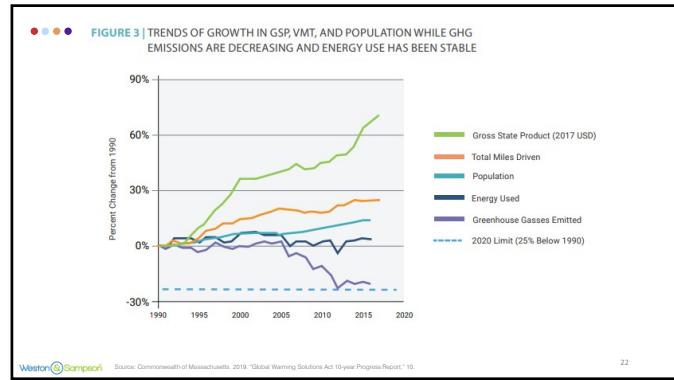
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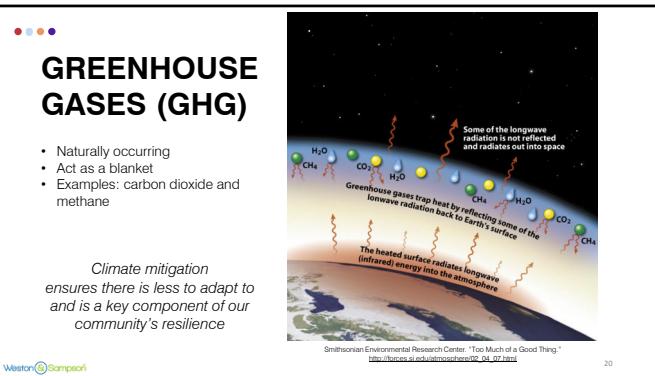
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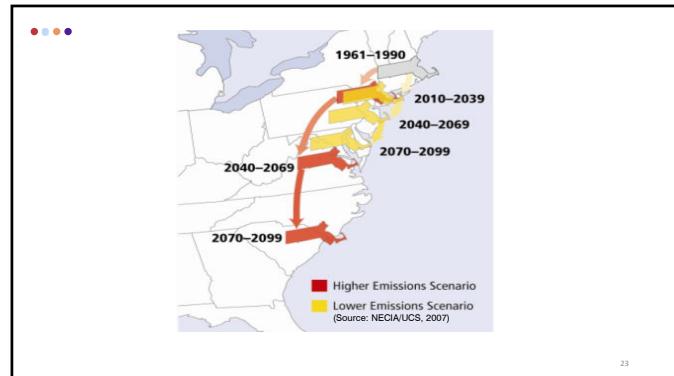
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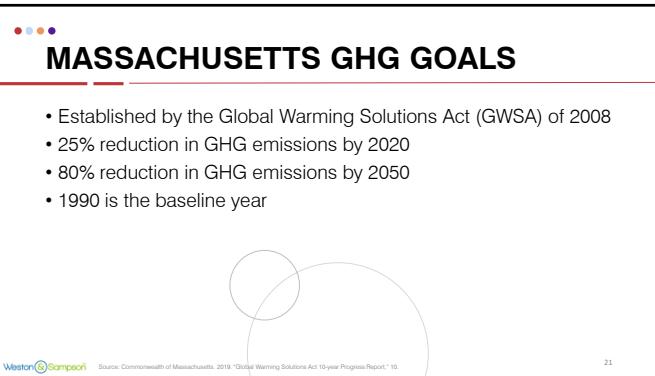
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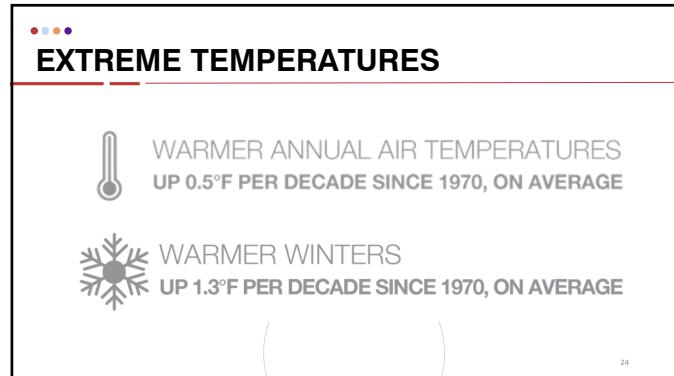
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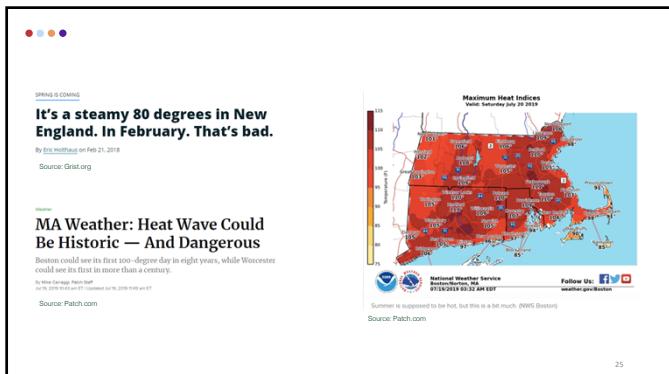
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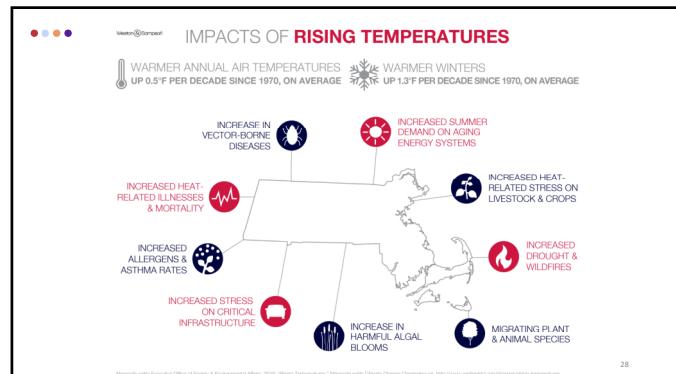
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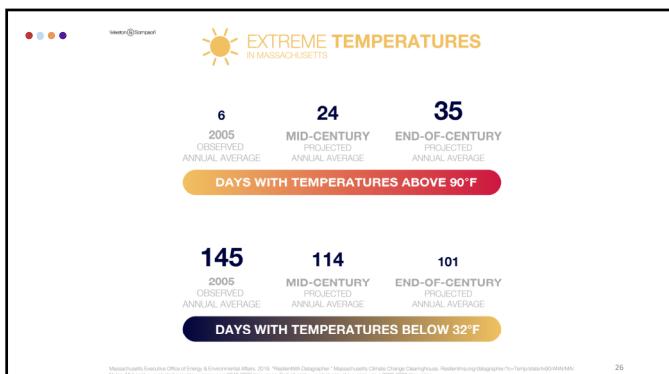
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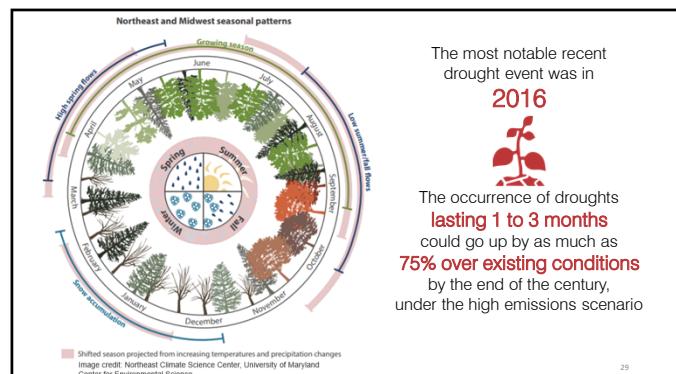
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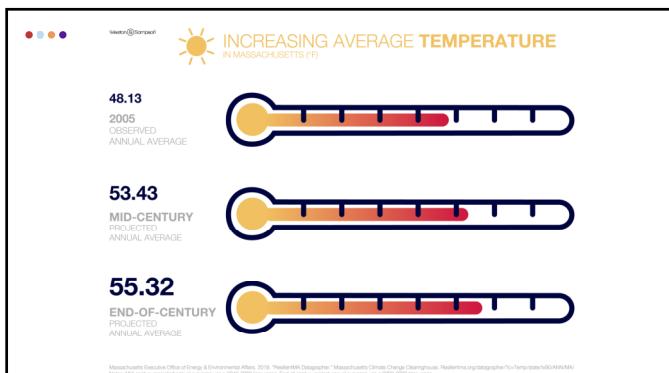
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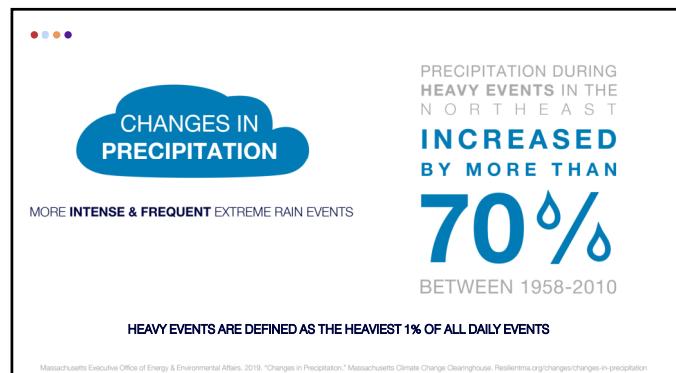
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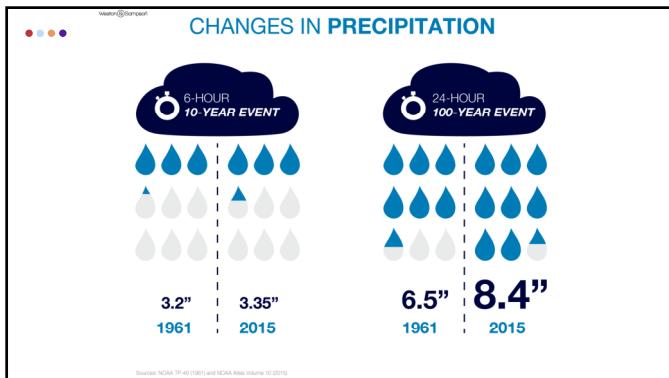
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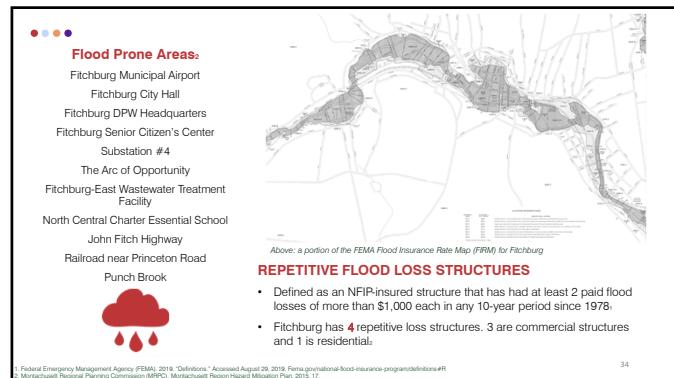
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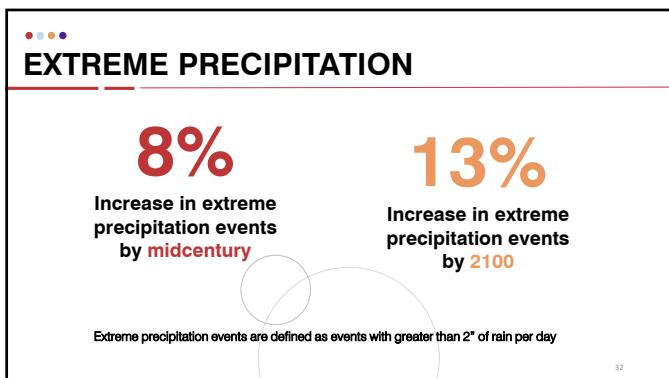
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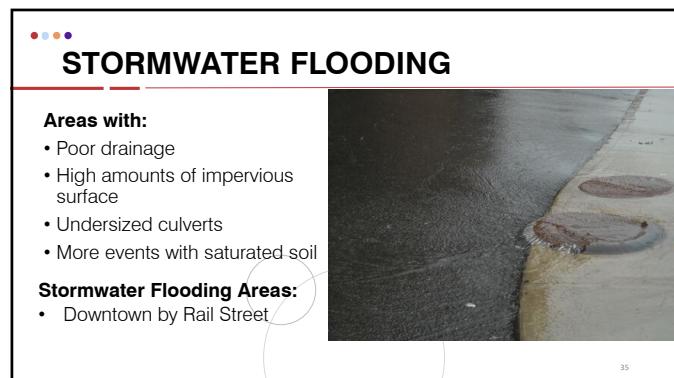
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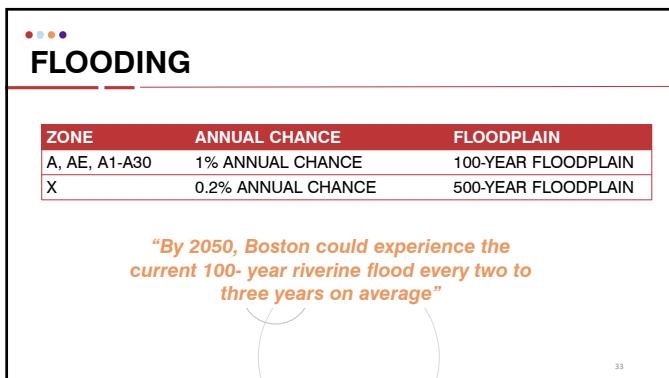
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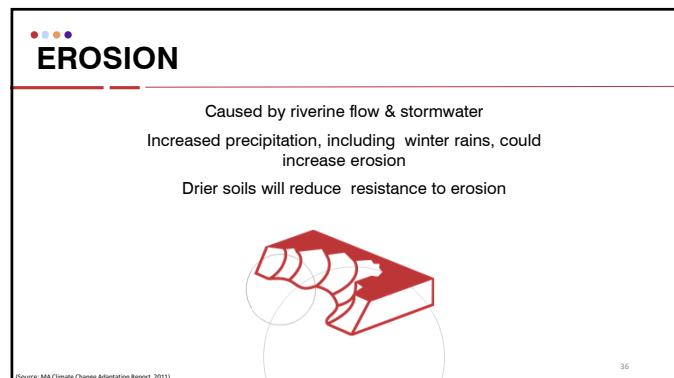
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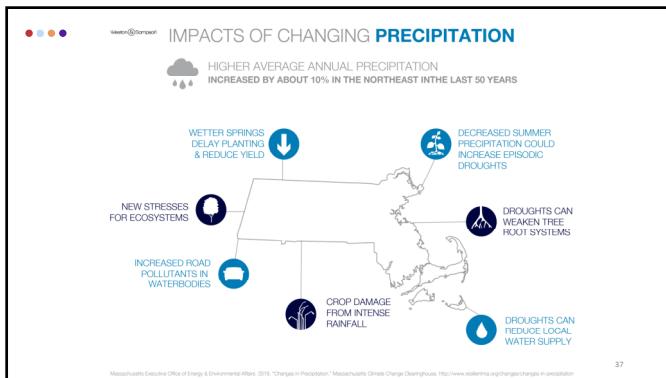
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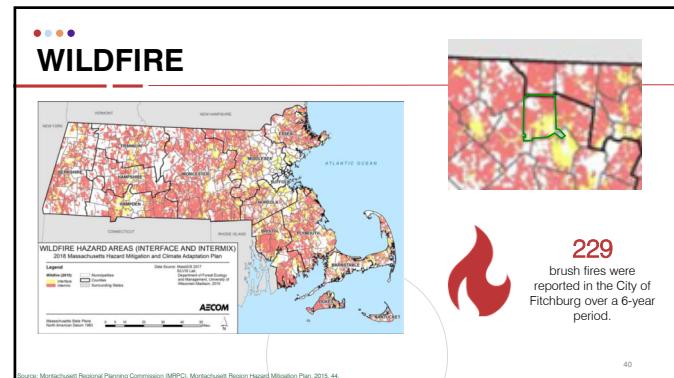
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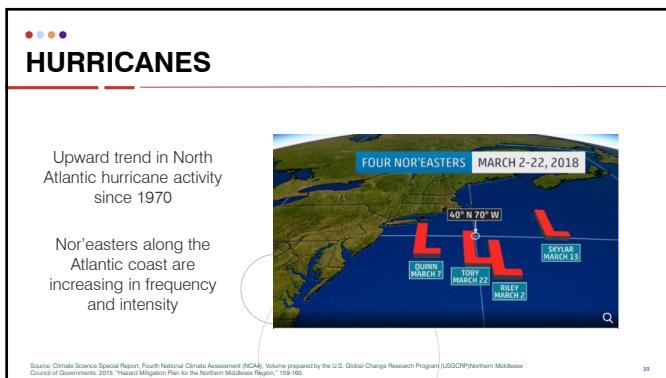
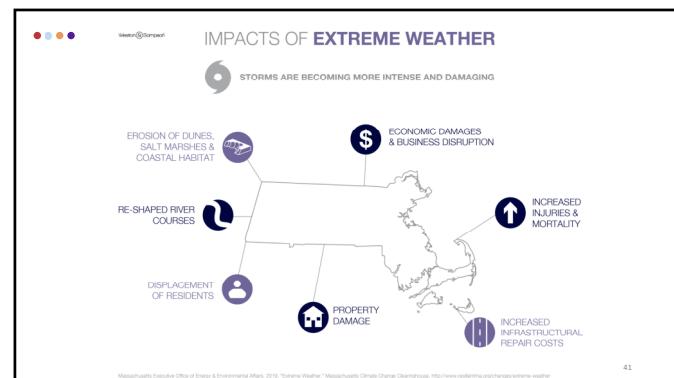
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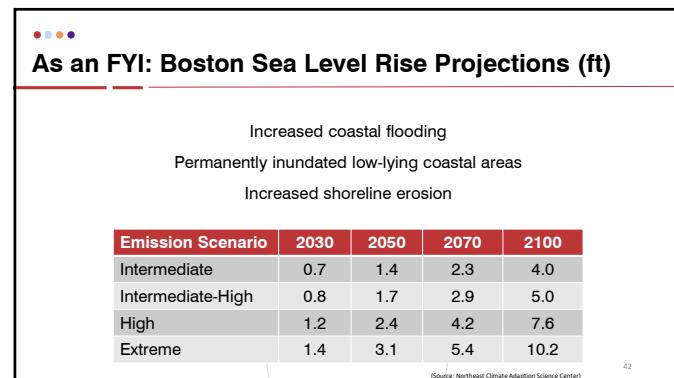
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**RISK MATRIX**



Photo: Memorial Day. Photo by the Fitchburg Police Department, Facebook, 2014.

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**RISK MATRIX: HAZARDS**

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix [www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com](http://www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com)

Top Priority Hazards (Inroads, Roads, Wildlife, Hurricanes, Earthquake, Drought, Sea Level Rise, Heat Wave, etc.)

Priority:  Short term  Long term  
Vulnerability:  Strength  Weakness

Location / Ownership: V or S	Priority: Short term	Priority: Long term
Industrial		
Social		
Environmental		

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**RISK MATRIX**

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix [www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com](http://www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com)

Top Priority Hazards (Inroads, Roads, Wildlife, Hurricanes, Earthquake, Drought, Sea Level Rise, Heat Wave, etc.)

Priority:  Short term  Long term  
Vulnerability:  Strength  Weakness

Features	Location / Ownership: V or S	Priority: Short term	Priority: Long term
Industrial			
Social			
Environmental			

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**HAZARDS IN FITCHBURG**

Recommended by Core Team

 Flooding	 Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, Tornado
 Extreme Temperatures	 Nor'easters, Ice Storm, Severe Snow Storm
 Earthquakes	 Drought
 Hurricanes	 Dam Failure
 Wildfires, Urban Fires	 Landslide

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**IDENTIFY HAZARDS**



Photo: Roadside flooding. Photo provided by Nick Eichhorn, June 25, 2009.

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**RISK MATRIX: FEATURES**

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix [www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com](http://www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com)

Top Priority Hazards (Inroads, Roads, Wildlife, Hurricanes, Earthquake, Drought, Sea Level Rise, Heat Wave, etc.)

Priority:  Short term  Long term  
Vulnerability:  Strength  Weakness

Location / Ownership: V or S	Priority: Short term	Priority: Long term
Industrial		
Social		
Environmental		

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## RISK MATRIX: FEATURES

• M = Priority for action over the Short or Long term (not Emerging)  
• V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Features	Location / Ownership	V or S
Infrastructural		
Societal		
Environmental		

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## INFRASTRUCTURAL FEATURES



Police Department  
Photo by the Fitchburg Police Department



Fire Department  
Photo by the Fitchburg Fire Department



DPW  
Photo provided by Nick Erickson



Wastewater Treatment/Collection



Dams  
McTaggarts Pond Dam. Photo by Julie Eaton



Roadways  
Doris Street. Photo by Deanna Lambert



Bridges/Culverts  
Photo provided by Nick Erickson



Water Supply

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## RISK MATRIX: FEATURES

FEATURES	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP	VULNERABILITY OR STRENGTH
Infrastructural	Town wide	State	Vulnerability
Societal	Multi- vs. Single-neighborhood	Town	Strength
Environmental	Specific location	Private	Both
		Shared	

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## NORTH NASHUA RIVER FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION SYSTEM

- 4.4-mile reach of the North Nashua River in Fitchburg
- Consists of dams, floodwalls, and stone-protected riverbanks
- Inspected by the US Army Corps of Engineers



Source: US Army Corps of Engineers. "North Nashua River Local Protection Project." US Army Corps of Engineers New England District, 2019

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FEATURES IN FITCHBURG

Photo: Fitchburg Water Treatment Facility. Photo provided Nick Erickson.



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## HAZARD POTENTIAL OF DAMS

Dam	Hazard Code	Owner	Dam	Hazard Code	Owner
Scott Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	Arden Mill Dam	Low Hazard	Private
Lovell Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	North Nashua River Mill #9 Dam	Low Hazard	Private
Greene's Pond Dam	High Hazard	Public	Fitchburg Gas & Electric Dam	Low Hazard	Private
Overlook Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	Wastewater Treatment Plant Dam	Low Hazard	Public
Snows Mill Pond Dam	High Hazard	Private	Electric Station Dam	Low Hazard	Private
McTaggarts Pond Dam	High Hazard	Public	Swimming Pool Dam	N/A	Private
Lovell Reservoir Dike	High Hazard	Public	Weyerhauser Dam	N/A	Private
Overlook Reservoir Dike	High Hazard	Public	Lower Spring Pond Dam	N/A	Private
Falulah Reservoir Dam	High Hazard	Public	Upper Spring Pond Dam	N/A	Private
Sawmill Pond Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Putnams Pond Dam	N/A	Public
Mill Pond #1 Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Parkhill Park Swimming Pool Dam	N/A	Public
James Pond Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Trotting Park Or Coolidge Park Dam	N/A	Public
North Nashua River Mill #4 Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Kimball Rd. Dam	N/A	Private
North Nashua River Mill #6 Dam	Significant Hazard	Private	Marshal Reservoir Dam	N/A	Public
Mirror Lake Dam	Significant Hazard	Public	Nichols Pond Dam	N/A	Private
			Nichols St. Dam	N/A	Private

Source: Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (MRPC). Massachusetts Region Hazard Mitigation Plan. 2015. 210-211.

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## DAM SAFETY



All **HIGH** and **SIGNIFICANT** hazard dams are required to have an **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**.

This plan must be updated and submitted **YEARLY** to the State and the City's Emergency Manager.

Source: Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC). Montachusett Region Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2015, 210-211.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES



### Features in Fitchburg

- Nashua River
- Phillips Brook
- Coggeshall Park
- Fitchburg Riverfront Park
- Parkhill Park
- Gateway Park
- Howarth Park

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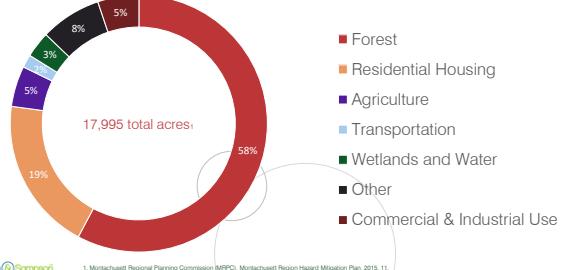
## INFRASTRUCTURAL FEATURES CRITICAL FACILITIES

Table 38: Fitchburg Critical Facilities		
Feature Type	Name	Address
Airports	Fitchburg Municipal	560 Crawford Street
Animal Shelters	Animal Control	300 Elm Street
City/Town Halls	Fitchburg City Hall	164 Boulder Drive
Clinics	Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center	326 Nichols Road
	Community Health Connections	275 Nichols Road
	Lu A Behavioral Health Clinic	545 Westminster Street
	Abortion Services Center	275 Nichols Road
	Planned Parenthood	301 Main Street
	Reliant Medical Group	370 Lummis Street
	Riverfront Counseling Center	76 Summer Street
	Spectrum Health Systems Inc	76 Summer Street
	Umass Memorial MRI & Imaging Center	275 Nichols road
College	Fitchburg State University - Main Campus	100 Pearl Street
Communication Towers	Communication Tower	Flat Rock Road
Courts	Fitchburg District Courthouse	100 Elm Street
Public Water Supply*	Overlook Reservoir	
	Lozell Reservoir	
	Scott Reservoir	
	Fallulah Reservoir	
DPW Facilities	Infrastructure Utility Department	301 Broad Street
	Fitchburg DPW Headquarters	164 Boulder Drive
Early Education	Irfan, Rebecca	32 380 Street
Childcare	Dontrel, Shannen	372 Franklin Road
Facilities	MOC Child Care & Head Start Services Center / Hosp	130 South Street

Source: Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC). Montachusett Region Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2015, 199-202.

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## Fitchburg's Land Use



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## SOCIETAL FEATURES

	Fitchburg	Massachusetts
<b>Population</b>		
2010:	40,318 residents	6,547,790
2018:	40,882 residents	6,902,149
<b>Age</b>		
Under 18 years:	22.7%	20%
65+ years:	14.2%	17%
<b>Education</b>		
Bachelor's degree or higher:	20.7%	42.1%
<b>Additional Information</b>		
Median household income:	\$51,412	\$74,167
Persons in poverty:	17.9%	10.5%
With a disability:	12.7%	7.9%
Language other than English spoken at home:	28.5%	23.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

## DATA RESOURCES



### In Fitchburg and Massachusetts



Massachusetts Climate Change Projections (NECSC, 2018)



Montachusett Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2015 Update



Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report (MA EEA, 2011)



Fitchburg Open Space & Recreation Plan Update, 2014-2021



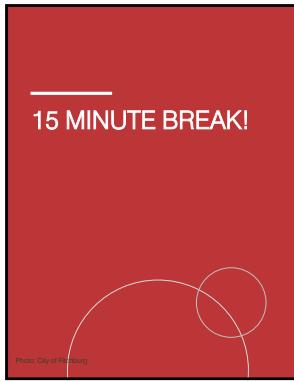
Input from Municipal Officials



Economic Development Strategic Plan, 2018

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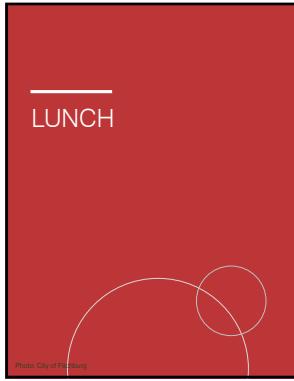
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• Stormwater management standards  
 • Enforcing regulations related to FEMA Flood Zones, wetlands, and the City Flood Plain Protection Overlay  
 • Maintenance of municipal storm drain  
 • Inspection of major dams  
 • Tree maintenance  
 • Limited brush cleaning  
 • Residential parking bans during snowstorms  
 • Clearing of snow from major arterials  
 • Promote CID/Green Infrastructure  
 • Working with State & MEMA

• Code Red - Landline  
 • Local radio & TV  
 • Mutual aid agreements  
 • Cooperation between Fire, Police, and utilities  
 • Improving flood reduction system (downtown, fixed area River St @ Wallace)  
 • Buying property in well-head protection area for conservation (5,000 acres)  
 • Promoting LID/green infrastructure  
 • CodeRED  
 • Updating FEMA Flood Maps

Source: Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), Massachusetts Region Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2015, 221-229

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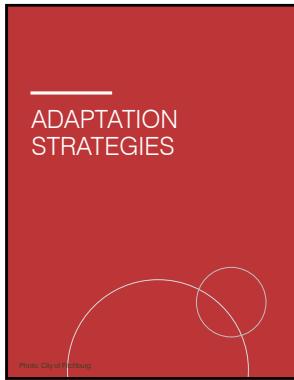
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• Elevation  
 • Flood Barriers  
 • Dry Floodproofing  
 • Relocation  
 • Wet Floodproofing  
 • Zoning & Regulatory  
 • Nature & Nature-Based

• Protection  
 • Migration  
 • Accommodation  
 • Relocation  
 • Programmatic  
 • Accommodation

119

65



63

• WET FLOODPROOFING

66

**A19** Concern about green roofs, permeable pavement and microgrids  
as practice options in fitchburg

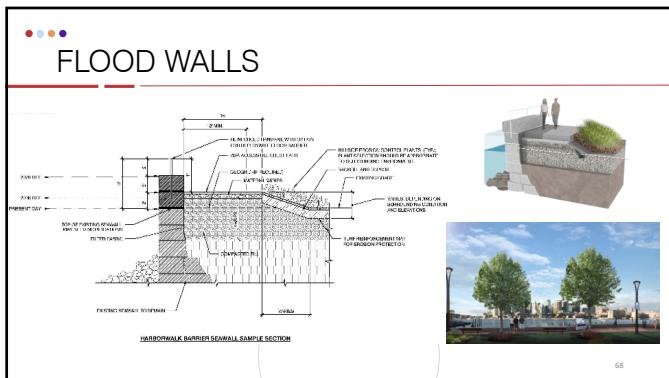
Author, 10/31/2019



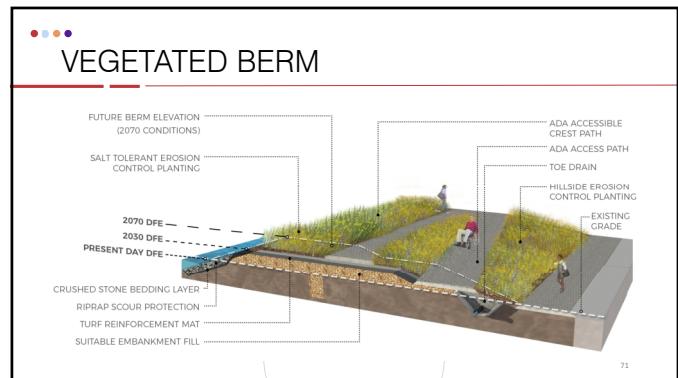
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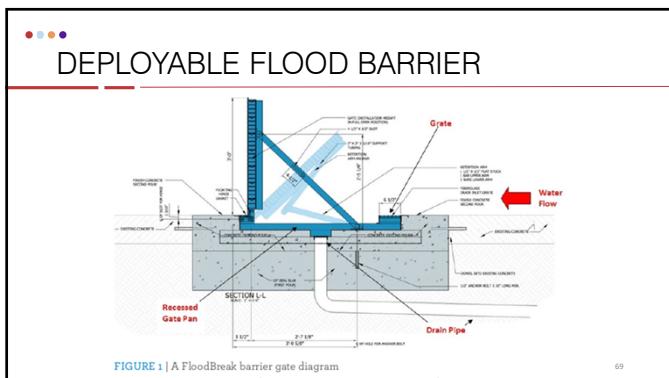
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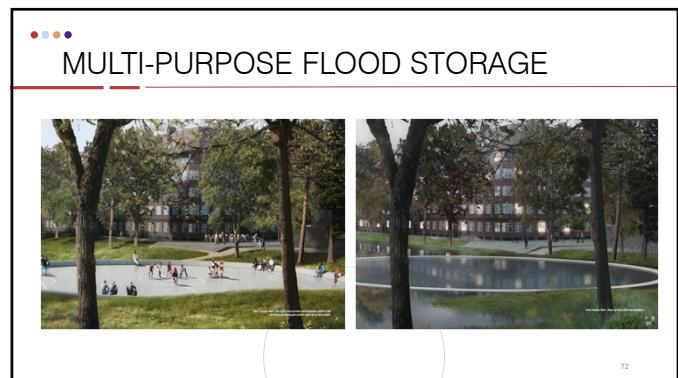
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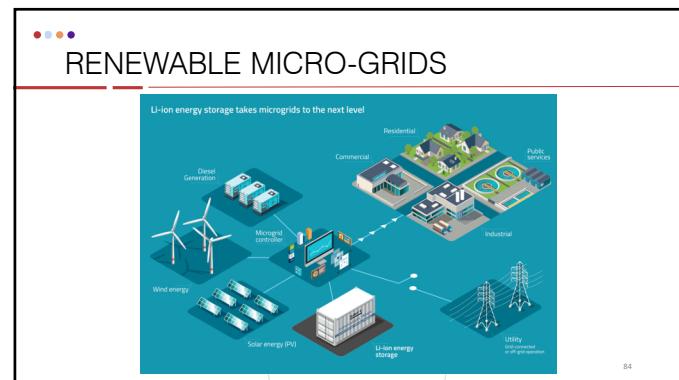
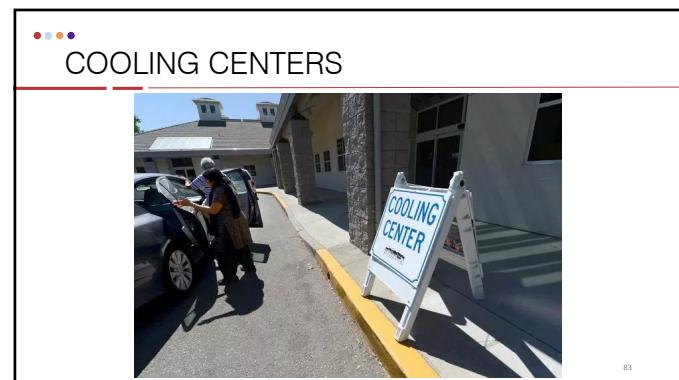
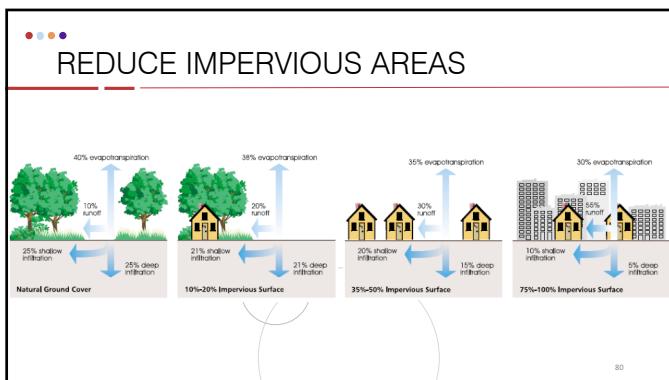
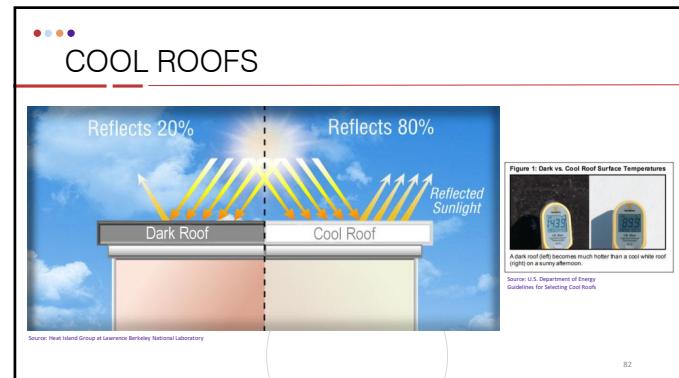


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## LANDSCAPE DESIGN TO ACCOMMODATE WATER



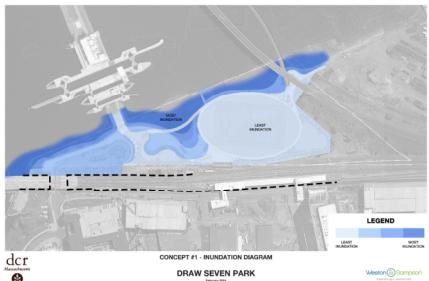
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## RETROFITTED FLOODPROOF DOORWAYS



88

## LANDSCAPE DESIGN TO ACCOMMODATE WATER



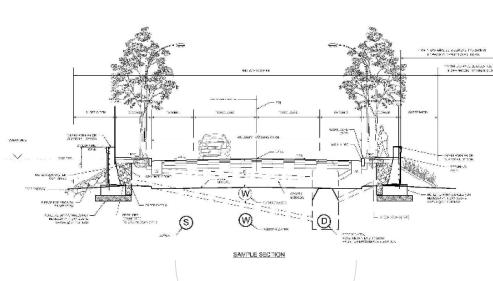
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## RE-EVALUATE LOCAL REGULATIONS & POLICIES



89

## RAISED ROADWAYS



87

● ● ● ● ● Example MVP Action Grant Projects

Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Prevention, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques

## Millbury



Utilizing green infrastructure like stormwater planters, bioretention bump outs, rain gardens, and other measures like porous pavers and pervious pavement to reduce heat island effects and stormwater runoff into the Blackstone River.



#### Nature-based solutions

90

● ● ● Example MVP Action Grant Projects

Redesigns and Retrofits

**Salisbury**

Increasing the resilience of the neighborhood of Ring's Island by raising its access/egress roads and by improving tidal flushing through culvert replacements





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15 MINUTE BREAK!



Photo: 608 Main St, City of Fitchburg

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● ● ● Example MVP Action Grant Projects

Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Mitigation, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques

**Belchertown**

Designing and permitting for a replacement water storage tank that would increase storage capacity and resiliency to drought, and completing a feasibility/concept design of a rainwater harvesting system at Belchertown High School to irrigate the athletic fields.





Nature-based solutions  
Pilot potential

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IDENTIFY PRIORITY ACTIONS



Photo: Fitchburg fire headquarters. Photo by the Fitchburg Fire Department Facebook, 2018

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DEFINE COMMUNITY ACTIONS



Photo: City of Fitchburg

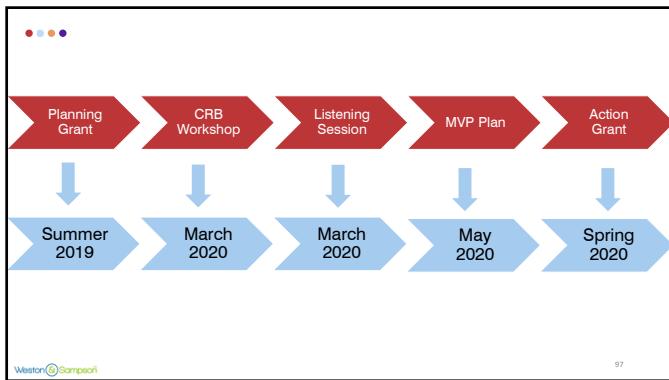
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WRAP-UP & CLOSING REMARKS

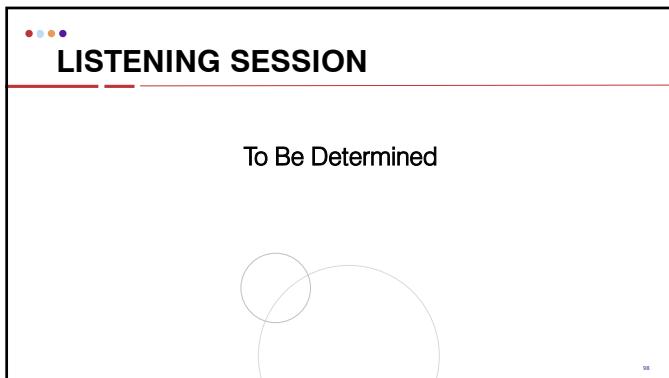


Photo: Monument Park, City of Fitchburg

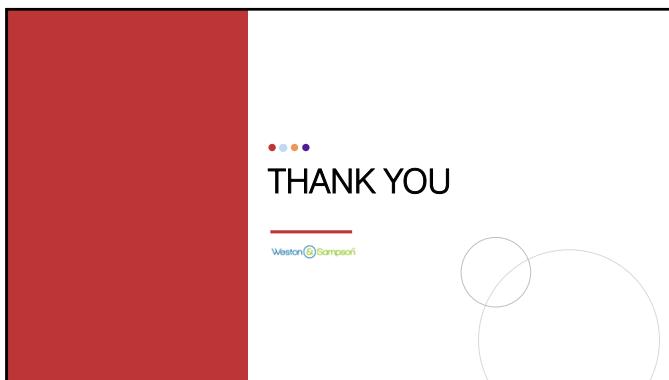
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## Fitchburg MVP Workshop

What do you like about Fitchburg?

- Coolidge park
- Sense of community, comradery
- Tradition
- Helping, caring community
- Natural resources, parks, trails, dams, open space
- Diversity
- Welcoming
- The airport
- Tight-knit community
- The library

## WINTER STORMS

2008? Ice storm: 11 days without power, 14 days without power.

- One participant didn't have any gas in her car – drove to find gas but she couldn't
- Steve: power went out, he was on a well had to leave
- One participant relied on her woodstove
- Disabled residents had to leave their housing units
- Emergency food kitchen, food perished because power was out – low income populations were the biggest risk
- People in shelters didn't know what to do with their pets – they ended up in one room in the library
- Staff couldn't get to work in order to support people, other staff couldn't leave to take care of their families
- Realized the value of the shelter; it is a good back up but it is not the most comfortable option. They encourage people to make plans with relatives
- Gas stations don't have backups – good thing that they have tankers for their fire trucks
- Added back up power to gas stations to fill up ambulance and fire trucks
- A big part of this was Utilil's inability to respond – they are very proactive now and have taken on a process to clean up communities in this area to reduce power outages.
- There were few mild ice storms this year, lost power to regional water plant
- City has gotten much better at handling these types of storms

## HEAT

- Library often has heat on in June. It used to be that they didn't turn it on until July
- Heat isn't as big of a deal right now but it is going to become a bigger issue, may need more cooling shelters
- Fitchburg partnered with Salvation Army for warming and cooling centers
- There are a lot of people who will sit and wait when it is really hot and end up in the hospital
- Warming shelter program started in neighboring town that Fitchburg uses

- Salvation Army stepped up and provided a warming and cooling shelter in their new facility (Water Street) – New facility with gymnasium, commercial kitchen, is going to replace the existing building
- \*POTENTIAL PROJECT\* partner with salvation army to add something additional to their new building
  - Address heat island effect by adding green space
  - “Greening the Gateways” → Hillary’s program. She will get more information for the City. They might be working in Fitchburg next.

MVP works with affordable housing properties to get more resilient, sustainable, low cost heating and cooling systems

## FLOODING

In the last decade, Fitchburg got several 100 year rain events (mothers day flood, 2006; last fall, 6-7" → close to the 24 hour, 100 year storm: Nashua River in west Fitchburg at the old papermill, local roads with small culvers and bridges, stormwater systems on various roads can't handle storm, Wallace street bridge, depot road bridge, john fitch highway river floods up into road)

We are getting more storm, and the intensity is going up.

This is impacting infrastructure

Fitchburg has a combined system

The river is changing shape and is starting to move closer to the airport

Punch brooks that go under buildings. Punch brook north of main street. Ground water flows into this. Old neighborhoods there so it is hard to know what culverts are there and what needs to be replaced

Sewer separation would reduce this. During part of this process, drainage will be upgraded

Culvert replacement with ACOE to replace culverts for upgrading, as well as wildlife passage

Grant application is open until March 24

## SNOW STORMS

6 week period, 4 storms (2015)

Got equipment from MEMA

## WILDFIRES

Non-permitted fires are the most common

Fires started by space heaters

Cameras in the quarries; less fires happening now from kids playing with matches than there used to be

# Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)  
V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Features      Location      Ownership      V or S

Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricane, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

FLOODING		SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WIND, TORNADO		EXTREME TEMPS		Nor'EASTERS, ICE STORMS, SEVERE SNOW STORMS		Priority	Time
								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing

Funding wall improvements									
ROADS / DRAINAGE / Bridges	RR	CITY WIDE	CITY	V	IMPLEMENT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS. John Fitch Hwy	TREE MAINTENANCE	GREEN IMPROVEMENTS	IMPLEMENT GRADING & DRAWS.	H O
WATER SUPPLY	RESERVOIRS	CITY	S		PROTECT CONTINUE FOREST MGT.				H O
DAMS - OLD INDUSTRIAL MCASSIERS DAM	SEE MAP #24	CITY / PRIVATE	V		MOVE MIGRANTS TAM & OTHERS EXPLORE	Maintain other dams CONTINUE INSPECTIONS			H O
FIRE DEPT - EMERGENCY MGT	HQ 3 STA.	CITY	V		2 FACILITIES - RELOCATE IMPROVE RES. TIME	GM MGT NEEDS FUTURE SPACE			H O
SCHOOLS	Private - Sizer Fitchburg University	H/S HEAD STREET 3 MIDDLE 4 Elem.	CITY / PUBLIC	V/S	N/A NOXAY - NEEDS SW Drainage	ROOF REPAIRS NEEDED	Possible Shelter	IMPROVE ONLINE	M O
AIRPORT	TRANSPORTATION - PUBLIC	SOUTHEAST	CITY	V/S	EROSION CONTROL NECESSARY STREAM BANK		IMPACTS ON PAVEMENT	SUPPORT EMERGENCY SHELTERING.	H O

Societal									
SHelters - Heat / Cooling Salvation Army / SR. Center	RIVER ST - CITY WIDE	CITY / PRIVATE	V/S		UPGRADE SR. CENTER NEEDS PARKING			NOW SR. ARMY HAS SHELTER.	H O
FIREHOUSE STATE - SHelters		STATE	S		COORDINATE ON EMERGENCY RESP.				M O
COMMUNICATIONS -	CITY WIDE	CITY	S		IMPROVE CODE RED & SOCIAL MEDIA EMERGENCY RESP. - COMMON COMMUNICATION				H O
AT RISK POPULATIONS - LOW INCOME - HOMELESS - LANGUAGE - ELDERS								Maintain contacts, outreach - meals	H O
SALVATION ARMY									
CERT Program / Volunteers			S		SUPPORT CERT - INC. MEMBERSHIPS				M O

Environmental									
OPEN SPACE - WATERSHED CITY FOREST		CITY	S		PROTECT OPEN SPACES BEAVER MGT.		GRAVEL EXTRACTION - REGS?		H O
STEEP TERRAIN									
BROWNFIELDS - MCP SITES			V		CONTINUE TO CLEAN UP - BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT FUNDS.				
ACTIVE REC - PARKS TRAILS FIELDS		CITY	S		EXPLORE CO-BENEFITS SU. - CRICKET PL RIVERFRONT PK	SUPPORT TRAILS -		EXPAND RIVERFRONT PK -	
URBAN PAVES GREEN SPACES - INFRASTRUCTURE		CITY	V		LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO MANAGE SW 1ST & RAILROAD PARK		W/ ST		H O
MASHUA RIVER			V		WORK WITH MASHUA RIVER WS ASSOCIATION				M O

action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)

S = Strength

Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

				Flooding	Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, Tornadoes	Ext. Temps	Nor'Easters, ice/ Snow Storms	Priority	Time
								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
	Location	Ownership	V or S						
ES (Public + Private)	City-wide	Mostly public Some private	✓	Replace/Repair	Repair/Replace/ reinforce	Redesign	Redesign	H	O
TRANSFORMERS/ SUBSTATIONS	City-wide	Mostly private Some public	✓	Flood-proof	Otm/ Prioritization Plan		Policy/Procedures, Otm/ Prioritization Plan	L/M	L/O
WATER FIBER / GAS UTILITY BLDG.	City-wide	Public + private	✓	Dam Assessment/ Study (Repair or removal)				H/M	L/O
LECTION / LANDFILLS	City-wide + localized	Mostly private Some public	✓	Assessment/Study + Separation	Repair/Replace		Condition assessment/ inventory, repair/replace	M/L	L/O
OPER EQUIPMENT	City-wide	Public	✓	Training, Emergency preparedness, policy/procedures, equipment inventory/purchases, resource list, reciprocity agreements (local + regional), volunteer capacity building, continuity planning!			Public ed./outreach, Otm/ optimization Study, equipment upgrades	H	S/L/O
vulnerable population nals => where do they go in an emergency?	City-wide	Mostly private	✓				Emergency assistance, repair/rebuild program public education/outreach, Aux./backup power	H	S/L/O
Emergency Preparedness Training	Regional	Public	✓	Inventory of local/regional resources, public education + outreach, Coordination of volunteers, animal shelters (temp. + permanent)				M/L	O
Health	City-wide	Public + private	✓	Getting the appropriate training				H	S/O
Charities	City-wide	Public + private	✓	Assessment/inventory of services, Coordination of services w/ agencies + support groups, public education outreach, volunteer groups, assisting				H/M	S/L/O
Associated Issues	City-wide	Public	✓	Housing + transportation assistance programs, emergency fuel assistance, support groups + programs, education + outreach, assisted living				H/M	S/L/O
Waterways	City-wide	Mostly public Some private	V/S	Flood protection/recreation/ development master plan.				H/M	L
phy/Rural Character	City-wide	Public + private	V/S	Conservation/open space plan, zoning + ordinance updates, preservation plans				H	S
Brownfields.	Localized, mill areas/industrial	Public + private	V	Studies/assessments/inventories, landfill capping, remediation, repurposing				H	S/L/O
Commercial/Industrial	Localized industrial	Private	V	Training, Emergency response, contingency planning, site assessments				H	S/L/O
sustainable k/Energy	City-wide	Public/ private	V/S	Opportunity assessment, renewable energy master plan, anaerobic digestion				M	L
all	City-wide	Public/ private	S	Some + watershed protection + Tree planting plan/ Urban Canopy				M/L	L

# Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)  
V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Features Location Ownership V or S

## Infrastructural

				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
				FLOODING	SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS, WIND, TORNADO	EXTREME TEMPERATURES	NOR'EASTERS, ICE STORMS, SEVERE SNOW STORMS	Priority	Time
								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S						
STORMWATER/WATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES	multiple/throughout	PRIVATE/PUBLIC	B	ELEVATE BERM AROUND PLANT; STABILIZE BANKS	PUMP OUT WATER FROM BEHIND BERM LOOK AT CLIMATE PROJECTIONS FOR MS4 UTILITIES: AIRPORT/TREATMENT PLANT			H	S/L
PRIVATE & MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS (DOWNTOWN) PUBLIC SAFETY	DOWNTOWN	PUBLIC	B	DETENTION BASIN/RAIN GARDENS / OTHER U/D BMDs	SENIOR CENTER POLICE, FIRE (WHERE ARE HOLDING CELLS?) DPN LIBRARY	ELEVATE UTILITIES (CATCH BASINS & PIPES)	NEW BUILDING FOR EMERGENCY COOLING STATION LIB. SENIOR MAN. MUTUAL AID	H	O
ROADWAYS & BRIDGES	THROUGHOUT TOWN/STATE	TOWN/STATE	V	JOHN FITCH HIGHWAY: FLOOD STORAGE + UPGRADING DRAINAGE: FEAS. STUDY?	HOLD WATER HIGHER IN RIVER: UP IN THE WATERSHED & INSTRUCT	GREENING DOWNTOWN: STREET TREES	IMPROVING ROADWAYS "ADOPT A CATCH BASIN/RAIN GARDEN)	H	L/O
UTILITIES (ABOVE + BELOW GROUND)	THROUGHOUT	PRIVATE	B	ID CRIT. CITY INFRA REDUNDANCIES + GENER.	BURY UTILITIES OUTSIDE OF UTILITIES	PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR HEATING + COOLING		H	S
PRIVATE/NON PROFIT	MULTIPLE	PRIVATE	S	OUTREACH THROUGH COOPERATION BETWEEN TOWN-ORGS-RESIDENT	ASSESSMENT TO INCREASE CULVERT SIZE / WILDLIFE PASSAGE	LEVERAGE HEATING/ COOLING LOCATIONS		H	S
STORMWATER CONVEYANCE	THROUGHOUT	PUBLIC	V	CONTINUE W/ NEW FUNDING TO INCREASE CAPACITY FOR CLIMATE	PHILLIPS BROOK TAU LA BROOK COOLWATER FISHARY	UPGRADE SW ORDINANCE FOR HOLDING SNOW NEW DEV.		H	O

## Societal

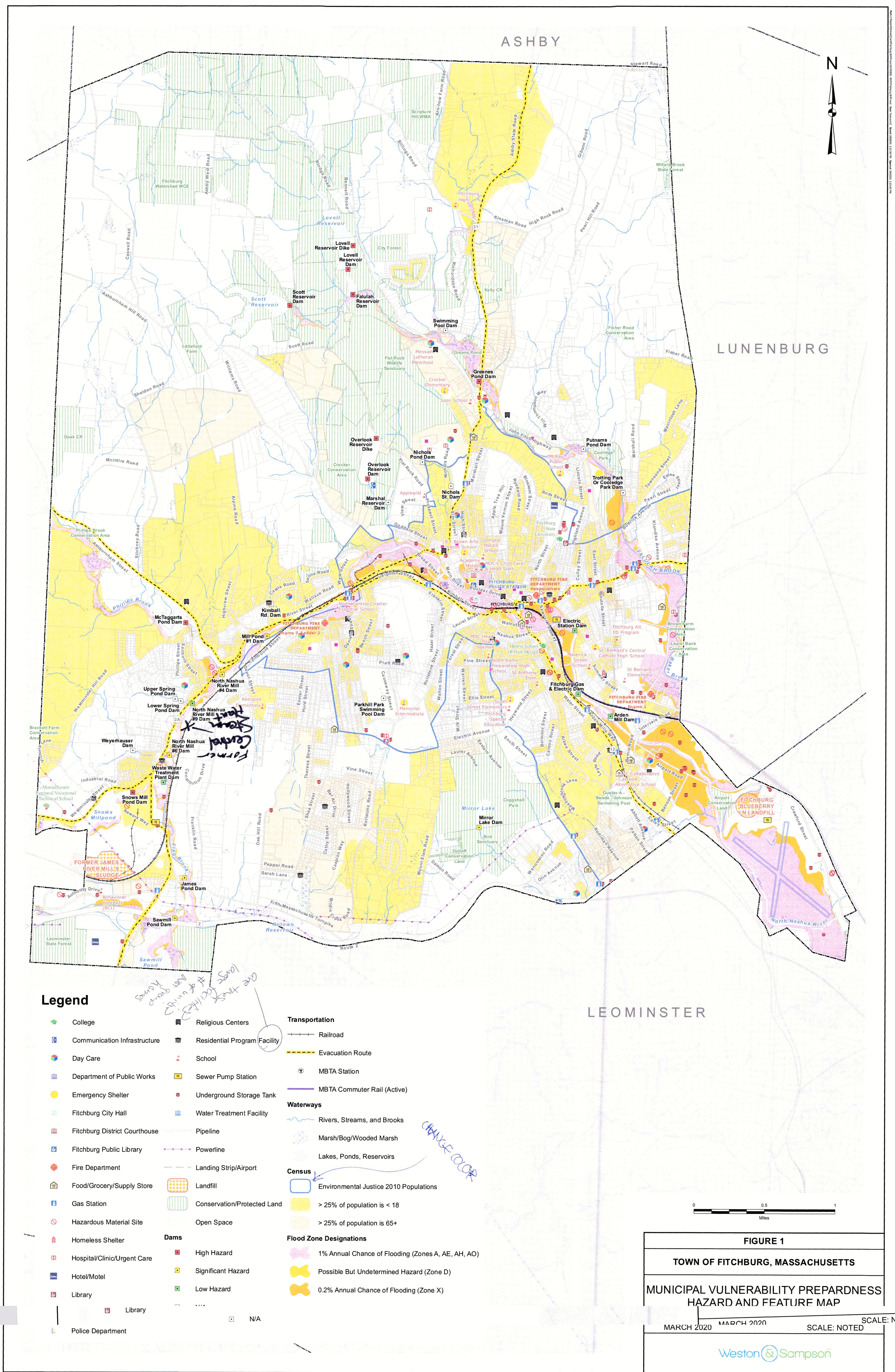
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
				FLOODING	SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS, WIND, TORNADO	EXTREME TEMPERATURES	NOR'EASTERS, ICE STORMS, SEVERE SNOW STORMS	Priority	Time
								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S						
GROCERY STORES (FOOD)	JOHN FITCH WATER ST	PRIVATE	B	BACKUP POWER SO RAIN GARDEN IN DETEN. ON JOHN FITCH	PEOPLE CAN GET FOOD / GAS			H	S/L
ECONOMIC IMPACT	CITY-WIDE	PRIVATE, PUBLIC	B (V)	SOLVE FLOODING ISSUE TO REDUCE VACANCIES ADD PERVIOUS TO PARKING LOT	IMPLEMENT ECON. DEV PLAN W/ RESILIENCY	TREE BOX FILTER / CANOE / KAYAK → PAST GREEN SPACE ACCESS	DOWNTOWN	H	L/O
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS	CITY-WIDE, CONCENT. DOWNTOWN	—	—	MOVING HOUSING OUT OF FLOODPLAIN	IMPROVE QUALITY OF HOUSING, ASSIST LANDLORDS	ELIGIBLE FOR HOMEOWNER REHAB PROGRAM: OUTREACH MOBILITY / INCREASE INCORPORATE CLIMATE RES. BUS ROUTE		H	O
MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE	CITY-WIDE	—	V/B			PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR RESOURCES GRANTS FOR MITIGATING HIGH USE MONTH BILLS		H	O
ELDERLY	City-wide Senior volunteers + senior center	Housing Authority Senior housing - public/privat	V/S			CONNECTION TO SENIOR CENTER, NEIGHBOR HOOD PROGRAM		H	O
YOUTH	College commutes Schools - public/privat	City-wide Schools - public/privat	V/S	OUTREACH INTO YOUTH ORGS.	ENSURE THESE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE	INCREASED HOUSING/ SCHOOL CAPACITY, INCORP. RESILIENCY		H	O

## Environmental

				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					
				FLOODING	SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS, WIND, TORNADO	EXTREME TEMPERATURES	NOR'EASTERS, ICE STORMS, SEVERE SNOW STORMS	Priority	Time
								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S						
Brooks - Punch Brook (See notes)	City-wide	—	V (burnt brooks)	ID UNDERGROUND BROOKS FEAS. STUDY - UPDATE/DAYLIGHT				M	L
Forested Areas	rural part of City	3000 - public private	S (wind)	PROVIDE OUTREACH TO RESIDENTS ON AVAILABILITY OF TRAILS + PARK MANAGING FORESTED AREAS	TRAIL STEWARDSHIP & PROGRAM - ENGAGE LOCAL YOUTH & ADULTS	WORK W/ NORTHERN COUNTY LAND TRUST + OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS		M	S/L
Urban Parks	City-wide	Rural park - mass hub + private	S	"ADOPT A PARK" ADD DETENTION BASINS	PARK MAINT. HILL PARK RESTORATION	PARKS W/ WATER WORKS	WORK ON MATCH SYST. WORK W/ YOUTH	M	O
Tree Canopy - Invasive Veg (V)	City-wide	Public + private	S/V	TREE BOXES ADD TREES TO URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS	ONGOING TREE MAINT W/ UNIT	SOLAR PANEL ZONING CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY SELECTIVE STREET TREES	WORK ADD MORE? GARDEN CENTER NATIVE SPECIES PLANTING PLAN INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY	H	S/L
Nashua River + Trib	Watershed	—	V/S	COLAB W/ NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES TO MIT. FLOODING	INTERCONNECTED TRAIL SYSTEMS	LAND AQUISITION @ PHILLIPS + FILULA BROOK	OUTREACH + EDUCATION	M	L/O
Environmental Contamination	former industrial areas	Private > public	V	CLEAN UP/ REMOVING SOILS FEASIBILITY STUDY	ENFORCING AULS			H	O

areas  
paper mills

TABLE 1



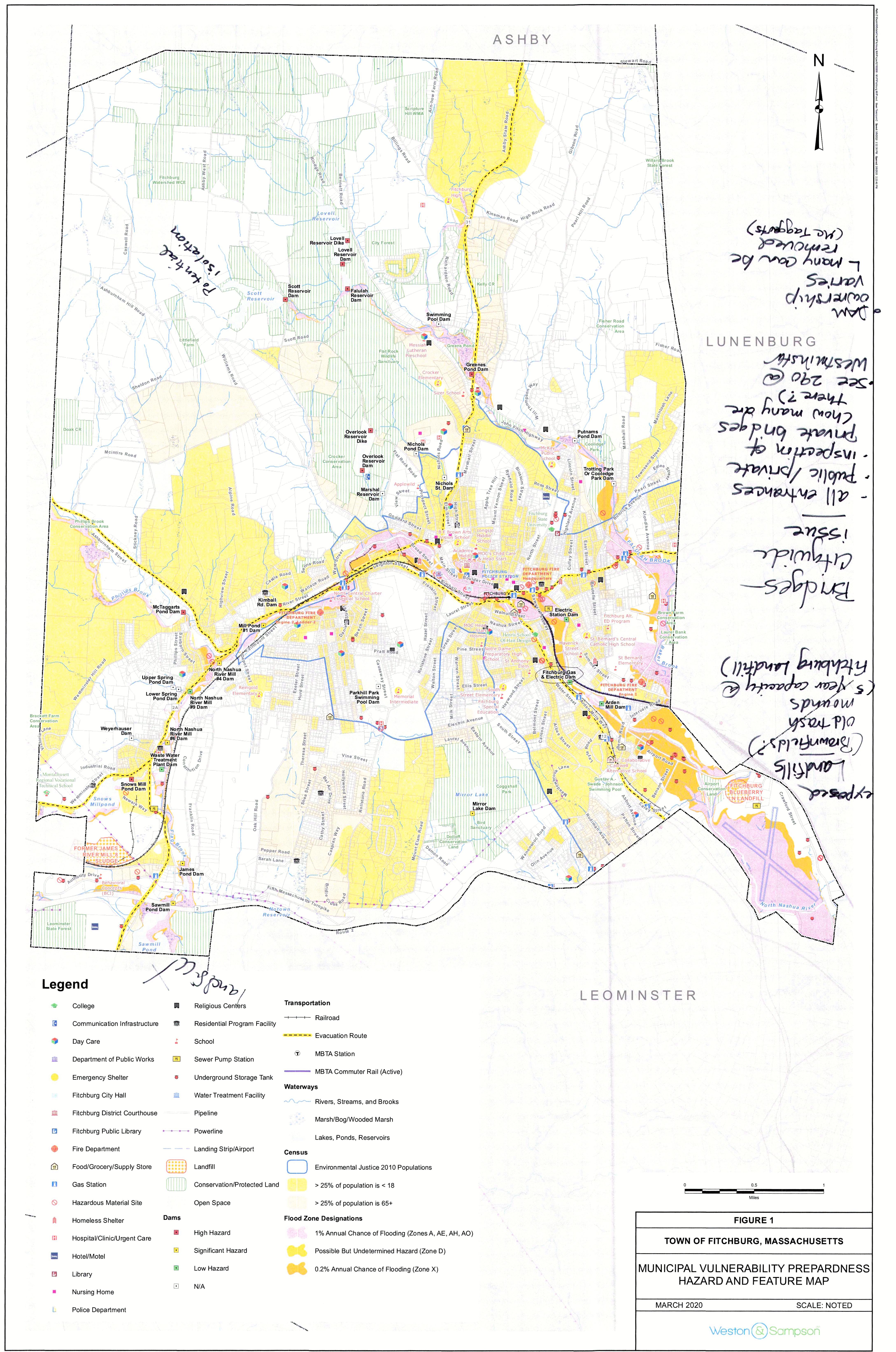
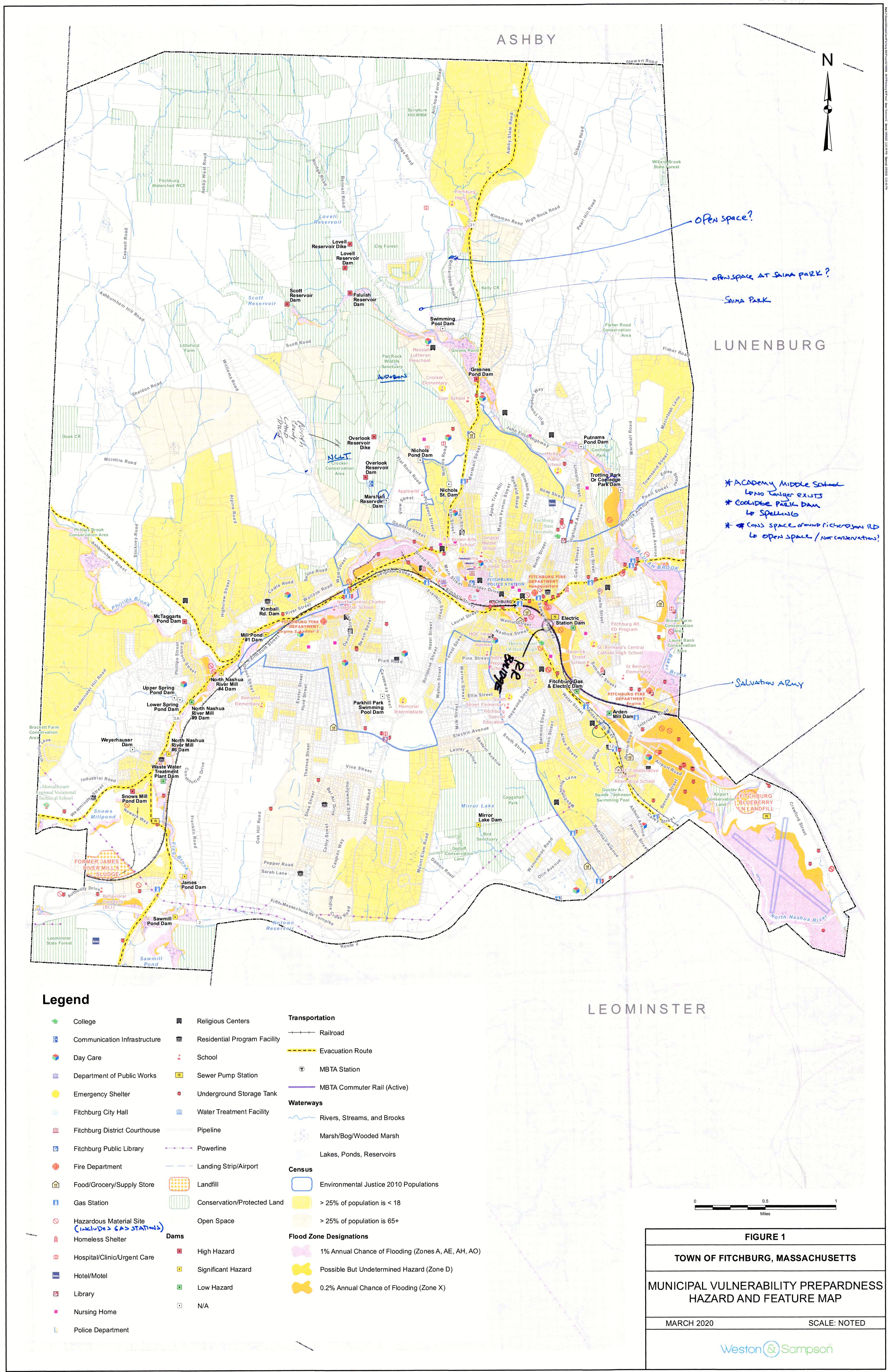


TABLE 2



## HIGHEST HIGH

+ Water Supply  
Dams

- remove unnecessary dams
- forest management to water supply

→ assessment + studies  
Environmental Contamination –  
Proper Equipment

→ Capacity, Policy/procedures, reciprocity agreements  
inventory of groups who could help

→ training, emerg. prep

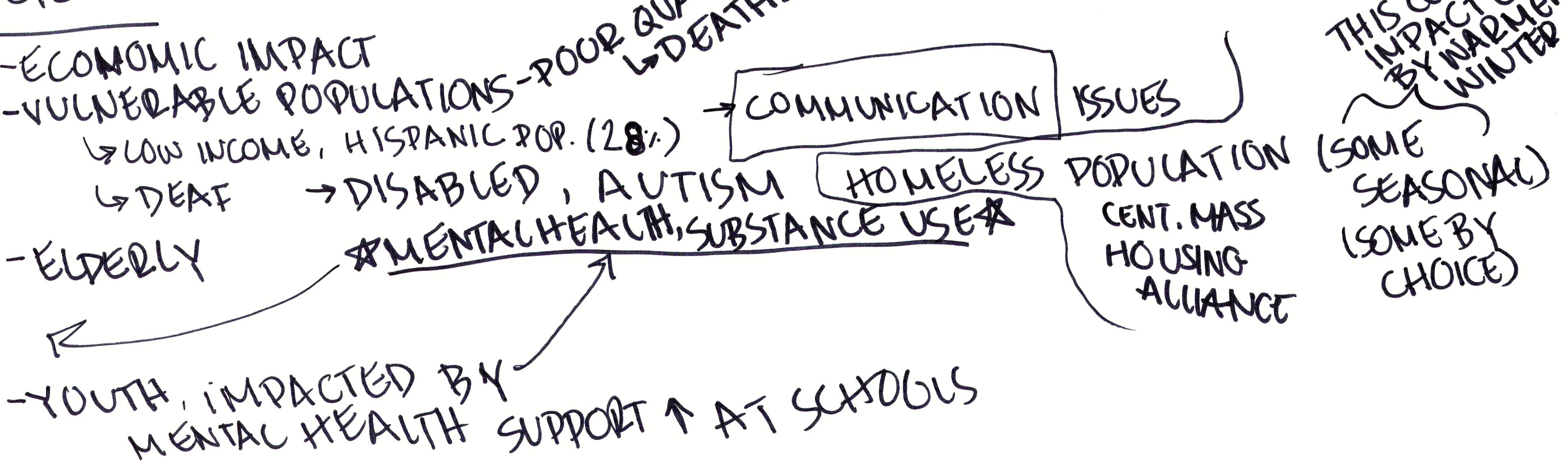
Social + Human Services → Poverty, homelessness

- inventory of services, assistance (housing, fuel supply)
- edu programs + more capacity
- housing in flood areas + poor condition - homeowner assistance
- improve mobility

Road + Drainage - funding JFH, ice flow road + drainage + Main + improve capacity upstream  
- Adopt a Rain Basin  
Airport - erosion control + flooding

INFRASTRUCTURAL FEATURES (PICK 6)

- STORMWATER SYSTEM (COMBINED) → MAKE NEW STORM DRAINS RESIL TO FUTURE FLOODS
  - ↳ MOVING TOWARDS SEPARATING
  - ↳ VULNERABLE TO FLOODING
- AIRPORT
- W W TREATMENT PLANT
- PUMP GALLEYS - SUBSURFACE
  - ↳ ELECTRONICS ARE AT GRADE LEVEL
  - ↳ EAST PLANT SLUDGE FOR AD FACILITIES (POTENTIAL PROJECT)
- ROADWAYS (FLOODING) + POTHOLES
  - MULTIPLE ALONG RIVER
  - JOHN FITCH HIGHWAY - VACANCIES BECAUSE OF FLOODING
  - WALLACE
  - OLD UTIL BUILDING ON DUMP SITE
- MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS (S+V) ≠
  - ↳ SHELTERS?
  - ↳ FLOODING
- UTILITIES (S) - UNDERGROUND DOWNTOWN
- PRIVATE / NON PROFIT
  - PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY
  - AGE (NOT ENOUGH MONEY TO FUND)
- BRIDGES
- PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDINGS
- DAMS

SOCIAL

## SOCIETAL (CONTINUED)

- GATEWAY CITY : FAMILIES COMING FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY
  - ↳ DO NOT HAVE CONTACTS HERE
- CLIMATE MIGRATION
- POLITICAL CLIMATE

Linden trees on Main doing well  
invasives - Japanese Knot weed  
- Bittersweet  
expense for city

## ENVIRONMENTAL

PUNCH BROOK - NOT WELL MAPPED  
UNDER BUILDINGS/BASEMENTS DOWNTOWN

③

TRAILS

SANDBROOK (UNDERGROUND) Baker Brook near JF Highway

④ Nashua River + mg tributaries - need regional collaboration

① Open Space + Forest (58%) - City owns near 3,000 acres

Reservoirs - 14 city-owned

Riverfront Park + Coolidge Park

② Environmental Contamination Sites - Brownfields + in operation

Infrastructural	Ownership	Priority	Flooding	Severe Thunder, Wind, Tornado	Extreme Temps	Nor'Easter Ice Storm, Severe Snow Storms	Priority	Timeframe
Road/Drainage/Bridges RR	city	v	implement drainage improvement john fitch highway	tree mantainence	green infrastructure	improve grading of roads	H	O
Water Supply	city	s	manage and protect continue forest management				H	O
Dams-Old Industrial McCaggents Dam	city/private	v	Remove McTaggart Dam explore others	maintain other dams continue inspection			H	O
Fire Dept-Emergency MGT	city	v	2 facilities- relocate improve response time	GM MGT needs future space			H	O
Schools- Pravate-Sizer Fitchburg University	city/public	v/s	N/A Mckay-needs SW drainage	roof repair needed	possible shelter	improve online	M	O
Airport- Transportation- Public	city	v/s	erosion control necessary stream bank		impact on pavement	support emergency staging	H	O
<b>Societal</b>								
Shelters-Heat/Cooling Salvation army/Sr. Controls	city/private	v/s	upgrades Senior Center needs parking		new salvation army has showers		H	O
Fitchburg State-shelter	state	s	coordinate on emergency response				M	O
Communications	city	s	improve code red and social media and communication structures emergency resp. - communication				H	O
At risk populations- low income-homeless, language-elders	city	v	coordinate on emergency response			maintain communicaion outreach - meals	H	O
Salvation Army	city	s						
Cert Program/Volunteers	city/private	s	support cert- inc. membership				M	O
<b>Environmental</b>								
open space-watershed chy forest	city	s	preserve open space beaver mgt.		gravel extraction		H	O
steep terrain	city	s						
brownfields- mcp sites	city	v	continue to clean up- brownfield remediation funds					
active rec-parks trails fields	city	s	explore co -benefits sw- crocker pk riverfront pk	support trails		expand riverfront pk		
urban parks green spaces- green infrastructure	city	v	look for opportunities to manage sw w/GI 1st and railroad park				H	O
Nashua River	city	v	work with Nashua river NS association				M	O

## Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

**H-M-L** priority for action over the **Short** or **Long** term (and **Ongoing**)  
**V** = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)				Priority	Time			
				Flooding	Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, Tornado	Ext. Temps	Nor'Easter, Ice/snow storms					
				H - M - L	Short	Long	Ongoing					
<b>Infrastructural</b>												
Bridge *Public and Private	city wide	mostly public some private	V	Replace/Repair	repair/replace reinforce	redesign	redesign	H	O			
Electric Transformer/Substation	city wide	mostly public some private	V	Flood proof	o&m/prioritization plan		policy/procedure o&m /prioritization	L/H	L/O			
Dams	city wide	public some private	V	Dam Assessment/Study (repair and remove)				H/M	L/O			
Wat/Sew/Gas Elect + Fiber utility Bld Conn.	city wide	mostly public some private	V	Assesment/Study and separation	repair/replace		condition assesment/inventory, repair/replace	M/L	L/O			
Trash Collection/Landfills	city wide-localized	public some private	V	assessment, study, longterm plan, public outreacha nd sup training, emergency preparedness, policy/procedures, equipment inventory, purchases, resource list, rec pro city agreements (local and regional, volunteer capacity			public education/outreach o&m oprimization or study requirement	H	S/L/O			
Lack of proper equipment	city wide	public	V	building				H	S/L/O			
<b>Societal</b>												
Cold weather vulnerable population	city wide	mostly private	V			Emergency assistacne repair/retrofit program, public education/outreach, aux. / backup power		H	S/L/O			
pets and animals- where do they go in an emergency	city wide	mostly private	V	inventory of local/regional resources, public education and outreach, coordination of volunteers, animal shelters (temp and permanent)				M/L	O			
Lack of Emergency Preparedness training	city wide	public	V		getting the appropriate training			H	S/O			
Mental Health	city wide	public and private	V	assesment / inventory of services, coordination pf services w/ agencies and support groups, public education outreach, volunteer groups, assisted living				H/M	S/L/O			
Homeless/Charities	city wide	public and private	V	same as above				H/M	S/L/O			
Poverty and Associated Issues	city wide	public	V	housing and transportation assistance programs, emergency /fuel assistance, support groups and prgroam , education and outreach, assisted living flood protection , recreation				H/M	S/L/O			
<b>Environmental</b>												
Rivers/ waterways	city wide	mostly public some private	v/s	Flood protection/recreation/development master plan				H/M	L			
Topography/rural character	city wide	public and private	v/s	conservation /open space plan, zoning and ordicance updates, presevation plans				H	S			
landfills/brownfields	localized mill area/industrial	public and private	v	studios/assement/inventories, landfill capping, remediation, repurposing				H	S/L/O			
hazardous commercials/industrial	localized/indust rial	private	v	training, emergency response, contingency planning, site assessment				H	S/L/O			
renewable/ sustainable energy	city wide	public and private	v/s	opportunity assessment, renewable energy master plan, anaerobic digetion				M	L			
open space	city wide	public and private	s	conservation /open space plan, zoning and ordicance updates, presevation plans some watershed protection, tree planting plan, urban canopy				M/L	L			

## Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

**H-M-L** priority for action over the **Short** or **Long** term (and **Ongoing**)

**V** = Vulnerability **S** = Strength

				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)				Priority	Time
				Flooding	Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, Tornadoes	Ext. Temps	Nor'Easters. Ice, snow storms		
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S					H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
<b>Infrastructural</b>									
WRN Management facilities	multiple throughout	private/public	S	elevate berm pump out water from behind berm, around plant stabilize bank w utilities: airport, treatment plant	look at climate projections for MS4			H	S/L
Municipal buildings/ downtown public safety	downtown	public	V	detention basin/rain garden/other ud BMPs	senior center police, fire, DPW library, elevated utilities where holding cells?			new building for emergency man, mutual aid	H O
Roadways and Bridges	throughout	town state	V	john fitch highway flood storage upgrading draining feas, study	hold water higher 1 river street up in the watershed , inspect main st. maintain catch basins and	greening downtown improving drainage	improving roadways street trees adopt a catch basin rain garden	H	L/O
Utilities (above and below ground)	throughout	private	S	ID crit. City infrastructure redundancy and general	bury utilities outside of utilities until-ongoing tree maint.	publiv outreach for health and cooling		H	S
Private /non profit	multiple throughout	private	S	outreach through these orgs. Cooperation between -orgs-resident	leverage heating cooling locations			H	S
Stormwater Conveyance	throughout	public	V	contine w/ms4 fuding to increase capacity for climate data eval for capacity	assessment to increase culvert size/wildlife passage	phillips brook, pacula brook coldwater fishary	update sw ordinance for holding - sw on new dev.	H	O
<b>Societal</b>									
Grocery Stroes (food)	john fitch water street	private	S	backup power so people can get food/ gas rain garden in detenction on john fitch	people can get food/gas			H	S/L
Economic Impact	city wide	proivate / public	S	solve flooding issue to reduce vacancies ass pverious to parking lot	implement econ. Dev plan w/resilience	tree box filter emphasis rec and green space , canoe/kayak access-past downtown		H	L/O
Vulnerable Populations	city wide coneent downtown		V	moving housing out of flooding	improve quality of housing assist lanlords	eligible for homeowner , increase access rehab program : outreach mobility/increase incorporate climate res. Bus route		H	O
Mental Health, substance use	city wide		V/S				public outreach for resources grants for mitigating high ise month bills	H	O
Elderly	city wide senior housing	housing authority public/provate	V/S				connection to senior center neighborhood programs	H	O
Youth	city wide schools		V/S	putreaching into youth orgs	ensure these facilities are available		increased housing school capacity , incorp resiliency	H	O
<b>Environmental</b>									
Brooks- ounch brook	city wide		V	ID ungeround brooks feas. Study-update/daylight				M	L/O
forested areas	ural part of city	3000 private and public	Sv wind	provide outrwach to residents on availability of trails and parks managing forested areas	zoning by law to have solar and forest	work /county land trust and other regional groups		M	S/O
urban parks	city wide	rural park mass sub private and public	S	adopt a park add detention basinspark hill park restoration, land aq. That need minimal maintanance	trail stewardship program-engage youth			M	O
tree canopy-invasives veg	city wide	public and private	S/V	Tree Boxes add tree to urban neighborhoods	ongoing tree maintan w/unitil	Solar panel zoning celebrate arbor day selective street trees invasice species survey/outreach and education		H	S/O
nashua river and trib	watershed		V/S	colab w/ neighborhoods communities to MIT flooding Interconnected Trail System	interconnected trail systems	land aquistion W Phillips and ficala brook		M	L/O
environmental contamination	ormer industrial area paper mills	private and public	V/S	clean up/ removing soil feasibility study/ enforcing AULS				H	O

## Appendix D

### Listening Session

# **LISTENING SESSION**

February 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30PM  
Fitchburg Senior Center



The City of Fitchburg was awarded a grant from the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to identify the City's strengths and vulnerabilities and develop an action plan for advancing the City's resilience.

Join us for an evening to provide your ideas for building a stronger Fitchburg. A presentation with interactive polling will be used as a basis for discussion.

Traducción al español proporcionada.

# SESIÓN DE ESCUCHA

Febrero 25 de 6:30-7:30PM

Fitchburg Senior Center



La Ciudad de Fitchburg recibió una subvención del Programa de Preparación de Vulnerabilidad Municipal (MVP) para identificar las fortalezas y vulnerabilidades de la Ciudad y desarrollar un plan de acción para avanzar la resiliencia de la Ciudad.

Únase y comparta sus ideas para construir un Fitchburg más fuerte. Una presentación con encuestas interactivas se utilizará como base para la discusión.

Traducción al español proporcionada.

# ARE WE PREPARED?

Help us identify the  
strengths and  
vulnerabilities in our  
community



PRESENTATION  
+ LIVE POLLING  
+ DISCUSSION

Tuesday  
**FEB**  
**25**

**6:30-**  
**7:30PM**



**Weston & Sampson**  
transform your environment

Fitchburg Senior Center  
14 Wallace Ave  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

# ¿ESTAMOS PREPARADOS?

Ayúdanos a identificar  
las fortalezas y  
vulnerabilidades de  
nuestra comunidad.



PRESENTACIÓN  
+ ENCUESTA  
EN VIVO  
+ DISCUSIÓN

Martes  
**FEB**  
**25**

**6:30-**  
**7:30PM**

Plan de Preparación para la  
Mitigación de Riesgos y la  
Vulnerabilidad Municipal



**Weston & Sampson**  
transform your environment

Fitchburg Senior Center

14 Wallace Ave  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Traducción al español proporcionada



Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan  
Listening Session

Fitchburg Senior Center  
2/25/2020  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Introductions	5 minutes
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Overview	10 minutes
Climate Change in Fitchburg	10 minutes
Strengths in Fitchburg	10 minutes
Vulnerabilities in Fitchburg	10 minutes
Summary of Existing Mitigation Measures in Fitchburg	10 minutes
Wrap-up	5 minutes



Sesión de Escucha del Plan de Preparación para la Mitigación de Riesgos y la Vulnerabilidad Municipal

Centro de Adultos Mayores en Fitchburg  
2/25/2020  
18:30 – 19:30 p.m.

Introducción	5 minutos
Explicación del Programa de Preparación para la Vulnerabilidad Municipal (MVP)	10 minutos
Cambio Climático en Fitchburg	10 minutos
Fortalezas en Fitchburg	10 minutos
Vulnerabilidades en Fitchburg	10 minutos
Resumen de las Medidas de Mitigación Existentes en Fitchburg	10 minutos
Conclusión	5 minutos



Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan Listening Session

2/25/2020 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm



Sesión de Escucha del Plan de Preparación para la Mitigación de Riesgos y la Vulnerabilidad Municipal  
2/25/2020 | 18:30-19:30

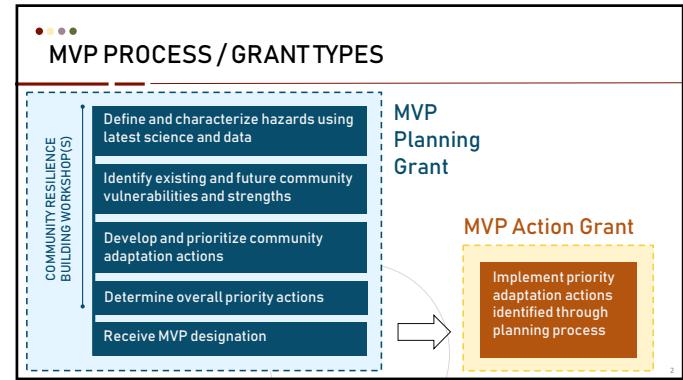


**CITY OF FITCHBURG**

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness  
Listening Session

Weston & Sampson Photo: Fitchburg. Photo by J. Stachowiak. Fitchburg Facebook page.

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**MVP PLANNING GRANT COMPONENT**

**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

- Aligns with MVP Process
- Extended hazard profiles and vulnerability assessment
- Update to previous mitigation measures table

**EXPANDED OUTREACH**

- Public engagement strategy to reach up to four target populations
- Develop up to additional outreach and promotional materials
- Translation services

**RIVER FLOOD REDUCTION ASSESSMENT**

- Project future flood flows and critical elevations at flood reduction sites
- Create maps and evaluate vulnerability
- Prepare a template for an Emergency Action Plan

3

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**MVP Action Grants: Project Types**

- Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
- Community Outreach and Education
- Local Bylaws, Ordinances, Plans, and Other Management Measures
- Redesigns and Retrofits
- Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Mitigation, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques
- Nature-Based, Infrastructure and Technology Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality
- Nature-Based Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability to other Climate Change Impacts
- Ecological Restoration and Habitat Management to Increase Resiliency
- Energy Resilience
- Chemical Safety
- Land Acquisition for Resilience
- Subsidized Low-Income Housing Resilience Strategies
- Mosquito Control Districts

4

**Example Action Grant Projects**

Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Prevention, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques

**Millbury**

Utilizing green infrastructure like stormwater planters, bioretention bump outs, rain gardens, and other measures like porous pavers and pervious pavement to reduce heat island effects and stormwater runoff into the Blackstone River.




**Nature-based solutions**



5

**Example Action Grant Projects**

Detailed Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Further Planning

**Holyoke**

Conducted a detailed demographic analysis of individuals who arrived in Holyoke from Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria and develop recommendations for planning for future climate change migrants in Holyoke

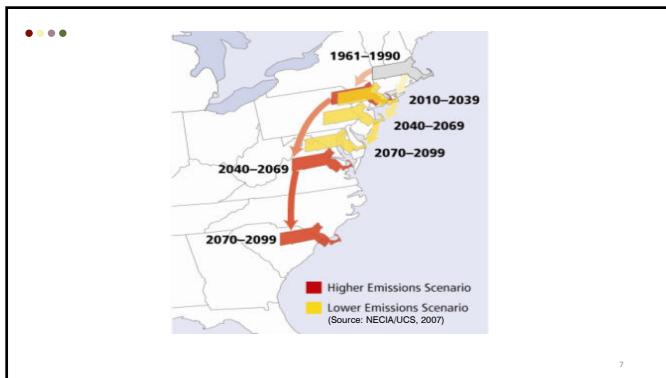
**Hampden County's Puerto Rican Population, 2017**

Map showing the distribution of Puerto Rican population in Hampden County, Massachusetts, by census tract. The map includes a legend and a table of data.

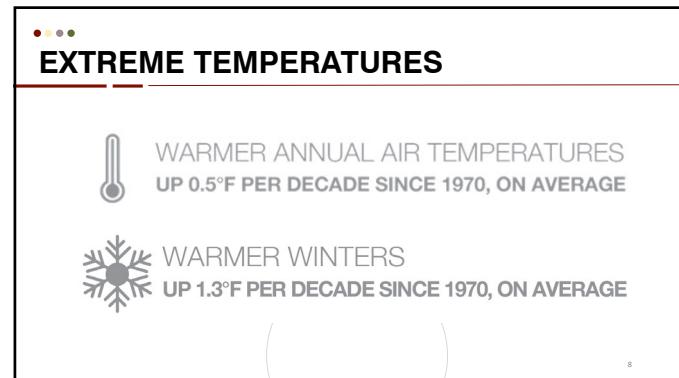
Category	Population
Holyoke City	0
Other Hampden City	0
All Non-Profits	217 - 651
All Non-profits	652 - 1,081
Total	2,082 - 3,727

Informational graphics from Holyoke's final report

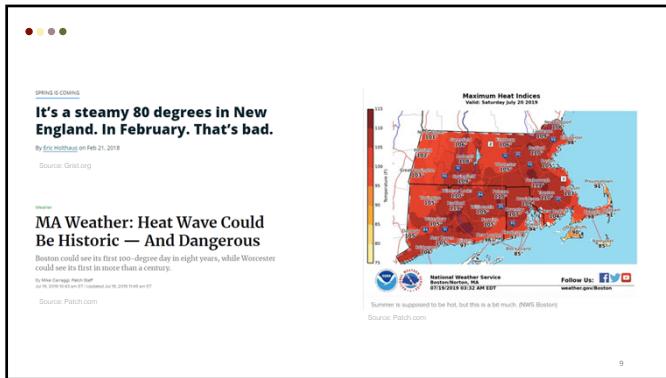
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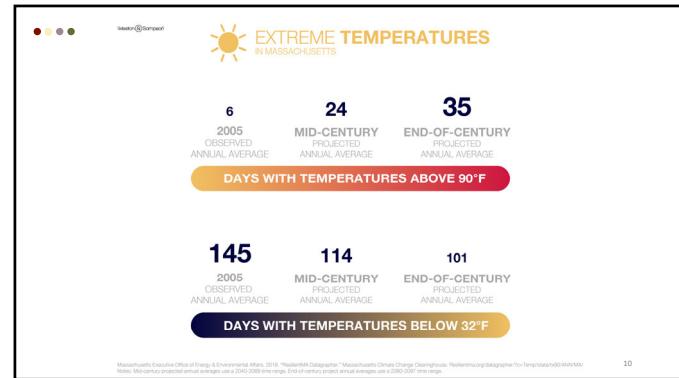
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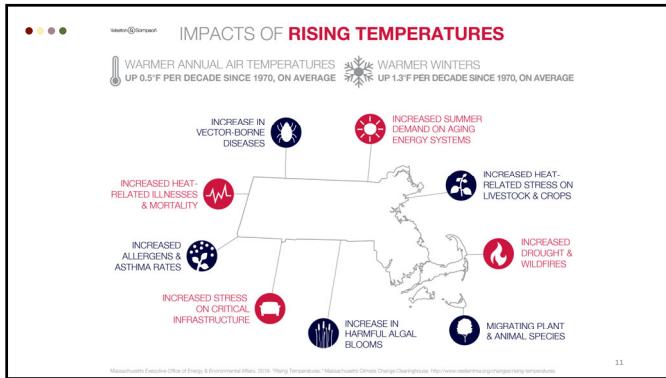
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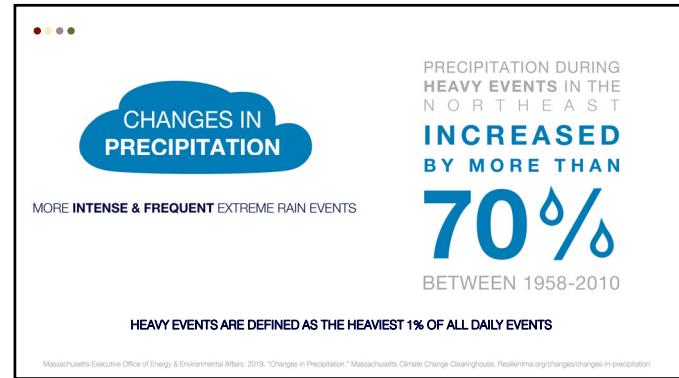
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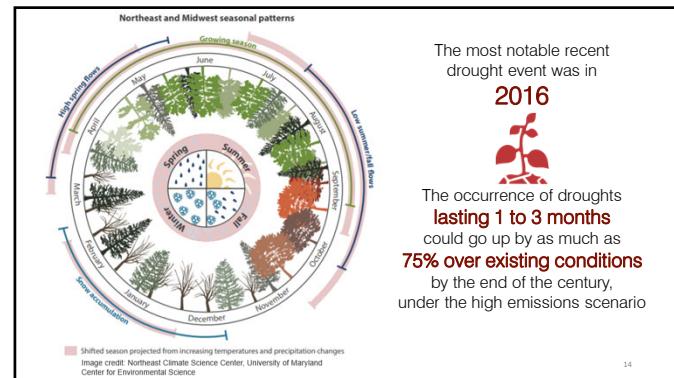
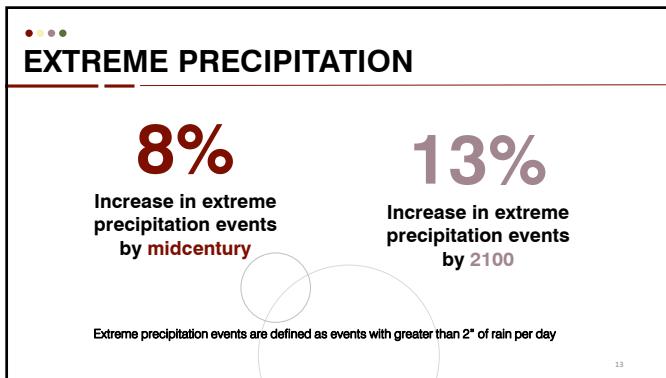
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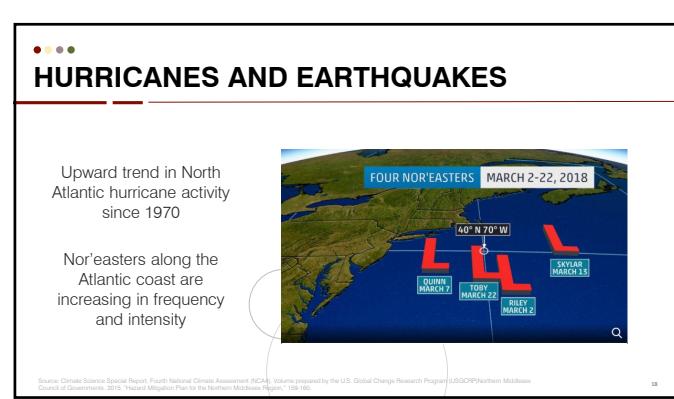
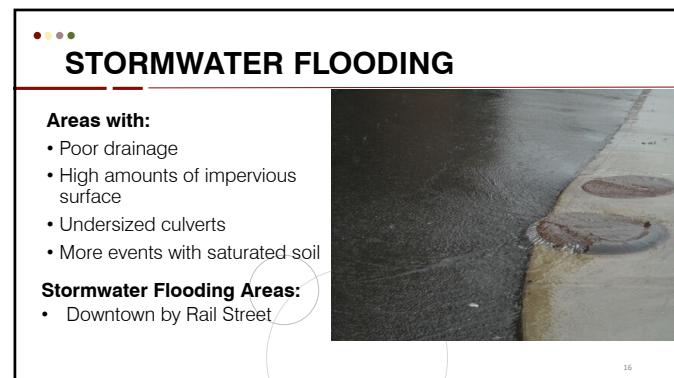
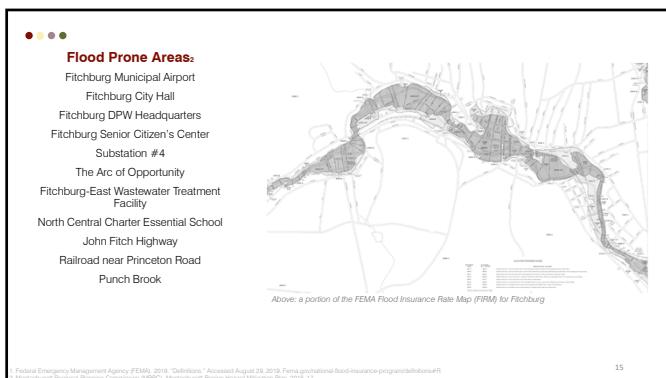


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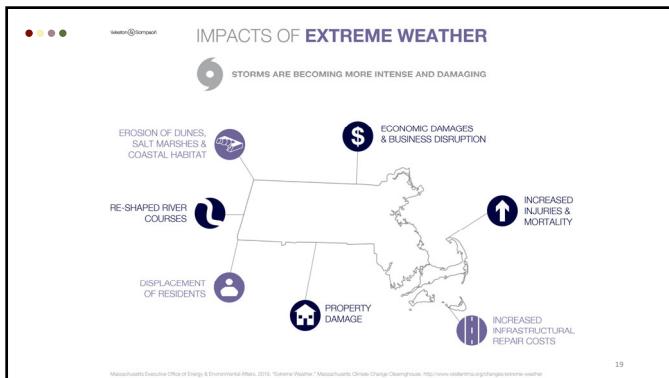


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**What hazard most concerns you?**

A. Nor'easters, Snowstorms, Ice  
 B. Extreme temperatures  
 C. Drought  
 D. Flooding  
 E. Wind, Hurricane, Tornado  
 F. Other

20

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**How prepared do you feel the City is for future extreme events?**

A. I feel the City is completely prepared  
 B. I feel the City is somewhat prepared  
 C. I do not feel the City is prepared

21

21

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**What category is our greatest strength regarding climate hazards?**

A. Infrastructure; including roads, bridges, culverts, and dams  
 B. Natural systems; including parks, trails, rivers, and ponds  
 C. Societal groups; including elderly residents, young children, and emergency management personnel  
 D. All of the Above  
 E. Other

22

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**What features are our greatest strength regarding climate hazards?**

23

23

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**What category is most vulnerable to climate hazards?**

A. Infrastructure; including roads, bridges, culverts, and dams  
 B. Natural systems; including parks, trails, rivers, and ponds  
 C. Societal groups; including elderly residents, young children, and emergency management personnel  
 D. All of the Above  
 E. Other

24

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## What features are our greatest vulnerability regarding climate hazards?

25

### ••• What group or asset are you most worried about being impacted by climate hazards?

- A. Infrastructure; including roads, bridges, culverts, and dams
- B. Natural systems; including parks, trails, rivers, and ponds
- C. Societal groups; including elderly residents, young children, and emergency management personnel
- D. d. Other

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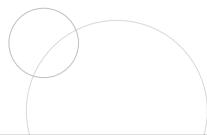
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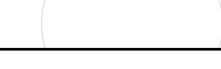
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### What services, initiatives, or mitigation measures are you aware of in Fitchburg?

- A. CodeRED for emergency information
- B. Portable backup generator
- C. Senior Center as an emergency shelter
- D. Member of the Montachusett Regional Emergency Planning Committee
- E. Other



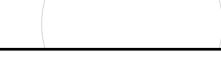
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### ••• How can the City improve its public education and outreach to better share this information?

- A. Share information through public events
- B. Share information through printed media; including reports, fact sheets, or brochures
- C. Share information digitally, including through the website and social media
- D. Share information using local access TV
- E. Strategic outreach to vulnerable populations, such as elderly residents or other groups



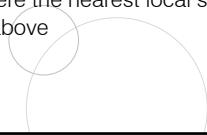
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### What steps have you already taken to become more prepared?

- A. I have a kit in case of emergencies (which may include food, water, flashlights, batteries, and other supplies)
- B. I receive news, updates, and information about emergency preparedness in Fitchburg
- C. I know where the nearest local shelter is
- D. All of the above
- E. Other



29

### ••• What resources do you need to feel more prepared?

- A. More information on areas and infrastructure that are vulnerable to climate impacts
- B. More information on evacuation routes and shelters
- C. More information on preparing an emergency kit and receiving news updates during an extreme event
- D. Other



29

30

••• **How should Fitchburg prioritize climate adaptation measures?**

- A. Based on funding
- B. Time frame
- C. Asset type (i.e., infrastructure, buildings, or natural systems)
- D. Impact on public safety
- E. Other

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**CIUDAD DE FITCHBURG**

Preparación para la Vulnerabilidad Municipal  
Sesión de Escucha

Weston & Sampson Foto: Fitchburg Foto de J. Steeberger, página de Facebook de Fitchburg, 2015.

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**MVP COMPONENTE DE SUBVENCIÓN DE PLANIFICACIÓN**

**PLAN DE MITIGACIÓN DE PELIGROS**

- Se alinea con el proceso MVP
- Perfiles de peligro extendidos y evaluación de vulnerabilidad.
- Actualización de la tabla de medidas de mitigación.

**ALCANCE AMPLIADO**

- Estrategia de participación pública para alcanzar hasta cuatro poblaciones.
- Desarrollar material de divulgación y promoción adicional.
- Servicios de traducción.

**EVALUACIÓN DE REDUCCIÓN DE INUNDACIONES EN EL RÍO**

- Proyectar flujos futuros de inundaciones y elevaciones críticas en zonas de reducción de inundaciones.
- Crear mapas y evaluar la vulnerabilidad.
- Preparar una plantilla para Plan de Acción de Emergencia.

3

**MVP Subvenciones de acción: Tipos de Proyectos**

- Evaluación de Vulnerabilidad y Riesgos
- Alcance Comunitario y Educación
- Estatutos Locales, Ordenanzas, Planes y otras Medidas de Gestión
- Rediseños y Modernizaciones
- Técnicas de Protección contra Inundaciones basadas en la Naturaleza, Mitigación de Sequías, Calidad e Infiltración del Agua
- Soluciones de Infraestructura y Tecnología basadas en la Naturaleza para Reducir la Vulnerabilidad al Calor Extremo y calidad del aire
- Soluciones basadas en la Naturaleza para reducir la Vulnerabilidad de impactos por el cambio climático
- Gestión y Restauración Ecológica para aumentar la resiliencia
- Resiliencia Energética
- Seguridad Química
- Adquisición de Tierras para la Resiliencia
- Estrategias de Resiliencia para Viviendas Subsidiadas de Bajos Ingresos
- Distritos de Control de Mosquitos

4

**Ejemplos de Proyectos de Acciones**

Protección contra inundaciones basada en la naturaleza, prevención de sequías, calidad del agua y técnicas de infiltración de agua

**Millbury**



Utilizando la infraestructura verde como filtros de aguas pluviales, protuberancias de biorretención, jardines de lluvia y otras medidas como adoquines porosos y pavimentos permeables para reducir los efectos de las islas de calor y la escorrentía de aguas pluviales en el río Blackstone.



**Soluciones basadas en la naturaleza**

5

**Ejemplos de Proyectos de Acciones**

Evaluación detallada de vulnerabilidad y riesgo, planificación adicional

**Holyoke**



Se llevó a cabo un análisis demográfico detallado de las personas que llegaron a Holyoke desde Puerto Rico como resultado del huracán María y se desarrollaron recomendaciones para la planificación de futuros migrantes dado el cambio climático en Holyoke

**Población puertorriqueña del condado de Hampden, 2017**

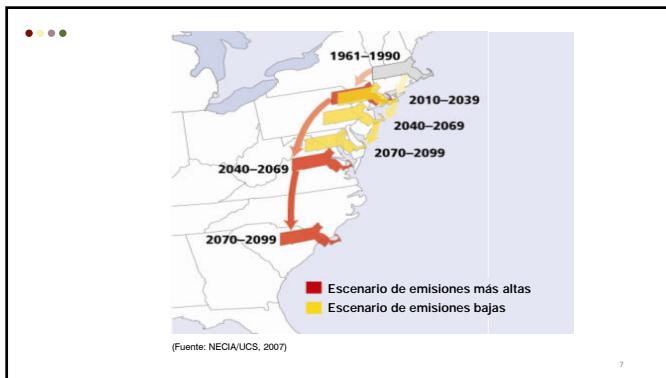


Gráficas informativas del informe final de Holyoke

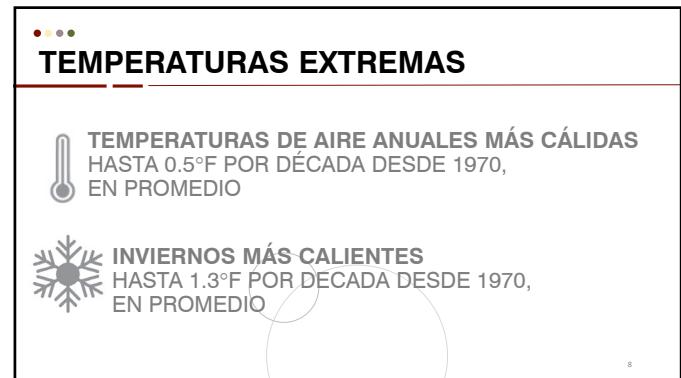
	Frex	Percent
Helpful	26	63.4
I don't know	7	15.1
Neither helpful nor unhelpful	2	4.9
There was no response from this resource	6	14.6
Total	41	100

Creditos de Imagen: Town of Holyoke, Hunter College CUNY, El Instituto UConn

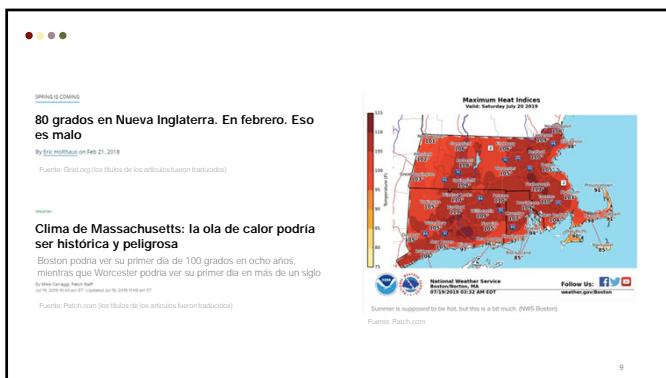
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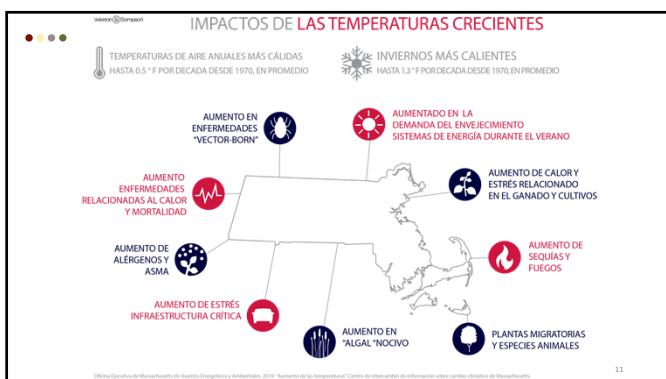
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12

## PRECIPITACIÓN EXTREMA

**8%**

Aumento de las precipitaciones extremas a mediados del siglo

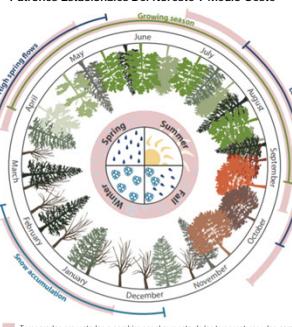
**13%**

Aumento de las precipitaciones extremas en el 2100

Los eventos de precipitación extrema se definen como eventos con más de 2" de lluvia por día

13

### Patrones Estacionales Del Noreste Y Medio Oeste



Crédito de la imagen: Northeast Climate Science Center, Centro de Ciencias Ambientales de la Universidad de Maryland

El evento de sequía reciente más notable fue en

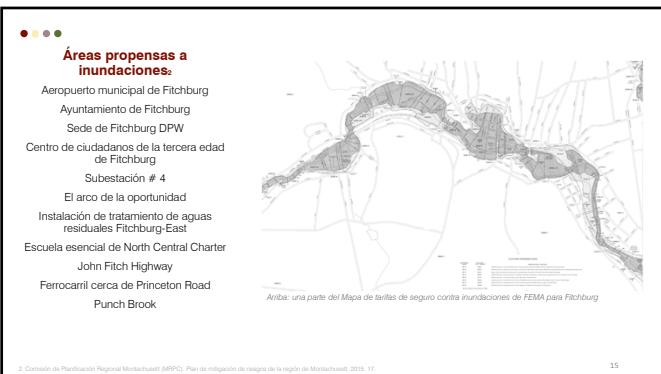
**2016**



La ocurrencia de sequías que duran de **1 a 3 meses** podrían subir tanto como un **75%** sobre las condiciones existentes a finales del siglo bajo el escenario de altas emisiones

14

13



14

## INUNDACIONES DE AGUAS TORMENTAS

### Áreas con:

- Mal drenaje
- Altas cantidades de superficie impermeable.
- Alcantarillas de menor tamaño
- Más eventos con suelo saturado.

### Áreas de inundación de aguas pluviales :

- El centro por Rail Street



## TORMENTAS GRAVES

"Las fuertes tormentas de nieve se encuentran entre los eventos climáticos **más costosos y perjudiciales** para las comunidades de Massachusetts".

La tormenta de nieve de 2013 dejó a casi **400,000** residentes de Massachusetts sin electricidad

El noreste se desentierra de una tormenta monstruosa: más de 2 pies de nieve entierran comunidades en Nueva York, Massachusetts, Vermont

By Dan Peck, Max Galkin and Emily Shapiro  
December 3, 2013, 3:39 PM + 1 min read  
[http://www.espn.com/weather/article/\\_/id/10740554](http://www.espn.com/weather/article/_/id/10740554)



"Fitchburg, Massachusetts está enterrado bajo 27 pulgadas de nieve".

17

## HURACANES Y TERREMOTOS

Tendencia al alza en las actividades de huracanes en el Atlántico norte desde 1970

La frecuencia y la intensidad de la costa del Atlántico a lo largo de la costa atlántica no están aumentando



18

17



19

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**¿Qué peligro te preocupa más?**

A. Tormentas de nieve y hielo  
B. Temperaturas extremas  
C. Sequía  
D. Inundación  
E. Viento, huracán y tornados  
F. Otros

20

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**¿Qué tan preparado se siente la ciudad para futuros eventos extremos?**

A. Siento que la ciudad está completamente preparada  
B. Siento que la ciudad está algo preparada  
C. No siento que la ciudad esté preparada

21

21

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**¿Qué categoría es nuestra mayor fortaleza con respecto a los riesgos climáticos?**

A. Infraestructura; incluyendo carreteras, puentes, alcantarillas y presas  
B. Sistemas naturales; incluyendo parques, senderos, ríos y estanques  
C. Grupos sociales; incluidos residentes de edad avanzada, niños pequeños y personal de gestión de emergencias  
D. Todas las anteriores  
E. Otro

22

22

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**¿Qué características son nuestra mayor fortaleza con respecto a los riesgos climáticos?**

23

23

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**¿Qué categoría es más vulnerable a los riesgos climáticos?**

A. Infraestructura; incluyendo carreteras, puentes, alcantarillas y presas  
B. Sistemas naturales; incluyendo parques, senderos, ríos y estanques  
C. Grupos sociales; incluidos residentes de edad avanzada, niños pequeños y personal de gestión de emergencias  
D. Todas las anteriores  
E. Otro

24

•••

## ¿Qué características son nuestra mayor vulnerabilidad con respecto a los riesgos climáticos?

25

••• ¿Qué grupo o activo le preocupa que sea más ser afectado por los peligros climáticos?

- A. Infraestructura; incluyendo carreteras, puentes, alcantarillas y presas
- B. Sistemas naturales; incluyendo parques, senderos, ríos y estanques
- C. Grupos sociales; incluidos residentes de edad avanzada, niños pequeños y personal de gestión de emergencias.
- D. Otro

26

••• ¿Qué servicios, iniciativas o medidas de mitigación conoce en Fitchburg?

- A. CodeRED para información de emergencia
- B. Generador de respaldo portátil
- C. Centro de adultos mayores como refugio de emergencia
- D. Miembro del Comité de Planificación de Emergencia Regional Montachusett
- E. Otro

27

••• ¿Cómo puede la Ciudad mejorar su educación y alcance público para compartir mejor esta información?

- A. Compartir información a través de eventos públicos.
- B. Compartir información a través de medios impresos; incluidos informes, hojas informativas o folletos
- C. Compartir información digitalmente, incluso a través del sitio web y las redes sociales
- D. Compartir información utilizando la televisión de acceso local
- E. Alcance estratégico a poblaciones vulnerables, como residentes de edad avanzada u otros grupos

28

••• ¿Qué pasos has tomado para estar más preparado?

- A. Tengo un kit en caso de emergencias (que puede incluir alimentos, agua, linternas, baterías y otros suministros)
- B. Recibo noticias, actualizaciones e información sobre preparación para emergencias en Fitchburg
- C. Sé dónde está el refugio local más cercano
- D. Todas las anteriores
- E. Otro

29

••• ¿Qué recursos necesitas para sentirte más preparado?

- A. Más información sobre áreas e infraestructura que son vulnerables a los impactos climáticos
- B. Más información sobre rutas de evacuación y refugios
- C. Más información sobre cómo preparar un kit de emergencia y recibir actualizaciones de noticias durante un evento extremo
- D. Otro

30

• • • **¿Cómo debería priorizar Fitchburg las medidas de adaptación climática?**

- A. Basado en fondos
- B. Periodo de tiempo
- C. Tipo de activo (es decir, infraestructura, edificios o sistemas naturales)
- D. Impacto en la seguridad pública
- E. Otro



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## Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan Listening Session

Fitchburg Senior Center  
2/25/2020  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

### Introductions 5 minutes

- Andrew Couture
- Nick Erickson
- Nicolas Bosonetto
- Amanda Kohn
- Steve Roy
- Jeanette Cantu

### Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Overview 10 minutes

### Climate Change in Fitchburg 10 minutes

#### Comments:

- John Fitch Highway has historically flooded. This area is very vulnerable.
- Many old pipes, some are clay and date back to the late 1800s.
- The SSO is a big project.
- In 2008, the ice storm left people without power for two weeks.

### Strengths in Fitchburg 10 minutes

#### Comments:

- CERT team. Should expand.

### Vulnerabilities in Fitchburg 10 minutes

#### Comments:

- Culverts collect silt and debris.
- Need more tree in certain areas.
- Not many shelters for those experiencing homelessness

### Summary of Existing Mitigation Measures in Fitchburg 10 minutes

#### Comments:

- McTaggart's Dam. Removal is being discussed and will likely move forward. Dam removal is very costly and there are historic ties to some of the dams.

### Wrap-up 5 minutes

- Ward 3 is a wooded area. Personal resilience is critical. Ideas and support on how to become more resilient would be welcomed. For example, sharing creative ideas for heat like putting tea lights on a cookie try with aluminum foil.
- Get the word out through Ward meetings, flyers, Facebook, and the community calendar
- Meeting spaces: Library Garden Rm. Great Wolf Conference Rm. Memorial Hall.

# HELP US PLAN FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

Traducción al español proporcionada.



ONLINE  
PRESENTATION  
+ DISCUSSION

Thursday  
APR  
16

6:30-  
7:30PM

Hazard Mitigation and  
Climate Adaptation  
Planning



**Weston & Sampson**  
transform your environment

Register at  
<https://tinyurl.com/FitchburgMVP>

Please contact us if you have  
any questions or concerns. A  
video recording of the  
presentation will be available  
following the event.

Nicholas Erickson, PE  
Civil Engineer  
City of Fitchburg  
(978) 829-1905  
nerickson@fitchburgma.g

# AYÚDANOS A PLANIFICAR UN MAÑANA MÁS FUERTE

Traducción al español será  
proporcionada.



PRESENTACIÓN  
EN LÍNEA +  
DISCUSIÓN

Jueves  
**ABRIL**  
**16**

**6:30-  
7:30PM**

Mitigación de Riesgos y  
Planificación para la  
Adaptación Climática



**Weston & Sampson**  
transform your environment

Registrarse en

<https://tinyurl.com/FitchburgMVP>

Por favor contáctenos si tiene  
alguna pregunta o inquietud.  
Una grabación de video de la  
presentación estará  
disponible después del  
evento.

Nicholas Erickson, PE  
Ingeniero Civil  
Ciudad de Fitchburg  
(978) 829-1905  
nerickson@fitchburgma.g

# ONLINE HAZARD MITIGATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION INPUT SESSION

April 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30PM



The City of Fitchburg is seeking community feedback as a part of their hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning process. The online event will consist of a brief presentation followed by time for questions and comments.

**Register at [tinyurl.com/FitchburgMVP](https://tinyurl.com/FitchburgMVP)  
or by contacting:  
Nick Erickson  
978.829.1905  
[nerickson@fitchburgma.gov](mailto:nerickson@fitchburgma.gov)**

Please reach out if you have barriers to joining the event. The session will be recorded and available online for later viewing with a survey to collect input.

Traducción al español proporcionada.

# SESIÓN DE DISCUSIÓN PARA LA MITIGACIÓN DEL PELIGRO EN LÍNEA Y LA ADAPTACIÓN CLIMÁTICA

Abril 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30PM



La ciudad de Fitchburg está buscando comentarios de la comunidad como parte del proceso de la Planificación de Mitigación de Riesgos y Adaptación Climática. El evento en línea consistirá en una breve presentación seguida de tiempo para preguntas y comentarios.

**Regístrese en [tinyurl.com/FitchburgMVP](http://tinyurl.com/FitchburgMVP)  
o contactando:**

**Nick Erickson  
978.829.1905  
[nerickson@fitchburgma.gov](mailto:nerickson@fitchburgma.gov)**

Comuníquese en caso de tener algún impedimento para unirse al evento. La sesión se grabará y estará disponible en línea para su visualización con una encuesta para recopilar información posterior al evento.

Traducción al español será proporcionada.



Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan  
Listening Session

4/16/2020 – 6:30-8:30  
*Online Discussion and Polling*

Introductions	5 minutes
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Overview	10 minutes
Climate Change in Fitchburg	15 minutes
Strengths in Fitchburg	15 minutes
Vulnerabilities in Fitchburg	15 minutes
Summary of Existing Mitigation Measures in Fitchburg	10 minutes
Priority Action Items in Fitchburg	15 minutes
Wrap-up	5 minutes



**CITY OF FITCHBURG**  
 Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation  
 Planning Process  
 Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Weston & Sampson Photo: Fitchburg. Photo by J. Stephinger. Fitchburg Facebook page, 2015.

1



**BIENVENIDOS ESPECTADORES**  
 Gracias por participar

Weston & Sampson Photo: Amanda Kohn, Weston & Sampson

4



**CIUDAD DE FITCHBURG**  
 Mitigación de Riesgos y Adaptación Climática  
 Proceso de Planificación  
 Jueves, 16 de Abril del 2020

Weston & Sampson Photo: Fitchburg. Photo by J. Stephinger. Fitchburg Facebook page, 2015.

2

**WEBINAR LOGISTICS**



ONLINE EVENT      RECORDING      SURVEY

5

5



**WELCOME VIEWERS**  
 Thank you for participating

Weston & Sampson Photo: Amanda Kohn, Weston & Sampson

3

**LOGÍSTICA WEBINAR**



EVENTO EN LÍNEA      GRABACIÓN      ENCUESTA

6

1

## AGENDA

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

- Overview of Climate Change
- Strengths and Vulnerabilities
- Priority Action Items
- Next Steps

Photo: 658 Main Street. Photo provided by Nick Erickson



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## PROCESO MVP / TIPOS DE SUBVENCIÓN

**TALLER (S) DE CREADOR DE RESILIENCIA COMUNITARIA**

- Definir y caracterizar los peligros utilizando la ciencia y los datos más recientes.
- Identificar vulnerabilidades y fortalezas comunitarias existentes y futuras.
- Desarrollar y priorizar acciones de adaptación comunitaria.
- Determinar acciones generales de prioridad.
- Recibir la designación MVP

**MVP**  
Subvención de Planificación

**MVP Beca de Acción**

Implementar acciones prioritarias de adaptación identificadas a través del Proceso de Planificación

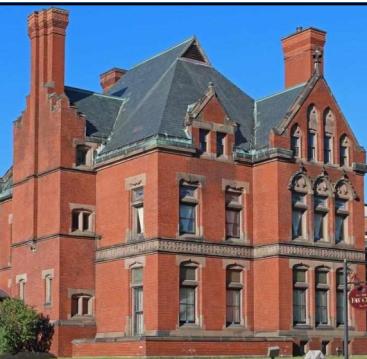
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## AGENDA

Presentación y discusión:

- Panorama general del cambio climático.
- Fortalezas y vulnerabilidades.
- Elementos de acción de prioridad y sus próximos pasos.

Photo: 658 Main Street. Photo provided by Nick Erickson



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## MVP Subvenciones de acción: Tipos de Proyectos

- Evaluación de Vulnerabilidad y Riesgos
  - Alcance Comunitario y de Educación
  - Estatutos Locales, Ordenanzas, Planes y otras Medidas de Gestión
  - Distritos de Control de Mosquitos
- Rediseños y Modernizaciones
  - Estrategias de Resiliencia para Viviendas Subsidiares de Bajos Ingresos
  - Resiliencia Energética
  - Seguridad Química
- Soluciones basadas en la Naturaleza
  - Reducir la Vulnerabilidad de impactos por el cambio climático
  - Adquisición de Tierras para la Resiliencia.
  - Protección contra Inundaciones, Mitigación de Sequías, Calidad e Infiltración del Agua.
  - Soluciones de Infraestructura y Tecnología para Reducir la Vulnerabilidad al Calor Extremo y calidad del aire.
  - Gestión y Restauración Ecológica para aumentar la resiliencia

11

## MVP PROCESS / GRANT TYPES

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS**

- Define and characterize hazards using latest science and data
- Identify existing future community vulnerabilities and strength
- Develop and prioritize community adaptation actions
- Determine overall priority actions
- Receive MVP designation

**MVP Planning Grant**

**MVP Action Grant**

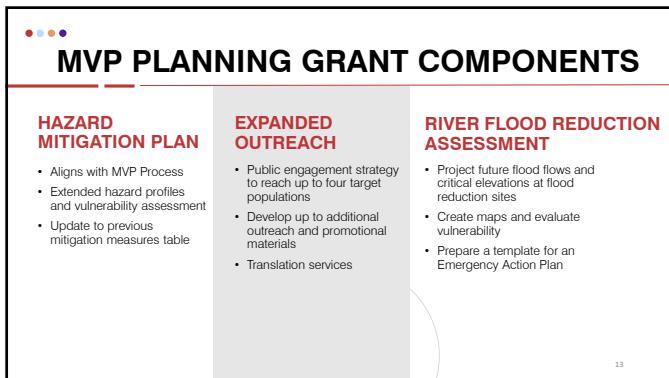
Implement priority adaptation actions identified through planning process

9

## MVP Subvenciones de acción: Tipos de Proyectos

- Evaluación de Vulnerabilidad y Riesgos
  - Alcance Comunitario y de Educación
  - Estatutos Locales, Ordenanzas, Planes y otras Medidas de Gestión
  - Distritos de Control de Mosquitos
- Rediseños y Modernizaciones
  - Estrategias de Resiliencia para Viviendas Subsidiares de Bajos Ingresos
  - Resiliencia Energética
  - Seguridad Química
- Soluciones basadas en la Naturaleza
  - Reducir la Vulnerabilidad de impactos por el cambio climático
  - Adquisición de Tierras para la Resiliencia.
  - Protección contra Inundaciones, Mitigación de Sequías, Calidad e Infiltración del Agua.
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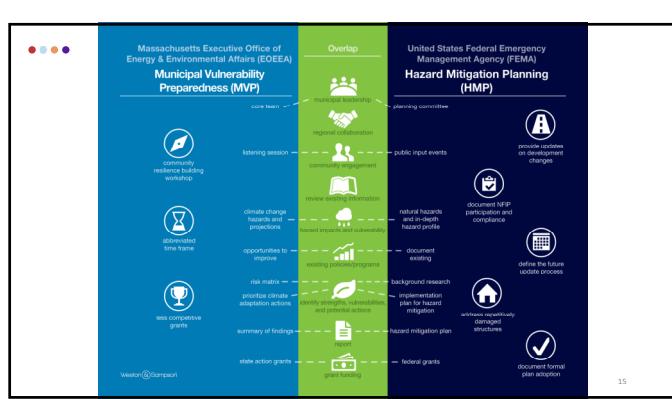
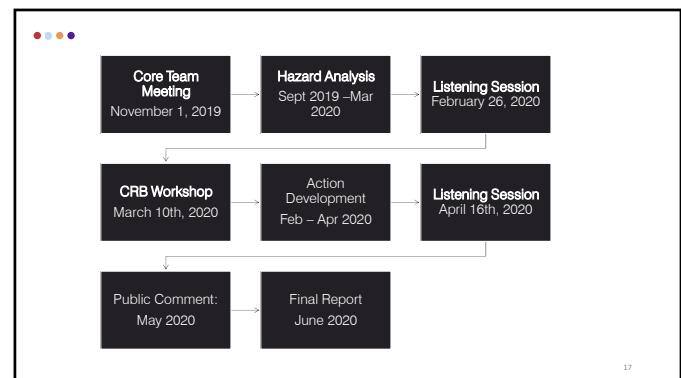
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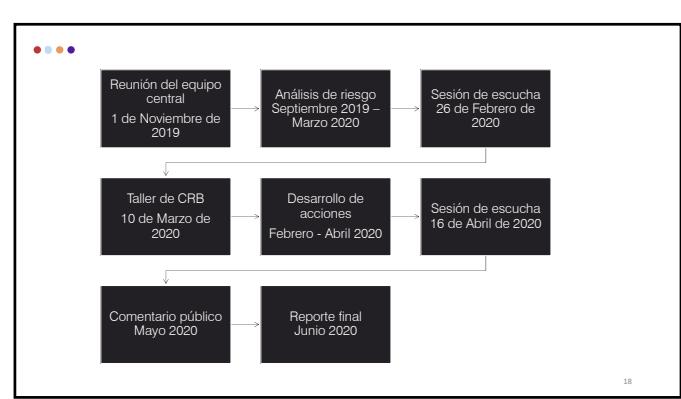
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## TODAY'S SUMMARY

Focus on 4 Hazards

Identify:

- Vulnerabilities
- Strengths
- Priority Action Items

Across 3 Categories

- Infrastructure
- Societal
- Environmental



19

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## PRINCIPALES PELIGROS EN FITCHBURG



Temperaturas extremas



Nor'easters, tormentas de hielo y tormentas de nieve



Tormentas severas, vientos y tornados



Inundaciones

22

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## RESUMEN DE HOY

Concentración en 4 peligros

Identificar:

- Vulnerabilidades
- Fortalezas
- Elementos de acción prioritarios

En 3 categorías:

- Infraestructura
- Social
- Ambiental



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**SPRING IS COMING**

**It's a steamy 80 degrees in New England. In February. That's bad.**

By Eric Meltzer on Feb 21, 2018

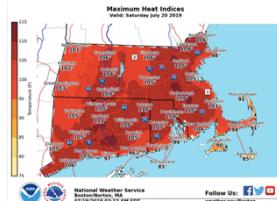
Source: Grist.org

**MA Weather: Heat Wave Could Be Historic — And Dangerous**

Boston could see its first 100-degree day in eight years, while Worcester could see its first in more than a century.

By Mike Coughlin, Patch Staff  
on Feb 21, 2018 10:15 AM EST  
Updated on Feb 21, 2018 10:16 AM EST

Source: Patch.com



23

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## TOP HAZARDS IN FITCHBURG



Extreme Temperatures



Nor'easters, Ice Storms, and Snowstorms



Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, Tornadoes



Flooding

21

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**Es un húmedo 80 grados en New England. En febrero. Eso es malo.**

By Eric Meltzer on Feb 21, 2018

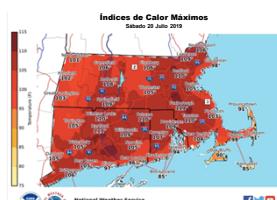
Source: Grist.org

**Clima de MA: la ola de calor podría ser histórica y peligrosa**

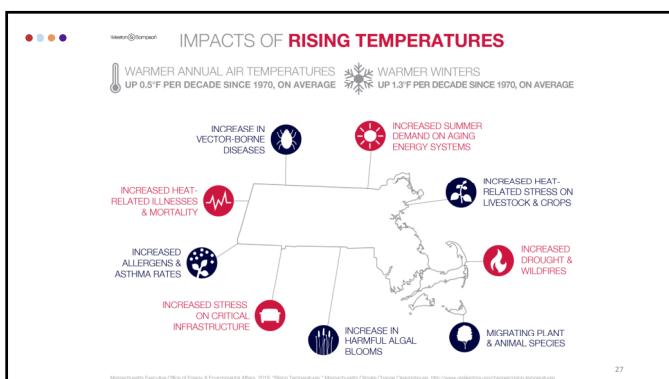
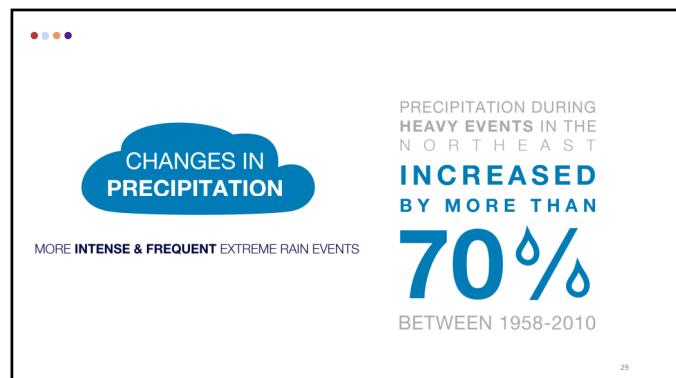
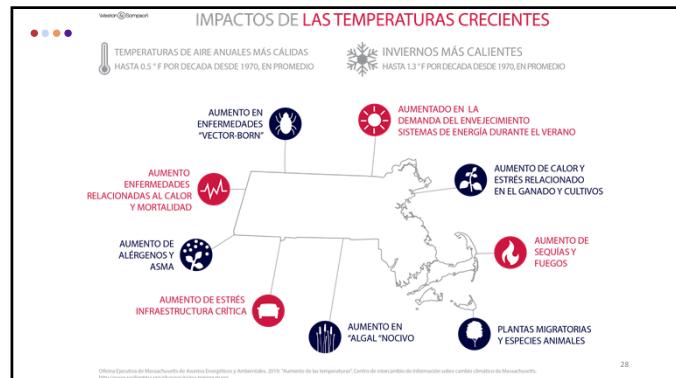
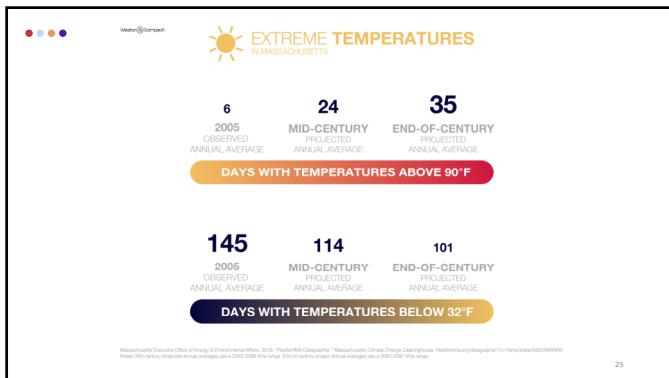
Boston podría ver su primer día de 100 grados en ocho años, mientras que Worcester podría ver su primer día en más de un siglo.

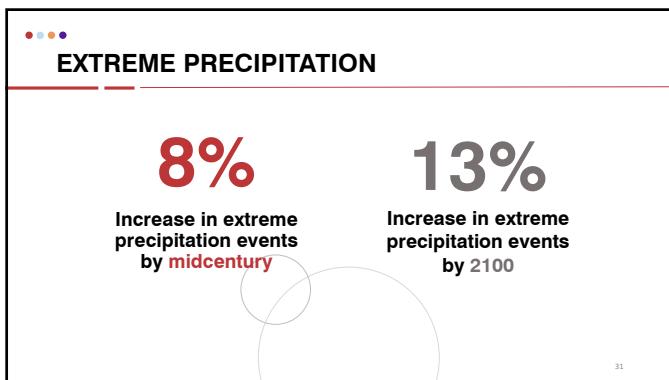
Updated on Feb 21, 2018 10:16 AM EST  
Created on Feb 21, 2018 10:16 AM EST

Source: Patch.com

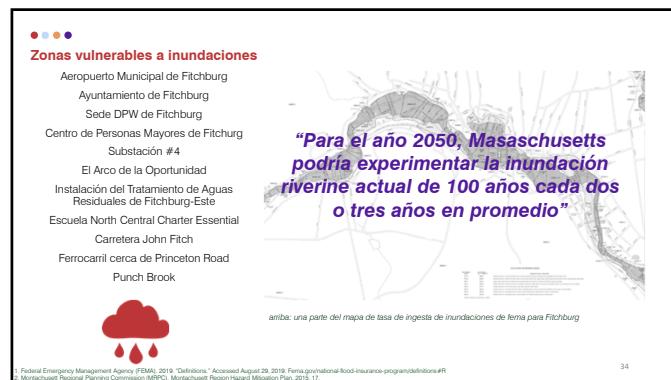


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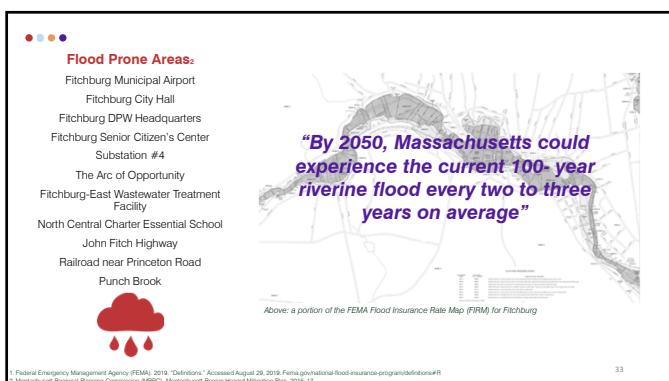
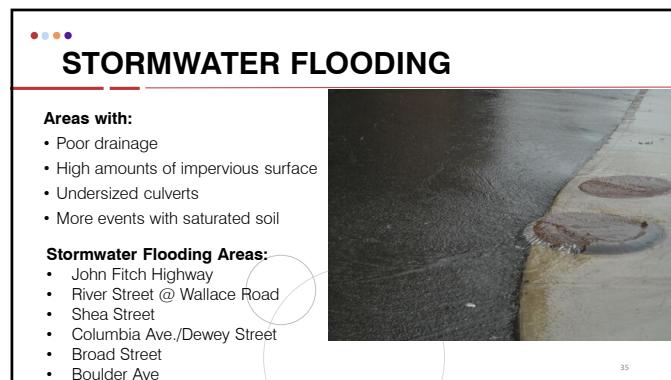
31



área: una parte del mapa de tasa de ingesta de inundaciones de fima para Fitchburg



32



33



6

**HURRICANES AND NOR'EASTERS**

Upward trend in North Atlantic hurricane activity since 1970

Nor'easters along the Atlantic coast are increasing in frequency and intensity

Source: Climate Science Special Report, Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4). Volume prepared by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) Northern Middlesex County of Governments. 2015. "Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Northern Middlesex Region." 159-160.

FOUR NOR'EASTERS MARCH 2-22, 2018

40° N 70° W

QUINTIN MARCH 2

TOBY MARCH 22

RILEY MARCH 2

SKYLAR MARCH 15

37

37

**TORMENTAS GRAVES**

"Las fuertes tormentas de nieve se encuentran entre los eventos climáticos **más costosos y perjudiciales** para las comunidades de Massachusetts".

By Dan Peck, Max Golomb and Emily Shapiro  
December 3, 2019, 3:39 PM • 8 min read  
<https://nbcnewyork.com/2019/12/03/nor'easters-snowstorms-costliest-disastrous-climate-events-massachusetts/>

La tormenta de nieve del **2013** dejó a casi **400,000** residentes de Massachusetts sin electricidad.

"Fitchburg, Massachusetts está enterrado bajo 27 pulgadas de nieve".

40

40

**HURACANES Y TORMENTAS**

Tendencia al alza en las actividades de huracanes en el Atlántico norte desde 1970.

La frecuencia y la intensidad de la costa del Atlántico a lo largo de la costa atlántica no están aumentando.

Fuente: Informe Especial de Ciencia del Clima, Cuarta Evaluación Nacional del Clima (NCA4). Volumen preparado por el Programa de Investigación del Cambio Global de los Estados Unidos (USGCRP) Consejo de Gobiernos del Norte de Middessex. 2015. "Plan de mitigación de riesgos para la región norte de Middessex." 159-160.

FOUR NOR'EASTERS MARCH 2-22, 2018

40° N 70° W

QUINTIN MARCH 2

TOBY MARCH 22

RILEY MARCH 2

SKYLAR MARCH 15

38

38

**IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER**

STORMS ARE BECOMING MORE INTENSE AND DAMAGING

EROSION OF DUNES, SALT MARSHES & COASTAL HABITAT

RE-SHAPED RIVER COURSES

DISPLACEMENT OF RESIDENTS

PROPERTY DAMAGE

ECONOMIC DAMAGES & BUSINESS DISRUPTION

INCREASED INJURIES & MORTALITY

INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURAL REPAIR COSTS

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. 2019. "Extreme Weather." Massachusetts Climate Change Observatory. <http://www.massclimate.org/changes/extreme-weather>

41

41

**SEVERE STORMS**

"Heavy blizzards are among the **most costly and disruptive** weather events for Massachusetts communities."

The blizzard of 2013 left nearly **400,000** Massachusetts residents without power

Northeast digs out from monster storm: Over 2 feet of snow buries towns in New York, Massachusetts, Vermont

By Dan Peck, Max Golomb and Emily Shapiro  
December 3, 2019, 3:39 PM • 8 min read  
<https://nbcnewyork.com/2019/12/03/nor'easters-snowstorms-costliest-disastrous-climate-events-massachusetts/>

"Fitchburg, Massachusetts is buried under 27 inches of snow."

39

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**IMPACTOS DE LA TEMPERATURA EXTREMA**

LAS TORMENTAS SE ESTÁN VOLVIENDO MÁS INTENSAS Y DAÑINAS

EROSIÓN DE DUNAS, MARISMAS SALINAS Y HABITAT COSTEROS

REFORMACIÓN DEL CURSO DE LOS RÍOS

DESPLAZAMIENTO DE RESIDENTES

DAÑO DE PROPIEDADES

DANOS ECONÓMICOS Y DISRUPCIÓN EMPRESARIAL

AUMENTO DE LESIONES Y MORTALIDAD

AUMENTO DE COSTOS DE REPARACIÓN INFRAESTRUCTURAL

42

42



Take the online survey  
to tell us **what hazard  
most concerns you**

43

FORTALEZAS Y  
VULNERACILIDADES



46



Favor de realizar la  
encuesta en línea para  
compartir los peligros que  
**le preocupan más.**

44

**INFRASTRUCTURE STRENGTHS**

- Wastewater management facility
- Water supply and surrounding protected forested area
- School could serve as possible shelter space
- Public transit provides additional mobility
- Municipal and emergency services
- Improved redundancies in electric grid



47

STRENGTHS &  
VULNERABILITIES



45

**FORTALEZAS DE INFRAESTRUCTURALES**

- Instalación de gestión de aguas residuales.
- Abastecimiento de agua y área boscosa protegida circundante.
- Las escuelas podrían servir como espacios de refugio.
- El transporte público proporciona movilidad adicional.
- Servicios municipales y de emergencia.
- Redundancias mejoradas en la red eléctrica.



48

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### INFRASTRUCTURE VULNERABILITIES

---

- Roadways and bridges prone to flooding
- Aging bridges
- Undersized stormwater conveyance
- Combined stormwater-sewer system
- Lack of emergency response capacity and equipment
- Downtown public safety
- Aging dams
- Emergency service facilities in the floodplain
- Aging municipal buildings
- Bank erosion near airport and wastewater treatment plant
- Electric substation flooding and need for maintenance

49

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### FORTALEZAS DE SOCIETALES

---

- Asociación con el Ejército de Salvación y las comunidades aledañas.
- Estaciones y refugios de calefacción y aire acondicionado.
- Universidad Estatal de Fitchburg.
- Sistemas de comunicación.
- Tiendas de abarrotes y negocios locales.
- Equipo certificado en respuesta a emergencias / voluntarios.
- Servicios prestados por escuelas, servicios de emergencia, entidades privadas sin fines de lucro.
- Diversidad de comunidad con talentos y perspectivas.

52

52

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### VULNERABILIDADES DE INFRAESTRUCTURALES

---

- Carreteras y puentes propensos a inundaciones.
- Puentes en deterioro y malas condiciones.
- Infraestructura de aguas pluviales insuficientes.
- Sistema combinado de alcantarillado pluvial.
- Falta de capacidad de respuesta a emergencias y equipos.
- Seguridad pública en el centro de la Ciudad.
- Presas en deterioro.
- Instalaciones de servicios de emergencia en la llanura alluvial.
- Edificios municipales en deterioro.
- Erosión del banco cerca del aeropuerto y planta de tratamiento de aguas residuales.
- Inundaciones de subestaciones eléctricas y necesidad de su mantenimiento.

50

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### SOCIETAL VULNERABILITIES

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- Pets during emergencies
- Need for programs to support growing mental health and substance use concerns
- Need for more emergency training
- Households with limited English-speaking abilities if communication is not translated
- At-risk of isolation or need of additional support (possibly youth and seniors)
- Barriers to building personal resilience (income or homelessness)
- Flooding of businesses and the economic impact of hazards
- Aging housing stock

53

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### SOCIETAL STRENGTHS

---

- Partnership with Salvation Army and surrounding communities
- Heating and cooling stations and shelters
- Fitchburg State University
- Communication systems
- Grocery stores and local businesses
- Certified Emergency Response Team/ volunteers
- Services provided by schools, emergency services, private, non-profit entities
- Diverse of community with many talents and perspectives

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### VULNERABILIDADES DE SOCIETALES

---

- Mascotas durante emergencias.
- Necesidad de programas para apoyar las crecientes preocupaciones de salud mental y uso de sustancias.
- Necesidad de más entrenamiento de emergencia.
- Hogares con habilidades limitadas del habla, en caso de la información no ser traducida.
- En riesgo de aislamiento o necesidad de apoyo adicional (posiblemente jóvenes y adultos mayores).
- Barreras para construir resiliencia personal (ingresos o personas sin hogar).
- Inundaciones de infraestructura comercial y su impacto económico.
- Viviendas en deterioro.

54

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STRENGTHS

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- Open space, parks, trails
- Nashua River Watershed Association
- Urban and rural dimensions
- Opportunity for green infrastructure and renewable energy sources
- Tree canopy and grant award to plant more trees



55

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## VULNERABILIDADES DE AMBIENTALES

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- Inundaciones de cuerpos de agua.
- Contaminantes en cuerpos de agua.
- Comerciales peligrosos / terrenos industriales / terrenos industriales abandonados.
- Topografía - terreno empinado.
- Árboles y áreas boscosas vulnerables al daño del viento y la sequía.
- Especies invasivas.



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## FORTALEZAS DE AMBIENTALES

---

- Espacios abiertos, parques y senderos.
- Asociación de cuencas del Río Nashua.
- Dimensiones urbanas y rurales.
- Oportunidad para la infraestructura verde y fuentes de energía renovables.
- Copas de los árboles y concesión de subvención para plantar más árboles.



56

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Take the online survey to tell us **what you think are Fitchburg's vulnerabilities and strengths**

59

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## ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITIES

---

- Flooding of waterbodies
- Pollutants in waterbodies
- Hazardous commercials/industrial landfills/brownfields
- Topography – steep terrain
- Trees and forested areas vulnerable to wind damage and drought
- Invasive species



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**Favor de realizar la encuesta en línea para compartir las fortalezas y vulnerabilidades que le preocupan más.**

60

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### EXISTING HAZARD PROTECTION

---

- Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program
- Floodplain regulations/overlay district
- Maintaining up-to-date floodplain maps
- Outreach to property managers about flood protection and building requirements
- Street sweeping
- Catch basin cleaning
- Drainage improvement program
- Street sweeping
- Zoning regulations
- Massachusetts Stormwater Regulations
- Stormwater Management bylaw/ordinance
- Wetlands Protection Act
- Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Public education on stormwater
- NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program

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### PROTECCIÓN CONTRA LOS PELIGROS EXISTENTES

---

- Proceso de revisión de nuevos desarrollos.
- Código de construcción del estado de Massachusetts.
- Refugios de emergencia.
- Programas de voluntariado (CERT).
- Plan integral de manejo de emergencias.
- Reverse 911 / CodeRED.
- Sistema de comunicación.
- Proyectos de infraestructura verde.
- Prevenir el flujo de retorno del alcantarillado.
- Permisos para construcción.
- Mejoras de presas.
- Inspecciones de presas.
- Mantenimiento de árboles.
- Operaciones de arado de nieve.
- Requisitos del retiro de nieve.
- Permisos de quema abierta.

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### PROTECCIÓN CONTRA LOS PELIGROS EXISTENTES

---

- Participación en el Programa Nacional de Seguros contra Inundaciones.
- Regulaciones de llanuras de inundación / distrito de superposición.
- Mantener actualizados los mapas de llanuras de inundación.
- Alcance a los administradores de propiedades sobre protección contra inundaciones y requisitos de construcción.
- Limpieza de la calle.
- Limpieza de cuencas.
- Programa de mejora del drenaje.
- Regulaciones de zonificación.
- Regulaciones de aguas pluviales de Massachusetts.
- Ordenanza / ordenanza de gestión de aguas pluviales.
- Ley de protección de humedales.
- Plan de Espacios Abiertos y Recreación.
- Educación pública sobre aguas pluviales.
- Programa de aguas pluviales de la fase II de NPDES.

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### EXISTING HAZARD PROTECTION

---

- Fire Department review of proposed development
- Public education on prevention of wildfire
- Backup firefighting supplies
- Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Fuel assistance
- Tree planting
- Backup generators
- Buried utilities
- Conservation pricing
- Water restrictions/bans
- Backup water supply
- Green communities
- Grants
- Groundwater Protection Overlay District

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### EXISTING HAZARD PROTECTION

---

- Review process for new developments
- Massachusetts State Building Code
- Emergency Shelters
- Volunteer programs (CERT)
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Reverse 911/CodeRED
- Communication System
- Green infrastructure projects
- Preventing sewer back flow
- Permits for construction
- Dam upgrades
- Dam inspections
- Tree maintenance
- Snow plowing operations
- Snow removal requirements
- Open burning permits

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### PROTECCIÓN CONTRA LOS PELIGROS EXISTENTES

---

- Revisión del departamento de bomberos del desarrollo propuesto.
- Educación pública sobre prevención de incendios forestales.
- Suministros de respaldo contra incendios.
- Plan Estatal de Movilización de Incendios.
- Comité local de planificación de emergencias.
- Asistencia de combustible.
- Plantación de árboles.
- Generadores de respaldo.
- Servicios públicos enterrados.
- Precios de conservación.
- Restricciones / prohibiciones de agua.
- Suministro de agua de respaldo.
- Comunidades verdes.
- Subsidios.
- Distrito de superposición de protección de aguas subterráneas.

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## FITCHBURG PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

- Repair or replace levees/flood walls/channel armoring/etc. based on the findings of the Nashua River Flood Reduction Assessment
- Repair or remove dams
- Address flooding of Baker Brook/John Fitch Highway
- Drainage improvements/green infrastructure
- Incorporate climate resilience into MS4 Permit compliance
- Repair and/or replace bridges
- Condition assessment/inventory to prioritize repair or replacement of an aging stormwater system
- Condition assessment/inventory to prioritize repair, replacement, and upsizing of culverts for flood and wildlife passage

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## ELEMENTOS DE ACCIÓNES PRIORITARIAS

- Diseñar y construir medidas de control de erosión a lo largo de Río North Nashua para proteger el aeropuerto y las instalaciones de tratamiento de aguas residuales.
- Desarrollar una evaluación de remediación a largo plazo y un plan de mantenimiento de los vertederos.
- Actualizar el plan maestro y el plan de espacios abiertos con consideraciones de resiliencia climática.
- Explorar oportunidades para el almacenamiento adicional de inundaciones en propiedades de la ciudad a lo largo del Río Nashua
- Adquirir propiedades en la zona de inundación y ayudar a los residentes desplazados.
- Adquirir propiedades en las áreas de abastecimiento de agua para proteger las fuentes de agua potable.
- Aumentar la conciencia / participación de la comunidad en el Equipo Comunitario de Respuesta a Emergencias (CERT).
- Evaluación / inventario de la condición para priorizar la reparación o el reemplazo de muros de contención de piedra viejos en toda la ciudad.

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## ELEMENTOS DE ACCIÓNES PRIORITARIAS

- Reparar o reemplazar diques / muros de inundación / blindaje de canales / etc., basado en los hallazgos de la Evaluación de Reducción de Inundaciones del Río Nashua.
- Reparar o eliminar represas.
- Abordar las inundaciones de Baker Brook / John Fitch Highway.
- Mejoras de drenaje / infraestructura verde.
- Incorporar resiliencia climática en el cumplimiento del permiso MS4.
- Reparar y / o reemplazar puentes.
- Evaluación / inventario de condiciones para priorizar la reparación o el reemplazo de un sistema de aguas pluviales deteriorado.
- Evaluación / inventario de condiciones para priorizar la reparación, el reemplazo y el aumento de tamaño de las alcantarillas para inundaciones y paso de vida silvestre.

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## FITCHBURG PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

- Develop a renewable energy master plan
- Improve drainage at McKay School
- Develop emergency communication plans and improve awareness/community participation
- Relocate two of the emergency management facilities into larger buildings and away from the floodplain
- Examine shelter capacity and accessibility
- Upgrade municipal buildings with cooling and flood protection
- Improve electricity redundancy at critical facilities
- Increase to emergency response training and develop clear policy and procedures, public education, etc.

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## FITCHBURG PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

- Design and construct erosion control measures along the North Nashua River riverbank to protect airport and wastewater treatment facility
- Develop a long-term remediation assessment and maintenance plan of landfills
- Update Master Plan and Open Space Plan with climate resilience considerations
- Explore opportunities for additional flood storage at city-owned properties along the Nashua River
- Acquire properties in flood zone and assist displaced residents
- Acquire properties in water supply watershed areas to protect drinking water sources
- Increase community awareness/participation in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Condition assessment/inventory to prioritize repair or replacement of old stone retaining walls throughout the city

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## ELEMENTOS DE ACCIÓNES PRIORITARIAS

- Desarrollar un plan maestro de energías renovables.
- Mejorar el drenaje en la escuela McKay.
- Desarrollar planes de comunicación de emergencia y mejore la conciencia / participación comunitaria Reubicar dos de las instalaciones de gestión de emergencias en edificios más grandes y lejos de la llanura de inundación.
- Examinar la capacidad y accesibilidad del refugio.
- Mejorar los edificios municipales con protección contra el enfriamiento y las inundaciones y otras medidas de resistencia, como elevar los sistemas críticos.
- Mejorar la redundancia de electricidad en las instalaciones críticas.
- Incrementar la capacitación en respuesta a emergencias y Desarrollo de políticas y procedimientos claros, educación pública, etc.

72

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Take the online survey to tell us which of these items should be a **top priority for MVP Action Grant funding**

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## ¡COMPARTE TUS COMENTARIOS!



- Para obtener más información, favor de revisar el borrador del informe HMP-MVP en línea
- Próximamente en mayo de 2020.
- ¡Comente completando nuestra encuesta en el seminario web e informe! [ENLACE A LA ENCUESTA](#).
- La encuesta estará disponible en línea del **16 de abril al 1 de mayo del 2020**

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Favor de realizar la encuesta en línea para compartir cuales de estos elementos deberán ser **de mayor prioridad para la MVP Beca de Acción.**

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## THANK YOU

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## SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!



- For more information, review the draft HMP-MVP report online [Coming May 2020](#)
- Comment on the webinar and report by taking our survey! [SURVEY LINK](#)
- The survey will be available online from **April 16- May 1, 2020**

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## GRACIAS

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## Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan Listening Session

4/16/2020 – 6:30-8:30

*Online Discussion and Polling*

### **Introductions**

**5 minutes**

13 RSVPs on Eventbrite, 11 people joined throughout the presentation. Captured in the notes were:

- 1. Nick Erickson
- 2. Peter Kettle
- 3. Hillary King
- 4. Ralph Baker
- 5. Tom Skwierawski
- 6. Marilyn Siderwicz
- 7. Christopher Picone
- 8. Amanda Kohn
- 9. Jeanette Cantu

**Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Overview** **10 minutes**

**Climate Change in Fitchburg** **15 minutes**

**Strengths in Fitchburg** **15 minutes**

- Comments
  - Airport is a real strength during emergencies. The airport serves as an emergency staging area for MEMA with a large runway and lots of land area. Helicopters can bring in supplies and needed goods. The airport also provides alternative transportation in and out of the City.

**Vulnerabilities in Fitchburg** **15 minutes**

- Comments
  - Roadways are in poor condition. Why do we use hot top (asphalt) versus concrete?
    - Concrete does not currently fair well in the freeze/thaw cycle in Massachusetts, but perhaps this will change as the climate shifts. Asphalt doesn't breakdown with the road salt that is used.

**Summary of Existing Mitigation Measures in Fitchburg** **10 minutes**

**Priority Action Items in Fitchburg** **15 minutes**

- Do green infrastructure techniques, like rain gardens, actually work?
- They do need to be designed and sized properly, but they will work if they are properly maintained.

**Wrap-up** **5 minutes**



## City of Fitchburg

The City of Fitchburg was awarded a grant from the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to create a list of priority action items to advance the community's resilience to projected climate change impacts and to update the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan. In March, a group of stakeholders met to identify strengths, vulnerabilities, and actions to further build the City's resilience. In April, we hosted an online presentation. We'd like to continue to receive community feedback for the report through the survey below.

1. What hazard most concerns you?

- Extreme Temperatures
- Flooding
- Severe Thunderstorms, Wind, Tornado
- Nor'easters, Ice Storms, Snow Storms
- Other

2. How have any of the hazards above impacted you personally or the broader community?

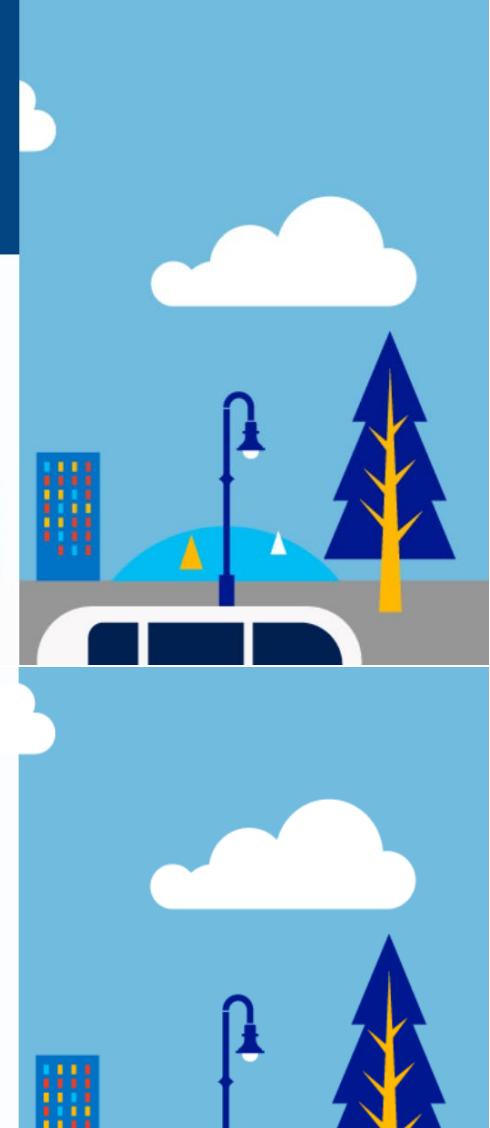
Enter your answer

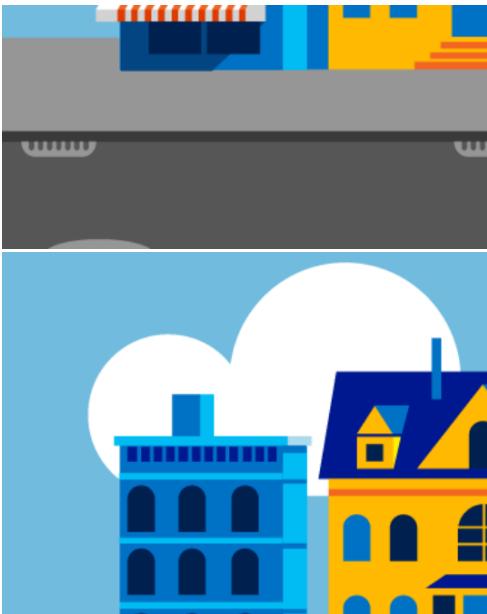
3. What would you consider Fitchburg's greatest vulnerability?

- Infrastructure (roadways, bridges, dams, stormwater)
- Barriers to building personal resilience (such as income and homelessness)
- Hazardous Sites (such as old paper mills and industrial landfills)
- Other

4. What is Fitchburg's greatest strength considering climate resilience?

- Parks and open space
- Volunteers
- Emergency management services
- Water supply
- Other



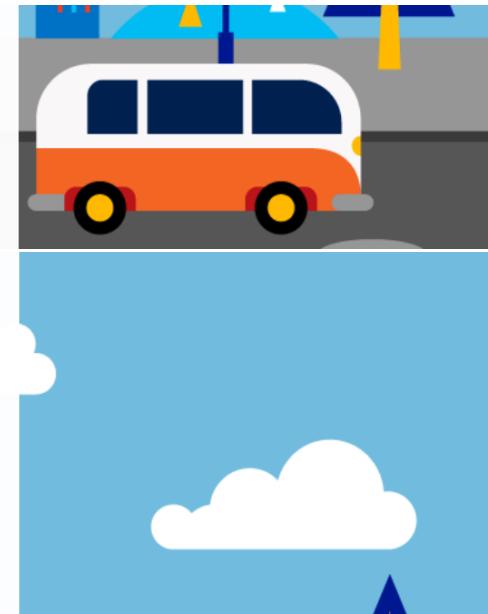


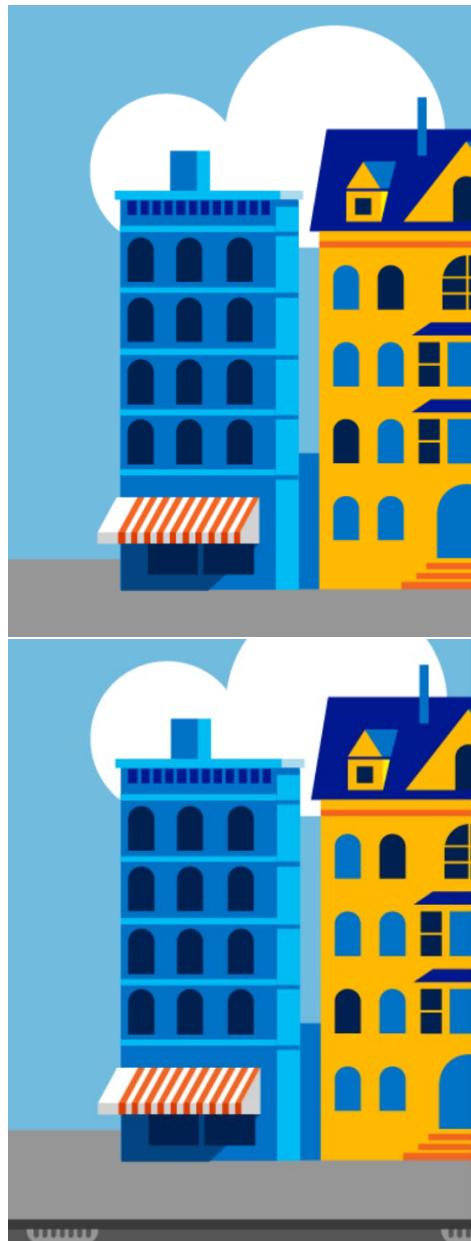
5. What steps have you already taken to prepare for extreme events?

- I have a kit in case of emergencies (which may include food, water, flashlights, batteries, and other supplies)
- I receive news, updates, and information about emergency preparedness in Fitchburg
- I know where the nearest local shelter is
- I have signed up for Code Red (<https://www.fitchburgma.gov/145/Sign-Up-For>)

6. What resources do you need to feel more prepared?

Enter your answer





8. Rank the following priorities from highest priority to lowest priority.

- Improve electricity redundancy at critical facilities
- Address flooding of Baker Brook - John Fitch Highway
- Drainage improvements/green infrastructure on Pearl Hill Road and Main Street
- Acquire properties in water supply watershed areas to protect drinking water sources
- Repair or remove dams
- Increase community awareness and participation in the Community Emergency Response Team
- Examine shelter capacity and accessibility
- Condition assessment/inventory to prioritize repair, replacement, and upsizing of culverts for flood and wildlife passage

9. What other climate adaptation or hazard mitigation measures should be taken in Fitchburg in the next five years?

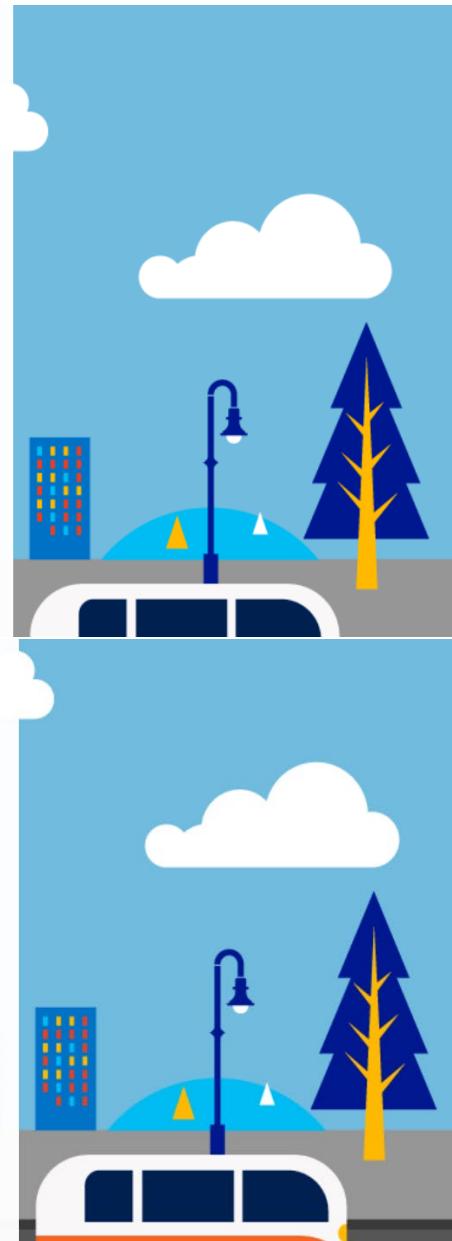
10. Do you have any other questions or comments? If you choose Other on any of the questions above, please specify below.

11. First Name

12. Last Name

13. Email (in you'd like to receive updates)

Submit





## Ciudad de Fitchburg

La Ciudad de Fitchburg recibió una subvención del Programa de Preparación de Vulnerabilidad Municipal (MVP) de la Commonwealth para crear una lista de elementos de acción prioritaria para avanzar la resiliencia de la comunidad a los impactos proyectados del cambio climático y para actualizar el Plan de Mitigación de Riesgos de la Ciudad. En marzo, un grupo de partes interesadas se reunió para identificar fortalezas, vulnerabilidades y acciones para desarrollar la resiliencia de la Ciudad. En abril, se organizó una presentación en línea. Nos gustaría seguir recibiendo comentarios de la comunidad para el informe por medio de la encuesta a continuación.

### 1. ¿Qué peligro te preocupa más?

- Temperaturas extremas
- Inundaciones
- Tormentas severas, viento, tornado
- Tormentas de hielo, Tormentas de nieve
- Otros

### 2. ¿Cómo te ha impactado personalmente o la comunidad en general, los peligros mencionados anteriormente?

Enter your answer

### 3. ¿Cuál considerarías que es la mayor vulnerabilidad de Fitchburg?

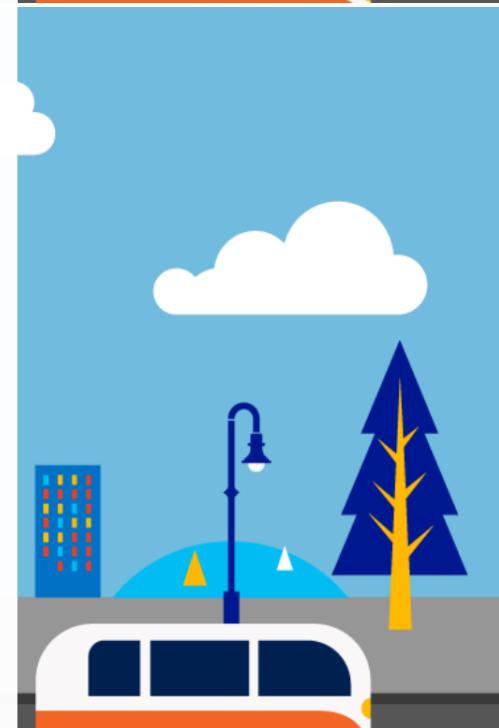
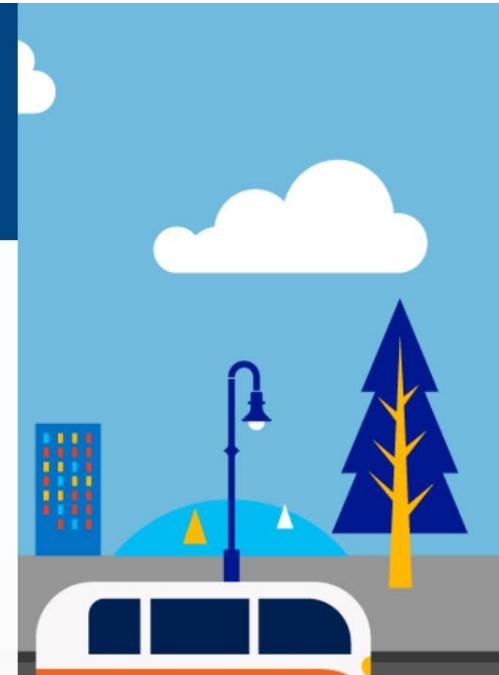
- Infraestructura (carreteras, puentes, presas, aguas pluviales)
- Barreras para construir resiliencia personal (como ingresos y personas sin hogar)
- Sitios peligrosos (como fábricas de papel viejas y vertederos industriales)
- Otros

### 4. ¿Cuál es la mayor fortaleza de Fitchburg teniendo en cuenta la resiliencia climática?

- Parques y espacios abiertos
- Voluntariado
- Servicios de manejo de emergencias
- Suministro de agua
- Otros

### 5. ¿Qué pasos ha tomado para prepararse en caso de algún evento extremo?

- Tengo un kit en caso de emergencias (que puede incluir alimentos, agua, linternas, baterías y otros suministros)
- Recibo noticias, actualizaciones e información sobre preparación para emergencias en Fitchburg
- Sé dónde está el refugio local más cercano.
- Me he registrado para el Código Rojo (<https://www.fitchburgma.gov/145/Sign-Up-For>)





6. ¿Qué recursos necesita para sentirte más preparado/a?

Enter your answer

7. ¿Cómo debería priorizar Fitchburg las medidas de adaptación climática?

- Basado en fondos
- Periodo de tiempo
- Tipo de activo (es decir, infraestructura, edificios o sistemas naturales)
- Impacto en la seguridad pública
- Otros

8. Clasifique las siguientes prioridades de mayor a menor prioridad.

Evaluación / inventario de condiciones para priorizar la reparación, el reemplazo y el aumento de tamaño de las alcantarillas para inundaciones y paso de vida silvestre

Examinar la capacidad y accesibilidad del refugio

Reparar o eliminar represas

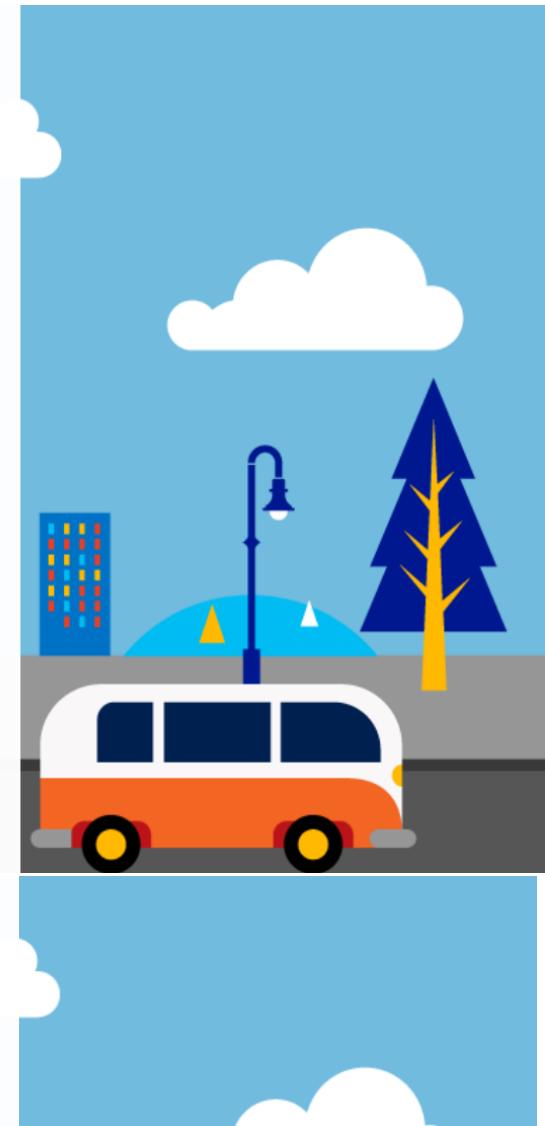
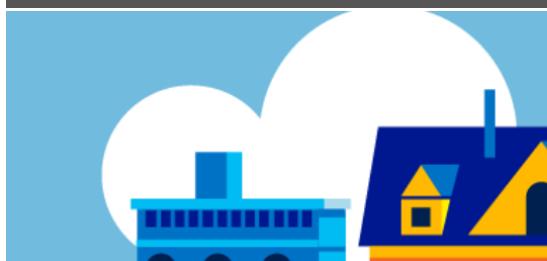
Adquirir propiedades en las áreas de abastecimiento de agua para proteger las fuentes de agua potable.

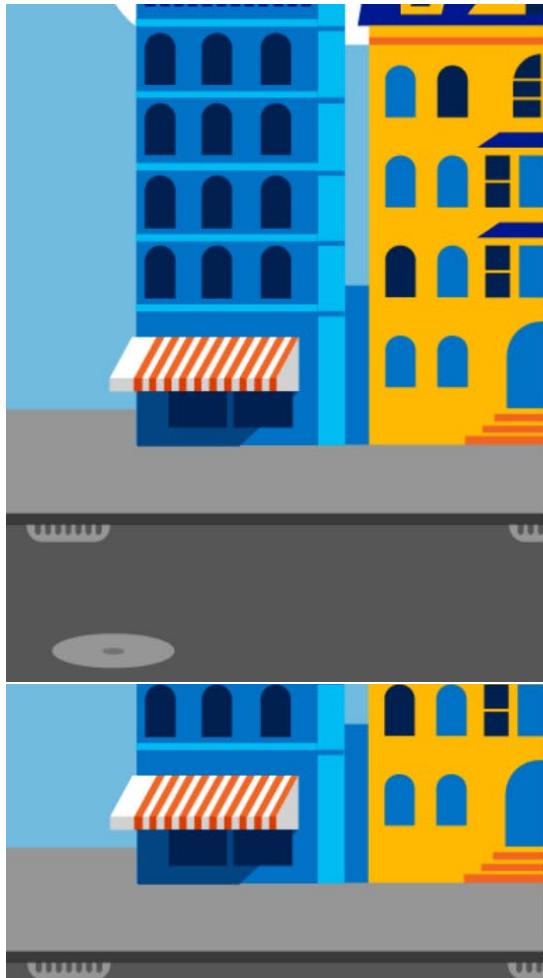
Abordar las inundaciones de Baker Brook - John Fitch Highway

Aumentar la conciencia y participación de la comunidad en el Equipo Comunitario de Respuesta a Emergencias (CERT)

Mejore la redundancia de electricidad en las instalaciones críticas

Mejoras de drenaje / infraestructura verde at Pearl Hill Road and Main Street





9. ¿Qué otras medidas de adaptación al clima o de mitigación de riesgos deberían tomarse en Fitchburg en los próximos cinco años?

Enter your answer

10. ¿Tiene alguna otra pregunta o comentario?  
Si elige Otro en cualquiera de las preguntas anteriores, especifique a continuación.

Enter your answer

11. Nombre:

Enter your answer

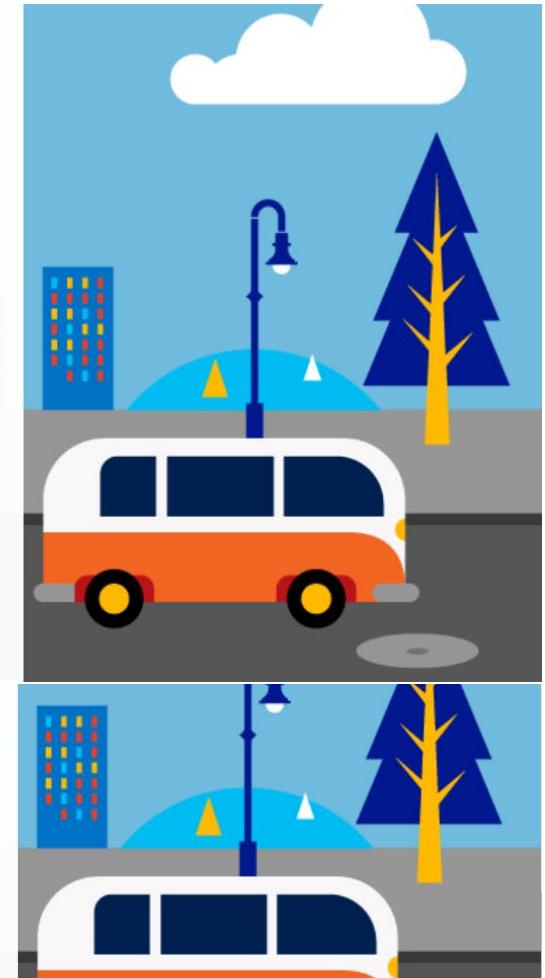
12. Apellido:

Enter your answer

13. Correo electrónico (en el que desea recibir actualizaciones)

Enter your answer

Submit



## Appendix E

### Plan Adoption

## Appendix F

### FEMA Approval