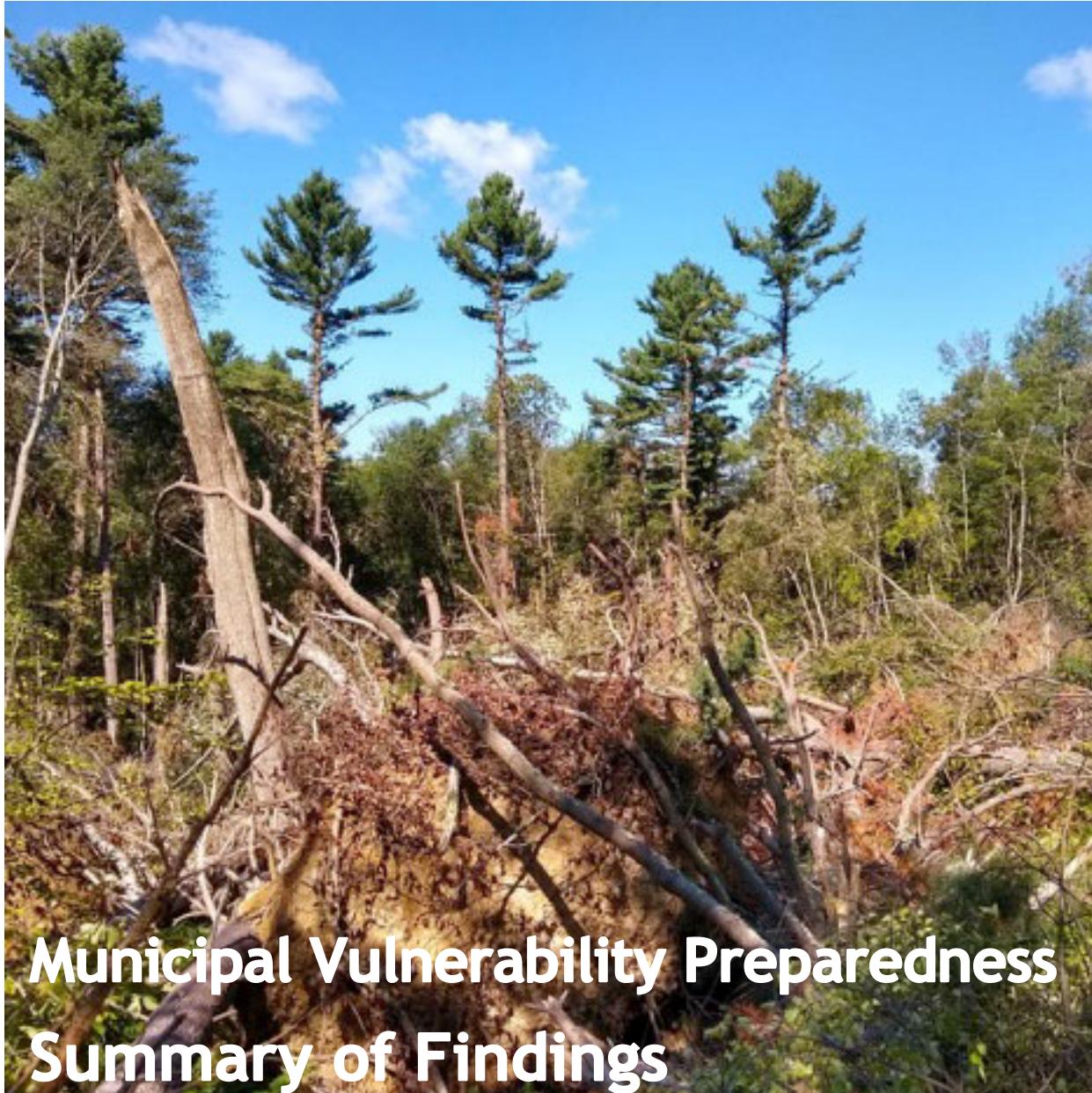




Town of Upton



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Summary of Findings

Damage from 2018 Upton tornado. Photo Credit: Tom Dodd.



CMRPC MISSION

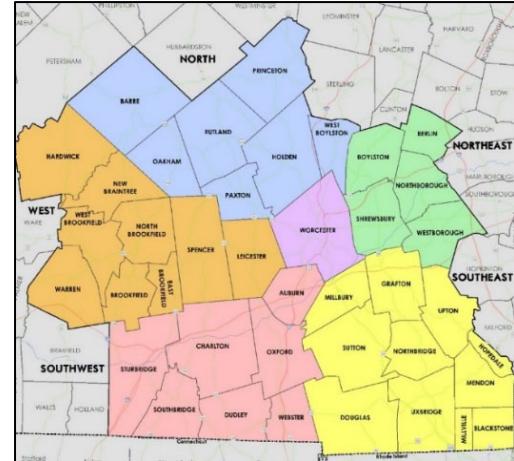
The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission is a regional partnership serving the planning and development interests of 40 member communities in southern Worcester County in Massachusetts. Our primary mission is to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in our region.

We do this by (1) addressing growth and development issues that extend beyond community boundaries; (2) maintaining the region's certification for federal transportation improvement funds; (3) providing technical knowledge and resources to assist local government in addressing specific land use, economic or environmental problems resulting from growth or decline, and (4) building strong working relationships with member communities, state and federal officials, as well as the range of area stakeholders.



OUR HISTORY AND PROGRESS

Founded by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1963, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) provides a variety of services to its constituencies and brings a regional perspective to planning and development. One of 13 regional planning agencies in Massachusetts, CMRPC serves the city of Worcester and 39 surrounding communities in the southern two-thirds of Worcester County. CMRPC's programs include Transportation, Regional Services, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Community Development & Planning.



FEDERAL TITLE VI/NONDISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS

The Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) hereby states its policy to operate its programs, services and activities in full compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related federal and state statutes and regulations. Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs and requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, including limited English proficiency, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal assistance.

Related federal nondiscrimination laws administered by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, or both prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, sex, and disability. These protected categories are contemplated within the CMMPO's Title VI Programs consistent with federal and state interpretation and administration. Additionally, the CMMPO provides meaningful access to its programs, services, and activities to individuals with limited English proficiency, in compliance with US Department of Transportation policy and guidance on federal Executive Order 13166.

STATE NONDISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS

The CMMPO also complies with the Massachusetts Public Accommodation Law, M.G.L. c272 §§ 92a, 98, 98a, prohibiting making any distinction, discrimination, or restriction in admission to or treatment in a place of public accommodation based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or ancestry. Likewise, CMMPO complies with the Governor's Executive Order 526, section 4, requiring all programs, activities and services provided, performed, licensed, chartered, funded, regulated, or contracted for by the state shall be conducted without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin,

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 569 AND THE MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

In September 2016, Massachusetts Governor Baker signed Executive Order 569, directing multiple state agencies to develop and implement a statewide comprehensive climate adaptation plan with the best climate-change data available. Recognizing that many adaptation solutions are local in nature, a key commitment of Executive Order 569 is to assist local governments in completing their own assessments and resiliency plans. The MVP Grant and Designation Program represents the first step in fulfilling this commitment.

The MVP program provides planning grants to municipalities to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Funding is used by cities and towns to hire an MVP-certified consultant who is trained to provide technical assistance and complete a community's vulnerability assessment and resiliency plan using the Community Resilience Building Framework. Towns and cities are free to choose the consultant of their choice from a list of certified MVP providers. The Town of Upton invited the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to lead them in this planning effort.

Communities that complete the MVP planning process become certified "MVP Communities" and are eligible for Action Grant funding and other opportunities through the Commonwealth.



Figure 1 Governor Baker signing legislation H. 4835, which included \$75 million for MVP program funding. Source: <https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-baker-signs-legislation-directing-24-billion-to-climate-change-adaptation>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program and Community Resiliency Building Workshop was funded by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. This Summary of Findings and CRB Workshop were prepared for the community of Upton by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). Support from the Upton Board of Selectmen and the town officials was much appreciated, especially for allowing the workshop and listening session to take place virtually.

The CMRPC would like to acknowledge the Town of Upton's Core Team for their time and hard work in participating in this project. These include, but are not limited to:

- Paul Dell'Aquila, Town Planner, Project Lead
- Mike Penko, Conservation Commission
- Derek Brindisi, Town Manager
- Janice Nowicki, Director of Elder and Social Services

The following individuals were directly and personally involved in planning and conducting the Upton Community Resilience Building Workshop:

- Sarah Adams, AICP, Principal Planner, CMRPC
- Peter Peloquin, Associate Planner, CMRPC
- Danielle Marini, Assistant Environmental Planner, CMRPC
- Matt Franz, GIS Analyst, CMRPC
- Hillary King, Regional Coordinator, EEA

UPTON: A PROFILE

The Town of Upton, Massachusetts was incorporated in June of 1735.¹ The town covers 21.8 square miles and is located off Route MA-140 in south-central Massachusetts, on the southeastern edge of Worcester County.² Upton is neighbored by Westborough in the north, Grafton in the northwest, Northbridge to the southwest, and Mendon and Hopkinton to the southeast.

During the 19th century, industrial activity was common in Upton Center in part due to the ready power source provided by the Mill River.³ However, modern-day Upton is a predominantly residential community.⁴ Residents enjoy the small town, suburban charm of the town, and commonly commute into nearby cities to work.⁵ Upton is about 13 miles southeast of Worcester, and just 35 miles from Boston. The residents do not know who named the town, however while Upton, Massachusetts is about 13 miles from the City of Worcester, Upton in the United Kingdom is also located 13 miles from England's Worcester.⁶

The total population of Upton is 7,835 residents.⁷ The Town has seen an 8.4% growth in population since 2010, when the town had an estimated 7,231 residents. A largely White community, Upton is 97.6% White, 1.1% Asian, 0.6% Hispanic or Latino, and 0.4% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. The median age in Upton is about 41 years old, with 30.7% of residents under the age of 19, and 10.2% of residents over the age of 65. The median household income in Upton was \$124,856 as of 2018, compared to \$77,378 for Massachusetts as a whole, with 3.5% of Upton's population living below the poverty line.⁸

There are three schools in Upton, including Nipmuc Regional Middle/High School, and the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, which hosts students from 13 towns in the region. The Town provides a full-time police department and fire department of full-time and volunteer staff. There are over 3,000 acres of protected land in Upton, which provides plentiful recreational opportunities for town residents.⁹ Much of the land in North Upton is part of the Upton State Forest, which hosts public trails, historic buildings, and habitat for native plants and animals.¹⁰ Swimming and athletic facilities are also offered at the Kiwanis Beach on Pratt Pond.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The Town of Upton contracted with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) on November 16, 2020, to serve as the MVP provider, including completing the Community Resiliency Building (CRB) workshop. Through the Community Resilience Building (CRB) process, stakeholders actively engaged in an ongoing discussion to determine the top hazards related to climate change that currently impact or have the potential to impact Upton. A small group of town officials and Board Members convened on November 25, 2020, to form

¹ Town of Upton, n.d.

² Ibid.

³ Upton Master Plan Sub-Committee, 2005.

⁴ Upton Open Space Committee, 2020,

⁵ Town of Upton, n.d.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ United States Census Bureau, 2018.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Upton Open Space Committee, 2020.

¹⁰ Ibid.

the 'Core Team' that, together with CMRPC staff, organized and planned the CRB Workshop over three meetings.

The Town of Upton's CRB workshop was scheduled to be held virtually and would take place over the course of three separate meetings. Core Team and CMRPC planned the first meeting to last two hours. CMRPC's facilitator would dedicate the first quarter-hour to familiarizing participants with all of ZOOM's functions and introductions. After a brief introduction to the MVP program, the remaining time would be devoted to the CRB process - identifying town features and their locations, ownership, and classification as a vulnerability or strength. The remaining two meetings were reserved to complete the CRB matrix and develop a list of actionable items that could improve resiliency throughout the Town of Upton.

The virtual workshops were held on February 18th and 25th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM and on March 4 from 4:00-6:00 PM. The Core Team and CMRPC staff pre-recorded all presentations, allowing participants to view them in preparation for the workshop. Upon completing the Core Team introduction videos, MVP program overview presentation, Climate Projections presentation, Climate Hazards presentation, and Matrix & Nature-Based solutions presentation, the Core Team and CMRPC developed the workshop invitation. The invitation included links to each pre-recorded presentation, table maps, an excerpt from the Upton Hazard Mitigation Plan, a two-page MVP program overview, a CRB Workbook, a how-to-use-ZOOM information page, and an agenda with ZOOM log-in information for each of the three meetings. Participants were instructed to watch all presentations at their leisure before the workshop.

Core Team and Project Team

Name	Affiliation	Role
Derek Brindisi	Upton	Town Manager
Mike Penko	Upton	Conservation Commission
Paul Dell'Aquila	Upton	Town Planner, Project Lead
Janice Nowicki	Upton	Director of Elder and Social Services
Sarah Adams	CMRPC	Project Lead
Dani Marini	CMRPC	Project Assistant
Mary Hannah Smith	CMRPC	Project Assistant

Workshop Invitees and Participants

Name	Affiliation	Attended
Ellen Arnold	Friends of Upton State Forest	Y
Derek Brindisi	Town Manager	Y
Christa Collins	Land Trust - Sudbury Valley Trustees	Y
Joann Lindenmayer	Neighboring Town MVP Core Team Member	Y
Janice Nowicki	Senior Center	Y
Marcela Stasa	Land Stewardship Committee	Y
Bill Taylor	Friends of Upton State Forest / Open Space Committee	Y
Laurie Woodin	Sustainable Group - Sustainable Upton	Y
Tom Bair	Upton Historical Society	Y
Paul Dell'Aquila	Town Planner	Y
Kevin Hollenbeck	DCR	Y
Meredith Houghton	Land Trust - Sudbury Valley Trustees	Y

Hillary King	EEA MVP Regional Coordinator	Y
Grace Lam	Local Farm - Fivefork Farm CSA	Y
David Pickart	Conservation Commission	Y
Dennis Westgate	Highway Dept.	Y
Mathew Bachold	Library	Y
Dan Lazarz	Fire Captain	Y
Kelly McElreath	Town Clerk/Assistant to the Town Manager	Y
Mike Penko	Conservation Commission	Y
Chris Scott	Conservation Commission	Y
Brett Simas	Selectboard	Y
Cathy Taylor	Citizen (Ceremonial Stone Landscape interest)	Y
Laura Davis	Local Farm - Long Life Farm CSA	Y
Mark Allen	Local Eng Firm - Allen Engineering	N
Gene Bernat	Economic Development	N
James Brochu	Community Center Building Committee	N
Paul Carey	Planning Board Member/Master Plan Co-Author	N
Margaret Carroll	Planning Board Member - Chair	N
Scott Crisafulli	Neighboring Town MVP Core Team Member	N
Tom Davidson	Golf Course - Red Acre Farm	N
Mark Difronzo	Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief	N
Paige Dolci	Mass Audubon	N
Richard Gazoorian	Recreation Commission	N
John Gelcich	Neighboring Town MVP Core Team Member	N
Al Holman	Board of Health Member	N
Kevin Lobisser	Local Construction Co. - Lobisser	N
Jody Madden	DCR - Upton State Forest	N
Anne Mazar	Neighboring Town MVP Core Team Member	N
Christopher McGoldrick	Neighboring Town MVP Core Team Member	N
Lisa Mosczynski	Land Trust - Metacomet Land Trust	N
Jen Murphy	Mendon Upton Citizens for Social Justice	N
Mary Overholt	Community Garden (LSC)	N
Rena Richards	Housing Authority	N
David Ross	Economic Development	N
Joyce Sandvik	Friends of Upton State Forest	N
Diana Schindler	Neighboring Town MVP Core Team Member	N
Donald Spargo	Historical Commission	N
John Westerling	Rockwood Meadows Association	N
Kristi Williams	Neighboring Town MVP Core Team Member	N
Joseph Zanca	Army Corp. Engineers - West Hill Dam	N

The workshop's goal was to identify the four top natural hazards that impact Upton and develop strategies to enhance the Town's resiliency related to climate change. Following the CRB work plan, the Core Team and CMRPC facilitators and planners pre-recorded four presentations:

- Overview of the MVP program
- Overview of the CRB process
- A summary of climate change projections, impacts and mitigation strategies
- A detailed profile of natural hazards in the Town of Upton, including the top four hazards perceived by the core team.

During the first virtual workshop meeting date, the group discussed the top four hazards that affect Upton. There was an agreement between the Core Team and all participants that - in no particular order - drought, wind events, flooding, and winter storms have the most significant effects and potential impacts on the Town. After identifying these hazards, workshop attendees proceeded to work through the CRB matrix and mapping exercise in three small groups facilitated by CMRPC staff. Table facilitators guided stakeholders through examining the Town's infrastructural, societal, and environmental features to identify stakeholders' concerns regarding natural and climate-related hazards.

The group then reconvened seven days later to build upon the first day's work. The second session's goal was to continue identifying Town features and list ideas for actions that could reduce or mitigate climate change's projected impacts. One week later, the group used the final CRB meeting to complete the matrix. Once attendees had completed the matrix, a table reporter from each small group announced a summary of their group's findings.

Upon completing the three virtual workshop meetings, CMRPC compiled all information from the completed CRB matrices into a survey. The survey was then distributed to all workshop attendees from March 15, 2021, through March 19, 2021. The attendees took the survey to prioritize and vote for what they believed to be the top project in the infrastructure, society, and environmental categories. The survey results were used to prioritize action ideas and organize the Summary of Findings Report.

Twenty-four (24) stakeholders attended the virtual CRB Workshop, including representatives from the MVP Core team, town government, state government, emergency services, the Conservation Commission, agriculture, and local environmental groups.

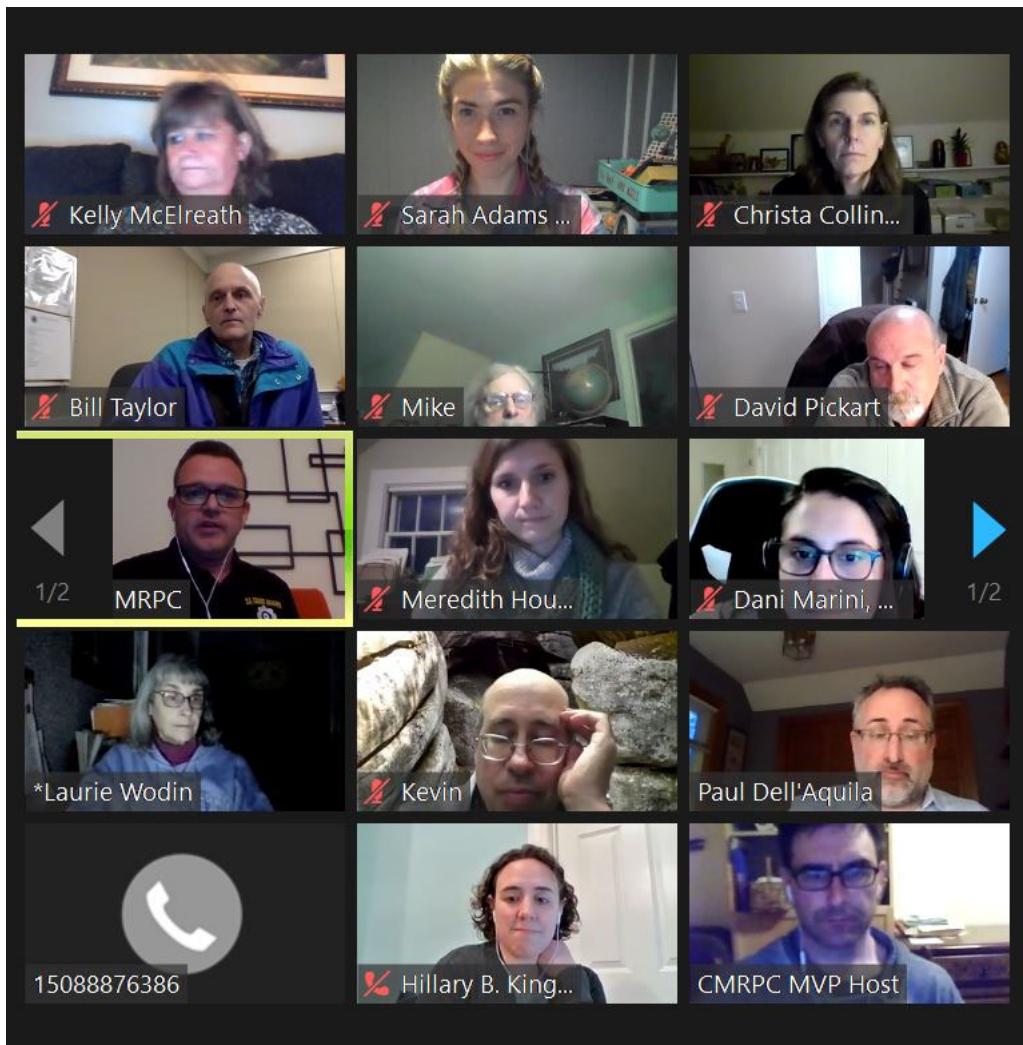


Figure 2 Screenshot from the virtual CRB workshop.

A public listening session to discuss MVP results and recommendations for future actions was held virtually on May 27, 2021. The listening session was properly promoted across several avenues, with a combined fourteen (14) stakeholders including the Core Team in attendance. On May 18, 2021, CMRPC also presented the workshop findings to the Board of Selectmen at a regularly scheduled meeting. Eight (8) stakeholders were in attendance for the presentation and discussion, including all three Selectmen. Between the CRB workshops, the Board of Selectmen and the listening session, a total of at least thirty (30) unique individuals participated in the MVP process.

Top Hazards

At the beginning of the first workshop, participants spent approximately fifteen minutes discussing Upton's top four climate-related hazards. Taking climate change projections, critical infrastructure, and other considerations into account, the Core Team and workshop participants chose to focus on the four following hazards, in no particular order: drought, wind events, flooding, and winter storms.

In 2016 and 2020, Upton experienced extreme droughts along with the majority of the state of Massachusetts. Severe storms, including high winds and intense rainfall, have been increasing in frequency and impact. These events have caused localized flooding and power outages and have forced Upton to call upon mutual aid agreements. With climate change, disruptive weather-related events may increase in severity and frequency.

DROUGHT



Projecting an increase of consecutive dry days, with the driest periods in the summer and fall. This leads to increased risk and stress on drinking water systems and wildfire potential.



WINTER STORMS

Annual days below freezing will decrease, winter precipitation falling as rain or freezing rain. This increases risk for ice storms and flash flooding when rain falls on frozen ground.



FLOODING

Expected increase in precipitation across all seasons. Heavy rainfall will become more frequent, increasing the risk for flash floods. Also increases non-point source pollution.



WIND STORMS

Intensity of storm events is expected to increase due to the warmer atmosphere. This will lead to increased severe thunderstorm and hurricane activity with higher wind speeds.

Flooding. In recent years, Upton has observed numerous small floods on town roadways. Two of Upton's dams are classified as significant hazards, which may compound precipitation-induced flood risk. Beaver dams are present in wetlands throughout Upton, which benefits the natural environment while contributing to local flooding. Climate change may increase the frequency of high-volume precipitation events, forcing Upton's infrastructure to handle more significant stormwater amounts than it has had to in the past.

Winter Storms.

Winter ice storms, a regional problem, are expected to be more intense and include more mixed precipitation, highly damaging to trees, power lines, and other infrastructure.

Drought.

Drought could lead to water shortages that will impact the entire town, regardless of whether residents and businesses are on town water or have private wells. Due to the impact of prolonged droughts and extreme heat, wildfires may become more frequent, and forests and wooded areas may become more combustible.

High Wind.

High wind events are a severe concern for Upton. The town and the surrounding area have experienced a recent uptick in storms with hurricane-level winds. While this phenomenon can be linked to extreme temperatures and rising precipitation rates, workshop participants felt it should be singled out as a hazard. Thus, the fourth hazard is focused primarily on the winds associated with these storms, leaving heavy rain events classified under flooding.

The workshop participants agreed that these hazards affect the town at different times of the year. Flexibility and year-round preparedness by town officials are needed to ensure citizens' safety across all the different hazard situations that climate change will exacerbate.

The hazards identified by Upton are based on data provided by the Massachusetts Climate Clearinghouse as well as watershed-specific data from the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. For the Blackstone River Basin, where Upton is located, projections show an expected increase in precipitation overall, with the greatest increase during winter. The number of days with more than 2 inches of rainfall, potentially leading to inland flooding, is also expected to increase. In 2100, it is estimated that there will be close to 1.28 days with 2 inches of rainfall, compared to approximately .74 days now. Consecutive dry days and days above 90 degrees Fahrenheit are also expected to increase, leading to drought. The number of days with a minimum temperature below freezing is expected to decrease, potentially leading to less snow and a greater likelihood of rain or freezing rain in the winter. Additionally, higher wind speeds in the summer and storm severity may increase with warmer temperatures.

CURRENT CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CMRPC, the MVP planning provider, had recently worked with the Town of Upton on their Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which was adopted by the Town's Board of Selectmen and approved by FEMA in March 2019. The recent HMP process and pre-workshop MVP Core Team meetings helped identify past climate-related events that significantly impacted Upton. Disaster events of concern included:

- Frequent major winter storms (as in 2015 and 2018).
- Tropical storms (Irene, Sandy).
- Dam overflow.
- Heavy rain and flooding (2015).
- Tornado (2018).
- Infestations of invasive and otherwise undesirable species (Gypsy moths, aquatic invasive species, ticks).
- Extended periods of drought (2016, 2020).

Future challenges linked to climate change, which were highlighted in the presentations and breakout groups included:

- An increase in hot and warm days and a decrease in cold days could result in a greater need for cooling and less need for heating. Upton residents will need to adapt to these temperature changes and potentially invest in new equipment like air conditioning systems to cope with extreme heat.
- Increased temperatures may also impact the water cycle, leading to more intense rain events. Higher precipitation rates could lead to more frequent and severe flooding in areas outside of designated flood zones, defined using historical data.
- Intense storms with high winds and precipitation are already a problem for Upton. More frequent or more severe storms could cause tree damage leading to power outages and road closures, high peak river flows and potential flooding, and erosion of riverbanks.
- More frequent and severe droughts will challenge water supplies and increase risks from wildfire.
- Ecological changes resulting from environmental shifts like rising temperatures can challenge native species and cause non-native or invasive plant and animal species to thrive. Increasing numbers of disease-carrying pests (e.g., ticks and mosquitoes) may result from these broader environmental changes, challenging public health. Other pests

may damage native tree species and compound the impact of other hazards like intense storms.

VULNERABLE AREAS

The locations in Upton identified by workshop participants during the discussion as vulnerable to climate change-related hazards include:

Upton Center, or Downtown Upton, is the town's most densely developed area. It includes residential and commercial properties, a federally recognized historic district, and was the focus of a recent economic development study.¹¹ However, Upton Center lies partially within FEMA flood zones A and X, which signify a 1% and 0.2% chance of annual flooding, respectively. There are few building footprints within the floodplain downtown. However, climate change models suggest future increases in precipitation. More stormwater may shift the floodplain boundaries and increase the annual chance of flooding within the established floodplain. As a result, the town's existing assets and potential redevelopment of Upton Center may be threatened by future flooding. Additionally, Upton Center contains a relatively high amount of impervious surface coverage due to its mix of commercial and residential buildings, parking lots, and roads. This concentration of impervious surfaces may prevent stormwater from being absorbed into the soil. Rather than soaking into the ground, water may drain off buildings and pavement into nearby water bodies like Center Brook, carrying pollutants and debris along with it.

West River is a tributary of the Blackstone River and is the primary drinking water source for Upton. Workshop attendees were concerned that future overuse and overreliance on the West River aquifer as a water source could adversely affect aquatic habitat. Pollution from stormwater draining into the West River could negatively impact its water quality. Additionally, the railroad crosses the West River, and attendees expressed concern about potential contamination from chemicals carried by train. Finally, West River is a designated cold water fishery and a habitat for many plant and animal species.¹² Climate change could cause detrimental ecological changes to the river, such as warming water temperatures or creating favorable conditions for certain invasive species.

The Upton Wastewater Treatment Facility is adjacent to the West River and is located within FEMA flood zone A, indicating a 1% annual flood risk. This critical municipal facility processes household wastewater for Upton residents connected to the municipal sewage system. Future increases in precipitation or severe storm events could increase the likelihood of flooding at the facility. It could also raise the volume of water processed by the facility due to the inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sewage system. In a worst-case scenario, if the volume of water in the system exceeds the facility's processing capacity, then untreated wastewater could back up into homes or enter Upton's water system.

VULNERABLE AREAS

- Upton Center
- West River
- Wastewater treatment facility
- Dams
- Ponds

¹¹ Dodson & Flinker, 2019.

¹² Blackstone River Watershed Association, 2007.

Dams across Upton need maintenance or replacement. According to the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety, the Wildwood Lake dam and Old Grist Mill Pond dam are classified as significant hazards. A workshop attendee also noted that the Taft Mill dam is also in need of inspection or maintenance. The Town of Upton owns all three dams. Dam failures are often caused by high floodwaters, which overtop dams and erode their structural integrity.¹³ In the future, more frequent extreme precipitation events could increase the risk of dam failure, overtopping, flooding upstream of the dam, erosion, or other hazards.

Water Bodies in Upton, including Pratt Pond, Mill Pond, Taft Pond and Lake Wildwood, are currently threatened by numerous water quality problems, such as eutrophication and algae growth, high bacteria levels, water weeds, and waste from Canadian Geese. The ecological changes that the town has already observed may be due to a combination of factors like stormwater pollution or fertilizer use and may be exacerbated by climate factors like higher precipitation events and rising annual temperatures.

¹³ Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, 2019.



SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES

The following topics were identified by workshop attendees as concerns or challenges related to Upton's changing climate and natural hazards.

Infrastructure Concerns:



Drinking water

Upton is dependent on wells located near the West River for all its public drinking water. The public water system serves residents in Upton Center, as well as along Mechanic and North Streets. Residences elsewhere in town are reliant on private wells. Attendees of the CRB workshop expressed concern about the impact that future droughts could have on the town's water supply. They noted that private wells already had long refill times during recent periodic drought conditions. Upton is also dependent on a single aquifer for its public water supply. The aquifer's capacity is a potentially limiting factor for town growth, and the existing geographic extent of public water lines may constrain the form and density of future development.

Asbestos cement pipes within Upton's water distribution system are another challenge because this type of pipe is vulnerable to failure. Industrial activity at the railyard abutting the aquifer and a community well was also perceived as a threat to town water.

Railroad

The Grafton and Upton Railroad (GURR) runs through Upton. Workshop attendees were worried about the railroad's potential impact on endangered species habitat and wetlands, the lack of transparency about potential safety hazards, and sparks on the line contributing to the town's fire risk. As the railroad is known to transport and store hazardous materials, there was also concern about accidental leakage of toxic chemicals and the potential impact on the abutting aquifer if an accident were to occur. Additionally, Attendees noted increased truck traffic in the area related to rail development on the Hopedale line. Railroad-related hazards may compound Upton's climate vulnerabilities by adding hazard risk to the town's water supply, fire potential, and local ecology.

Comments received during the public comment period echoed concerns expressed during workshop discussions. One commenter expressed that the expanded GURR facility on Maple Avenue may warrant further attention relative to emergency, resiliency, and vulnerability planning. This site is directly adjacent to the Town's Water Supply and because of the materials being transloaded there, the Fire Suppression system requires the use of Firefighting Foam that contains PFAS/PFOA. The Town might consider the continued development of Emergency Response and Recovery Plans to manage and mitigate risks to this facility and the Town's water supply and the critical wetlands. Please see the "Public Comments" section for more detail.

Wastewater and septic tank management

As mentioned in the prior section, the Upton Wastewater Treatment Facility is located in a flood zone near the West River. Inflow and infiltration issues in the town's wastewater system are another challenge for the town's Wastewater Division. When precipitation occurs, stormwater should flow into nearby waterways and bypass the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Drinking water
- Railroad
- Wastewater and septic management
- Dams
- Culverts
- Water towers
- Pavement

However, due to sump-pump drainage, cracks in sewer pipes, and various other reasons, stormwater also enters the wastewater system, increasing the water volume that the treatment facility must process. The treatment facility may be able to accommodate some stormwater-induced surges, but climate change may make extreme precipitation events even larger or more likely. If the treatment facility is overwhelmed by the volume of waste it must process, then untreated wastewater could back up in pipes or enter the environment. Fortunately, Upton's Wastewater Division is actively working to address this problem. Workshop attendees also noted that most of the town is not connected to the public sewer system. Instead, many residents use septic tanks, which may leach nutrients into the nearby environment if not properly maintained.¹⁴ The potential for untreated wastewater to enter the environment through the wastewater system or leakage from private septic tanks could create new public health hazards and add to ecological shifts that climate change may cause within the town's natural landscapes.

Dams

Dams across Upton may need inspection, maintenance, or replacement. According to the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety, the Wildwood Lake dam and Old Grist Mill Pond dam are classified as dams with significant hazard potential. A workshop attendee also noted that the Taft Mill dam might need inspection or maintenance. The Town of Upton owns all three dams. According to Upton's 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, dam failures are frequently due to high floodwaters, which overtop dams and erode their structural integrity. More frequent extreme precipitation events due to climate change could increase the risk of failure, overtopping, flooding upstream of the dam, erosion, or other hazards.

Culverts

Attendees expressed concern over the condition of culverts across town. They noted that culverts sometimes cause erosion, flooding, or block animal passage, and specifically identified problem culverts at:

- Church Street & Warren Street
- North Street
- Hartford Ave. South
- near Taft Mill Pond
- Glenn Ave./Pleasant Street
- Station Street
- Grove Street
- Westborough Road
- West River Road
- Southborough Road
- Heritage Park

Water towers

Upton owns two water towers that pressurize the town's water supply - the Pratt Hill Water Storage Tank and the Pearl Street Water Storage Tank. Workshop attendees noted that these tanks are vulnerable to high winds due to their elevated and exposed locations. The tanks also have a limited storage capacity, so Upton should explore other water storage options to build water supply resiliency.

Pavement conditions

One workshop table discussed poor pavement conditions and a need for more pedestrian safety measures in certain areas of town. Climate-related disruptions to Town transportation systems (i.e. road washouts due to heavy precipitation, potholes and rutting as a result of higher temperatures causing pavement to soften and expand) can impede the ability of people to move

¹⁴ Department of Public Works, n.d.



around Town. Workshop participants expressed particular concern about the sidewalks from Coach Road to the Plaza which are challenged by property owners' lack of adequate snow clearance after storms. Elderly residents in this area may be especially affected by pavement conditions exacerbated by climate threats.

Societal Concerns:

Town-wide emergency preparedness

Workshop attendees would like the town to revisit its emergency preparedness plans. While Upton has designated shelters at school buildings in town, it is unclear what triggers the shelters to open. Attendees observed that the elementary school lacks a backup power source for the cafeteria and the two high schools lie within the Railroad Isolation Zone. More research may be needed to determine the schools' viability as safe spaces during some disasters. Additionally, some multi-family buildings that house vulnerable community members may not be equipped for residents to shelter in place during extreme weather or prolonged power outages. The Milhouse Apartments, an affordable housing facility for seniors and disabled individuals, lacks an emergency generator and central air conditioning, which could limit residents' resiliency to heat stress. The Upton housing authority property also lacks a backup power source. With a greater likelihood of extreme temperatures in the future, Upton will need to identify and publicize the weather conditions that open public shelters and ensure that these facilities are accessible to residents who are unable to shelter in place.



SOCIETAL

- Town-wide emergency preparedness
- Lack of affordable housing and public transportation
- Cemeteries

Workshop attendees were also concerned that existing emergency communication strategies might not reach all residents. Upton has some areas without reliable cell phone or internet service and must ensure that the town's Emergency Management Department can contact residents of these areas during an emergency.

Lack of affordable housing and public transportation

Upton does not have enough housing options available for senior residents who would like to age in place, and housing choices are even more limited for the low-income senior population. During the workshop, an attendee benchmarked total affordable units across the town at 6.35% of the town's total housing supply. Ensuring access to safe and affordable housing is an important way for Upton to increase residents' adaptive capacity and decrease vulnerability to climate hazards.

The town also has limited public transportation options for residents who cannot drive or afford a vehicle. An inability to drive in a car-dependent place like Upton could constrain job opportunities, social circles, and access to essential goods and services. It may also force households to rely on cars for lack of suitable alternatives, constraining Upton residents' future efforts to reduce their overall carbon emissions.

Cemeteries

Upton currently has two major cemeteries in town. Lakeview Cemetery, located next to Pratt Pond, is town-owned and managed by the Cemetery Commission. While it is presently outside of FEMA flood zones, town stakeholders expressed concern that plots may experience flooding

in the future due to climate change-related precipitation increases. Cemetery flooding would negatively impact this important social and historic feature of Upton and further limit the availability of cemetery plots. Maplewood Cemetery is less vulnerable to flooding due to its topography, despite its proximity to West River wetlands. Workshop attendees also noted a general lack of cemetery space throughout town, which may prompt Upton to purchase additional open space for cemetery use in the future. One participant noted that the Town-owned Westborough Road property may be suitable for a future cemetery.

Environmental Concerns:

Waterbody health

Bodies of water across Town, including Pratt Pond, Mill Pond, and the West River, face several water quality issues, as noted in this report's prior sections. Non-point source pollution, including stormwater, may be contributing to the eutrophication, algae growth, high bacteria levels, and water weeds present in Pratt Pond and Mill Pond. The waste and grazing of Canadian Geese at Pratt Pond's Kiwanis Beach present an additional ecological challenge for that pond. Climate factors, including higher temperatures and precipitation changes, may exacerbate Upton's existing water quality issues. West River's future health was also a concern for workshop attendees given the potential for railroad accidents, the town's reliance on the West River Aquifer for drinking water, and the increasing likelihood of future drought.



ENVIRONMENTAL

- Waterbody health
- Fire prevention and vegetation management
- Ecological changes
- Erosion

Fire prevention and vegetation management

Workshop attendees noted that Upton has a relatively high fire risk in Massachusetts due to forest proximity to structures across the town. Homeowners may lack an awareness of this risk or best practices for reducing the threat of fire. Forested areas throughout town are vulnerable to increasing pressures from heat, drought, wind events, and gypsy moths. Dead or dying trees may be more susceptible to climate-related hazards like high winds and can add to the town's fire risk by increasing the amount of fuel. One participant observed that DCR currently lacks a management plan for Upton State Forest.

Open space residential design (also known as cluster developments) can be a tool to reduce the wildland-urban interface and lessen risk of property damage from wildfires.

Roadside trees also present a challenge for Upton due to a lack of a proactive tree trimming, removal, and replacement program. When severe weather events damage trees across town, debris can block streets and bring down utility lines, disrupting the town's transportation and communication systems.

Ecological changes

Ecological changes, including shifts in plant and animal habitats, may naturally shift in the future due to climate change. Workshop attendees observed several environmental changes that could negatively impact the town's overall resilience. Invasive plant and animal species have been observed throughout town. Some species like gypsy moths negatively impact the town's environmental quality by damaging trees, which can contribute to hazards like downed power lines and wildfire.

Workshop residents also observed that vector-borne illnesses spread by mosquitos and ticks are a growing public health challenge for the town. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus are both threats to Upton's residents. The town has previously had to institute dawn to dusk outdoor activities bans to protect residents from EEE, a difficult adjustment for residents, especially children unable to play outside after dark. While pesticide spraying may help mitigate the public health impact of mosquitoes on the town, some workshop attendees were concerned that the widespread use of these pesticides could also cause new environmental problems for Upton. In June 2021, Upton formed a Mosquito Control Board who will continue to evaluate the Town's best opportunities to address the local mosquito population and related concerns.

Other observed ecological changes include a decline in cold-water fish habitat related to increasing water temperatures and beaver activity. The Upton Conservation Commission is aware of this problem and has already established a program to monitor stream temperatures. However, restoring fish habitat may be made more complicated by rising temperatures due to climate change. Accommodating beaver populations is another known challenge for the town government. Beaver dams along Southborough Road and Mechanic Street were explicitly mentioned during the MVP workshop, although beaver dams were also observed along other waterways. While beavers are a natural feature of wetland ecosystems in New England,¹⁵ they can complicate municipal flood prevention efforts and damage property.

Erosion

Severe storms have led to topsoil loss in some areas of Upton. This type of erosion can negatively affect soil fertility, degrade freshwater ecosystems, and decrease flood control capacity.¹⁶ Upton stakeholders are also concerned about the potential for riverbank erosion due to sudden increases in water levels.

CURRENT STRENGTHS AND ASSETS

Upton has taken some steps to address natural hazards and climate change over recent years. The following topics were identified by workshop attendees as strengths or assets that will aid in Upton's climate resilience.

Infrastructure Strengths:

Upton Center redevelopment

Upton's residents appreciate their town center. Upton Center is the most densely developed town area and consists of a cluster of commercial, residential, and civic buildings. It also includes the Upton Center Historic District, which the National Park Service recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. CRB workshop attendees noted multiple historic assets, including the Mill, Mill Housing, and historic homes along Elm and Main Streets.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Upton Center redevelopment
- Local water supply

In 2019, Upton Center was the subject of an economic development and planning study focused on establishing a collective future vision for the area. Redevelopment within Upton Center may

¹⁵ MassWildlife, n.d.

¹⁶ DeLonge and Stillerman, 2020.

present opportunities for the town to incorporate resilient infrastructure into municipal projects. In the near term, Upton could consider ways to build resiliency into the future community center, which will house the town's senior center and library. Funding for the center has been approved at the May 2021 Town Meeting and a ballot vote. The new building has been proposed for a site near the Grove and Main Street intersection, next to the town's existing VFW building. This location is adjacent to Center Brook and is surrounded by existing FEMA flood zones. MVP workshop attendees were optimistic about the future community center and hoped the building would incorporate sustainable and resilient design features, such as geothermal energy, rainwater harvesting, and green infrastructure. An early draft of the building design includes features like a commercial kitchen and an HVAC system, which could be useful if the building is designated as an emergency shelter. However, other crucial resilient infrastructure features like a backup power system have not been detailed in public documentation to date.¹⁷

Local water supply

While workshop attendees were concerned about the impact of climate change on the town water supply, they also identified the local water supply as a town strength. West River is a reliable, clean source of drinking water for most of the town. Upton does not have to rely on its neighbors for water and has not had to deal with major contaminants. Workshop attendees recognized the value of this environmental asset, as well as the town's responsibility to protect their drinking water supply for future generations.

Societal Strengths:

Local social services

Workshop attendees valued the existing social services within the town. The Upton Center, under the advisory of the Council on Aging, is a hub for older residents in town. Its services include transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping trips, exercise classes, and navigation of social programs like SNAP and Medicare. Upton's library provides access to books and other media and hosts a wide variety of community events. As mentioned in the prior section, the new community center will combine the library and senior center under one roof. Upton also has three food pantries within the town boundaries, and neighboring communities host several others.



SOCIETAL

- Local social services
- Community organizations
- Schools and youth

Community organizations

At the MVP workshop, attendees noted that Upton's citizens serve their community through various charitable organizations. These organizations could support the community response to climate hazards or emergencies and provide support for climate resilience-building projects within the town.

- **The Upton VFW (Post 5594)** is located in downtown Upton and provides services to town veterans, hosts community events, owns the little league fields, and works with other community organizations like the Boy Scouts.

¹⁷ The Town of Upton, Massachusetts, 2021.

- **The Bloomer Girls** non-profit organization has been based in Upton since 1960 and serves the community through fundraising, volunteering, food distribution, and aid to the town's low-income residents.
- **The Upton Men's Club** is a charitable organization that cares for plantings in Downtown Upton and awards scholarships to town youth.
- **The Fire and EMS organization** is a non-profit that supports the town's Fire and EMS departments as well as the town as a whole through fundraising, community organizing, and helping to offset the cost of first responder equipment.

Schools and youth

Upton is home to the Memorial Elementary School, the Nipmuc Regional High School, and the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT). Some of the students and the Boy and Girl Scouts in town have volunteered on past environmental projects. Other students have become involved in the Sustainable Upton volunteer organization.

Workshop attendees singled out the BVT campus as a town resilience asset. The school draws students from 13 regional towns and acts as an economic driver for Upton. The campus also provides space for town recreation nights and has a small restaurant run by the students. It also has a variety of resources that workshop attendees thought could be useful during an emergency. BVT students have occasionally completed official projects for the town at a small cost and could help implement future climate resilience-building projects.

Environmental Strengths:

Agriculture

Upton has several active farms, including Town Line Dairy Farm, Kelly's Farm, Fivefork Farms, Stefan's Farm, and Long Life Farm. Fivefork Farms is currently a flower farm and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and is protected via a Conservation Restriction.



ENVIRONMENTAL

- Agriculture
- Open Space and Recreation

It is important to note that other farmland in Town is not permanently protected. Most existing farmland in the town is classified as agricultural land under Massachusetts Chapter 61A, which impedes future land-use changes in exchange for tax benefits. These farms provide town residents with access to locally grown food, which is increasingly in demand in Upton, and the Town might consider exploring more permanent protections for these properties.

The community garden at Stefan's Farm was designated as another town strength. The town holds around 120-acres of land, referred to as Stefan's Farm, in northern Upton.¹⁸ A portion of this land is used as a pesticide-free community garden, where town residents can garden for a nominal fee. There is high demand for garden plots and limited availability at the current site. Elsewhere on Stefan's Farm, hikers, horseback riders, and hunters use the open space for recreation. Portions of Stefan's Farm have potential to be leased or licensed to a farmer for agriculture.

¹⁸ Upton Open Space Committee, 2020.

Open Space and Recreation

Workshop attendees valued Upton's plentiful protected open space, consisting of over 3000 acres, including the Upton State Forest.¹⁹ Residents appreciate these areas for their recreational value and role in preserving the town's ecology, natural resources, and scenic character. Attendees mentioned the following features at the workshop:

- Upton State Forest covers 16% of the town's total area, primarily in North Upton.²⁰ The state owns the forest land, and workshop attendees noted that the town does not benefit from tax revenue on this land, but receives payments from the State in lieu of tax revenue and, unlike residential development, the cost of Town services associated with Forest is minimal. Moreover, Upton state forest provides the town with valuable recreational resources, including an extensive trail system and historic sites like a Civilian Conservation Corps building dating to the 1930s.²¹
- Kiwani's Beach is the town swimming beach at Pratt Pond. Workshop attendees want to address the water quality issues that have negatively impacted swimming and the pond and beach's recreational use.
- Upton's residents value the farms in Upton for their agricultural production and their protection of land from development.
- Many of Upton's protected areas include trail systems, which provide town residents with extensive access to nature.

Workshop attendees also mentioned several organizations that are active in Upton and play an essential role in preserving and protecting the town's open space:

- The Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Trust owns around 100 acres of land in town. However, trees on this land have been vulnerable to damage during recent storms.
- The Metacomet Land Trust and Sudbury Valley Trustees are both regional land trust that have partnered with the Town on past open space projects and can sometimes provide professional staff to assist with conservation projects. Attendees noted that the Metacomet Land Trust is currently without professional staff but provides volunteer support.
- Friends of Upton State Forest is a very active group in Upton. The group hosts environmental and historical education programs for the public, including programs for children. Its volunteers maintain trails, remove downed trees, and preserve historic features within the forest.
- The Baystate Trail Riders help maintain trails that are accessible for equestrian use within Upton's open space.
- The Nipmuc Rod and Gun Club owns over 100 acres of land held as open space for hunting, fishing, and target practice, though its grounds are only accessible to club members. This land is held under Chapter 61 and is not permanently protected.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE RESILIENCE

On Days 2 and 3 of the workshop, attendees took the next step in completing the CRB Matrix by suggesting actions that would address vulnerabilities or further bolster strengths they identified. The following actions are summarized from the matrix, which can be found in Appendix B of this document.

Infrastructure Actions

Assessing vulnerability to flooding across town will be critical to Upton's climate resilience efforts. Workshop participants noted several culverts might need replacements in the near term to alleviate flooding and allow wildlife to cross roads safely. Participants also proposed dredging Mill Pond or returning it to a stream to restore aquatic habitat. Along Southborough Road, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation needs to rebuild berms to protect bog ecosystems. Culverts, dams, bridges, and stormwater drainage across Upton will have to accommodate future changes to precipitation patterns, so the town should proactively evaluate these assets and their likelihood of failure or flooding. In the future, the town should ensure that staff considers nature-based solutions when evaluating alternatives for replacing or installing new water-control infrastructure. For example, when repaving streets, the town should consider incorporating green infrastructure to absorb stormwater in areas with significant impervious surface coverage, like Downtown Upton. When proceeding with any water-control infrastructure projects, the town should also consider the impact of the change on upstream and downstream waterways to avoid future flooding problems. To this end, the town should actively pursue watershed-level collaboration opportunities on flood management planning. Other town infrastructure components, including roadways, sidewalks, and gravesites, should be assessed by the town for their vulnerability to future flooding. The condition of roads and sidewalks should be evaluated through all four seasons, as they may be subject to flooding, damaged by flooding, or rendered unusable for other weather-related reasons like lack of snow clearance.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Assessing flood vulnerability
- Protecting water supply
- Proactive tree trimming
- Railroad safety

Protecting the future supply and quality of the town's water was a high priority for workshop participants. The town's water distribution system currently experiences leakage and problems, so pipelines will need to be evaluated and replaced if necessary. Another known issue is the water towers' vulnerability to high winds. In addition to preventing future damage to these structures, the town should evaluate the possibility of constructing a town reservoir to store a greater volume of water. Other ideas for making the town's water supply more resilient include:

- Education about the cost of increased water usage.
- Encouragement of methods for collecting and storing stormwater (e.g., rain barrels).
- Creating a drought-tolerant demonstration garden.

It was suggested that the town should also study the impact of drought on local farmers and identify options for ensuring their water supply during droughts. To protect water quality, the town should consider more frequent monitoring of wells and establish a Blue Space committee to oversee public water bodies like Pratt Pond. The risk of flooding at Upton's wastewater

treatment plant could also endanger local water quality. The town should evaluate the applicability of low-impact development interventions on the treatment plant grounds, stormwater storage opportunities, and other flood control measures.

Downed trees are a frequent cause of power outages in Upton, so the town could focus on **proactive tree trimming** as a strategy to prevent future outages. The town could hire an official town tree warden to plant and trim trees along streets and on town property. Upton should ensure that any new plantings are resilient to droughts and severe storms. A new Street Tree Committee could work with the tree warden to conduct a town tree census and identify areas that would benefit from trimming or tree removal and replacement. The Street Tree Committee could also help develop regulations that would maintain the town's overall tree count and mandate trimming near public infrastructure.

The possibility of a railroad accident was a significant concern for some workshop participants. Although Upton is unlikely to remove the railroad from town, they can prioritize **railroad safety and emergency response planning** to mitigate any risks that the railway and storage yard poses to the surrounding community. Participants proposed that the town develop regulations requiring the railroad company to publicly disclose a list of materials transported through or stored in Upton. The town could also research other means to mitigate potential rail disasters and pursue regional collaboration among towns along the rail line, potentially leading to greater cooperation from the rail company.

Societal Actions

Workshop participants would like to see



Upton **improve emergency preparedness** capacity by reevaluating existing plans and investing in supplies. Workshop participants were concerned about the lack of generators, or other backup power sources, at the existing emergency shelters, public housing, and senior housing facilities. The town should verify that designated public shelters, and facilities where residents may shelter-in-place, have adequate equipment and understand their role in emergency scenarios. If Upton lacks any emergency equipment, the town should develop a plan and budget to acquire necessary items. Upton should also verify that emergency plans include all types of climate-related disasters, including extreme heat, drought, and extreme cold. Additionally, the Office of Emergency management should ensure that institutions like schools, public and senior housing have up-to-date emergency plans and are included in the town's disaster mitigation planning process.

While Upton has an Emergency Preparedness Plan listed on the town website, workshop participants were concerned that town residents would be unaware of what they should do or how they could help during a weather-related emergency. Better **emergency preparedness education and communication** could ensure the town's overall resilience to climate change hazards. In addition to raising general awareness, the town should register more people for the town's emergency alert system and ensure a communication strategy for scenarios when phone or internet service is not available. One idea highlighted at the CRB workshop was formalizing

SOCIETAL

- Emergency preparedness capacity
- Emergency preparedness education and communication
- Housing and transportation options

a neighbor-to-neighbor communication system to ensure that the town's emergency coordinators can reach every resident town resident with important information. Another idea was to use the Upton's Council on Aging as a resource for contacting senior citizens when preparing for or managing emergencies if the town is not doing this already.

Upton should also focus on **expanding housing and transportation options** for climate-vulnerable residents. There are limited affordable residential units in town, but workshop participants noted that the town could use Community Preservation Act funds for affordable housing projects. A site on Westborough Road was identified at the workshop as a potentially suitable location for a new housing project. The town should also explore new ways to incorporate affordable units into mixed-use projects and market-rate housing development, to expand the variety of affordable housing options. There are also minimal transportation options for residents who are unable to afford or drive a car. The Council on Aging provides medical transportation for senior citizens, but that is the only form of public transit in Upton. Workshop participants want to see the Council on Aging expand their transportation service and the town to better serve residents without personal vehicles.

Environmental Actions

Incorporating climate hazards into development regulations was recommended to prevent future development from exacerbating known environmental challenges. One option for Upton could be a new floodplain overlay district to regulate new construction in current and future floodplains. Upton would also benefit from a development impact analysis, which might include an evaluation of:

- Whether existing town bylaws and permit review requirements undermine or prevent building local climate resilience
- Existing provisions for open space development
- Future development potential and its impacts (environmental, traffic, town infrastructure, etc.) in the context of climate hazards



ENVIRONMENTAL

- Update development regulations
- Protect new open space
- Environmental education
- Prioritize green infrastructure and

Workshop participants also discussed directing future development away from forested areas, which could mitigate future fire risk, and adding a bylaw to restrict soil removal, which would address erosion problems. The town is already updating its Stormwater Bylaws to prevent adverse impacts on water quality in the broader environment.

Upton is fortunate to have nearly 3000 acres of protected open space within town limits.²² Stakeholders at the CRB workshop valued this land's recreational, scenic and environmental benefits and wanted to **protect additional open space from future development**. Expanding access to land for agriculture and formally protecting existing farmland is a crucial way for the town to develop its local food system and economy. One idea to create new opportunities for local agriculture in Upton was to create a community farm at the Stefans Farm property. This community farm could follow Grafton's Community Harvest Project model, where volunteers

²² Upton Open Space Committee, 2020.

cultivate produce that is later donated to community members experiencing food insecurity. Workshop participants also wanted to evaluate the town's existing land use and see Upton develop a plan to preserve additional open space and wetlands, in addition to agricultural land. To increase the likelihood of future conservation in Upton, the town should proactively reach out to landowners about conservation benefits for their community and the broader environment. The town should also consider creating an ongoing education program on the many advantages of Upton's plentiful open space.

Upton is lucky to have so much open space and natural environments spread across town but must **educate citizens on how to maintain ecosystems** in the face of climate change. Education and outreach ideas from the workshop were as follows:

- To preserve the West River and mitigate the impacts of future drought, Upton residents could benefit from education and public outreach about water conservation. In addition to spreading awareness of this issue, the town could add drought-resilient landscaping to a town-owned building. This demonstration garden would educate residents and reduce the town's water use.
- Workshop participants also commented on Upton's high fire risk relative to other municipalities in the Commonwealth. The town should also proactively educate citizens on behaviors that can cause, spread, or exacerbate wildfires. This education program could include a list of climate-resilient plant species and landscaping best practices to reduce fire risk to dwellings, among other fire mitigation topics.
- As in many Massachusetts areas, invasive plant and animal species have been observed in Upton ecosystems, and climate change may induce further ecological disruptions in the town. The town should conduct additional outreach on vector-borne disease awareness and prevention.
- Workshop participants saw value in public education on invasive plant species. They would like Town Bylaws to require climate-resilient native plant species anytime they regulate vegetation, landscaping, or tree-planting.
- A campaign to improve local waterways' health and restore native fish populations across the Blackstone River Watershed could galvanize local involvement in environmental preservation and serve as an educational platform for future climate change impacts on local ecosystems.
- Workshop participants also saw an opportunity to incorporate climate change's local impacts into the three local schools' curriculum. They felt that the town should facilitate students' opportunities to get involved in local resilience-building activities and use those activities as a learning exercise.

Workshop participants would like the town to **prioritize green infrastructure and renewable energy** to improve town property. The new Community Center could include several "green" features such as thermal energy, rain gardens, and permeable pavement. Town buildings that are already constructed, such as the Department of Public Works building, could invest in rooftop solar panels, saving the town money, reducing carbon emissions, and serving as a positive example to the community. Workshop participants would also like Upton to demonstrate the town's commitment to climate mitigation and develop a clear strategy for reducing carbon emissions. To this end, Upton could develop a Climate Action Plan to quantify greenhouse gas

emissions and develop a strategy to reduce emissions that aligns with the town's land use, transportation, and economic development goals.

Top Recommendations

Following the three-day virtual workshop, CMRPC placed these actions in an online survey so that participants could prioritize their top recommendations. The survey was sent to all workshop attendees. Some priority actions were grouped with similar ideas to streamline the survey process. A total of six workshop participants answered survey questions on:

1. What hazards they were most concerned with
2. Whether an action was high, medium, or low priority
3. Whether an action was a short, long, or ongoing project
4. Which actions they would like to see Upton complete.

Readers can find a copy of the survey questions and the survey results in the Appendix at the end of this document.

It should be noted that the survey respondents were a small sub-set of workshop attendees, and that the priorities of these individuals may not align with Upton stakeholders as a whole. Attendees at the public listening session were generally in agreement with the following recommendations, but several provided comments expressing that a higher priority should be placed on other items (see "Public Comments").

Respondents were relatively evenly divided on the hazard of most concern for Upton. The greatest share of survey participants, 50%, selected **drought** as the town's top hazard. However, this was closely followed by **flooding**, **wind**, and **winter storms**.

Survey respondents elected that the following actions are high priorities for Upton:

- **Water system evaluation and planning including residential water pipeline conditions and leakage AND/OR water quantity and quality in local aquifers, wells and public ponds:** This action idea addressed multiple water supply vulnerabilities in Upton and was selected as a high priority by 83.33% of respondents.
- **Railroad safety and emergency response planning:** Workshop participants expressed concern over the environmental and public safety risks that the railroad could have on the town. two-thirds of survey respondents felt that addressing these risks through better emergency planning was a high priority for the town. two-thirds of survey respondents also selected this idea as the highest priority infrastructure-related action idea.
- **Climate change vulnerability assessment focused on water infrastructure and flooding (culverts, dams, bridges, stormwater drainage, etc.) AND/OR stream overflow and localized flooding mitigation using nature-based solutions:** two-thirds of MVP survey respondents voted that this option was a high priority, which targets the potential for stormwater-induced flooding in Upton.
- **Investments in generators for emergency shelters, public housing AND/OR senior housing:** two-thirds of survey respondents voted that generator purchases for buildings where community members can shelter during emergencies is a high priority for Upton.
- **Town Climate Action Plan and green energy investments (thermal energy at the Community Center, solar panels on town buildings):** two-thirds of survey respondents

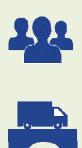
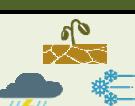
selected this action as a high priority, indicating that Upton stakeholders want to see the town prioritize climate mitigation activities along with climate resilience-building.

- **Evaluate disaster response plans, evacuation routes and public communication strategies; AND/OR include groups like schools and senior centers in disaster mitigation planning process; AND/OR develop capacity of the existing neighbor-to-neighbor program as the town's highest priority: 50% of survey respondents thought that this action was the highest priority society-focused action idea for Upton.**
- **Development impact analysis, which includes evaluating existing development bylaws and permit review requirements, evaluating existing provisions for open space development, and determining whether development impacts (environmental, traffic, town infrastructure, etc.) are being adequately considered in the context of climate change: 33% of survey respondents selected this idea as the highest priority environmental action for the town.**
- **Evaluate town land use and plan to preserve additional open space, wetlands, and agricultural land AND/OR recreational land planning, conservation, and outreach to landowners AND/OR develop opportunities for local agriculture and community farming on conservation land: 33% of survey respondents also selected this idea as the highest priority environmental action for the town.**

At the end of the three-day virtual workshop, CMRPC's Peter Peloquin thanked attendees for giving their time and attention, and commended the town for their willingness and flexibility to utilize a virtual platform giving the current public health conditions. The top recommendations on the following pages were compiled based on those actions reported out voted on by participants. Actions are organized by priority and project type. The key below describes the Category and Hazard types found in the top priority action table.

Category	Key
Infrastructural	
Societal	
Environmental	

Hazard	Key
Severe Storms/Flooding	
Winter Storms	
Wind	
Drought	
Wildfires	

Project Type	Category	Issue	Recommended Action	Hazard
High Priority				
Water Supply Protection		Water Conservation / Water Quality	Water system evaluation and planning including residential water pipeline conditions and leakage AND/OR water quantity and quality in local aquifers, wells and public ponds.	
Emergency Response		Railroad Safety / Emergency Response Planning	Increase local awareness of potential hazards related to materials stored at the railroad depot, develop or publicize railroad emergency response plan	
Stormwater Management		Watershed	Perform a town-wide watershed assessment, identifying causes of flooding and problem areas, expanding the water system, and prioritizing dams and culverts to be repaired	
		Culverts	Repair and replace existing culverts with nature-friendly designs or day-light culverts	
Power/Energy		Power Outages	Bolster Power Redundancy by investing in generators for emergency shelters, public housing AND/OR senior housing.	
		Alternative Energy	Town Climate Action Plan and green energy investments (thermal energy at the Community Center, solar panels on town buildings)	
Medium Priority				
Education and Outreach		Community Education	Public outreach campaign to educate residents on tree management for fire prevention and climate resilience.	
Roadways		Pavement Conditions	Pavement (sidewalks, roadways) conditions assessment.	
Water Supply Protection		Water Quality	Evaluate and improve the resiliency of wastewater treatment plant to climate hazards.	
Low Priority				
Policy Updates		Natural Resource Protection	Enact a town bylaw regulating soil removal.	
Education and Outreach		Biodiversity	Environmental campaign to restore native fish populations in town and across watershed.	
		Biodiversity + Tree/Forest Management	Public outreach campaign to educate residents on invasive plant species; AND/OR review town bylaws to recommend native species planting; AND/OR develop regulations that maintain town tree count but controls tree growth in hazardous areas near infrastructure.	
		Vector-borne Illness	Public education on vector-borne diseases and prevention.	

Public Comments

During the May 27, 2021 Public Listening Session, and during the May 24 - June 16, 2021 Public Comment Period, the below comments were received:

- One listening session attendee expressed that at a recent *Disaster Preparedness Roadmap: Building Main Street Resilience Workshop*, the largest number of attendees expressed that they were most concerned with threats such as “pandemic” and “social unrest.” While MVP is specifically related to addressing climate-related threats, the attendee felt that in order to truly plan for municipal vulnerabilities, other threats related to public health, equity, law enforcement, etc. should be considered and addressed. The pandemic has amplified poverty, vulnerability, and inequality, and reminded us that those with the least means suffer the most - this will also be true of climate-related threats.
- Due to the presence of the many bulk chemicals in the new warehouse building, fixed tanks, and rail cars, the expanded GURR Facility at 25 Maple Avenue is a critical facility that warrants more attention relative to emergency, resiliency, and vulnerability planning. This site is directly adjacent to the Town's Water Supply and because of the chemical commodities (polar solvents) currently being transloaded there, the Fire Suppression system requires the use of Firefighting Foam that contains PFAS/PFOA. Given the environmental concerns with these Foams, the Town should consider continued development of an Emergency Response and Recovery Plan and an Annual Program to identify methods to manage and mitigate PFAS/PFOA-related risk to this facility, and to protect the Town's water supply and adjacent critical wetlands. The commenter suggested that this Summary of Finding Report recommend planning to provide mitigation and risk reduction strategies to manage hazards associated with the GURR Facility. This Facility may also continue to challenge the community to accelerate identified infrastructure improvements.
- Climate change is continuing to increase forest fire risk and the Wildland Urban Interface for the Town. One commenter recommended that Upton begin a more comprehensive risk management strategy to address the increasing wildfire risk as part of an overall risk management plan by reviewing development regulations and considering changes and revisions in requirements and recommendations to protect people, structures, property, and open space resources in a more comprehensive Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Plan and strategies.
- One listening session attendee conveyed surprise that more importance was not placed on energy resilience and outage responses. The Town might consider how they will minimize their risk to more frequent outages as a result of climate hazards.
- One commenter opined that water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure in Town has not had the attention and investment to support development of the commercial, mixed use, and residential development that can support affordable housing units (i.e. Apartments/Condos, Townhouses, smaller, more dense residential developments). The Economic Development Commission (EDC) has identified energy storage facilities and Renewable Energy Projects as additional possible economic development opportunities because of the community's proximity to electric transmission facilities. Energy storage system installation requires a water supply, and a system expansion could support these efforts. The Town could consider investment in water infrastructure in order to drive economic development and support other initiatives identified herein (i.e. more affordable housing stock).

- Listening session attendees generally noted that the limited participation of MVP participants in the post workshop survey has potentially not appropriately prioritized all the risks and potential actions for Upton. The Core Team recognizes that in order for the MVP plan to be successfully implemented, there must be ongoing coordination and communication among Town departments and municipal boards/commissions to ensure alignment with current and future Town plans and initiatives. Upton may consider implementing yearly Core Team progress review meetings to assess progress and evaluate current concerns and recommended actions.

Next Steps

This planning process and list of prioritized recommendations is only the first step in building a more resilient community. The intent of the Summary of Findings Report is to identify the strengths and vulnerabilities of a Town, and to brainstorm potential actions that could help the Town build climate resilience.

Once the State accepts the Summary of Findings report and deems the Town of Upton an MVP Designated Community, the Town should begin identifying projects that they would like to complete from the list of Recommended Actions, or further involve Town stakeholders to identify if there are additional actions not identified herein that would bolster community resilience. Based on Town interests and capabilities, Upton can then begin developing action plans to pursue these projects, and should utilize MVP Action Grants, Town resources, or other grant programs and funding opportunities to explore these ideas further.

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APPENDIX

- I. Agendas
- II. Workshop Meeting Materials
 - a. Invitation
 - b. Maps
 - c. Table Matrix
 - d. Survey
- III. Workshop Presentations
- IV. Listening Session Presentation



AGENDAS



Community Resiliency Building Workshop

Town of Upton

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Day 1- Thursday, February 18, 2021

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm; Check-in at 5:45 pm

Meeting Link (Click to Join):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82035315333?pwd=V0tQeCsxU3B2dk43SUYxYS90MVdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 3531 5333

Passcode: 066525

Call in Number (if unable to join online): +1 646 558 8656

Workshop Materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqOipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Workshop Agenda

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm:

- Login & Familiarize with Zoom

6:00 pm – 6:15 pm:

- Welcome & Overview
- Questions & Answers

6:15 pm – 7:40 pm:

- Breakout Groups
 - Identify Hazards & Local Features
 - Discuss Strengths & Vulnerabilities

7:40 pm – 8:00 pm:

- Reconvene as Large Group
- Quick Table Summary
- Closing Remarks & Wrap Up

Day 1: Workshop Objectives

- Define extreme weather and climate related hazards;
- Identify current and future vulnerabilities and strengths;
- Edit online map with important hazards and features

Homework

- Review hazards, vulnerabilities, and strengths in matrix
- Brainstorm actions to address vulnerabilities

Thank you for participating in Upton's Virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop!





Community Resiliency Building Workshop

Town of Upton

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Day 2- Thursday, February 25, 2021

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm; Check-in at 5:45 pm

Meeting Link (Click to Join):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82035315333?pwd=V0tQeCsxU3B2dk43SUYxYS90MVdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 3531 5333

Passcode: 066525

Call in Number (if unable to join online): +1 646 558 8656

Workshop Materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqOipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Workshop Agenda

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm:

- Login & Familiarize with Zoom

6:00 pm – 6:15 pm:

- Welcome & Recap from Day 1
- Questions & Answers

6:15 pm – 7:40 pm:

- Breakout Groups
 - Identify Actions to Reduce Risks and Build Resilience
 - Prioritize Actions by Urgency and Timing

7:40 pm – 8:00 pm

- Reconvene as Large Group
- Table Reports
- Closing Remarks & Wrap Up

Day 2: Workshop Objectives

- Review vulnerabilities and strengths identified on Day 1
- Develop and prioritize actions;
- Identify opportunities for the Town to advance actions and reduce risks to build resilience

Homework

- Review actions to reduce risks and build resilience
- Brainstorm additional actions to address vulnerabilities
- Attend Day 3 Workshop

Thank you for participating in Upton's Virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop!





Community Resiliency Building Workshop

Town of Upton

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Day 3 - Thursday, March 4, 2021

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Check-in at 3:45 pm

Meeting Link (Click to Join):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88968050853?pwd=bDJFZmx6SFcwNnBXVEFQWXdUWkJnZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 6805 0853

Passcode: 146987

Call in Number (if unable to join online): +1 646 558 8656

Workshop Materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqOipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Workshop Agenda

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm:

- Login & Familiarize with Zoom

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm:

- Welcome & Recap from Day 1 & 2
- Questions & Answers

4:15 pm – 5:40 pm:

- Breakout Groups
 - Identify Additional Strengths & Vulnerabilities
 - Identify Additional Actions to Reduce Risks and Build Resilience

5:40 pm – 6:00 pm:

- Reconvene as Large Group
- Table Remarks
- Closing Remarks & Wrap Up

Day 3: Workshop Objectives

- Review vulnerabilities and strengths identified on Day 1
- Review potential actions identified on Day 2
- Develop and prioritize additional opportunities for the Town to reduce risks

Homework

- Review actions to reduce risks and build resilience
- Vote for top priority actions via survey (link to be emailed)
- Attend Listening Session

Thank you for participating in Upton's Virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop!



WORKSHOP INVITATION



Participate in Upton's Virtual Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

Given events like the Springfield tornado in 2011, the snowstorms of 2015, the extreme drought of 2016 and recent Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, we find ourselves in a new era of more unpredictable and severe weather that can potentially cause damage to our community.

To be as proactive as possible, I would like to personally invite you to participate in a, three-part, virtual Community Resilience Building Workshops focused on preparing and protecting the Town of Upton.

The MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EOEEA) **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Workshops**

Thursday, February 18th from 6 – 8PM

Thursday, February 25th from 6 – 8PM

Thursday, March 4th from 4 – 6PM

All meeting will be held virtually on ZOOM.

The Town of Upton is collaborating with EOEEA and CMRPC to offer this timely virtual workshop which will bring together community members to comprehensively identify and prioritize steps to reduce risk and improve resilience across Upton. This workshop will help develop and advance comprehensive community resilience planning, hazard mitigation, and adaptation efforts.

The workshops' objectives are to:

- Define extreme weather and climate related hazards;
- Identify current and future vulnerabilities and strengths;
- Develop and prioritize actions; and
- Identify opportunities for the Town to advance actions and reduce risks to build resilience.

To learn more about the workshop, please visit the following websites:

- Community Resilience Building: <https://www.communityresiliencebuilding.com/crbworkshopguide>
- Municipal Vulnerability Program: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/home-mvp>
- Resilient MA, Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth: <https://www.resilientma.org/>

Log-in information and meeting material's for Upton's MVP workshop will be sent out on February 12th to those who RSVP. We would appreciate your participation in this timely workshop.

Please RSVP by February 11, 2020.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Paul Dell'Aquila, Town Planner, PDellAquila@uptonma.gov, or Sarah Adams, CMRPC, sadams@cmrpc.org.

We look forward to seeing you or a designee at our virtual workshop. Thank you for your assistance with this important project!

Sincerely,

Derek S. Brindisi
Town Manager



Thank You for Your Participation in Upton's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program!



The Town of Upton is collaborating with EOEEA and CMRPC to offer a three-day virtual workshop on **Thursday, February 18th and 25th from 6 – 8PM, and Thursday, March 4th from 4 – 6PM** which will bring together community members to comprehensively identify and prioritize steps to reduce risk and improve resilience across Upton. Follow the instructions below in order to help make your community more climate resilient! If you have any questions about the program, please contact Upton Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila at PDellAquila@uptonma.gov. We look forward to seeing you virtually at our workshop!

Step 1. Discover Upton's MVP Dropbox

The resources included in this invitation will help you learn more about the MVP program and prepare you for the upcoming workshop. All of these resources and more can be found in the following Dropbox link. If possible, you will want to have this Dropbox link open during the workshop so that you can easily access this information.

Workshop Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqOipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Step 2. Review the Program Overview and Workshop Guide

The following two documents will give you an overview of the MVP program and will describe a typical Community Resiliency Building (CRB) workshop.

MVP Program Overview: https://www.dropbox.com/s/n2ounjr2di1mh0t/MVP%20Program%20Info_Updated%202019.pdf?dl=0

CRB Workbook: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/n2r0xkza3xd3uj8/CRB%20Workshop%20Guide.pdf?dl=0>

Step 3. Watch the MVP Presentations Prior to Workshop

The following link contains pre-recorded presentations that will help you be better prepared for the MVP workshop. The presentations include an overview of the program and the MVP process, climate projections and hazards that Upton may face in the future, and instructions on how to use the CRB Matrix. Please take some time to review each of these presentations before February 18th.

Presentations: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7afmbw2ytqy3wvy/AAAfw4BM62rOH7VMVSmpxHk7a?dl=0>

Step 4. Familiarize Yourself with the Matrix and Maps

During the virtual workshop, we will divide up into breakout groups to discuss strengths, vulnerabilities, and possible actions that the town can take. During this process, we will be filling out a matrix and marking up maps with our ideas. The following links will show you an example of a completed matrix, and will give you a set of pre-made maps that already display various features, hazards, and resources in Upton.

Complete Matrix Example:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qkfuc9f518yfna8/Completed%20Matrix%20Example.pdf?dl=0>

Maps: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r8szf7v700k0fd4/AAAlpCz7mVb-xeTyptvPbVzGa?dl=0>

Step 5. Attend the Workshop!

The 3-day workshop will be held on **Thursday, February 18th and 25th from 6 – 8PM, and Thursday, March 4th from 4 – 6PM**. The agenda for each day as well as the Zoom meeting links are listed below. Please review the agenda for each day and use the meeting links to join the Zoom.

Agenda Day 1: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/9ut2fapfn94f8u2/Workshop%20%231%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>

Zoom Link Day 1: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82288750894?pwd=RHFsa3E2amZQMHhPRGtDVkovU2ViZz09>

Agenda Day 2: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/22hvrulk1sgyxo7/Workshop%20%232%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>

Zoom Link Day 2: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82035315337?pwd=V0tQeCsxU3B2dk43SUYxYS90MVdHQT09>

Agenda Day 3: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/tez7vghdn7y6le2/Workshop%20%233%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>

Zoom Link Day 3: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88968050853?pwd=bDJFZmx6SFcwNnBXVEFQWXdUWkJnZ09>

Learn How to Zoom

New to Zoom? The following document contains a series of instructional videos to help guide you through Zoom from downloading the app to joining a meeting for the first time.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z7sks13hjk0rz84/How%20To%20Zoom.pdf?dl=0>

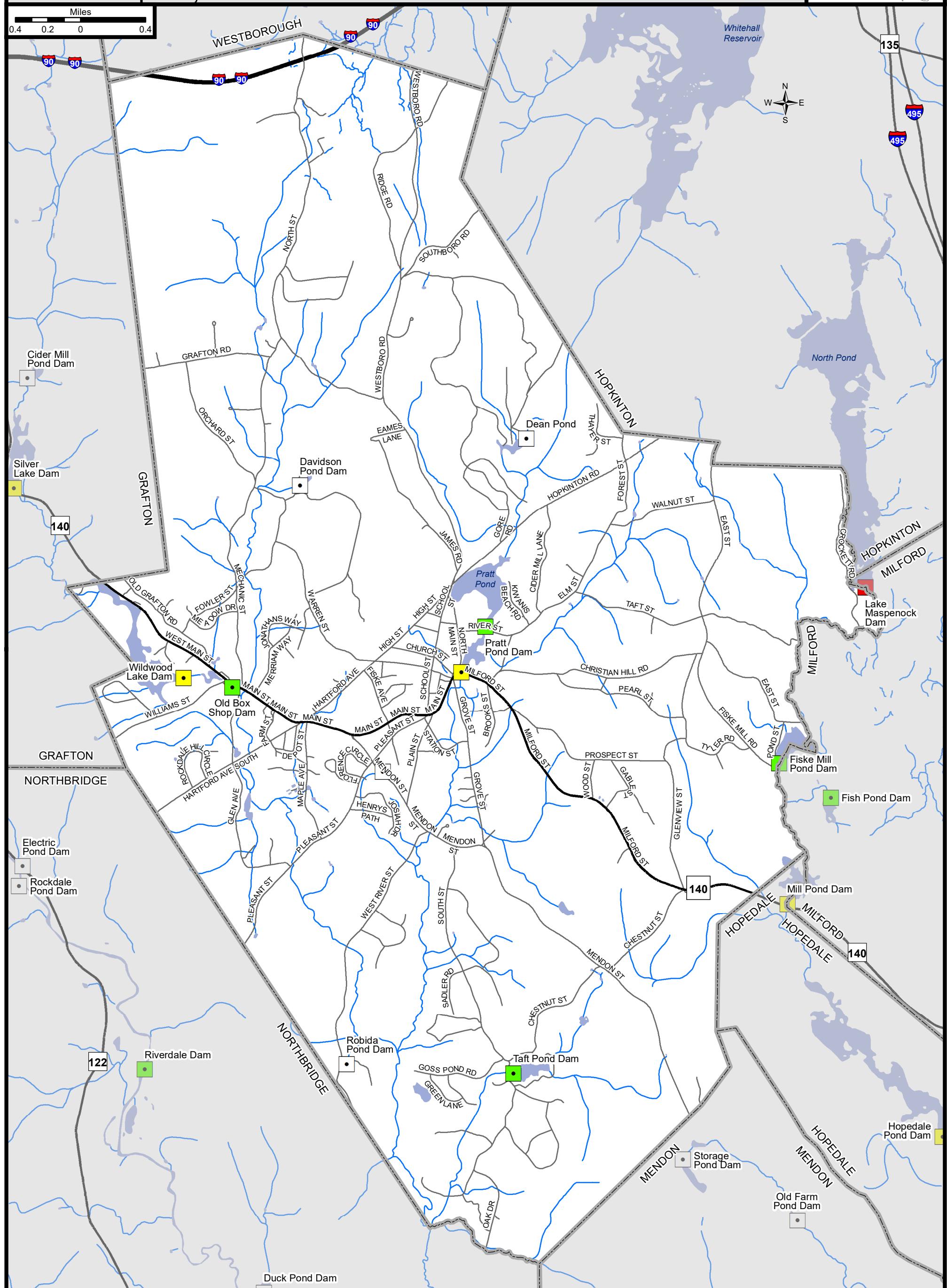
MAPS

Reference Map: Dams (2012)

Town of Upton, Massachusetts



Miles
0.4 0.2 0 0.4



Legend

Town Boundary — Major Road
Water Bodies — Local Road

Dams

■ High Hazard	● Low Hazard
■ Significant Hazard	● Not Rated, Too Small
■ Hazard	

Source: Data provided by the Town of Upton, CMRPC, massDOT, MassGIS.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 - Worcester, MA 01608

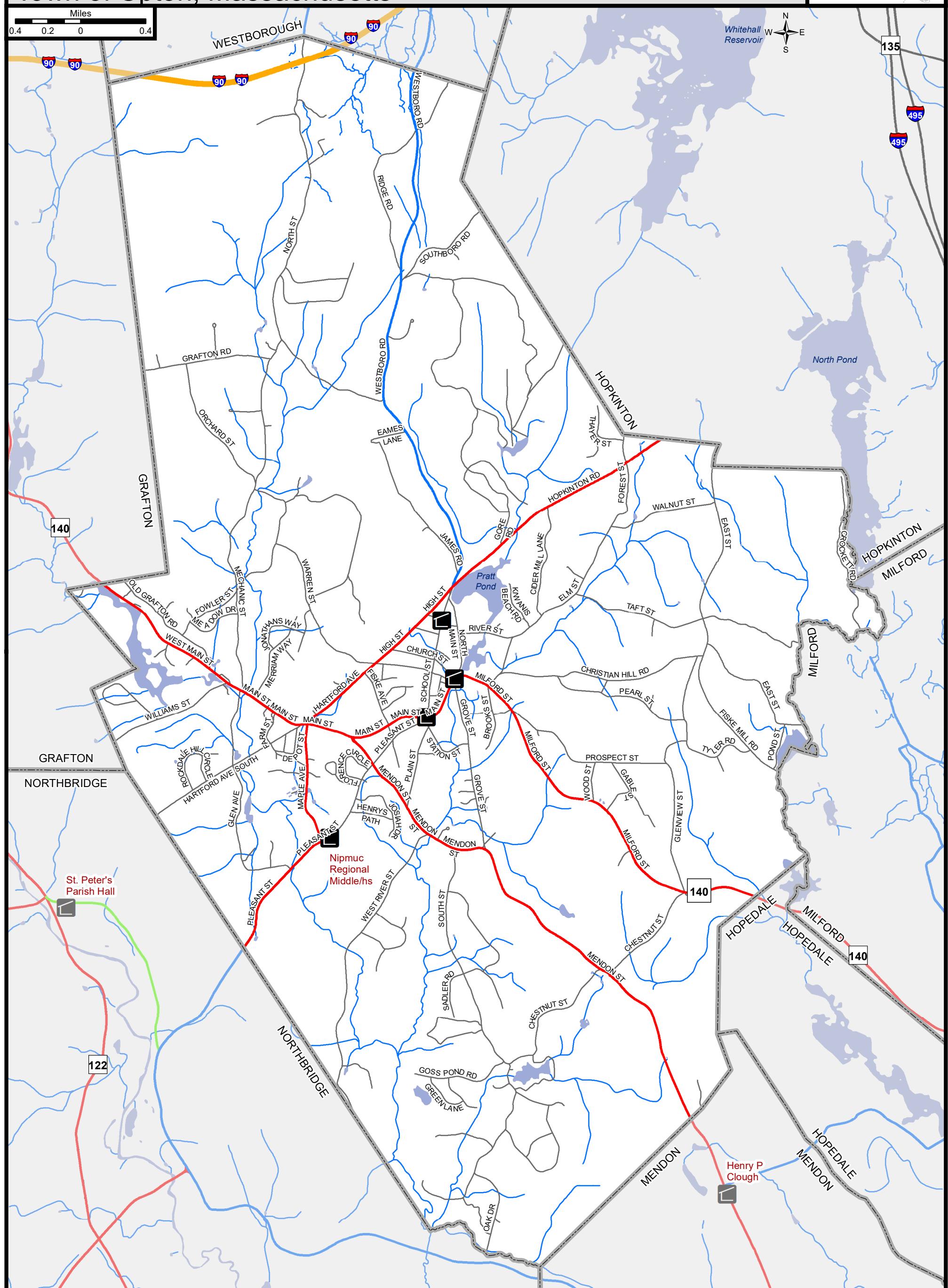
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop

Reference Map: Evacuation Routes & Shelters

Town of Upton, Massachusetts



Miles
0.4 0.2 0 0.4



Source: Data provided by the Town of Upton, CMRPC, massDOT, MassGIS.

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One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 - Worcester, MA 01608

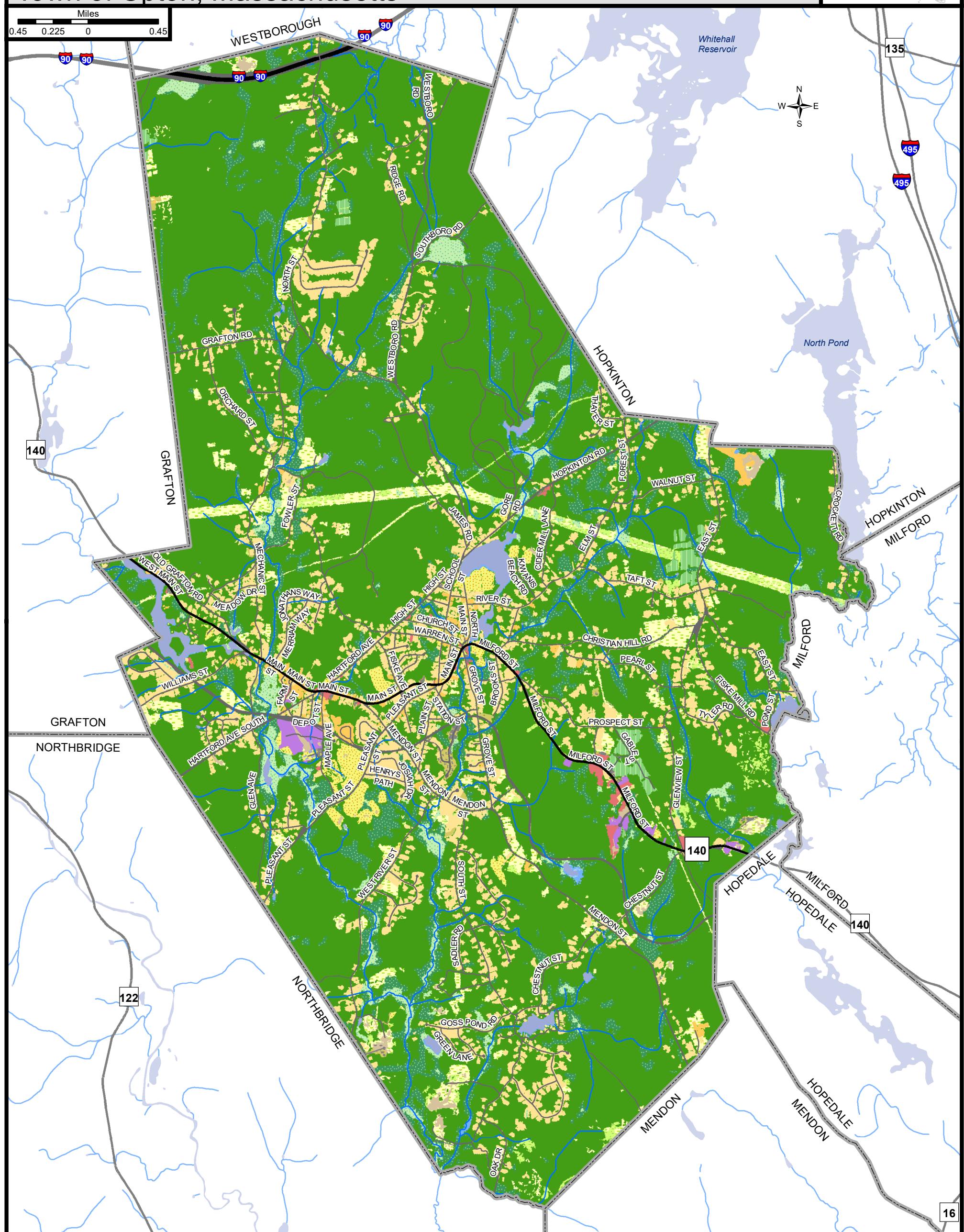
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop

Reference Map: Land Use (2016)

Town of Upton, Massachusetts



Miles
0.45 0.225 0 0.45



Residential

Residential - Other

Residential - Multi-Family

Commercial

Industrial

Mixed Use - Other

Urban

Public/Instit...

Pasture/Hay

Cultivated

Forest

Scrub/Shrub

Bare Land

Forested Wetland

Cultivated

Non-forested Wetland

Saltwater Wetland

Water

Unconsolidated Shore

Aquatic Bed

Other

Impervious

Developed Open Space

Right-of-way

Cranberry bog

Orchard

Nursery

Misc

Source: Data provided by the Town of Upton, CMRPC, massDOT, MassGIS.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 - Worcester, MA 01608

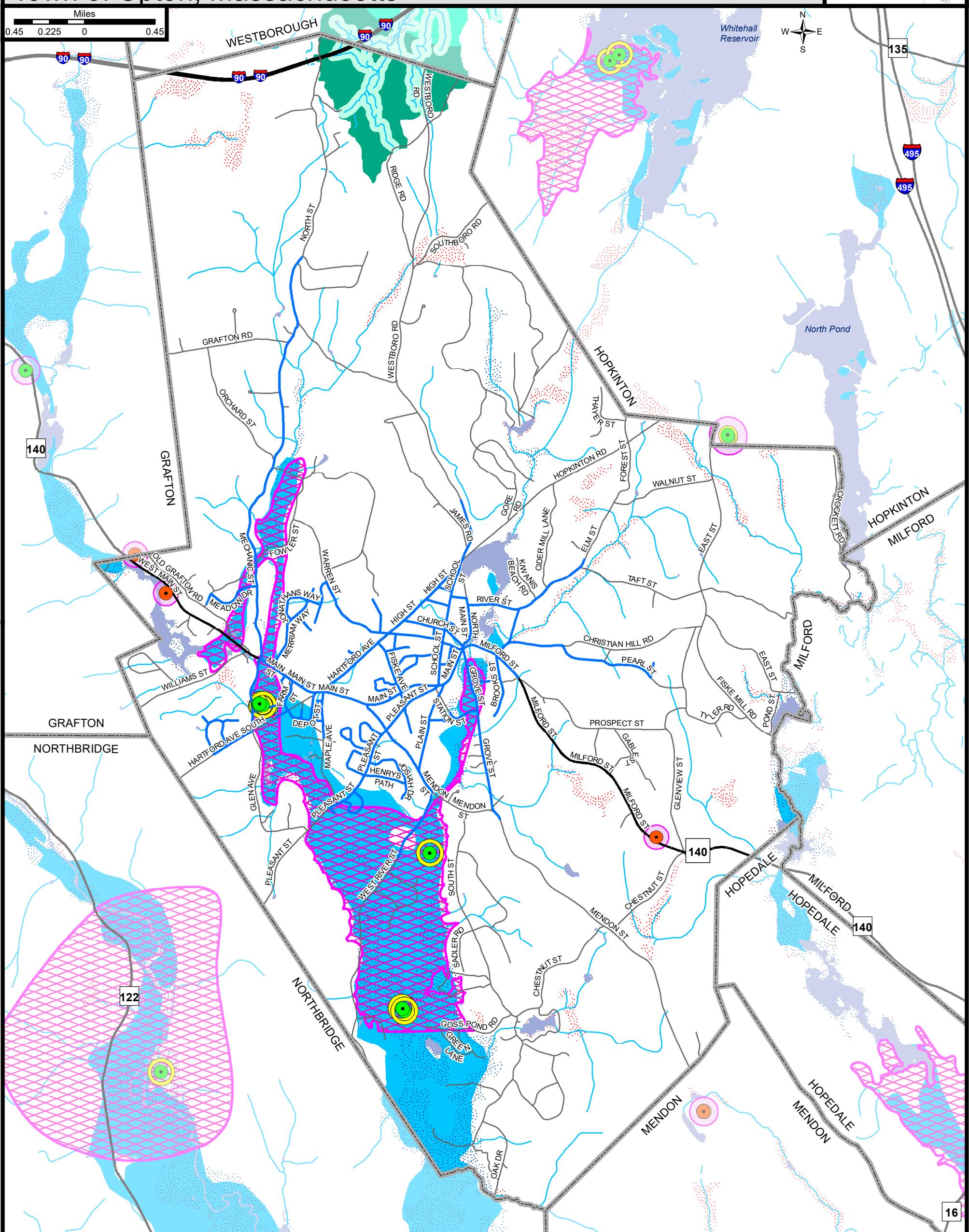
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop

Reference Map: Water Resources

Town of Upton, Massachusetts



A scale bar labeled "Miles" with tick marks at 0.45, 0.225, 0, and 0.45.



massDEP Public Water Supplies

Community
Groundwater
Source

Water Supplies
Non-Community
Groundwater
Source

DEP Approved

Approved Wellhead Protection Areas

(Zone II)

Interim Wellhead Protection Areas

FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (DFIRM Data) or FEMA Q3 Flood Zones (Pre-DFIRM)

100-year Flood Area
500-year Flood Area

Surface Water Supply Protection Areas

Area

Zone A

Zone B

— Water Line

Source: Data provided by the Town of Upton, CMRPC, massDOT, MassGIS.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.



CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

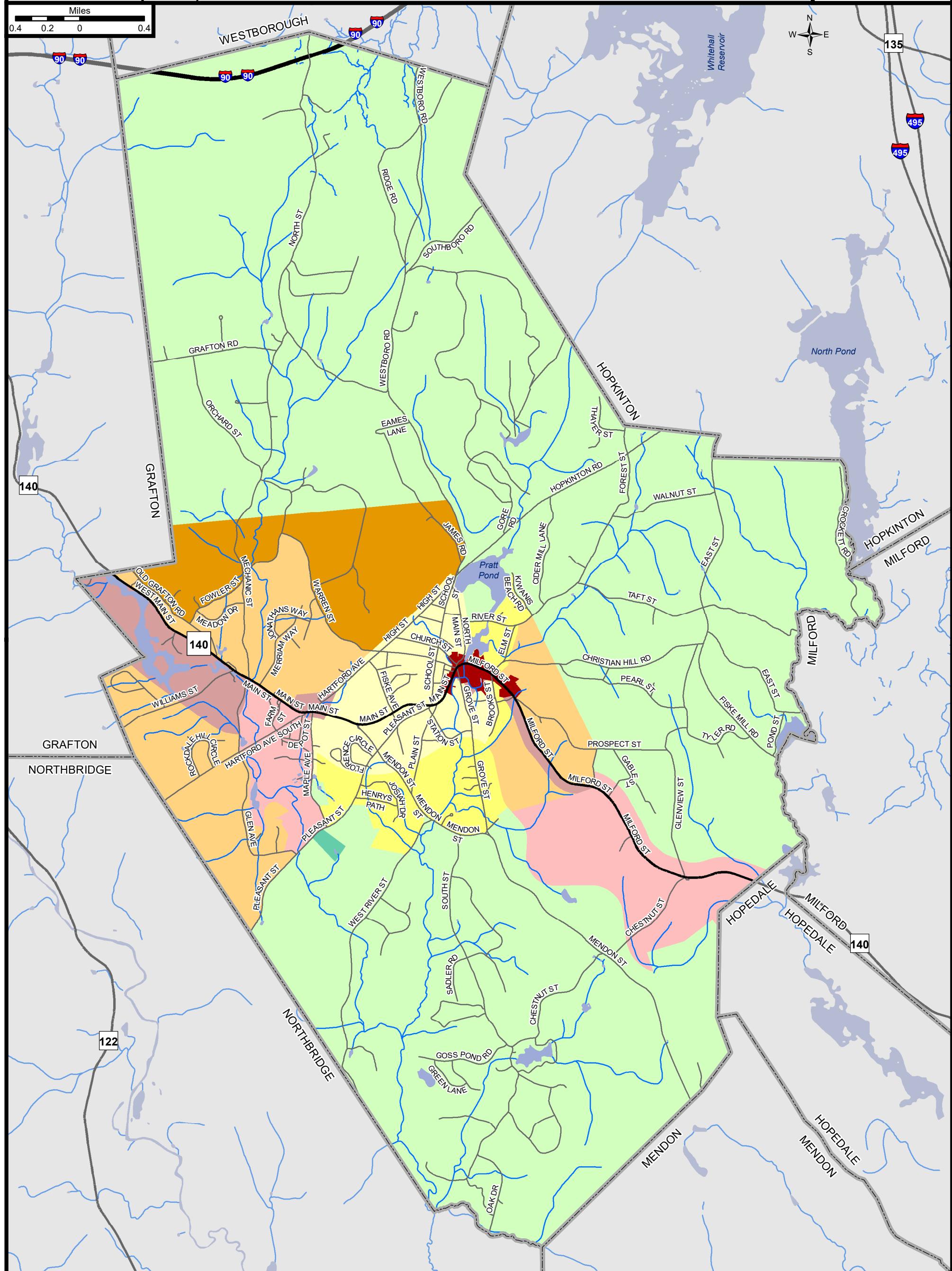
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop

Reference Map: Zoning

Town of Upton, Massachusetts



Miles
0.4 0.2 0 0.4



Source: Data provided by the Town of Upton, CMRPC, massDOT, MassGIS.

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

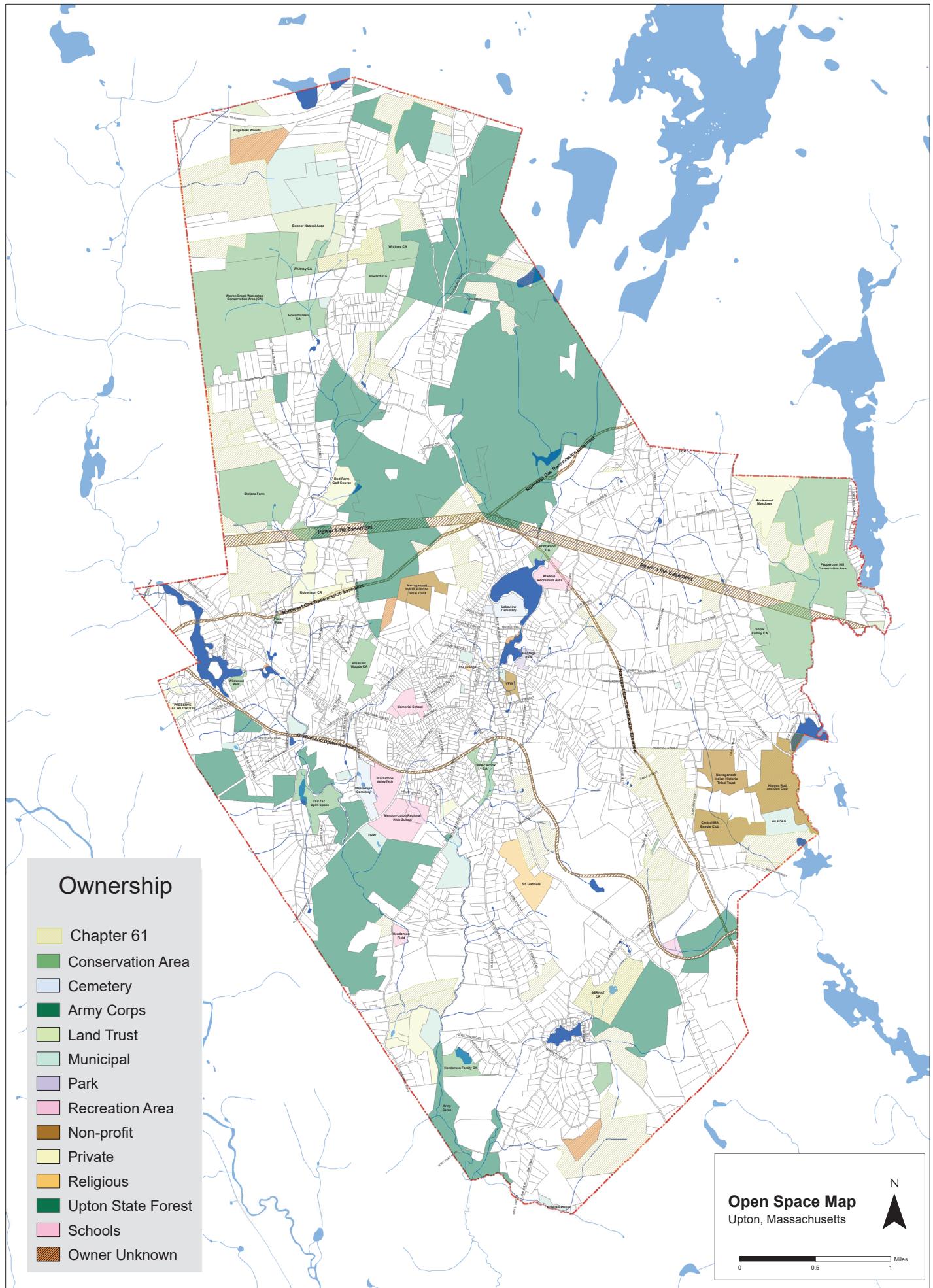


One Mercantile Street, Suite 520 - Worcester, MA 01608

Zoning Districts

Agricultural Residential (AR)	Upton Center Business District	Single Residential B (SRB)
Commercial & Industrial (C&I)	Municipal Government Facilities (MGF)	Single Residential C (SRC)
General Business (GB)		Single Residential D (SRD)
		Single Residential A (SRA)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop



MATRIX

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

Table 1

H-M-L priority for action over the **Short or Long term (and Ongoing)**

V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

Table 1

H - M - L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)
 V = Vulnerability S = Strength

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S
----------	----------	-----------	--------

Environmental

				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)				Priority	Time
				Drought	Wind Events	Flooding	Winter Storms		
				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing				
Railroad (hazardous materials storage)	Mapel			Could materials being stored / plans be made publicly available on the Town site?					
Floodplain	Town Center			Town should incorporate green infrastructure into the redesign of Town center. Develop regulations like Floodplain overlay district, to target floodplain for preservation and conservation.					
Vegetative Management - Forest proximity to residents				Public outreach campaign on different plant species for fire prevention, and on how to address hazard trees in a way that preserves forest, but protects property.					
Wild Fires	Town-wide	Town, State, Private		Public outreach efforts to help residents understand the risk, suggest plants that might help with fire prevention, increase public awareness on behaviours that could cause fires.					
Rivers - Center Brook									
West River - flood storage									
Invasive Plants				Provide education on invasive species, utility line clearing practices, native species benefits, recommendations for mature plants that would not be so tall and require as much veg management. Best Planting Species Suggestions (town). Town reviews development bylaws to recommend native plantings					
Increased Vector-borne Illness	Red Maple Swamp / cattails near Station Street			Public education on the influence by mosquitos and ticks. Influence on outdoor activities. Reminders on changing species.					
Beaver Dams	Town-wide, specifically Southborough Road, Mechanic Street								
Kiwanis Beach	Kiwanis Beach Rd			Existing water quality report; Restoration efforts on Kiwanis Beach, look at other town's case as example. Goose Reduction Efforts!					
Kiwanis Beach (High bacteria levels-E.coli levels last summer)	Kiwanis Beach Rd								
Trail System	Town-wide	S		Constant maintenance for trails. Ongoing education on the benefits of open spaces in town.					
Conservation Lands	Town-wide	S		Ongoing education on the benefits of open spaces in town.					
Working Farms (Town line Diary Farm, Callies, fivefork Farms, community-support agricultural farm, long life farm)	Town-wide	S							
Pond Water Quality - Mill Pond, Pratt Pond, (private group on water quality**)	Town-wide								
Blackstone River Valley Watershed? Heritage Corridor? (Larger collaboration)									
Riverfronts				Inventory on the future influences by erosion and damages brought by Climate Change (rising river-level). Regional collaboration on river-related issues: Blackston Watershed.					
Stormwater Management Bylaw				Ongoing effort by CMRPC. Going through the bylaws now.					

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

Upton Table 2

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.)

Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Drought	Wind	Flood	Winter Storms	Priority	Time			
				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing							
Infrastructural												
Dams												
Dams	Town-wide (focus on 2 dams at center of town)	2 dams in center owned by town	S/V	inspect condition of dams					O			
Upstream/Downstream Infrastructure	Town	n/a	V	Develop ability to mitigate flood and stream overflows.					L			
2 Watertowers			V/S	support project to make watertowers able to fill to full capacity (only at 70% currently due to pressuring restraints) - no capital capacity to undertake this yet; incorporate into townwebsite ('Sustainable Upton' page);					H S			
Wastewater Treatment Plant	Maple Ave			LID applicability analysis; flood control around treatment plant (includes a crossing); flood storage; on top of wetland areas; limit overall vulnerability to natural hazards					M O			
Private wells/town wells				how to protect residents if wells and water resources fail; tie residents into a homogenous system?; stormwater/surplus water storage and education at all levels, townhall, etc.					M O			
Grafton-Upton Railroad	through-Town		V	travels through endangered species habitat and wetlands, by the wastewater treatment plant; come up with Coordinate system to tie railroads into local bylaws					L L			
Water pump stations	intersection of Hartford Ave. South and Glen Ave		V	located near 55+ housing developments; prioritizing I & I phases (Phase 3);					S/L			
Wastewater pump locations												
Evacuation Routes	Route 140, etc.		V/S	maintain/develop Evacuation Plan;								
Culverts	Town-wide (specific: Church St/Warren St; North St)			Prioritization of Vulnerable/Poorly Designed Culverts (review applicability of other methods)								
Bridges	Grove Street											
Asbestos Cement Pipe (water distribution lines)	6 miles remaining amongst water lines		V	Replacement of water distribution lines that are vulnerable and sensitive to failure/damage								
INI (inflow-infiltration issues in wastewater)			V									
Communication/Education				"dead spots" solutions; encourage residents/business owners to sign up to RAV Smart911								
Societal												
senior population	55+ communities (Upton Ridge - Hartford Ave South; another off East St; Mill House Apartments; a couple other developments in planning)			expand service to transport;								
Assisted Living Facilities	some related facilities in town											
Schools				include schools for expertise, education, help; school alerts system;								
Fire/Police stations												
Downtown Revitalization Plan			S	Support this plan								
DPW building		Town										
Town Hall												
Senior Center/Population				improve or expand upon transportation services; use as a source to understand where most vulnerable elderly are to communicate during emergency								
Communication/Education				community education to help residents understand what their role is and how to reach out to emergency services/DPW during a natural emergency; develop ways to communicate needs during an emergency where phone and internet service are not active; neighbor-to-neighbor system								
Library												
private medical facilities												

cemetery			V	protect plots and future plots from flood events		
shelter resources or heat/dry assistance	n/a - potentially schools		V	ID shelters or develop these services		
Environmental						
Floodplains/openspace/wetlands	Town-Wide	DCR/Local Involvement/Private	V/S	restoration/protection; expand open space inventory and other purchasing methods; sustain forested area; refine language Open Space Central Design Provision bylaws; protect Upton State Forest; look into expanding food/farming resources in cases of geographic disaster		
Kelly Property	Peppercorn Hill	private (SVT oversight for conservation)				
5 Fork Farm (or Sweet William Farm in past)	off of North ST	private (SVT oversight for conservation)	V			
Rec Facility	by Pratt Farm		V			
Water Bodies and quality	Lake Wildwood; Taft; Pratt "great" pond/ Kiwanis Beach		V/S	beach BMP to protect vs. stormwater; develop 'bluespace' committee; inventory of pollution and other waste running down-stream and affecting town beach		
Invasive Plants		n/a	V			
Communication/Education						
stormwater mgmt				refine stormwater bylaws to be more robust; work w/ CMRPC?		
agriculture				Locally Grown Initiative;		
Tree Management	n/a	n/a	V	come up with system or capacity to identify and manage or repalce trees vulnerable to falling on electric lines and telephone poles; develop method to replace these trees elsewhere to maintain biodiversity and not have ability to destroy essential infrastructure; beaver control methods; create a buffer zone and assess bylaws (i.e. not developing in high-wind vulnerability area); improve permits to protect trees	H	

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix					www.Commu						
					Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)						
Table 3 H - M - L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing) V = Vulnerability S = Strength					Drought/Fire/Extreme Heat						
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S				Wind Events	Flooding	Winter Storms/Extreme Cold	Priority	Time
Infrastructural										H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Dams - 1 High Hazard and 2 significant hazard, Wildwood Dam. Berms, Southborough Rd. Bogs. In bad shape.	Lake Maspeno, Mill River, Fiskemill Pond, Gristmill Pond, West River	Town of Hopkinton, Town, State	V		Dams in most need of attention are Gristmill and Taft Mill. Taft Mill is capital project. Gristmill needs upgrades or replacement (needs to be assessed). Mill Pond is most eutrophic, either needs to be dredged or remove dam and return to stream. Both possibilities would need to be assessed with engineering study. Southborough Rd. bogs - Need DCR to rebuild berms. Important wildlife habitat there. Possibility to partner with state on this? Or CPA project.						
Culverts - causing erosion, need to inventory and assess	Church Street, Hartford Ave S., by Taft Mill Pond, Glenn Ave and Pleasant St., Station St.	Town	V		Heritage Park Culvert - Replace with open culvert. Now a raised pipe. Town wide inventory needed. Perched culvert on West River road. Westborough Rd and Southborough Rd - culvert that gets clogged. Beaver activity, flooding. Add green infrastructure in town center locations such as bioswales to help control flooding. Possible permeable paving in VFW parking lot. Flooding in West Upton and along 140 that would benefit from natural stormwater management.						
School Buildings - ES Possibly could be used as shelter		Town	S/V		Memorial Elementary has AC in cafeteria but no generator. Nipmuc Regional High School has AC in auditorium and generator. Blackstone Valley Tech. has a kitchen and generator, and could possibly be used as a shelter. Both HS in railroad isolation zone.						
Grafton Upton Railroad	25 Maple Ave	Grafton and Upton RR	V		Transport of Liquid Hazards. Increase in traffic and risk of derailment as become more active. Sparking hazard. Railroad right of way management necessary. Hazard of non-guarded crossing - needs to be improved. Aquifer risk - abutting railroad. Establish coalition with other towns railroad runs through. Already collaboration on fire safety.						
Senior Housing - Millhouse Apts, 100+ units, COA located there but may move	Main Street	P - Harbor Mngmt	V		No generator, vulnerable to losing power. No AC.						
Housing Authority - 48 units, old facility	Hartford Ave N.	State	V		No generator, vulnerable to losing power						
Group Homes											
Over 55 Housing	Various	Private	S		New, in good shape						
Future Community Center and Library	Town Center	Town	S		Design for resiliency, energy efficiency. Install geothermal energy? Possibly solar? Rainwater collection system? Community Center could be used as an emergency shelter/cooling center. Possibly add raingardens, bioswales, permeable paving.						
Solar Energy on rooftops - Add more to Town buildings					Go after on DPW building.						
Town Water - Add along 140 and other targeted areas to allow more dense devlpt											
Town Sewer - Add along 140 to allow more dense devlpt											
Town Drinking Water	Shallow wells along West River, Single Aquifer		S/V		Vulnerability to depend on one source? Environmental concern of overuse of West River water, some water quality concerns						
Private Wells			V		Vulnerable to drought. Encourage use of rainbarrels						
Sewer and Septic Systems - majority of town septic (80%)	Town wide		V		Large amount of private septic - water contamination issues						
Downtown Area					Add more green infrastructure to manage stormwater						
Societal											
Seniors, Aging Population			S/V		Need for more senior housing, especially for lower income seniors. CPA funds available for affordable housing. The funds have not been spent for that purpose yet. Good communication from COA to senior population.						
Cemeteries - more space needed, Historical			S/V		Plan in works for Town taking over Maplewood Cemetery which will provide a lot more space for plots. Possible spot on Westborough Rd for another cemetery.						
Downtown- National Historic District			S		Could get into national historic district tax credit program. Possibility of getting the mill and mill housing a separate designation. CCC camp is also an historic district. Ceremonial stone landscape is a discontinuous historic district. Many historic homes on Elm Street and Main Street. Preservation bylaw is also a strength.						
Farms/Agriculture. Five Forks Farm, Long Life Farm, Community Harvest Farm, Kelly's Farm and Town Line Dairy	Various locations	Private	S/V		Existing farms are a strength. Most are protected land. Long Life Farm is not. Challenging for farmers to get access to land. Increased demand for local food. Community Harvest Farm is a good example of using conservation land for community purpose. Stefan's Farm could be used in this way in Upton - could reach out to land trusts to partner with to turn into community farm.						
Affordable Housing - Need for more			V		Need for more affordable housing in general in the town. Still at only 6.35%. CPA funds available for affordable housing. The funds have not been spent for that purpose yet. Westborough Rd parcel would be a good site for affordable housing. Would help if affordable housing committee would be more active. Try to incorporate into other housing, mixed use development.						
Community Garden	Mechanic Street	Conservation Comm	S		Install Resilient water system - drill well and add solar irrigation and pump, rather than connecting to town water. Add more rainwater collection. Increase number of plots- there is a lot of interest. Once there is a connected water source could support more gardeners especially seniors. Could add another community garden in Town if necessary.						
Council on Aging, including food pantry		Town	S		If Community Center is built the COA will be located there, and that would expand their resources.						
Food Pantries run by churches St Gabriel, United Parish		Private	S		Well funded and well supplied.						
Boy and Girl Scouts			S		Involved with town projects such as with open space and with churches.						

Blackstone Valley Tech			S	Police normally use space there for recreation nights, and there is a restaurant the students run. Occasionally do projects for Town for small cost. Have students there from 13 towns so that brings in economic activity. Have a lot of resources that could be utilized in an emergency. Running track is very popular.		
Friends of Upton State Forest			S	Very active group, many public programs including for children. Work with state on removing downed trees.		
Baystate Trail Riders			S	Do a lot of trail mainenance for horseback riding.		
Running organizations			S	Run a lot of 5ks.		
Regional Land Trusts - Metacomet, Sudbury Valley Trustees			S	Partner on open space projects. Provide professional staff (SVT mostly).		
Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Trust			S/V	Strength, but vulnerable from trees downed on land and from development destroying sites. Preserving open space in Town. Own 100 acres total.		
Upton Garden Club			S	Not currently very active.		
Nipmuc Rod and Gun Club			S	Own over 100 acres of land. In Chapter 61, not permanently protected.		
Fire and EMS Association			S	Non Profit that does community organizing, fundraisers.		
Upton VFW			S	Located downtown. Hold community events. Work with scouts, own little league fields.		
Bloomer Girls			S	Organization that raises funds, helps low income residents. Food distribution, other aid.		
Upton Mens Club			S	Take care of plantings in town center, took over from garden club. Also charitable org.		

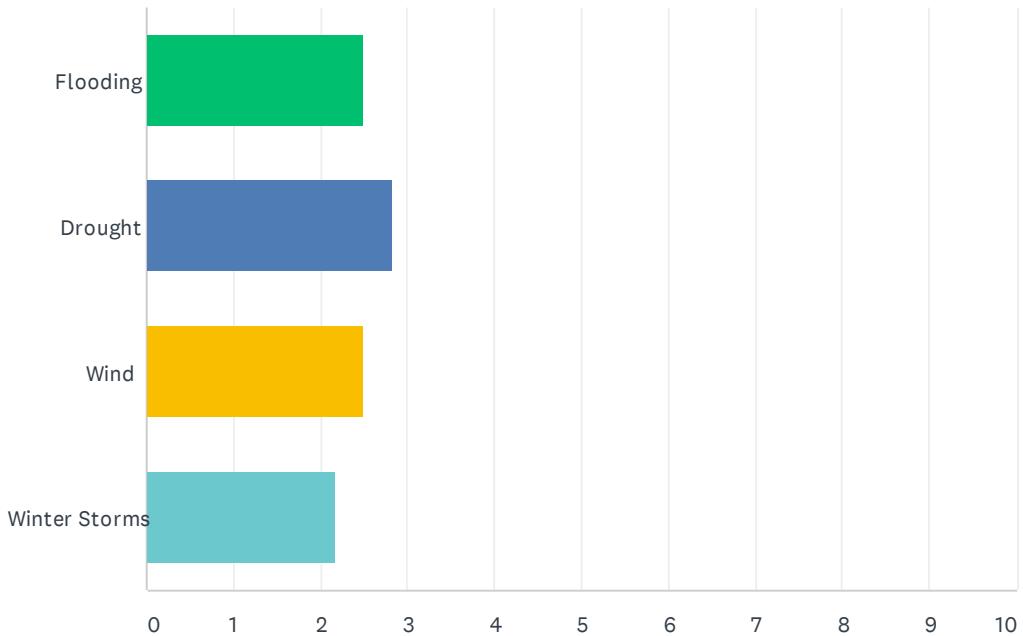
Environmental

Wetlands			S/V	There is a wetlands protection bylaw that applies to structures built after 2004. This and state regs are pretty effective in protecting wetlands.		
West River			S/V	Vulnerable to possible contamination from nearby railroad. Also vulnerable in case of drought. All municipal wells draw from this source and could be overused.		
Pratt Pond and Kiwanis Beach		Town	S/V	Water quality concerns, blue green algae, non-point source/internal pollution? Need to look at water quality, form a blue team or blue spaces committee. There is weed control every few years.		
Conservation Land and Open Space, A lot of protected land	Town Wide		S	About 800 acres of protected land. Open Space plan identifies other areas to target for land protection. Possible need to make more open space accessible to the public with trails and other recreation. There are many trails already with parking and kiosks. Small green spaces are important in denser neighborhoods that people can walk to, and should protect more areas in southern part of town and/or improve them, provide more recreational opportunities. Miscoe Hill is an open space in the southern part of Town that could be preserved.		
Ponds	Town wide		S/V	Eutrophication is an issue. Aquatic weed control is necessary. Constant management issue and need to ensure funding. Important to have as part of operating budget. Geese are a problem at the Pratt Pond and Town Beach.		
Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Trust			S/V	Strength, but vulnerable from trees downed on land and from development destroying sites. Preserving open space in Town. Own 100 acres total.		
Stephans Farm Open Space			S	Could be used for agriculture		
Upton State Forest		State	S/V	2400 acres? Resource Mngmt Plan coming out, Upton State Forest. There are parcels all over town. Downside is lack of tax revenue from land.		
forests townwide - wildfire concen	Town wide	Most private	V	In top 10% in state for homes being at risk for fire. Not a lot of understanding of fire risk and best practices. Make education part of community risk reduction program. Should focus development away from forested areas.		
Street Trees	Town Wide		S/V	No utility cutting. Town needs an independent tree warden to manage town trees. Form a street tree committee, more tree planting. Currently very reactive, deal with issues as they arise. Make the program more proactive, have regular trimming. Make sure new trees planted in new developments are climate resilient. Drought resistant, pollinator species.		
Invasive species, gypsy moths - affect trees	Town Wide		V	More tree mgmt needed		
Soil	Town Wide		S/V	Topsoil lost during storms. Increase amount of organic matter in soil. Bylaw about soil removal.		
Pesticide Use for Insects/ Mosquitoes						
Fish - Pickerel, Shad, Alewife, Eel	Rivers, Ponds			Decline in fish populations. Restoring anadromous fish to Blackstone River. Dam removal possible. Would need to be multi town effort. Culvert improvement. Heritage Park Culvert		
Protect cold and cool water streams	Warren Brook, Mill River Tribs.			Conservation Commission has program to monitor stream temperature.		
Beaver activity						
Trail Building - Civilian Conservation Corps						

SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 Please rank the following hazards in order from most concern (1) to least concern (4):

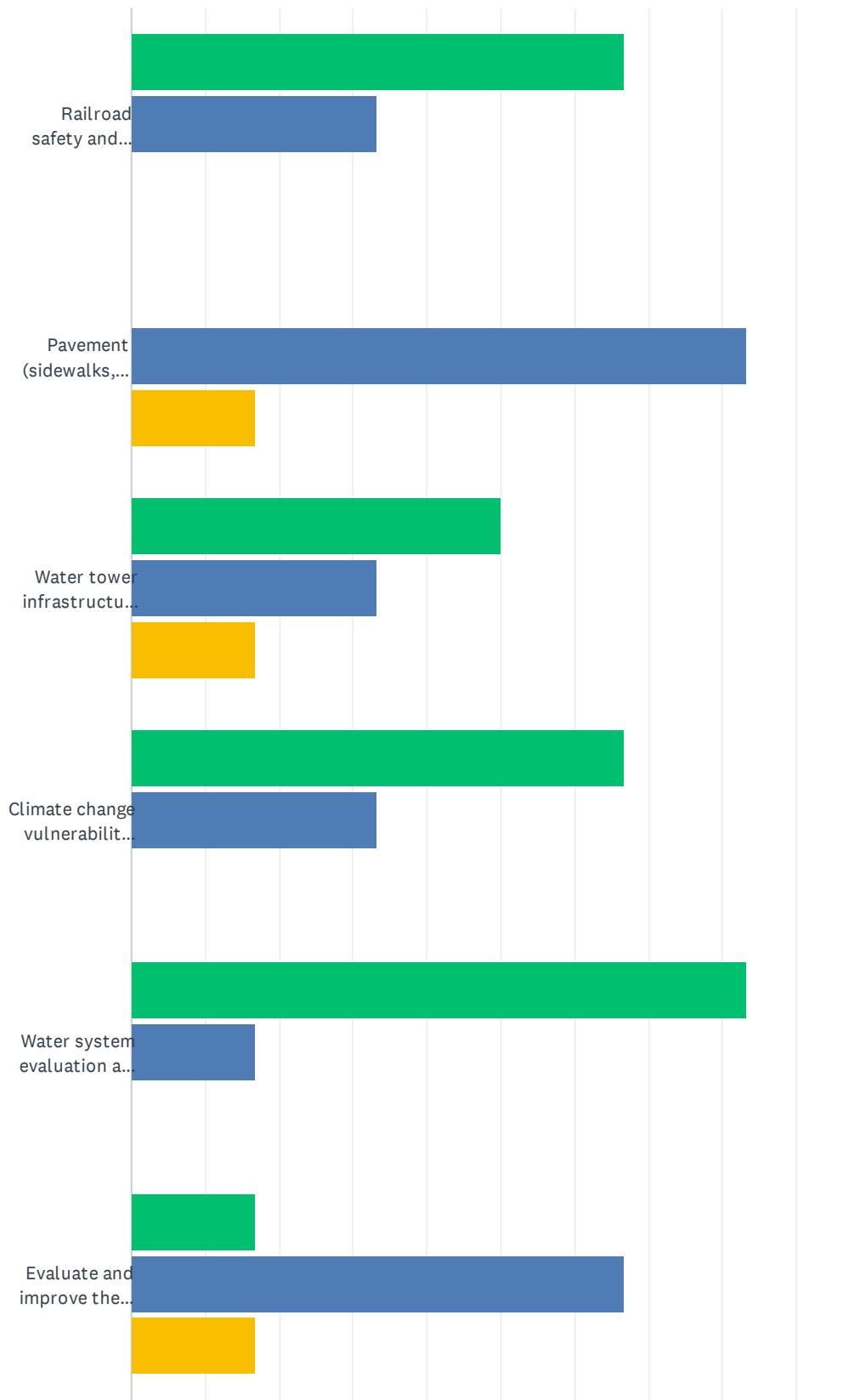
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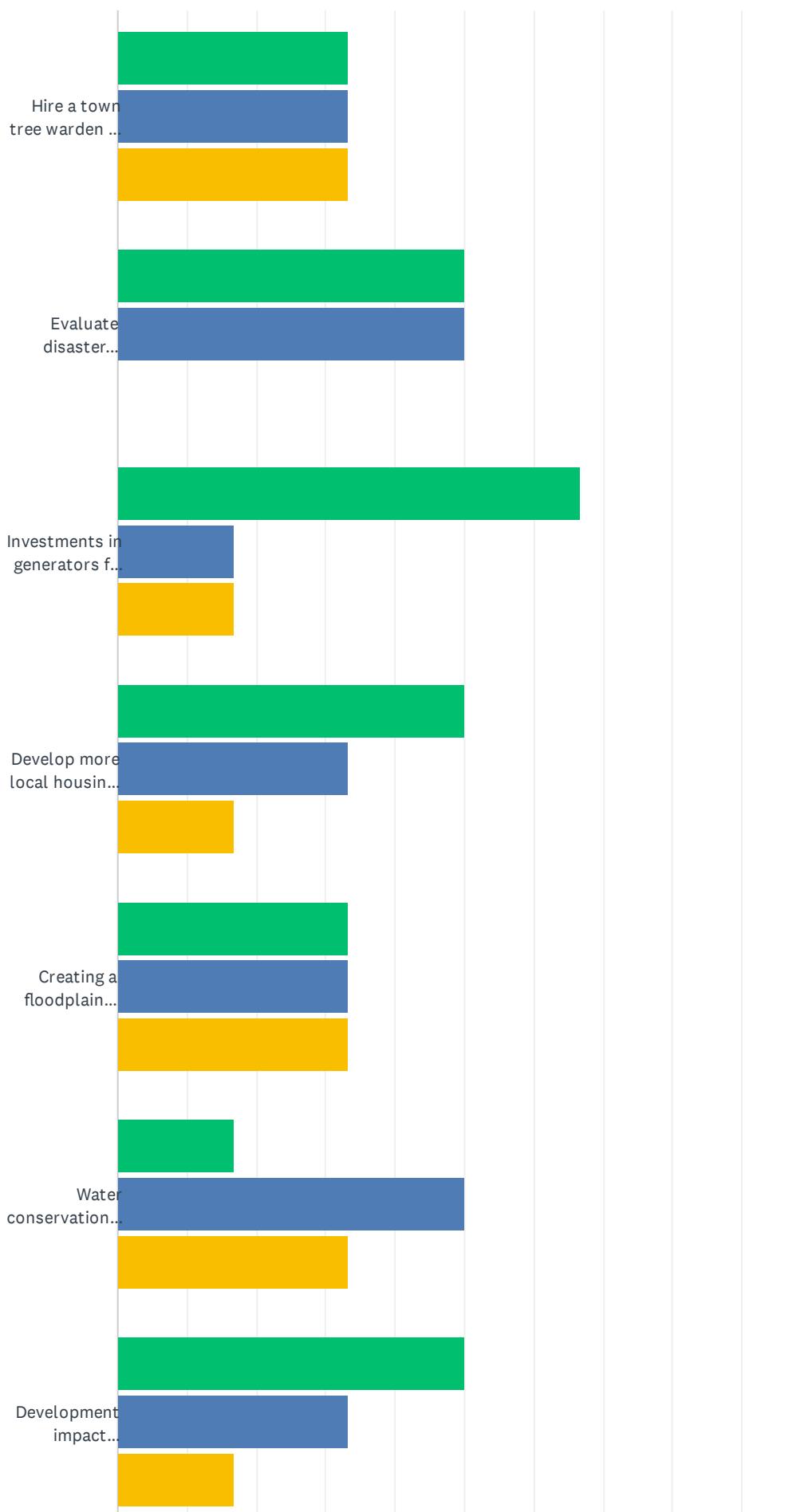
	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Flooding	16.67% 1	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	33.33% 2	6	2.50
Drought	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	6	2.83
Wind	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	6	2.50
Winter Storms	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6	2.17

Q2 Please vote on whether the following actions should be High, Medium, or Low priorities for the town.

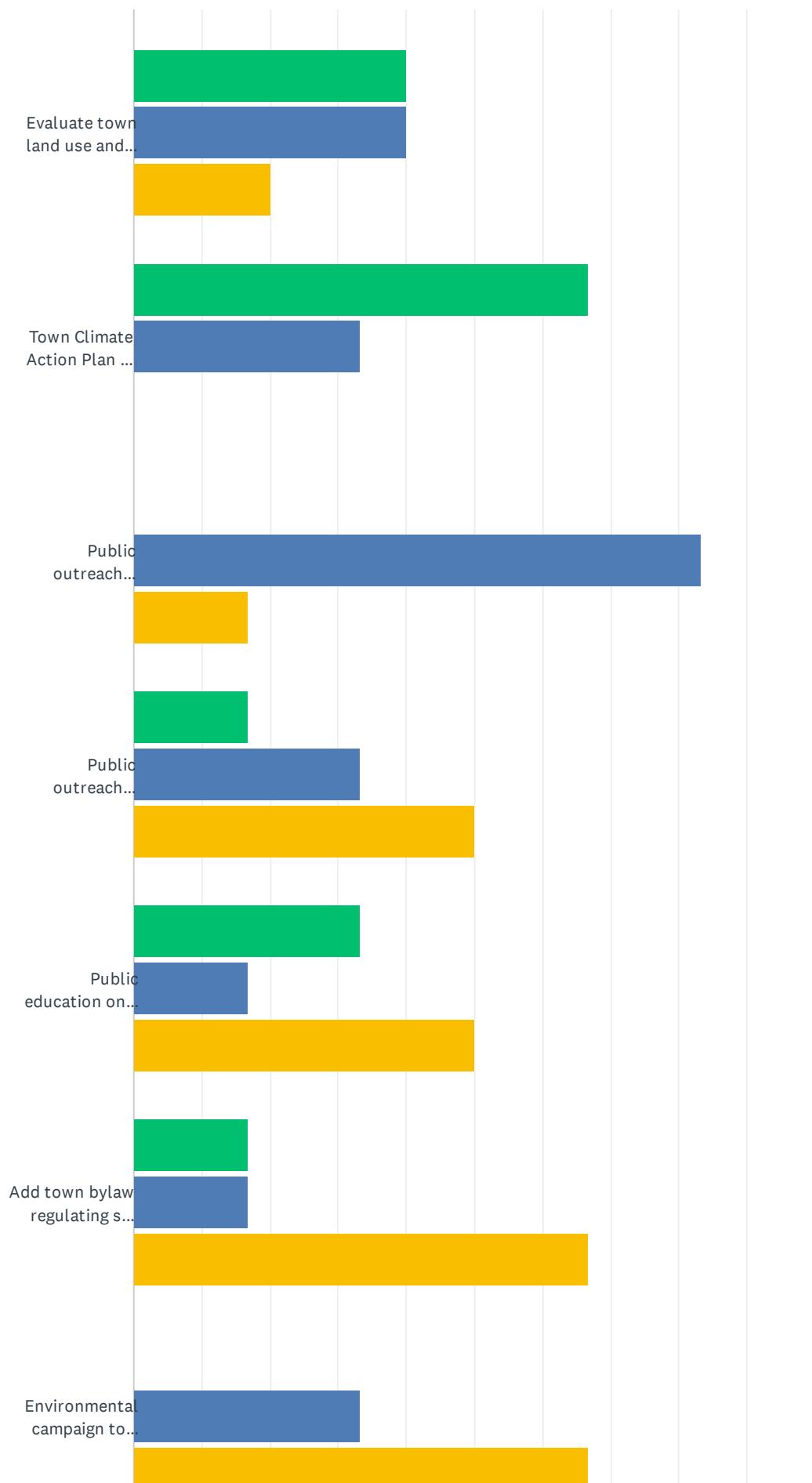
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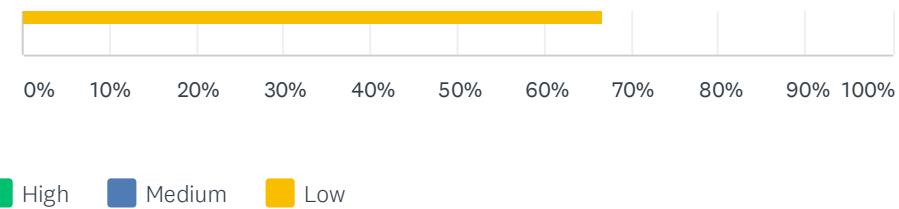
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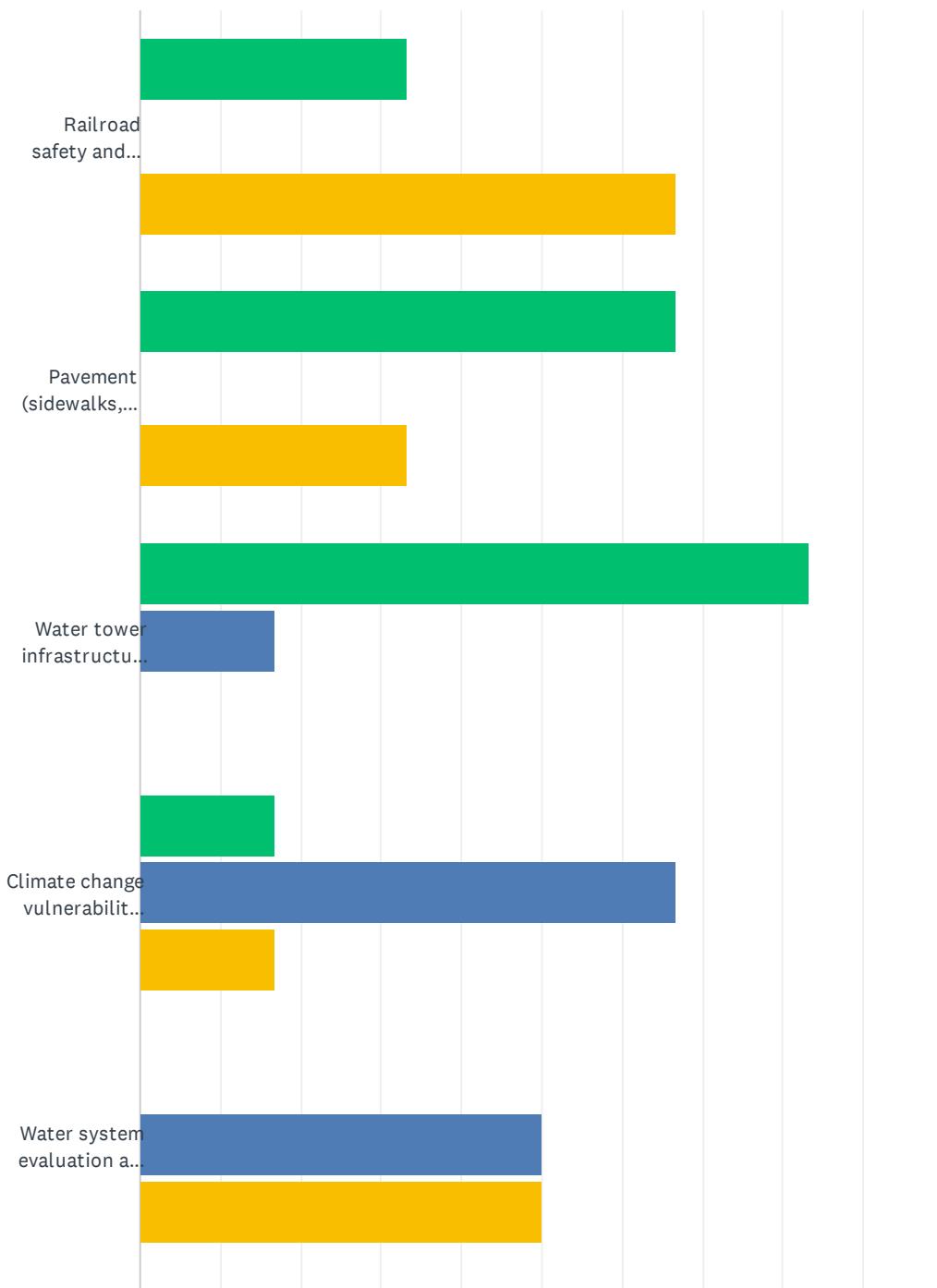


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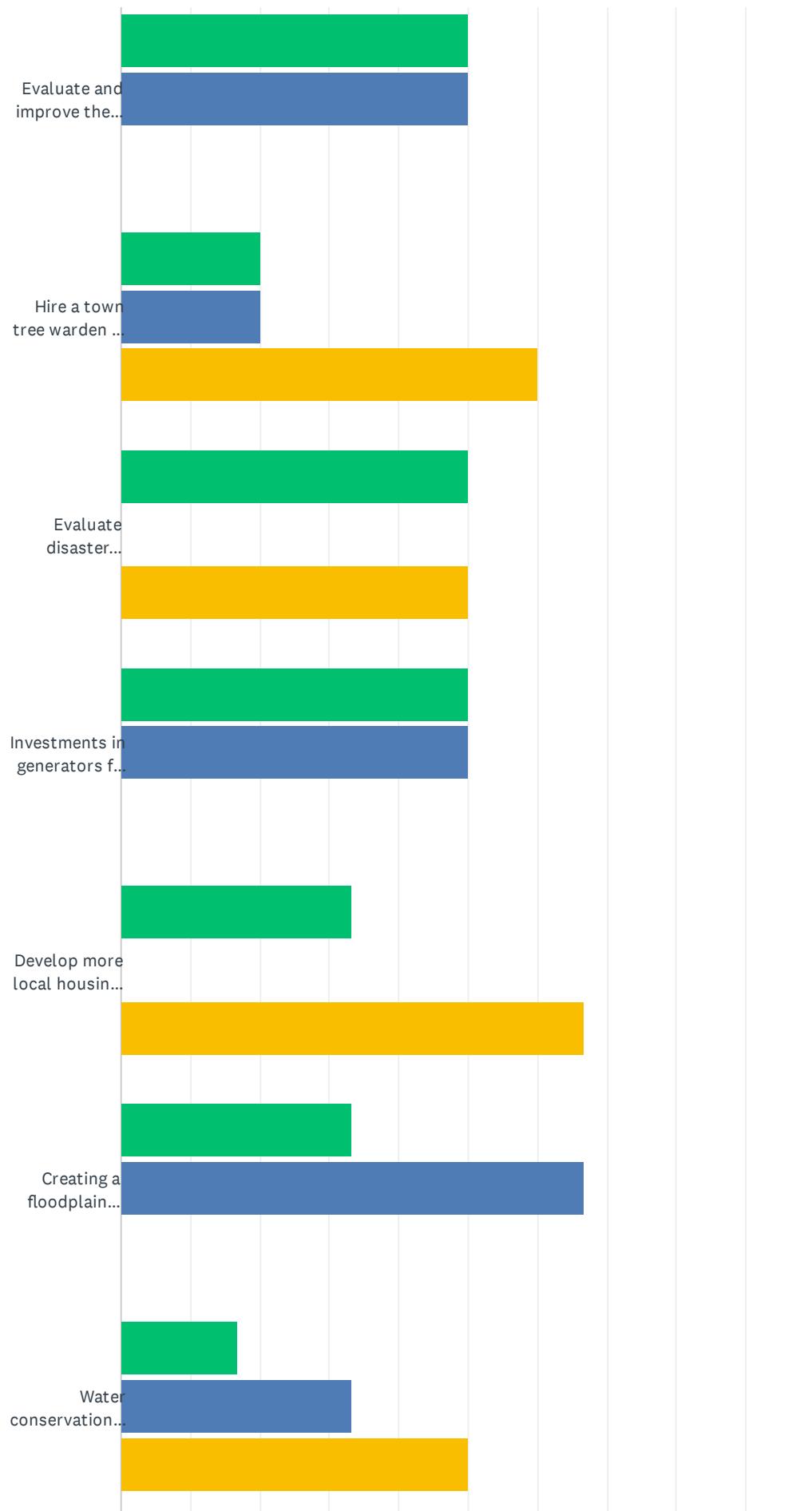
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL
Railroad safety and emergency response planning.	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	6
Pavement (sidewalks, roadways) conditions assessment.	0.00% 0	83.33% 5	16.67% 1	6
Water tower infrastructure improvements including to address wind speed vulnerability AND/OR to allow towers to fill to capacity.	50.00% 3	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	6
Climate change vulnerability assessment focused on water infrastructure and flooding (culverts, dams, bridges, storm water drainage, etc.) AND/OR stream overflow and localized flooding mitigation using nature-based solutions.	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	6
Water system evaluation and planning including residential water pipeline conditions and leakage AND/OR water quantity and quality in local aquifers, wells and public ponds.	83.33% 5	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	6
Evaluate and improve the resiliency of wastewater treatment plant to climate hazards.	16.67% 1	66.67% 4	16.67% 1	6
Hire a town tree warden to manage trees on town property and conduct proactive trimming.	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6
Evaluate disaster response plans, evacuation routes and public communication strategies; AND/OR include groups like schools and senior centers in disaster mitigation planning process; AND/OR develop capacity of the existing neighbor-to-neighbor program.	50.00% 3	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	6
Investments in generators for emergency shelters, public housing AND/OR senior housing.	66.67% 4	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	6
Develop more local housing for low-income households and low-income seniors.	50.00% 3	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	6
Creating a floodplain overlay district to regulate new development in current and future floodplains AND/OR watershed regional collaboration on flood management.	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6
Water conservation public engagement including usage and drought prevention education campaign AND/OR a water conservation demonstration garden.	16.67% 1	50.00% 3	33.33% 2	6
Development impact analysis, which includes evaluating existing development bylaws and permit review requirements, evaluating existing provisions for open space development, and determining whether development impacts (environmental, traffic, town infrastructure, etc.) are being adequately considered in the context of climate change.	50.00% 3	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	6
Evaluate town land use and plan to preserve additional open space, wetlands, and agricultural land AND/OR recreational land planning, conservation and outreach to landowners AND/OR develop opportunities for local agriculture and community farming on conservation land.	40.00% 2	40.00% 2	20.00% 1	5
Town Climate Action Plan and green energy investments (thermal energy at the Community Center, solar panels on town buildings).	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	6
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on tree management for fire prevention and climate resilience.	0.00% 0	83.33% 5	16.67% 1	6
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on invasive plant species; AND/OR review town bylaws to recommend native species planting; AND/OR develop regulations that maintain town tree count but controls tree growth in hazardous areas near infrastructure.	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	50.00% 3	6
Public education on vector-borne diseases and prevention.	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	50.00% 3	6
Add town bylaw regulating soil removal.	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	66.67% 4	6
Environmental campaign to restore native fish populations in town and across watershed.	0.00% 0	33.33% 2	66.67% 4	6

Q3 Please vote on whether the following actions are Short, Long, or Ongoing projects. Short-term projects are straightforward and can be completed within two years. Long-term projects take a longer time to complete, may require initial studies or public engagement strategies, and tend to be more complex. Ongoing projects are never truly completed. They require continuous action from year to year in order to maintain resilience.

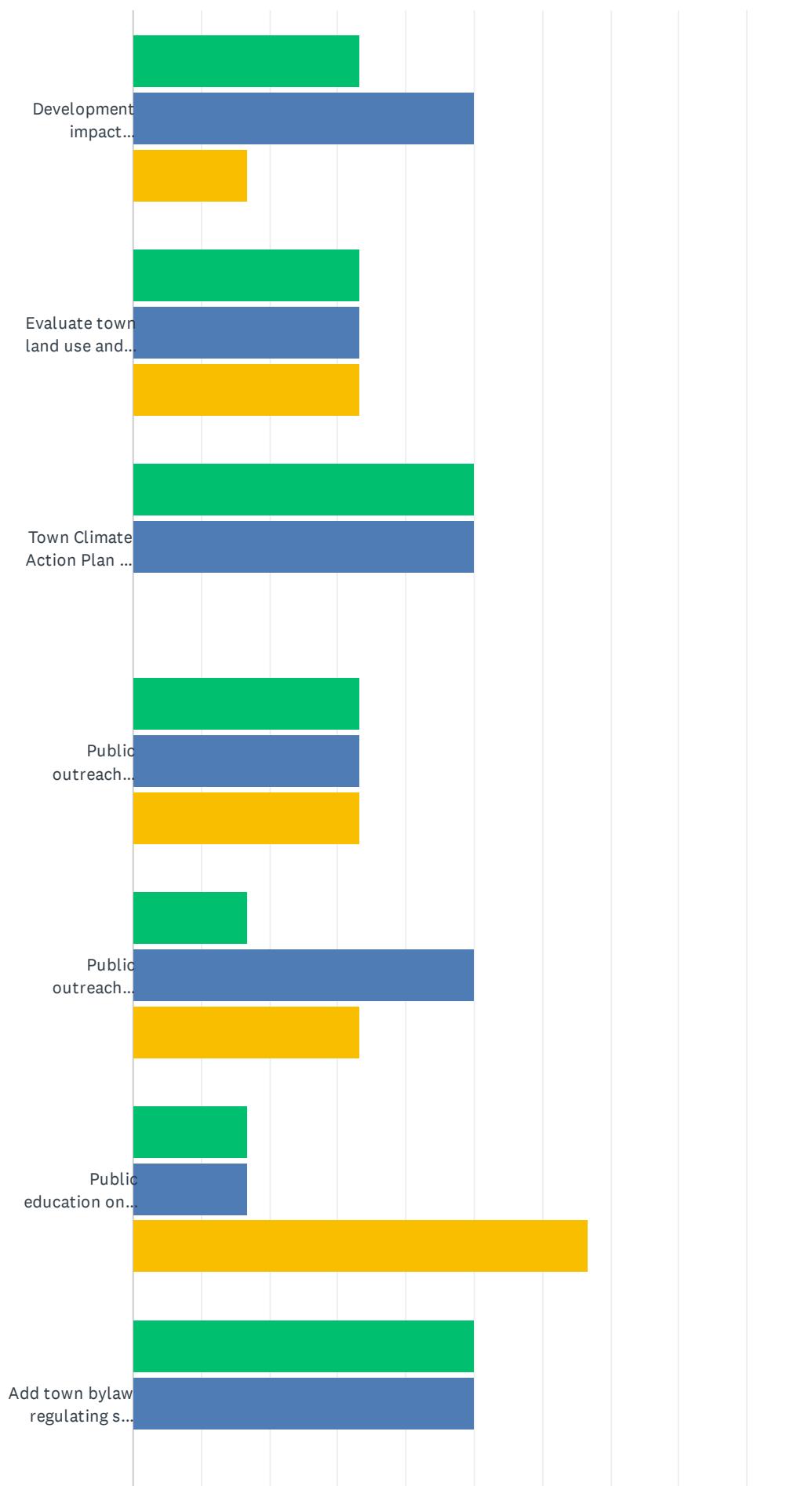
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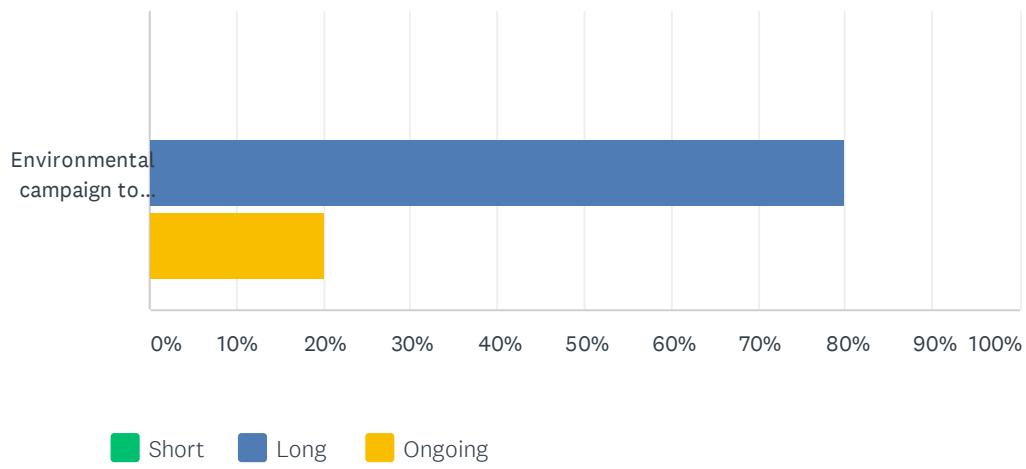
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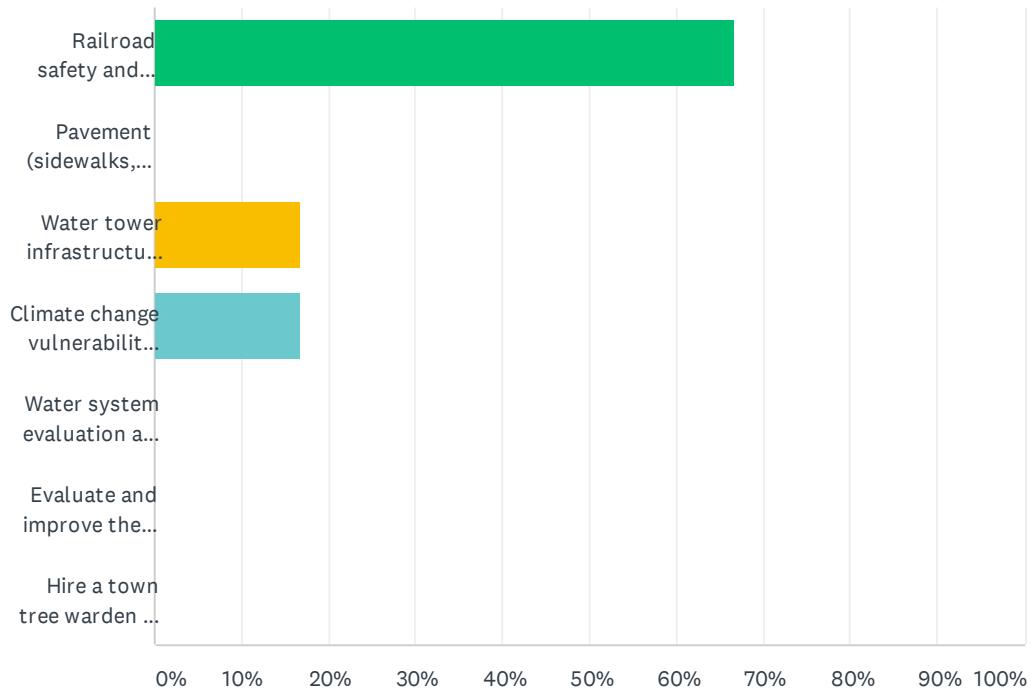


Upton Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

	SHORT	LONG	ONGOING	TOTAL
Railroad safety and emergency response planning.	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	66.67% 4	6
Pavement (sidewalks, roadways) conditions assessment.	66.67% 4	0.00% 0	33.33% 2	6
Water tower infrastructure improvements including to address wind speed vulnerability AND/OR to allow towers to fill to capacity.	83.33% 5	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	6
Climate change vulnerability assessment focused on water infrastructure and flooding (culverts, dams, bridges, storm water drainage, etc.) AND/OR stream overflow and localized flooding mitigation using nature-based solutions.	16.67% 1	66.67% 4	16.67% 1	6
Water system evaluation and planning including residential water pipeline conditions and leakage AND/OR water quantity and quality in local aquifers, wells and public ponds.	0.00% 0	50.00% 3	50.00% 3	6
Evaluate and improve the resiliency of wastewater treatment plant to climate hazards.	50.00% 3	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	6
Hire a town tree warden to manage trees on town property and conduct proactive trimming.	20.00% 1	20.00% 1	60.00% 3	5
Evaluate disaster response plans, evacuation routes and public communication strategies; AND/OR include groups like schools and senior centers in disaster mitigation planning process; AND/OR develop capacity of the existing neighbor-to-neighbor program.	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	50.00% 3	6
Investments in generators for emergency shelters, public housing AND/OR senior housing.	50.00% 3	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	6
Develop more local housing for low-income households and low-income seniors.	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	66.67% 4	6
Creating a floodplain overlay district to regulate new development in current and future floodplains AND/OR watershed regional collaboration on flood management.	33.33% 2	66.67% 4	0.00% 0	6
Water conservation public engagement including usage and drought prevention education campaign AND/OR a water conservation demonstration garden.	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	50.00% 3	6
Development impact analysis, which includes evaluating existing development bylaws and permit review requirements, evaluating existing provisions for open space development, and determining whether development impacts (environmental, traffic, town infrastructure, etc.) are being adequately considered in the context of climate change.	33.33% 2	50.00% 3	16.67% 1	6
Evaluate town land use and plan to preserve additional open space, wetlands, and agricultural land AND/OR recreational land planning, conservation and outreach to landowners AND/OR develop opportunities for local agriculture and community farming on conservation land.	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6
Town Climate Action Plan and green energy investments (thermal energy at the Community Center, solar panels on town buildings).	50.00% 3	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	6
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on tree management for fire prevention and climate resilience.	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on invasive plant species; AND/OR review town bylaws to recommend native species planting; AND/OR develop regulations that maintain town tree count but controls tree growth in hazardous areas near infrastructure.	16.67% 1	50.00% 3	33.33% 2	6
Public education on vector-borne diseases and prevention.	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	66.67% 4	6
Add town bylaw regulating soil removal.	50.00% 2	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	4
Environmental campaign to restore native fish populations in town and across watershed.	0.00% 0	80.00% 4	20.00% 1	5

Q4 Please vote for what you believe is the top priority INFRASTRUCTURAL action from the list below.

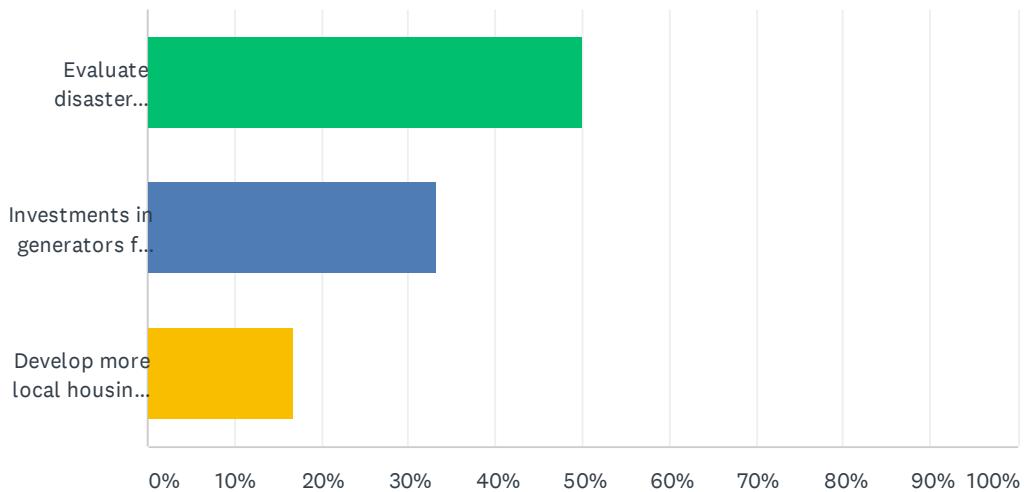
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Railroad safety and emergency response planning.	66.67%	4
Pavement (sidewalks, roadways) conditions assessment.	0.00%	0
Water tower infrastructure improvements including to address wind speed vulnerability AND/OR to allow towers to fill to capacity.	16.67%	1
Climate change vulnerability assessment focused on water infrastructure and flooding (culverts, dams, bridges, storm water drainage, etc.) AND/OR stream overflow and localized flooding mitigation using nature-based solutions.	16.67%	1
Water system evaluation and planning including residential water pipeline conditions and leakage AND/OR water quantity and quality in local aquifers, wells and public ponds.	0.00%	0
Evaluate and improve the resiliency of wastewater treatment plant to climate hazards.	0.00%	0
Hire a town tree warden to manage trees on town property and conduct proactive trimming.	0.00%	0
TOTAL	6	

Q5 Please vote for what you believe is the top priority SOCIETAL action from the list below:

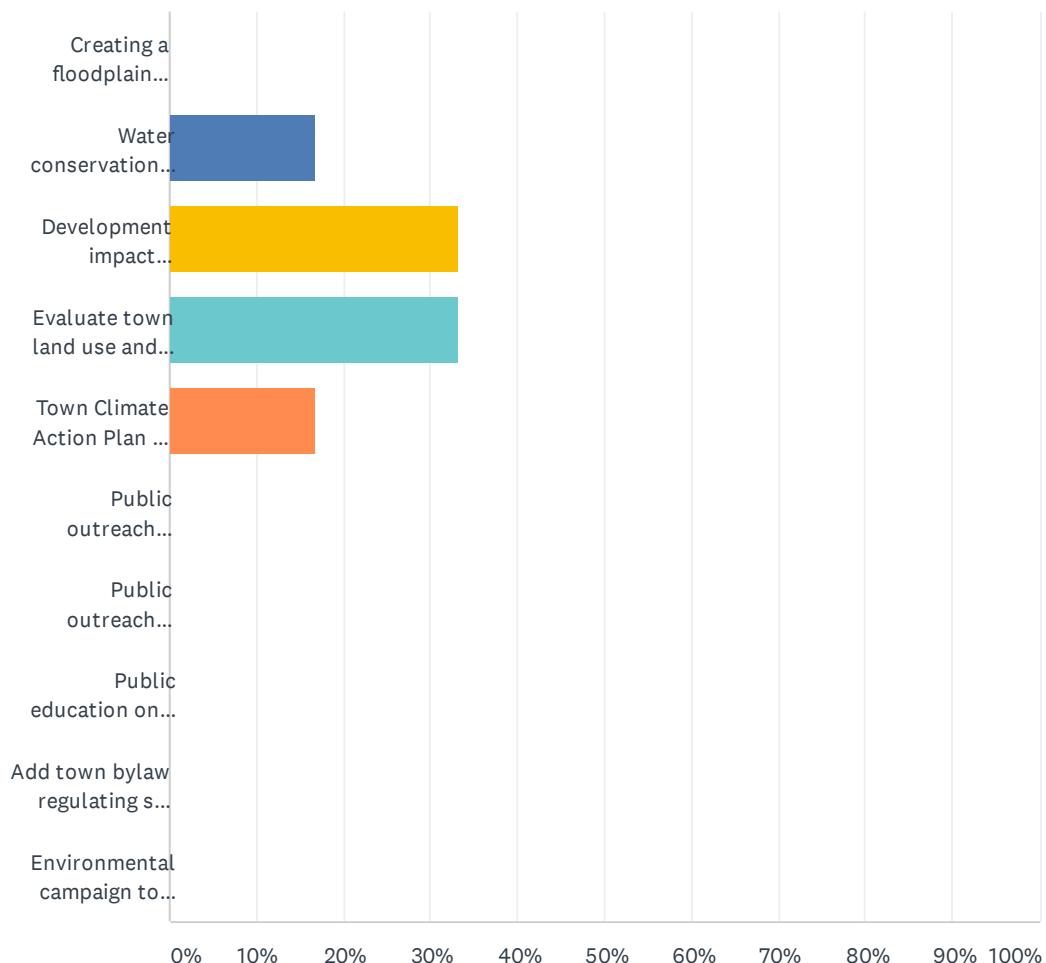
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Evaluate disaster response plans, evacuation routes and public communication strategies; AND/OR include groups like schools and senior centers in disaster mitigation planning process; AND/OR develop capacity of the existing neighbor-to-neighbor program.	50.00% 3
Investments in generators for emergency shelters, public housing AND/OR senior housing.	33.33% 2
Develop more local housing for low-income households and low-income seniors.	16.67% 1
TOTAL	6

Q6 Please vote for what you believe is the top priority ENVIRONMENTAL action from the list below:

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

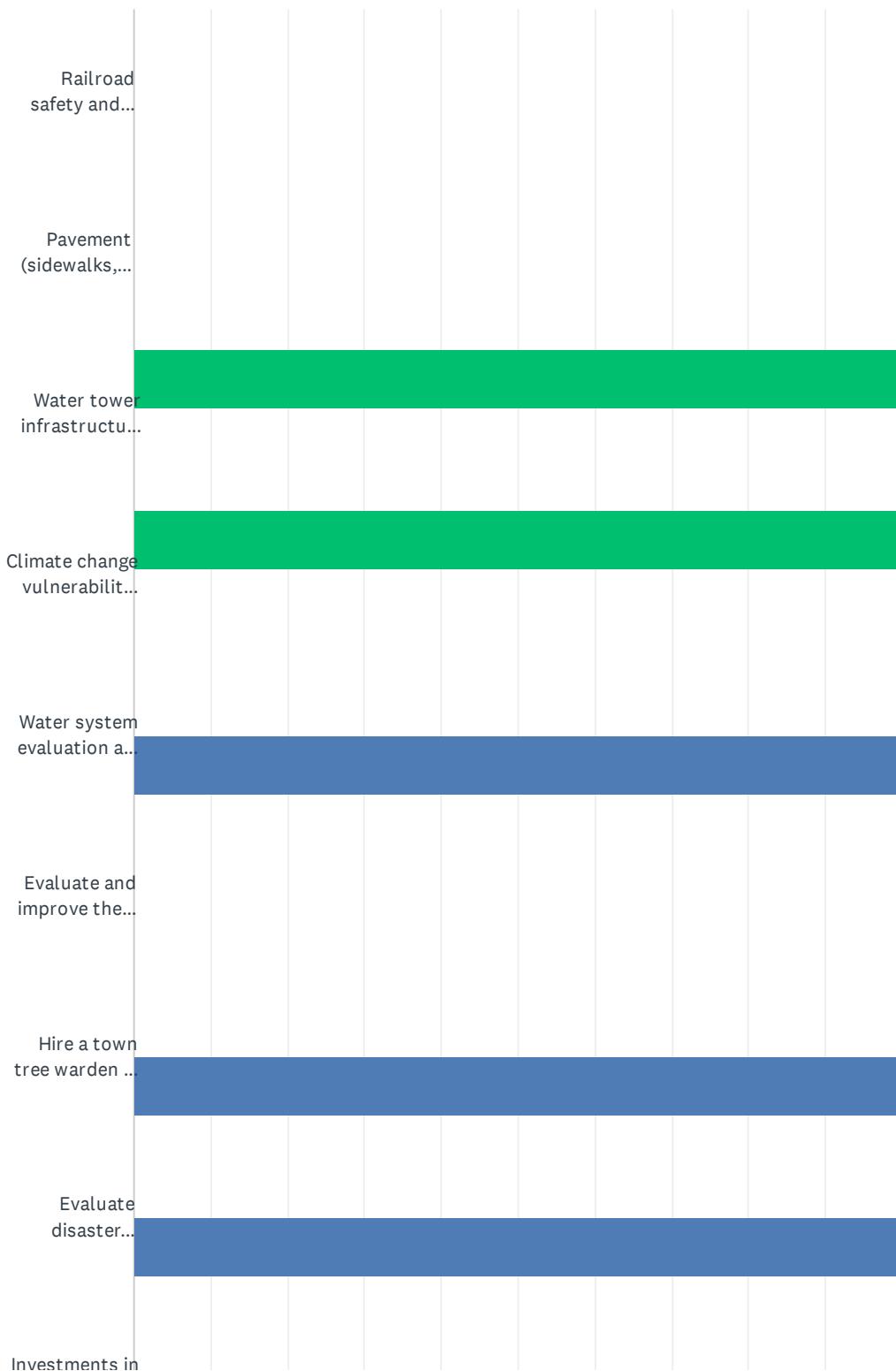


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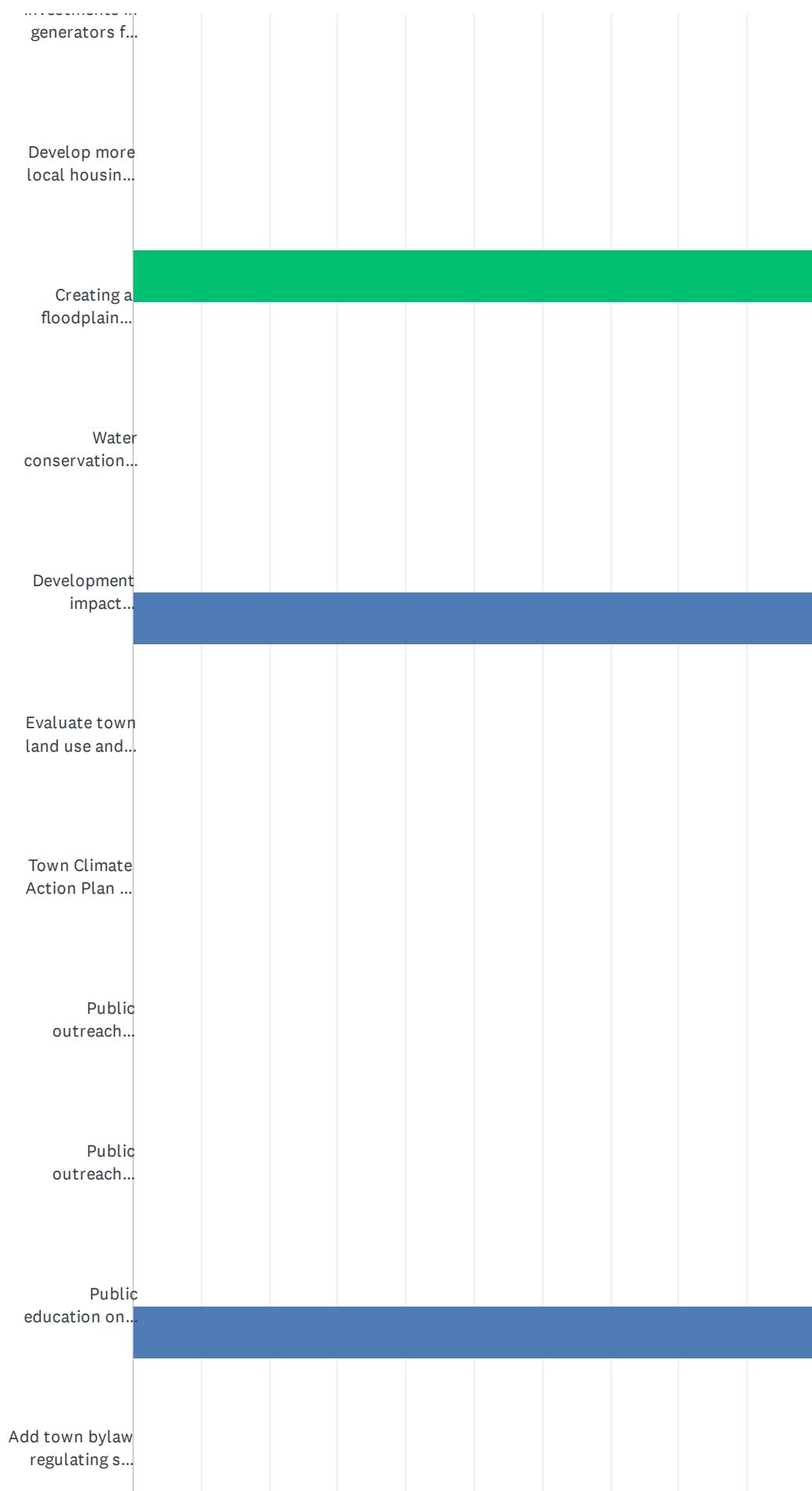
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Creating a floodplain overlay district to regulate new development in current and future floodplains AND/OR watershed regional collaboration on flood management.	0.00% 0
Water conservation public engagement including usage and drought prevention education campaign AND/OR a water conservation demonstration garden.	16.67% 1
Development impact analysis, which includes evaluating existing development bylaws and permit review requirements, evaluating existing provisions for open space development, and determining whether development impacts (environmental, traffic, town infrastructure, etc.) are being adequately considered in the context of climate change.	33.33% 2
Evaluate town land use and plan to preserve additional open space, wetlands, and agricultural land AND/OR recreational land planning, conservation and outreach to landowners AND/OR develop opportunities for local agriculture and community farming on conservation land.	33.33% 2
Town Climate Action Plan and green energy investments (thermal energy at the Community Center, solar panels on town buildings).	16.67% 1
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on tree management for fire prevention and climate resilience.	0.00% 0
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on invasive plant species; AND/OR review town bylaws to recommend native species planting; AND/OR develop regulations that maintain town tree count but controls tree growth in hazardous areas near infrastructure.	0.00% 0
Public education on vector-borne diseases and prevention.	0.00% 0
Add town bylaw regulating soil removal.	0.00% 0
Environmental campaign to restore native fish populations in town and across watershed.	0.00% 0
TOTAL	6

Q7 Please vote for TWO additional top priority actions that you believe Upton should complete in order to build resilience. You may select actions from any category (Infrastructural, Societal, and Environmental), but do not select any actions that you already selected in the previous questions.

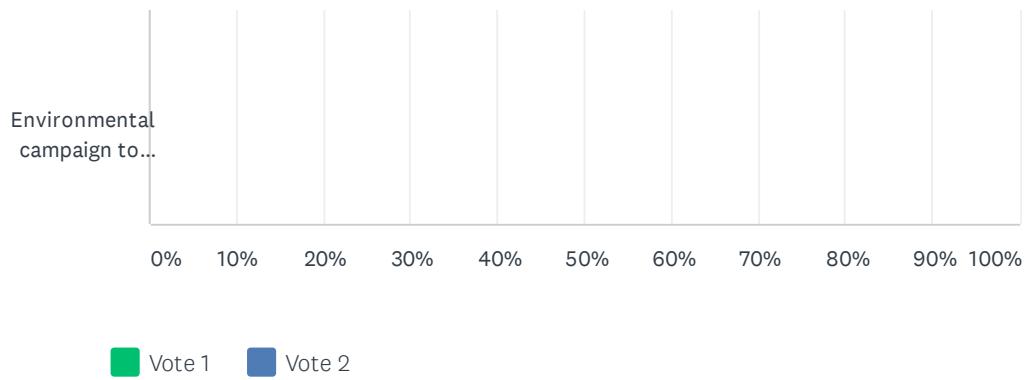
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Upton Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



Upton Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



Upton Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

	VOTE 1	VOTE 2	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Railroad safety and emergency response planning.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Pavement (sidewalks, roadways) conditions assessment.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Water tower infrastructure improvements including to address wind speed vulnerability AND/OR to allow towers to fill to capacity.	100.00% 2	0.00% 0	2	1.00
Climate change vulnerability assessment focused on water infrastructure and flooding (culverts, dams, bridges, storm water drainage, etc.) AND/OR stream overflow and localized flooding mitigation using nature-based solutions.	100.00% 3	0.00% 0	3	1.00
Water system evaluation and planning including residential water pipeline conditions and leakage AND/OR water quantity and quality in local aquifers, wells and public ponds.	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	1	2.00
Evaluate and improve the resiliency of wastewater treatment plant to climate hazards.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Hire a town tree warden to manage trees on town property and conduct proactive trimming.	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	1	2.00
Evaluate disaster response plans, evacuation routes and public communication strategies; AND/OR include groups like schools and senior centers in disaster mitigation planning process; AND/OR develop capacity of the existing neighbor-to-neighbor program.	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	1	2.00
Investments in generators for emergency shelters, public housing AND/OR senior housing.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Develop more local housing for low-income households and low-income seniors.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Creating a floodplain overlay district to regulate new development in current and future floodplains AND/OR watershed regional collaboration on flood management.	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	1	1.00
Water conservation public engagement including usage and drought prevention education campaign AND/OR a water conservation demonstration garden.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Development impact analysis, which includes evaluating existing development bylaws and permit review requirements, evaluating existing provisions for open space development, and determining whether development impacts (environmental, traffic, town infrastructure, etc.) are being adequately considered in the context of climate change.	0.00% 0	100.00% 2	2	2.00
Evaluate town land use and plan to preserve additional open space, wetlands, and agricultural land AND/OR recreational land planning, conservation and outreach to landowners AND/OR develop opportunities for local agriculture and community farming on conservation land.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Town Climate Action Plan and green energy investments (thermal energy at the Community Center, solar panels on town buildings).	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on tree management for fire prevention and climate resilience.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Public outreach campaign to educate residents on invasive plant species; AND/OR review town bylaws to recommend native species planting; AND/OR develop regulations that maintain town tree count but controls tree growth in hazardous areas near infrastructure.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Public education on vector-borne diseases and prevention.	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	1	2.00
Add town bylaw regulating soil removal.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00

Upton Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

Environmental campaign to restore native fish populations in town and across watershed.	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00
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Q8 Please describe any other actions that were not listed in this survey that the town should take to improve resilience.

Answered: 2 Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Improvements in areas where stormwater management can be improved upon specifically with natural solutions such as bioswales and pervious pavement.	3/11/2021 6:18 PM
2	Form "Blue Spaces Committee" to study and protect surface water quality. Form "Shade Tree Committee" to advise DPW (tree warden) Work with DCR, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board to improve resiliency to wildfires.	3/11/2021 5:37 PM

MVP PROGRAM OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

TOWN OF UPTON

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Community Resilience Building

Virtual Workshop

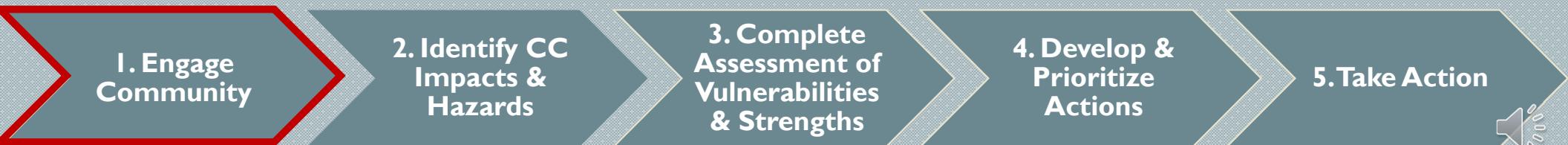
February 18th , 25th 6 – 8 PM

March 4th 4 – 6PM



MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS (MVP)

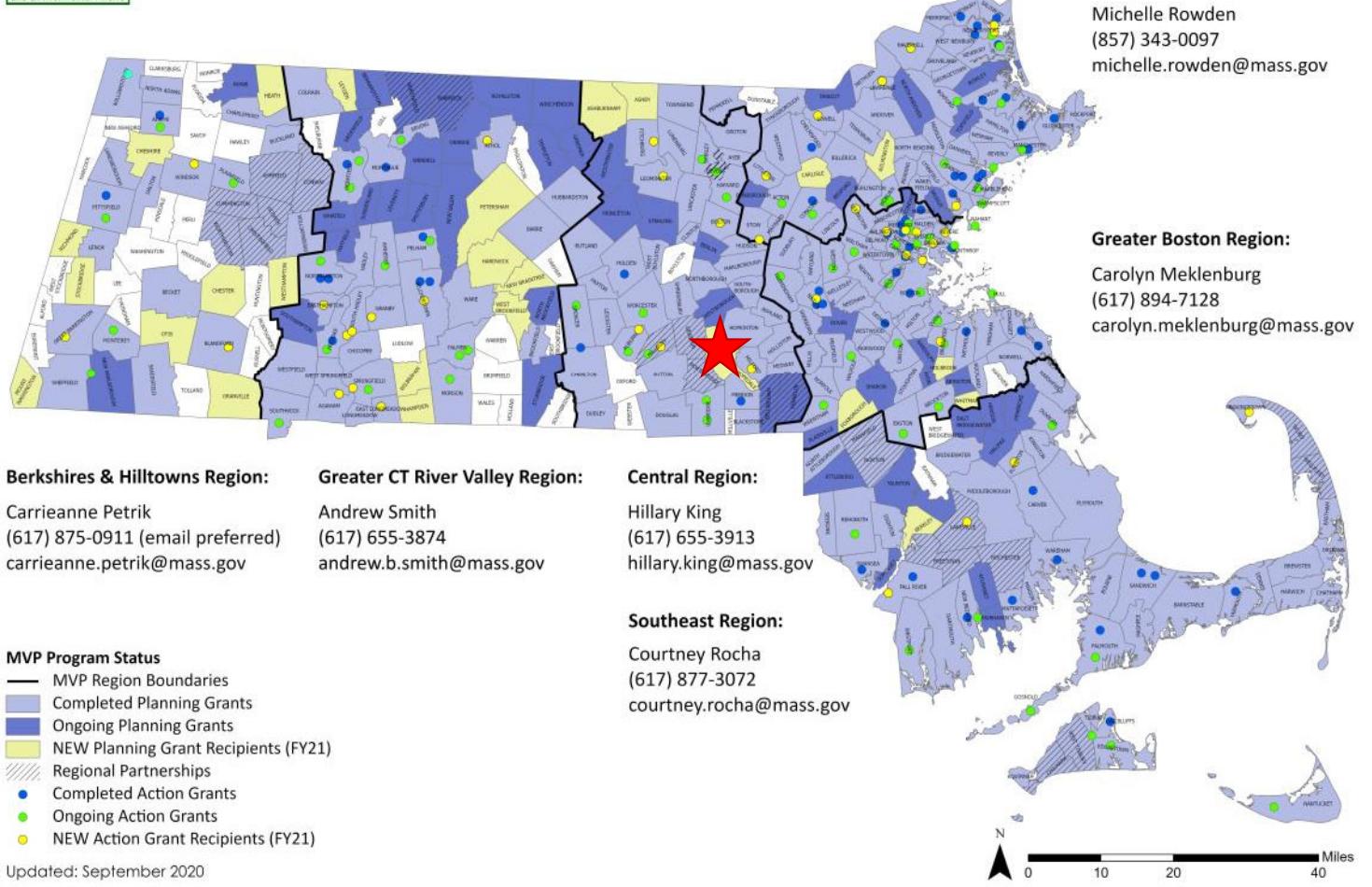
- State grant program to support cities and towns to begin the process of planning for climate resiliency.
- MVP Planning Process includes CRB Workshop, Report, Listening Session and Annual Reporting
- Communities who complete the MVP Planning Process become certified as an MVP Community
- Designated communities become eligible for MVP Action Grant funding

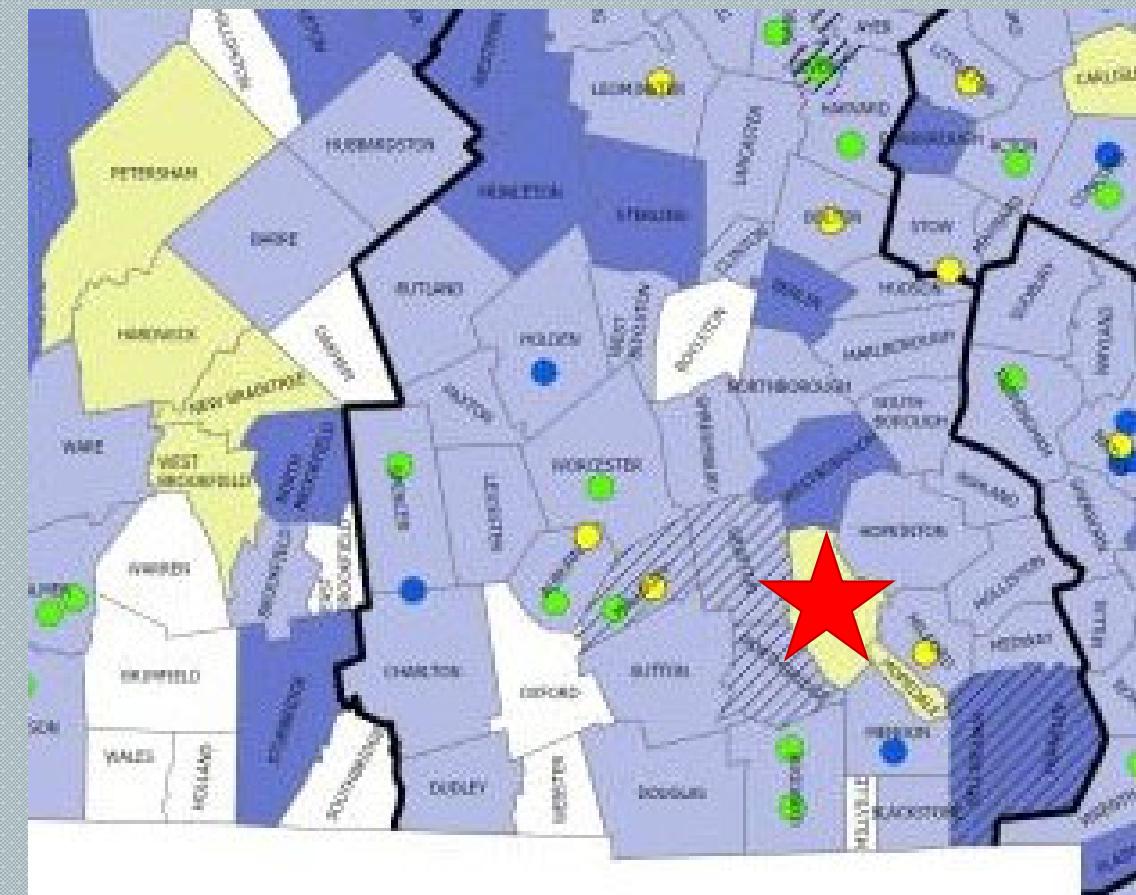




Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

Program Manager: Kara Runsten, (617) 312-1594, kara.runsten@mass.gov





MVP Program Status

- MVP Region Boundaries
- Completed Planning Grants
- Ongoing Planning Grants
- NEW Planning Grant Recipients (FY21)
- Regional Partnerships
- Completed Action Grants
- Ongoing Action Grants
- NEW Action Grant Recipients (FY21)

Updated: September 2020



HOW THE TOWN GOT HERE?

- Awarded Planning Grant
- Core Team Meeting
- COVID-19 Adaptation
- Invitation from Core Team



Icon made by ProSymbols from Flaticon.com

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Define extreme weather and climate-related hazards
- Identify current and future vulnerabilities and strengths
- Develop and prioritize actions for the community and broader stakeholder networks, and
- Identify opportunities for the community to advance actions to reduce risks and build resilience



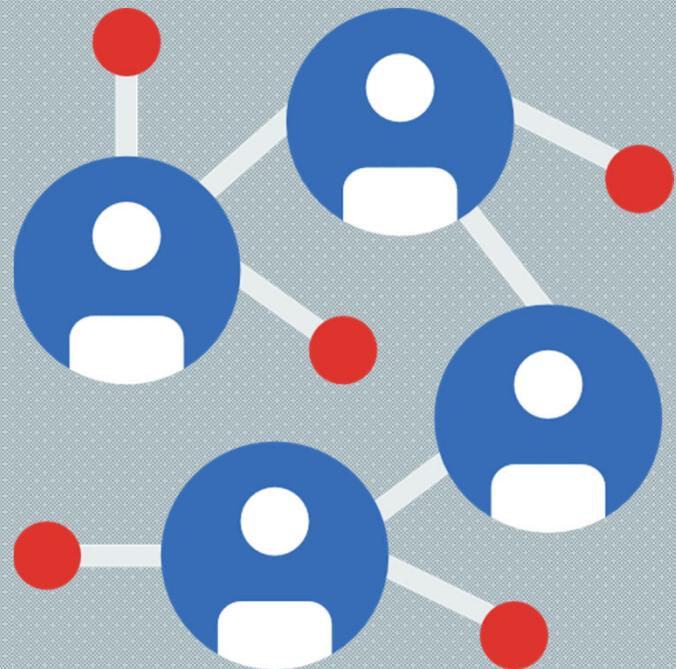
THE MATRIX

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com		
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)		
				Priority	Time	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S			
Infrastructural						
Societal						
Environmental						



BREAKOUT GROUPS

- 4 tables of 6 to 8 individuals
- Each table will discuss
 - Societal,
 - Infrastructure, and
 - Environmental
- Tools and Resources
 - Matrix, Maps, & Each Other



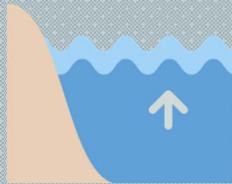
Icon made Prettyicons from Flaticon.com

TABLE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Table Facilitator directs the discussion and keeps the dialogue moving
- Scribes filling in matrix
- Participants- All of you
- CMRPC resource person
- Table spokesperson for Report Out (Day 3)



HAZARD IDENTIFICATION



- **Flooding**
 - Riverine
 - Street



- **Landslides**
- **Mudslides**



- **Tornadoes**



- **Drought**
- **Dust Storms**



- **Tsunami**



- **Hurricanes/ Nor'easters**



- **Wild Fires**



- **Winter Storms**
 - **Snow**
 - **Ice**



- **Extreme Temperatures**
 - **Heat**
 - **Cold**

Icons made by freepik, goodware, smashicons, those icons, icongeek26 and iconicar from Flaticon.com

PRIMARY TOPIC AREAS



Infrastructure

Society

Environment

NEXT STEPS

- Complete the survey
- Report development
- Public “Listening” session with Members of the Public and Board of Selectmen **May 2021**
- Develop resources and Implement actions.

1. Engage Community

2. Identify CC Impacts & Hazards

3. Complete Assessment of Vulnerabilities & Strengths

4. Develop & Prioritize Actions

5. Take Action



ACTION GRANTS

- Next round expected in spring 2021
- Up to \$2 million for an individual community
- Up to \$5 million for regional projects
- One year grant cycle (typically) July 1st- June 30th
- 25% Match - Cash or In-kind (Non-State Funds)

www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program

www.communityresiliencebuilding.com



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS



CONTACT US

- Upton Core Team Leader –
 - Paul Dell'Aquila, PDellAquila@uptonma.gov
- CMRPC Project Leaders –
 - Sarah Adams, sadams@cmrpc.org
- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs –
 - Hillary King, hillary.king@state.ma.us



THANK YOU



CRB MATRIX PRESENTATION

TOWN OF UPTON

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Community Resilience Building Workshop

February 18th , 25th 6 – 8 PM

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THE MATRIX

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Features	Location	Ownership	V or S			
Infrastructural						
Societal						
Environmental						



STEP ONE: HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

What are the Top Four Natural Hazards in Upton?

1. Engage Community

2. Identify CC Impacts & Hazards

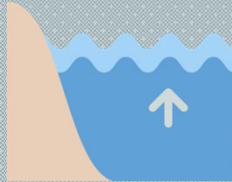
3. Complete Assessment of Vulnerabilities & Strengths

4. Develop & Prioritize Actions

5. Take Action



STEP ONE: HAZARD IDENTIFICATION



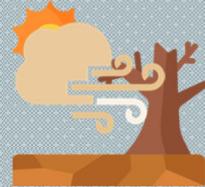
- **Flooding**
 - Riverine
 - Street



- **Landslides**
- **Mudslides**



- **Tornadoes**



- **Drought**
- **Dust Storms**



- **Tsunami**



- **Hurricanes/ Nor'easters**



- **Wild Fires**



- **Winter Storms**
 - **Snow**
 - **Ice**



- **Extreme Temperatures**
 - **Heat**
 - **Cold**

Icons made by freepik, goodware, smashicons, those icons, icongeek26 and iconicar from Flaticon.com

STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix					www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
						
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					Priority	Time
					Top 4 Hazards	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S		H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural						
Societal						
Environmental						



PRIMARY TOPIC AREAS



Infrastructure

Society

Environment

STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix  www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com

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
Top 4 Hazards						
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S		H = M = L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural						
Dam						
Societal						
Environmental						



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix								www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)								Priority	Time
Top 4 Hazards								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Features		Location	Ownership	V or S					
Infrastructural									
Dam									
Societal									
Senior Housing									
Environmental									



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix								www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
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Top 4 Hazards								H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Features		Location	Ownership	V or S					
Infrastructural									
Dam									
Societal									
Senior Housing									
Environmental									
Wetlands									



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix							www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)							Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards			H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural								
Dam								
Societal								
Senior Housing								
Environmental								
Wetlands								

Estimated Location



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
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.)	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Priority	Time
Top 4 Hazards					
H - M - L Short Long Ongoing					
Infrastructural					
Dam					
Societal					
Senior Housing					
Environmental					
Wetlands					

Public? Private? State?

Estimated Location

H - M - L Short Long
Ongoing



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
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				Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards	
				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural					
Dam					
Societal					
Senior Housing					
Environmental					
Wetlands					

Vulnerability or Strength

Estimated Location

Public? Private? State?

A large red arrow points from the text "Vulnerability or Strength" down to the "Estimated Location" column in the table.



DAY I COMPLETE



STEP TWO: COMPLETED

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)	
				Priority	Time
				Top 4 Hazards	
				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S		
Infrastructural					
Dam					
Societal					
Senior Housing					
Environmental					
Wetlands					



STEP THREE: ACTIONS, PRIORITY AND TIMELINE



NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

- Make use of natural systems
- Mimic the natural processes
- Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems
- Simultaneously providing well-being and biodiversity

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS (LID)

- Natural systems mimic natural processes to absorb and slow runoff and stormwater, and also reduce heat islands.
- Low impact development (LID) designs can be integrated into new development at neighborhood scales and work with traditional approaches



Bioswale between sidewalk and street



Contained bioswale or planter box

Example Action Grant Projects

Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Prevention, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques

Millbury



Designing 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



MORE EXAMPLES OF LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



Green Parking Lots



Permeable Paving

Example 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.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF LID AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Aquatic restoration projects in MA, like these natural culverts, are contributing to a growing “restoration economy” by providing jobs and economic output.

Traditional Culvert



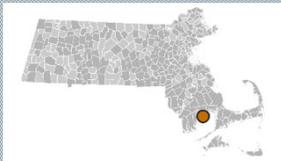
Nature Based Culvert



Example Action Grant Projects

Land Acquisition for Resilience

Mattapoisett



Purchasing 120 acres of forest, streams, freshwater wetlands and coastal salt marsh as conservation land to prevent development in vulnerable areas

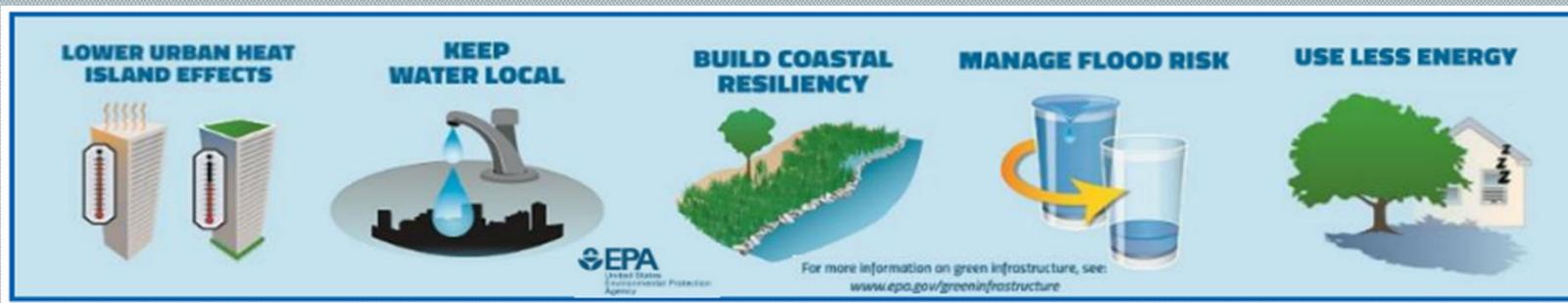


Data
Utilization
Proactive

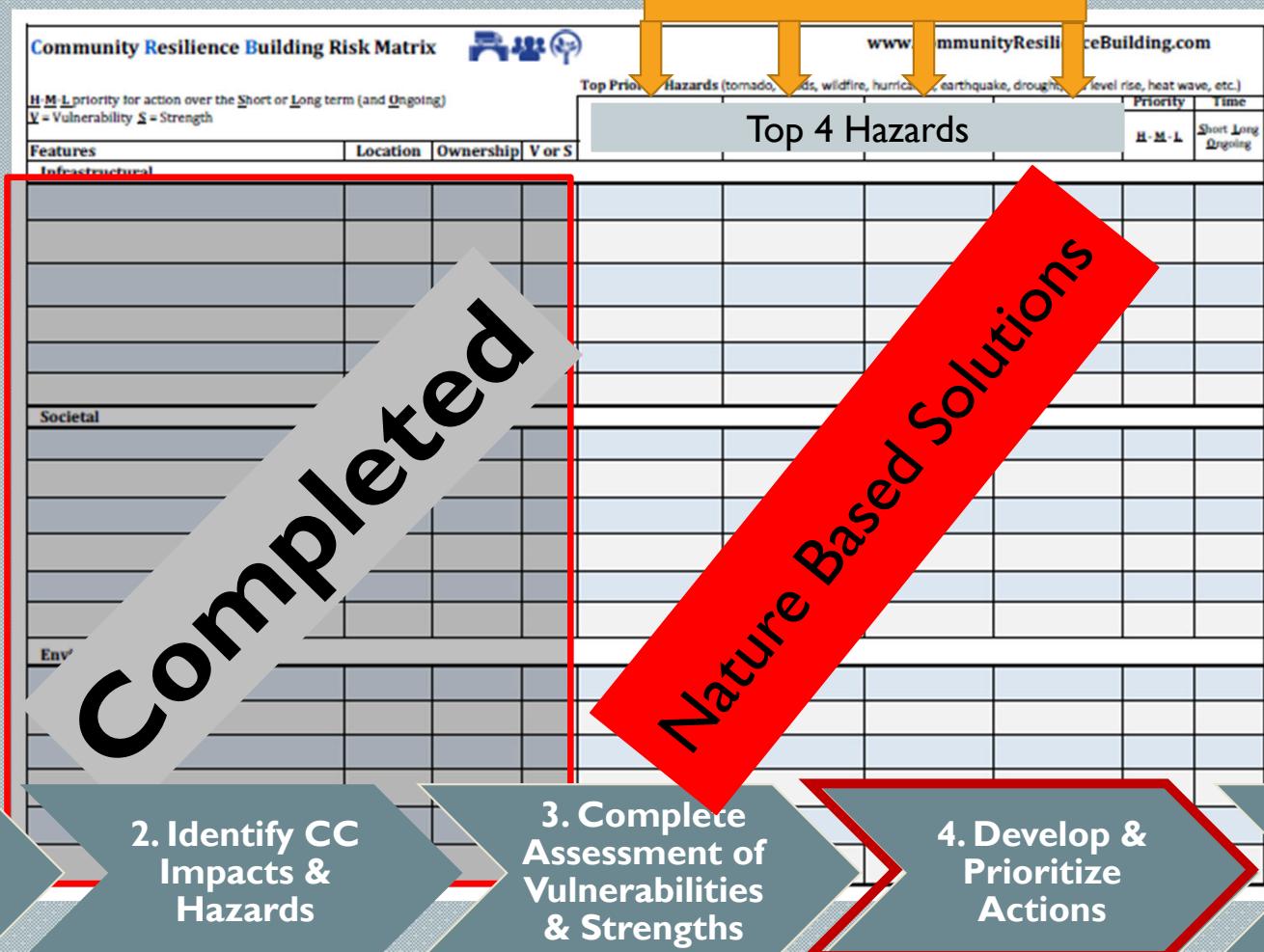


BENEFITS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND LID

- Cost Savings
 - Reduced development costs for infrastructure and maintenance
 - Reduced energy costs for residents
- Public Safety
 - Reduced flooding
 - Improved water quality
 - Increased climate change resiliency
 - Reduced urban heat island effect
- Quality of Life
 - Protect and restore natural features for improved aesthetics
 - Value
 - Increased property values
 - Regulatory
 - Assistance in meeting regulatory requirements



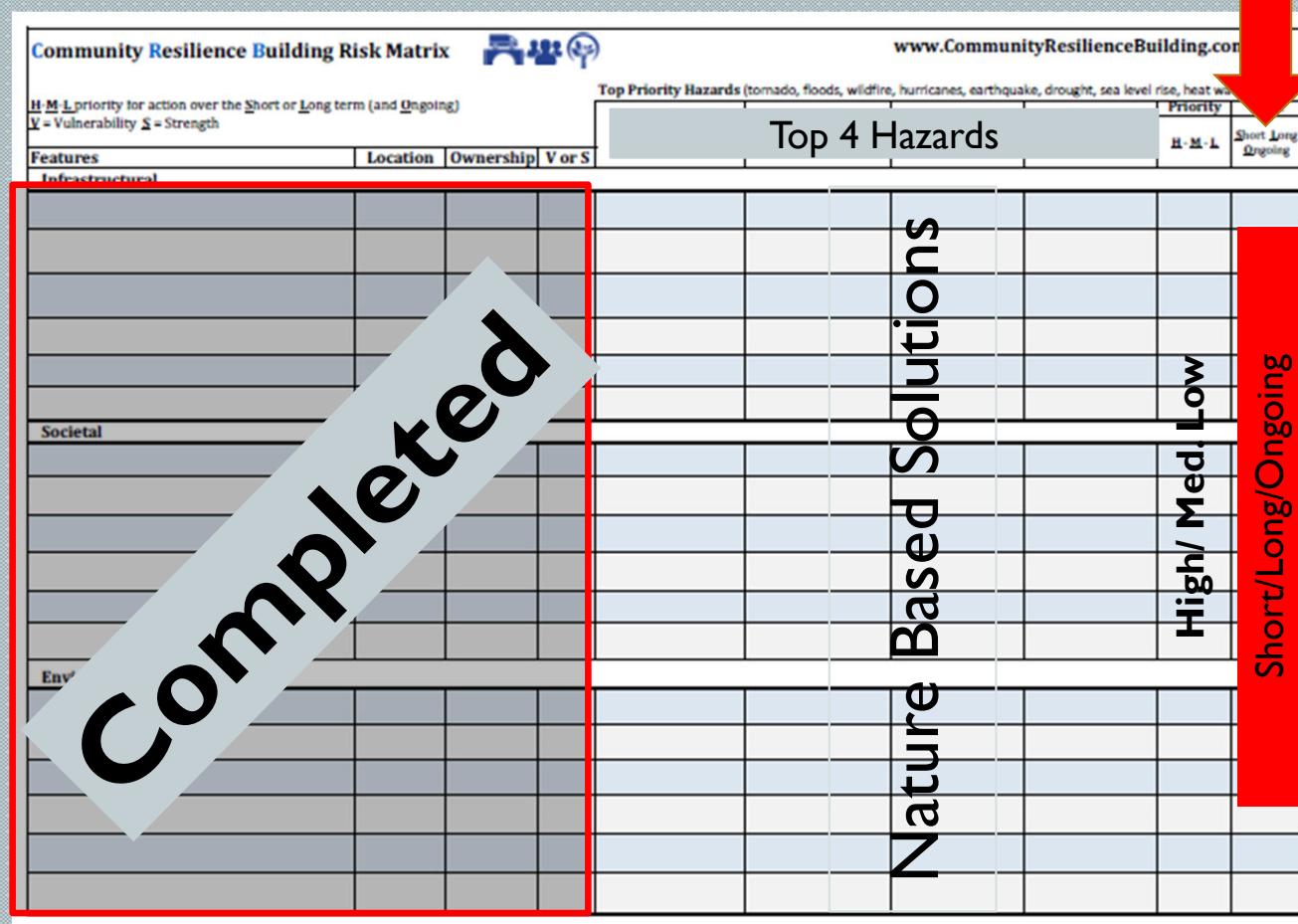
STEP THREE: ACTIONS



STEP THREE: PRIORITIES



STEP THREE: TIMELINE



REPORT OUTS

**What did your table
find?**



SUMMARY DISCUSSION

- Areas of agreement
- Areas of unique perspectives

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION



TIME TO VOTE

- A survey will be created from all information listed in the matrix
- Prioritize each project
- Vote for your projects of interest



NEXT STEPS

- Complete the survey
- Report development
- Public “Listening” session with Members of the Public and Board of Selectmen **May 2021**
- Develop resources and Implement actions
- Apply for Action Grants

1. Engage Community

2. Identify CC Impacts & Hazards

3. Complete Assessment of Vulnerabilities & Strengths

4. Develop & Prioritize Actions

5. Take Action



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

CONTACT US

- Upton Core Team Leader –
 - Paul Dell'Aquila, PDellAquila@uptonma.gov
- CMRPC Project Leaders –
 - Sarah Adams, sadams@cmrpc.org
- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs –
 - Hillary King, hillary.king@state.ma.us



THANK YOU



UPTON CLIMATE HAZARDS PRESENTATION

TOWN OF UPTON

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

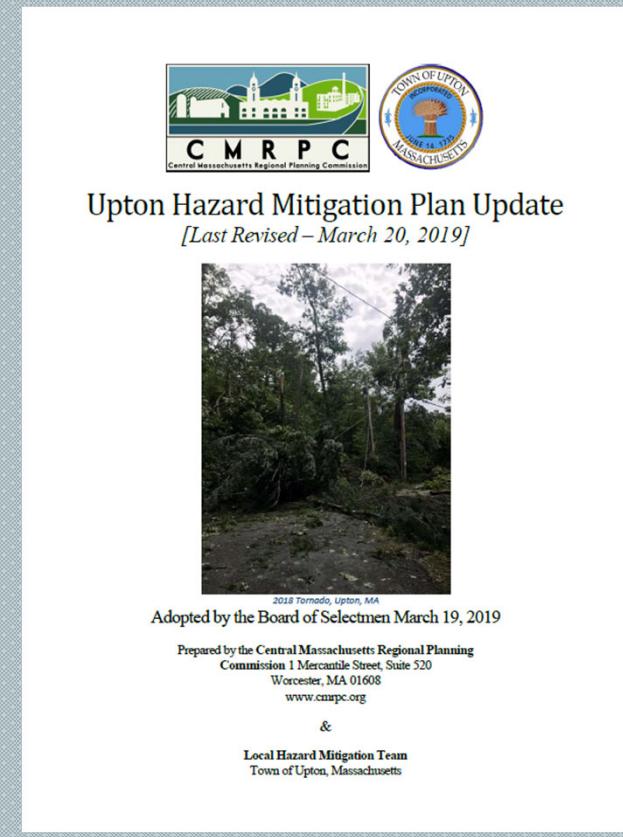
Community Resilience Building Workshop

February 18, 25, March 04, 2021



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

- Overlaps somewhat with Hazard Mitigation Planning, but MVP is more focused on climate change in the long term
- Upton's Hazard Mitigation received Final FEMA Approval in March 2019.
- 5-year plans



BE PREPARED, MITIGATE THE COSTS

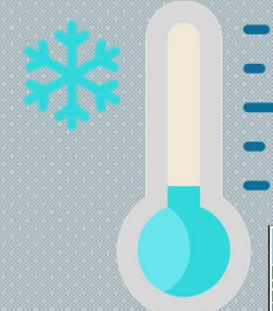
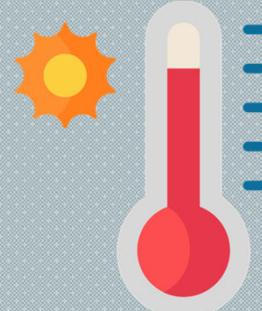
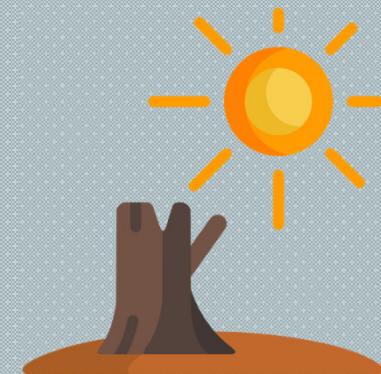
US Natural Disasters in 2017 cost \$306 Billion, the most expensive year since NOAA started keeping track in 1980

National Benefit-Cost Ratio Per Peril		Exceed common code requirements	Meet common code requirements	Utilities and transportation	Federally funded
*BCR numbers in this study have been rounded					
Overall Hazard Benefit-Cost Ratio		4:1	11:1	4:1	6:1
Savings (\$billion)		\$16/year	\$13/year	\$2.5	\$160
 Riverine Flood		5:1	6:1	8:1	7:1
 Hurricane Surge		7:1	Not applicable	Not applicable	Too few grants
 Wind		5:1	10:1	7:1	5:1
 Earthquake		4:1	12:1	3:1	3:1
 Wildland-Urban Interface Fire		4:1	Not applicable	Not applicable	3:1



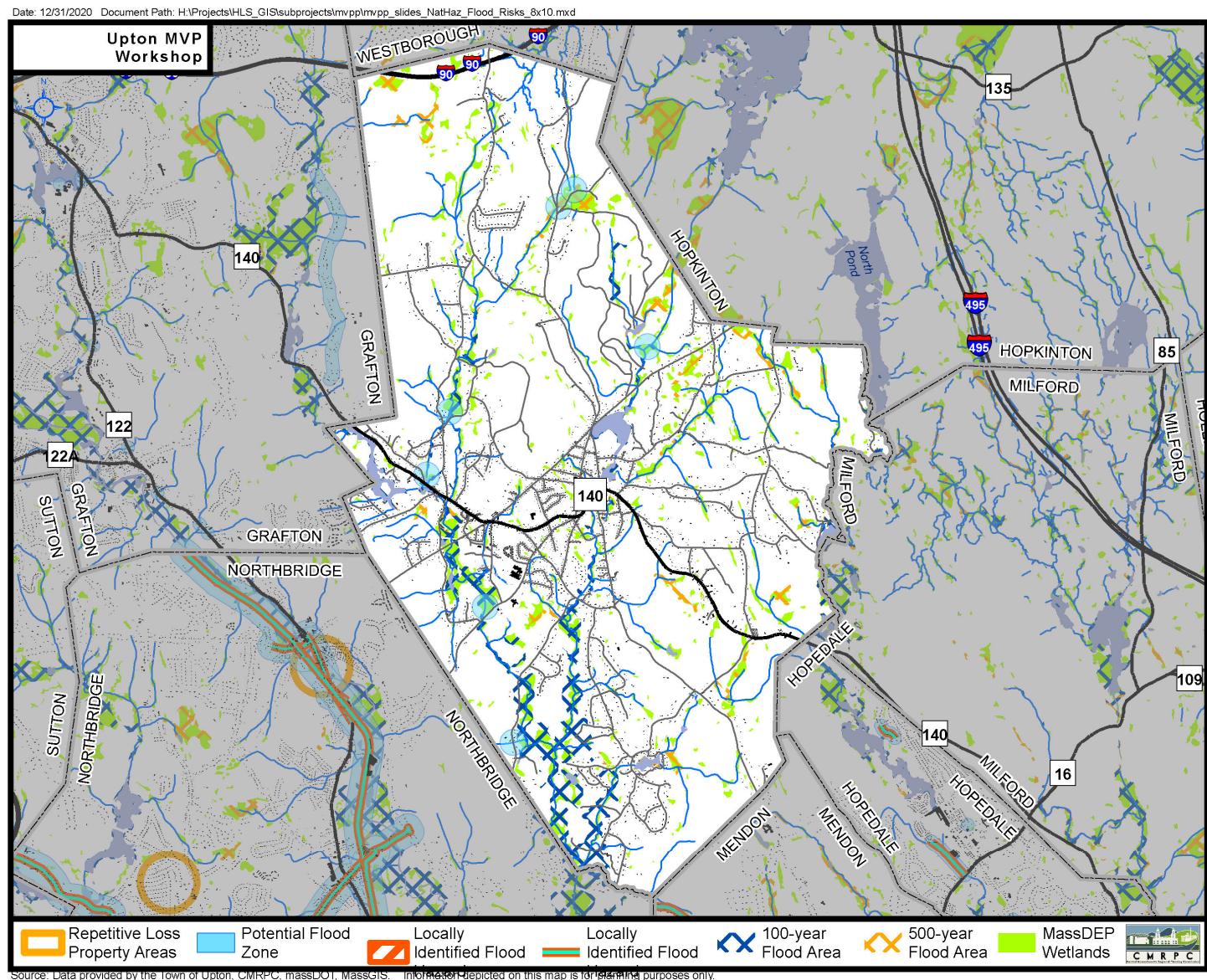
NATURAL HAZARDS

- Flooding (all types)
- Droughts and wildfires
- Winter storms
- Severe thunderstorms
- Hurricanes
- Wind and tornadoes
- Extreme temperatures
- Landslides
- Earthquakes

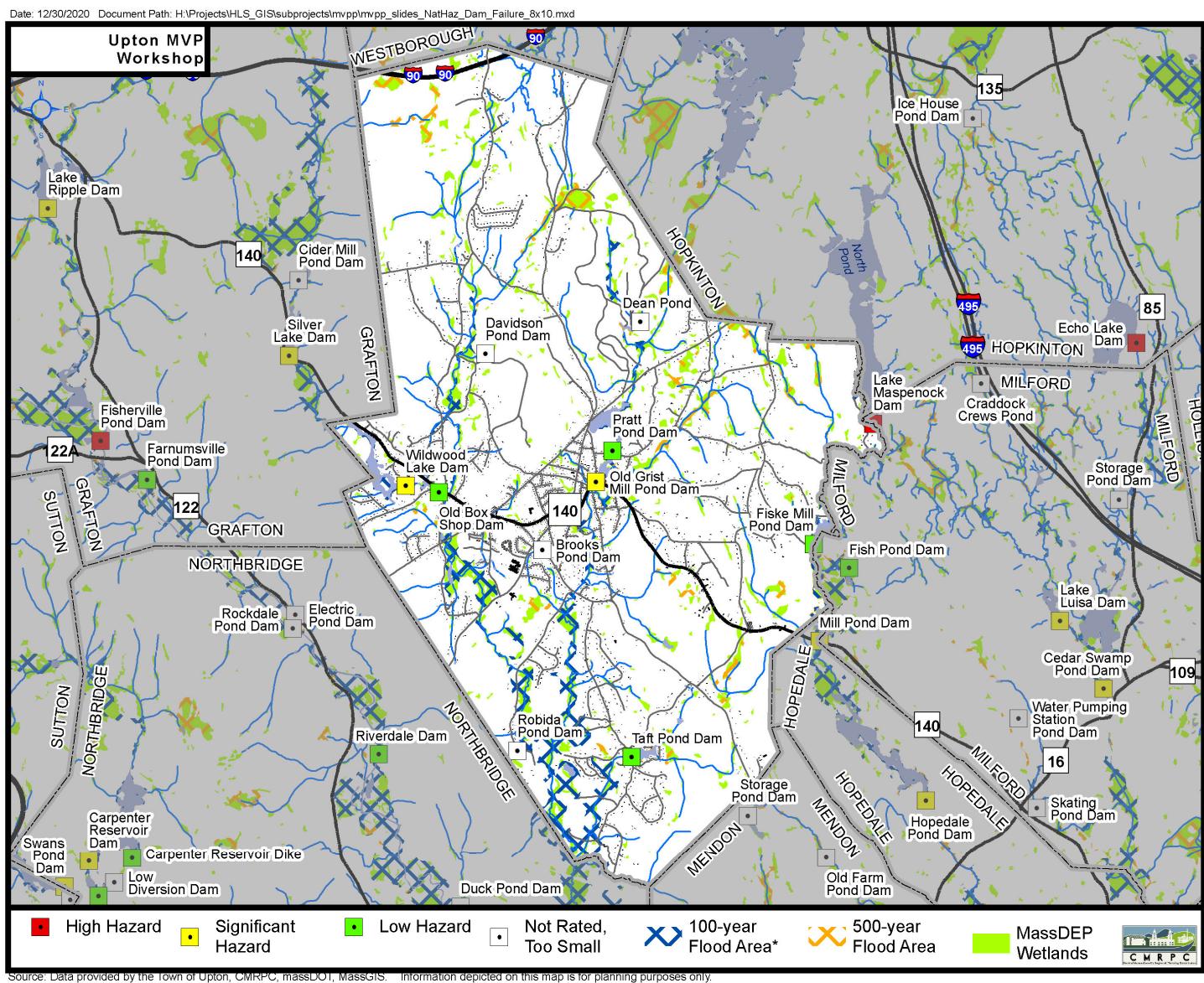


Icons made freepik from Flaticon.com

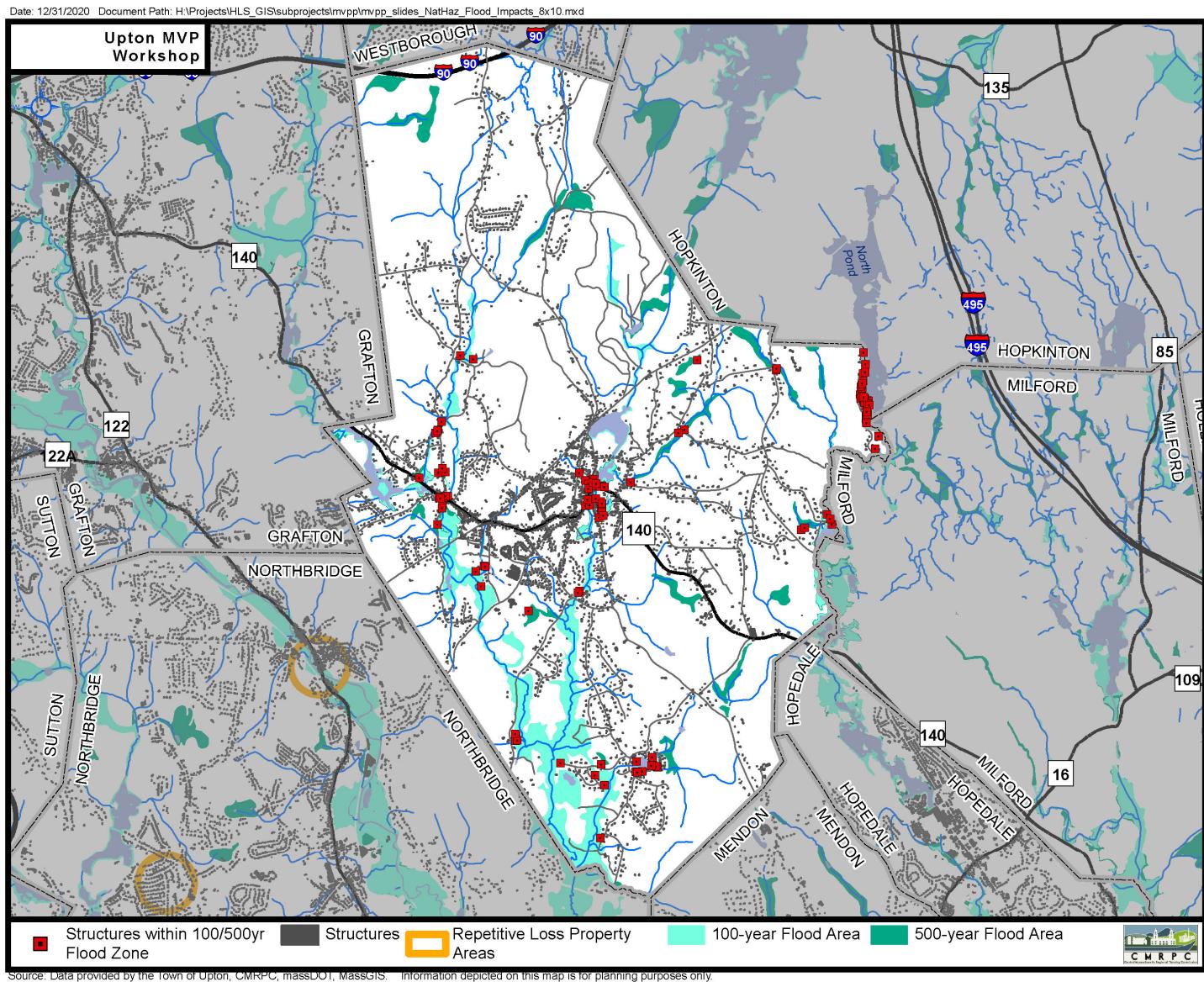
FLOOD RISKS



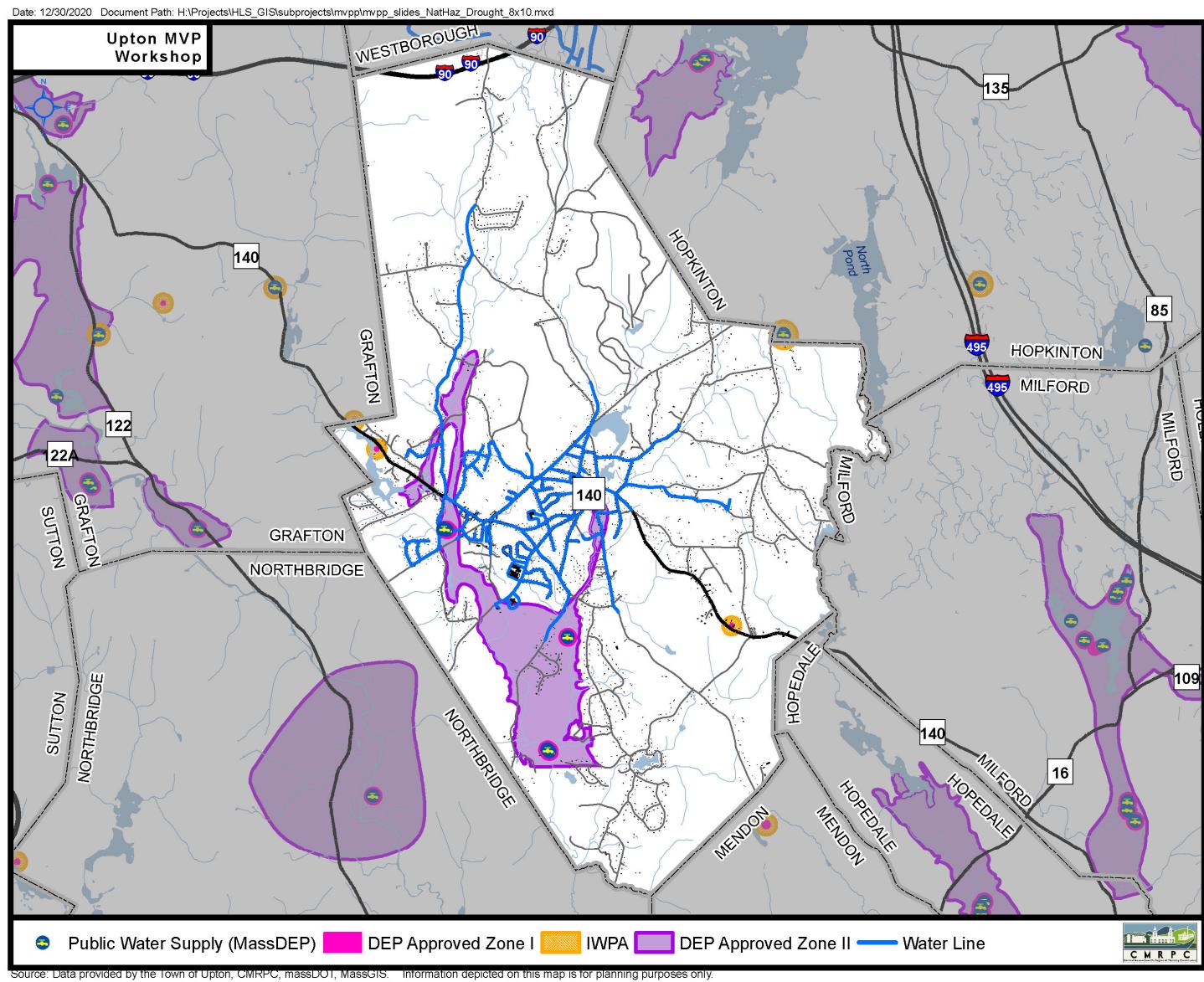
DAM FAILURE RISK



FLOODING IMPACTS

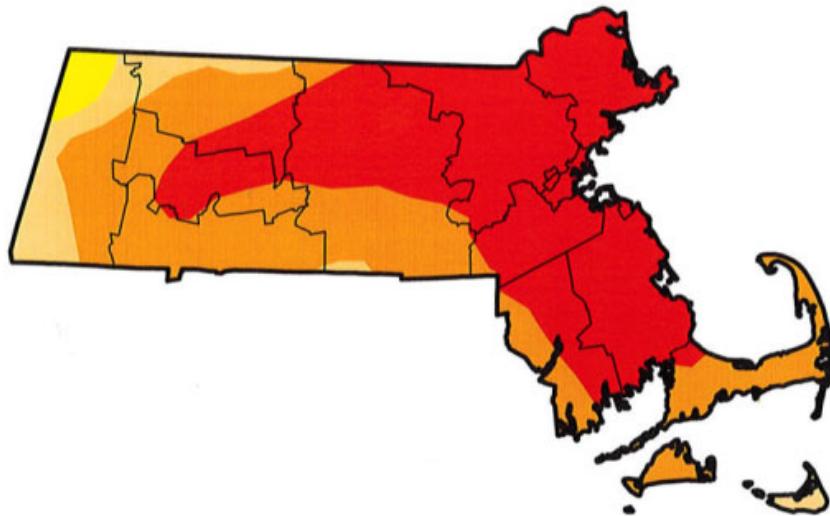


DROUGHT IMPACTS



DROUGHT IMPACTS

U.S. Drought Monitor Massachusetts



September 13, 2016

(Released Thursday, Sep. 15, 2016)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.15	89.95	52.13	0.00
Last Week 9/6/2016	0.00	100.00	94.38	77.38	22.67	0.00
3 Months Ago 6/14/2016	20.09	79.91	13.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	22.85	77.15	26.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	12.90	87.10	30.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 9/15/2015	34.81	65.19	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

	D0 Abnormally Dry		D3 Extreme Drought
	D1 Moderate Drought		D4 Exceptional Drought
	D2 Severe Drought		

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

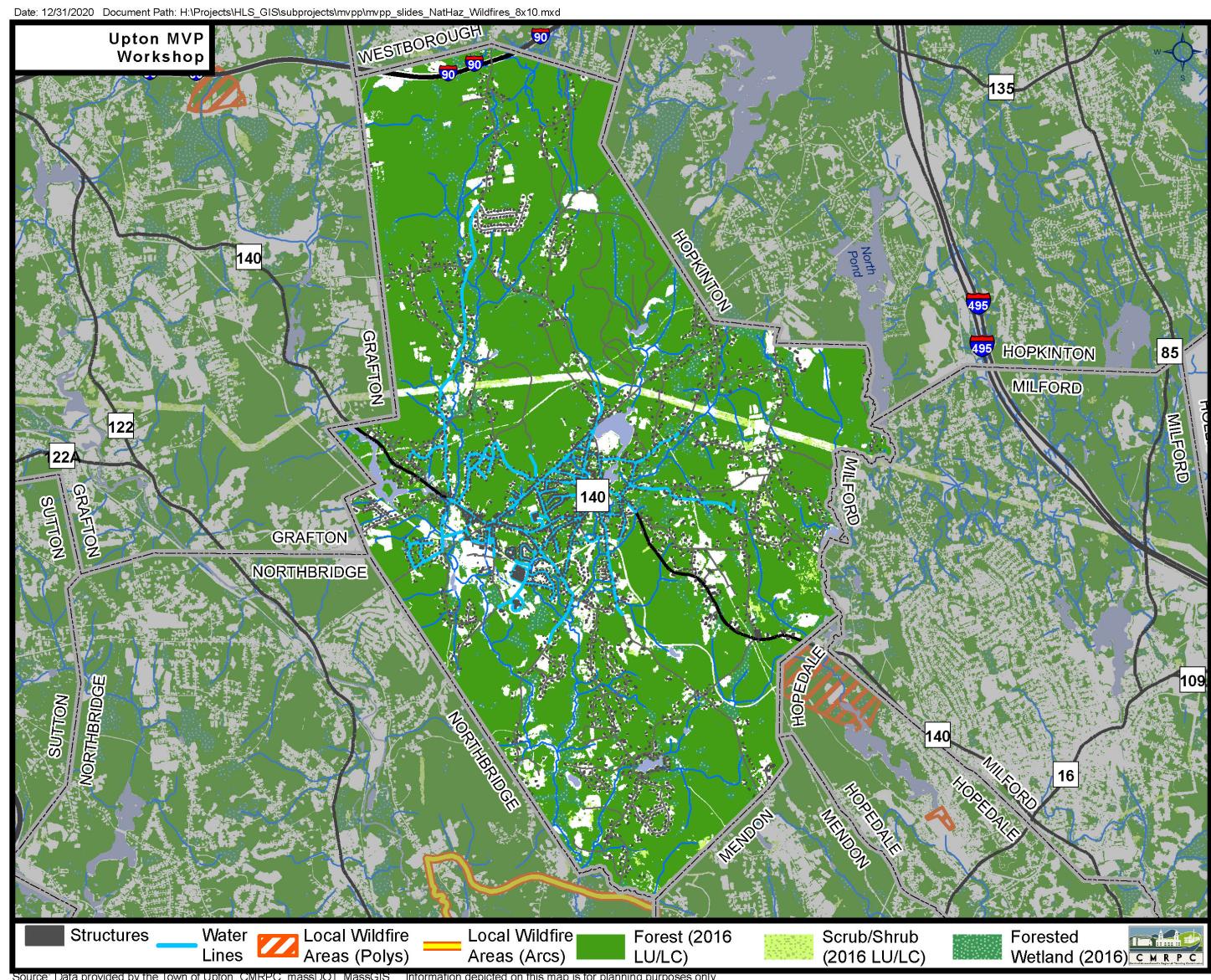
Eric Luebchen
U.S. Department of Agriculture



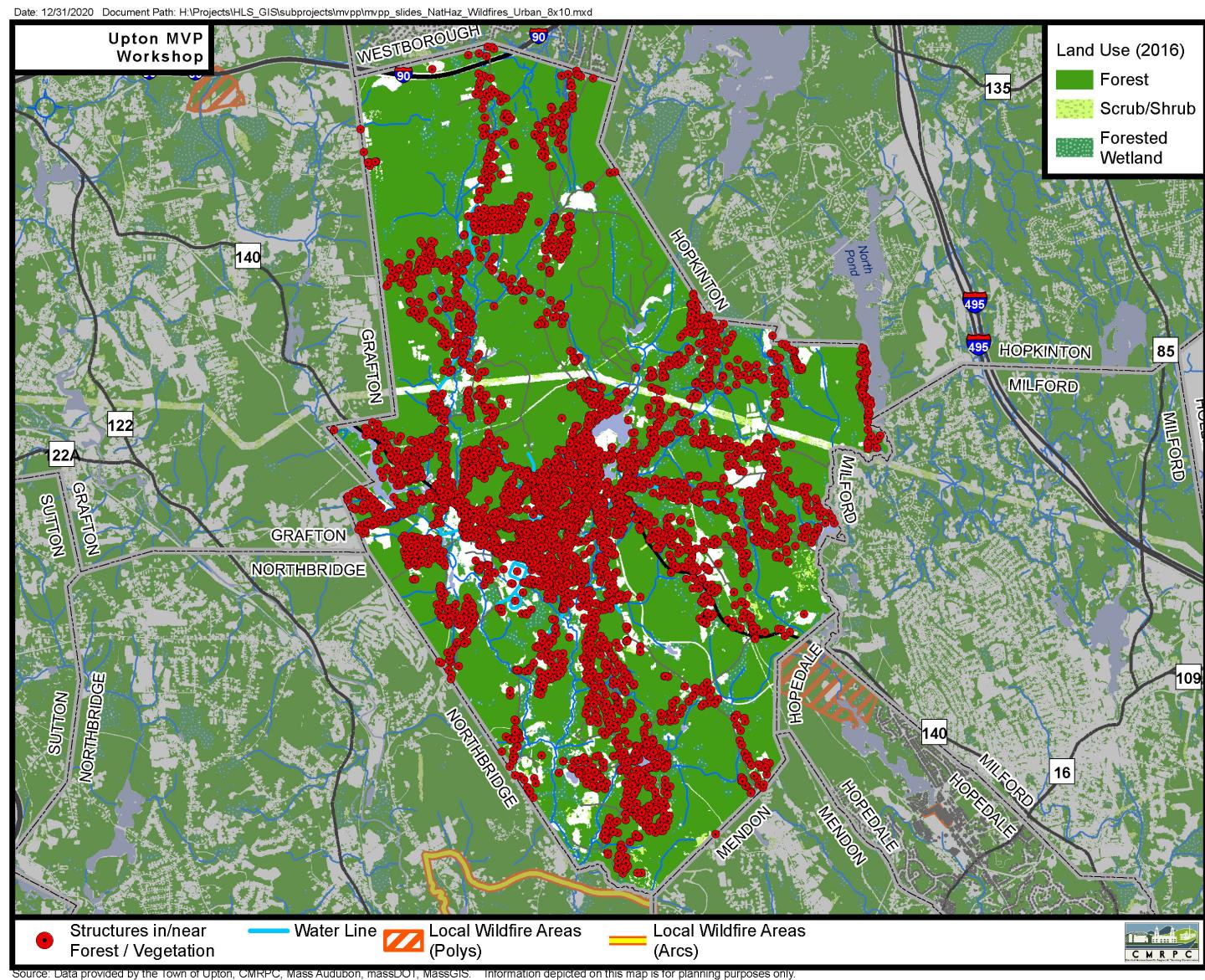
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



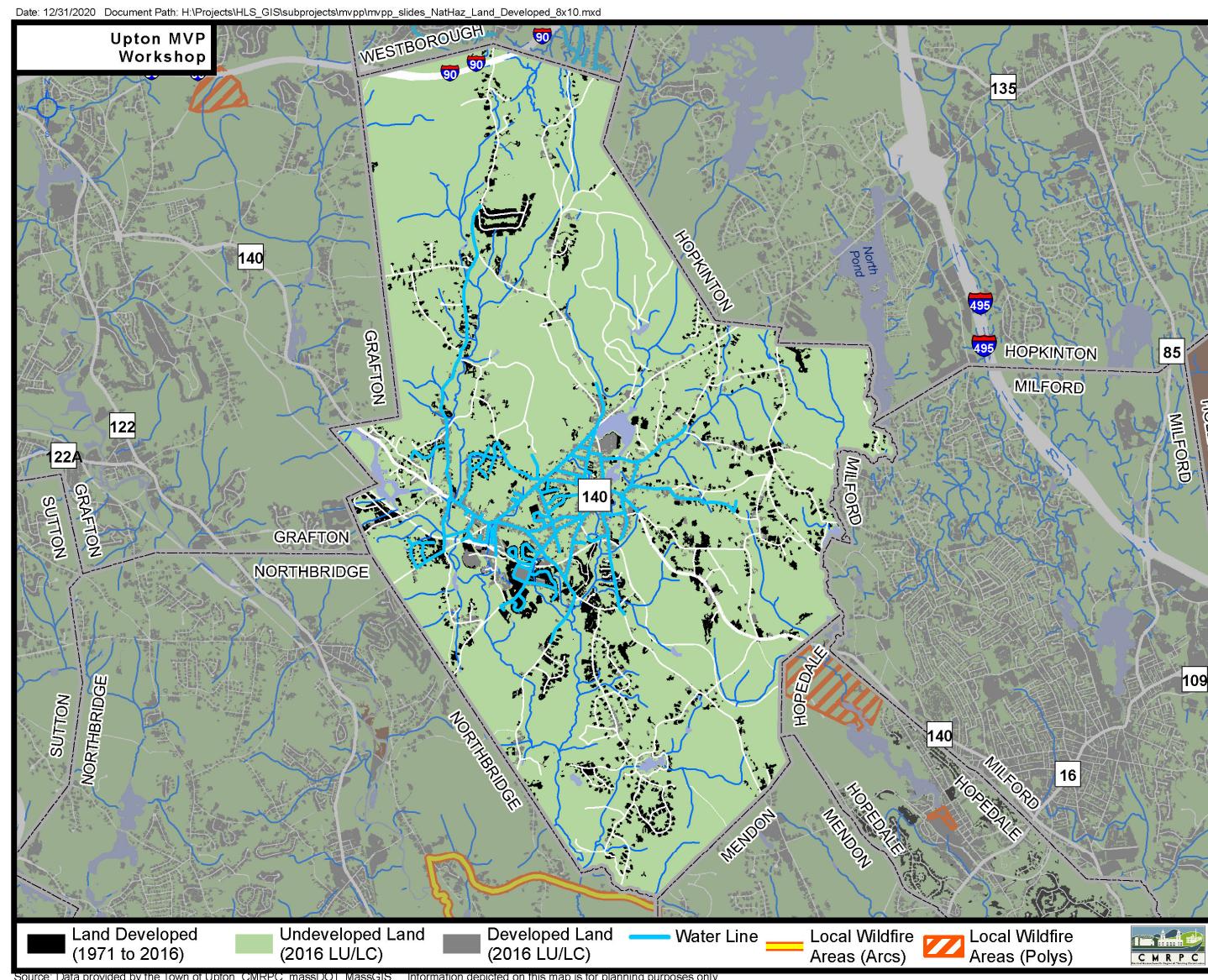
WILDFIRE



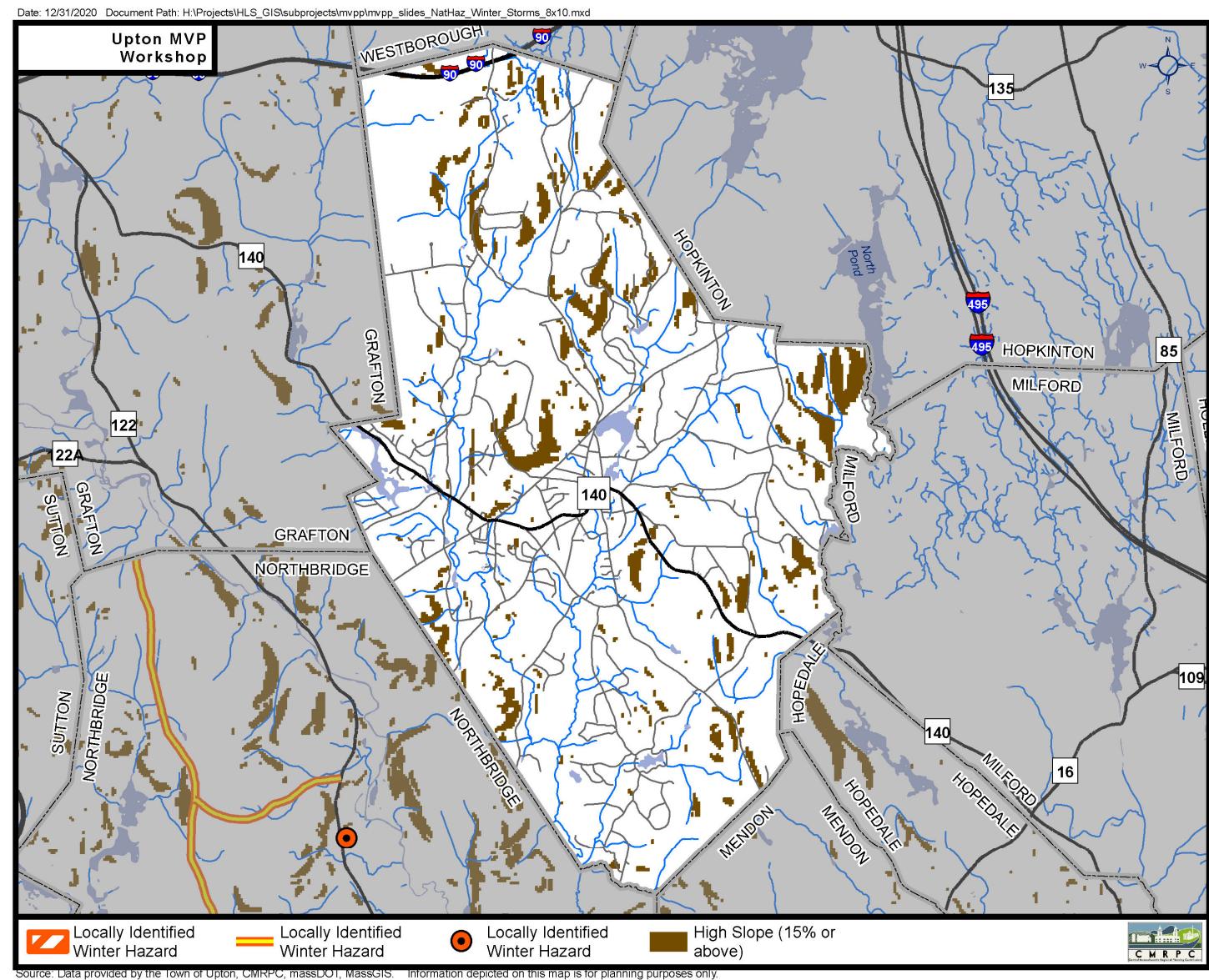
WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE



FIRE & NEW DEVELOPMENT



WINTER STORMS



EXTREME STORMS

Show Touchdown Points

Filter by Magnitude:

- F/EF 0
- F/EF 1
- F/EF 2
- F/EF 3
- F/EF 4
- F/EF 5

Filter by Year Range:

1950 2017

Filter by Month:

All Months

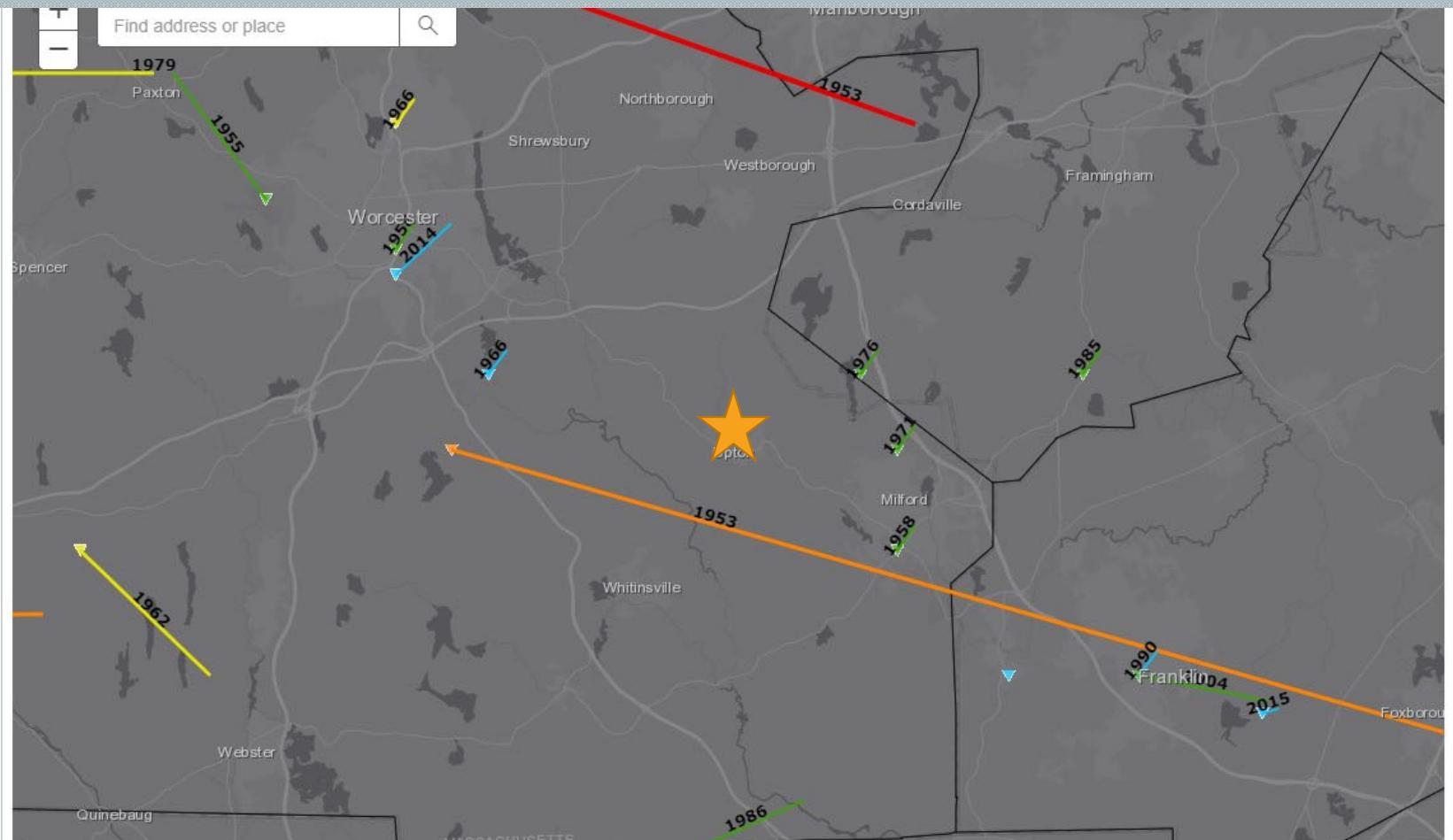
Filter by Casualties:

Injuries > 0
 Fatalities > 0

For more information, click any:

Track (for tornado data)
 County (for county image)

Please note: Attempting to view many tracks may significantly hinder performance.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

- What infrastructure and facilities are critical to the region and its residents? Which do we most need or desire to protect from hazards?
 - Those needed to respond to hazard events or which would exacerbate hazard scenarios, if affected
 - Those needed to perform day-to-day municipal operations and to support basic services and economic activity
 - Major employers and institutions, natural and cultural resources, recreational and historic sites, etc...



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Vulnerability is not just about utilities, facilities, or businesses
 - Disproportionate populations of potentially vulnerable demographic groups (elderly, children, etc.) or socioeconomic groups (low income households, etc.) living/working in high-risk areas
 - Can be on neighborhood scale, or at specific locations
 - Cultural vulnerability (cultural or language isolation)
 - These will evolve over time, as climate and populations change



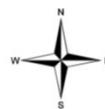
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: SENIORS (65+)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop:Upton

Legend

Percent Population over 65

- 0% - 9.51%
- 9.52% - 13.05%
- 13.06% - 17.21%
- 17.22% +



0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

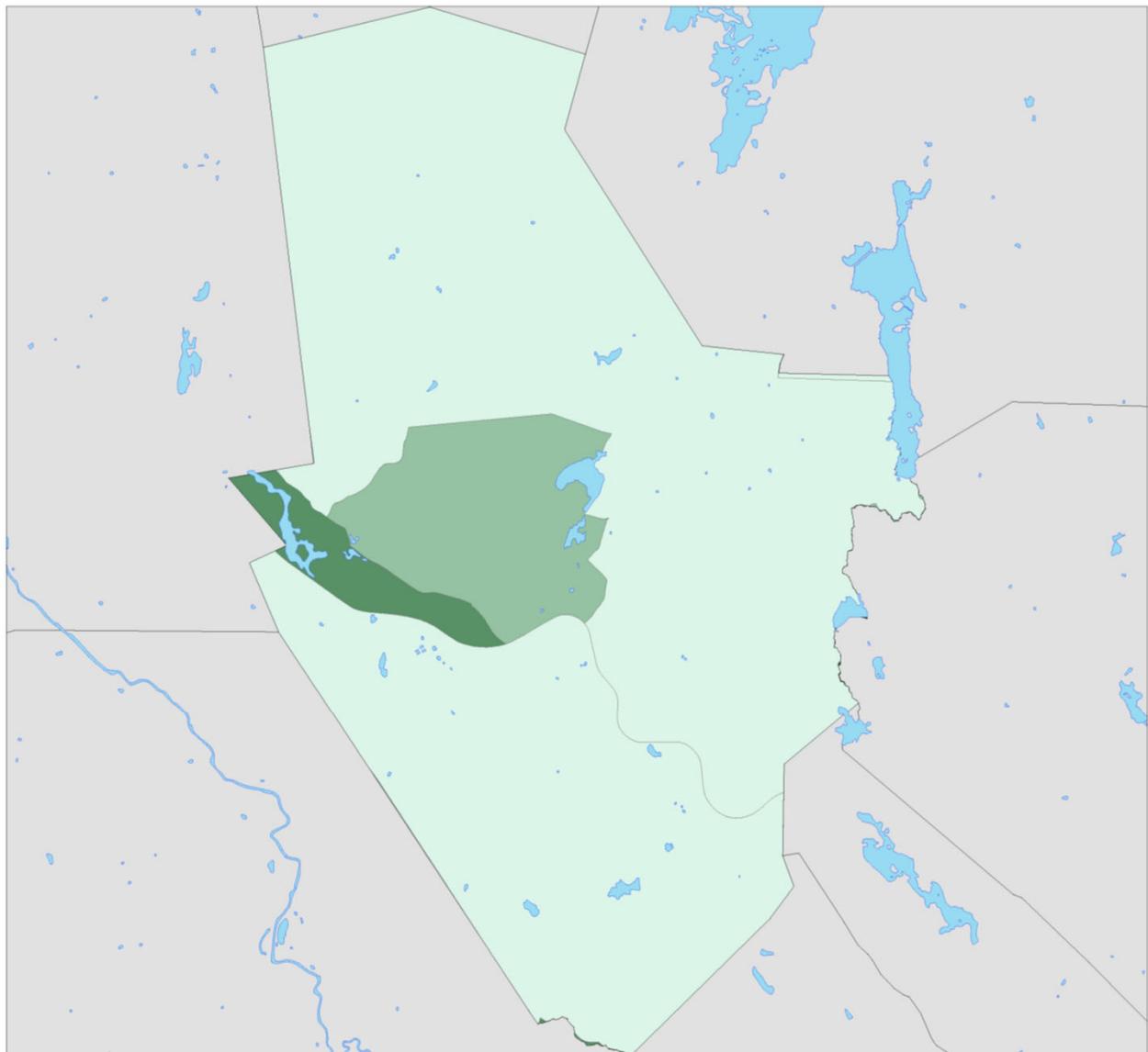
Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608

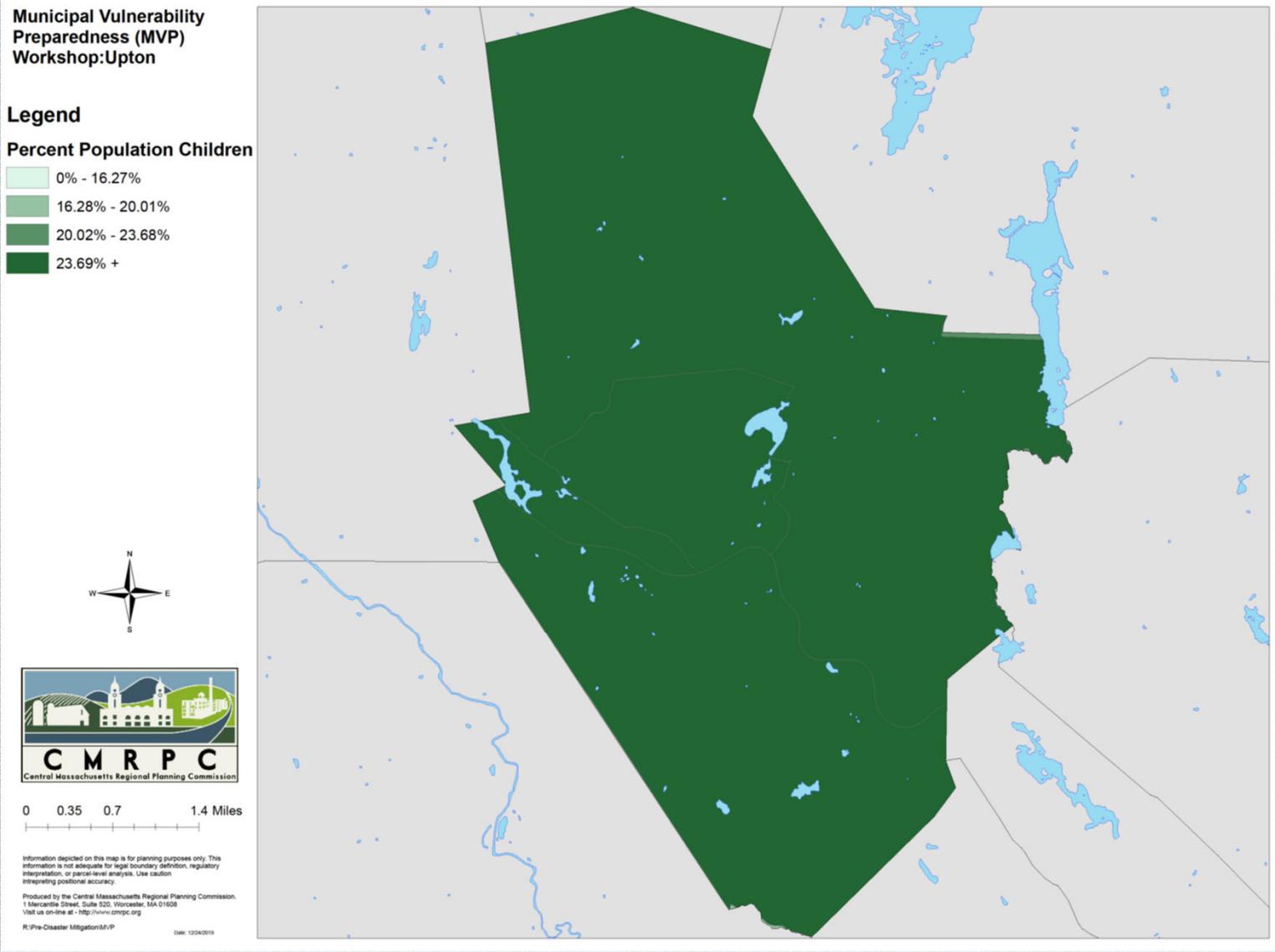
Visit us on the Web: <http://www.cmrpc.org>

RI:Pre-Disaster Mitigation/MVP

Date: 12/04/2019



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: UNDER AGE 18



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: RENTER OCCUPIED

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop: Upton

Legend

Percent of Renters

- 0% - 13.571429%
- 13.57143% - 33.333333%
- 33.333334% - 58.894646%
- 58.894647% - 100%

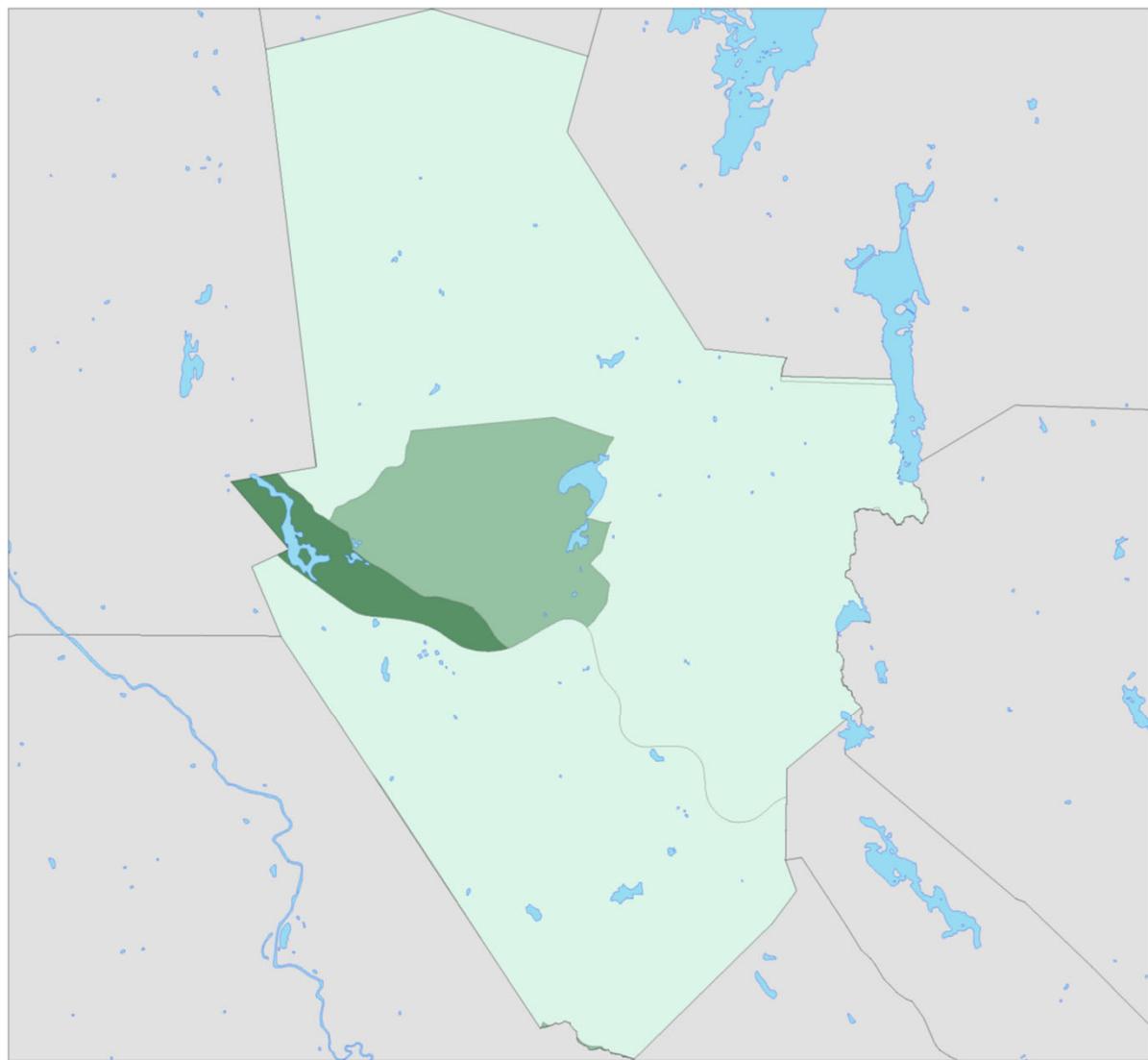


0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

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Produced by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 220, Worcester, MA 01608
Visit us on-line at: <http://www.cmrpc.org>

Map:Pre-Disaster Mitigation/MVP
Date: 12/04/2019



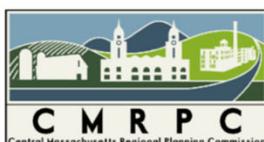
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: LATINO/HISPANIC

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Workshop:Upton

Legend

Limited English Proficiency

- 0.32% - 1.52%
- 1.53% - 4.19%
- 4.2% - 8.29%
- 8.3% - 16.61%
- 16.62% - 39.62%

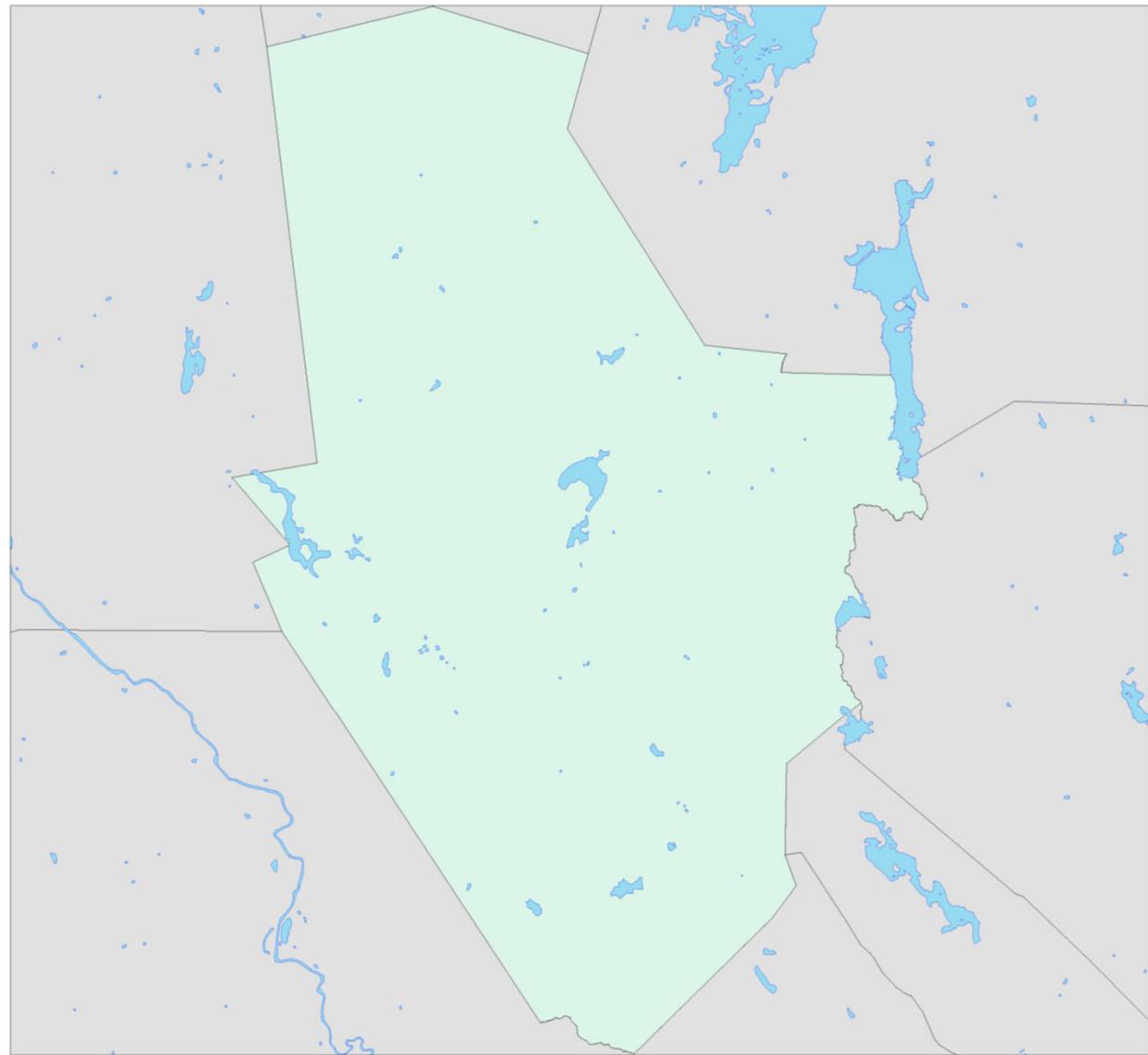


0 0.35 0.7 1.4 Miles

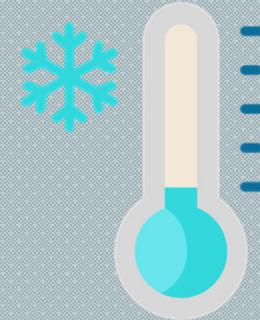
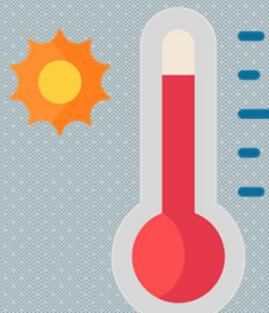
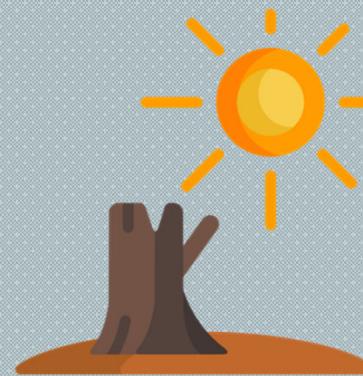
Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or court-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.
1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608
Visit us on-line at: <http://www.cmrpc.org>

R:Pre-Disaster Mitigation|MVP
Date: 12/24/2019



QUESTIONS



UPTON CLIMATE IMPACTS PRESENTATION

CLIMATE PROJECTIONS AND IMPACTS

1. Engage
Community

2. Identify CC
Impacts &
Hazards

3. Complete
Assessment of
Vulnerabilities
& Strengths

4. Develop &
Prioritize
Actions

5. Take Action



CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS

Climate projections

- Precipitation
 - Annual
 - Large events
 - Changes in “____ year storms”
 - Consecutive dry days
- Temperature



Natural Hazards

- Winter Storms
- Heavy Rainfall and Flooding
- Drought, Wildfire, and Heat



EXAMPLES OF IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Infrastructure

- **Transportation** - Increased precipitation and flooding can disrupt traffic, delay construction, and wash out soil and culverts that support roads, tunnels, and bridges.
- **Energy** - Increase in summer peak electricity demand in most regions of the United States.

Societal

- **Agriculture** - Impact on crops from more extreme temperature and precipitation
- **Human Health** - More frequent, extreme and longer heat waves will impact vulnerable populations.

Environment

- **Ecosystems** - Impacts such as range shifts, habitat loss, more pests and more invasive species



OUR CLIMATE IS ALREADY CHANGING

Temperature:



3° F
Since 1895

Growing Season:



11 Days
Since 1895

Sea Level Rise:



8 inches
Since 1900

Strong Storms:

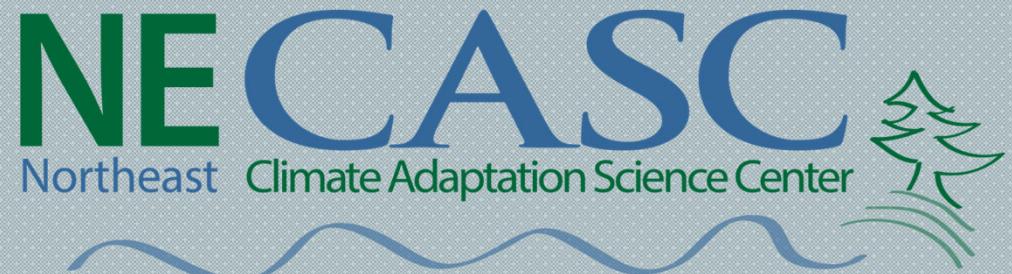


55%
Since 1958

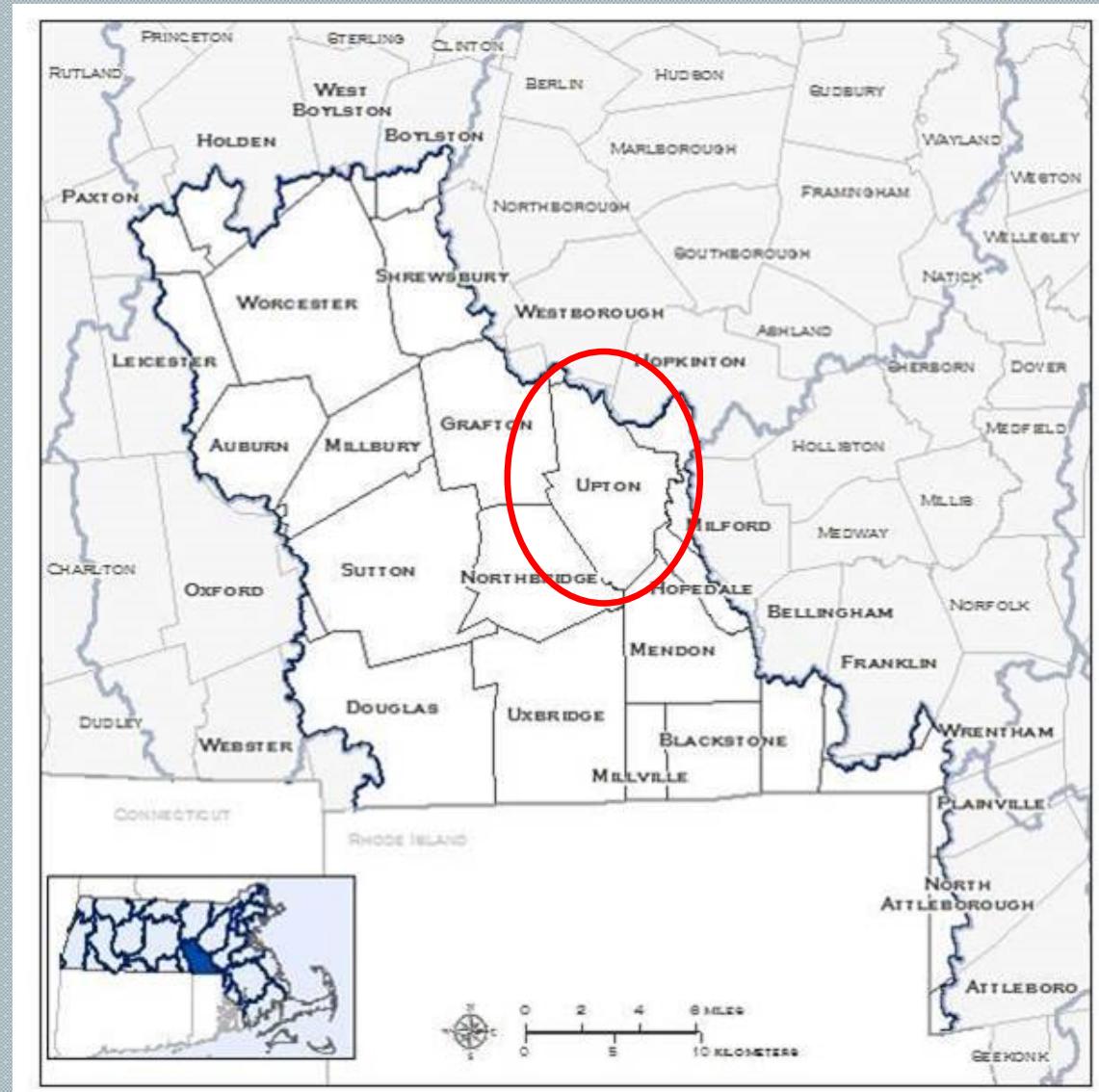


NORTHEAST CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER UMASS AMHERST

- NECASC downscaled climate projections for major drainage basins
- Climate Models from the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report
- Historical Data 1971-2000
- Medium and High Emission Scenarios were Chosen (RCP 4.5 and 8.5)
 - Medium Scenario Assumes Emissions Peak at Mid-Century
 - High Scenario Assumes a Continuing Emission Trajectory

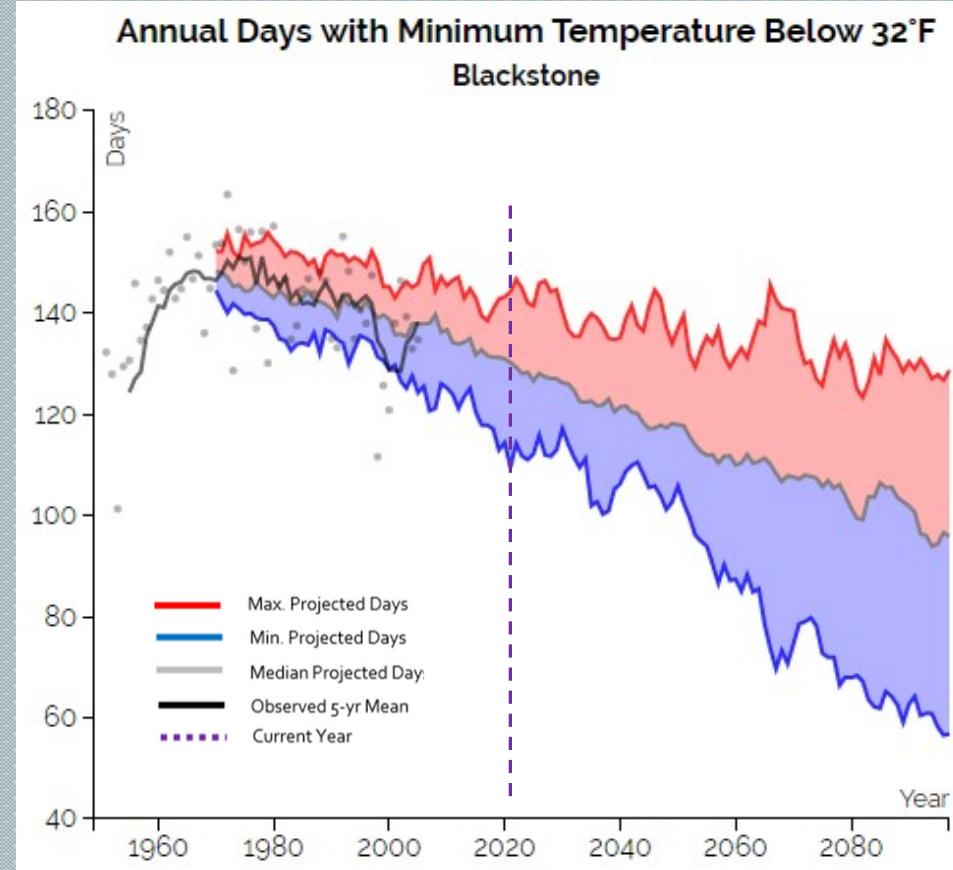


BLACKSTONE RIVER BASIN



WINTER STORMS

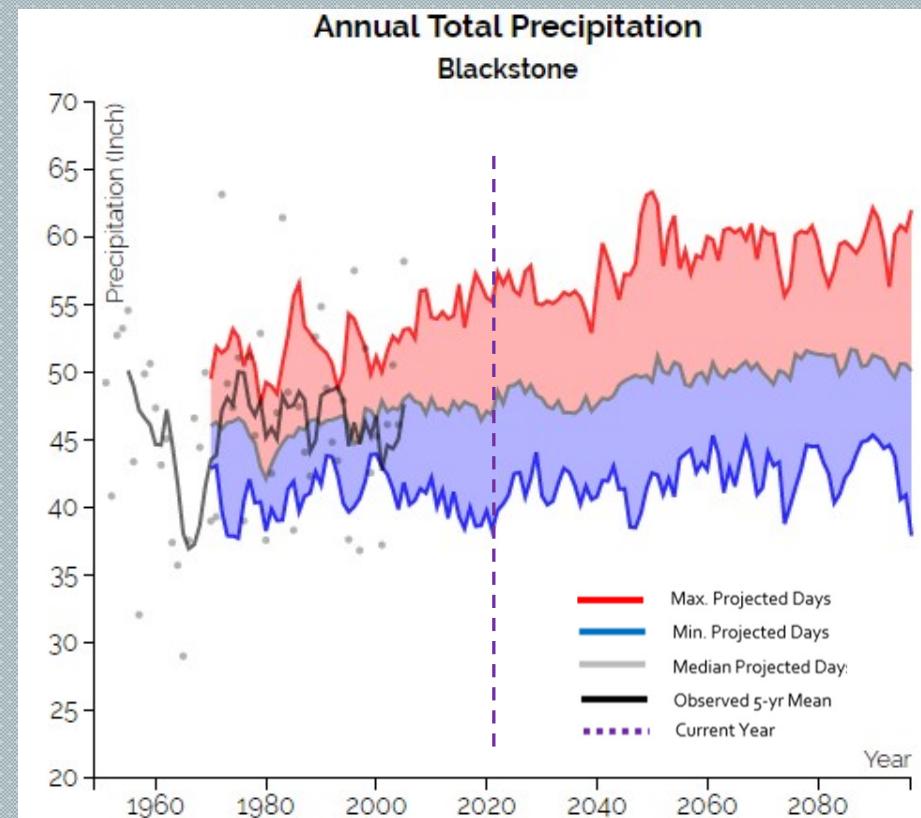
- Annual days below freezing will decrease
- Rising temps → more winter precipitation to fall as rain or freezing rain
- Lower snowfall accumulation
- Winter - Highest projected increase in precipitation
- Storms that do occur may be worse
 - proximity to Atlantic Ocean increases risk of large storm events



HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODING

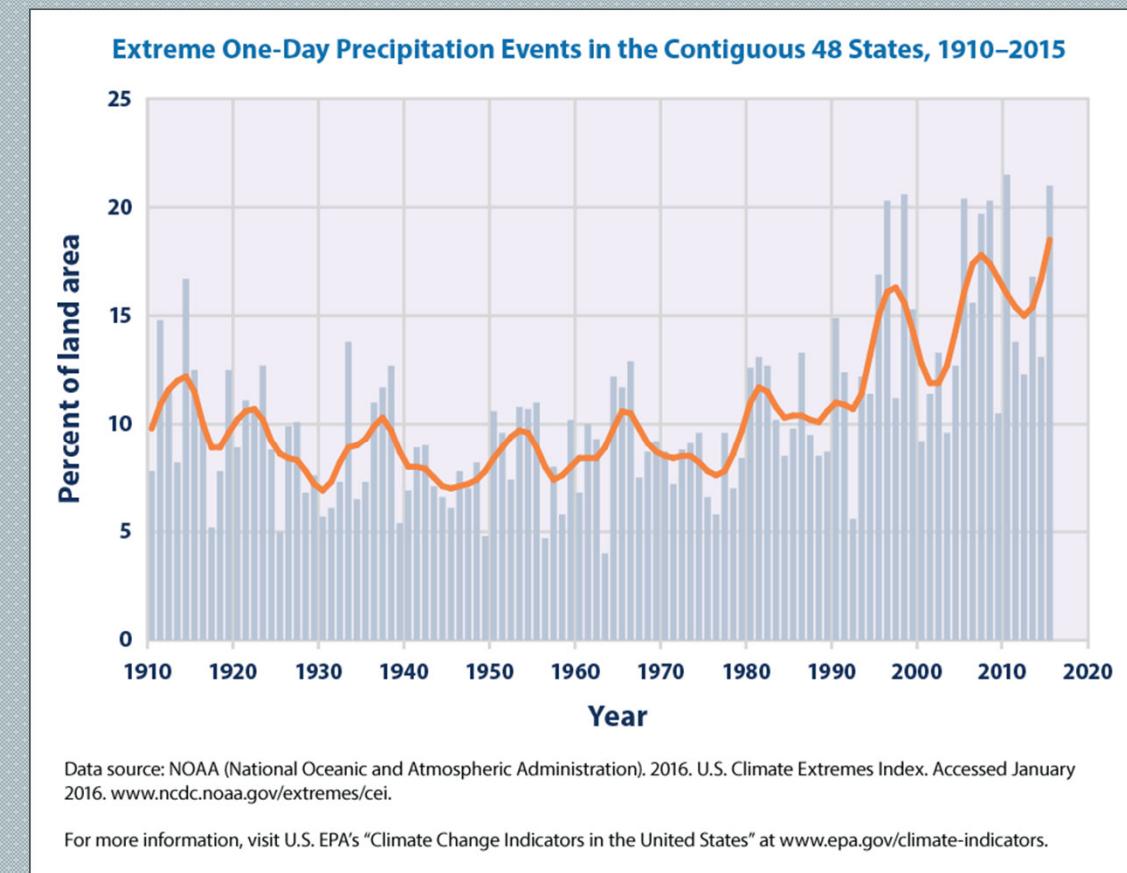
Seasonal

- **Winter** – Largest increase expected, up to .6 to 3.9 inches by end of century
- **Spring** – Expected increase of .2 to 2.8 inches by end of century
- **Summer** – Possible decrease of 1.2 inches to increase of 2.0 inches by end of century
- **Fall** – Possible decrease of 1.7 inches to increase of 1.5 inches by end of century



HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODING

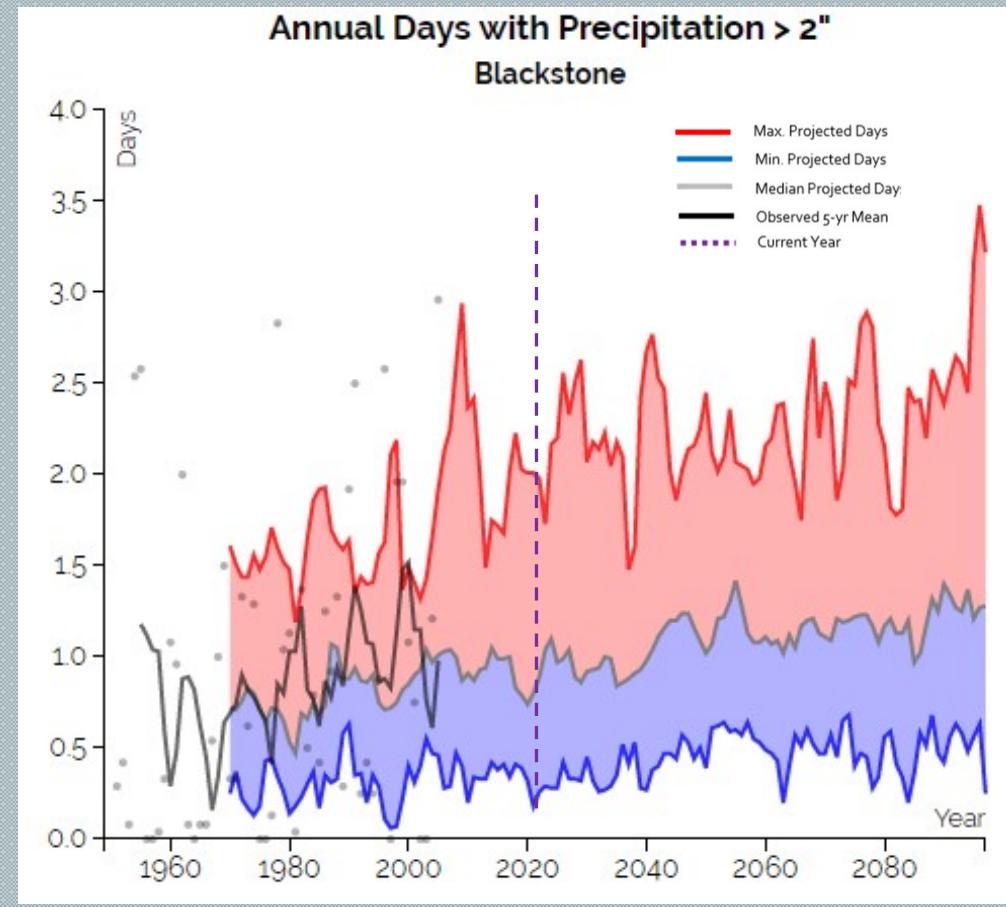
- Precipitation will increase across all seasons
- Total annual rainfall will increase
- Heavy rainfall events will become more frequent
 - Overbank flooding from rainfall and snowmelt
 - Piped Infrastructure backup and or failure
- Water quality impact from flooding
 - Erosion
 - Nonpoint source pollution



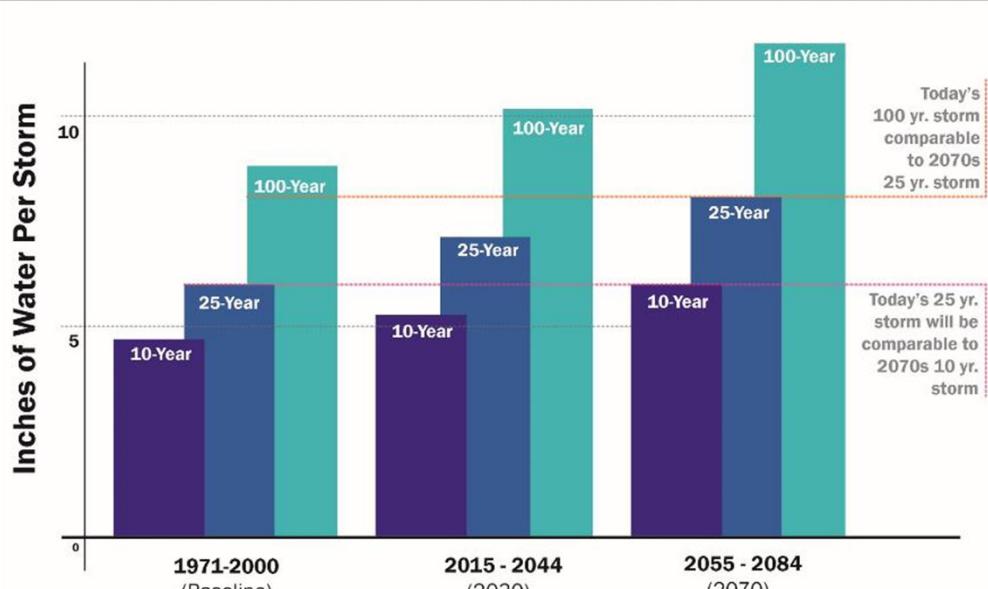
HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODING

Extreme Precipitation

- The number of days each year with more than 2 inches of precipitation will increase.



HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODING



Icon made by photo3idea_studio from Flaticon.com

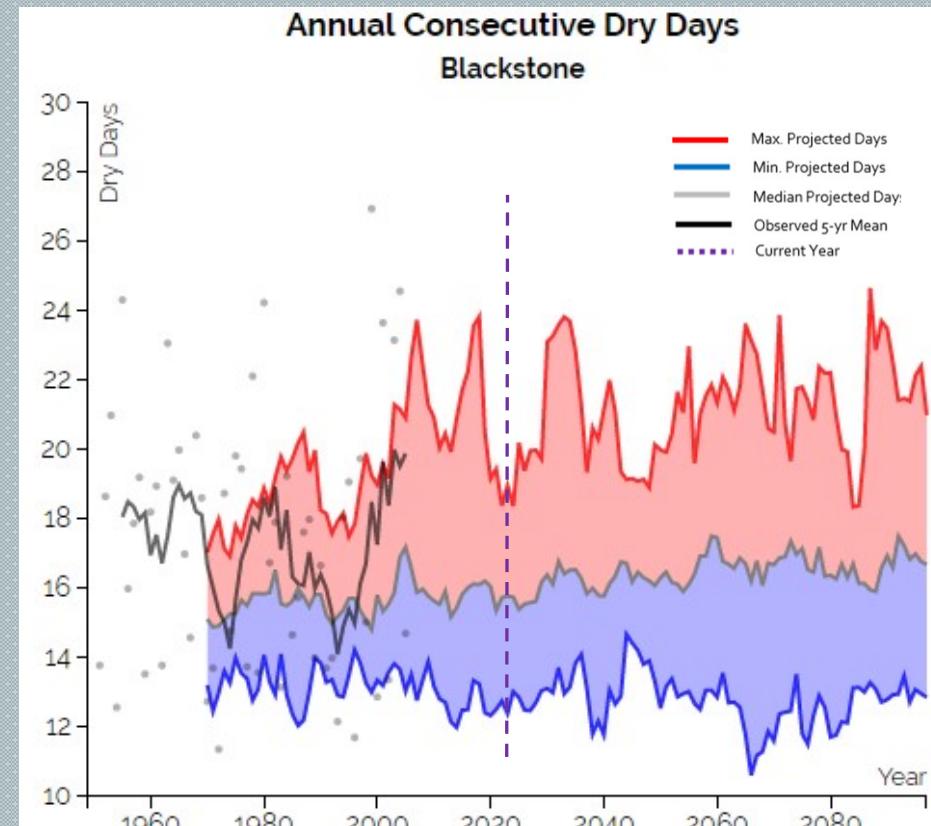
IMPACTS OF INCREASED PRECIPITATION

- More disruptive flooding events, especially with undersize stormwater infrastructure
 - Increased inland flooding
 - Soils become saturated
 - River flows rise
 - Capacity of urban SW infrastructure is exceeded
 - Impacts to property and critical infrastructure
- Increased non-point source pollution
 - Ecological damage to nearby waterbodies



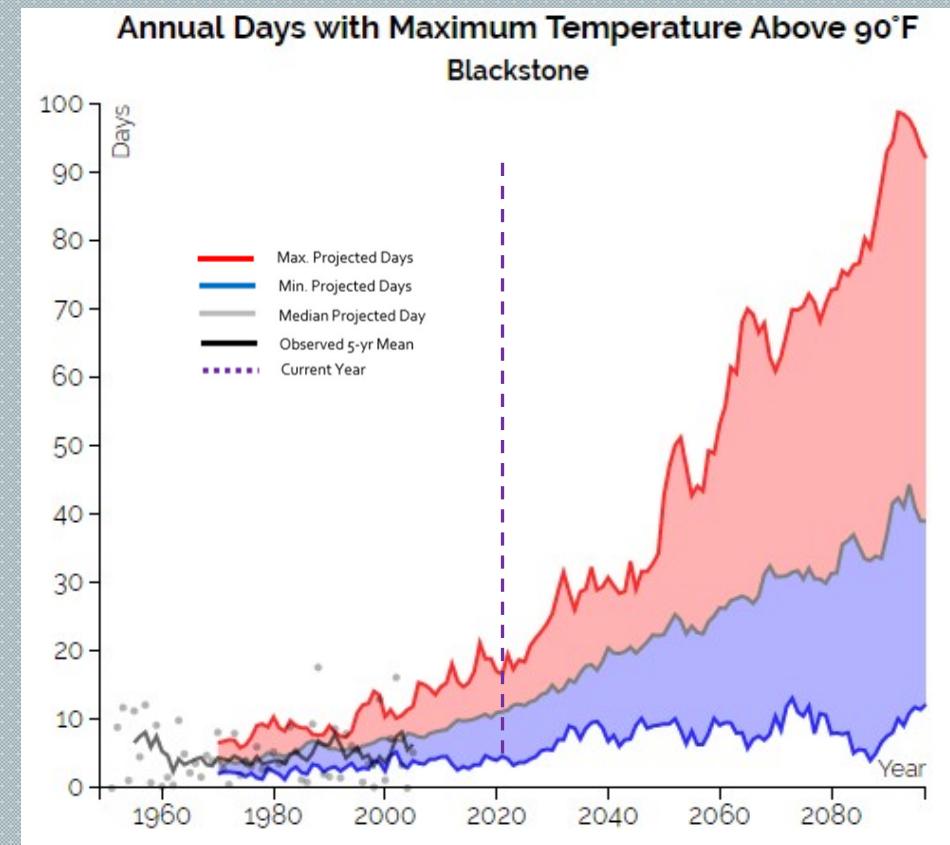
DROUGHT IMPACTS

- More consecutive dry days
- Highest number of consecutive dry days in summer and fall.
- Increase of up to 3 additional consecutive dry days by the end of the century



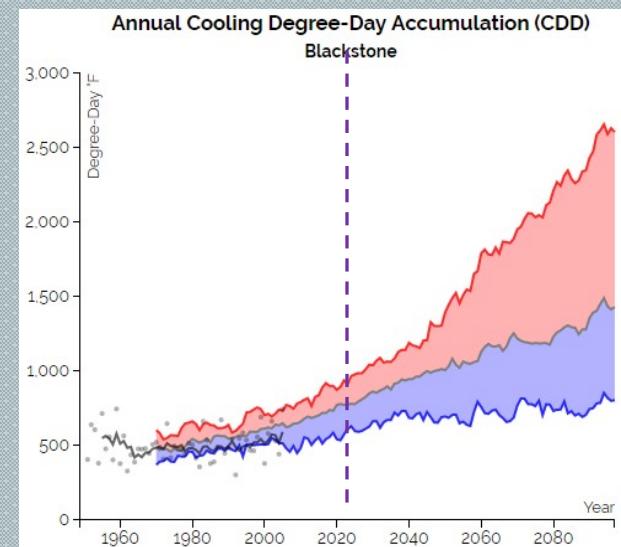
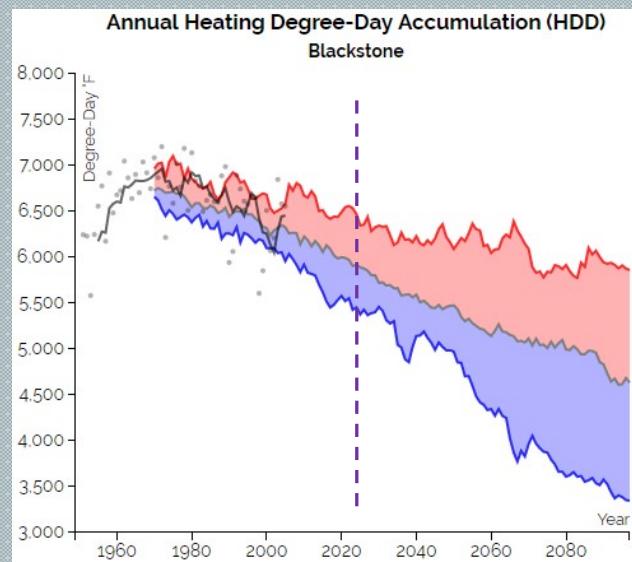
HEAT PROJECTIONS

- Projected increase of 8 to 29 days annually over 90°F by mid century
- Projected increase of 11 to 69 days annually over 90°F by end of century



HEAT PROJECTIONS

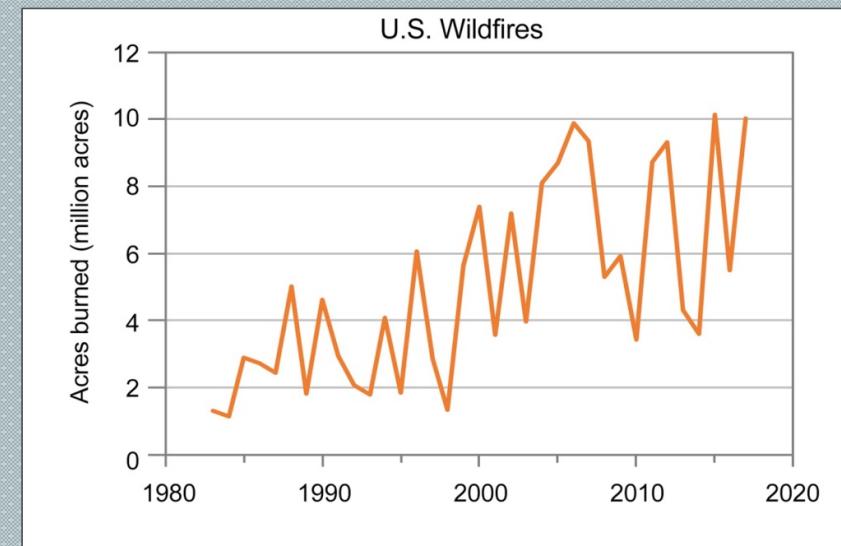
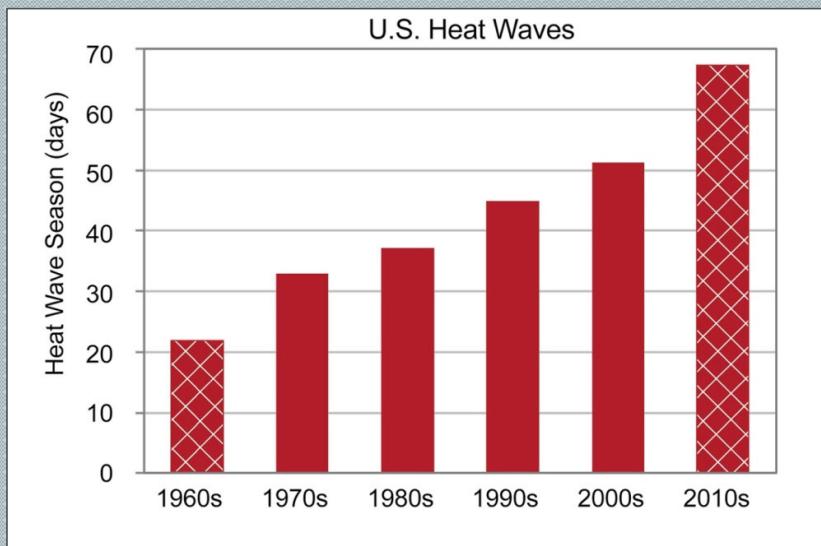
- Projected decrease in heating degree-days and increase in cooling-degree days
- More days above 65°F means fewer days needed to heat buildings and more days needed to cool buildings.
- Winter
 - 7-19% decrease in HDD by mid century
- Spring
 - 10-24% decrease in HDD by mid century
- Fall
 - 20-33% decrease in HDD by mid century



HEAT AND WILDFIRE

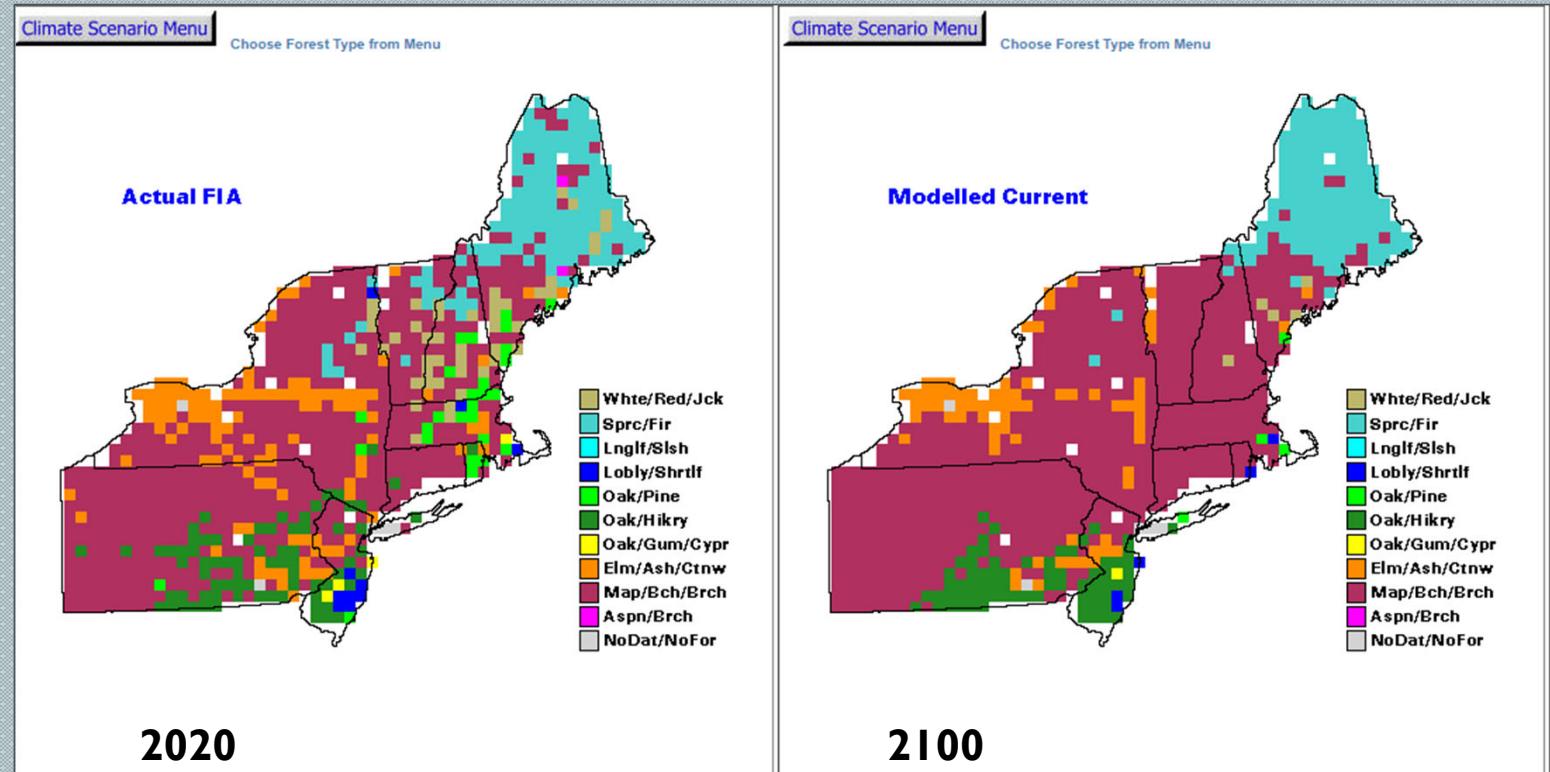
Nation-Wide Data

As the number and length of heat waves increase, so will the incidence of wildfires.

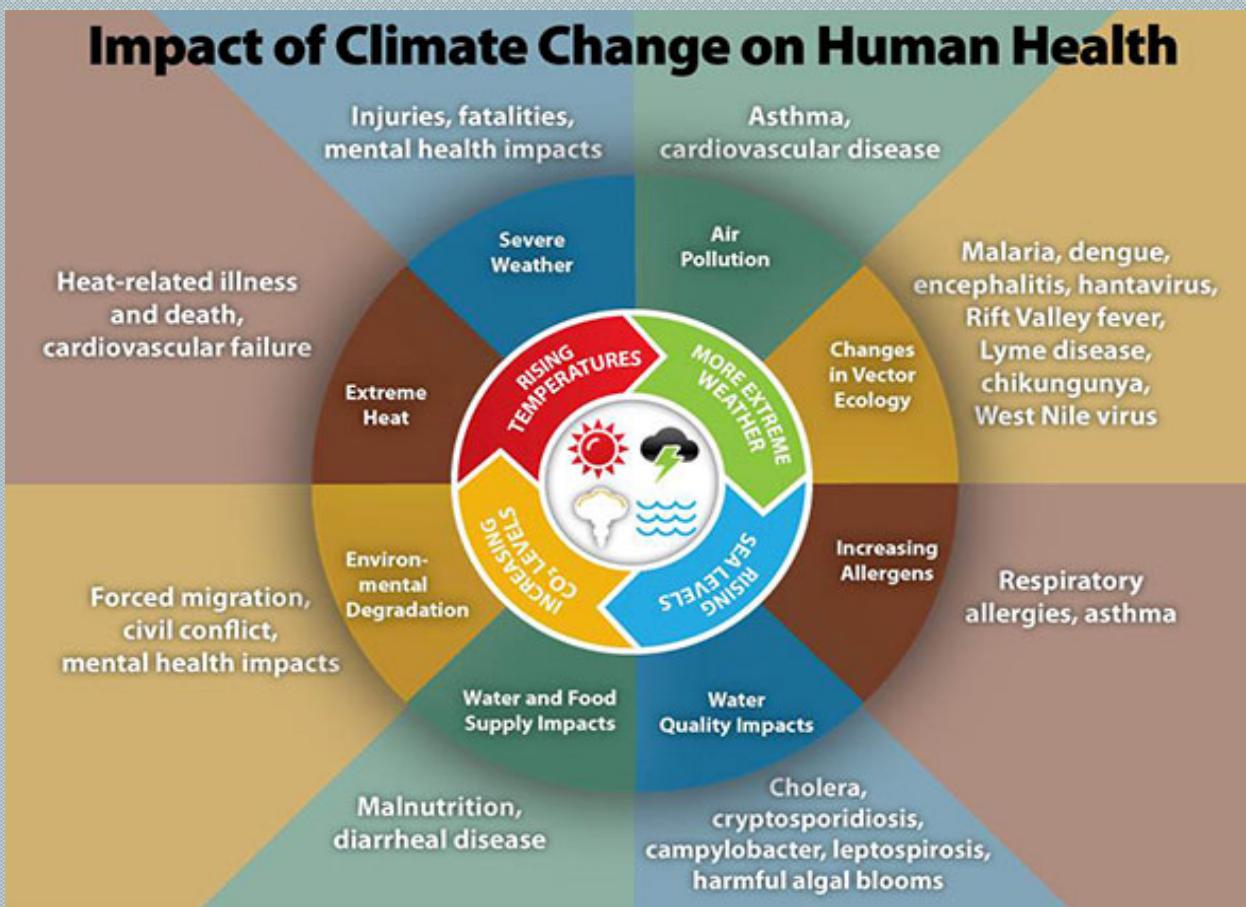


HEAT IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Ranges of tree species are expected to move north
- Diversity of species will decrease
- Increases of invasive species are likely

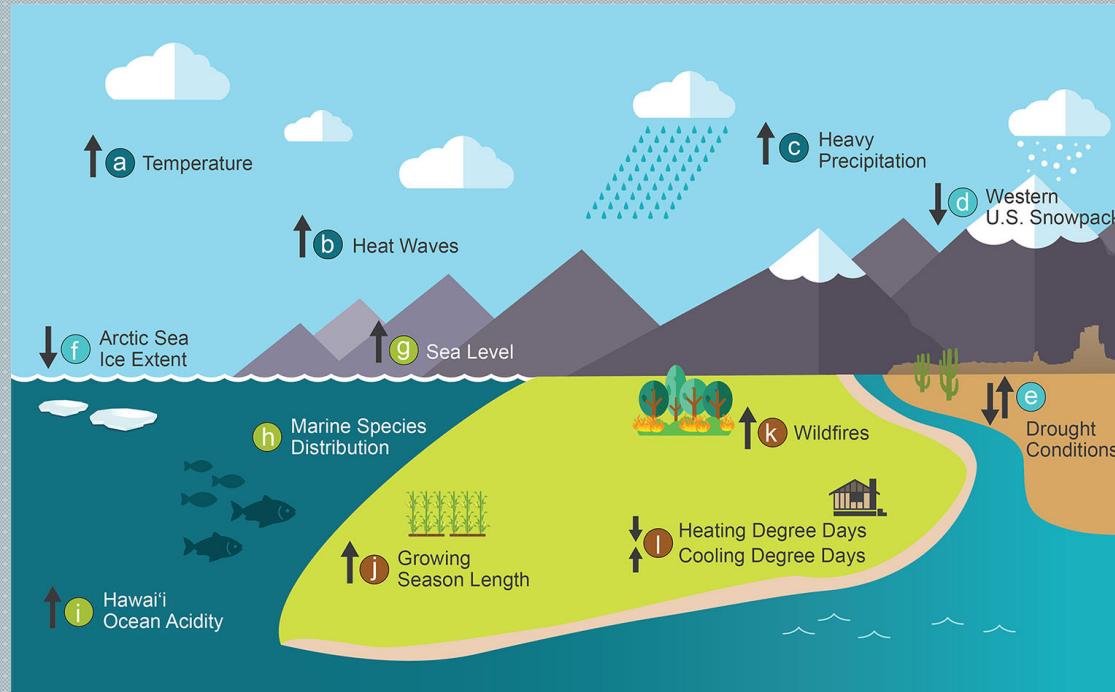


HEAT IMPACTS ON SOCIETY



<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm>

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



mkaplan@cmprc.org



MVP WORKSHOP DAY #1 PRESENTATION

TOWN OF UPTON

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Community Resilience Building

Virtual Workshop

February 18th , 25th 6 – 8 PM

March 4th 4 – 6PM

Day 1 – February 18th





Thank You for Your Participation in Upton's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program!



The Town of Upton is collaborating with EOEEA and CMRPC to offer a three-day virtual workshop on Thursday, February 18th and 25th from 6 – 8PM, and Thursday, March 4th from 4 – 6PM which will bring together community members to comprehensively identify and prioritize steps to reduce risk and improve resilience across Upton. Follow the instructions below in order to help make your community more climate resilient! If you have any questions about the program, please contact Upton Town Planner Paul Dell'Aquila at PDellAquila@uptonma.gov. We look forward to seeing you virtually at our workshop!

Step 1. Discover Upton's MVP Dropbox

The resources included in this invitation will help you learn more about the MVP program and prepare you for the upcoming workshop. All of these resources and more can be found in the following Dropbox link. If possible, you will want to have this Dropbox link open during the workshop so that you can easily access this information.

Workshop Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqOipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Step 2. Review the Program Overview and Workshop Guide

The following two documents will give you an overview of the MVP program and will describe a typical Community Resiliency Building (CRB) workshop.

MVP Program Overview: https://www.dropbox.com/s/n2ounir2di1mhot/MVP%20Program%20Info_Updated%202019.pdf?dl=0

CRB Workbook: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/n2r0xkza3xd3ui8/CRB%20Workshop%20Guide.pdf?dl=0>

Step 3. Watch the MVP Presentations Prior to Workshop

The following link contains pre-recorded presentations that will help you be better prepared for the MVP workshop. The presentations include an overview of the program and the MVP process, climate projections and hazards that Upton may face in the future, and instructions on how to use the CRB Matrix. Please take some time to review each of these presentations before February 18th.

Presentations: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7afmbw2iyq3wy/AAAW4BM62rOHTVMVSmPxHk7a?dl=0>

Step 4. Familiarize Yourself with the Matrix and Maps

During the virtual workshop, we will divide up into breakout groups to discuss strengths, vulnerabilities, and possible actions that the town can take. During this process, we will be filling out a matrix and marking up maps with our ideas. The following links will show you an example of a completed matrix, and will give you a set of pre-made maps that already display various features, hazards, and resources in Upton.

Complete Matrix Example:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qkfuc9f518yfna8/Completed%20Matrix%20Example.pdf?dl=0>

Maps: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r8szf7v700k0fd4/AAAlpCz7mVb-xeTyptvPbVzGa?dl=0>

Step 5. Attend the Workshop!

The 3-day workshop will be held on Thursday, February 18th and 25th from 6 – 8PM, and Thursday, March 4th from 4 – 6PM. The agenda for each day as well as the Zoom meeting links are listed below. Please review the agenda for each day and use the meeting links to join the Zoom.

Agenda Day 1: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/9ut2fapfn94f8u2/Workshop%20%231%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>

Zoom Link Day 1: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82288750894?pwd=RHFsa3E2amZQMHNFRGIDVkovU2ViZz09>

Agenda Day 2: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/22hvrunk1sqxyo7/Workshop%20%232%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>

Zoom Link Day 2: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82035315333?pwd=V0lQeCsxU3B2dk43SUyxYS90MVdHQiT09>

Agenda Day 3: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/tez7vghdn7y6le2/Workshop%20%233%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>

Zoom Link Day 3: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88088050853?pwd=bDJFZmx6SFowNnBXVEFQWXduWkJnZz09>

Learn How to Zoom

New to Zoom? The following document contains a series of instructional videos to help guide you through Zoom from downloading the app to joining a meeting for the first time.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z7sks13hjk0z84/How%20To%20Zoom.pdf?dl=0>





Community Resiliency Building Workshop

Town of Upton

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Day 1- Thursday, February 18, 2021

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm; Check-in at 5:45 pm

Meeting Link (Click to Join):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82035315333?pwd=V0tQeCsxU3B2dk43SUYxYS90MvdHQ09>

Meeting ID: 820 3531 5333

Passcode: 066525

Call in Number (if unable to join online): +1 646 558 8656

Workshop Materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqOipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Workshop Agenda

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm:

- Login & Familiarize with Zoom

6:00 pm – 6:15 pm:

- Welcome & Overview
- Questions & Answers

6:15 pm – 7:40 pm:

- Breakout Groups
 - Identify Hazards & Local Features
 - Discuss Strengths & Vulnerabilities

7:40 pm – 8:00 pm:

- Reconvene as Large Group
- Quick Table Summary
- Closing Remarks & Wrap Up

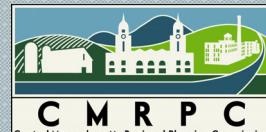
Day 1: Workshop Objectives

- Define extreme weather and climate related hazards;
- Identify current and future vulnerabilities and strengths;
- Edit online map with important hazards and features

Homework

- Review hazards, vulnerabilities, and strengths in matrix
- Brainstorm actions to address vulnerabilities

Thank you for participating in Upton's Virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop!



MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS (MVP)

- State grant program to support cities and towns to begin the process of planning for climate resiliency.
- MVP Planning Process includes CRB Workshop, Report, Listening Session and Annual Reporting
- Communities who complete the MVP Planning Process become certified as an MVP Community
- Designated communities become eligible for MVP Action Grant funding

1. Engage Community

2. Identify CC Impacts & Hazards

3. Complete Assessment of Vulnerabilities & Strengths

4. Develop & Prioritize Actions

5. Take Action

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- is defined as the ability of a community to address the needs of its built, social, and natural environment in order to anticipate, cope with, and rebound stronger from events and trends related to climate change hazards, including temperature changes, extreme weather, sea level rise, coastal and inland flooding, changes in precipitation, and other impacts.



TABLE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Table Facilitator directs the discussion and keeps the dialogue moving
- Scribes filling in matrix
- Participants- All of you
- CMRPC resource person
- Table spokesperson for Report Out

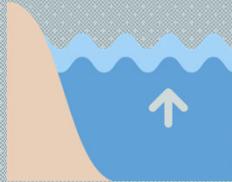


THE MATRIX

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)	
				Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural					
Societal					
Environmental					



STEP ONE: HAZARD IDENTIFICATION



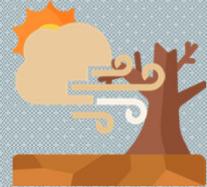
- **Flooding**
 - Riverine
 - Street



- **Landslides**
- **Mudslides**



- **Tornadoes**



- **Drought**
- **Dust Storms**



- **Tsunami**



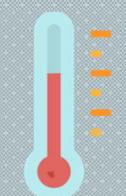
- **Hurricanes/ Nor'easters**



- **Wild Fires**



- **Winter Storms**
 - **Snow**
 - **Ice**



- **Extreme Temperatures**
 - **Heat**
 - **Cold**

Icons made by freepik, goodware, smashicons, those icons, icongeek26 and iconicar from Flaticon.com

STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix						www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					Priority	Time	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S		Top 4 Hazards	H - M - L	
Short Long Ongoing							
Infrastructural							
Societal							
Environmental							



PRIMARY TOPIC AREAS



Infrastructure

Society

Environment

STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix  www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com

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.)							
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards			
Priority Time							
H = M = L = Short Long Ongoing							
Infrastructural							
Dam							
Societal							
Senior Housing							
Environmental							
Wetlands							



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix							www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)							Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards			H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural								
Dam								
Societal								
Senior Housing								
Environmental								
Wetlands								

Estimated Location

A red arrow points from the text "Estimated Location" down to the "Location" column header in the table.

STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
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.)	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Priority	Time
Top 4 Hazards					
H - M - L Short Long Ongoing					
Infrastructural					
Dam					
Societal					
Senior Housing					
Environmental					
Wetlands					

Public? Private? State?

Estimated Location

H - M - L Short Long
Ongoing

STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)	
				Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards	
				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural					
Dam					
Societal					
Senior Housing					
Environmental					
Wetlands					

Vulnerability or Strength

Estimated Location

Public? Private? State?

A large red arrow points from the text "Vulnerability or Strength" down to the "Estimated Location" column in the table.

BREAK OUT GROUP: FIRST MEETING

- Step 1- Fill in top 4 Natural Hazards
 - *Drought/ Wind Events/ Flooding/Winter Storms*
- Step 2- Identify key features
 - Infrastructure- Dams
 - Societal- Senior Housing
 - Environmental- Wetlands
- Where is the Feature Located
- Identify ownership (Public, Private...)
- Identify vulnerability, strength or both



QUESTIONS

**TIME TO GET TO
WORK**



NEXT STEPS



Community Resiliency Building Workshop

Town of Upton

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Day 2- Thursday, February 25, 2021

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm; Check-in at 5:45 pm

Meeting Link (Click to Join):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82035315333?pwd=V0tQeCsxU3B2dk43SUyxS90MVdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 3531 5333

Passcode: 066525

Call in Number (if unable to join online): +1 646 558 8656

Workshop Materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqQipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Workshop Agenda

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm:

- Login & Familiarize with Zoom

6:00 pm – 6:15 pm:

- Welcome & Recap from Day 1
- Questions & Answers

6:15 pm – 7:40 pm:

- Breakout Groups
 - Identify Actions to Reduce Risks and Build Resilience
 - Prioritize Actions by Urgency and Timing

7:40 pm – 8:00 pm

- Reconvene as Large Group
- Table Reports
- Closing Remarks & Wrap Up

Day 2: Workshop Objectives

- Review vulnerabilities and strengths identified on Day 1
- Develop and prioritize actions;
- Identify opportunities for the Town to advance actions and reduce risks to build resilience

Homework

- Review actions to reduce risks and build resilience
- Brainstorm additional actions to address vulnerabilities
- Attend Day 3 Workshop

Thank you for participating in Upton's Virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop!



QUESTIONS

ppeloquin@cmrpc.org

sadams@cmrpc.org



MVP WORKSHOP DAY #2 PRESENTATION

TOWN OF UPTON

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Community Resilience Building

Virtual Workshop

February 18th , 25th 6 – 8 PM

March 4th 4 – 6PM

Day 2 – February 25th





Community Resiliency Building Workshop

Town of Upton

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Day 2- Thursday, February 25, 2021

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm; Check-in at 5:45 pm

Meeting Link (Click to Join):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82035315333?pwd=V0tQeCsxU3B2dk43SUyxS90MVdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 3531 5333

Passcode: 066525

Call in Number (if unable to join online): +1 646 558 8656

Workshop Materials:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gv5ob1t732zad99/AABjqQipkoll8Xw2ng3p1PP4a?dl=0>

Workshop Agenda

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm:

- Login & Familiarize with Zoom

6:00 pm – 6:15 pm:

- Welcome & Recap from Day 1
- Questions & Answers

6:15 pm – 7:40 pm:

- Breakout Groups
 - Identify Actions to Reduce Risks and Build Resilience
 - Prioritize Actions by Urgency and Timing

7:40 pm – 8:00 pm

- Reconvene as Large Group
- Table Reports
- Closing Remarks & Wrap Up

Day 2: Workshop Objectives

- Review vulnerabilities and strengths identified on Day 1
- Develop and prioritize actions;
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Homework

- Review actions to reduce risks and build resilience
- Brainstorm additional actions to address vulnerabilities
- Attend Day 3 Workshop

Thank you for participating in Upton's Virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop!



THE MATRIX

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix							www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)							Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S				H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural								
Societal								
Environmental								



STEP THREE: ACTIONS, PRIORITY AND TIMELINE

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)	
				Priority	Time
H = High M = Medium L = Low	priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)	V = Vulnerability	S = Strength		
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards	H - M - L
Societal					Short Long Ongoing
Environmental					
Infrastructure					
Geographic					
Technological					
Political					
Economic					
Healthcare					
Education					
Transportation					
Utilities					
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NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

- Make use of natural systems
- Mimic the natural processes
- Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems
- Simultaneously providing well-being and biodiversity

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS (LID)

- Natural systems mimic natural processes to absorb and slow runoff and stormwater, and also reduce heat islands.
- Low impact development (LID) designs can be integrated into new development at neighborhood scales and work with traditional approaches



Bioswale between sidewalk and street



Contained bioswale or planter box

MORE EXAMPLES OF LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



Green Parking Lots

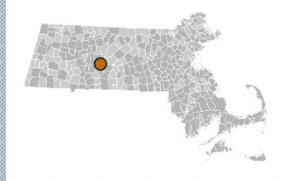


Permeable Paving

Example 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.



INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Traditional Culvert



Nature Based Culvert



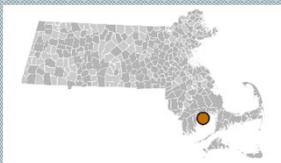
Mass Audubon



Example Action Grant Projects

Land Acquisition for Resilience

Mattapoisett



Purchasing 120 acres of forest, streams, freshwater wetlands and coastal salt marsh as conservation land to prevent development in vulnerable areas



Data Utilization

Proactive



BENEFITS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND LID

- Cost Savings
 - Reduced development costs for infrastructure and maintenance
 - Reduced energy costs for residents
- Public Safety
 - Reduced flooding
 - Improved water quality
 - Increased climate change resiliency
 - Reduced urban heat island effect
- Quality of Life
 - Protect and restore natural features for improved aesthetics
 - Value
 - Increased property values
 - Regulatory
 - Assistance in meeting regulatory requirements



STEP THREE: ACTIONS, PRIORITY AND TIMELINE

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.communityresiliencebuilding.com	
				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)	
				Priority	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Hazard Scenario				Top 4 Hazards	
Societal					
Environmental					



STEP THREE: ACTIONS, PRIORITY AND TIMELINE

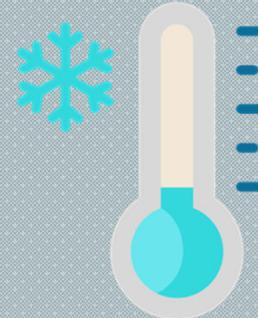
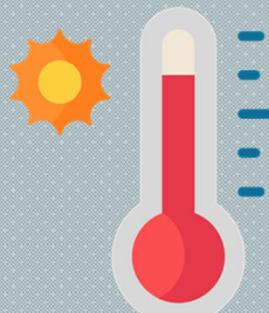
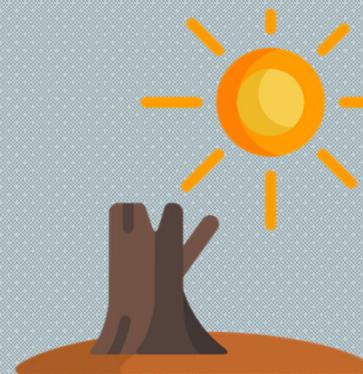


STEP THREE: ACTIONS, PRIORITY AND TIMELINE

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.communityresilienceBuilding.com			
				Top 4 Hazards			
				Top Priority Hazards (tsunami, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave)			
				Priority			
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	H - M - L	H - M - L	H - M - L	H - M - L
Societal							
Environmental							
Economic							
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Technological							



QUESTIONS



**TIME TO GET TO
WORK**



THANK YOU



MVP WORKSHOP DAY #3 PRESENTATION

TOWN OF UPTON

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Community Resilience Building

Virtual Workshop

February 18th , 25th 6 – 8 PM

March 4th 4 – 6PM

Day 3 – March 4th



REPORT OUTS

**What did your table
find?**



SUMMARY DISCUSSION

- Areas of agreement
- Areas of unique perspectives

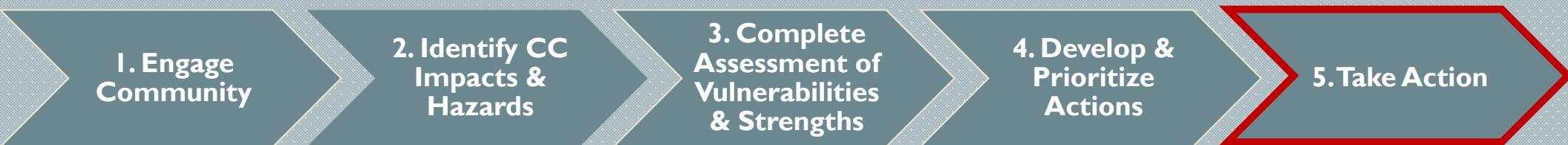
TIME TO VOTE

- A survey will be created after this meeting
- Vote for your top five projects
- Prioritize Project

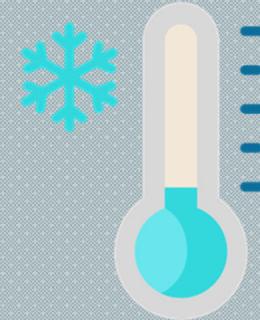
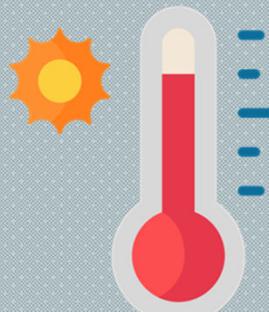


NEXT STEPS

- Vote in survey
- Report development
- Public “Listening” session with Members of the Public and Board of Selectmen Date TBD
- Develop resources and Implement actions through Action Grants



QUESTIONS



CONTACT US

- Upton Core Team Leader –
 - Paul Dell'Aquila, PDellAquila@uptonma.gov
- CMRPC Project Leaders –
 - Sarah Adams, sadams@cmrpc.org
- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs –
 - Hillary King, hillary.king@state.ma.us



THANK YOU



MVP LISTENING SESSION PRESENTATION

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS (MVP) PROGRAM

Listening Session
Upton, MA
May 27, 2021



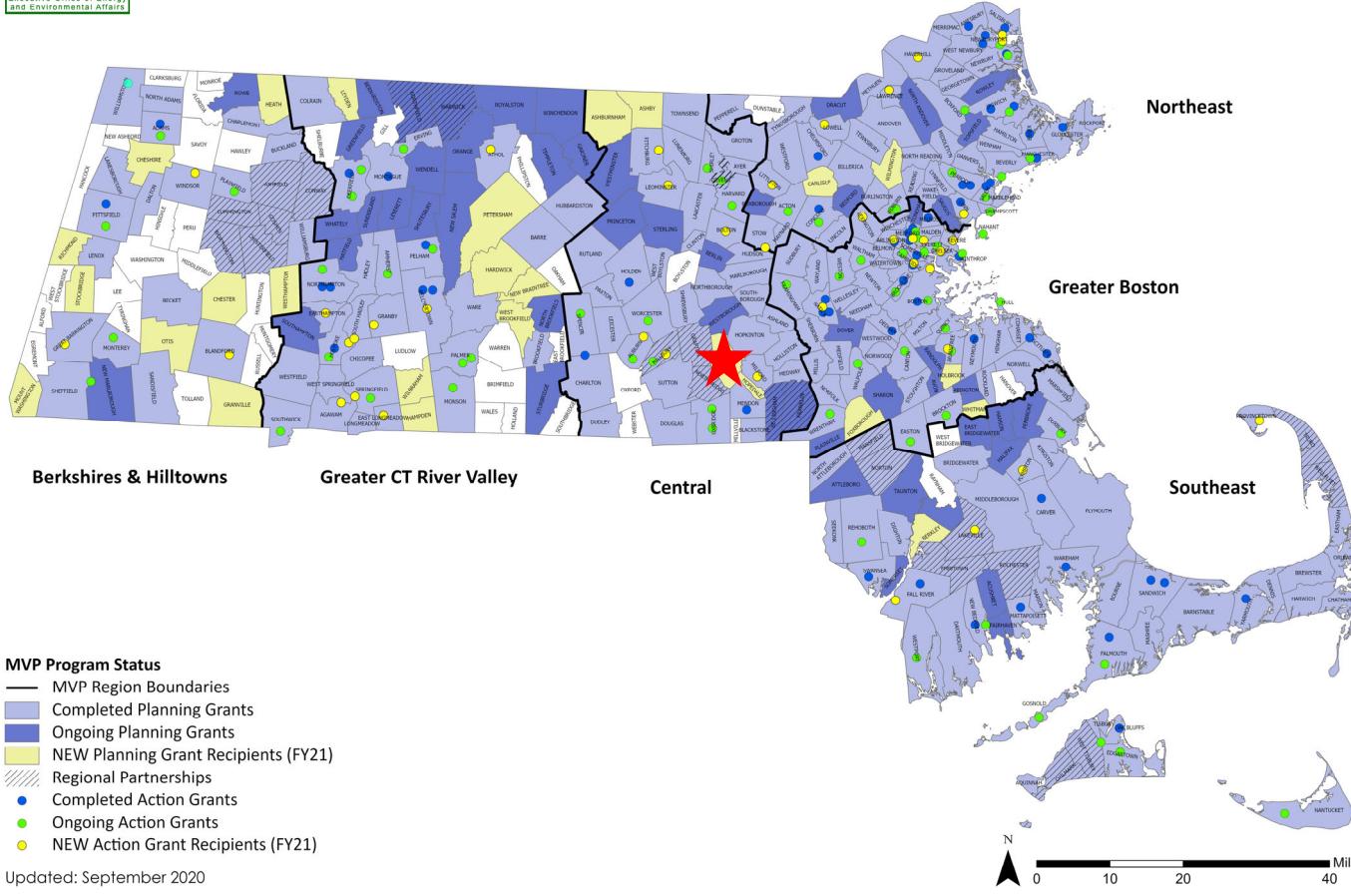
MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS (MVP)

- State grant program to support cities and towns to begin the process of planning for climate resiliency.
- MVP Planning Process includes CRB Workshop, Report, Listening Session and Annual Reporting
- Communities who complete the MVP Planning Process become certified as an MVP Community
- Designated communities become eligible for MVP Action Grant funding





Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING (CRB) PROCESS

- Community-driven process led by the project coordinators (Derek Brindisi, Paul Dell'Aquila) with a core team of Town officials
- Upton's 4 member Core Team met 3 times
- Invitation-only workshop was held virtually on February 18, 25, March 04, 2021
- 23 attendees, including local officials, board and committee members, business, and non-profit groups
- Listening session (today!) is open to the public



CRB WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Define extreme weather and climate-related hazards
- Identify current and future vulnerabilities and strengths
- Develop and prioritize actions for the community and broader stakeholder networks, and
- Identify opportunities for the community to advance actions to reduce risks and build resilience



PRIMARY TOPIC AREAS



- Infrastructure
- Society
- Environment

STEP ONE: IDENTIFY TOP 4 HAZARDS

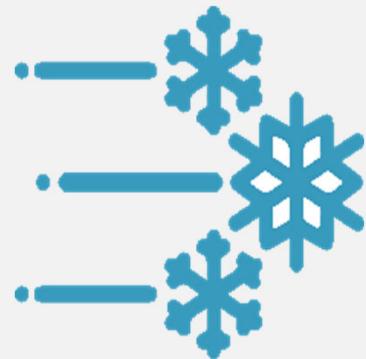
DROUGHT/HEAT



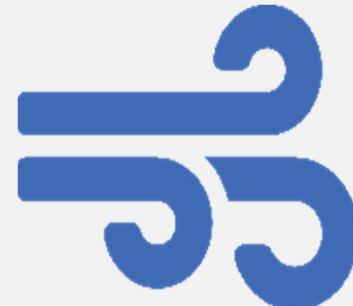
FLOODING



WINTER STORMS

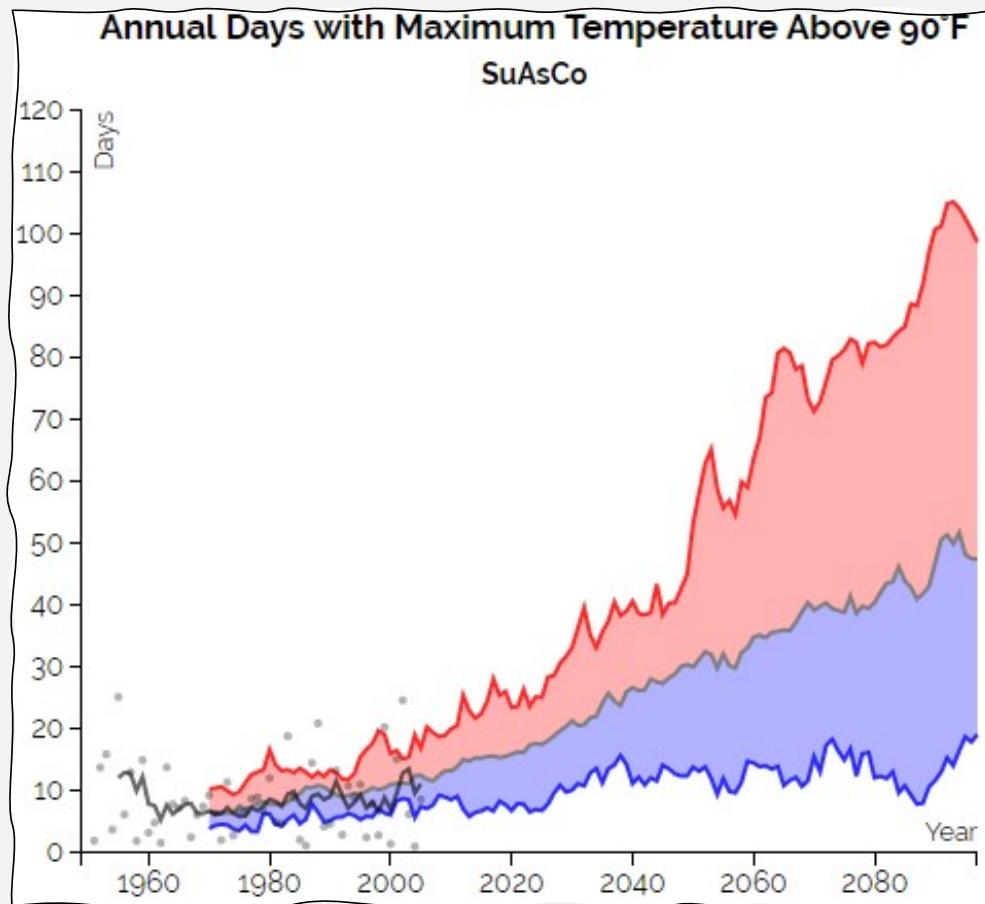


HIGH WIND EVENTS

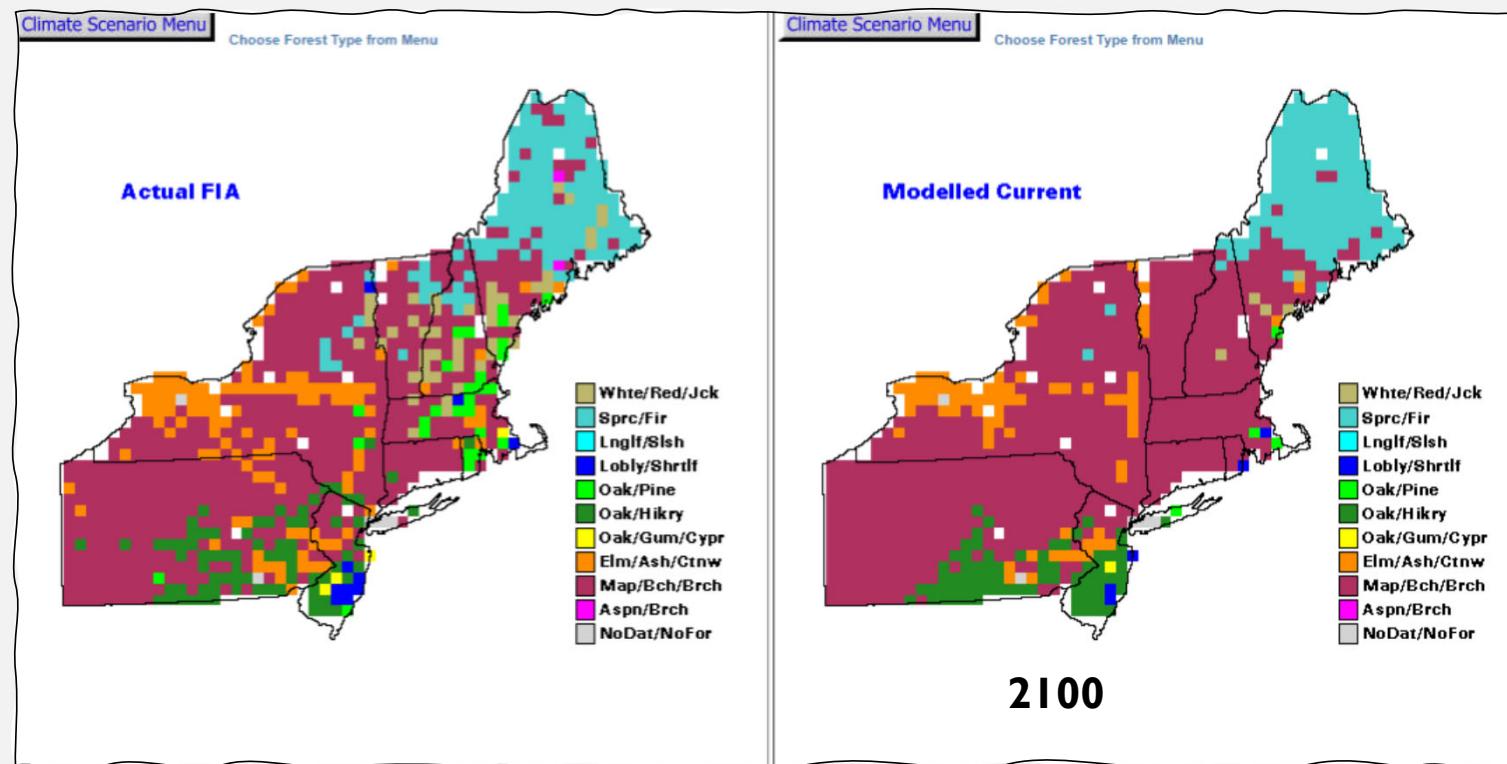


HEAT PROJECTIONS

- Projected increase of 8 to 29 days annually over 90°F by mid century
- Projected increase of 11 to 69 days annually over 90°F by end of century



HEAT IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT



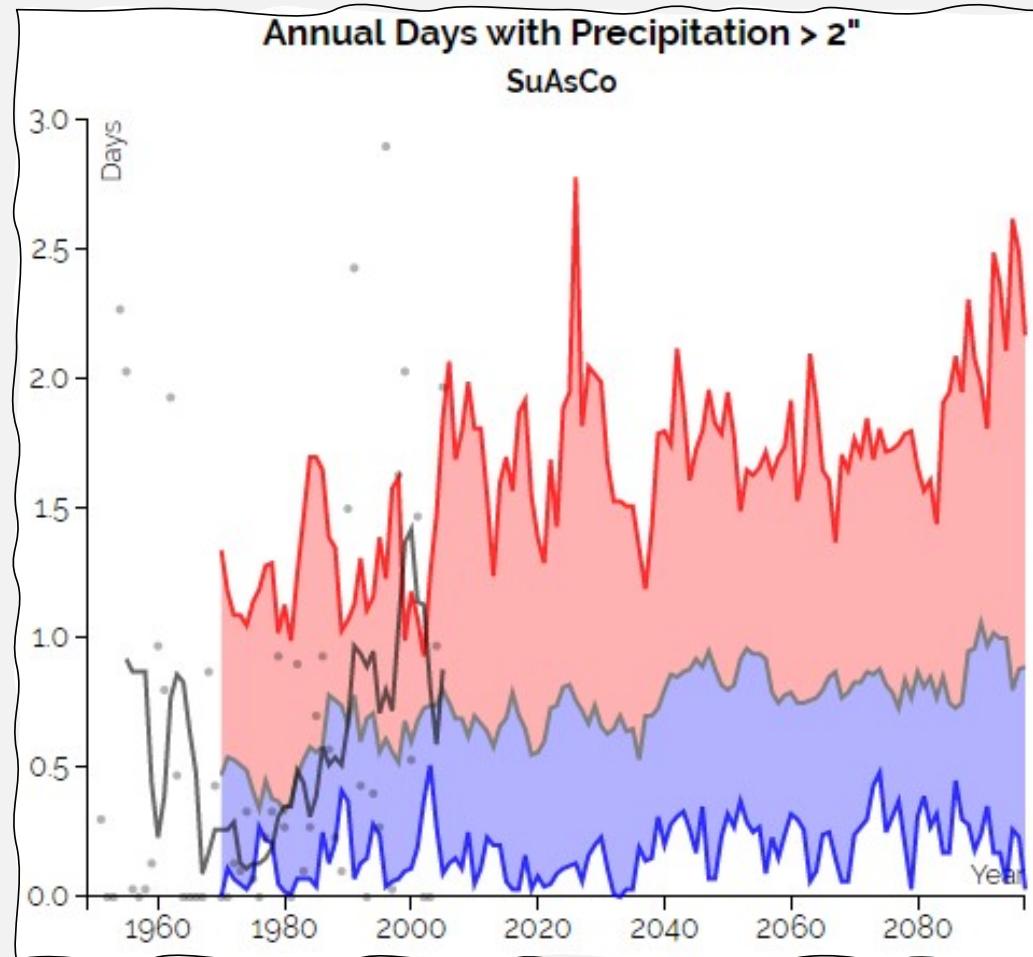
- Expected to move north
- Diversity of species will likely decrease
- Likely increase in invasive species



HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODING

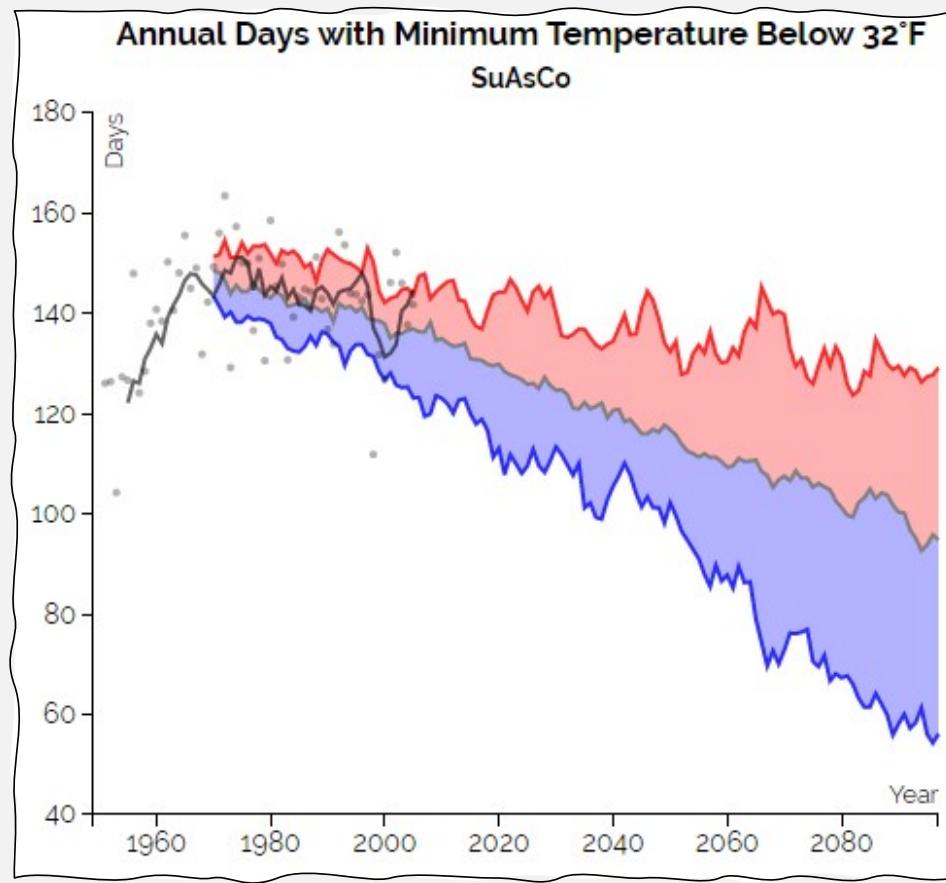
Extreme Precipitation

- The number of days each year with more than 2 inches of precipitation will increase.



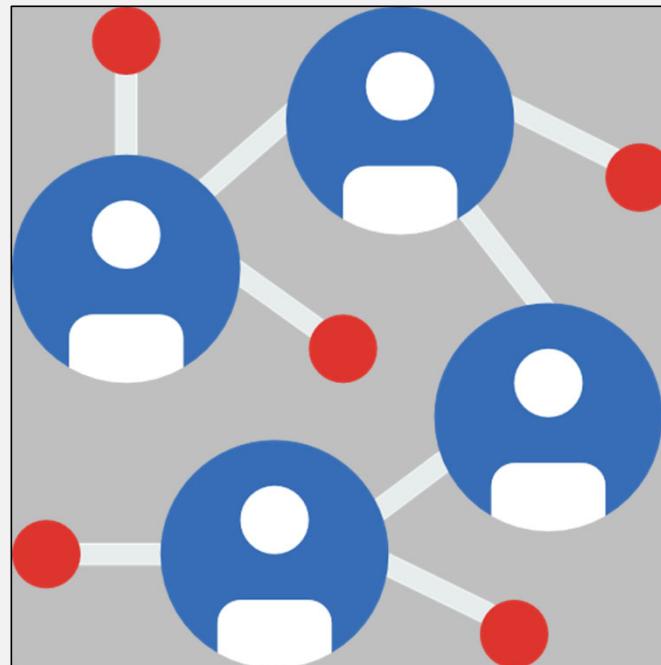
WINTER STORMS

- Annual days below freezing will decrease
- Rising temps → more winter precipitation to fall as rain or freezing rain
- Lower snowfall accumulation
- Winter - Highest projected increase in precipitation
- Storms that do occur may be worse - proximity to Atlantic Ocean increases risk of large storm events



BREAKOUT GROUPS

- 3 Breakout groups of 6-8 individuals
- 4 Focus Hazards
- 3 Focus Sections
- Tools and Resources
 - Matrix, Maps, HMP & Each Other



Icon made Prettyicons from Flaticon.com



THE MATRIX

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix						www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					Priority	Time	
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S				
Infrastructural							
Societal							
Environmental							



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix					www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com	
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)					Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S		Top 4 Hazards	
Infrastructural						
Societal						
Environmental						



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix  www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com

H = High, M = Medium, L = Low 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	
				Top 4 Hazards						
Infrastructural										
	Dam									
Societal										
	Senior Housing									
Environmental										
	Wetlands									



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix							www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com		
Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)							Priority	Time	
Features		Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards			H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural									
Dam									
Societal									
Senior Housing									
Environmental									
Wetlands									

Estimated Location

A red arrow points from the text "Estimated Location" down to the "Location" column header in the table.



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix

www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com

H = High, M = Medium, L = Low 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	Top 4 Hazards
Infrastructural						
Dam						
Societal						
Senior Housing						
Environmental						
Wetlands						

Estimated Location

Public? Private? State?



STEP TWO: WHAT, WHERE, WHO AND VULNERABILITIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)		Priority	Time
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Top 4 Hazards		H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Top 4 Hazards							
Infrastructural							
Dam							
Societal							
Senior Housing							
Environmental							
Wetlands							

Vulnerability or Strength

Public? Private? State?

Estimated Location



STEP THREE: ACTIONS, PRIORITY AND TIMELINE

The diagram illustrates the Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix. At the top, there is a logo of three stylized human figures and the text "Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix". To the right, the website "www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com" is displayed. Below the logo, a legend defines symbols: a blue square for "H = High", a green square for "M = Medium", and a grey square for "L = Low". It also defines "V = Vulnerability" (green triangle) and "S = Strength" (grey triangle). The matrix itself is a grid with "Features" (Infrastructure, Societal, Environmental) on the left and "Location" (Urban, Suburban, Rural), "Ownership" (Public, Private, Mixed), and "V or S" (Vulnerability, Strength) on the top. A red box highlights the first three columns. A large red arrow points from the "Top 4 Hazards" section to the right side of the matrix. A large white arrow with the text "Completed" is overlaid on the left side. A large red arrow with the text "Nature Based Solutions" is overlaid on the right side.



TABLE SUMMARIES

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

Princeton Table 1
H - M - L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing)
V = Vulnerability S = Strength

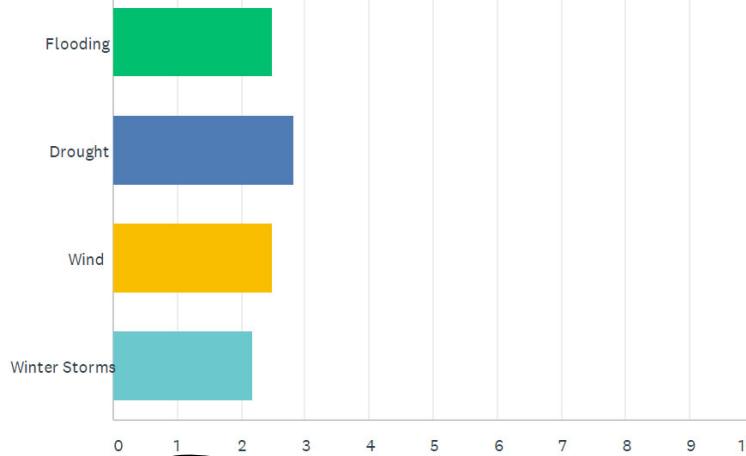
Features	Location	Ownership	V or S	Description	Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, etc.)						
					Winter Storm	Flooding	Wind Events	Draught			
					H - M - L	Short	Long	Ongoing			
Infrastructural											
Fire Roads and Trail Access	Various	DCR, TOWN, PVT	V	Not enough access to large wooded areas	Opening and clearing of access roads in case of fire or emergency, map and identify vulnerable areas. Access to equipment from neighboring towns or town inventory.						
Fire Pond	Various	Town	V	Access to Fire Ponds, Maintenance	Could we harvest storm water for fire use.						
Cable/Fiber Optic	Town Wide	Charter									
Power	Town Wide	PMLD	V	Storm damage, Single point of entry, not insulated three phase line	Vegetation and Forest management, study of tree inventory to find compromised trees beyond street line. Study to address single entry point of power and solutions, feasibility and						
Communication (Landlines, Cell Phone Towers)	Town Wide	Verizon	V	Dead spots in cell services, No single way to communicate to all residents,	Vegetation and Forest management, study of tree inventory to find compromised trees beyond street line.						
Culverts/Bridges	Town Wide	Town, Private	V	Many culverts in town are in need of replacing	Town is working towards replacing vulnerable culverts with environmentally friendly culverts. Learn about additional funding options, hire a outside company to improve plan and funding						
Railroad	Ball Hill Rd, Calamint, Gates	Railroad Company	V	Proper maintenance of track to prevent fires from sparks	Keeping tracks clear to prevent potential for fires in summer. Keeping tracks clear of ice and snow. Holding company accountable.						
Dam					Making sure Dams are strong and able to withstand capacity. Making sure the Dams are evaluated. High Hazard Dam may be misnamed. Plan to contact private Dam owners.						
Flat Roof buildings											
Steep Roads	Gregory Hill Rd, Pine Hill Rd,		V	Perennial Icing	Safety study, flashing stop signs mountain rd. and Worcester rd. study on ice management, other treatment options for steep hill areas.						
Dirt Roads	Town Wide	Town	V	Problems with wash out and thawing, highway dept. frequently repairing roads							
Private Wells/Community Water / Sewer	Town Wide	Private	V	Lack of community water and treatment facility	encouraging residents to use rain runoff for lawn and garden use, tie into irrigation use						
Public Safety Building	Center of Town	Town	V								
Steep Roofs	Various, Fire Station	Town	V	Snow/ice falling from roofs, blocking ambulance, danger to pedestrians							
Emergency Response	Fire, EMT	Town	V	Lack of full time emergency response staff, longer response time in emergency's	Public safety building, increase in employment						



GROUP VOTE

Please rank the following hazards in order from most concern (1) to least concern (4):

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



WHAT DID THE GROUP FIND?



INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERNS



Dams, Culverts,
& Bridges



Drinking Water
/ Wastewater



Railroad



Roadways



INFRASTRUCTURE STRENGTHS



Water Supply



Town Center



INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIONS

HIGH PRIORITY

Water
Management

Veg
Management

Railroad
Safety



SOCIETAL CONCERNS



Transportation



At- Risk Population



Communication



Cemeteries

SOCIETAL STRENGTHS



Community



Town Services &
Personnel



Schools and Youth



SOCIETAL ACTIONS

HIGH PRIORITY

Emergency
Preparedness

Enhance
Community
Preparedness

Assess
Resources



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS



Invasive &
Nuisance Species



Waterbody
Health



Insect-Borne
Disease



Fire Prevention



ENVIRONMENTAL STRENGTHS



Agriculture



Open Space and
Recreation



Community
Organizations



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

HIGH PRIORITY

Protect New
Open Space

Outreach

Environmental
Policy



LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT BYLAW ANALYSIS



WHAT IS LID?

Low Impact Development (LID) is a broad nature-based solution strategy that reduces development impacts and manages stormwater as close to its source as possible.

LID is a cost-effective and flexible approach based on a toolkit of simple techniques that have been implemented worldwide.



Parking Lot Rain Garden
Source: Grow Native! Missouri Prairie Foundation



Permeable Pavers
Source: Fairbanks Green Infrastructure Group



Vegetated Swale
Source: Houston Advanced Research Center



WHY ENCOURAGE LID?

- Land conversion represents a major driver of global environmental change.
- LID has the potential to benefit communities locally and regionally, and to provide ecological as well as economic benefits.

Benefit	Reduces Stormwater Runoff										Improves Community Livability							
	Reduces Water Treatment Needs	Improves Water Quality	Reduces Grey Infrastructure Needs	Reduces Flooding	Increases Available Water Supply	Increases Groundwater Recharge	Reduces Salt Use	Reduces Energy Use	Improves Air Quality	Reduces Atmospheric CO ₂	Reduces Urban Heat Island	Improves Aesthetics	Increases Recreational Opportunity	Reduces Noise Pollution	Improves Community Cohesion	Urban Agriculture	Improves Habitat	Cultivates Public Education Opportunities
Practice																		
Green Roofs																		
Tree Planting																		
Bioretention & Infiltration																		
Permeable Pavement																		
Water Harvesting																		

● Yes ● Maybe ○ No

Benefits of low impact development (Source: Center for Neighborhood Technology)



CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission



METHODOLOGY

The LID Bylaw Analysis Summary Memo presents an evaluation of the current Stormwater Bylaw under five goals:

1. Protect natural resources and open space
2. Promote efficient compact development patterns and infill
3. Promote smart designs that reduce overall imperviousness
4. Adopt green infrastructure stormwater management provisions
5. Encourage efficient parking

Rototiller for compacted soils
Source: Ferguson Enterprise Company



METHODOLOGY (CONT.)

The review utilizes three baseline LID implementation scenarios

- **conventional**
- **better** and
- **best** means of implementation

Factors	Conventional	Better	Best
GOAL 1: PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE			
Soils managed for revegetation	Not addressed	Limitations on removal from site, and/or requirements for stabilization and revegetation	Prohibit removal of topsoil from site. Require rototilling and other prep of soils compacted during construction

to characterize the level to which current land use regulations support the implementation of LID.



EXAMPLE MATRIX SNIPPET

Factors	Conventional	Better	Best	Community's Zoning	Community's Subdivision Rules & Regulations	Community's Stormwater/LID Bylaw/Regulations
GOAL 3: SMART DESIGNS THAT REDUCE OVERALL IMPERVIOUSNESS						
Street location	Numeric and geometric standards based primarily on vehicular travel and safety, with basic pedestrian requirements e.g. sidewalks	Flexibility in applying standards, to reduce area of impact, grading, avoid key natural features	OSRD design preferred by-right. Require locating streets to minimize grading and road length, avoid important natural features		Unless otherwise specified, roadways shall conform to the most current revisions of the Construction Standard Details, MassDOT Traffic Management Plans and Detail Drawings; the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Standard Municipal Traffic Code published by the MassDOT-Highway Divisionon Rules & Regulations. Not less than one sidewalk, which is not less than five feet in width, shall be constructed on one side of the street.	
Road width	Major and minor categories, 24-30'	Wide, medium, narrow categories. 22-24' max, plus 2' shoulders	Wide, medium, narrow, and alley categories. 20-24' widest for 2 travel lanes, 18-20' low traffic residential neighborhood, plus 2' shoulders. Allow alleys and other low traffic or secondary emergency access and all shoulders to use alternative, permeable materials.		Primary, Secondary and Cul-de-sac categories, 24-30'.	
Road ROW width	50-75', fully cleared and graded	40-50', some flexibility in extent of clearing	20-50'depending on road type	Setbacks for structures from private and public roads shall be a minimum of forty (40) feet.	Primary, Secondary and Cul-de-sac categories, 50-72'.	Not addressed.
Access Options	No common drives allowed, dead end allowed with limit on length and # of units	Allow dead end with limit on length and # of units. Allow common drives up to 2-3 units	Allow one way loop streets. Allow common drives up to 4 units, and alleys and rear-loading garages where suitable.		Reference to private, unnamed roads providing ingress to and egress from more than three residences. No mention of alleys and/or rear-loading garages.	
Dead Ends/Cul-de-sacs	120 ft or more minimum turnaround	Minimize end radii - 35 ft	Allow hammerhead turnaround		No subdivision street shall be less than two hundred fifty (250) feet in length. Private Ways can incorporate a 40 foot minimum T-shaped turnaround, in lieu of a cul-de-sac, at the Planning Boards discretion with approval from DPW and the Fire Chief.	



BYLAW ANALYSIS RESULTS

STORMWATER BYLAW Final 4/25/2012

INTRODUCTION

Localities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are required to comply with a number of both State and Federal laws, regulations and permits which require a locality to address the impacts of development and post-development stormwater runoff quality and nonpoint source pollution. One such regulation, under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 & seq.), is the Town's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit, referred to herein as the MS4 Permit.

The Town of Upton has established this stormwater management bylaw to eliminate non-stormwater discharges to the Town's stormwater management system, and to provide reasonable guidance for the regulation of development and post-development stormwater runoff for the purpose of protecting local water resources from degradation. This bylaw prohibits the discharges of illicit materials to the Town's stormwater management system and requires the removal of all such illicit connections. This bylaw also regulates the construction stormwater controls for both new and re-development projects. For the purposes of this Bylaw, the term development includes new construction as well as re-development of existing parcels.

It has been determined that it is in the public interest to reduce the discharge of contaminated water into the waters of the United States, and that reducing these discharges is protective of the quality of the receiving waters. It has further been determined that it is in the public interest to regulate development stormwater runoff discharges in order to control and minimize increases in stormwater runoff rates and volumes, construction soil erosion and sedimentation, stream channel erosion, and nonpoint source pollution associated with development stormwater runoff.

1.0 PURPOSE

A) The purpose of this Bylaw is to protect, maintain and enhance the public health, safety, environment and general welfare by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased development stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution associated with development. It has been determined that proper management of development stormwater runoff will minimize damage to private property and infrastructure, safeguard the public health, safety, environment and protect water and aquatic resources, and promote groundwater recharge to the benefit of the community. This Bylaw seeks to meet that purpose through the

The analysis identified fifteen (15) specific LID recommendations for land use regulation revisions.



GOAL I: RECOMMENDED REVISIONS

- Prohibit removal of topsoil and require rototilling following construction.
- Set clear standards to minimize clearing.
- Encourage native plantings and require vegetation species shown on site plans.
- Provide applications for endorsement of plan believed not to require subdivision approval to Conservation Commission for comment.



Native Pollinator Garden
Source: Mass Audubon



GOALS 2 & 3: RECOMMENDED REVISIONS

- Adopt language to limit total impervious surface cover.
 - Consider revisions to Zoning Bylaw to further limit impervious surfaces to 10 – 15% as recommended by Mass Audubon.
- Adopt language requiring landscaped plantings in cul de sacs/parking lots and provide design standards for open drainage.
- Adopt language to encourage permeable paving options.



Landscaped cul de sac planting
Source: Golf Green Lawn Care



GOAL 4: RECOMMENDED REVISIONS

- Adopt language to provide credits or other incentives for use of LID techniques
- Adopt language to require clean rooftop runoff be directed to onsite landscaped areas
- Adopt language to require bioretention/swales
- Add language requiring LID techniques where appropriate and require that applicants describe LID techniques considered
- Adopt language to outline a construction erosion and sedimentation plan that exceeds NPDES requirements
- Adopt language to allow for permeable paving



Conventional Stormwater Drainage
Source: Straughan Environmental



GOAL 5: RECOMMENDED REVISIONS



Conventional Parking Sign

- Adopt language that requires landscaping as LID/bioretention within parking areas.



NEXT STEPS FOR UPTON



Finalize draft report with assistance from CMRPC



Final report submitted to EOEEA by June 30, 2021
Projected Submission in Early June



Upton receives “MVP Community” certification



Annual reporting by Core Team



Develop and apply for MVP Action Grants



ACTION GRANTS

Next round expected in fall 2021

Up to \$2 million for an individual community

Up to \$5 million for regional projects

One year grant cycle (typically) July 1st- June 30th

25% Match - Cash or In-kind (Non-State Funds)

www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program

www.communityresiliencebuilding.com



Example Action Grant Projects

Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Prevention, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques

Millbury



Designing **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



Example 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.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF LID AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Aquatic restoration projects in MA, like these natural culverts, are contributing to a growing “restoration economy” by providing jobs and economic output.

Traditional Culvert



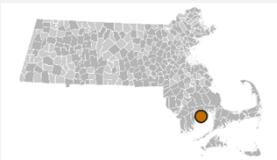
Nature Based Culvert



Example Action Grant Projects

Land Acquisition for Resilience

Mattapoisett



Purchasing 120 acres of forest, streams, freshwater wetlands and coastal salt marsh as conservation land to prevent development in vulnerable areas



Data
Utilization

Proactive



Questions and Comments



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Thank you

