

## Bloomfield

---

The Town of Bloomfield encompasses 26.4 square miles with an average elevation of about 150 feet. The 2010 Census reported Bloomfield's population at 20,486. Bloomfield is primarily within the Park River Watershed. Portions of the Town at the northwest and eastern edges also drain to the Farmington River and directly to the Connecticut River via local brooks. Main watercourses within the Town include Wash, Tumbledown, Beaman, Griffin, and Mill Brooks. Four major flood control reservoirs owned by CT DEEP, and jointly maintained by DEEP and the Town, are located in Bloomfield within the Park River watershed. Large portions of a MDC reservoir and Penwood and Talcott Mountain State Parks are also located in the Town. Major transportation routes through Town include east-west state Routes 218 and 178, as well as north-south running routes 185, 187 and 189. Industries include insurance, aerospace products, specialized tools, electronics, gold and diamond products, diversified industries and agriculture.

## Challenges

---

Flooding is a major concern for the Town of Bloomfield. The Connecticut Department of Environment and Energy owns and manages most of large flood control structures within Bloomfield's borders. The Town does provide limited maintenance to flood control structure. Small areas of the community are frequently subject to flooding, including along Tunxis Avenue and the Town Center, especially around the library. Ensuring proper maintenance of streambeds, to prevent flooding, is also a challenge, as many run across private property.

The National Flood Insurance Program has paid 41 property damage claims in Bloomfield totaling \$297,353 to-date. The NFIP has paid out has nine Repetitive Loss Property claims on three properties in Bloomfield to-date. These claims have totaled over \$70,000. The Town has taken steps to reduce its vulnerability to flooding. Since 2008, there have been three demolitions of structures located totally or partially in the floodplains. The Old Masonic Hall at 3 Tunxis Avenue, a residential outbuilding at 60 Tunxis Avenue and the warming shed on Filley Park. The Town also adopted new zoning regulations which included a major overhaul and updating of the Floodplain section in 2009. This update of the Floodplain section was in response to directives from FEMA to strengthen the regulations to continue our participation in the Flood Insurance Program.

A significant flood event could result in much damage. CROG used FEMA's Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Bloomfield might face from a major flood. The model estimates that economic losses to the town including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions due to a flood having a 1% chance of occurring any given year (the 100-year flood) would be nearly \$22 million. The impacts of such a flood are summarized below:

Estimated Damages from 100-Year Flood	Households Displaced	197
	People Needing Shelter	373
	Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged	30
	Total Estimated Economic Losses	\$21,720,000
	Total Residential Building & Content Losses	\$6,440,000
	Total Commercial, Industrial & Other Building & Content Losses	\$15,160,000
	Total Business Interruption Losses	\$120,000

CRCOG also used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Bloomfield might face from a hurricane as powerful as the 1938 hurricane. The model estimates that economic losses to the town including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions due to such a Category 3 hurricane would be over \$86 million. The impacts of such a storm are summarized below:

Estimated Damages from a 1938 Strength Hurricane	Households Displaced	33
	People Needing Shelter	8
	Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged	742
	Buildings Completely Damaged	36
	Total Estimated Economic Losses	\$86,400,000
	Total Residential Building Losses	\$55,650,000
	Total Commercial, Industrial & Other Building Losses	\$20,250,000
	Total Business Interruption Losses	\$10,500,000
	Total Debris Generated	35,692 tons
	Truckloads (at 25 tons/truck) of building debris	349

According to information from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the three federally declared natural disasters of 2011 resulted in total expenses to the municipality of over \$3 million. These expenses include debris and snow removal, emergency protective measures and repairs to damaged infrastructure and buildings but do not include damages experienced by private citizens and businesses.

2011 Disasters Damage Amounts Eligible for 75% Reimbursement Under FEMA Public Assistance Program				
Applicant Town & Other (Fire Districts, Schools, Private Non-Profit Agencies)	100% of Amount Eligible for 75% Reimbursement			Total Damages Eligible for Public Assistance Due to 2011 Disasters
	DR-1958-CT 2011 Snow	DR-4023-CT Irene August 2011	DR-4046-CT Severe Weather Oct 2011 Alfred)	
Town of Bloomfield	\$88,130.28	\$8,275.76	\$2,882,712.48	\$2,979,118.52
Bloomfield Other			\$26,720.34	\$26,720.34
<b>Bloomfield Total</b>	<b>\$88,130.28</b>	<b>\$8,275.76</b>	<b>\$2,909,432.82</b>	<b>\$3,005,838.86</b>

The chart above indicates the amount of Federal (FEMA) claims that the Town of Bloomfield made in 2011. It does not reflect the total amount of economic losses suffered by the community during those events. Debris management and snow storage are issues facing the Town following major storm events.

Another challenge to the Town is maintaining vehicle access through the town during and after disasters. Route 185 is a major east-west route over the ridge in western Bloomfield and the Farmington River in neighboring Simsbury. When Route 185 is closed due to debris or ice and snow, significant traffic volumes must be re-routed in Bloomfield.

## Goals, Objectives and Strategies

---

### **GOAL: REDUCE LOSS OF LIFE, PROPERTY AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AS A RESULT OF FLOODING**

#### Objective 1:

Reduce the likelihood of flooding by improving natural and man-made drainage systems.

#### Strategic Actions:

- 1.1 Install storm water drainage on those Town roads where it currently does not exist; and improve/replace inadequate storm water systems that currently do exist.  
Lead: Engineering/Public Works  
Priority: Very High  
Status: Engineering is currently identifying those areas which need either storm water sewer system installation or replacement.  
Potential Funding Sources: Capital budget  
Timeframe: FY 2013-2014 and in future years as needed (2014-2019).
- 1.2 Encourage property owners to maintain and clear debris from stream channels.  
Lead: Public Works, Administration  
Priority: Medium  
Status: Deferred except as related to specific wetlands violations. It is recommended to continue this effort in the plan update. May consider a review of town ordinances. Could include website updates. Specific means of outreach to be defined and addressed within 2014-2019 plan period.  
Potential Funding Sources: Operations & maintenance budget  
Timeframe: 2014-2019

#### Objective 2:

Where feasible, improve and/or modify existing structures that experience flooding to protect from flood damage.

#### Previous plan strategy:

- 2.1 Acquire and demolish house on Tunxis Ave. that regularly experiences flooding.  
Lead: Administration  
Priority: Medium  
Status: Property owner demolished one outbuilding on property subject to flooding. Primary residence remains. *(This strategic action will be replaced by 2.1 below.)*

#### Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Improve awareness and encourage flood-proofing for threatened structures.  
Lead: Engineering/Building

Priority: Medium  
Status: Efforts have been initiated including posting information regarding flooding issues and the NFIP on the Town website.  
Potential Funding Sources: Grant funding and Capitol Budget  
Timeframe: By 2018.

2.2 Further study and pursue protection measures for Town Library.

Lead: Engineering & Public Works  
Priority: Medium  
Status: Preliminary study completed. Two options: relocate to town hall site or add space to facility at higher elevation. Options are still under consideration and further study will be undertaken. Procedures have been put in place for moving books prior to expected flooding.  
Potential Funding Sources: Bonding supplemented by potential grants.  
Timeframe: 2014-2019.

**GOAL: REDUCE LOSS OF LIFE, PROPERTY AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AS A RESULT OF SEVERE WEATHER**

Objective 1:

Minimize potential debris from severe storms.

Strategic Actions:

1.1 Conduct a tree and vegetation inventory and develop a maintenance program.

Lead: Public Works  
Priority: Medium  
Status: Deferred; It is recommended to continue this effort.  
Potential Funding Sources: Grants, Capital or O&M budgets  
Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 2:

Improve ability of public works to prepare and respond to severe weather.

Previous plan strategy:

2.1 Ensure public works has adequate equipment to respond to downed electric wires.

Lead: Public Works, Administration  
Priority: Medium  
Status: Deferred, downed electric wires need to be handled by CL&P authorized personnel. *(This strategic action will be replaced by 2.1 below.)*

Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Ensure public works has adequate facilities and necessary equipment to be responsive to various storm types.  
Lead: Public Works, Administration  
Priority: High  
Status: Improve facilities and acquire equipment necessary to plan for, respond to, and manage storms and consequence management operations. Need to analyze and improve existing operations facility, improve communications, acquire generators, chippers, bucket trucks, slow speed grinders, saws, upgrade electric system at various facilities, provide quartering and other life support capabilities at public works facility in order to sustain extended storm clean up and debris management efforts.  
Potential Funding Sources: Capital budget, O& M budget  
Timeframe: Annually during the budget review process (2014-2019).

Objective 3:

Implement a resource sharing program with other public works departments.

Strategic Actions:

- 3.1 Continue to explore service sharing arrangements and engage in CRCOG's service sharing initiative.  
Lead: Public Works  
Priority: Medium  
Status: Resources are routinely shared with other communities during incidents and will continue. State mutual aid agreement has been formalized but needs further development to deal with risk and payment of public works staff.  
Potential Funding Sources: Grants through region.  
Timeframe: 2014 – 2019

Objective 4:

Improve coordination among, and ability of, all town staff to respond appropriately to severe weather.

Strategic Actions:

- 4.1 Ensure that all town officials are familiar with emergency preparedness plans.  
Lead: Emergency Management  
Priority: Medium  
Status: Department heads have done debriefing after events and periodic reviews of emergency preparedness plans  
Potential Funding Sources: O&M general budget; grants could be sought for specific exercises.  
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Annual review of plan

4.2 Improve/replace existing Town communication system in favor of one that is more reliable and has better coverage during storm events.

Lead: Emergency Management/Public Works/Fire

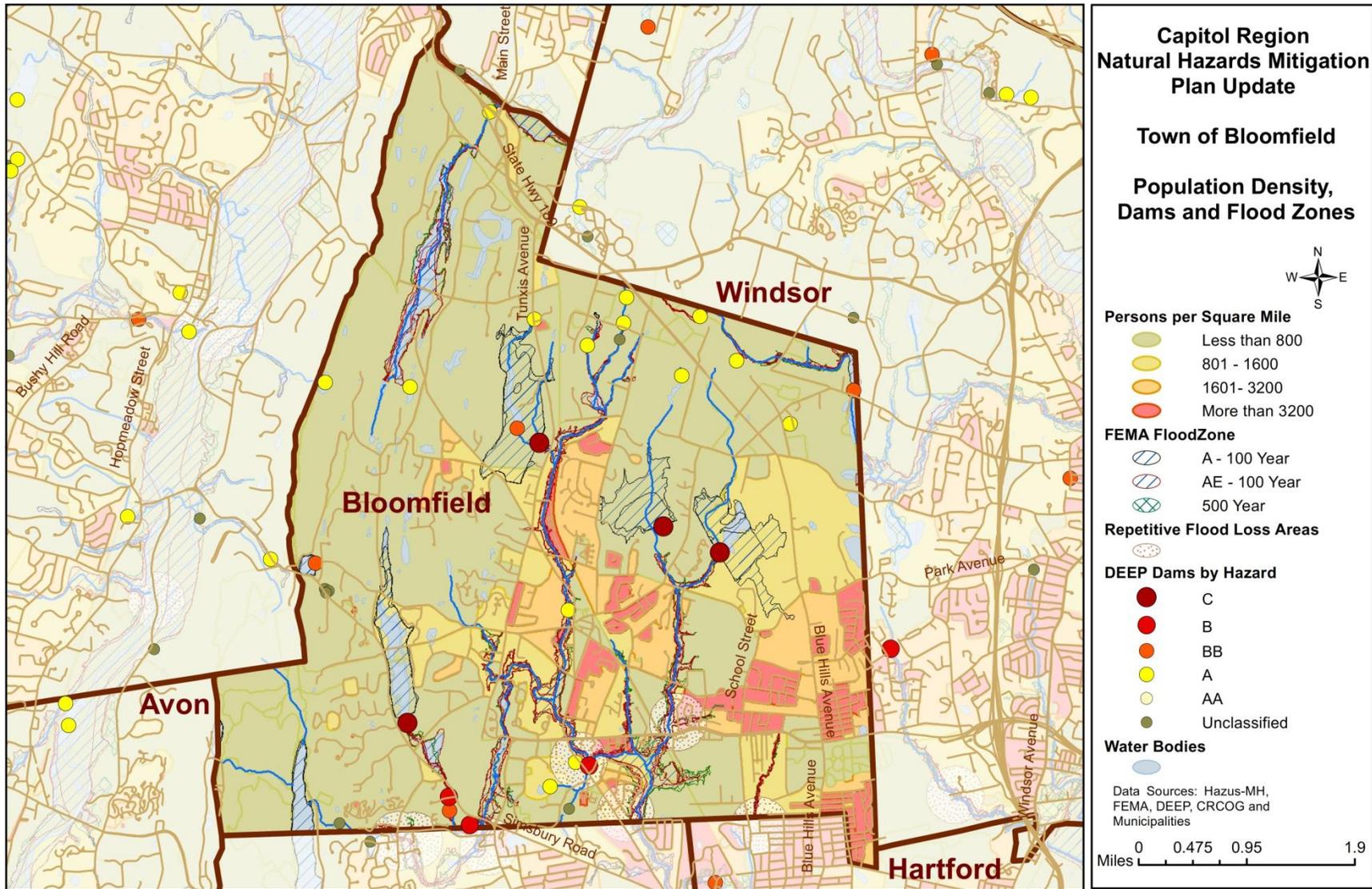
Priority: Medium

Status: This is a newly identified initiative for the plan update; however, a steering committee is currently meeting to plan the replacement and develop equipment costs.

Potential Funding Sources: Grants, Capital Budget.

Timeframe: FY 2013-2014

Map 14: Bloomfield Population Density, Dams and Flood Zones



Map 15: Bloomfield Flood Plains, Repetitive Loss Areas, Dams and Important Facilities

