

## East Hartford

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The Town of East Hartford is a suburban community of approximately 52,212 located east of the City of Hartford and west of the Town of Manchester. The Town covers slightly more than 18 square miles. East Hartford's land area drains primarily to the Connecticut and Hockanum Rivers. Four other waterways: Burnham, Willow, Pewterpot, and Porter Brooks, provide critical paths for the drainage of upland areas. Many regionally significant transportation routes traverse and intersect in East Hartford including Interstate 84 and 384, and Routes 2, 5, 15, and 44.

Principal industries include aerospace manufacturing and contractors, warehouse and distribution centers, as well as light industrial and retail businesses. Connecticut Natural Gas and the State Department of Information Technology, among others, maintain critical infrastructure in Town. East Hartford is home to the University of Connecticut Huskies football team, Goodwin College, Coca Cola, and, more recently, Cabela's retail store at Rentschler Field. Continued development of the former Rentschler Airfield promises to bring additional corporate, state, municipal and retail opportunities to the Town.

## Challenges

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Following historic flooding of the Connecticut River Valley in 1936 and 1938, the Army Corps of Engineers designed and constructed a levee system in East Hartford to protect the Town from future catastrophic flooding. The Town has operated and maintained the levee system since its initial construction and recently has undertaken a multi-year \$21 million capital improvement program dedicated to the system. These improvements have allowed the Town to obtain accreditation by FEMA and maintain active status on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' list of flood control systems.

The Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) Clean Water Project presents substantial opportunities and challenges to the Town. As planning for the separation of storm water and sewer lines throughout the Region continues, it is critical for the Town to monitor impacts on flood control infrastructure.

East Hartford participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and carefully evaluates proposed development in hazard prone areas. Since the adoption of the 2008 Plan, a number of floodplain permits have been reviewed and approved subject to the requirements of the adopted floodplain regulations. The Town has made a number of roadway improvements, culvert repairs, and levee repairs. The Town has also permitted renovations, repairs or replacement of a parking lot, stormwater outfall, dock and pier; building additions; replacement of a house; as well as construction of a new magnet school, and demolition of a house and tobacco shed in the flood plain.

To date, the National Flood Insurance Program has paid 96 property damage claims in East Hartford totaling \$455,077. East Hartford has had 17 Repetitive Loss Property claims, totaling \$228,580, on six properties to-date. A significant flood event could result in considerable damage. CRCOG used FEMA's Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks from flooding that might face the Town of East Hartford. The model estimates that economic losses to the Town, including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions, from a '100 year' flood would be over \$33 million. The specific economic impact of such a flood is summarized below:

Estimated Damages from 100-Year Flood	Households Displaced	422
	People Needing Shelter	997
	Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged	41
	Total Estimated Economic Losses	\$33,550,000
	Total Residential Building & Content Losses	\$14,330,000
	Total Commercial, Industrial & Other Building & Content Losses	\$19,030,000
	Total Business Interruption Losses	\$18,000

CRCOG also used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of East Hartford might face from a hurricane similar to the 1938 hurricane. The model estimates that economic losses to the town, including residential and commercial damage and business interruption, would be over \$240 million. The specific economic impact of such a storm is summarized below:

Estimated Damages from a 1938 Strength Hurricane	Households Displaced	271
	People Needing Shelter	73
	Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged	2009
	Buildings Completely Damaged	113
	Total Estimated Economic Losses	\$241,100,000
	Total Residential Building Losses	\$168,500,000
	Total Commercial, Industrial & Other Building Losses	\$42,250,000
	Total Business Interruption Losses	\$30,350,000
	Total Debris Generated	49,140 tons
	Truckloads (at 25 tons/truck) of building debris	1100

According to information provided by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the three federally declared natural disasters of 2011 resulted in total expenses to the municipality over \$2.5 million. These expenses include debris and snow removal, emergency protective measures and repairs to damaged infrastructure and buildings. This amount does not include damages experienced by private citizens and businesses.

2011 Disasters Damage Amounts Eligible for 75% Reimbursement Under FEMA Public Assistance Program				
Applicant: Municipality and Other Agencies (i.e., Fire Districts, Schools, and 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)	
<b>Town of East Hartford</b>	\$273,700.15	\$226,257.35	\$1,812,341.64	\$2,312,299.14
<b>East Hartford Other</b>	\$7,194.00	\$147,730.66	\$94,244.91	\$249,169.57
<b>East Hartford Total</b>	<b>\$280,894.15</b>	<b>\$373,988.01</b>	<b>\$1,906,586.55</b>	<b>\$2,561,468.71</b>

Under the Direction of the Mayor, an effort is underway to expand the Town’s GIS capacity and use. This can support Emergency Management needs of this community by providing a more robust GIS that can provide real-time tracking of debris, damaged structures, and infrastructure disruptions.

## Goals, Objectives and Strategies

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### **GOAL: REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF LOSSES OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FLOODING**

#### Objective 1:

Ensure proper maintenance of flood control system.

#### Strategic Actions:

- 1.1 Continue to implement necessary repairs and upgrades required by FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to retain accreditation.  
Lead: Public Works, Engineering  
Priority: High  
Status: The Town has instituted a multi-million dollar multi-year flood control system modification/reconstruction project. The Town's draft update to its Plan of Conservation and Development includes recommendations to monitor the flood protection system and fund additional improvements as necessary to ensure the retention of Army Corps of Engineers certification. Flood control system modifications and reconstruction are included in the Town's Capital Improvements Program.  
Potential Funding Source: bonds  
Timeframe: 2014-2019
  
- 1.2 Continue periodic updates to the flood control system manual as system improvements are completed.  
Lead: Public Works, Engineering  
Priority: Medium  
Status: This is an established practice.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund  
Timeframe: 2014 – 2019
  
- 1.3 Train town employees, according to the updated manual, in proper flood fighting operation and maintenance techniques.  
Lead: Public Works, Administration  
Priority: High  
Status: This is an established practice.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund  
Timeframe: 2014 – 2019

#### Objective 2:

Identify and pursue priority drainage improvement projects in existing natural and artificial drainage systems.

### Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Evaluate the condition and sustainability of existing drainage systems.  
Lead: Public Works, Engineering  
Priority: High  
Status: The Town has included drainage studies of Willow Brook, Burnham Brook and the town wide storm drainage and outfall repair programs in the Capital Improvements Program. The Town's draft update to its Plan of Conservation and Development includes recommendations to undertake a comprehensive drainage study and recommends revising local regulations to reduce impervious surfaces and encourage green site development techniques.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund  
Timeframe: 2014-2019: The drainage studies are anticipated to be completed in 2014. Storm drainage and outfall repair projects are assessed annually during the budget process.
- 2.2 Develop a capital improvement plan to improve existing drainage projects.  
Lead: Public Works, Administration  
Priority: High  
Status: The Town has developed an annually updated Capital Improvement Program to address the drainage repair program.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund  
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Drainage projects are included in Town's FY13/14 – 17/18 Capital Improvements Program. The CIP is reevaluated annually during budget process.
- 2.3 Pursue priority drainage projects identified in capital improvement plan.  
Lead: Public Works, Administration  
Priority: High  
Status: The Capital Improvement Program includes funding to replace the McAuliffe Park culvert, repair the Porter/Main Street culvert, repair the Arbutus Street outfall, and reconstruct drainage on Howard Street and John Street. The program also includes funding to repair numerous storm drains and outfalls throughout the city.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund  
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Drainage projects are included in Town's FY13/14 – 17/18 Capital Improvements Program. The CIP is reevaluated annually during budget process.

### Objective 3:

Improve the ability of emergency responders to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

### Strategic Actions:

- 3.1 Exercise and refine critical components of National Incident Management System with an emphasis on interagency communication and cooperation.

Lead: Fire, Police, Emergency Management  
Priority: High  
Status: This remains a high priority despite substantial progress in this area. The community has trained a significant number of employees to the appropriate NIMS level.  
Potential Funding Source: FEMA funding through CRCOG  
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Periodically, as available.

- 3.2 Participate in local, regional and state-wide natural disaster preparedness training.
- Lead: Emergency Management, Fire, Police  
Priority: Medium  
Status: This remains a medium priority despite substantial progress in this area. The community participates in the regional preparedness and training effort through its participation in the regional emergency planning team (REPT). This goal is also met by maintaining a community presence in statewide efforts such as the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund, FEMA funding through CRCOG  
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Periodically, as available.

Objective 4:

Improve the ability of emergency responders to serve the special needs population during all types of emergencies.

Strategic Actions:

- 4.1 Develop and maintain an accessible registry of residents with special needs using a regional model.
- Lead: Emergency Management, Health  
Priority: High  
Status: This remains a high priority. The community has not made significant progress in this area. This was identified as a need for improvement after the October 2011 storm. The community will use the newly issued Emergency Support Function 6 Mass Care Annex as a guide and planning tool for improvement of shelter operations.  
Potential Funding Source: Town general fund  
Timeframe: 2014-2019
- 4.2 Use a public notification system.
- Lead: Emergency Management, Fire, Police  
Priority: Medium

Status: This is a high priority for the community. The community has signed an agreement with Everbridge to provide full-service public messaging. This contract was executed in 2012. This system fully implemented now. Use of system will continue throughout the 2014-2019 plan period and upgrades will be made as required.

Potential Funding Sources: Town general fund

Timeframe: 2014-2019

4.3 Continue training for the evacuation, sheltering and protection of special needs populations.

Lead: Emergency Management, Fire, Police

Priority: Medium

Status: This remains a medium priority. The community has not made significant progress in this area. This was identified as a need for improvement after the October 2011 storm. The community will use the newly issued Emergency Support Function 6 Mass Care Annex as a guide and planning tool for improvement of shelter operations.

Potential Funding Sources: Town general fund

Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 5:

Improve emergency communications to residents prior to and during natural disasters.

Strategic Actions:

5.1 Identify and acquire public notification system, like Reverse-911, for facilitating communication of critical information to residents of all means.

Lead: Emergency Management, Police, Fire

Priority: Medium

Status: Similar to Objective 4.2, this is a high priority for the community. The community has signed an agreement with Everbridge to provide full-service public messaging. Implementation is complete. Use of and upgrades to system will continue.

Potential Funding Sources: Town general fund

Timeframe: 2014-2019

5.2 Offer educational forums for residents on personal emergency planning.

Lead: Emergency Management, Health

Priority: Medium

Status: This remains a medium priority. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has and will continue to provide personal emergency planning for residents of the community. They will be participating in a pilot delivery of the regional 'Get Ready' program in an effort to improve our capability.

Potential Funding Source: Town general fund, FEMA funding through CROG

Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 6:

Improve awareness of flooding risks among property owners.

Strategic Actions:

6.1 Implement an educational system for property owners, including insurance education, evacuation strategies and business continuity planning.

Lead: Emergency Management, Administration

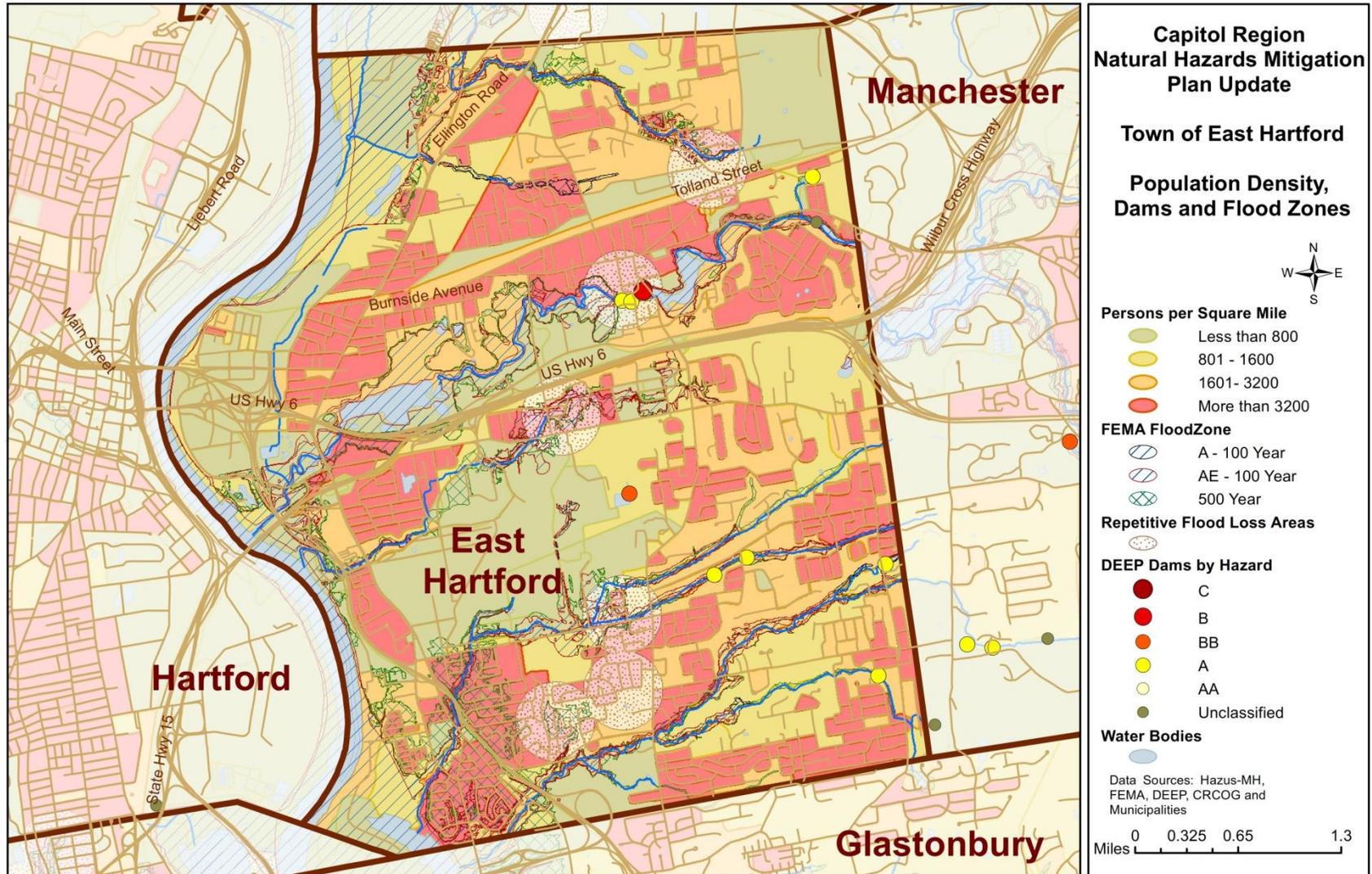
Priority: Medium

Status: This remains a medium priority. There has not been significant effort to meet this objective although the Town posts flood awareness and insurance information on its website. In 2008, East Hartford amended its flood zone regulations to maintain eligibility with the National Flood Insurance Program. Educational efforts will be developed and undertaken during the 2014-2019 planning period.

Potential Funding Sources: Town general fund

Timeframe: 2014-2019

Map 22: East Hartford Population Density, Dams and Flood Zones



Map 23: East Hartford Flood Plains, Repetitive Loss Areas, Dams and Important Facilities

