

Rocky Hill

Rocky Hill is located in the southern portion of the Capitol Region. Its land area covers 13.9 square miles with an estimated 2010 Census population of 19,703. Elevation in Rocky Hill ranges from approximately 30 feet to 400 feet. Land area drains primarily to the Connecticut River Watershed, although the southwest portion of Town drains to the Mattabesset River Watershed. Aside from the Connecticut River, major watercourses include Dividend, Goff, Hog and Saw Mill Brooks. Principal transportation routes through Rocky Hill include Interstate 91 (with access to two exists), State Route 99 (running north-south located on the east side of Town), State Route 3 (running north-south located on the west side of Town), State Route 160 (running east-west and centrally located) and State Route 400 (running east-west and centrally located). An active freight rail line, owned by Providence-Worcester Railroad, runs north-south through Town along the Connecticut River providing service to one Rocky Hill business on a weekly basis and providing access to regional freight lines throughout New England, New York and Ohio. Paralleling the rail line is the Buckeye Jet Fuel line which runs from New Haven to Bradley International Airport, providing jet fuel to Bradley. The State Veterans Home and Hospital and Dinosaur State Park are among approximately a dozen State agencies located in Town. Rocky Hill's major industries include professional, scientific and technical services, finance and insurance, warehouse/distribution, health care and construction.

Rocky Hill is professionally managed by a full-time Town Manager. The Police Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center with the Rocky Hill Public Library serving as back-up and a warming/cooling center. The Police Department is comprised of 26 sworn police officers plus the Police Chief, Deputy Police Chief and seven full time emergency dispatch personnel. Fire protection is provided by three volunteer fire stations.

An economic assessment study completed in 2011, projects an additional 1,838,000 square feet of new development potential. Recent completed and approved projects include a 250,000 square foot refrigerated warehouse/distribution facility, 22,000 square feet of new medical buildings, a 142,000 square foot mixed-use retail-restaurant-office project, the redevelopment of the CT Foundry, a Brownfield property located on the Connecticut River, into a residential mixed use development, construction of a 144 unit apartment building, the location of a new pre-k through 5 magnet school and over 22 new businesses.

Challenges

The top three natural hazard mitigation challenges likely to impact Rocky Hill will result from floods, hurricanes/tropical storms and winter storms.

Floods: The Connecticut River forms the Town's eastern border for approximately four miles. The other major watercourses are the Mattabesset River on the west side of Town and Goff Brook, Hog Brook and Saw Mill Brook.

Flood mitigation measures should be addressed to protect the MDC wastewater treatment facility located in the northeast corner of Town in the Connecticut River flood plain. The facility is vulnerable to the 100 year flood event. Additional threats resulting from annual flood events directly along the

Connecticut River are few. Ferry Landing Park and parts of meadow Road become inaccessible during many spring flood events. Access to some of the buildings during some flood stage events is not possible. Advance notification and education are key mitigation measures for these property owners.

When the Mattabesset River floods in Berlin, Saw Mill Brook will flood, rendering the extreme western portion of France Street, the residences located there and the Town the of Berlin inaccessible. Additional areas of concern are Beach Road and Main Street (CT RT 99) in the vicinity of the former Ames property. Beach Road is susceptible to periodic flooding isolating homes north of Little Brook. State Drainage structures located on Main Street (CT 99) are under-sized, causing periodic localized flooding.

The National Flood Insurance Program has paid 10 property damage claims in Rocky Hill totaling over \$95,500 to-date. There have been two Repetitive Loss Property claims totaling over \$41,400 filed on a single property. To limit future vulnerability to floods, the Town has not permitted any new structures in flood zones, and in 2008, updated the Town Code Chapter 141, Flood Damage Prevention, in accordance with NFIP minimum standards. Nonetheless, a significant flood event could result in much damage. CRCOG used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the community 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 \$ 5 million. The impacts of such a flood are summarized below:

Estimated Damages from 100-Year Flood	Households Displaced	24
	People Needing Shelter	27
	Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged	1
	Total Estimated Economic Losses	\$4,740,000
	Total Residential Building & Content Losses	\$1,840,000
	Total Commercial, Industrial & Other Building & Content Losses	\$2,900,000
	Total Business Interruption Losses	\$0.00

Winter Storms & Hurricanes/Tropical Storms: Rocky Hill emergency response personnel are highly skilled and experienced in emergency response. Emergency response personnel and the Town of Rocky Hill highway employees are crossed trained in snow removal and emergency response for multiple and pre-disaster events.

Snow removal on Town roads is not an issue. However, the State roadways are insufficiently cleared and/or there are significant delays in snow removal, causing complications with snow removal at intersections of Town and State roadways and transportation delays for emergency response personnel and Town plow crews. Specialized snow removal equipment, such as for clearing sidewalks and restricted access areas, would greatly assist with mobilization efforts in and around staging areas and at designated public buildings.

Maintaining access to the Town’s fire hydrants is always an issue during heavy snow events. A Town Ordinance requiring residents to clear hydrants in front of their properties, as well as public notification reminders, help to address this issue.

Heavy snow and high winds associated with winter storms and hurricanes/tropical storms bring the risk of power failures. A primary concern is to maintain power at the Town's EOC/Police Station, the Town Community Center/Town Hall (shelter) and the Library, which is utilized as a back-up shelter during power outages. The existing generator for the Police Station/EOC is older than 20 years and requires replacement the generator for the Library is in need of up-grading. The High School and West Hill School are appropriately located to be utilized as shelters.

Power restoration sequencing is important. The Town, in cooperation with CL&P, has designated Century Hills Apartments as a first priority restoration area due to a high concentration of apartment and a large Asian Indian population. The second priority for power restoration is senior and over 55 adult housing developments.

CRCOG also used FEMA's Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Rocky Hill 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 \$155 million. The impacts of such a storm are summarized below:

Estimated Damages from a 1938 Strength Hurricane	Households Displaced	138
	People Needing Shelter	25
	Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged	827
	Buildings Completely Damaged	47
	Total Estimated Economic Losses	\$115,185,000
	Total Residential Building Losses	\$80,688,000
	Total Commercial, Industrial & Other Building Losses	\$21,190,000
	Total Business Interruption Losses	\$13,307,000
	Total Debris Generated	28,622 tons
	Truckloads (at 25 tons/truck) of building debris	463

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 and other local agencies of over \$1 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: Municipality	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 Rocky Hill	\$113,168.33	\$257,069.39	\$690,662.55	\$1,060,900.27

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The Town reassessed its goal, objective and mitigation actions identified in the 2008 Plan. The Town's 2008 goal of "Reducing the risk of loss of life and property as a result of natural disasters," was restated to specifically identify flooding, winter storms and hurricanes/tropical storms. A number of new objectives and associated mitigation actions were proposed. Also, some mitigation actions from the 2008 Plan were modified to recognize work accomplished or changes in priorities.

GOAL: REDUCE THE RISK OF LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF FLOODING, WINTER STORMS AND HURRICANES/TROPICAL STORMS.

Objective 1:

Improve the ability of the Town to provide emergency sheltering for at least 5,000 residents.

Strategic Actions:

- 1.1 Supply new generators and appropriate fuel for The EOC/Police Station, the Library, the High School and West Hill School to be used as emergency shelters.
Lead: Administration, Emergency Management
Priority: High (raised from Medium in 2008 Plan)
Status: Grant application submitted. The need for generators at the EOC/Police Station and Library is now recognized in addition to the need for generators at the schools.
Potential Funding Source: FEMA
Timeframe: Completion anticipated by end of FY 2013-14
- 1.2 Prepare plans to identify a potential site for a warehouse facility for storage of emergency sheltering resources as State/Federal funding becomes available.
Lead: Emergency Management, Planning & Zoning
Priority: High (raised from Medium in 2008 Plan)
Status: Preliminary planning is underway to identify a potential site
Potential Funding Source: General Fund, grants
Timeframe: Completion anticipated by end of FY 2013-14.
- 1.3 Continue to replenish sheltering supplies (cots, water, food, etc.) as expiration dates warrant.
Lead: Emergency Management
Priority: Medium
Status: Current practice; continue as needed. Replenishments will be made dependent upon expiration dates of stocks.
Potential Funding Source: General Fund, grants
Timeframe: FY 2013-18

- 1.4 Seek funding sources for purchase of shelter supplies
 Lead: Emergency Management, Administration
 Priority: Medium
 Status: Current practice; continue as needed
 Potential Funding Source: FEMA, General Fund
 Timeframe: Annually during FY 2013-18
- 1.5 Ensure and supply transportation access to emergency shelters.
 Lead: Emergency Management
 Priority: High
 Status: This is a current practice. The Town has dedicated three vehicles to this purpose which is addressed in the emergency operation procedures.
 Potential Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: FY 2013-18

Objective 2:

Provide access for police, fire and other emergency response personnel to the roadway system, to fire hydrants and to sidewalks a timely manner during and after storm events.

(Note: This is a newly identified objective for the 2014-2019 Plan Update.)

Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Work with the State DOT towards better coordination and quicker State response to clear State Roads
 Lead: Town Administration, Highway
 Priority: High
 Status: This is a new Initiative which was begun in August 2013. Efforts will continue throughout the plan period.
 Potential Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: 2014-2019
- 2.2 Acquire specialized snow removal equipment
 Lead: Highway
 Priority: High
 Status: This is a new Initiative.
 Potential Funding Source: FEMA
 Timeframe: Completion is anticipated by end of FY 2013-14
- 2.3 Continue enforcement of fire hydrant and sidewalk clearing ordinance
 Lead: Police
 Priority: High
 Status: Although this is a new Initiative for the Plan Update, this is an current practice of the Town.
 Potential Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: 2014-2019: following snow storms

Objective 3:

Restore power loss due to storm events in an expeditious manner and to targeted priority areas through improved emergency response coordination with utility companies

(Note: This is a newly identified objective for the 2014-2019 Plan Update.)

Strategic Actions:

- 3.1 Continue to work with and improve coordination with utility companies to provide first order power restoration to Century Hills, senior housing, age restricted developments and assisted living developments.

Lead: Administration, Emergency Management, Engineering

Priority: High

Status: Although this is a new Initiative for the Plan Update, this is an established practice of the Town. The Town has coordinated with NU to implement a staging plan for power restoration

Potential Funding Source: General fund

Timeframe: 2014-2019

- 3.2 Hold meetings on a regular basis to plan and coordinate natural hazard mitigation and coordinated disaster response.

Lead: Emergency Management, Administration

Priority: Medium

Status: This initiative builds on existing efforts to coordinate with the MDC and with CL&P through its municipal liaison program.

Potential Funding Source: General fund, Utilities

Timeframe: 2014-2019: Quarterly or as required (Emergency response personnel meet quarterly with MDC.)

Objective 4:

Reduce the likelihood of flooding by improving existing natural and artificial drainage systems.

Status Update: In the 2008 Plan, the Town identified two drainage improvement projects which have been completed. These are the Belden Brook piping project and improvements in the Terry Lane/Elm Ridge Park area.

Strategic Actions:

- 4.1 Improve the drainage on Beach Road by installing a box culvert raising the road above the flood elevation. Currently periodic flooding occurs isolating the homes north of the Little Brook.

Lead: Engineering

Priority: Medium

Status: This is a new initiative

Potential Funding Source: LOCIP-Town Roads

Timeframe: FY 2016-18

- 4.2 Improve the end of France Street to provide a two lane road meeting current design standards. Outer France Street becomes impassable during times of flooding due to flood waters over the road from the Sawmill Brook in Rocky Hill and Mattabeset River in Berlin. Rocky Hill residents have no access to or from the west and are forced to use a one lane road with limited visibility.
 Lead: Engineering
 Priority: Medium
 Status: This is a new Initiative
 Potential Funding Source: LOCIP-Town Roads, FEMA
 Timeframe: FY 2018-2019
- 4.3 Continue municipal education and fine program to disconnect residential sump pumps from sewage system.
 Lead: Public Works, Administration
 Priority: Medium
 Status: The 2008 Plan proposed the establishment of a municipal education program; this program has been implemented along with an associated fine program. The Town will continue these efforts.
 Potential Funding Source: Operating Budget
 Timeframe: 2014-2019: annual educational outreach is anticipated.
- 4.4 Continue to support MDC's Clean Water project
 Lead: Administration
 Priority: Medium
 Status: Although this is a new Initiative for the Plan Update, this is an established practice of the Town.
 Potential Funding Source: Operating Budget
 Timeframe: 2014-2018

Objective 5:

Implement flood mitigation measures to protect the MDC wastewater treatment facility located in the northeast corner of Town.

(Note: This is a newly identified objective for the 2014-2019 Plan Update.)

Strategic Action:

- 5.1 Work with the MDC towards implementation of flood protection measures.
 Lead: Town Administration, Emergency Management
 Priority: Medium
 Status: This is a new initiative.
 Potential Funding Source: Operating Budget
 Timeframe: FY 2014 - As required

Objective 6:

Mitigate flood loss/damage during flood events within the Connecticut River flood plain.

(Note: This is a newly identified objective for the 2014-2019 Plan Update.)

Strategic Actions:

- 6.1 Continue with advanced notification and education of impacted property owners.
Lead: Administration, Emergency Management
Priority: High
Status: Although this is a new Initiative for the Plan Update, this is an established practice of the Town.
Potential Funding Source: Operating Budget
Timeframe: 2014-2019: in advance of storms; annual educational outreach efforts are anticipated
- 6.2 Continue implementation and enforcement of the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and the Flood Overlay District Zoning Regulation.
Lead: Planning & Zoning
Priority: High
Status: Although this is a new Initiative for the Plan Update, this is an established practice of the Town. Efforts will continue as development reviews, inspections and enforcement are undertaken.
Potential Funding Source: Operating Budget
Timeframe: 2014-2019
- 6.3 Acquire targeted properties as State/Federal funding becomes available
Lead: Engineering
Priority: Low
Status: This is a new initiative.
Potential Funding Source: FEMA, other federal grants and state aid
Timeframe: 2015-2019

Objective 7:

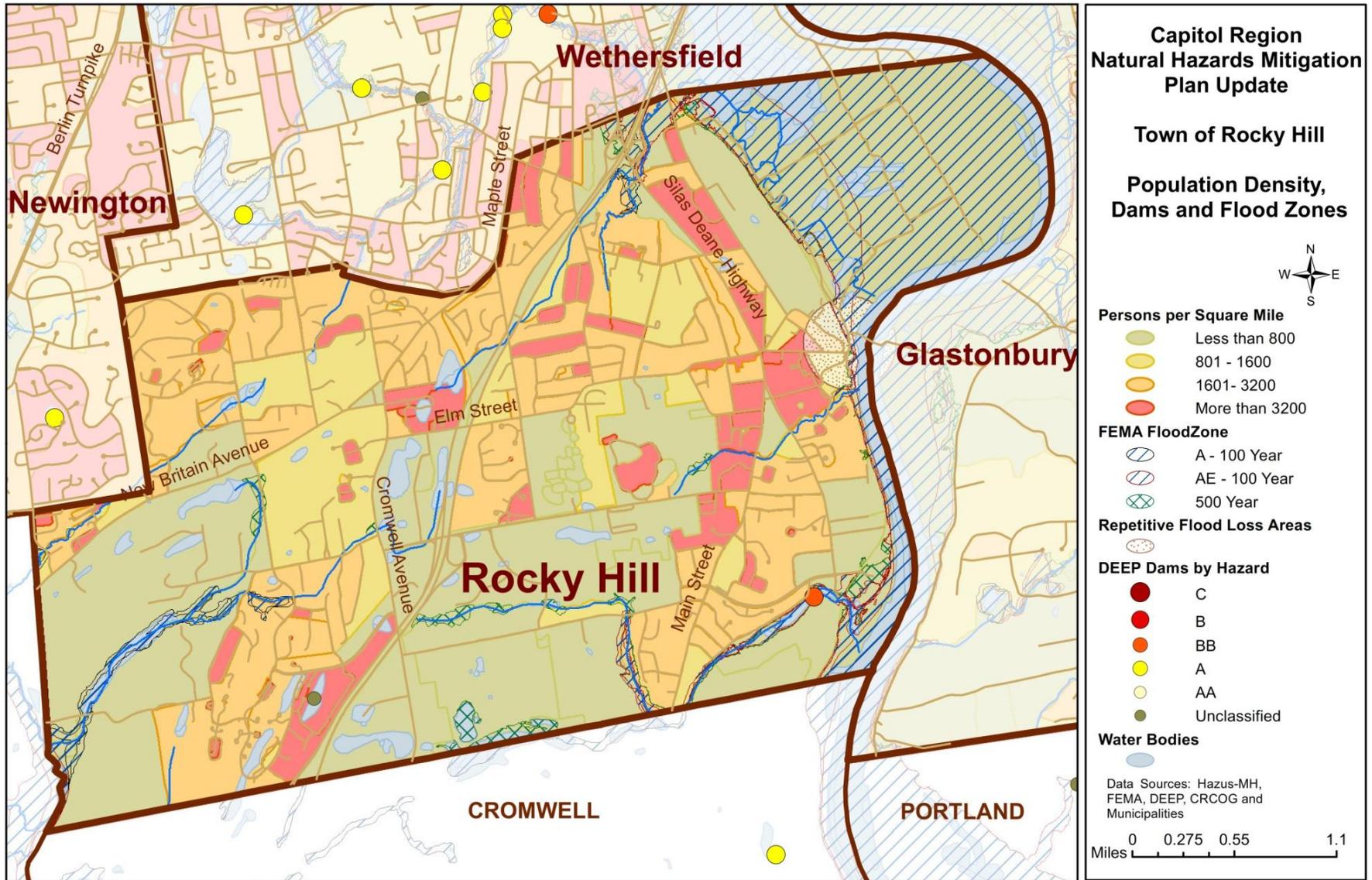
Improve emergency response coordination with utility companies and the Towns of Berlin, Newington, Wethersfield and Cromwell.

(Note: This is a revised objective for the 2014-2019 Plan Update.)

Strategic Action:

- 7.1 Hold meetings on a regular basis to plan and coordinate natural hazard mitigation and coordinated disaster response.
Lead: Administration, Emergency Management, Highways, Engineering
Priority: High
Status: This is a revised initiative which expands on current strategy of meeting with utility companies. Emergency response personnel currently meet quarterly with MDC.
Potential Funding Source: Operating Budget
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Quarterly or as required

Map 46: Rocky Hill Population Density, Dams and Flood Zones



Map 47: Rocky Hill Flood Plains, Repetitive Loss Areas, Dams and Important Facilities

