20 Mansfield

Community Overview

The Town of Mansfield is a collection of small villages and community neighborhoods nestled in a rolling landscape defined by forests, farmland, and rivers. Mansfield is a unique blend of rural and suburban living in a college-town setting. Mansfield covers 44.5 square miles and has a population of 25,892 (2020 Census). The University of Connecticut located in the village of Storrs covers approximately 5.7 square miles.

According to the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education & Research (UConn CLEAR, 2015) Mansfield is approximately 64% forested (including deciduous, coniferous, and wetland forest), and is mostly rural with some agriculture. Of the approximately 18,6756 acres of Mansfield's forest land, 5,000 acres are owned by public agencies, including the Town, the State, University of Connecticut, and US Army Corps of Engineers. Mansfield's extensive forests are integral to the overall health and function of the town's natural systems.

Approximately 3% of the Mansfield's land area is comprised of watercourses (rivers and their tributary streams) and water bodies (lakes and ponds). These form a complex network of connected features that drain into either the Willimantic River or the Natchaug River watersheds. Water bodies in the Town include: Chapins Pond, Dunham Pond, Eagleville Pond, Echo Lake, Hansens Pond, Knowlton Pond, Mansfield Hollow Lake and McLaughlin Pond. Mirror Lake, Swan Lake and the Mansfield Training Center ponds are on the UConn Campus.

Mansfield's elevation ranges from about 160 feet in the southeast corner of town at the Natchaug River to about 730 feet in the north/northwest section.

Urban densities of population are found in the village of Storrs (UConn main campus) and in southern Mansfield. The number of students living on-campus at UConn accounts for 44.3% of the Town's total population. While 19,388 undergraduates and 6,334 graduate students were enrolled in the Fall 2023 semester, UConn's housing facilities accommodate approximately 12,690 students while the university is in session. A new residence hall in South Campus opening in the Fall of 2024 will allow for an additional 650 students to live on campus. Approximately 7,000 UConn students live off campus in Mansfield and the surrounding communities.

Mansfield Tomorrow: Plan of Conservation and Development Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, October 8, 2015, sets the foundation for Mansfield's development, conservation, and land use. Regarding development, Mansfield is conducting a Facilities Master Plan, which will identify improvements and repurposing of municipal buildings in the next few years. The town actively tracks development projects, primarily featuring multi-family developments in non-high-risk areas. Below is a list of developments approved since 2020.

Approved Multi-Family Development Since 2020										
		Bedrooms					Affordable Housing			Status
	Units	Total BR	Studio	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	Affordable (80% AMI)	Workforce (120% AMI)	Contribution to Affordable Housing Trust Fund	
Eagleville Green (located at the corner of S. Eagleville (Rte 275) and Maple Roads	42	73	0	18	17	7	34	0	$ -	approved & under construction, scheduled to open summer 2025
Standard at Four Corners- 1725 Storrs Road	392	891	31	52	119	190	35	17	$ 1,696,015	approved & under construction, scheduled to open summer 2025
The Villages at Four Corners 1659 Storrs Road and 625 Middle Turnpike	261	457	64	64	70	63	39	13	$ -	approved 9/5/2023
497 Middle Turnpike (not including 1 existing single family dwelling)	116	194	0	55	44	17	17	6	$ -	approved 9/18/2023
The HUB (King Hill and North Eagleville Roads) Group Dwelling, to be rented by the bedroom.	450	1165					0	0	$ 3,291,248	approved 10/16/2023
Total	**1,261**	**2,780**	**95**	**189**	**250**	**277**	**125**	**36**	**$ 4,987,263**	

The town maintains a Storymap of new development which can be found here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/89b1735a27444d54a409d9e04b99a51c.

For UConn-related developments, developments are regulated by the university itself and not the town.

It is unlikely that development/redevelopment is increasing risk to natural hazards.

Critical Facilities

Critical and important facilities and cultural resources in Mansfield include the Mansfield Fire Department, a private psychiatric and substance abuse hospital, the resident trooper office, nine primary and secondary level schools, six historic districts, historic buildings throughout town, two elderly concentrations consisting of five housing communities, three retail areas, a public telephone facility, two well fields and associated water treatment facilities, Holiday Hill camp, a reservoir and water treatment facility owned by Windham, four major manufactured home parks as well as a number of manufactured homes throughout town, numerous apartment buildings that house large populations, several other apartment buildings, three high hazard/potential loss dams, and Mansfield Community Center. Additional critical and important facilities on the UConn campus include the University Safety (Fire, Police & Emergency Communications), the wastewater treatment plant, reclaimed water plant, central utility plant, library, sports facilities, and other cultural and performing arts venues.

Table 20-1: Critical Facilities, Mansfield

Facility	Shelter	Cooling Center	Generator
3 Mansfield Fire Department Stations			
Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospital			
CT State Police Resident Trooper Office			
Primary and Secondary Schools: 2 Montessori Schools 1 Elementary Schools Middle School High School Reynolds School Natchaug Hospital School	E.O. Smith High School is a Regional Shelter split with the American Red Cross		
Historic Resources: Spring Hill District Mansfield Centre District Mansfield Hollow District Gurley Ville District UConn District Mansfield Training School District Old Town Hall Several buildings on UConn Campus Other Buildings Throughout Town			
Elderly Concentrations: Mansfield Center For Nursing And Rehabilitation Juniper Hill Elderly Housing Glen Ridge Residential Community Wright's Way Elderly Housing Rolling Hills Residential Community			
Shopping Areas: Downtown Storrs East Brook Mall Four Corners Shopping Area			
Telephone Facility			
Holiday Hill Camp			

Facility	Shelter	Cooling Center	Generator
Reservoir and Water Treatment Facility Owned by Windham			
Major Manufactured Home Parks: Rolling Hills Residential Community Valleyview Chaffeeville Road Park Burcamp Other Manufactured Homes Dispersed Throughout Town			
Large Population Apartment Buildings			
3 High Hazard/Potential Loss Dams			
Mansfield Community Center	X		
2 Eversource Substations			
Well Fields and Water Treatment Facilities: UConn Willimantic River Well Field UConn Fenton River Well Field UConn Water Storage Facility			
UConn Wastewater Treatment Plant			
UConn Reclaimed Water Plant			
UConn Central Utility Plant			
University Safety (Fire, Police, USEC)			
UConn EOC			

During extreme heat events, the town reported that any of their facilities could be used as cooling centers.

Capabilities

The Town updated its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), *Mansfield Tomorrow: Plan of Conservation and Development Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, October 8, 2015, that includes* goals, strategies, and actions related to mitigation of natural hazards and is integrated into decision making at multiple levels. Hazard mitigation is addressed in Chapter 2: Natural Systems, Section 9: Climate Adaptation and Natural Hazard Mitigation of the *Mansfield Tomorrow: Plan of Conservation and Development Town of Mansfield*. A detailed assessment of natural hazards and associated risks are provided in that document and references how this HMP provides the strategies to reduce the loss of life and property and economic consequences because of natural disasters. Authorities in the Town of Mansfield who play advisory, supervisory, or direct roles in hazard mitigation for the Town include:

Authorities	Role			Hazard Mitigated
	Advisory	**Supervisory**	**Direct**	
Agriculture Committee	X			Drought
Conservation Commission	X			Drought & Flood
Department of Building and Housing Inspection	X		X	All but drought
Department of Public Works	X	X	X	All but drought
Division of Fire and Emergency Services			X	Wildfire
Emergency Management Advisory Council	X			All
Department of Human Services	X		X	All but drought
Office of Emergency Management	X	X	X	All
Office of the Fire Marshal	X		X	Wildfire
Parks & Natural Resources Committee (Previously the Open Space Preservation Committee)	X			Flooding
Planning & Zoning Commission/Inland Wetland Agency	X		X	Flooding
Sustainability Committee	X			Drought & Flood
Town Council		X	X	All
Town Manager		X		All
Department of Planning and Development	X		X	All
Town / University Relations Committee	X			All
Zoning Board of Appeals			X	Flooding
Department of Parks & Recreation	X	X		All

The Town of Mansfield has consistently participated in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since January 2, 1981. The most recent Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was published on January 2, 1981. The current Town of Mansfield Flood Insurance Study (FIS) was published July 1980. The original FIS and FIRMs for flooding sources in the Town are based on work completed in March 1978. Many of the local flooding problems are consistent with the floodplains mapped by FEMA.

Mansfield's zoning regulations prohibit construction of new residential or commercial structures within designated flood hazard areas with the exception of agricultural and accessory structures. All proposed structures must meet elevation requirements and strict construction demands. Manufactured (mobile) homes have more stringent requirements. Proposed development in the 1% annual chance flood plain may not alter flood levels. As a result of the limitations imposed by Zoning Regulations no new development has occurred in the floodplain in recent years.

The Town performs monitoring at several bridges that are known to be scour prone (see Challenges section). The Stone Mill Road and Laurel Lane bridges were both replaced between 2011 and 2013, minimizing the potential for damage to those bridges during a flood.

Annual expenses to maintain town-owned dams are incorporated into the annual budget for parks and recreation and public works.

Mansfield follows water conservation orders when they are issued by any of the major utilities in town. UConn enacts significant voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures for its users when drought conditions occur, as referenced in its 2020 Wellfield Management Plan. Several town facilities are connected to the University's water system.

The Mansfield Fire Department consists of 3 fire stations to cover 45 square miles of mixed urban and rural developments. It employs employing 20+ full time and part time firefighter/EMT's and is supported

by an additional volunteer staff of men and women dedicated to serving their community. Public fire protection covers a significant percentage of the town's population, though the Fire Department relies on fire ponds and dry hydrants throughout most of the community. Any new public water supply expansion projects include installation of hydrants. The Fire Department maintains ten fire ponds. When a water source is not available near a fire, water is brought to the site by a pumper truck. Municipal water service has been extended to the Four-Corners area of Town, improving wildfire-response capabilities there. The Town has not found it necessary to require installation of any new cisterns or dry hydrants in the last few years. The Fire Department purchased a water tanker in early summer 2015 at a cost of approximately $475,000.

The UConn Fire Department provides fire protection and other critical University Safety services to the UConn community, which includes students, staff, faculty, visitors, and neighbors. All personnel are state certified in fire suppression operations, technician-level hazardous materials operations and are licensed Emergency Medical Technicians. Station 22 has two engines, a tower ladder, four BLS ambulances, a Special Hazards vehicle, and other support vehicles / trailers. UConn Fire provides mutual aid services to Mansfield and surrounding communities.

The Town provides plowing services through Public Works. The Town also requires locations for snow storage to be considered in the design of parking lots. Eversource, the Town's energy provider, works with the Town's tree warden to remove dangerous trees and branches along power lines. The Town has its own tree crew as well as a robust annual budget to hire a contractor to address tree issues. The local electrical utility performs scheduled intensive trimming near electrical lines.

The Town has implemented a reverse 9-1-1 program and notifies the public when a severe storm is approaching. The Town maintains shelter facilities and evaluates the need for supplies at least annually or following each event. The Town performs debris management through Public Works with the assistance of the local electrical utility when necessary. UConn maintains an alert and notification system (UConnALERT) for emergency notifications to the UConn community and their affiliates. UConnALERT is used to alert the community when incidents or events require immediate protective actions or result in impacts University operations.

The FEMA Flood Map Service Center (MSC) is the official public source for flood hazard information produced in support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Historical and current flood maps for Mansfield can be accessed here FEMA Flood Map Service Center | Town of Mansfield.

Mansfield's land use regulations promote the protection and enhancement of natural systems. This includes utilizing Low Impact Development (LID) practices for stormwater management.

The Town has an EAP for the dam at Bicentennial Pond.

Since the 2019 HMP, the following actions have been incorporated as capabilities:

- Participate in EMI courses or the seminars and annual conference held by the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers.
- Conduct outreach efforts to educate and train residents on individual actions they can take to prepare for, survive, and recover from disaster events.
- Develop communication strategy to better inform public of parking restrictions during snow events. Use Facebook, Website and Code Red Reverse 911.

Capabilities to address natural hazards and the losses that they have caused, have increased since the last plan has been adopted.

Challenges

Challenges Overview

Falling trees and limbs during high wind events, are one of Mansfield's greatest hazards, along with the power outages they cause. The town had three small tornadoes (EF-1 July 2013, EF-0 October 2018, and EF-1 September 2019). There was minor damage to structures.

The town staff report that there are areas on Higgins Highway (Route 31) that continue to flood during large events.

Sources of flooding in Mansfield (as noted in the FIS) include Natchaug River, Willimantic River, Mount Hope River, Conantville Brook, Fenton River, Fishers Brook, Eagleville Brook, Cedar Swamp Brook, Nelson Brook and Sawmill Brook. Areas of particular concern include five homes on Thornbush Road that are isolated or inundated by the Willimantic River approximately once every five years during times of high water, and an area of Bassett Bridge Road in the vicinity of the State boat launch that is closed during times of high water. This latter area is a flood control area managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and is designed to be flooded, however, traffic is disrupted during these times. Town staff identify Thornbush Road as the most at-risk of flooding area in Town. Inundation of the railroad that runs along the western town line is both an economic concern and, at times, a hazardous material concern.

The overall risk to Mansfield from dam failure is low. The failure of any of the three dams in Town classified as significant hazard (Class B), or the three dams classified as high hazard (Class C) could cause serious damage. The Class C dams are the Eagleville Lake, Mansfield Hollow, and Willimantic Reservoir Dams. McLaughlin Pond Dam (Class B) has the potential to damage an important travel route (State Route 89) near Mount Hope, and is a concern for the Town. Town staff indicate that there has not been any damage to municipal and private structures and infrastructure due to dam failure in recent memory.

UConn is the Owner/Operator of several dams on campus. Mansfield Training Dam No. 1 and Mansfield Training Dam No 2, located on Route 44 across from Depot Campus have been classified as Class B Significant Hazard Dams by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The Mirror Lake Dam located on the Storrs Campus southwest of the intersection of Route 195 (Storrs Road) and Willowbrook Road in Storrs is currently classified as a Class BB Significant Hazard Dam. Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for the Mirror Lake Dam and Mansfield Training Dam No 1 and No 2 are on file with UConn's Office of Emergency Management. Inundation areas for these dams do not impact residential areas but may cause road closures and detours.

The Sewer system is a concern for Mansfield staff. The town relies on the university in the Northern area of town and Windham in the Southern.

Windham Water Works (located in Mansfield) has a grant from FEMA to look at resilience issues related to the reservoir and dam.

Hazard Losses

The economic losses faced by the community from natural hazards can be estimated by reviewing historic loss figures. Loss estimates are summarized below.

Average Annualized Losses

Average Annualized Loss (AAL) estimates are summarized below. Average Annualized Loss (AAL) figures are useful tools for comparison of the risks faced from different hazards with different likelihoods of occurring in a given time period. AAL estimates were prepared for each natural hazard which may impact Mansfield. National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) data, from the last 20 years, was categorized by hazard and averaged based on the proportion of population within each town in the CRCOG Region. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) losses were calculated based on the 50-year span of the program. FEMA Public Assistance (PA) data from the past 11 years was categorized based on hazard and used to compute AAL. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) from the past 10 years was calculated to get AAL. Expected Annual Loss data from the National Risk Index (NRI) was downloaded and categorized to get AAL for the below hazards. Dam failure data was taken from the 2019-2024 CROCG Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) plan since no new dam failures have occurred in the past five years. The 2019 HMP Dam failures were sourced from the 2014 Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, with dam failure data supplemented by the National Performance of Dams Program and the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.

Table 20-2: Average Annualized Losses, Mansfield

Hazard	Source	Average Annualized Losses (AAL)
Hurricanes/Tropical storms	NCEI	$66,538.00
	NRI	$1,648,249.26
	FEMA PA	$12,558.92
Tornados/High Winds	NCEI	$24,910.61
	NRI	$261,210.68
Winter Storms	NCEI	$19,733.66
	NRI	$133,206.68
	FEMA PA	$11,560.87
Flood	NCEI	$20,168.62
	NRI	$44,340.48
	NFIP	$14,759.99
Drought	NRI	$11,751.79
	USDA	$472.85
Extreme Heat	NRI	$4,374.74
Wildfire	NRI	$845.65
Earthquakes	NRI	$117,507.60
Dam Failure	HMP	$1,631.00

Other Hazard Costs

The Town estimates the cost to dredge and increase capacity of an individual fire pond to withstand drought conditions to range between $2,000 to over $10,000 depending on site-specific conditions. Town officials also note that economic losses due to a drought can be significant in Mansfield given the amount of agricultural land; this includes a local dairy farm and bottling plant that would be significantly impacted by a drought.

Town staff report that wildfires cost the Mansfield Fire Department approximately $2,000 per acre affected in terms of personnel, apparatus, and equipment.

The Town of Mansfield reports that the cost to respond to a downed branches incident could be several thousand dollars depending on the scale of the event. The Town of Mansfield reports that the cost to respond to the July 10, 2013 EF-1 tornado was $11,900.

Losses Summary

A review of the above loss estimates demonstrates that the Town of Mansfield has experienced significant expenses as a result of natural hazards and is at risk for additional losses if some of the less-frequent events were to occur. These actual and potential losses justify hazard mitigation actions to reduce losses in the future.

Mitigation Strategies and Actions

This HMCAP includes new goal statements that are aligned with *Resilient Connecticut* and the efforts of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3). The five new goals developed for this HMCAP were developed with cooperation from CIRCA in the *Resilient Connecticut* planning process, and are:

- Ensure that critical facilities are resilient, with special attention to shelters and cooling centers.
- Address risks associated with extreme heat events, especially as they interact with other hazards.
- Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.
- Reduce losses from other hazards.
- Invest in resilient corridors to ensure that people and services are accessible during floods and that development along corridors is resilient over the long term.

The previous goals of the 2019 HMP have been replaced and incorporated into these five new goals in accordance with the explanation in the Multijurisdictional document.

Noted Hazard Mitigation Needs

During the course of this Plan development, specific hazard mitigation needs were noted.

- The town should consider a tree management plan to reduce losses from dead/dying trees.
- The town should consider an alert system for flooding to address concerns related to closed roads during storm events.
- The town should continue to work with Windham Water Works (located in Mansfield) on the grant from FEMA to look at resilience issues related to the reservoir and dam.
- The town should consider options for expanding their sewer system.

Status of Previous Mitigation Strategies and Actions

The Town of Mansfield reviewed the mitigation actions proposed in the 2019 HMP and determined the status of each. That information is included in the table below.

Table 20-3: Status of Previous Mitigation Strategies and Actions, Mansfield

No.	Action	Notes	Status
1	Encourage owners of private dams to develop EAPs and share with Town.	CIRCA staff advised to not carry forward any actions about private dams because the Town does not have the ability to take specific actions related to private dams. Attendees explained that private owners need to understand their requirements to take care of dams, and explained that the town needs an education system. Need a list/contact info for private dams and guidance for what they can put together for education (mailer, door-to-door). State provides a list of when dam needs to be inspected. How much is town vs state responsibility. Rewrite new action. All of dams are mapped in POCD. Overall, the discuss centered on the concept that people need to be managing their dams appropriately.	Carry Forward with Revision
2	Encourage owners of private dams to implement recommendations resulting from dam inspections.	See above. Rewrite	Carry Forward with Revision
3	Establish protocols for evaluation of snow loads on Town buildings.	CIRCA staff explained that actions about snow loads are typically related to lingering concerns from the February and October 2011 snowstorms. Attendees explained that anything that is built new is going to comply with CT state building code which considers drifting of snow. Town sends a standard communication if snow does start piling up. Complete/remove.	Complete/ Retire
4	Complete zoning regulation "clean up" to reflect hazard mitigation best practices. Address issues including potential cistern & dry hydrant requirements in new subdivisions, use of native species, and snow storage needs for streets.	Attendees noted a need to go through zoning regulations. Looking at native species. Have not updates subdivision regulations since 2011. The Town is planning for a full re-writeup of zoning regulations. Cistern and dry hydrants are in zoning regulations because they are not in fire planning codes. Largest issue is who maintains systems and waterways. Rewrite action.	Carry Forward with Revisions
5	Evaluate areas on Higgins Highway (Route 31) that have flooded during large events for possible mitigation actions.	CIRCA and the attendees will look at flood map to see if there is anything to be done here. Single family homes flooded in this area. Rewrite. Action about those structures and not the areas. General action about 31/32 area that is prone to flooding.	Carry Forward with Revisions
6	Implement recommendations resulting from inspections of Town-owned dams.	How many town owned dams there are and if they have been inspected. CIRCA and the Town will need to check on this.	Likely Complete/ Retire

No.	Action	Notes	Status
7	Improve north side of Bassetts Bridge Road west of the bridge crossing the Naubesatuck Lake; this section of road is frequently washed out in high water events.	Still floods. Continue.	Carry Forward
8	Conduct outreach to local small businesses with the aim of preventing the accidental release and pollution from chemicals stored and used at their facilities during or following natural hazard events.	The program at DEEP is over, there is no more funding. The Town believes the intent has been met through local outreach. Complete	No longer needed/Retire
9	Coordinate with NEMO and CRCOG to share resources and gain technical support for hazard mitigation actions involving stormwater management and public outreach, which have parallel benefits related to MS4 stormwater permit compliance.	Complete. Town participates in MS4 and additional technical assistance is not needed from NEMO.	Complete/ Retire
10	Make available information on natural disasters and preparedness on the Town's website with links to state and federal resources.	In the next 6 months the town website will be re designed. Can improve the depth of information on what is needed here. Rewrite	Carry Forward with Revisions
11	Make available literature on natural disasters and preparedness at Town Hall and the Library.	Complete.	Complete/ Retire
12	Participate in EMI courses or the seminars and annual conference held by the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers.	The assistant director is planning on attending the silver jackets workshop in June 2023, and other workshops and training sessions as needed. Complete/Capability.	Complete/ Retire
13	Conduct outreach efforts to educate and train residents on individual actions they can take to prepare for, survive, and recover from disaster events.	More geared towards citizens. Town send out info on monthly/quarterly newsletters. Certain areas of the community there are annual meeting. Complete/Capability	Complete/ Retire
14	Install an emergency generator at the Public Library.	Complete.	Complete/ Retire
15	Develop a list of best practices with regard to sustainable and resilient design to be incorporated into town projects when feasible.	The Town has started to reimagine municipal buildings with new construction in the next 5-10 years. Keep this action to ensure that the effort remains consistent with potential grants.	Carry Forward
16	Develop communication strategy to better inform public of parking restrictions during snow events. Use Facebook, Website and Code Red Reverse 911.	Use code red/social media. Complete/Capability	Complete/ Retire
17	Conduct a wildfire vulnerability and needs assessment to guide construction of additional dry hydrants and/or cisterns.	There will be a section in the plan about wildfires. A vulnerability assessment will be part of the plan update. Complete or replace with specific actions.	Carry Forward with Revisions

No.	Action	Notes	Status
18	Complete preparation of EAPs for Town-owned and maintained dams, as well as private ones where applicable.	Only required for class C and B. Complete.	Complete/ Retire
19	Contact the owners of Repetitive Loss Properties and nearby properties at risk to inquire about mitigation undertaken and suggest options for mitigating flooding in those areas. This should be accomplished with a letter directly mailed to each property owner.	These are properties that have flood insurance and made more than 2 claims in the last ten years. Mansfield does have a couple rep loss properties. Will check with CRCOG. Required if town has rep loss properties. Keep	Carry Forward
20	Monitor catch basins to determine whether switch away from sand has had an impact on basin filling.	This change has had an impact. Basins are cleaner/ easier to clean. Complete	Complete/ Retire
21	Seek Certification within the Sustainable CT program and make progress with the hazard mitigation goals associated with SustainableCT certified actions.	Certified Silver. Complete	Complete/ Retire
22	Work with CT DEEP to complete a formal validation of the Repetitive Loss Property list and update the mitigation status of each listed property.	Required by FEMA. Keep.	Carry Forward
23	Develop public education programming with regard to tree planting and maintenance on private property.	The Town may have never done this. Eversource conducts some education. Town does have a poster at town hall indicating tree species that should be planted near town hall. Rewrite to use trees species to manage extreme heat.	Carry Forward with Revisions
24	Coordinate with CT SHPO to conduct historic resource surveys, focusing on areas within natural hazard risk zones (such as flood or wildfire hazard zones and areas near steep slopes), to support identification of vulnerable historic properties and preparation of resiliency plans across the state. This action leverages existing resources and best practices for protection of historic and cultural resources through an ongoing statewide initiative by CT SHPO.	Rewrite. Use mapping product to understand risk to historic structures. The Town would like to see the layer. CIRCA staff noted that every year, there are a few more structures eligible due to the rolling lookback.	Carry Forward with Revision
25	Develop a public education program encouraging water conservation that utilizes UConn water usage alerts.	UConn tied into CT water. Messaging is out there. Complete.	Complete/ Retire
26	Educate property owners on vegetation clearing techniques that will reduce water runoff and reduce the amount of combustible fuel.	Is always necessary. The Town questions how they get it out. When they update the website could get more information out. Keep	Carry Forward

No.	Action	Notes	Status
27	Explore the feasibility of developing a microgrid that encompasses some or all of the following: Town Hall, Community Center, E.O. Smith High School, Library, Town Garage.	Microgrid is not happening. Generators at EO Smith, the Town Hall, and library. Rewrite to promote solar and batteries.	Carry Forward with Revisions
28	Improve and expand the Town's GIS system to assist town personnel in the event of an emergency of natural disaster.	GIS is set up well for this. Have a lot of layers for emergencies and natural disasters. Complete	Complete/ Retire

Active Mitigation Strategies and Actions

The Town proposed to initiate several new mitigation actions for the upcoming five years. Additionally, a number of actions from the previous planning period are being carried forward or replaced with revised actions. These are listed below.

Each of the following actions has been prioritized based on FEMA guidelines, listed from highest to lowest priority, and numbered.

Table 20-4: Active Mitigation Strategies and Actions, Mansfield

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EJ?	PERISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
MF1	Explore the feasibility of solar panels and batteries at some or all of the following: Town Hall, Community Center, E.O. Smith High School, Library, Town Garage.	Ensure that critical facilities are resilient, with special attention to shelters and cooling centers.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Chief Elected Official	$0-$10,000	DCRF; FEMA HMA	001/2025-12/2025	Medium	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	7	126
MF2	Establish a 24-hr. cooling center	Address risks associated with extreme heat events, especially as they interact with other hazards.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Emergency Management	$100,000 - $500,000	STEAP; Municipal CIP Budget; FEMA HMA	07/2024 - 06/2025	High	Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	4	76
MF3	Develop a comprehensive plan for the modernization and renovation of municipal buildings.	Ensure that critical facilities are resilient, with special attention to shelters and cooling centers.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Planning	$50,000 - $100,000	Municipal CIP Budget	07/2024 - 06/2025	Medium	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	4	72
MF4	Develop a list of best practices with regard to sustainable and resilient design to be incorporated into town projects when feasible.	More than one goal.	Natural Resources Protection	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	001/2025-12/2025	Medium	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133
MF5	Pursue funding for mitigating flood losses at buildings in the area at Perkins Corner.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and	Structural Project	Public Works	$50,000 - $100,000	FEMA HMA; STEAP; Municipal	07/2025 - 06/2027	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed	19	6	114

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EJ?	PERISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
		consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.				CIP Budget				Municipality			
MF6	Ensure that transportation and transit options are available to bring people to cooling centers.	Address risks associated with extreme heat events, especially as they interact with other hazards.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Emergency Management	$10,000 - $50,000	Transit; IIJA BBFP	07/2024 - 06/2026	High	Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	3	57
MF7	Address the maintenance of fire protection systems (cisterns and dry hydrants) through ordinances.	Reduce losses from other hazards.	Natural Resources Protection	Fire Department	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026-12/2026	High	Wildfires	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	9	180
MF8	Undertake a study of flood risks at the Perkins Corner Area.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Structural Project	Public Works	$50,000 - $100,000	DCRF; FEMA HMA	07/2024 - 06/2026	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	6	114
MF9	Improve north side of Bassetts Bridge Road west of the bridge crossing the Naubesatuck Lake; this section of road is frequently washed out in high water events.	Invest in resilient corridors to ensure that people and services are accessible during floods and that development along corridors is resilient over the long term.	Structural Project	Public Works	$500,000 - $1M	LOTCIP; IIJA AOP, BIP; STEAP	07/2024 - 06/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	4	80
MF10	Develop a list/contact info for private dam owners.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and	Property Protection	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	001/2025-12/2025	Medium	Dam Failure	Yes - Distressed	19	7	133

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EJ?	PERISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
		consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.								Municipality			
MF11	Develop guidelines and educational material for private dam owners on the proper Maintenance requirements for dams.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Education and Awareness	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026-12/2026	High	Dam Failure	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133
MF12	Ensure that options are available to help property owners make their water supply wells resilient to droughts, floods, and loss of capacity	More than one goal.	Water & Wastewater Utility Projects	Planning	$0-$10,000	DWSRF; FEMA HMA; STEAP	07/2025 - 06/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods/ Drought	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	10	200
MF13	Expand public water systems to areas served by private wells when needed to address drought impacts and provide fire protection	Reduce losses from other hazards	Water & Wastewater Utility Projects	Fire Department	>$1M	DWSRF; FEMA HMA; STEAP	07/2026 - 06/2028	High	Drought/Wildfire	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	8	160
MF14	Conduct a town wide assessment of stream crossings to identify vulnerabilities and develop a priority list for maintenance and upsizing.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Structural Project	Public Works	$10,000 - $50,000	DCRF; Municipal CIP Budget	07/2025 - 06/2027	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	6	114
MF15	Work with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to develop an appropriate scope of work to address flooding and extreme heat	More than one goal.	More than one type	Public Works	$0-$10,000	CIRCA	07/2024 - 06/2027	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods/ Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	5	95

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EJ?	PERISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
	concerns in Resilient Opportunity Areas (ROARs).												
MF16	Contact the owners of Repetitive Loss Properties and nearby properties at risk to inquire about mitigation undertaken and suggest options for mitigating flooding in those areas. This should be accomplished with a letter directly mailed to each property owner.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Property Protection	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026 - 12/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	7	140
MF17	Work with CT DEEP to complete a formal validation of the Repetitive Loss Property list and update the mitigation status of each listed property.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Property Protection	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026-12/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	5	100
MF18	Review the Connecticut Cultural Resource Information System (ConnCRIS) to identify and understand historic and archaeological resources in areas of hazard risks found here: https://conncris.ct.gov.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Property Protection	Planning	$0-$10,000	SHPO; Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026 - 12/2026	Medium	Wildfires/Tornadoes and High Winds/ Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	9	171
MF19	Plant native tree species near the town hall to manage extreme heat.	Address risks associated with extreme heat events, especially as they interact with other hazards.	Prevention	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	07/2025 - 06/2026	Low	Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EJ?	PERISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
MF20	Educate property owners on vegetation clearing techniques that will reduce water runoff and reduce the amount of combustible fuel.	More than one goal.	Education and Awareness	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2027-12/2027	Low	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	7	126
MF21	Conduct outreach to private property owners encouraging them to remove dangerous trees and branches on their property.	Reduce losses from other hazards.	Education and Awareness	Emergency Management	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2025 and annually during this month	Medium	Hurricanes and Tropical Storms/ Tornadoes and High Winds/ Severe Winter Storms	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	6	108
MF22	Increase the amount of information available on natural disasters and preparedness on the Town's website with links to state and federal resources.	More than one goal.	Education and Awareness	Planning	$0-$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	001/2025-12/2025	High	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133

Figure 20-1: CIRCA Environmental Justice Rank and Critical Facilities, Mansfield

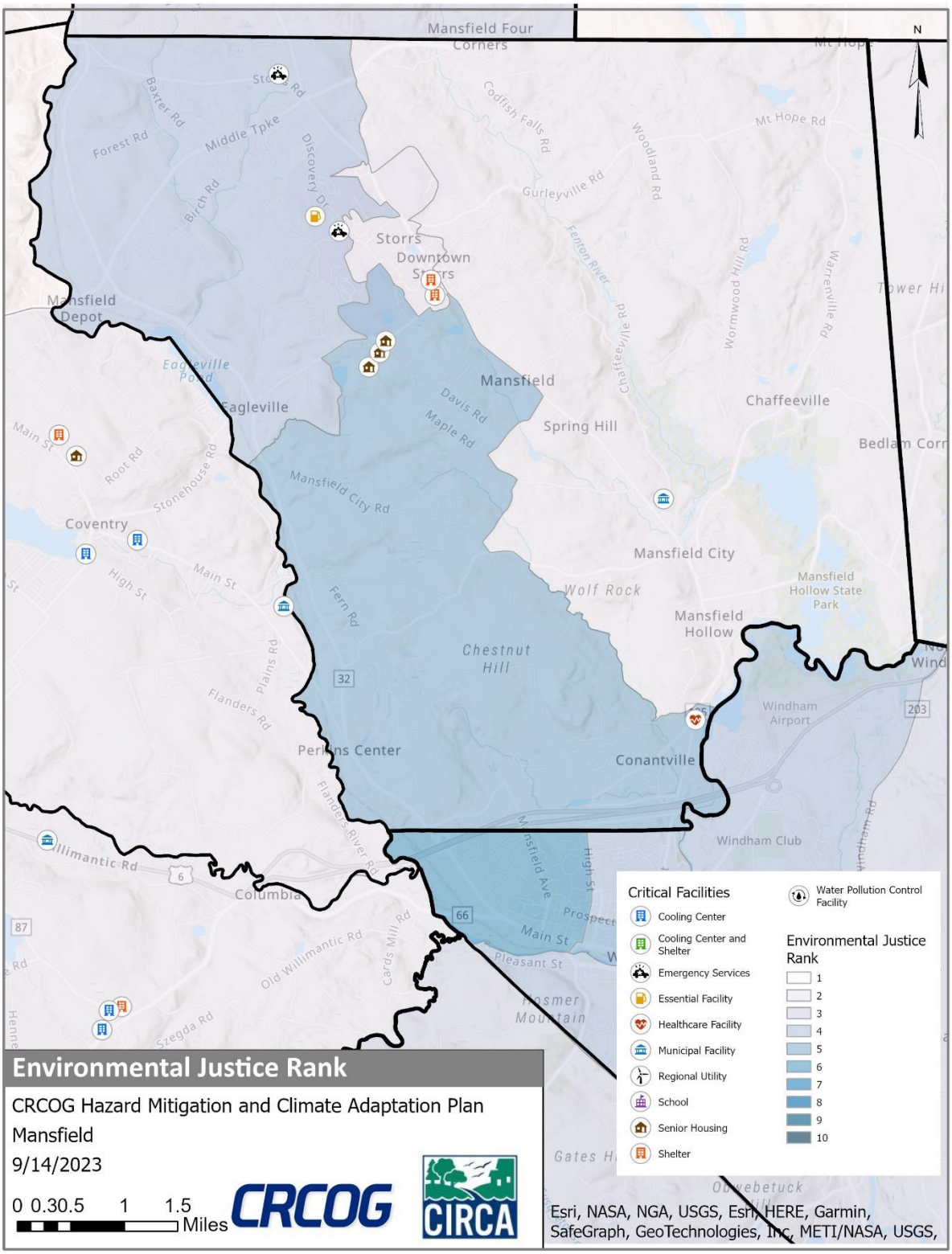

Figure 20-2: FEMA Flood Zones and Critical Facilities, Mansfield

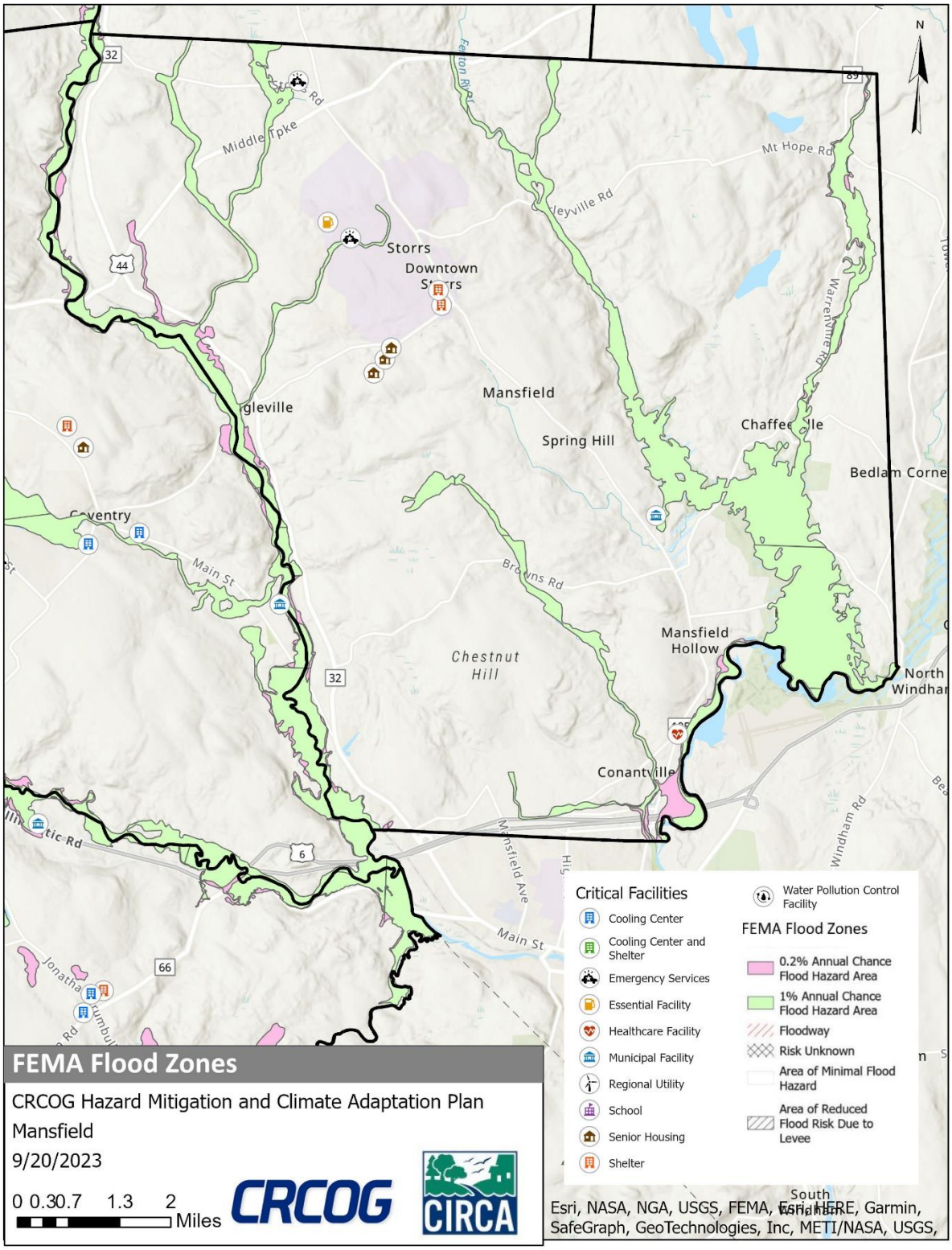

Figure 20-3: CIRCA Flood CCVI and Critical Facilities, Mansfield

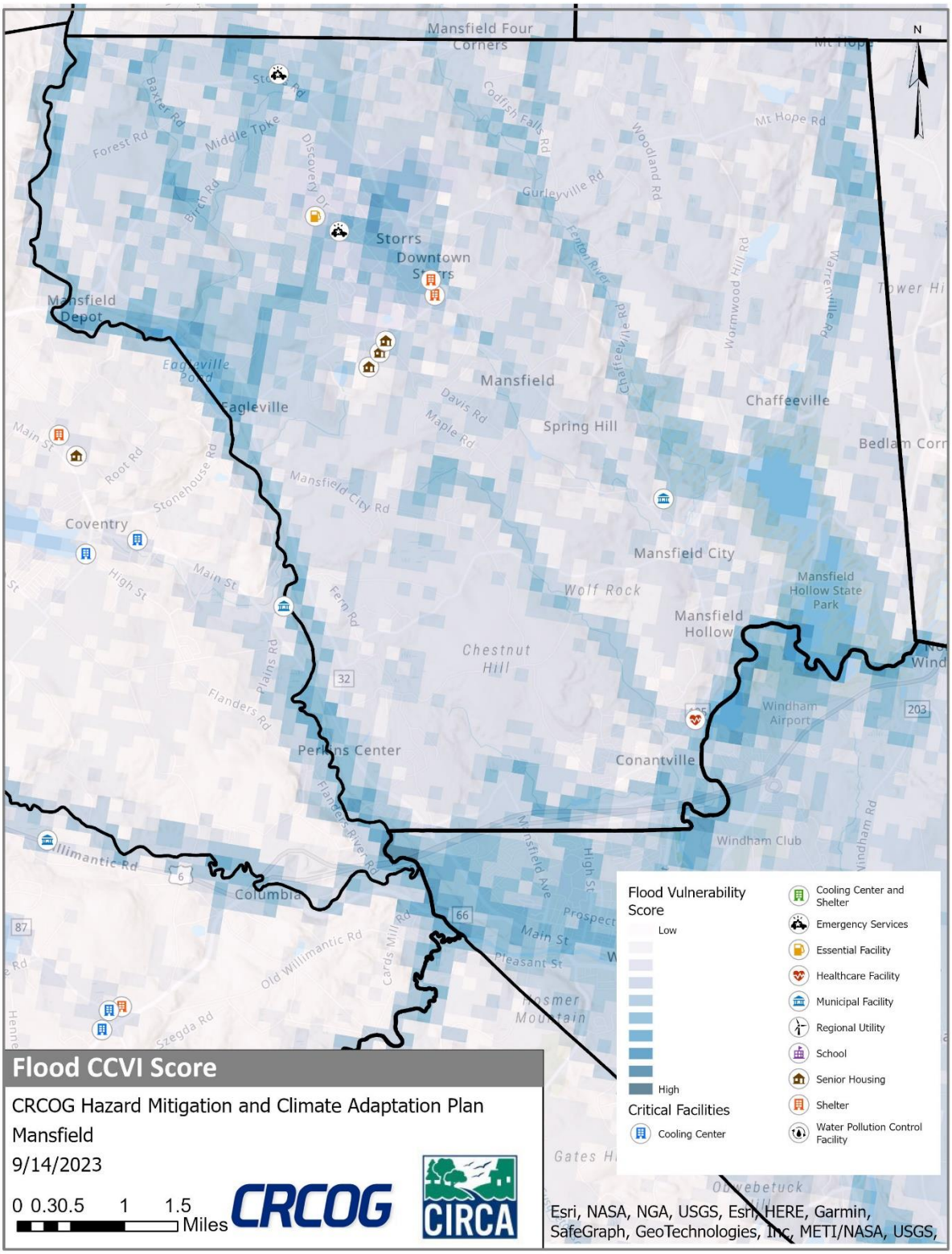

Figure 20-4: Dam Inundation Area and Critical Facilities, Mansfield

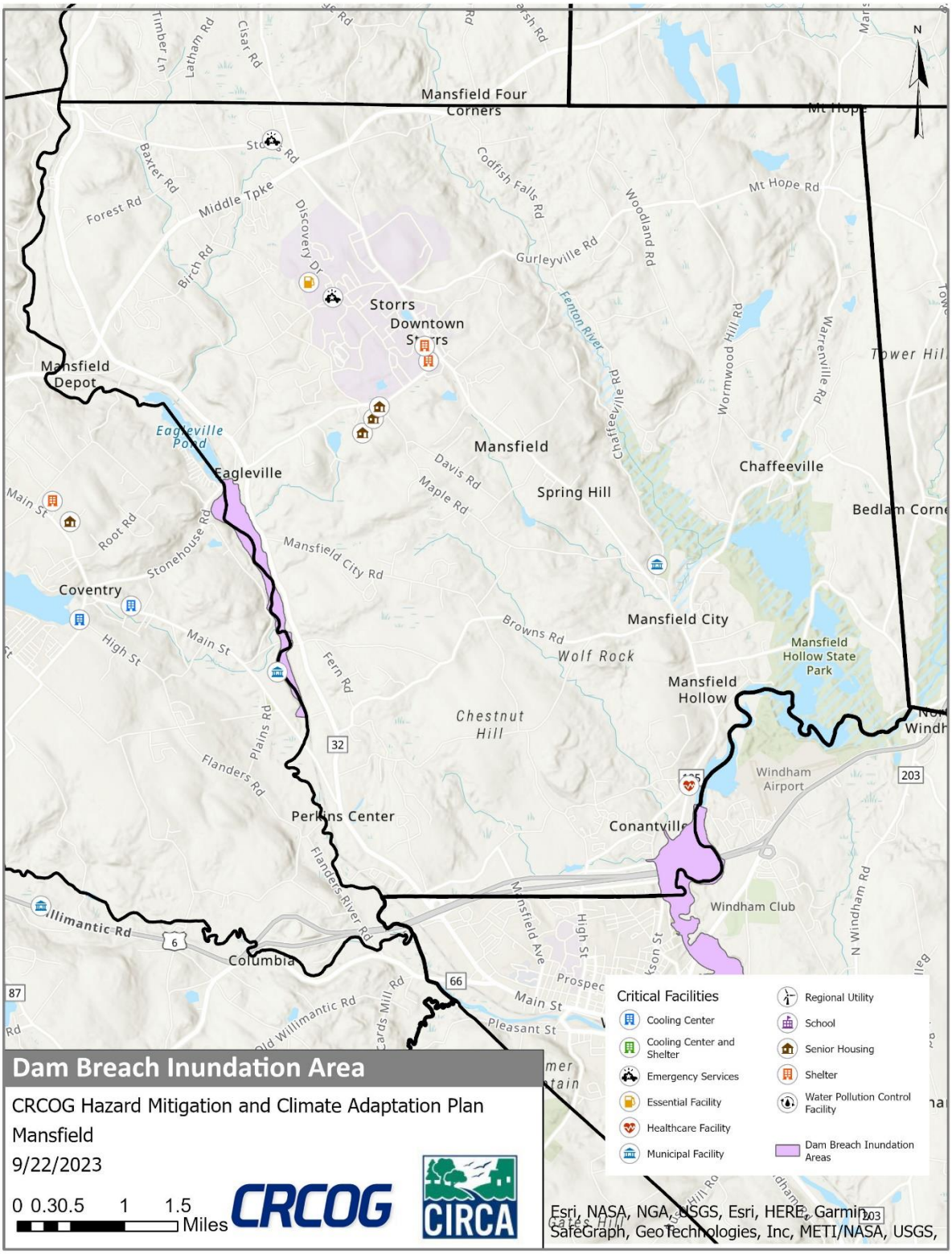

Figure 20-5: CIRCA Heat CCVI and Critical Facilities, Mansfield