



## 25 Rocky Hill

### Community Overview

Rocky Hill covers 13.9 square miles with a population of 20,845 (2020 Census). Elevation ranges from 30 feet to 400 feet. Land drains primarily to the Connecticut River Watershed, though the southwest portion of Town drains to the Mattabesset River. Major watercourses include the Connecticut River and Dividend, Goff, Hog, and Saw Mill Brooks. Principal transportation routes include Interstate 91 and State Routes 99, 3, 160 and 400. An active freight rail line, owned by Providence-Worcester Railroad, runs north-south along the Connecticut River. Paralleling the rail line is the Buckeye Jet Fuel line which runs from New Haven to Bradley International Airport. 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.

In Rocky Hill, development patterns are guided by stringent building codes and planning and zoning ordinances that prohibit construction within flood plains. Over the recent five-year period, the town has witnessed a moderate level of development, and this trend is expected to continue for the next three years. Predominantly, the development over the past half-decade has revolved around residential projects, and this emphasis on residential development is projected to persist in the foreseeable future. Development/redevelopment is not increasing risk to natural hazards.

### Critical Facilities

A number of critical facilities in Rocky Hill include the Police Station (Emergency Operations Center), Town Hall/Community Center, Public Library (back-up shelter and warming/cooling center), three volunteer fire stations, the High School (primary shelter), and West Hill School.

**Table 25-1: Critical Facilities, Rocky Hill**

Facility	Shelter	Cooling Center	Generator
Police Department (EOC)			X
Public Library		X	
3 Volunteer Fire Stations (EOC)	1st Responder		X
Community Center	Secondary	X	X
High School	Primary		X
West Hill School			
CT State Health Lab			
CNG natural gas storage facility			
MDC H2O Storage facility			
Algonquin Gas line			
VA Home & Hospital			X
Waste Water Pollution Control			X
Buckeye Fuel Line			
Town Hall			

During extreme heat events, Cora J. Belden Public Library and Rocky Hill Community Center can all be opened as public cooling centers. A generator is still needed for the library. The town has a portable military grade generator but it is not large enough to power the entire library. The Community Center has a generator and is used as a secondary shelter in town.

The High school is the shelter in the currently but the town staff think this will change soon. Town staff are not sure where the new location will be if it does change.

## Capabilities

Hazard mitigation is incorporated into Rocky Hill's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). POCD actions specifically address natural hazards.

The Town does not permit any new structures in flood zones, and in 2008 updated the Town Code Chapter 141, Flood Damage Prevention, in accordance with NFIP minimum standards.

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.

Rocky Hill is about 98% covered by hydrants on public water, operated by Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). A small section in the southwest corner adjacent to the Berlin town line is not hydranted, however specific Fire Department mutual aid agreements have secured water tankers to respond to this area if needed. There is a Town Ordinance requiring residents to clear snow from hydrants in front of their properties, as well as public notification reminders to do this. Mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities are in place for fire, police, and emergency response assistance.

The Town, in cooperation with the local power utility, has designated Century Hills Apartments as a first priority for power restoration due to a high concentration of apartments; the second priority is senior/over-55-adult housing developments.

Rocky Hill collects debris and has a designated area for debris disposal. The DPW has a budget of 25- to 30-thousand dollars per year to maintain trees, which has been sufficient.

The Town changed the location of the primary shelter to the high school in 2016; the building had undergone upgrades including a new generator, cafeteria, and auditorium. This facility can accommodate up to 2,000 people.

Recent bridge and culvert replacements include the Old Main Street Bridge on Golfbrook, which was structurally deficient, and the Frank Street culvert over Sawmill Brook, where two metal pipes were rotten.

Rocky Hill has adopted new MS4 stormwater runoff regulations, which is expected to lead to lowered peak flood flows, in addition to creating water quality benefits.

Since the 2019 HMP, no new actions have been incorporated as capabilities, thus capabilities to address natural hazards and the losses that they have caused, have not increased since the last plan has been adopted.

## Challenges

### Challenges Overview

The MDC wastewater treatment facility located in the northeast corner of Town is in the Connecticut River flood plain and at risk from a 1%-annual chance flood event.

When the Mattabeset River in Berlin floods, Saw Mill Brook also floods and renders the extreme western portion of France Street, the residences located there, and the Town of Berlin inaccessible. This road is used as a secondary access route for about 12 properties and one business. This road is not built up to any sort of standard and is likely that it was not originally intended to be a main access point. Additional areas of concern are Beach Road and Main Street (CT RT 99) near 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.

A primary concern is to maintain power at the Police Station/EOC, the Town Community Center/Town Hall (shelter) and the Library (backup shelter). The generators for the Police Station and the Library are in need of up-grading.

The town staff are concerned about the aging population in town. Staff reported that the town has a lot of age-restricted communities, and assisted living facilities. Town staff believe that all these facilities have generators. The town staff said that a while back, they had to open a shelter and found that dealing with the aging population was difficult. Town is unsure if they have the resources to take care of the aging population if a shelter needs to be opened, such as cots/emergency kits/etc.

Town staff said the town has a lot of agricultural land that is in the flood plain. This land floods every spring and the farmers suffer losses regularly.

Town staff report there are some culverts that need repair but that these repairs are within the town's ability to handle and the culverts are not causing flooding issues.

There are several significant concerns related to MDC facilities, but the town has been in communication with MDC and the action that needs to be taken is on the side of MDC. Town staff reported that MDC is aware of the problem areas. Town staff identified the following areas of concern:

- Goff Brook – the Rocky Hill Water Pollution Control Facility located at 80 Goff Brook Lane is located here and has experienced flooding.
- Flooding along Waterchase Drive.
- Flooding along Silas Dean. Town staff suggested this might be related to a state culvert rather than to MDC.
- Pump station on Main St and Brook St
- Pump station on Pratt St.

## 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 Rocky Hill. 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 CROCG 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 25-2: Average Annualized Losses, Rocky Hill**

Hazard	Source	Average Annualized Losses (AAL)
Hurricanes/Tropical storms	NCEI	\$53,568.08
	NRI	\$765,838.82
	FEMA PA	\$35,293.39
Tornados/High Winds	NCEI	\$20,054.91
	NRI	\$191,140.07
Winter Storms	NCEI	\$15,887.07
	NRI	\$11,970.86
	FEMA PA	\$8,791.16
Flood	NCEI	\$16,237.25
	NRI	\$56,382.57
	NFIP	\$1,272.12
Drought	NRI	\$90,863.82
	USDA	\$101,619.70
Extreme Heat	NRI	\$23,960.62
Wildfire	NRI	\$879.90
Earthquakes	NRI	\$49,610.23
Dam Failure	HMP	\$35.00

### *Losses Summary*

A review of the above loss estimates demonstrates that the Town of Rocky Hill 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 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

Over the course of Plan development, multiple hazard mitigation needs were noted:

- The town should assess the capacity of the shelters and ensure the town has the capability to meet the needs of different vulnerable populations.
- Acquire generators for critical facilities.
- Continue ways to pursue installing a box culvert on Beach Road and raising the road above the 1% annual-chance flood elevation.
- Continue to work with MDC to identify potential hazard mitigation actions for MDC facilities.
- Continue to prioritize and repair culverts.
- Town staff should participate in flood related training.

## Status of Previous Mitigation Strategies and Actions

The Town of Rocky Hill reviewed the mitigation actions proposed in the 2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update and determined the status of each. That information is included in the table below.

**Table 25-3: Status of Previous Mitigation Strategies and Actions, Rocky Hill**

No.	Action	Notes	Status
1	Apply for funding through the State local bridge program to install a box culvert on Beach Road and raising the road above the 1% annual-chance flood elevation.	Town staff said this bridge didn't qualify for the local bridge program. The town didn't apply because they didn't meet the parameters. This is still of great interest to the town to install the culvert and raise the road.	Carry forward with Revisions
6	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.	Town staff said they were aware of one repetitive loss property that had already been acquired by the town and turned into a park. They reported that there might be one more but they were not sure of the location. CIRCA staff explained that the Town could request the list from FEMA if they were interested in learning the address of the RL property.	Carry Forward
3	Coordinate with NEMO and CROCOG 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.	Town staff said they are compliant with MS4.	Complete/Retire
5	Work with MDC to identify potential hazard mitigation actions for MDC facilities, and list those actions in the next HMP Update.	<p>There are several significant concerns related to MDC facilities, but the town has been in communication with MDC and the action that needs to be taken is on the side of MDC. Town staff reported that MDC is aware of the problem areas.</p> <p>Town staff identified the following areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goff Brook – the MDC treatment plant is located here. (CIRCA staff follow-up suggests this is the Rocky Hill Water Pollution Control Facility located at 80 Goff Brook Lane). This location has experienced flooding.</li> <li>• Flooding along Waterchase Drive</li> <li>• Flooding along Silas Dean. Town staff suggested this might be related to a state culvert rather than to MDC.</li> <li>• Pump station on Main St and Brook St</li> <li>• Pump station on Pratt St.</li> </ul>	Carry Forward with Revisions.

No.	Action	Notes	Status
2	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.	Town staff said they have a few businesses for whom this action is relevant and would like to leave this action in.	Carry Forward
7	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.	Town staff would like to revise this action to acquire and review the SHPO layer.	Carry Forward with Revisions
4	Participate in EMI courses or the seminars and annual conference held by the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers.	Town staff said they have not yet participated in flood- related trainings but this is an interest.	Carry Forward

## 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 25-4: Active Mitigation Strategies and Actions, Rocky Hill**

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	PERISTS x STAPLEE =
RH1	Assess the capacity of the shelters and ensure the town has the capability to meet the needs of different vulnerable populations.	Ensure that critical facilities are resilient, with special attention to shelters and cooling centers.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Emergency Management	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2025 - 12/2025	High	All Hazards	No	19	7	133
RH2	Acquire a generator for the town library.	Ensure that critical facilities are resilient, with special attention to shelters and cooling centers.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Emergency Management	\$100,000 - \$500,000	FEMA HMA; STEAP	07/2024 - 06/2025	High	All Hazards	No	19	5	95
RH3	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; IJJA BBFP	07/2024 - 06/2026	Medium	Extreme Heat	No	18	3	54
RH4	Apply for funding to install a box culvert on Beach Road and raising the road above the 1% annual-chance flood elevation.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Structural Project	Public Works	\$500,000 - \$1M	STEAP; IJJA AOP; FEMA HMA	07/2024 - 06/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	No	19	4	76
RH5	Conduct an assessment of France Street, situated near the Berlin line in Rocky Hill, to address access concerns and	Invest in resilient corridors to ensure that people and services are accessible during floods and that development along	Structural Project	Public Works	\$50,000 - \$100,000	STEAP; Municipal CIP Budget	07/2025 - 06/2027	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	No	18	6	108



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)	EI?	PERISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERISTS x STAPLEE =
	determine necessary road improvements.	corridors is resilient over the long term.											
RH6	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/Tidal Connecticut River Flooding	No	18	6	108
RH7	Work with MDC to address flooding concerns at the Rocky Hill Water Pollution Control Facility, Waterchase Drive, the Pump station on Main St and Brook St and Pratt St.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Water & Wastewater Utility Projects	Planning	\$500,000 - \$1M	CWSRF; FEMA HMA; STEAP	07/2026 - 06/2027	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	No	19	6	114
RH8	Work with MDC to address flooding concerns at Waterchase Drive.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Water & Wastewater Utility Projects	Public Works	\$500,000 - \$1M	CWSRF; FEMA HMA; STEAP	07/2026 - 06/2027	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	No	19	6	114
RH9	Work with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to develop an appropriate scope of work to address flooding and extreme heat concerns in Resilient Opportunity Areas (ROARs).	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/Tidal Connecticut River Flooding	No	18	5	90
RH10	Contact the owners of Repetitive Loss Properties and nearby properties at risk to inquire about mitigation undertaken and	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as	Property Protection	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026 - 12/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	No	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	PERISTS x STAPLEE =
	suggest options for mitigating flooding in those areas. This should be accomplished with a letter directly mailed to each property owner.	climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.											
RH11	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.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Prevention	Emergency Management	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2025 - 12/2025	Low	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	No	18	7	126
RH12	Review the Connecticut Cultural Resource Information System (ConnCRIS) to identify and understand historic and archaeological resources in areas of hazard risks found here: <a href="https://conncris.ct.gov">https://conncris.ct.gov</a> .	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	No	18	9	162
RH13	Participate in EMI courses or the seminars and annual conference held by the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Education and Awareness	Floodplain Manager	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2025 and annually during this month	Medium	All Hazards	No	17	6	102
RH14	Update town website to include hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness tips for town residents, including sections corresponding to each hazard considered in this Plan Update.	More than one goal.	Education and Awareness	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2025 - 12/2025	Medium	All Hazards	No	17	7	119

Figure 25-1: CIRCA Environmental Justice Rank and Critical Facilities, Rocky Hill

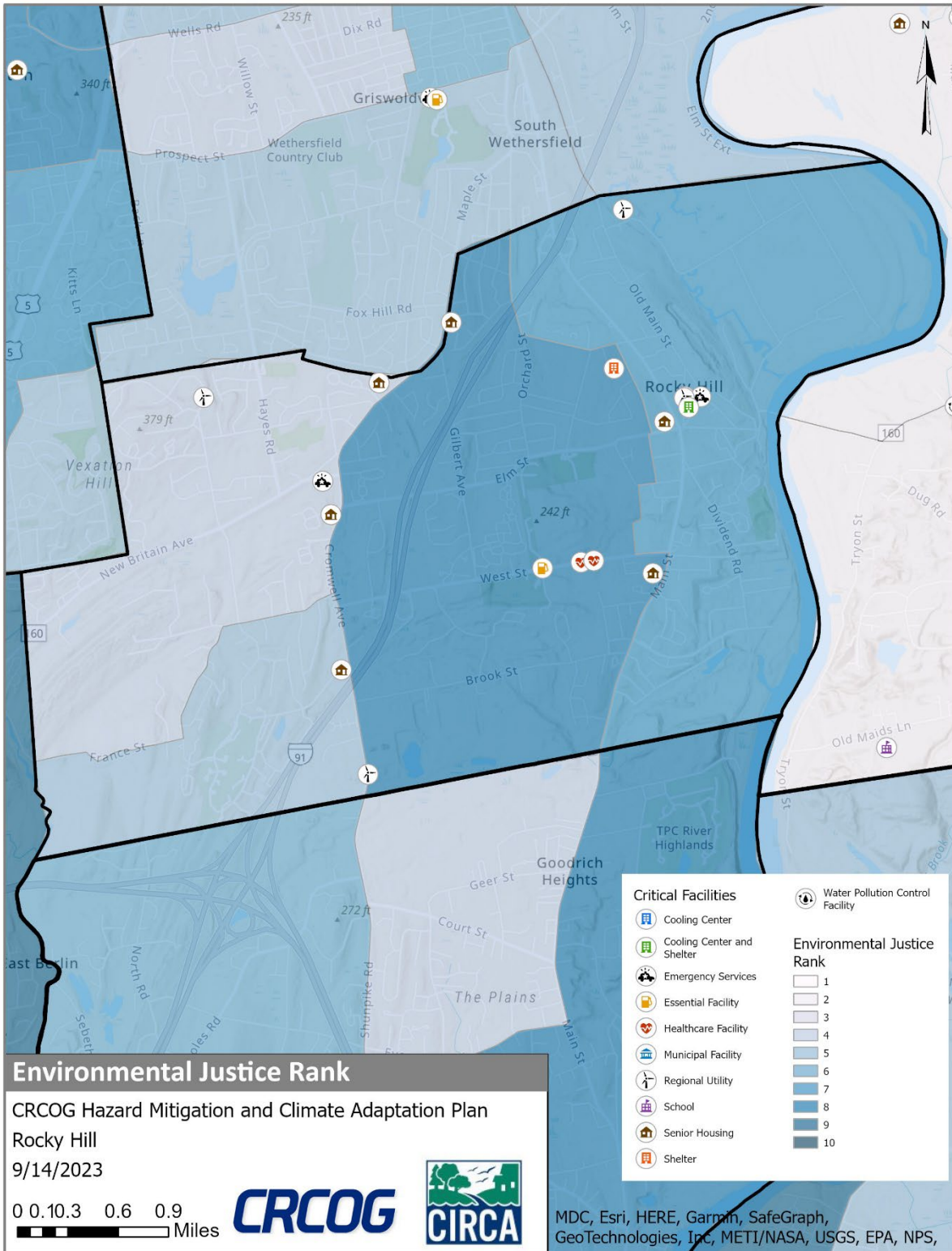


Figure 25-2: FEMA Flood Zones and Critical Facilities, Rocky Hill

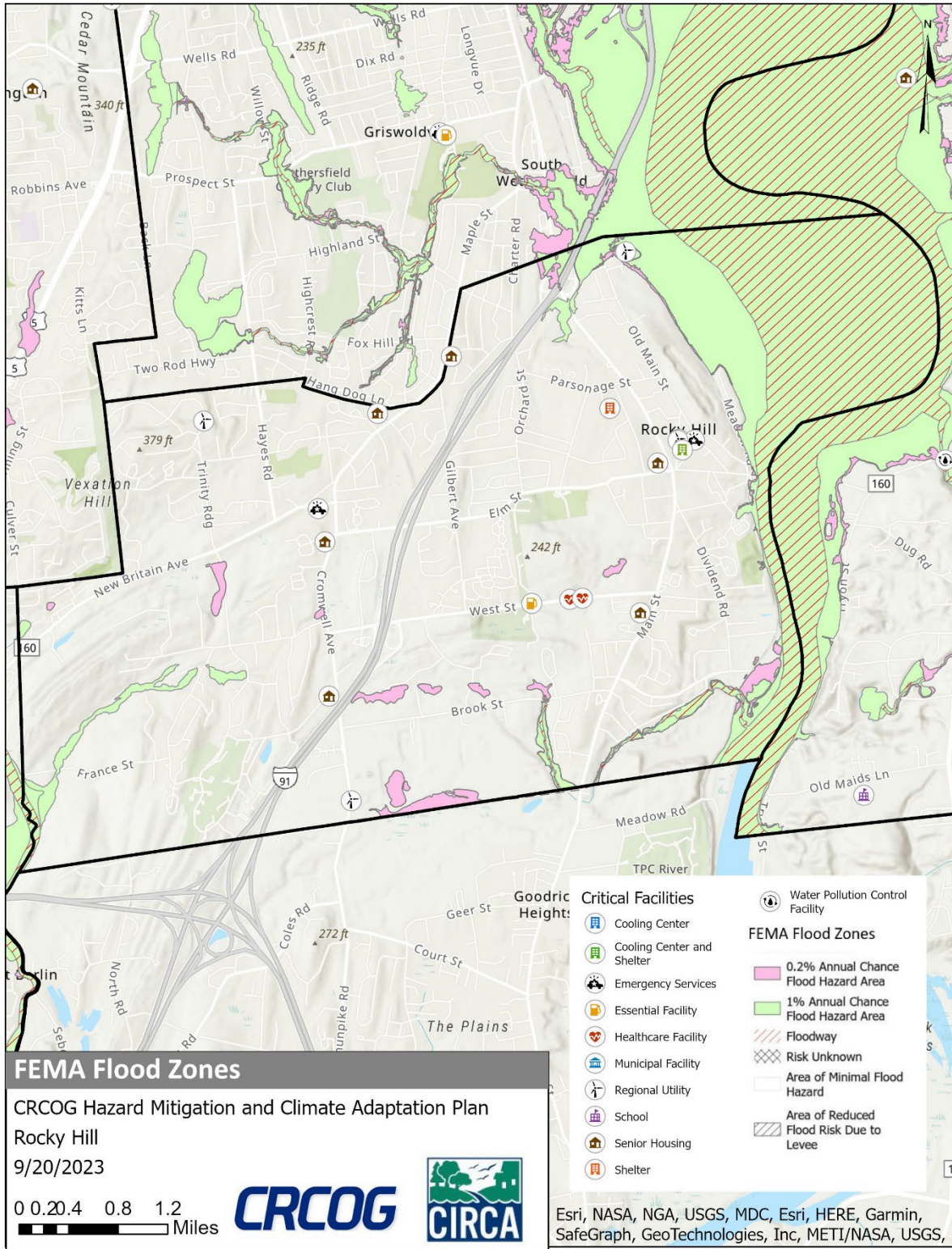


Figure 25-3: CIRCA Flood CCVI and Critical Facilities, Rocky Hill

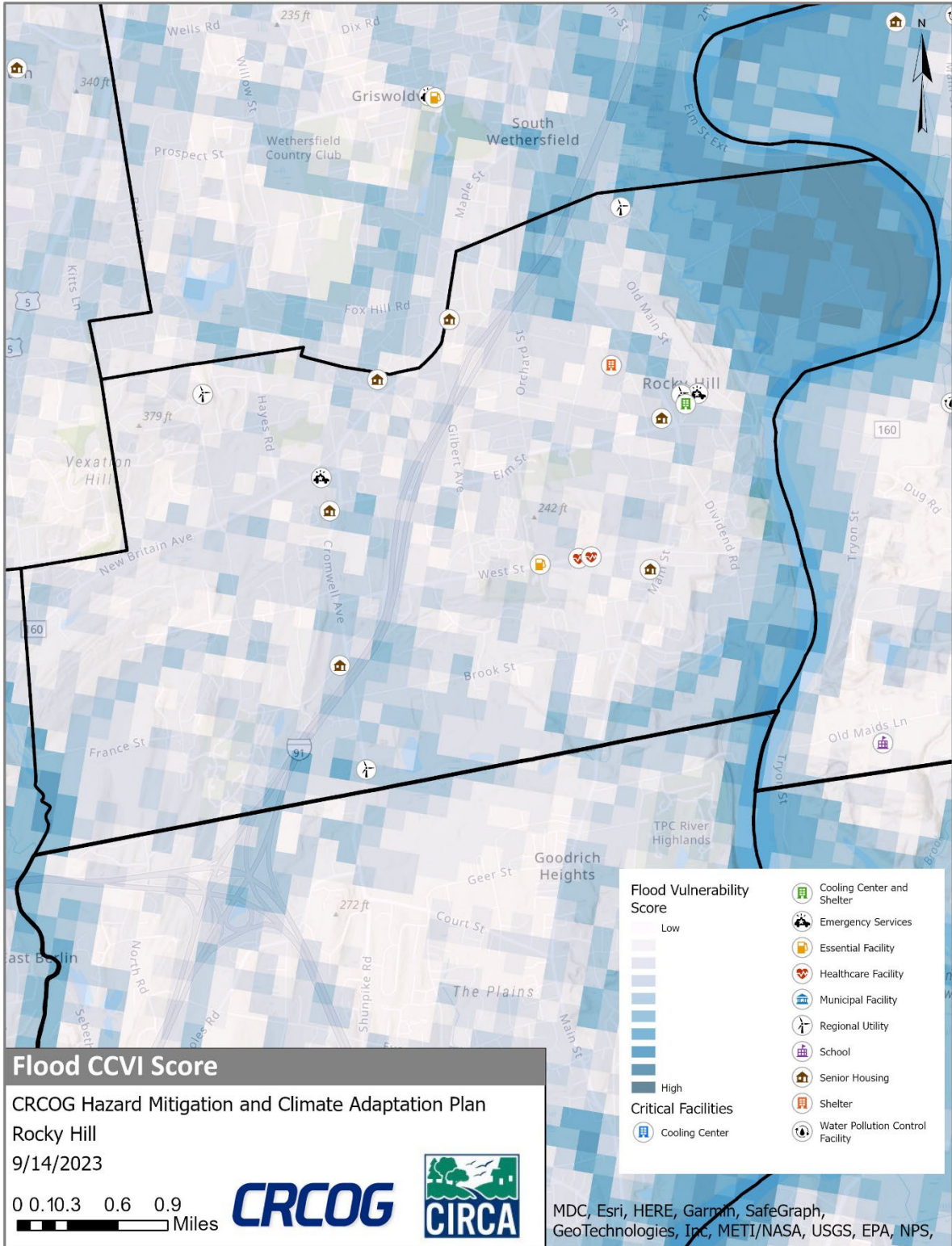


Figure 25-4: Dam Inundation Area and Critical Facilities, Rocky Hill

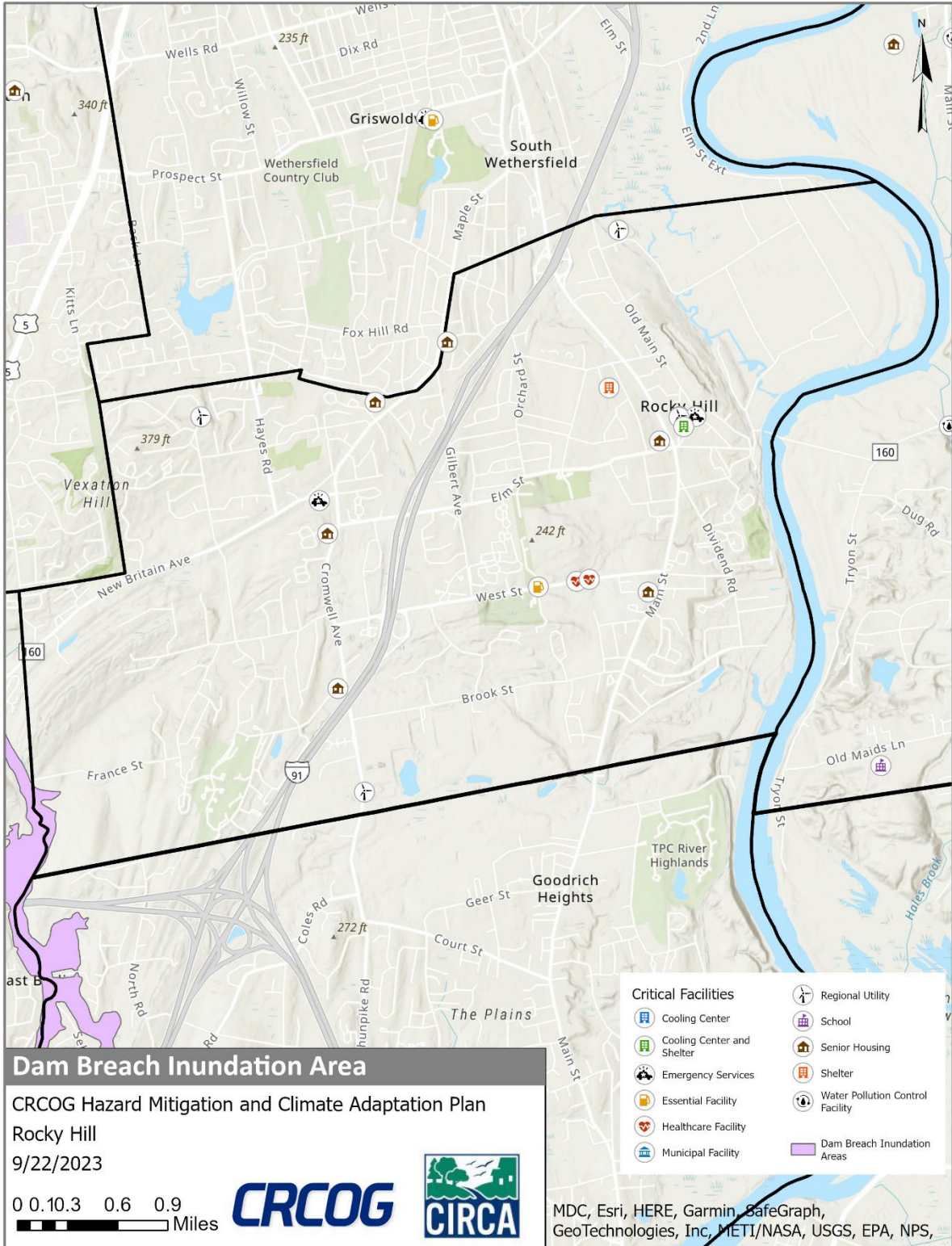


Figure 25-5: CIRCA Heat CCVI and Critical Facilities, Rocky Hill

