



Village of Waterford NYRCR Plan

Summary of Needs and Opportunities; Strategies; and Projects, Programs, and Actions

Community Planning and Capacity Building: These actions should present ways the community will restore or enhance its ability to organize, plan, manage, and implement recovery.

- Need: Consolidate and strengthen emergency response facilities and services.
- Strategy: Coordinate communication between emergency response organizations and residents before, during, and after emergency events.
 - Project: Develop multi-media communications plan, coordinated with the NYS Canal Corporation and the Governor's new flood warning system.
 - Project: Establish a database and reporting system for residents to check-in and -out when evacuating and returning to residences. The database should include all residences in the Village including each unit of multi-unit residences and be accessible remotely to residents and emergency services. System functionalities should include mechanisms for messaging and posting alternate contact information for evacuating residents.
- Strategy: Augment emergency services personnel with trained residents.
 - Project: Establish a Community Emergency Response Team to augment emergency services personnel during flood and other emergencies.
- Strategy: Identify alternate locations for an Emergency Operations Center including communications plans and equipment needs.
 - Project: Create a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Need: Flood education for community members to equip them to make informed decisions regarding insurance coverage and structural improvements to properties, waterway management, and personal preparedness for flood emergencies.
- Strategy: Hold workshops to provide education to homeowners, business owners, and residents.
 - Project: Initiate a series of monthly workshops held at the Senior Center. Potential speakers include: subject matter experts; representatives from state agencies, federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program; and public officials. Workshop series should be offered bi-annually or as decided by the Village Board of Trustees. Topics covered may include:
 - Means available to make structures more resilient, and technical and funding opportunities;
 - Financial and technical assistance available to property owners including navigating the processes (completion of required forms, information required, etc.);



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- The methodology used to produce the Base Flood Elevation, recent federal legislation affecting flood insurance premiums, and the status of the current review of flood insurance rate maps;
 - Economic analysis of the impacts of flood insurance on the Village;
 - Management of the canalway system; and
 - Creating a storm essentials kit/go bag for evacuation or shelter in place (contents to include phone numbers, process for check-in and -out with emergency services, list of personal items to include, checklists/reminders/quick reference guides).
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- Need: Strengthen fire companies' ability to help property owners in need of assistance with pumping floodwater. Current equipment is inadequate, and facilities are unable to accommodate modern vehicles due to small size of old buildings.
 - Strategy: Augment emergency response equipment and consolidate fire services and in a new facility.
 - Project: Short-term: Obtain portable water pumps, personal protective equipment, generators, transport vehicle, and other response equipment for existing fire companies. Allocate funding to buy equipment. Consult with fire companies to determine specifications. Distribute equipment to the requesting fire companies.
 - Project: Long-term: Build a new firehouse outside the floodzone which can accommodate modern equipment (trucks, etc.) and provide a secure facility for equipment storage.
 - Need: Residents and business owners need technical services for building repair and renovation in advance of, and following, flood events.
 - Strategy: Create a list of local contractors.
 - Project: Develop a pamphlet or database of skilled local contractors (engineering, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc) that can provide flood proofing and repair services to residents and business owners pre- and post-flood.



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Economic Development: These actions should present ways the community will return economic and business activities to a state of health, and to develop new economic opportunities.

- Need: Flood mitigation while strengthening neighborhood-oriented and tourism-related business.
- Strategy: Identify improvements to strengthen canal harbor facilities and other waterfront access enhancements to be better able to cope with future flooding events, as well as to enhance water-related tourism.
- Strategy: Strengthen partnerships with the NYS Canal Corporation, Canal Recreationway Commission and Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, to maintain heritage and build economy.
- Strategy: Improve streetscapes to better manage flooding, which also strengthens the business district, increases attractiveness for residents and tourists, and encourages investment and upkeep, and contributes to increased property values.
 - Project: Design and construction of streetscape improvements throughout the Village which utilize green infrastructure aimed at strengthening the business district, as well as better managing flood waters. Additional improved streetscapes will complement those already complete and contribute to visual attractiveness for residents and tourists, increased homeowner investment and upkeep, and increased home values.



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Health and Social Services: These actions should address how the community will restore and improve essential health and social services, particularly those that serve vulnerable populations.

- Need: Identify and make use of community meeting space for vulnerable populations and during emergencies.
- Strategy: Improve the Village's community services and facilities to protect and serve vulnerable populations, particularly during flood events.
 - Project: Identification, design and construction or renovation of an appropriate facility for the provision of the services and shelter.
- Need: Persons with medical needs are especially vulnerable during flood emergencies.
- Strategy: Establish a register of persons with home medical equipment or other medical needs to ensure they receive needed resources during flood emergencies.
 - Project: Establish and advertise a database for voluntary population by residents with special medical needs such as those with home medical equipment (home dialysis units, oxygen, etc.) that runs on electricity, mobility challenges (wheelchair users), or other conditions (deafness, blindness, etc.) which may require specialized attention or resources.



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Housing: These actions should address how the community will restore and/or otherwise address residential buildings at risk for future storm conditions.

- Need: Flood proofing structures in a densely populated historical district. Properties remain at risk from water levels like those produced by Hurricane Irene. It is theorized that in some cases the cost of elevating a home would be less than the cost of the last claim due to storm damage.
- Strategy: Reduce the risk of flood damage to homes throughout the Village, particularly those which have seen repeated flood damage.
 - Project: Create an opt-in program for a community home elevation program. Provide funding and education to homeowners for home elevation and other flood proofing options. The program would include establishing accurate building elevations, elevating home, owner education, and technical and financial assistance. Preference must be given to homes which were damaged by recent storm events, but the program should be structured to include all residents in established flood zones who wish to participate, and would continue until funding is exhausted. This program would have co-benefits including economic development, reduction in flood insurance rates, reduction in the number of properties at risk of being damaged by the next flood, and the potential to increase off-street parking for residents.
- Need: Address chronically flood damaged and abandoned homes in the Village.
- Strategy: Work through U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs to purchase and demolish abandoned homes and for redevelopment as green space that mitigate flood impacts.
 - Project: Identify specific properties which have been damaged severely and/or repetitively due to flooding or that have been, by the Village determined to be abandoned. Purchase and demolish these homes and use the properties for community garden space or other green types of usage that mitigate flood impacts.



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Infrastructure: These actions should express how a community will restore, repair, and manage essential services the local government provides through its infrastructure in the community.

- Need: Uninterrupted electrical power supply to emergency service facilities.
- Strategy: Avoid electrical disruption to emergency services locations during emergency events.
 - Project: Install backup power generation at Village fire stations. Leverage financing incentives to install rooftop solar power systems and battery backup power.

- Need: Village infrastructure systems that protect against severe flooding.
- Strategy: Undertake streetscape improvements which incorporate green infrastructure aimed at better managing floodwaters.
 - Project: Survey and select streets to incorporate these improvements, followed by preparation of project specific plans and cost estimates.

- Need: Fire prevention during re-energizing of utilities within business and residential structures.
- Strategy: Ensure building utilities are undamaged and safe for re-energizing.
 - Program: Institute a program for inspection of building utilities prior to reactivation of electricity; and a protocol for communications with public utilities to ensure inspections and reactivation are coordinated.



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Natural and Cultural Resources: These actions will address management of natural and cultural resources from a risk reduction and economic development perspective.

- Need: Preserve and enhance the historic character of the Village.
- Strategy: Protect the historic resources of the Village which constitute a large portion of the building stock and serve as the Village's most important cultural resources.
 - Project: Identify contributing assets, and then establish design guidelines and programs for better fortifying these assets against flooding impacts. In the longer term, establish a program to better educate and directly assist property owners with flood proofing measures. Way finding to properties should also be included.
- Need: Address flooding issues north of Broad Street.
- Strategy: Protect and enhance the capacity of wetlands, particularly those in the north end of the Village, to better manage flood waters.
 - Project: Study, design and construct improvements and enhancements, including but not limited to culvert modifications to manage excess stormwater in the area of the wetlands.