



9.17 TOWN OF FREEDOM

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Freedom. It includes resources and information to assist public and private sectors to reduce losses from future hazard events. This annex is not guidance of what to do when a disaster occurs. Rather, this annex concentrates on actions that can be implemented prior to a disaster to reduce or eliminate damage to property and people. This annex includes a general overview of the municipality and who in the town participated in the planning process; an assessment of the Town of Freedom’s risk and vulnerability; the different capabilities utilized in the town; and an action plan that will be implemented to achieve a more resilient community.

9.17.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

The following individuals have been identified as the Town of Freedom’s hazard mitigation plan primary and alternate points of contact.

Table 9.17-1. Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Name/Title: James Haggerty/ Highway Supervisor Address: 1188 Eagle Street Freedom NY 14065 Phone Number: 716-492-1998 Email: jhaghwsuper@gmail.com	Name/Title: Randy Lester/ Town Supervisor Address: 645 Freedom Rd. Freedom, NY 14065 Phone Number: (716) 492-0961 Email:freedomssupervisor@gmail.com
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	
Name/Title: Randy Lester/ Town Supervisor Address: 645 Freedom Rd. Freedom, NY 14065 Phone Number: (716) 492-0961 Email:freedomssupervisor@gmail.com	

9.17.2 Municipal Profile

The Town of Freedom is located in the northeast corner of Cattaraugus County in western New York State. The Town of Freedom has a total area of 40.67 square miles. The town is bordered to the north by Arcade in Wyoming. To the east of the town is the Town of Centerville in Allegany County, west are the towns of Yorkshire and Machias and the Town of Farmersville is to the south.

There are four hamlets located within the Town of Freedom. The four hamlets are Elton, Fairview, Freedom, and Sandusky. The estimated 2018 population was 2,276, a 3.4 percent decrease in population from 2010 (2,356 persons).

Data from the 2018 U.S. Census American Community Survey indicate that 8.6 percent of the town population is 5 years of age or younger and 23.2 percent is 65 years of age or older. Communities must deploy a support system that enables all populations to safely reach shelters or to quickly evacuate a hazard area.

History and Cultural Resources

The town was first settled in 1811 and founded in 1820. It was split from the Town of Franklinville and a portion of the town became the Town of Yorkshire in 1844.

9.17.3 Growth/Development Trends

Understanding how past, current, and projected development patterns have or are likely to increase or decrease risk in hazard areas is a key component to understanding a jurisdiction’s overall risk to its hazards of concern.





Table 9.17-2 summarizes recent and expected future development trends, including major residential/commercial development and major infrastructure development. **Error! Reference source not found.** at the end of this annex illustrates the geographically-delineated hazard areas and the location of potential new development, where available.

Table 9.17-2. Recent and Expected Future Development

Type of Development	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
Number of Building Permits for New Construction Issued Since the Previous HMP* (within regulatory floodplain/ Outside regulatory floodplain)										
	Total	Within SFHA	Total	Within SFHA	Total	Within SFHA	Total	Within SFHA	Total	Within SFHA
Single Family	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures		Location (address and/or block and lot)		Known Hazard Zone(s)*		Description / Status of Development		
Recent Major Development and Infrastructure from 2014 to Present										
N/A										
Known or Anticipated Major Development and Infrastructure in the Next Five (5) Years										
Alle-Catt	Commercial	25 Windmills		Near border of Allegany County		None		-		

SFHA Special Flood Hazard Area (1% flood event)

* Only location-specific hazard zones or vulnerabilities identified.

9.17.4 Capability Assessment

The Town of Freedom performed an inventory and analysis of existing capabilities, plans, programs, and policies that enhance its ability to implement mitigation strategies. Section 6.4 (Capability Assessment) describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning. This section summarizes the following findings of the assessment:

- An assessment of legal and regulatory capabilities.
- Development and permitting capabilities.
- An assessment of fiscal capabilities.
- An assessment of education and outreach capabilities.
- Information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance.
- Classification under various community mitigation programs.
- The community’s adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change.

For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into the day-to-day local government operations. As part of this planning effort, planning/policy documents were reviewed, and each jurisdiction was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of their progress in plan integration. Areas with current mitigation integration are summarized in Capability Assessment (Section 9.17.4). The Town of Freedom identified specific integration activities that will be incorporated into municipal procedures are included in the updated mitigation strategy. Appendix H provides the results of the planning/policy document review.



Planning, Legal, and Regulatory Capability

The table below summarizes the regulatory tools that are available to the Town of Freedom and where hazard mitigation has been integrated.

Table 9.17-3. Planning, Legal, and Regulatory Capability

	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Code Citation and Date (code chapter, name of plan, date of plan)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Department / Agency Responsible	State Mandated	Has this been integrated?	
						If no - can it be a mitigation action?	
Codes, Ordinances, & Requirements							
Building Code	No	-	-	-	Yes	No	2020-Freedom-011
Comment: none							
Zoning Code	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Subdivisions	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Stormwater Management	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment: none							
Post-Disaster Recovery	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: None							
Real Estate Disclosure	Yes	Property Condition Disclosure Act, NY Code - Article 14 §460-467	State	NYS Department of State, Real Estate Agent	Yes	Yes	-
Comment: none							
Growth Management	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Site Plan Review	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Environmental Protection	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment: none							
Flood Damage Prevention	Yes	1991	Local	Town Supervisor	Yes - BFE+2 feet for all construction in the SFHA (residential and non-residential)	No	2020-Freedom-002
Comment: none							
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment: none							
Emergency Management	No	-	-	-	Yes	No	2020-Freedom-010



	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Code Citation and Date (code chapter, name of plan, date of plan)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Department / Agency Responsible	State Mandated	Has this been integrated?	
						If no - can it be a mitigation action?	
Comment: None							
Climate Change	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment: None							
Disaster Recovery Ordinance	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Disaster Reconstruction Ordinance	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Other	No	-	-	-	-	-	-
Planning Documents							
Comprehensive Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Capital Improvement Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Disaster Debris Management Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Floodplain or Watershed Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: None							
Stormwater Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Open Space Plan	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment: none							
Urban Water Management Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Habitat Conservation Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Economic Development Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: none							
Shoreline Management Plan	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment: none							
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: None							
Forest Management Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment: None							



	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Code Citation and Date (code chapter, name of plan, date of plan)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Department / Agency Responsible	State Mandated	Has this been integrated?	
						If no - can it be a mitigation action?	
Transportation Plan	No	-	-	-	No	No	-
Comment: none							
Agriculture Plan	Yes	Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan 2007	County	County	-	Yes	-
Comment: none							
Other (this could include a climate action plan, tourism plan, business development plan, etc.)	No	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comment: none							
Response/Recovery Planning							
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	Yes	C.C. CEMP	County	CC OES	-	No	2020-Freedom-010
Comment: none							
Strategic Recovery Planning Report	No	-	-	-	-	No	-
Comment: None							
Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA)	No	-	-	-	Yes	No	-
Comment: none							
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	No	-	-	-	No	No	-
Comment: none							
Continuity of Operations Plan	No	-	-	-	No	No	-
Comment: None							
Public Health Plan	Yes	Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), 2019	County	Health Dept	-	Yes	-
Comment: None							
Other	No	-	-	-	No	-	-

Table 9.17-4. Development and Permitting Capability

Indicate if your jurisdiction implements the following	Response Yes/No; Provide further detail
Development Permits. If yes, what department?	No
Permits are tracked by hazard area. For example, floodplain development permits.	No
Buildable land inventory If yes, please describe	No- 20%



Indicate if your jurisdiction implements the following	Response Yes/No; Provide further detail
If no, please quantitatively describe the level of buildout in the jurisdiction.	

Administrative and Technical Capability

The table below summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to the Town of Freedom.

Table 9.17-5. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Resources	Available? (Yes or No)	Department/ Agency/Position
Administrative Capability		
Planning Board	Yes	Planning Board
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	-
Environmental Board/Commission	No	-
Open Space Board/Committee	No	-
Economic Development Commission/Committee	No	-
Warning Systems / Services (reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	No	-
Maintenance programs to reduce risk	No	-
Mutual aid agreements	No	-
Technical/Staffing Capability		
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	No	-
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	No	-
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	No	-
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	No	-
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	No	-
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS and/or Hazards United States (HAZUS) – Multi-Hazards (MH) applications	No	-
Scientist familiar with natural hazards	No	-
NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA)	Yes	Supervisor
Surveyor(s)	No	-
Emergency Manager	Yes	County
Grant writer(s)	No	-
Resilience Officer	No	-
Other	No	-

Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to the Town of Freedom.

Table 9.17-6. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No)
Community development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)	No
Capital improvements project funding	No
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	No
User fees for water, sewer, gas or electric service	No
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	No
Stormwater utility fee	No
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	No
Incur debt through special tax bonds	No



Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No)
Incur debt through private activity bonds	No
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No
Other federal or state Funding Programs	No
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No
Other	No

Education and Outreach Capability

The table below summarizes the education and outreach resources available to the Town of Freedom.

Table 9.17-7. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Indicate if your jurisdiction has the following resources	Yes/No; Please describe
Public information officer or communications office?	No
Personnel skilled or trained in website development?	No
Hazard mitigation information available on your website; if yes, describe	No
Social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Other programs already in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Warning systems for hazard events; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Natural disaster/safety programs in place for schools; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Other	No

Community Classifications

The table below summarizes classifications for community programs available to the Town of Freedom.

Table 9.17-8. Community Classifications

Program	Participating? (Yes/No)	Classification (if applicable)	Date Classified (if applicable)
Community Rating System (CRS)	No	-	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	No	-	-
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	No	-	-
NYSDEC Climate Smart Community	No	-	-
Storm Ready Certification	No	-	-
Firewise Communities classification	No	-	-
Other	No	-	-

Note:

- N/A Not applicable
- NP Not participating
- Unavailable



Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is defined as “the ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences” (IPCC 2014). In other words, it describes a jurisdiction’s current ability to adjust to, protect from, or withstand a hazard event. This term is often discussed in reference to climate change; however, adaptive capacity also includes an understanding of local capacity for adapting to current and future risks and changing conditions. The table below summarizes the adaptive capacity for each hazard and the jurisdiction’s rating.

- The town does not currently have access to resources to determine the possible impacts of climate change upon the municipality and would rely on the county.

Table 9.17-9. Adaptive Capacity

Hazard	Adaptive Capacity (Capabilities) - High/Medium/Low*
Flood	Medium
Landslide	Medium
Severe Storm	High
Severe Winter Storm	High
Utility Failure	Medium
Wildfire	Medium

*High Capacity exists and is in use
 Medium Capacity may exist; but is not used or could use some improvement
 Low Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement
 Unsure Not enough information is known to assign a rating

National Flood Insurance Program

This section provides specific information on the management and regulation of the regulatory floodplain.

NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA)

Randy Lester, Town Supervisor.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary

The Town of Freedom does not have any areas prone to flooding and does not maintain a list of property owners interested in flood mitigation. There are not any RiskMAP projects currently underway in the town. The town has not had any floods so they did not need to make Substantial Damage determinations and no properties have not needed to be mitigated. The Town of Freedom’s flood hazard maps adequately address the flood risk within the town.

The following table summarizes the NFIP statistics for the Town of Freedom.

Table 9.17-10. NFIP Summary

Municipality	# Policies	# Claims (Losses)	Total Loss Payments	# RL Properties
Town of Freedom	7	4	\$81,006	3

Source: NYS DHES, 2020
 RL Repetitive Loss; SRL Severe Repetitive Loss





Resources

The Town Supervisor is responsible for floodplain management. There are not any certified floodplain managers on staff, but they do have access to resources to determine possible future flooding conditions from climate change. The town's floodplain management staff does not need any training or assistance to support its floodplain management program. The town does not provide NFIP administration services. The Building Inspector determines if proposed development on an existing structure would qualify as a substantial improvement. The town did not identify any barriers to running an effective NFIP program.

Compliance History

The Town of Freedom does not have any outstanding NFIP compliance violations and the most recent Community Assistance Visit was on September 3, 2010.

Regulatory

The Town of Freedom does not have an updated flood damage prevention ordinance. The town does not meet the requirements of the floodplain management program because it does not include the required freeboard. The town has a local plan for building in flood zones that support floodplain management and meeting the NFIP requirements.

Additional Areas of Existing Integration

Town Website: The Town of Freedom's website (<http://www.freedomny.org/>) hosts town information and announcements.

Evacuation, Sheltering, Temporary Housing, and Permanent Housing

Evacuation routes, sheltering measures, temporary housing, and permanent housing must all be in place and available for public awareness to protect residents, mitigate risk, and relocate residents, if necessary, to maintain post-disaster social and economic stability.

Evacuation Routes

Route 98 is the designated evacuation route for the municipality.

Sheltering

No sites have been identified for sheltering within the town. Action 2020-Freedom-005 has been created to identify potential shelter locations.

Temporary Housing

No sites have been identified for temporary sheltering within the town. Action 2020-Freedom-005 has been created to identify potential temporary housing locations.

Permanent Housing

The town did not identify any sites for permanent housing, but the county identified site locations shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Error! Reference source not found.**

9.17.5 Hazard Event History Specific to the Town of Freedom

Cattaraugus County has a history of natural and non-natural hazard events as detailed in Volume I, Section 5 (Risk Assessment) of this plan. A summary of historical events is provided in each of the hazard profiles and



includes a chronology of events that have affected the county and its municipalities. The Town of Freedom’s history of federally-declared (as presented by FEMA) and significant hazard events (as presented in NOAA-NCEI) is consistent with that of Cattaraugus County. Table 9.17-11 provides details regarding municipal-specific loss and damages the town experienced during hazard events. Information provided in the table below is based on reference material or local sources. For details of these and additional events, refer to Volume I, Section 5.0 of this plan.

Table 9.17-11. Hazard Event History

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration if applicable)	County Designated?	Summary of Event	Municipal Summary of Damages and Losses
October 27- November 9, 2012	Hurricane Sandy (FEMA-EM-3351)	Yes	Remnants of Hurricane Sandy brought strong winds and heavy rains to western and north central New York. Rainfall amounts of two to five inches were measured across the area with some area creeks reaching bankful. The high winds downed trees and power lines throughout the region. Wind gusts were measured to 60 mph.	Although the county was impacted, the Town of Freedom did not report any damages.
May 13-22, 2014	Severe Storms and Flooding (FEMA-DR-4180)	Yes	Heavy showers and embedded thunderstorms trained across the western Southern tier. Rainfall amounts of one to three inches in just a few hours resulted in flash flooding across the region. Roads and culverts were washed out. Numerous roads were water-covered and closed.	Although the county was impacted, the Town of Freedom did not report any damages.
November 17-26, 2014	Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding (FEMA-DR-4204)	Yes	Lake effect snow resulted in heavy snowfall across the region.	Although the county was impacted, the Town of Freedom did not report any damages.
July 14, 2015	Flash Flood	No	Numerous rounds of storms along a stationary cold front resulted in flash flooding. Damaging winds occurred in some areas of the county.	Although the county was impacted, the Town of Freedom did not report any damages.
March 8, 2017	High Wind	No	A strong low pressure system brought strong and damaging winds to the entire region.	Although the county was impacted, the Town of Freedom did not report any damages.

Notes:

- EM Emergency Declaration (FEMA)
- FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
- DR Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)
- N/A Not applicable

9.17.6 Hazard Ranking and Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities

The hazard profiles in Section 5.0 (Risk Assessment) of this plan have detailed information regarding each plan participant’s vulnerability to the identified hazards. The following summarizes the Town of Freedom’s risk assessment results and data used to determine the hazard ranking.

A gradient of certainty was developed to summarize the confidence level regarding the input used to populate the hazard ranking. A certainty factor of high, medium or low was selected and assigned to each hazard to





provide a level of transparency and create increased understanding of the data used to support the resulting ranking. The following scale was used to assign a certainty factor to each hazard:

- High—Defined scenario/event to evaluate; probability calculated; evidenced-based/quantitative assessment to estimate potential impacts through hazard modeling.
- Moderate—Defined scenario/event or only a hazard area to evaluate; estimated probability; combination of quantitative (exposure analysis, no hazard modeling) and qualitative data to estimate potential impacts.
- Low—Scenario or hazard area is undefined; there is a degree of uncertainty regarding event probability; majority of potential impacts are qualitative.

Hazard Ranking

This section provides the community specific identification of the primary hazard concerns based on identified problems, impacts and the results of the risk assessment as presented in Section 5 (Risk Assessment) of the plan. The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard, along with its potential impacts on people, property, and the economy as well as community capability and changing future climate conditions. This input supports the mitigation action development to target those hazards with highest level of concern.

As discussed in Section 5.3 (Hazard Ranking), each participating jurisdiction may have differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability compared to Cattaraugus as a whole. Therefore, each municipality ranked the degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to their community. The table below summarizes the hazard risk/vulnerability rankings of potential natural hazards for the Town of Freedom. The Town of Freedom has reviewed the county hazard risk/vulnerability risk ranking table as well as its individual results to reflect the relative risk of the hazards of concern to the community.

During the review of the hazard/vulnerability risk ranking, the Town of Freedom indicated the following:

- The Town of Freedom decided to change the ranking of severe winter storms from low to medium due to severe winter storm events in the past.

Table 9.17-12. Hazard Ranking Input

Flood	Landslide	Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storm	Utility Failure	Wildfire
Low	Low	Low	Medium	High	Low

Note: The scale is based on the following hazard rankings as established in Section 5.3.

*The town changed the initial ranking of this hazard based on event history, experience, and feedback from the town

Critical Facilities

New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Statute 6 CRR-NY 502.4 sets forth floodplain management criteria for State projects located in flood hazard areas. The law states that no such projects related to critical facilities shall be undertaken in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) unless constructed according to specific mitigation specifications, including being raised 2’ above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This statute is outlined at <http://tinyurl.com/6-CRR-NY-502-4>. While all vulnerabilities should be assessed and documented, the State places a high priority on exposure to flooding. Critical facilities located in an SFHA, or having ever sustained previous flooding, must be protected to the 500-year flood event, or worst case scenario. For those that do not meet this criterion, the jurisdiction must identify an action to achieve this level of protection (NYS DHSES 2017).





The table below identifies critical facilities in the community located in the 1-percent annual chance floodplain and presents Hazards United States (HAZUS) – Multi-Hazards (MH) estimates of the damage and loss of use to critical facilities as a result of a 1-percent annual chance flood event.

Table 9.17-13. Potential Flood Losses to Critical Facilities

Name	Type	Exposure	Addressed by Proposed Action
		1% Event	
Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit	HAZMAT	X	2020-Freedom-001

Source: Cattaraugus County, 2020

Identified Issues

The town has identified the following vulnerabilities within their community:

- Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit is in the special flood hazard area and vulnerable to flooding. Critical facilities need to be protected to the 0.2% annual chance flood event.
- The Town of Freedom lacks an updated flood damage prevention ordinance.
- Floodplain Administration staff require additional training.
- Additional public education on wildfire risk is needed.
- The town has not identified shelters or temporary housing locations within the town.

9.17.7 Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization

This section discusses past mitigations actions and status, describes proposed hazard mitigation initiatives, and their prioritization.

Past Mitigation Initiative Status

The following table indicates progress on the community’s mitigation strategy identified in the 2014 Plan. Actions that are carried forward as part of this plan update are included in the following subsection in its own table with prioritization. Previous actions that are now on-going programs and capabilities are indicated as such in the following table and may also be found under ‘Capability Assessment’ presented previously in this annex.



Table 9.17-14. Status of Previous Mitigation Actions

Project #	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Status (In Progress, Ongoing, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if complete)		Next Steps 1. Project to be included in 2020 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2020 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
						Cost		
B2.26	Improve drainage in Town of Freedom on Edmunds Rd.	Flood	Town	Edmunds Rd is prone to flooding	Complete	Level of Protection		Discontinue.
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		



Completed Mitigation Initiatives Not Identified in the Previous Mitigation Strategy

The Town of Freedom has identified the following mitigation projects/activities that have also been completed but were not identified in the previous mitigation strategy in the 2014 Plan:

- None identified

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives for the Plan Update

The Town of Freedom participated in a mitigation action workshop in September 2020 and was provided the following FEMA publications to use as a resource as part of their comprehensive review of all possible activities and mitigation measures to address their hazards: FEMA 551 ‘Selecting Appropriate Mitigation Measures for Floodprone Structures’ (March 2007) and FEMA ‘Mitigation Ideas – A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards’ (January 2013).

Table 9.17-15 summarizes the comprehensive range of specific mitigation initiatives the Town of Freedom would like to pursue in the future to reduce the effects of hazards. Some of these initiatives may be previous actions carried forward for this plan update. These initiatives are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities. Both the four FEMA mitigation action categories and the six CRS mitigation action categories are listed in the table below to further demonstrate the wide range of activities and mitigation measures selected.

As discussed in Section 6, 14 evaluation/prioritization criteria are used to complete the prioritization of mitigation initiatives. For each new mitigation action, a numeric rank is assigned (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the 14 evaluation criteria to assist with prioritizing your actions as ‘High’, ‘Medium’, or ‘Low.’ The table below summarizes the evaluation of each mitigation initiative, listed by Action Number.

Table 9.17-16 provides a summary of the prioritization of all proposed mitigation initiatives for the Plan update.



Table 9.17-15. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Project Number	Project Name	Goals Met	Hazard(s) to be Mitigated	Description of Problem and Solution	Critical Facility (Yes/No)	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Mitigation Category	CRS Category
2020-Freedom-001	Protect Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit to the 0.2% annual chance flood event	1	Flood	<p>Problem: The Town of Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit is in the special flood hazard area and vulnerable to flooding. Critical facilities must be protected to the 0.2% annual chance flood level.</p> <p>Solution: The town will conduct a feasibility assessment to determine what additional floodproofing measures are needed at the Sand and Gravel Pit to protect it to the 0.2% annual chance level. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Elevation of facility •Floodproofing of facility •Mobile flood barriers <p>Once the most cost-effective option is identified, the town will carry out the option.</p>	Yes 💧	None	Within 5 years	Engineer, facility operator	TBD by feasibility assessment	Facility can continue operations	HMGP, BRIC, USDA Community Facilities Grant Program, EMPG, town budget	High	SIP	PP
2020-Freedom-002	Update the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	2	Flood	<p>Problem: The Town of Freedom lacks an updated flood damage prevention ordinance.</p> <p>Solution: the town will develop and adopt an updated flood damage prevention ordinance</p>	No	None	Within 6 months	Town board	<\$100	Meet NFIP requirements , buildings built to a higher standard.	Town Budget	High	LPR	PR
2020-Freedom-003	Floodplain Administrator to attend training on floodplain management	3	Flood	<p>Problem: Floodplain Managers require training. Those responsible for floodplain management are lacking in their knowledge of required duties.</p> <p>Solution: Obtain/host training and certification for floodplain managers</p>	No	None	Within 5 years	County OES, Building Codes Dept.	\$3,000	Certified floodplain managers trained Floodplain management improved.	County budget	High	LPR	PR





Table 9.17-15. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Project Number	Project Name	Goals Met	Hazard(s) to be Mitigated	Description of Problem and Solution	Critical Facility (Yes/No)	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Mitigation Category	CRS Category
2020-Freedom-004	Provide information to residents, business owners, and organizations about what they can do to prevent their structures from wildfires.	3	Wildfires	<p>Problem: Additional public education on wildfire risk is needed</p> <p>Solution: the town will develop an outreach program to educate the public about wildfires and what they can do to protect their structures.</p>	No	None	1 year	Town board	\$4,000	Public educated and better prepared and protected from hazards	Town budget	High	EAP	PI
2020-Freedom-005	Identify shelters and temporary housing location(s) for residents in the event of an emergency.	2	All Hazards	<p>Problem: The Town of Freedom currently does not have shelters or temporary housing locations in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Solution: The town will confirm locations and notify households and businesses through mailing</p>	No	None	6 months	Town Supervisor/Town Clerk	\$250	Shelters and temporary housing for populations affected by hazard	Municipal Budget	High	LPR	ES
2020-Freedom-006	Trim tree limbs away from buildings and structures.	1	Severe Storms; Severe Winter Storms	<p>Problem: The town does not have a tree trimming program in place. It is unknown the safety of trees throughout the town. During wind events or heavy snow, falling tree branches can damage utilities and private property.</p> <p>Solution: The town will develop a tree trimming maintenance program and remove trees that pose a threat to structures</p>	No	None	3 months	Municipalities and Hwy Dept	\$5,000	Reduction in power loss, property damage	Municipal budget	High	SIP	PP
2020-Freedom-007	Generator for Town Hall	2	All Hazards	<p>Problem: Town Hall does not have back up power.</p> <p>Solution: Purchase and install a generator so that Town Hall has backup power in the event the power goes out</p>	Yes	None	Within 6 months	Town	\$25,000	Town hall will have access to backup power	HMGP, BRIC, Municipal Budget	High	SIP	PP
	Generator for Town Barn	2	All Hazards	<p>Problem: Town Barn does not have backup power.</p>	Yes	None	Within 6 months	Town	\$25,000	Town Barn will have	HMGP, BRIC	High	SIP	PP



Table 9.17-15. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Project Number	Project Name	Goals Met	Hazard(s) to be Mitigated	Description of Problem and Solution	Critical Facility (Yes/No)	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Mitigation Category	CRS Category
2020-Freedom-008				Solution: Purchase and install a generator so that the Town Barn has backup power in the event the power goes out						access to backup power	Municipal Budget			
2020-Freedom-009	Culvert on Clear Creek Bridge on Muton Hollow and Eagle St	2	Flood, Severe Storm	Problem: Outdated culvert on Clear Creek Bridge Solution: The town will install new culvert on Clear Creek Bridge	No	None	Within 5 years	Highway Department	\$15,000	Reduction in flood risk	Municipal budget, HMGP, BRIC	High	SIP	SP
2020-Freedom-010	Update the Emergency Operations Plan.	2	All Hazards	Problem: Outdated Emergency Operations Plan Solution: Update town's Emergency Operation Plan to include current hazards	No	None	Within 1 year	County, Town	<\$100	EOPs updated	Municipal budget	High	LPR	ES
2020-Freedom-011	Update Building Code	2	All Hazards	Problem: Building codes are outdated Solution: Update building codes so buildings are built to withstand hazards they face	No	None	Within 1 year	County, Town	<\$100	Building Codes to provide standards to protect buildings from hazards	Municipal Budget	High	LPR	PP

Notes:

Not all acronyms and abbreviations defined below are included in the table.

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

- CAV Community Assistance Visit
- CRS Community Rating System
- DPW Department of Public Works
- EHP Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation
- FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FPA Floodplain Administrator
- HMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Med. Medium

Potential FEMA HMA Funding Sources:

- FMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- HMGP Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- BRIC Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

Timeline:

The time required for completion of the project upon implementation

Cost:

The estimated cost for implementation.

Benefits:


A description of the estimated benefits, either quantitative and/or qualitative.





N/A Not applicable
NFIP National Flood Insurance Program
OEM Office of Emergency Management

Critical Facility:

Yes  Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain

Mitigation Category:

- Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) – These actions include government authorities, policies or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.
- Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP) - These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.
- Natural Systems Protection (NSP) – These are actions that minimize damage and losses, and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- Education and Awareness Programs (EAP) – These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady and Firewise Communities

CRS Category:

- Preventative Measures (PR) - Government, administrative or regulatory actions, or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.
- Property Protection (PP) - These actions include public activities to reduce hazard losses or actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.
- Public Information (PI) - Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and educational programs for school-age children and adults.
- Natural Resource Protection (NR) - Actions that minimize hazard loss and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.
- Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) - Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, setback levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.
- Emergency Services (ES) - Actions that protect people and property during and immediately following a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities



Table 9.17-16. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Technical	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social	Administrative	Multi-Hazard	Timeline	Agency Champion	Other Community Objectives	Total	High / Medium / Low
2020-Freedom-001	Protect Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit to the 0.2% annual chance flood event	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	11	High
2020-Freedom-002	Update the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	12	High
2020-Freedom-003	Floodplain Administrator to attend training on floodplain management	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	13	High
2020-Freedom-004	Provide information to residents, business owners, and organizations about what they can do to prevent their structures from wildfires.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	13	High
2020-Freedom-005	Identify temporary housing location(s) for residents in the event of an emergency.	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	8	Medium
2020-Freedom-006	Trim tree limbs away from buildings and structures.	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	High
2020-Freedom-007	Generator for Town Hall	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	11	High
2020-Freedom-008	Generator for Town Barn	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	11	High
2020-Freedom-009	Culvert on Clear Creek Bridge on Muton Hollow and Eagle St	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	High
2020-Freedom-010	Update the Emergency Operations Plan	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	12	High
2020-Freedom-011	Update Building Codes	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	12	High

Note: Refer to Section 6, which conveys guidance on prioritizing mitigation actions. Low (0-4), Medium (5-8), High (9-14).





9.17.8 Proposed Mitigation Action Types

The table below indicates the range of proposed mitigation action categories.

Table 9.17-17. Analysis of Mitigation Actions by Hazard and Category

Hazard	FEMA				CRS					
	LPR	SIP	NSP	EAP	PR	PP	PI	NR	SP	ES
Flood	X	X		X	X	X			X	X
Landslide	X	X				X				X
Severe Storm	X	X				X			X	X
Severe Winter Storm	X	X				X				X
Utility Failure	X	X				X				X
Wildfire	X	X		X		X	X			X

Note: Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides for an explanation of the mitigation categories.

9.17.9 Staff and Local Stakeholder Involvement in Annex Development

The Town of Freedom followed the planning process described in Section 3 (Planning Process) in Volume I of this plan update. This annex was developed over the course of several months with input from many town departments, including: Supervisor and Highway Supervisor. The Supervisor and Highway Supervisor represented the community on the Cattaraugus County Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Partnership and supported the local planning process requirements by securing input from persons with specific knowledge to enhance the plan. All departments were asked to contribute to the annex development through reviewing and contributing to the capability assessment, reporting on the status of previously identified actions, and participating in action identification and prioritization.

Additional documentation on the municipality’s planning process through Planning Partnership meetings is included in Section 3 (Planning Process) and Appendix C (Meetings).

9.17.10 Hazard Area Extent and Location

Hazard area extent and location maps have been generated for the Town of Freedom that illustrates the probable areas impacted within the municipality. These maps are based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan and is considered to be adequate for planning purposes. The maps have only been generated for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies, and for which the Town of Freedom has significant exposure. The maps are illustrated below.



Figure 9.17-1. Town of Freedom Hazard Area Extent and Location Map 1

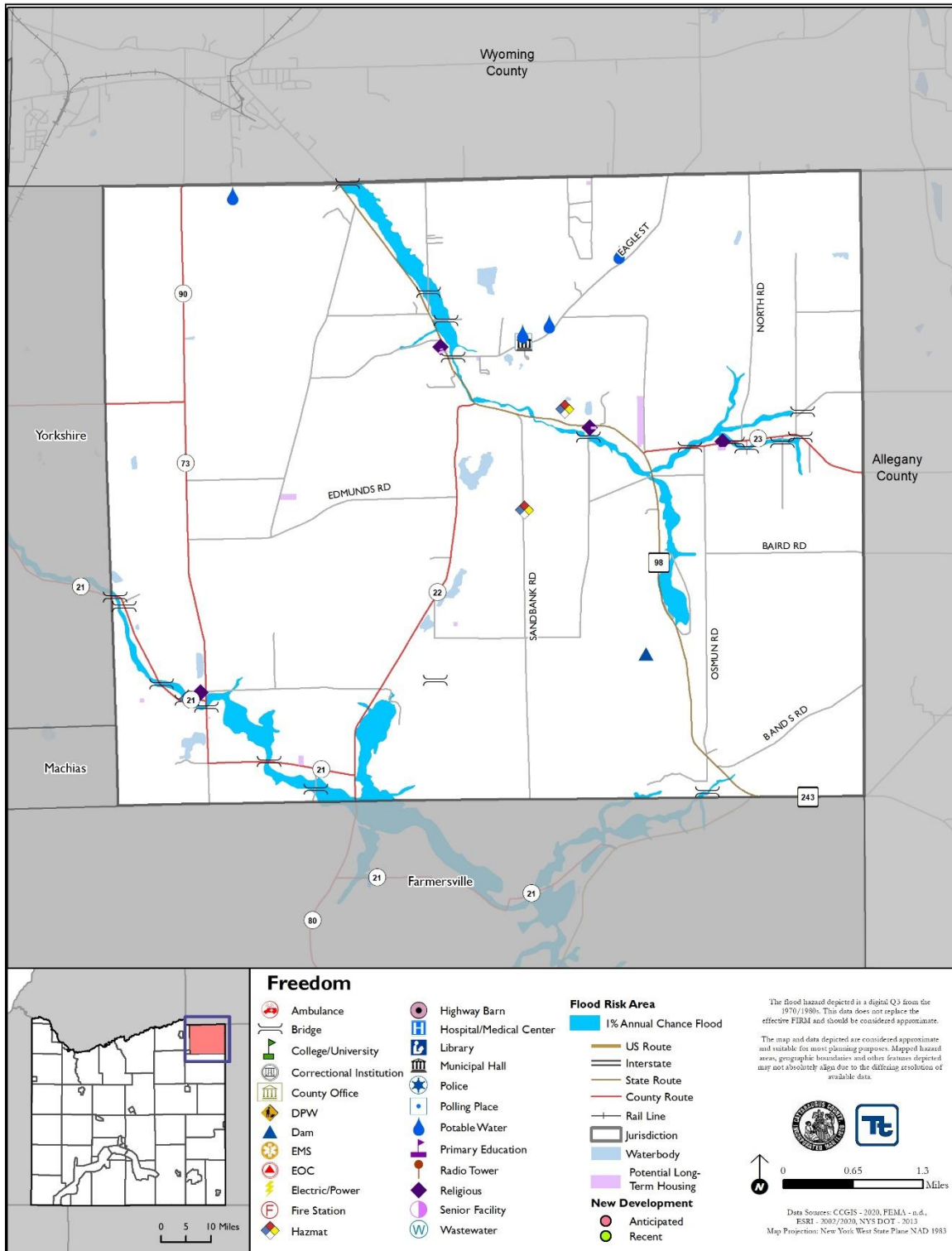
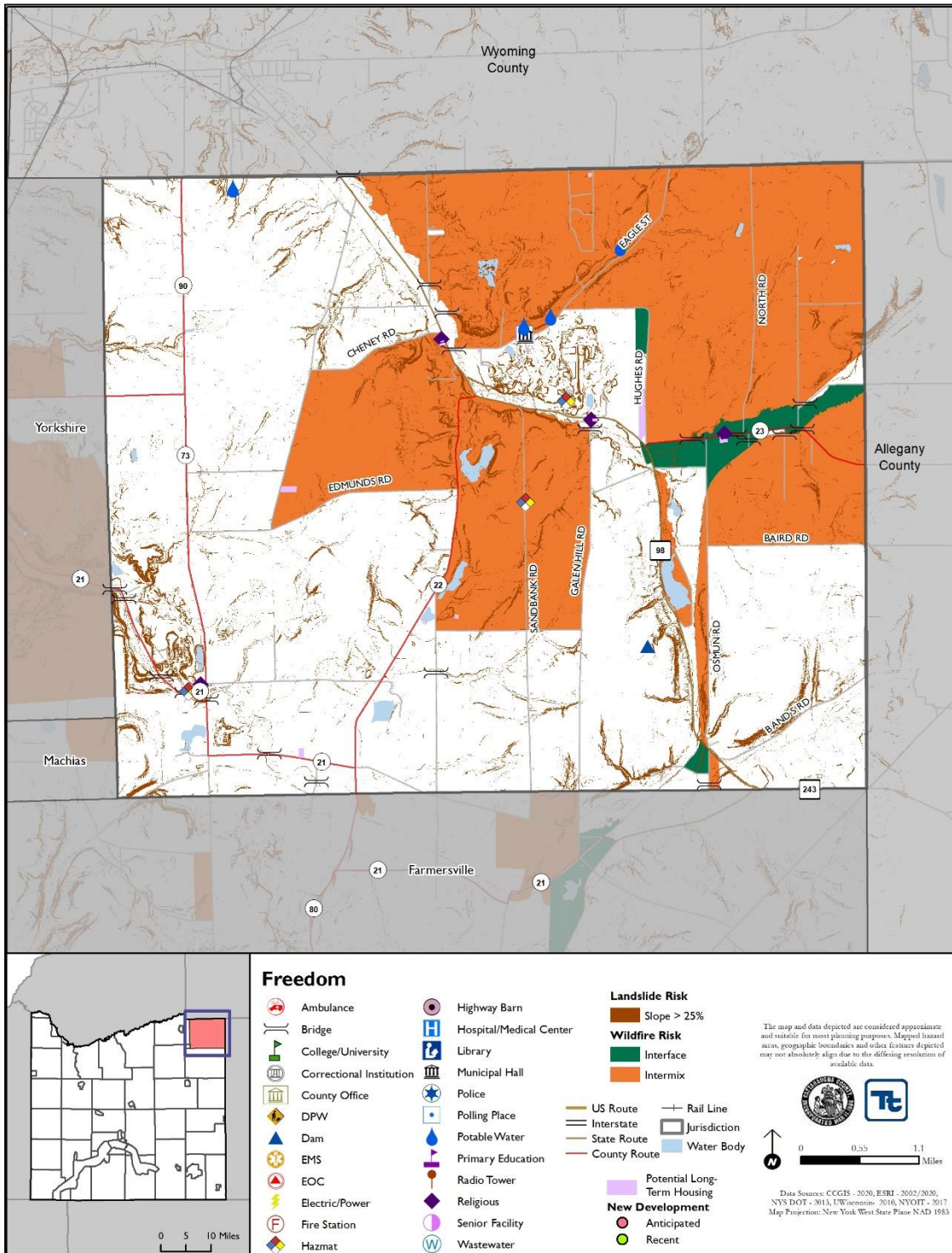




Figure 9.17-2. Town of Freedom Hazard Area Extent and Location Map 2





Town of Freedom Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Protect Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit to the 0.2% annual chance flood event		
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-001		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	Flood		
Description of the Problem:	The Town of Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit is in the special flood hazard area and vulnerable to flooding. Critical facilities must be protected to the 0.2% annual chance flood level.		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	<p>The town will conduct a feasibility assessment to determine what additional floodproofing measures are needed at the Sand and Gravel Pit to protect it to the 0.2% annual chance level. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Elevation of facility •Floodproofing of facility •Mobile flood barriers <p>Once the most cost-effective option is identified, the town will carry out the option.</p>		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	0.2% annual chance flood event	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	Facility can continue operations and emergency coordination is established
Useful Life:	TBD by feasibility assessment BD	Goals Met:	1
Estimated Cost:	TBD by feasibility assessment	Mitigation Action Type:	Structure and Infrastructure
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	Within 5 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	1 year	Potential Funding Sources:	FEMA HMGP and BRIC, USDA Community Facilities Grant Program, Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program, town budget
Responsible Organization:	Engineer, facility operator	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:	Hazard mitigation
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action	\$0	Problem continues.
	Relocate Sand and Gravel Pit	N/A	Not possible
	Build levee around facility	N/A	No space for full levee system
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			



Action Worksheet		
Project Name:	Protect Freedom Sand and Gravel Pit to the 0.2% annual chance flood event	
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-001	
Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	1	Project will protect critical services of the Sand and Gravel Pit
Property Protection	1	Project will protect Sand and Gravel Pit from flood damage.
Cost-Effectiveness	1	
Technical	1	
Political	1	
Legal	1	The town has the legal authority to complete the project.
Fiscal	0	Project requires funding support.
Environmental	1	
Social	1	
Administrative	1	
Multi-Hazard	0	Flood
Timeline	0	Within 5 years
Agency Champion	1	Engineer, facility manager
Other Community Objectives	1	Protection of critical services
Total	11	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	



Town of Freedom Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Generator for Town Hall		
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-007		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	All hazards		
Description of the Problem:	Town Hall does not have back up power.		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	Purchase and install a generator so that Town Hall has backup power in the event the power goes out		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	No power loss	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	Town Hall will have access to backup power
Useful Life:	30 years	Goals Met:	2
Estimated Cost:	\$25,000	Mitigation Action Type:	Structure and Infrastructure
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	Within 2 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	6 months	Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, BRIC, Municipal Budget
Responsible Organization:	Town	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:	Hazard mitigation
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action	\$0	Problem continues.
	Install solar panels	\$100,000	Weather dependent; need large amount of space for installation; expensive if repairs needed
	Install wind turbine	\$100,000	Weather dependent; poses a threat to wildlife; expensive repairs if needed
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			



Action Worksheet		
Project Name:	Generators for Town Hall	
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-007	
Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	1	Project will protect critical services of Town Hall
Property Protection	1	Project will protect Town Hall from power loss.
Cost-Effectiveness	1	
Technical	1	
Political	1	
Legal	1	The town has the legal authority to complete the project.
Fiscal	1	Project requires funding support.
Environmental	0	
Social	1	
Administrative	1	
Multi-Hazard	1	
Timeline	1	6 months
Agency Champion	0	
Other Community Objectives	0	
Total	11	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	



Town of Freedom Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Generator for Town Barn		
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-008		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	All hazards		
Description of the Problem:	Town Barn does not have backup power.		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	Purchase and install a generator so that the Town Barn has backup power in the event the power goes out		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	No power loss	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	Town Barn will have access to backup power
Useful Life:	30 years	Goals Met:	2
Estimated Cost:	\$25,000	Mitigation Action Type:	Structure and Infrastructure
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	Within 2 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	Within 6 months	Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, BRIC Municipal Budget
Responsible Organization:	Town	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:	Hazard mitigation
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action	\$0	Problem continues.
	Install solar panels	\$100,000	Weather dependent; need large amount of space for installation; expensive if repairs needed
	Install wind turbine	\$100,000	Weather dependent; poses a threat to wildlife; expensive repairs if needed
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			



Action Worksheet		
Project Name:	Generator for Town Barn	
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-008	
Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	1	Project will protect critical services of Town Barn
Property Protection	1	Project will protect Town Barn from power loss.
Cost-Effectiveness	1	
Technical	1	
Political	1	
Legal	1	The town has the legal authority to complete the project.
Fiscal	1	Project requires funding support.
Environmental	0	
Social	1	
Administrative	1	
Multi-Hazard	1	
Timeline	1	6 months
Agency Champion	0	
Other Community Objectives	0	
Total	11	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	



Town of Freedom Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Culvert on Clear Creek Bridge on Muton Hollow and Eagle St		
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-009		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	Flood, Severe Storm		
Description of the Problem:	Outdated culvert on Clear Creek Bridge		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	The town will install new culvert on Clear Creek Bridge		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	N/A	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	Reduction in flood risk
Useful Life:	30 years	Goals Met:	2
Estimated Cost:	\$15,000	Mitigation Action Type:	Structure and infrastructure
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	Within 5 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	Within 5 years	Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, BRIC, municipal budget
Responsible Organization:	Town Highway Department	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:	Hazard mitigation
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action	\$0	Problem continues.
	Remove roadway and culvert	N/A	Not feasible. Roadway and culvert must remain in place
	Build bridge	\$50,000	Costly
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			



Action Worksheet		
Project Name:	Culvert on Clear Creek Bridge on Muton Hollow and Eagle St	
Project Number:	2020-Freedom-009	
Criteria	Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)	Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate
Life Safety	1	
Property Protection	1	
Cost-Effectiveness	1	
Technical	1	
Political	1	
Legal	1	
Fiscal	0	
Environmental	1	
Social	1	
Administrative	1	
Multi-Hazard	1	Flood, Severe Storm
Timeline	0	
Agency Champion	1	
Other Community Objectives	1	
Total	12	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	