

# Wolcott, VT Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

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2026 - 2031

**This plan was developed by the Town of Wolcott, with assistance from the  
Lamoille County Planning Commission**

**Plan Adoption Date: February 18, 2026**

**FEMA Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Plan Expiration Date:**

North Wolcott Recreation Fields Floodplain Restoration Project



Photo Credit: Jesse Labrecque

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**Town of Wolcott Plan Adoption Resolution  
Approving the Wolcott Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The Selectboard of the Town of Wolcott find that:

- A) The adoption of a multi-hazard plan is required as a condition for communities to remain eligible for future Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation grant funds.
- B) The Town of Wolcott has prepared the *Wolcott, VT Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*, which identifies hazards, past losses, and future impacts due to natural disasters, and identifies strategies for mitigating future losses.
- C) The Selectboard has reviewed and considered the *Wolcott, VT Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*.
- D) The mitigation strategies and actions identified in the plan have been prioritized as outlined in the *Wolcott, VT Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Adoption of this Plan demonstrates Wolcott's commitment to implementing mitigation actions to reduce damage from identified hazards.
- E) The respective officials identified in the mitigation action plan of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SELECTBOARD OF THE TOWN OF WOLCOTT, A MUNICIPALITY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Based on the above findings, which are hereby adopted, the *Wolcott, VT Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* as the official multi-hazard mitigation plan for the Town of Wolcott.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution is hereby adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026

Selectboard Chair Linda J. Martin

Selectboard Member [Signature]

Selectboard Member Allen Carpenter

Selectboard Member \_\_\_\_\_

Selectboard Member \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk received Belenida Pais Cey

## 1. Introduction

The impact of expected, but unpredictable natural and human-caused events can be reduced through community planning. The goal of this plan is to provide all-hazards local mitigation strategies that make the community of Wolcott more disaster resistant.

Hazard Mitigation is any sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards and their effects. Based on the results of previous Project Impact efforts, FEMA, state, regional, and local agencies have come to recognize that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after a disaster has struck. This plan recognizes that communities have opportunities to identify mitigation strategies and measures during all of the other phases of Emergency Management – Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Hazards cannot be eliminated, but it is possible to determine what the hazards are, where the hazards are most severe and what local actions can be taken to reduce the severity of incidents.

Hazard mitigation reduces exposure and vulnerability to hazards. Using FEMA mitigation methods, a community can **avert** the hazard by redirecting the impact by means of a structure or land treatment, **adapt** to the hazard by modifying structures or standards, or **avoid** the hazard by stopping or limiting development and could include projects such as:

- Flood-proofing structures
- Tying down propane/fuel tanks in flood-prone areas
- Elevating furnaces, water heaters, and electrical panels
- Identifying & modifying high traffic incident locations and routes
- Modifying infrastructure to ensure adequate water supply after a hazard event
- Elevating structures or utilities above flood levels
- Identifying & upgrading undersized culverts and bridges
- Proactively planning for floodplains and other flood-prone areas
- Improving and constructing roads to avoid or lessen hazard impacts
- Ensuring critical facilities are retrofitted or safely located outside of hazard areas
- Buying out &/or relocating structures in harm's way
- Establishing and enforcing appropriate building codes that minimize risks and impacts
- Disseminating public information about ways to construct, relocate, or retrofit property to avoid hazard impacts.

### 1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assist the Town of Wolcott, Vermont in recognizing hazards facing their community and identify strategies to begin reducing risks from acknowledged hazards. Wolcott strives to be in accordance with the strategies, goals, and objectives of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, including an emphasis on proactive pre-disaster

flood mitigation for public infrastructure, good floodplain and river management practices, and fluvial erosion risk assessment initiatives.

Previous Wolcott Hazard Mitigation Plans were developed as an annex to the Lamoille County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. This plan is a single jurisdictional plan for the Town of Wolcott. This Plan has been reorganized, and new sections have been added. Old assumptions have been challenged throughout and new information has been added to make the plan stronger, tailored to Wolcott, and more useful for Wolcott officials and residents who will implement the hazard mitigation strategies in the future. Much thought has gone into developing the mitigation strategies and actions and to prioritize what is feasible and achievable over the next five years.

Ultimately, the purpose of mitigation planning is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses. This Plan aims to do just that through implementing strategies that meet the following Wolcott hazard mitigation goals:

- Provide technical support for, and aid in the development of implementation protection mechanisms at the local level that will serve to avoid land use investments that would be, over time, endangered by, incompatible or in conflict with fluvial adjustment and erosion processes, and landslides.
- To reduce injury and losses from the natural hazard of flash floods, flooding, and fluvial erosion; extreme cold, snow, and ice storm; severe storms, windstorms, hurricanes, and tropical storms; power outages; and other severe weather events.
- Ensure that emergency response services and critical facilities functions are not interrupted by natural hazards.
- Provide adequate communication systems for emergency personnel and response units to avoid loss of life and damage to property.
- Provide residents with adequate warning of potential hazards to avoid loss of life and damage to property.
- Encourage hazard mitigation planning as a part of the local planning process.
- Maximize use of FEMA hazard mitigation opportunities related to Public Assistance funded projects when available as a result of federally declared disasters.
- Following disasters, for large and complex drainage and road repair projects, make “temporary fixes” to damaged infrastructure to address immediate emergency access and life safety considerations, to the extent practical, until consulting with FEMA to ensure compliance with state permitting and maximize hazard mitigation opportunities for Project Worksheets for permanent repairs.
- Continue to prioritize infrastructure upgrades/repairs to mitigate future damage and community impacts to flooding, winter storms, and severe storms.

## **1.2. Community Background and Changes in Development**

Wolcott is the easternmost town in Lamoille County. The town abuts Hyde Park to the west, Elmore to the south, and the Orleans county towns of Hardwick to the southeast and Craftsbury to the northeast. It is located 52 miles from Burlington and 26 miles from Montpelier. There are three major bodies of water in the town and numerous private ponds under one acre in size. The most significant body of water is the 68 acre Wolcott Pond, followed by the 21 acre man made

Wapanaki Lake. The Lamoille River flows from the southeast to the northwest across the southern part of Wolcott for about 8 miles. There are five major tributaries to the Lamoille in the town, making some parts of town more vulnerable to flooding than others.

Wolcott is a predominantly rural, residential community. Wolcott has two pockets of concentrated growth with other residents scattered throughout the rural countryside. The main town center is located directly on Vermont Route 15– the region’s major east-west travel corridor– adjacent to the Lamoille River. North Wolcott is a designated village center, but its residents have their own identity, with clustered homes hugging the North Wolcott Road, locally operated businesses, and town recreation fields built parallel to a tributary of the Lamoille River. Lamoille County is one of the fastest growing counties in Vermont, at a time when some other counties are shrinking. According to the 2024 Lamoille County Housing Needs Assessment Report and the U.S. Census Bureau, between 2000 and 2022 the Town of Wolcott’s population increased from 1,456 to 1,671 residents (15%). Much of Wolcott’s dispersed population commutes to other communities for employment although working landscapes contribute much of the local economy and social fabric.

According to the 2024 Lamoille County Housing Needs Assessment, from 2000 to 2022 the Town of Wolcott gained 42 new housing units. Information gathered for this assessment and number of housing units was based on data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Wolcott zoning and subdivision bylaws direct higher densities to existing growth centers along Route 15 and within the traditional village area. Accordingly, there have been no substantial changes in development patterns that would necessitate a major shift in mitigation priorities from the previously adopted LHMP.

Through zoning and flood hazard bylaws, growth is directed away from the 100-year and 500-year floodplain. Wolcott’s guiding regulatory documents are zoning and subdivision regulations, flood hazard regulations, and road standards. The zoning, subdivision, and flood hazard regulations were last updated in 2016. Changes to the regulations have strengthened development standards in the 500-year floodplain, protections for the working landscape, and language that encourages a form-based code approach to village center structures and streetscape. These documents have the potential to influence development patterns and rates.

There are two utilities that provide service to the Town: Hardwick Electric Department (HED) and Morrisville Water and Light Department (MWL). HED, which provides electricity to a majority of the town, owns and operates a run of the river hydro dam on the Lamoille just upstream from Wolcott Village (Pottersville Dam, 815 kW capacity). MWL provides electrical service to residents on the west side of town.

Locally, fire coverage is provided primarily by the Wolcott Volunteer Fire Department. The fire station is located on School Street. The Wolcott Fire Department participates in the Lamoille Mutual Aid Association (LMMA), which functions as a mutual aid response network among all eight Lamoille County fire departments. Additionally, they have a special arrangement with Elmore whereby both departments respond to each other’s calls. The Town relies on the Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad Inc., a non-profit volunteer ambulance service that provides

emergency transport and medical care. The Morristown Rescue Department, in neighboring Morristown, assumed coverage over Tjader road and Richard Woolcutt Road in 2002 to help improve response times to the southwest corner of town.

Medical care is provided by Copley Hospital in Morrisville– a 25-bed full-service community hospital for acute, outpatient and long-term care. More specialized services are available in Burlington, Berlin and Hanover, New Hampshire. The Hardwick Area Health Center also provides clinical and primary care services to seven communities, including Wolcott. Additional outpatient care is available at other community clinics available in neighboring towns. All Wolcott residents must travel outside the community for health services.

Primary law enforcement coverage is provided by the Lamoille County Sheriff’s Department (LCSD), located in nearby Hyde Park. The Town of Wolcott contracts with LCSD for 24-hour patrol coverage and police support. The Vermont State Police, dispatched from Williston (47 miles from town), provide emergency and back-up coverage as requested by the Sheriff’s Department. There is also an appointed Animal Control Officer. Crime rates in Wolcott are consistently among the lowest in Lamoille County.

The town annually updates its Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). Essential facilities identified in the LEOP include the Town Offices, the Mennonite School, and the Wolcott Elementary School, each of which may function as an emergency operations center and shelter. In 2025 the primary emergency shelter was moved from the Wolcott Town Office to the Wolcott Elementary School. This shift was made to have a primary shelter located outside the floodplain.

For municipal technical assistance, transportation planning, and emergency planning and preparedness, Wolcott works closely with the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC). LCPC is one of Vermont’s 11 Regional Planning Commissions and is enabled and funded by the State of Vermont to provide assistance to municipalities. The LCPC was enlisted to provide assistance in developing this hazard mitigation plan.

## **2. Planning Process and Maintenance**

### **2.1 Planning Process and Public Participation**

In 2018, hazard mitigation priorities identified by the Town Selectboard were revisited by the Wolcott Planning Commission and incorporated into the update of the 2018-2026 Wolcott Municipal Development Plan. Relevant mitigation strategies pertaining to flood resiliency were incorporated into the following chapters of the Municipal Development Plan:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Public Services and Community Facilities
- Natural Resources
- Land Use and Development

In March of 2025 the Wolcott Planning Commission and Selectboard revisited mitigation actions and priorities from the 2018 Wolcott Municipal Plan and the 2020 Wolcott Local Hazard

Mitigation Plan. An update to these mitigation priorities were included in the 2026 Wolcott Municipal Plan update and this 2025 Wolcott Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. For more information on studies and technical information incorporated into this plan see section 2.3.

The overall process of updating the Wolcott Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025) involved multiple planning meetings; reviewing past hazard mitigations plans and recent planning studies; reviewing and updating selected hazards, including the update of hazard maps and figures; and determining the status of previous mitigation action items and creating new mitigation action items in accordance with new or developing threats. LCPC staff, Town of Wolcott employees, local officials, and volunteer board/commission members reviewed the 2020 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and recommended changes to the hazard risk assessment as well as mitigation strategies and priorities which were incorporated into this 2025 Wolcott Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Wolcott hazard mitigation meetings focused on assessing past mitigation projects and compiling information on its current and future hazard mitigation programs, projects and activities.

*This section of the plan satisfies 44 CFR 201.6(b)(1), or A3 of the Plan Review Tool.*

The LCPC staff met with town officials and local boards to gather input on informational updates and mitigation priorities. Feedback from the following meetings with local officials/boards was incorporated into the content and mitigation actions of this plan:

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Wolcott Planning Commission Meeting
- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
- June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Wolcott Selectboard Meeting
- July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

The July 16th, 2025 Wolcott Selectboard Meeting was held during the public comment period of the draft Plan. During this meeting, two recommendations were incorporated into the Plan:

- Include a map of the Lamoille River flood model for Wolcott Village
- Add the exploration of creating an emergency relief reserve fund for the town to the mitigation actions table.

Additional feedback was gathered from the Wolcott Road Foreman, and Wolcott Emergency Management Director on mitigation actions and priorities. Feedback received from community members, public officials, Town staff, and emergency management officers throughout the year that the plan was developed, was incorporated into the plan at all stages. Gathering oral histories, prioritizing hazards and mitigation strategies, and discussing where the public needs are most relevant was used to form this plan. Without that input and support the plan would be lacking a crucial element and motivation for mitigation. Without listening to and considering everyone's experiences with hazard mitigation, the Selectboard and other municipal officials most involved with this plan update would not have had a broad input to consider.

*This section of the plan satisfies 44 CFR 201.6(b)(2), or A2 of the Plan*

**Outreach to State Agencies and Neighboring Communities:**

During the update of the 2025 Wolcott Local Hazard Mitigation Plan neighboring communities and state agency staff were contacted during the public comment period to solicit input on the draft plan update. Neighboring community officials including the members of the Regional Emergency Management Committee, local Emergency Management Directors, Town Administrators, and Town Clerks were invited to comment on the draft Plan and notified of the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Public Meeting to solicit comments on the draft Wolcott LHMP. In July 2025, the Town of Wolcott posted the draft Plan and Public Meeting notice on the Town website and Front Porch Forum for stakeholders such as community members, neighboring communities, and representatives of nonprofit organizations to review and comment. Key State Agency staff from Vermont ANR, VEM, and VTrans were also invited to comment on the draft plan. This included the State Hazard Mitigation Planner and Hazard Mitigation Officer, the Lamoille Watershed Planner, State River Scientist, and Regional Floodplain Manager. On July 2, 2025 the draft Wolcott 2025 LHMP was submitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Planner for a preliminary review.

*This section of the plan satisfies 44 CFR 201.6(c)(4)(i) and (iii), or A5 and A6 of the Plan*

## **2.2 Plan Maintenance Process**

FEMA requires hazard mitigation plans to continue public participation in the plan maintenance process and to describe a method and schedule for keeping the plan current, such as monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle. To do this, the Wolcott Selectboard will review the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan annually at its April Selectboard meeting. This annual review will primarily focus on assessing the mitigation actions in the plan. This review will be held in conjunction with the update of the Local Emergency Management Plan. The EMD and Selectboard Chair will consider updates to the plan within six months after every federal disaster declaration impacting Wolcott and as amendments to local regulations come into effect. Stakeholders will be included in the plan update process, which may include, but not be limited to, the EMD, Selectboard, Selectboard Administrative Assistant, Zoning Administrator, Town Clerk, Fire Chief, Road Foreman/Commissioner, ANR, business leaders, the public, and other interested parties as appropriate. The LCPC will help with updates to the plan as funding is available. If no funding is available, the Selectboard Administrative Assistant will work with the EMD and Selectboard to update the plan. The plan update should be 2 ½ year before expiration to secure funding from VEM through FEMA.

Beyond that, the method of evaluating, monitoring, and updating the plan will include continued public participation through public notices posted on the municipal website, Front Porch Forum, LCPC's website, and other forms of media inviting the public to the scheduled Selectboard meeting.

Plan monitoring and evaluation will occur annually and concurrently with the update of the Local Emergency Management Plan. The process will include a review of plan actions that have been implemented and actions that can be implemented in the following year (monitoring) and an assessment of whether the goals of the plan are being achieved (evaluating).

The maintenance updates over the next five years may include changes in community mitigation strategies; new town bylaws and planning strategies; progress of implementation of initiatives

and projects; effectiveness of implemented projects or initiatives; and evaluation of challenges and opportunities. The plan is to be a “living document” to allow for new actions to be identified in the five-year interim period and amended without formal re-adoption during regularly scheduled Selectboard meetings. In the future, a wider public participation approach may be pursued, providing available funding and resources are established. The cost of updating a hazard mitigation plan requires outside funding. As resources are limited, extensive public outreach will be considered but may be limited to more economical methods such as open public meetings and utilizing social media.

Wolcott shall also continue incorporating mitigation planning into their long-term land use and development planning documents. It recommended the Town review and incorporate elements of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan when updating the municipal plan, subdivision regulations, and flood hazard bylaws. The incorporation of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the municipal plan and flood hazard bylaws will also be considered after declared or local disasters. In order to effectively incorporate mitigation strategies into these existing planning mechanisms, it is important to demonstrate how these approaches maximize benefit to the entire community. This can be achieved through the utilization of a cost-benefit analysis, which quantifies the benefits of mitigation against anticipated losses. Such an analysis is an integral part of prioritizing potential mitigation strategies and actions as well as a requirement for submitting future FEMA mitigation grant applications.

The Town’s staffing capacity is limited so the Town works closely with the Lamoille County Planning Commission. The LCPC provides technical assistance to the town on culvert and road erosion inventories, grant/project management for infrastructure improvements, and grant writing assistance for flood resiliency, water quality, and transportation infrastructure improvement projects. This includes helping the Town apply for funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and other funding sources.

### **2.3 Existing Plans, Studies, Reports, and Technical Information**

To develop this plan and provide Wolcott with relevant information necessary to develop hazard mitigation strategies, stakeholders and LCPC reviewed and incorporated existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information into this plan. The following resources were utilized, and are referenced throughout this plan:

- i. 2019 Wolcott Road Erosion Inventory Report/5-Year Workplan
- ii. 2025 Wolcott Emergency Management Plan
- iii. 2018 – 2026 Town of Wolcott VT Municipal Development Plan (2026 Municipal Plan update in progress)
- iv. 2018 Lamoille River Flood Modeling Report
- v. 2016 Town of Wolcott Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations
- vi. 2020 Wolcott Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- vii. 2023 State of Vermont Hazard Mitigation Plan
- viii. 2018 Wolcott Town Road and Bridge Standards
- ix. 2012-2016 VTrans High Crash Location Report

*This section of the plan satisfies 44 CFR §201.6(b)(3), or A4 of the Plan Review Tool.*

- x.2012 Emergency Response Guidebook
- xi.2010 Wild Branch River Corridor Plan
- xii.2010 Lamoille River Corridor Plan
- xiii.2020 U.S. Census
- xiv.2020-2024 American Community Survey
- xv.Vermont Housing Needs Assessment: 2025-2029
- xvi.Lamoille County/Hardwick Regional Housing Assessment 2024
- xvii.Wolcott Flood Insurance Rate Maps adopted 6/6/2000
- xviii.Wolcott Flood Insurance Study
- xix.National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Climatic Data Center
- xx.United States Geologic Survey website
- xxi.National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service Vermont Agency of Transportation, website and staff
- xxii.Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- xxiii.Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, websites and staff
- xxiv.National Flood Insurance Program website and promotional materials
- xxv.Vermont Center for Geographic Information shapefiles

### **3. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment**

#### **3.1 Hazard Identification, Probability, Vulnerability, and Impact Summary**

The following natural and human caused disasters were discussed and the most significant threat hazards were identified based upon the likelihood of the event and the community’s vulnerability to the event. Hazards not identified as a “significant threat” may still occur. Greater explanations and mitigation strategies of moderate threat hazards can be found in the State of Vermont’s Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This section profiles hazards and covers a breadth of factors including location, extent, probability, and impacts, all of which are covered somewhere in the risk assessment. By profiling and analyzing the hazards, the plan provides an understanding of those hazards which are of greatest concern to the community and because of community vulnerability, a priority for mitigation. Vulnerability was arrived at by consider the location, extent, impact of the hazards.

***Omission statement per FEMA:*** Likely natural hazards that may impact the community have been identified and described. While any of the following can occur, the “probability”, “vulnerability”, and “biggest risk of impact” columns omit them from further examination in the plan. The people who participated in the planning process decided which human caused hazards are included on the basis of greatest threat, understanding that there may be others that could occur. For more information on hazards omitted from this plan, see the Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Probability<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Community Vulnerability<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Biggest risk of impact<sup>3</sup></b>
Flood inundation and flash floods	High	High	Infrastructure Transportation network Structure damage
Severe storms, including windstorms, hurricanes and tropical storms	Medium	High	Transportation network and access (debris) Structure damage Power outages
Winter storms and ice storms	High	High	Transportation access (debris) Power outages Structure damage Bodily injury or loss of life
Major highway accidents	High	Low	Transportation network Bodily injury or loss of life Damage to personal property
Structure fire	Medium	Moderate	Structure damage Loss of life
Municipal Services / Power Failure	Medium	Moderate (seasonally dependent)	Health impacts Economic impacts
Drought	Medium	Moderate	Agriculture Economic vulnerability
Hazardous materials spill	Unlikely	Low	Environmental / ecological damage Public health
Dam Failure	Rare	High	Flash flooding – flood-induced impacts Bodily injury or loss of life
Major hailstorm	Rare	Low	Property damage
Major wildfire/forest fire	Rare	Moderate	Economic vulnerability Structure damage Bodily injury or loss of life
Landslide	Medium	Moderate	Flood-induced impacts
Earthquake	Rare	Low	Structure damage Infrastructure damage Power outage Bodily injury or loss of life

<sup>1</sup> High: 90% - 100% probability of happening in the next year.

Medium: 50% to 90% probability of happening in the next year.

Unlikely: 10% - 50% probability of happening in the next year.

Rare: 0 – 10% probability of happening in the next year.

<sup>2</sup> Hazards are rated on a scale of Low – Moderate – High based on the community’s susceptibility to the hazard, disruption of daily functions, and damage to structures.

<sup>3</sup> Key areas of the community affected by the hazard.

Extreme Heat/Cold	Unlikely	Moderate (seasonally dependent)	Health impacts due to extreme heat or cold, structural damage due to frozen pipes bursting if this occurs during a power outage.
Cyber Attacks	Unlikely	Moderate	Impacts to Town operations.
Infectious Disease			Public health Economic vulnerability
Invasive Species	Medium	Moderate	Agriculture Public health Environmental/ecological damage

The following hazards were found to be most significant in the town, based on the probability and vulnerability:

- Flood inundation and Flash Flooding
- Severe Storms
- Winter Storms and Ice Storms

Moderate threat hazards include:

- Major highway accident
- Structure Fire
- Power Failure
- Drought
- Landslide
- Invasive Species

Moderate threats with low impacts or rare/unlikely hazards omitted from this plan include:

- Hazardous Materials spills
- Hailstorm
- Extreme Heat/Cold
- Earthquake
- Dam Failure
- Cyber Attacks

A more detailed discussion of each significant hazard is included in the proceeding subsections. Maps identifying vulnerable infrastructure are attached (See maps titled *Areas of Local Concern* and *Transportation Concerns*). Moderate hazards are also discussed in the proceeding subsection. Each subsection includes a list of past occurrences based upon County-wide FEMA Disaster Declarations (DR-#) plus information from local records, a narrative description of the hazard, and a hazard matrix containing the following information outlined in the table below. Information about moderate threats with low impacts or rare/ unlikely hazards can be found in the Vermont State Hazard Mitigation Plan. They are not profiled in this plan. Additional information regarding rare hazards with high risks such as dam failure, can be found in the 2025 Vermont Infrastructure Report Card.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Type of hazard	General areas within municipality which are vulnerable to the identified hazard.	Types of structures impacted, people	Magnitude of hazard – scale dependent on hazard	Dollar value or percentage of damages	High: 90% - 100% probability of happening in the next year. Medium: 50% to 90% probability. Unlikely: 10% - 50% probability. Rare: 0 – 10% probability.

### 3.2 Significant Hazards (Flooding, Winter Storms, Severe Storms)

#### Flood Inundation/Flash Flood

Flooding/flash flooding/ fluvial erosion is Wolcott’s most commonly recurring hazard. The community vulnerability to a flood is high and likelihood of occurring is frequent. Flooding is the overflowing of rivers, streams, drains, and lakes due to excessive rain, rapid snow melt, or ice. Flash flooding is a rapidly occurring flood event usually from excessive rain. Fluvial erosion is the process of natural stream channel adjustments. Fluvial erosion causes erosion of sediment in some areas, while causing aggradation of sediment in other. Fluvial erosion processes occur more quickly and severely during flood events. The fluvial erosion corridor, which is the channel, moves with the flow of water and sediment.

Flooding of land adjoining the normal course of a stream or river has been a natural occurrence since the beginning of time. If floodplain areas were left in their natural state, floods would not cause significant damage. Development has increased the potential for flooding because rainfall that used to soak into the ground or take several days to reach a body of water now quickly runs off streets, parking lots and rooftops, and through human-made channels and pipes. Other factors that affect the severity of a flood include: steeply sloped watersheds; re-grading or filling in or near the edge of floodplains, which obstructs flood flows and backs up water; bridges, culverts, and other obstructions; debris from the watershed; contamination, including soil road oil, farm/lawn chemicals, and animal waste.

A floodplain is made of the floodway (the stream channel and portion of the floodplain that must remain open to permit passage of water without raising the water surface elevation by more than one foot) and the flood fringe (the portion of the floodway outside the floodway).

Floods are often measured by their chance of flooding in any given year and by the water surface elevation. The Special Flood Hazard Area, as designated by FEMA Flood Insurance Risk Maps (FIRM), identifies the 100-year flood and the 500-year flood. The 100-year flood designation applies to areas with a 1% chance of flooding in any given year. A 100-year flood may occur two years in a row or not occur for ten years. The 100-year flood is known as the base flood. This is the standard by which the NFIP is based. The base flood represents a compromise between minor

floods and the greatest flood likely to occur in a given area. Base flood elevations are indicated on the FIRM and in the Flood Insurance Study.

*History of Occurrences:* Floods are the most probable natural cause of emergencies or disaster in Wolcott. The Town is located predominantly within a river valley, with the Lamoille River following Route 15 east-west across town and the Wild Branch and Elmore Branch Rivers each feeding the Lamoille going north - south. High-elevation ponds and rivers have been one notable cause of flooding in the past. Advance weather prediction is not always accurate and extreme precipitation can develop without adequate warning. Flooding, especially flash flooding, can impact areas in town that are located near designated floodplains. Although spring thaws and ice breakups may cause some lowland flooding, summer or fall storms are more likely to be responsible for major flooding. Water contamination of private wells and springs is a potential problem during flood events.

Wolcott historically has recorded numerous floods. Annual flood events are common in some form. The floods of 1927, 1981, 1983, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2008, 2011, 2019, 2023, and 2024 caused significant damage that reverberates today. During severe rain events, Wolcott village has been temporarily evacuated as the Lamoille River rises (the village area is very small and evacuation is noticed by a LCSD patrol car). Damage covers a wide range from flooded cellars, roads washed out and bridge and culvert damage. However, flood waters usually recede quickly, as the Lamoille flows west through Morrisville, Johnson, Cambridge and eventually onward to Lake Champlain. Similar to the Lamoille River, the Wild Branch is also susceptible to flash flooding. Flash flooding over the past few years has caused significant road damage on North Wolcott Road near the Wild Branch.

Water contamination of private wells and springs is also a potential problem during major flood events. The town does not have pumps or any alternate water delivery/supply system established, should flooding contaminate the small community water system on School Street.

In general, roads, bridges, residences, and businesses along the Lamoille and Wild Branch Rivers have experienced repeated damage caused by flooding. Areas within Wolcott Village Center are subject to some extent of flooding almost annually. Roads that are frequently subject to flood damage and temporary closure include Vermont Route 15, School Street, and North Wolcott Road. See maps in Appendix A for flooding extent.

North Wolcott Road is a special concern because of the highly unstable condition of the Wild Branch River and close proximity of the road and several residences to the river. Large storm events have the potential to cause further river bank erosion and damage to nearby infrastructure.

The Town has noted in the 2026 Municipal Development Plan that the current location of the Town Garage and Fire Station within the 500-Year Floodplain is a concern. In significant flooding events these critical facilities become isolated. This occurred in the July 2023 flood when School Street and Flat Iron Road both flooded, causing significant damage including impassable road washouts on Flat Iron Road, temporarily isolating the Fire Department and Town Garage. This isolation delayed response time for emergency services and the Wolcott Highway Department to respond to the flooding event in July 2023.

See Table 1 below for a history (2011-2024) of major floods and severe storms in Lamoille County that impacted the Town of Wolcott. Major storms listed below resulted in federal disaster declarations.

**Table 1: Flooding and Severe Storm Events in Lamoille County (2011-2024)**

<b>Date (and FEMA DR number if event was declared a federal disaster)</b>	<b>Type of Event</b>	<b>Storm Extent/ Magnitude</b>	<b>Damage Assessment</b>	<b>FEMA public assistance funds received by Wolcott</b>
April-May, 2011 (DR-1995)	Severe Storms and Flooding	Snowmelt and up to 3 inches of rain and flash flooding from April 26-29 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	\$1,162,000 (County)	\$68,844.16
August, 2011 (DR 4022)	Tropical Storm Irene	Damaging winds more than 65mph. Peak wind recorded at 85mph at the top of Mount Mansfield. Rainfall amounts up to 3-5 inches. Event occurred August 28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> , 2011.	\$460,000 (County)	\$19,676.49
May 29, 2012 (DR-4066)	Severe Storm, Tornado and Flooding	On May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2012, a severe thunderstorm deposited up to 3-5 inches of rainfall and hail over an inch in diameter. Strong winds and lighting. EF0 tornado recorded north of Lamoille County in West Glover, VT.	\$306,000 (County)	\$0
May 23, 2013 (DR-4120)	Severe Storms and Flooding	Flash flooding and heavy rainfall May 23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013. The Lamoille River reached flood stage. Rainfall accumulation not available.	\$145,000 (County)	\$0
April 15, 2014 (DR-4178)	Severe Storms and Flooding	On April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2014 heavy rainfall and snowmelt caused minor to moderate flooding across Lamoille County. Prior to the storm 4-6 inches of snowpack water was released from April 10 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> . On April 15 <sup>th</sup> , the Lamoille River Flood gauge exceeded flood stage (13ft) in Johnson and crested	\$326,000 (County)	\$0

		at 14.16ft. Widespread damage and flooding along gravel roadsides.		
October 29, 2017 (DR-4356)	Severe Storms and Flooding	On October 29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 a severe thunderstorm brought gusts of winds up to 70mph. 115 mph recorded at the summit of Mt. Mansfield. Downed trees cause widespread power outage.	\$400,000 (County)	\$0
October 31 <sup>st</sup> -November 1st, 2019 (DR-4474)	Severe Flooding and Windstorm	Heavy rainfall up to 2-4 inches and high winds up to 50mph caused flash flooding on October 31 <sup>st</sup> -1 <sup>st</sup> of November 2019. Widespread downed trees, road washouts, and power outages.	\$843,900 (Estimate for Wolcott)	\$660,342.40 (PA Wolcott)
January 20, 2020 (DR-4532 VT)	Covid-19		\$494,937,732 (PA Statewide) \$1,510,756 (IA Statewide)	\$0
December 22, 2022 – December 24, 2022 (DR-4695)	Severe Storms and Flooding		\$2,294,598 (PA Statewide) \$421,866 (PA County) *	*****
July 7, 2023 – July 21, 2023 (DR-4720-VT)	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides		\$61,192,542(PA Statewide) \$26,199,865(IA -Statewide)	\$1,934,693 (PA Wolcott)
Dec 18, 2023 – December 19, 2023 (DR-4762-VT)	Severe Storms and Flooding		\$1,929,481 (PA Statewide) \$140,622 (PA County) *	*****
January 9, 2024 - January 13, 2024 (DR-4770-VT)	Severe Winter Storm		\$2,361,870 (PA Statewide) * \$226,759 (PA County) *	*****
July 9, 2024 – July 11,	Severe Storm, Flooding,		\$7,996,409 (PA Statewide) *	\$566,510 (PA Wolcott)

2024 (DR-4810-VT)	Landslides, and Mudslides		\$10,795,241 (IA Statewide) \$474,534 (PA Countywide) * \$313,179 (IA Countywide)	
August 22, 2024 – August 24, 2024 (DR-4816)	Severe Storms and Flooding		\$1,304,756 (PA Statewide)* \$1,212,669 (PA County)*	*****

Source: FEMA Declared Disaster Dataset, NOAA Storm Events Database

\*Preliminary damage assessment, not final funding obligation.

### *The National Flood Insurance Program*

Use of flood insurance claim and disaster assistance information is subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, which prohibits public release of the names of policy holders or recipients of financial assistance and the amount of the claim payment or assistance. However, maps showing general areas where claims have been paid can be made public. If a plan includes the names of policy holders or recipients of financial assistance and the amount of the claim payment or assistance, the plan cannot be approved until this Privacy Act covered information is removed from the plan.

Wolcott participates in the NFIP adopted on 6/6/2000. From 1978 to April 2024, Wolcott had 6 NFIP policies and 13 claims in force in town totaling \$210,842. There are no repetitive loss properties in Wolcott. Wolcott is one of two towns in Lamoille County with a digital flood insurance rate map (DFIRM). The Town will continue to regulate and enforce NFIP requirements through its floodplain management ordinance including new and substantially improved construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas and providing floodplain identification and mapping determinations. The Wolcott Zoning Administrator reviews NFIP compliance when reviewing applications for issuing zoning permits. The Zoning Administrator reviews permit applications to see if the property is in the floodplain and complying with NFIP flood proofing requirements.

As previous events have made clear, however, even areas beyond the NFIP designated 100-year floodplain may be vulnerable to flood related hazards. Channel adjustments with devastating consequences have frequently been documented (see pages 11 – 12 for a list of corridor plans) wherein such adjustments are linked to historical channel management activities, floodplain encroachments, adjacent land use practices and/or changes in watershed hydrology associated with conversion of land cover and drainage activities, within and beyond the NFIP floodplain.

The Floodplain map (Appendix A) identifies the areas of town that are within the 100-year and 500-year floodplain, and the mapped river corridors. Generally, these include lands adjacent to the Lamoille River and Route 15, running east/west, lands along the Wild Branch and North

Wolcott Road running north/south, as well as two large floodplains crossing Town Hill Road in the north part of the Town.

In 2017, LCPC worked with the Town to identify culverts in need of updating and sites of existing road erosion in 2019. Critical culverts (those less than 25% open and with critical deficiencies) identified in the culvert inventory are shown on the Transportation Concerns map. These culverts are at risk of catastrophic failure during storm events, and can cause whole sections of road to wash out. Likewise, culverts with a diameter less than 50% of bank full width are at risk of catastrophic failure. These culverts should be identified and prioritized for replacement.

The vast majority of flood damage in Wolcott has been sustained by road infrastructure. The Transportation Concerns map identifies areas of potential damage to transportation infrastructure due to erosion and road flooding. Wolcott annually has been performing maintenance to and replacement of culverts that have large spalls, heavy scaling, wide cracks, holes, severe scour or erosion, extreme distortion/deflection or that have extensive corrosion. LCPC will continue to work with the Town to further identify problem areas. For more information regarding flood hazard areas and fluvial erosion prone locations please see the Transportation Concerns map in Appendix A.

The following matrix provides an overview of the flood hazard:

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Flooding	Route 15, North Wolcott Rd, Flat Iron Rd, East Hill Rd, Keeler Rd, Baldwin Brook Rd, Corley Rd, Elmore Pond Rd, East Elmore Rd, School St	People, residences, businesses, community facilities, parks, farmland, bridges, roads, culverts, day care facilities; 22 miles of road and 28 structures are located in SFHA.	100-year flood event covering 100-year floodplain and 500-year flood event covering 500-year floodplain; 1995 and 2023 floods	2023 is the year with the highest damages from a flood event in recent years. The State of Vermont has over \$61 million in Public Assistance and over 26 million in Individual Assistance for flood related damage. Wolcott alone had nearly 2 million in flood	HIGH = 90% to 100% probability within the next year.

				damages the Town claimed FEMA Public Assistance for damage from the July 2023 flood.	
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### Winter Storm/Ice Storm

The community vulnerability to a Winter Storm/Ice Storm is *high*. See Table 2 below for a history of occurrences over the past decade that resulted in \$5,000 or more of county-wide damage.

**Table 2: Winter and Ice Storm Occurrence in Lamoille County**

Date (FEMA DR Number if event was declared a federal disaster)	Snow or Ice Accumulation in Lamoille County (and Wolcott when available)	Damage Assessment County-Wide
January 2, 2010	8-18" of snow	\$25,000
February 23, 2010	6-30" of snow	\$100,000
April 23, 2010	4-12" of snow	\$15,000
December 6, 2010	12-24" of snow	\$5,000
January 12, 2011	8-15" of snow	\$10,000
February 2, 2011	10-15" of snow	\$50,000
February 25, 2011	6-12" of snow	\$10,000
March 6, 2011	18-30" of snow	\$25,000
February 24, 2012	8-30+" of snow	\$20,000
December 26, 2012	10-16" of snow	\$15,000
February 2, 2013	8-12" of snow	\$10,000
February 20, 2013	6-18" of snow	\$10,000
March 19, 2013	9-15" of snow	\$10,000
December 21, 2013 (DR-4163)	¾-1 inch of ice	\$390,000
March 12, 2014	12-18" of snow	\$20,000
November 26, 2014	6-12" of snow	\$20,000
December 9, 2014 (DR-4207)	6-18" of snow	\$230,000
November 20, 2016	6-12" of snow	\$0
February 12, 2017	8-14" of snow	\$10,000
March 14, 2017	18-28" of snow	\$15,000
March 13, 2018	12-30" of snow	\$10,000
January 8, 2019	8-18" of snow	\$20,000
January 19, 2019	10-18" of snow	\$15,000
January 29, 2019	5-8" of snow	\$10,000
February 13, 2019	7-12" of snow	\$10,000
March 23, 2019	6-18" of snow	\$20,000
November 12, 2019	4-6" of snow	\$5,000
December 29, 2019	3-5" of snow and sleet	\$10,000
January 16, 2020	6-10" of snow	\$10,000
January 19, 2020	6-12" of snow	\$5,000

February 7, 2020	12-18" of snow, ¼" ice accumulation	\$25,000
January 16, 2021	3-12" of snow	\$20,000
February 2, 2021	4-9" of snow	\$5,000
November 26, 2021	4-8" of snow	\$10,000
December 18, 2021	5-6" of snow	\$5,000
April 19, 2022	3-7" of snow	\$50,000

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, FEMA and Town records

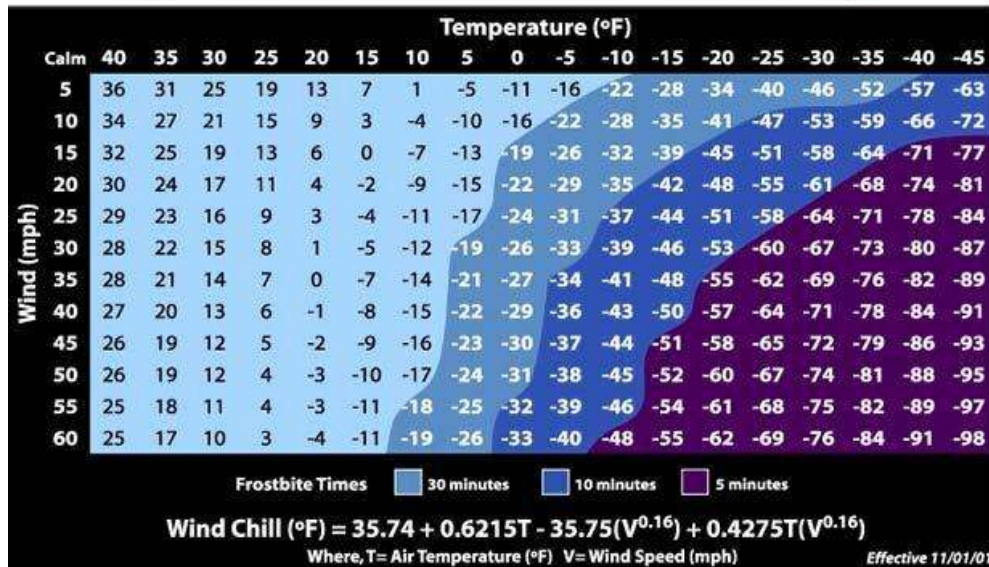
As categorized in the table above, a winter precipitation event causes a death, injury, or a significant impact to commerce or transportation but does not meet locally/regionally defined warning criteria. A Winter Weather event could result from one or more winter precipitation types (snow, or blowing/drifted snow, or freezing rain/drizzle) on a widespread or localized basis. A winter weather event which has more than one significant hazard (i.e., heavy snow and blowing snow; snow and ice; snow and sleet; sleet and ice; or snow, sleet and ice) and meets or exceeds locally/regionally defined 12 and/or 24-hour warning criteria for at least one of the precipitation elements, on a widespread or localized basis. Normally, a winter storm would pose a threat to life or property.

A winter storm is a storm that generates sufficient quantities of snow, ice or sleet to result in hazardous conditions and/or property damage. Ice storms are sometimes incorrectly referred to as sleet storms. Sleet is similar to hail only smaller and can be easily identified as frozen rain drops (ice pellets) that bounce when hitting the ground or other objects. Sleet does not stick to wires or trees, but in sufficient depth, can cause hazardous driving conditions. Ice storms are the result of cold rain that freezes on contact with the surfaces coating the ground, trees, buildings, overhead wires and other exposed objects with ice, sometimes causing extensive damage. Periods of extreme cold tend to occur with these events.

The physical impacts of winter storms are town wide due to the expansive nature of winter storms. Based on past occurrences, the worst anticipated winter weather Wolcott could experience would be 2-3' in 24 hours of snow, with more at higher elevations and several days of power outages. The ice storm of December 2013 demonstrated that sustained power outages are not fatal but advance preparation and planning should be taken by municipal officials and residents.



# NWS Windchill Chart



Scales to measure the extent of winter storms are:

**Heavy snowfall** – Wolcott is significantly affected when they experience an accumulation of 24 inches or more in a 24-hour period.

**Blizzard** – Wolcott is significantly affected when they experience sustained wind speeds in excess of 40 mph accompanied by heavy snowfall or large amounts of blowing or drifting snow.

**Ice storm** – Wolcott is significantly affected when they experience ice accumulations of 1” or greater over a 48 – 72-hour time period.

Winter storms with snow, ice, and freezing temperatures in various combinations are fairly commonplace in Wolcott. The town is geared to handle most winter emergencies. A potential for emergency exists when such storms also result in the loss of electricity, leaving people without adequate heating capability. Heavy wet snows of early fall and late spring cause most power failures, however, ice storms can also cause power outages.

Due to the region’s mountainous terrain, it is not uncommon for precipitation to range from rain in the valley area, to ice in the middle elevations, with heavy snows in the higher terrain. This poses a major challenge to highway maintenance personnel. Wolcott maintains snow removal equipment for all town highways, and Vermont Agency of Transportation maintains equipment for state highways. Snowfalls that are within normal snowfall limits are handled effectively; however, during heavy snowfall for extended periods of time, removal of snow becomes an issue. Historically, these events are not frequent and are short in duration. During such events, radio communications are maintained between highway crews and town emergency responders. Local construction equipment in the community has been used in the past to augment community resources. Most residents are accessible during severe weather conditions, although access may be delayed. In the event of a winter emergency, the Highway Department will assist fire and ambulance crews by making private roads passable.

By observing winter storm watches and warnings, adequate preparations can usually be made to lessen the impact of snow, ice, and sleet, and below freezing temperature conditions on the Town. Providing for the mass care and sheltering of residents left without heat or electricity for an extended time and mobilizing sufficient resources to clear broken tree limbs from roads are the primary challenges facing community officials. The Town encourages residents who are in remote locations to be equipped with generators and backup fuel supplies in the event of prolonged power outages and travel restrictions. The Fire Department can continue to provide outreach and education of the impacts of winter storms to these populations.

Winter storms pose a severe threat to a large percentage of the Town’s population as elderly persons within the Town are limited in their ability to shovel roofs and clear around vent pipes. Major snow storms resulting in deep snow drifts can block heating vent pipes causing carbon monoxide poisoning. During snow storms, the Fire Department may experience difficulty reaching customers as the roads due to cleared roads as the town road crew may be busy with snow removal in other areas of town.

Despite frequent occurrences of significant storms, a majority of Town residents are adequately prepared to face these types of events.

The following matrix provides an overview of the hazard:

Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Probability
Winter Storm / Ice Storm	Town wide	Roads, bridges, power lines, senior citizens	12”+ of snow in a 12-hour period; 40 mph wind plus snow; ice accumulations up to 1” over 24 – 36 hour period	\$0 - \$50,000; number of people without power	High probability, 90% to 100%, of occurring within the next year.

### Severe Storms, including Thunderstorms, Windstorms, and Hurricanes / Tropical Storms

The community vulnerability to a Severe Storm is *high*. See Table 3 below for *a history of occurrences over the past decade that resulted in \$5,000 or more of county-wide damage*.

**Table 3: High Wind and Thunder Wind Occurrence in Lamoille County**

Date (and FEMA DR number if applicable)	High Wind (HW) or Thunderstorm Wind (TW) Magnitude	Damage Assessment Lamoille County
December 21, 2012	HW 61 knots	\$50,000 in Lamoille County
July 17, 2013	TW 50 knots	\$5,000 in Wolcott

July 19, 2013	TW 55-65 knots	\$135,000 in Wolcott, Stowe, Morristown, Johnson, Hyde Park, Cambridge and Jeffersonville
July 23, 2014	TW 55 knots	\$50,000 in Stowe
June 20, 2016	TW 50 knots	\$15,000 in Cambridge, Stowe and Johnson
July 22, 2016	TW 50-55 knots	\$15,000 in Cambridge and East Johnson
August 28, 2016	TW 50 knots	\$10,000 in Johnson and Belvidere Center
May 31, 2017	TW 50 knots	\$5,000 in Stowe
October 30, 2017 (DR 4356)	HW 52 knots	\$400,000 in Lamoille County (\$0 FEMA)
December 23, 2022	HW 52 knots	\$300,000 in Lamoille County
January 10, 2024	HW 50 knots	\$50,000 in Lamoille County
June 19, 2024	TW 50 knots	\$5,000 in North Wolcott

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The severe storms hazard includes thunderstorms, hurricanes/ tropical storms, and windstorms. Hurricanes and tropical storms are violent rainstorms with strong winds that have large amounts of rainfall and can reach speeds up to 200 mph. Hurricane season is between the months of June and November. These types of storms originate in the warm waters of the Caribbean and move up the Eastern seaboard where they lose speed in the cooler waters of the North Atlantic.

Saffir-Simpson Scale for Hurricane Classification				
Strength	Wind Speed (Kts)	Wind Speed (MPH)	Pressure (Millibars)	Pressure
Category 1	64- 82 kts	74- 95 mph	>980 mb	28.94 "Hg
Category 2	83- 95 kts	96-110 mph	965-979 mb	28.50-28.91 "Hg
Category 3	96-113 kts	111-130 mph	945-964 mb	27.91-28.47 "Hg
Category 4	114-135 kts	131-155 mph	920-944 mb	27.17-27.88 "Hg
Category 5	>135 kts	>155 mph	919 mb	27.16 "Hg
Tropical Cyclone Classification				
Tropical Depression		20-34kts		
Tropical Storm		35-63kts		
Hurricane		64+kts or 74+mph		

A severe thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that contains any one or more of the following three weather conditions: hail that is 3/4 of an inch or greater in diameter, winds 58 miles per hour or greater, and/or tornadoes. Severe storm events can occur late spring and early summer as temperatures increase in the summer season. The frequency and intensity of hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe storms is expected to increase with climate change.

Thunderstorms can generate high winds, such as occurred in parts of eastern Vermont on July 6, 1999, downing hundreds of large trees in a few minutes. The extent of severe storms is not well documented in Wolcott. The impact of storms is usually flood related. See extent of flooding in the above flood section. Wind impacts may be town wide. Wind extent from storms is not well documented as there is no monitoring station in Wolcott. However, in December 2010, a

damaging windstorm in central and northwest Vermont led to a federal disaster declaration for Chittenden, Franklin, and Lamoille counties.

Estimates for wind are gathered from data off the NCDC website and show speeds in the 50 – 60 knot range during high wind or thunderstorm events. The extent of wind damage is measured using the Beaufort Scale (below right). Debris that is caught in a windstorm has the potential to cause transportation delays, power outages, damage roofs, or clog storm drains and culverts.

The impacts associated with hurricanes and severe storms are mainly associated with flooding impacts and the potential for damage from debris and fallen trees that could cause power outages. Tropical Storm Irene devastated southern and central Vermont in August 2011. Wolcott sustained moderate damage from this latest storm, with one bridge and 8 road segments incurring some level of damage. Wind speeds during the April 2011 storm averaged 67 knots, which translates to a Beaufort number 11 using that wind speed measurement.

Additionally, sensitive populations such as the elderly or handicapped may be susceptible to hurricanes/severe storms/tropical storms when power is lost and life support systems run on electricity. If power is lost, some populations may need to be relocated to areas with power so that medical equipment can function. Additionally, limited mobility of some persons may make it difficult to relocate in general or in times of emergencies. The Town encourages neighbors to check on those neighbors who they may believe to be at risk during times of emergency. Emergency protocols for relocating sensitive populations are outlined in Wolcott’s Local Emergency Operations Plan. In the future, Wolcott could map trouble spots on heavily traveled roads that reach sensitive populations in order to identify additional evacuation routes. Also, Wolcott can continue to provide outreach and education of the impacts of hurricanes/severe storms/tropical storms to these populations.

Beaufort Scale

Beaufort number	Wind Speed (knots)	Seaman's term		Effects on Land
0	Under 1	Calm		Calm; smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	Light Air		Smoke drift indicates wind direction; waves do not break.
2	4-7	Light Breeze		Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; waves begin to move.
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze		Leaves, small twigs in constant motion; light flag extended.
4	13-18	Moderate Breeze		Dust, leaves and loose paper raised up; small branches move.
5	19-24	Fresh Breeze		Small trees begin to sway.
6	25-31	Strong Breeze		Large branches of trees in motion; whistling heard in wires.
7	32-38	Moderate Gale		Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against the wind.
8	39-46	Fresh Gale		Folgs and small branches broken off trees.
9	47-54	Strong Gale		Slight structural damage occurs; silt blown from roofs.
10	55-63	Whole Gale		Season unroofed or lost; trees broken; structural damage occurs.
11	64-72	Storm		Very heavy experienced on land; usually with widespread damage.
12	73 or higher	Hurricane Force		Violence and destruction.

The following matrix provides an overview of the hazard:

Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Probability
Hurricanes and Tropical Storms	Areas where flooding is commonly found, road network, near utility lines	Residential and commercial structures, infrastructure, riverbank erosion, power outages, people	Saffir-Simpson Scale Category 1, Beaufort Scale 8 or 9	\$0 - \$1 million	Unlikely –10% - 50% probability within the next year

Heavy Winds and Severe Storms	Areas where flooding is commonly found, road network, near utility lines	Residential and commercial structures, infrastructure, riverbank erosion, power outages, people	Beaufort Scale 8 or 9	\$5,000 - \$50,000 (based on past history)	Medium – 50% to 90% probability within the next year
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### 3.3 Moderate Threat Hazards

#### Major Highway and Railroad Accidents

Wolcott is bisected by one major State highway: VT Route 15, which serves as the region’s major east-west trucking and transportation corridor. Motorists travel at high speeds on the state highway network, creating potentially dangerous intersections with local roadways. The threat of a major highway accident is an ever-present possibility in communities across the United States. The only intersection identified by the town that has high potential for accidents is the VT Route 15 and North Wolcott Road intersection, due to the design of the intersection and the high rate of speed (posted speed limit is 50 MPH along much of Route 15). The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) has identified the Elmore Pond Road as a high crash corridor. These two intersections are shown on the Transportation Concerns map. The threat of a major railroad accident is non-existent, as there are no active rail lines in Wolcott. Bridges with a federal sufficiency rating of less than 50 (out of 100) are also shown. Four (4) of the bridges in Wolcott have a federal sufficiency rating of less than 50.

The following matrix provides an overview of the hazard:

Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Probability
Major Highway and Railway Accidents	Intersection of VT Route 15 and North Wolcott Rd, Elmore Pond Road	Risk of death, injury or property damage	12 crashes, 3 injuries and 0 fatalities in 5 years (2012 - 2016)	\$0 - \$1 million	High: 90% - 100% probability of happening in the next year.

#### Structure Fire

Structure fire is when a building is partially damaged or destroyed by a fire. According to data from the 2010 Census and Vermont Center for Geographic Information, there are 755 housing units within the town and approximately 44 commercial buildings. Housing units are typically built on multi-acre lots; however, homes in the village are more densely sited. The risk of large scale structure fires is moderate in Wolcott. The most significant risks involve the village areas and schools. Like most of Vermont homes, many residences use wood or pellet burning stoves for heat, which may increase the risk of a localized structure fire. In 2012 the Wolcott Fire

Department responded to 5 chimney fires that did not involve structures. There were also 4 reported structure fires, of which the causes were not reported. The density and closeness of buildings and homes increases the likelihood of fire spreading from building to building. Mutual aid agreements with surrounding municipalities are in place to support larger-scale incidents.

*The extent of damage is incipient to growth stage, depending on the age of the structure and proximity to other structures. The impact of fire is relative to the age and size of the structure. Depending on when the fire is identified, the impacts may be minimal (minor smoke damage) to devastating (complete loss of structure and/or life).*

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Structure Fire	Village centers	Buildings, People	Historic homes and buildings in Wolcott Village located less than 10 feet from one another	\$0 - \$50,000	Likelihood of hazard occurring based upon past events: Medium: 50% to 90% probability of happening in the next year.

### **Power Outage**

One of the most common impacts of major natural disasters can be the prolonged loss of electricity, whether from localized damage to distribution systems or from remote impacts to generation and transmission facilities. Based on the rural character of the town and its concerns with transportation infrastructure in inclement weather, protracted loss of power could become a hazard unto itself, causing ramifications and impacts such as significantly endangering health and safety, substantial economic consequences, or causing stress and severe inconvenience to the town’s residents and businesses. The shortage of energy and food supplies could threaten the welfare of the citizens of Wolcott. The dependency upon out of state sources can become a problem when normal deliveries are interrupted. The VT Department of Health and Lamoille County Sheriff’s Department maintain a list of vulnerable populations who may require additional assistance during long term outages.

Major electric utility companies have active, ongoing programs to improve system reliability and protect facilities from damage by ice, severe winds and other hazards. Typically, these programs focus on trimming trees to prevent encroachment of overhead lines, strengthening vulnerable system components, protecting equipment from lightning strikes and placing new distribution lines underground. The Town may also reduce vulnerability to power outages by tree pruning along town highways.

Additionally, sensitive populations such as the elderly or handicapped may be susceptible to extreme temperatures when power is lost and heating systems are run on electricity (versus gas or natural fuels). If power is lost, some populations may need to be relocated to areas with power so that medical equipment can function. Additionally limited mobility of some persons may make it difficult to relocate in general or in times of emergencies. The Town encourages neighbors to check on those neighbors who they may believe to be at risk during times of

emergency. The CARE program started by the United Way (Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies) is a self-reporting system for people who may need special assistance during an emergency. Residents are encouraged to sign up for this program if they need assistance. In the future, the Town can map the location of sensitive populations and trouble spots on roads that reach those populations in order to identify additional routes.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Power Failure	Town wide	Human Health	Town wide	\$0 - \$50,000	Likelihood of hazard occurring based upon past events: Medium: 50% to 90% probability of happening in the next year.

### **Drought**

There are two types of drought: a short time drought lasts a few weeks or a couple of months. A long-term drought is if the weather or atmospheric circulation pattern becomes entrenched and the precipitation deficit lasts for several months to several years. It is possible for a long-term drought to have wet spells and vice-versa.

Drought has occurred in almost every Lamoille County municipality, but it is generally limited to individual house wells or community wells serving a particular subdivision running dry in the heat of the summer. The local water table reached an all-time low during the nationwide drought of 1988; however, recovery was fairly rapid. The town has no public water reservoirs if private wells go dry. Drought poses risk to the entire community and population of Wolcott. There is an elevated risk of fire danger during periods of prolonged drought.

Planned residential growth in Wolcott Village and North Wolcott Village will increase reliance on local water sources. As development expands into areas currently served by limited groundwater resources, future drought conditions could increase stress on water supply infrastructure and private wells. These new residential areas represent emerging assets that may become vulnerable under prolonged drought scenarios.

The recent D3 event highlights an upward trend in drought severity and underscores the need to plan for higher-magnitude drought events than those previously experienced. Future hazard mitigation planning will consider D3 conditions as the baseline extreme planning scenario for the Town of Wolcott.

Droughts represent a hazard in late summer, when local spring and well levels are reduced to minimal flows. Traditionally, drought has not been a serious statewide concern in Vermont; it is a cyclical threat most recently occurring statewide in 2001. There are no recorded drought events for Lamoille County at the NCDC since January 1950, but dry weather struck Vermont in 1999, resulting in a significant drought that impacted farm ponds, reservoirs, and private and municipal water supplies. The drought was unusual because some parts of Vermont received enough rain to

prevent total crop loss. Parts of the state had 18 days with temperatures above 90 degrees (approximately three times more than normal) and several consecutive months below average precipitation.

Dollar losses from droughts are not estimated to date but certain losses associated with the following could be investigated as such: the reduction in agricultural production; the cost to bring water to struggling farms; the construction of new community water supplies with better storage capability (such as groundwater supplies that tap water in natural storage); the replacement of surface supplies and springs by drilled wells during the drought period; and drilled wells that have been deepened to capture additional yield when sustainable yield drops during the drought period.

Drought is very hard to measure based on the number of disciplines affected by it as well as the geographical distribution of drought. Two indices have been developed to try and measure the extent of a drought: the Palmer Drought Index (PDI) and the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), which measures precipitation. The PDI measures drought based on the duration and intensity of drought-inducing circulation patterns. In 1999, the drought rated as “moderate” on the PDI across the Green Mountains, including all of Lamoille County, and “severe” in the Champlain Valley. While summer dry spells are common, Vermont is not considered to be highly vulnerable to a full-scale drought due to our abundant water supply.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Drought	Town wide, with emphasis on agricultural operations	Agriculture Economic vitality People	Based on the 1999 drought, a “moderate” Palmer Drought Index rating	Loss of crops and pasture, a shortage of food for livestock, potential lack of drinking water	Likelihood of hazard occurring based upon past events: Medium: 50% to 90% probability of happening in the next year.

**Landslide**

The term “landslide” describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of slope-forming materials including rock, soil, organic matter, or artificial fill. The materials may move by falling, toppling, sliding, spreading, or flowing and generally move in either a planar fashion, classified as translational, or curved, classified as rotational or slump. They can be as large as several cubic miles or as small as a few cubic meters and are able to move as quickly as a free fall or as slowly as a multi-century creep.<sup>1</sup> Landslides that move a significant amount of material quickly and over a large area have the capacity to cause substantial damage to infrastructure, buildings and the natural environment, as well as cause injuries and fatalities.

The Town of Wolcott now considers landslides as a moderate hazard in terms of threat to the community and public infrastructure. In light of more recent landslide events in 2024 and 2025 in locations such as Gulf Road and North Wolcott Road the Town has upgraded landslides to a moderate hazard with a medium probability. The Town is currently monitoring an active landslide on North Wolcott Road, which is a vital community connector to North Wolcott

Village. With increasing precipitation and often saturated soils the Town of Wolcott anticipates landslides will occur annually moving forward. See the table below for the extent of impact of this hazard.

Landslides can occur due to flooding, severe storms, or earthquakes. Sensitive populations such as the elderly or handicapped may be susceptible to flooding, severe storms, or earthquakes when power is lost and life support systems run on electricity. If power is lost, some populations may need to be relocated to areas with power so that medical equipment can function. Additionally, limited mobility of some persons may make it difficult to relocate in general or in times of emergencies. The Town encourages neighbors to check on those neighbors who they may believe to be at risk during times of emergency. Emergency protocols for relocating sensitive populations are outlined in Wolcott’s Local Emergency Operations Plan. In the future, Wolcott could map trouble spots on heavily traveled roads that reach sensitive populations in order to identify additional evacuation routes. Also, Wolcott can continue to provide outreach and education of the impacts of flooding, severe storms, and earthquakes to these populations.

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>
Landslide	Municipal Roads, especially along Gulf Road and North Wolcott Road	Public infrastructure, (residents along Roads in landslide prone areas)	Based on the 2024 landslide, a “moderate” index rating was assigned	Damage to public infrastructure, loss of property	Likelihood of hazard occurring based upon past events: Medium: 50% to 90% probability of happening in the next year.

#### **4. Mitigation Strategy**

##### **4.1 Hazard Mitigation Goals**

During the planning process, Wolcott’s hazard mitigation goals were reviewed and updated to reflect changes in the Town’s mitigation priorities based on the hazards, risks, and community vulnerability to each hazard. To this end, the Town of Wolcott supports the following hazard mitigation goals:

- Provide the technical support for, and aid in the development of implementation protection mechanisms at the local level that will serve to avoid land use investments that would be, over time, endangered by, incompatible or in conflict with fluvial adjustment and erosion processes, and landslides.
- To reduce injury and losses from the natural hazard of flash floods, flooding, and fluvial erosion; extreme cold, snow, and ice storm; severe storms, windstorms, hurricanes, and tropical storms; power outages; and other severe weather events.
- Ensure that emergency response services and critical facilities functions are not interrupted by natural hazards.
- Provide adequate communication systems for emergency personnel and response units to avoid loss of life and damage to property.

- Provide residents with adequate warning of potential hazards to avoid loss of life and damage to property.
- Encourage hazard mitigation planning as a part of the local planning process, using tools such as the Lamoille Flood Model to advance projects.
- Maximize use of FEMA hazard mitigation opportunities related to Public Assistance funded projects when available as a result of federally declared disasters.
- Following disasters, for large and complex drainage and road repair projects, make “temporary fixes” to damaged infrastructure to address immediate emergency access and life safety considerations, to the extent practical, until consulting with FEMA to ensure compliance with state permitting and maximize hazard mitigation opportunities for Project Worksheets for permanent repairs.
- Continue to prioritize infrastructure upgrades/repairs to mitigate future damage and community impacts to flooding, winter storms, and severe storms.

## **4.2 Mitigation Actions, Strategies, Prioritization, and Implementation**

The mitigation strategies in Section 4.2.1 list specific, prioritized activities with more detail found in Appendices B and C. In Section 4.2.3 below, general or ongoing mitigation strategies and emergency preparedness activities are listed. This ongoing list is updated with each hazard mitigation plan. Within each strategy and action general details are provided about: local leadership, possible resources, implementation tools, and prioritization.

A major barrier to implementation of mitigation projects is funding. Vermont’s Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security encourages a collaborative approach to achieving mitigation at the local level through partnerships with Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, VTrans, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Regional Planning Commissions, FEMA Region 1, and others. That said, these agencies and organizations can work together to provide assistance and resources to towns interested in pursuing hazard mitigation projects. Local officials and property owners can contact the State Hazard Mitigation Officer or State Hazard Mitigation Planner with questions, technical assistance, or to find out about grant opportunities. Visit the following link for a current listing of staff at Vermont Emergency Management: <https://vem.vermont.gov/contact-us/staff>.

Federal grant opportunities for mitigation include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Community Development Block Grants, and programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. State funding is available through VTrans (e.g. Better Backroads), ANR, and ACCD. Wolcott understands that in order to apply for FEMA funding for mitigation projects, the project must meet FEMA benefit-cost criteria. The town must also have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **4.2.1 Progress on Hazard Mitigation Actions in the Last Five Years**

Since 2020, the Town of Wolcott has made progress on several mitigation actions. Recommended projects that the Town and LCPC are exploring funding opportunities for include replacement of structure 27-1 (bridge) on North Wolcott Road near Four Wheel Drive, engineering/flood modeling to evaluate upsizing/replacing the Bridge over the Elmore Brook

near Flat Iron Road, and upsizing undersized culverts and bridges on North Wolcott Road and Gulf Road over the Wild Branch. These existing structures act as a pinch point for the river, making these areas prone to erosion and flooding.

To mitigate flooding impacts along North Wolcott Road, the Town worked with the LCPC, the Agency of Natural Resources Rivers Program, and Vermont Emergency Management to restore 3.7 acres of floodplain at the North Wolcott Recreation Fields. The project was developed based on detailed hydraulic modeling of the Wild Branch. This project helped to address river and road conflicts and reconfigure a community asset to provide greater flood resiliency. This project was funded by the Vermont Emergency Management Flood Resilient Communities Fund. The majority of construction was completed in fall of 2024. Tree plantings were completed at this restoration site in spring of 2025.

In 2024, the Town of Wolcott worked with the LCPC to remove a berm at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) Access Area off Elmore Pond Road. This berm removal project enhances floodplain access and allows floodwaters to dissipate naturally into the nearby vegetated field. Increasing access to the floodplain reduces scouring and erosion near the Elmore Pond Road Bridge and along the streambank of the Lamoille River. The implementation of this project was funded by the Watersheds United Vermont Design and Implementation Block Grant.

Recent planning efforts have re-focused attention on evaluating the feasibility and potential locations for a municipal wastewater system. In 2019, the Town of Wolcott worked with the Lamoille County Planning Commission to secure a Northern Borders Grant to hire an engineer to explore alternative wastewater systems in Wolcott Village. The funding for this project was secured in 2024, primarily through Vermont American Rescue Plan Act funding, Agency of Commerce and Community Development grants, and Northern Border Regional Commission grants. Construction of the wastewater system is expected to start in May 2026. Future planning efforts will focus on securing funding for a municipal wastewater system in North Wolcott Village as well as attracting new business and housing development to Wolcott Village outside the floodplain.

The status of mitigation actions from the previous 2020 Wolcott Local Hazard Mitigation Plan are referenced below. Currently, increasing broadband and cellular coverage as well as focusing on infrastructure upgrades are the Town’s highest priorities. This is a high priority today and an area the Town of Wolcott would like to enhance its capabilities. The focus on infrastructure upgrades to reduce flooding damage remains a top priority for the town. This includes culvert and bridge upsizing, flood modeling, and mitigation projects along river corridors. This 2025 plan also highlights mitigation actions that focus on improving emergency response capabilities such as identifying funding for EOC and Emergency Shelter equipment and new technologies for emergency response communication.

**Table 4: Status of Previous Plan Hazard Mitigation Actions**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
Further explore and develop mitigation projects along the Wild Branch and Lamoille Rivers that were identified in the River Corridor Report.	1 Tributary/Wetland Restoration Project completed (2019) along Wild Branch north of Fort Hill Bridge. North Wolcott Recreation Fields

	Floodplain Restoration Project completed in 2025. Other restoration efforts along the Wild Branch and Lamoille River are ongoing.
Develop a plan to move the Fire Station and Town Garage out of the 500-Year Floodplain.	Not complete, but still a priority in 2025 plan.
Replace the undersized culvert on East Hill Road	Completed in 2019
Conduct educational outreach about snow loads for roofs. Consider regulatory measures such as a new zoning law requiring adequately pitched roofs for new construction.	Completed. Town updated zoning and subdivision bylaws in 2016.
Evaluate the feasibility of a municipal water system in the Village.	Feasibility study completed.
Replace undersized stream culvert at the bottom of Brook Road near North Wolcott Road (Culvert # 8-1 in Town Culvert Inventory).	Completed in October, 2022
Replace culvert 21-6 over Tamarack Brook on Town Hill Road to mitigate sink hole/ flooding concerns.	Completed in 2024
Replace undersized culvert 12-3 on East Elmore Road.	Completed in 2021
Replace Bridge B4 on School Street to address structural safety, flooding concerns, and bike/pedestrian safety.	In progress. Fully funded. Scheduled for replacement in 2025-2026
Evaluate river/road conflict areas (North Wolcott Road, Elmore Pond Road, Gulf Road) in Town. Prioritize nearby culverts for replacement with an adequately sized structure and prioritize streambank stabilization projects.	In progress
Evaluate the feasibility of a municipal wastewater system in Wolcott Village and North Wolcott Village. This evaluation will include exploring community septic systems to relocate septic out of the floodplain.	Partially completed. Funding secured. Wolcott village wastewater system will be implemented in 2026.
Replace structure 27-1 (bridge) on North Wolcott Road near Four Wheel Drive as identified in the 2017 North Wolcott Bike and Pedestrian Study.	Not yet completed. Town needs to secure funding.
Participate in local and regional planning efforts to improve broadband and cell phone service coverage to enhance emergency response capabilities.	Ongoing. Fidium Fiber will be installed along North Wolcott Rd and School St by July 16, 2025 (areas the Town is looking into for Emergency response capabilities)
Review final report from MPG FY 19 Partnership Project and decide whether to participate in the Vermont Community Rating System.	In progress
Explore the possibility of adopting a River Corridor overlay for the Wild Branch and Elmore Branch within the local zoning bylaws, to better protect life and property in town.	In progress. Will be mandated soon per VT Act 121.

Source: 2020 Input from Wolcott Town Officials/Selectboard, and Wolcott Town/ LCPC Grant Records

Considering progress made on mitigation actions, the Wolcott Selectboard met on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to discuss its current vulnerability to natural hazards. The Town of Wolcott feels its

vulnerability has stayed the same since there has been limited new development in the past five years and the Town continues to maintain its infrastructure and proactively upgrade culvert and bridges to reduce flooding damage as funding is available.

#### **4.2.2 Specific Hazard Mitigation Programs, Projects & Activities**

The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee reviewed the list of ongoing mitigation and emergency planning activities and strategies (see Section 4.2.3). The following list prioritized the top mitigation actions for the next five-year cycle. In Wolcott, the major concern is the impact of a serious flooding and/or snow or ice storm incident where power may be out and transportation routes to the town would be impacted, effectively leaving the general public and special needs populations at risk due to delayed response time. Partners involved in completing these projects are identified in parentheses following the description. To see how they were prioritized, see matrix on pages 37-39. For more on implementation, please see the table on pages 39-42.

- Develop a plan to move the Fire Station and Town Garage out of the 500-Year Floodplain. Currently the Town has a plan during flood emergencies to move personnel and equipment from these structures to the Elementary School, located on higher ground, should the need arise. However, the Town realizes this is a less-than-ideal situation that hinders the capacities of the Highway Department and Fire Department to respond adequately during emergencies. The Town would be better served if these facilities were moved permanently out of harm's way.

*Potential Funding Source: VEM Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.*

- Secure funding for an engineering study to reconfigure Route 15/North Wolcott Road intersection.

*Potential Funding Sources: Vermont Agency of Transportation*

- Explore funding for engineering/flood modeling to evaluate upsizing/replacing the Bridge over the Elmore Brook near Flat Iron Road.

*Potential Funding Sources: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Clean Water Service Provider, Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.*

- Replace structure 27-1 (bridge) on North Wolcott Road near Four Wheel Drive as identified in the 2017 North Wolcott Bike and Pedestrian Study.

*Potential Funding Sources: Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant or Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.*

- Further explore and develop mitigation projects along the Wild Branch and Lamoille Rivers that were identified by the Town or in the River Corridor Report or Lamoille River Hydraulic Model including streambank stabilization and floodplain restoration along North Wolcott Road.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Clean Water Block Grants

- Evaluate and implement flood mitigation projects including upsizing culvert and bridges along the Wild Branch and Lamoille River that were identified as a constriction or undersized in Flood Modeling including the Gulf Road Bridge and Elmore Pond Road Bridge over the Lamoille River.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Secure funding to upsize undersized culverts on North Wolcott Road.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Better Roads Program, Grant and Aid Program

- Explore emergency response communication training opportunities for key personnel and local officials to enhance town-wide response coordination.

*Potential Funding Source:* Communications and emergency response trainings are offered through Vermont Emergency Management. The LCPC can host key EMD and ICS trainings in coordination with Vermont Emergency Management.

- Explore funding opportunities to purchase new communications and EOC equipment for Wolcott emergency responders and equipment for the Wolcott emergency shelter.

*Potential Funding Source:* Vermont Emergency Management.

- Explore funding opportunities to purchase a storage container to store emergency shelter supplies in.

*Potential Funding Source:* Vermont Emergency Management

- Explore funding opportunities to purchase emergency shelter supplies (cots, blankets etc.) and signs.

*Potential Funding Source:* Vermont Emergency Management.

- Annually review the Wolcott Culvert, Bridge, and Road Erosion Inventories and prioritize structures and road segments for upgrades to mitigate damages caused by natural hazards. Highway department will update spreadsheet monthly.

*Potential Funding Sources:* HMGP, 404 Mitigation/ Public Assistance.

- Evaluate and implement floodplain restoration/flood mitigation alternatives near Flat Iron Road/Dead End Road and School Street to reduce flooding in Wolcott Village.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Clean Water Block Grant.

- Review final report from MPG FY 19 Partnership Project and decide whether to participate in the Vermont Community Rating System to reduce flood insurance rates (5-15%) and enhance outreach about flood preparedness.

*Potential Funding Sources:* ACCD Municipal Planning Grant, LCPC Emergency Management Planning Grant.

- To further evaluate structures vulnerable to flooding, consider participating as a pilot town for the VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Project as funding is available to the Lamoille Watershed.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Vermont Agency of Transportation.

- Evaluate the feasibility of a municipal wastewater system in North Wolcott Village. This evaluation will include exploring community septic systems to relocate septic out of the floodplain.

*Potential Funding Source:* For final design planning and implementation of an alternative wastewater system, the Northern Borders Regional Commission, VT DEC, or Direct Congressional Spending

- Coordinate with local utilities to prioritize roads to clear the utility right of way to minimize future damage to utility lines from snow, wind and ice.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Local tax base, Vermont Agency of Transportation

- As new development is proposed in the town, encourage utility lines to be buried and reference in zoning bylaw update.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Local tax base, grants

- Inspect and remove, if necessary, trees and/or limbs which endanger electrical lines during windstorms or ice storms.

*Potential Funding Sources:* FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant.

- Participate in local and regional planning efforts to improve broadband and cell phone service coverage to enhance emergency response capabilities.

*Potential Funding Source:* A potential funding source is Broadband Planning grants through the Vermont Public Utility Commission.

- Adopt River Corridor protection bylaws per Act 121 within the local zoning bylaws, to better protect life and property in town.

*Potential Funding Sources:* LCPC/Emergency Management Performance Grant, LCPC ANR FEMA Bylaws Grant, ACCD Municipal Planning Grant.

- Evaluate slope failures on North Wolcott Road and evaluate the rest of the Wild Branch for other potential failures.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Explore funding for the installation of a flood gauge along the Lamoille River upstream of Wolcott Village.

*Potential Funding Sources:*

- Establish and maintain an Emergency Relief Fund.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Local Tax Base

- Assist in outreach and participation in regional flood resiliency forums.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Local tax base, grants

- Host education and awareness programs such as sharing information on the municipal website and text MyGov (Wolcott alert system) about hazards and personal property hazard mitigation, holding public events around hazards.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Local tax base, grants

- Provide educational materials to the public on flood risk and NFIP requirements.

*Potential Funding Sources:* Local tax base, grants

Ultimately, hazard mitigation priorities are determined by Wolcott's ability to finance and implement these activities within the town's existing tax base and available grants. While these projects were prioritized according to such criteria as responding to a significant hazards, likelihood of funding, and implementation timetable, unforeseen other projects may arise requiring immediate attention. The prioritized projects were evaluated in the matrix in below, based on nine criteria and weighted on a scale of 1-5 (with 5 representing a rating of a most favorable project and 1 the least favorable).

## Wolcott Mitigation Action Prioritization Matrix

Rated on a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 being most favorable and 1 as least favorable.

Mitigation Action	Responds to significant hazard	Likelihood of \$	Protect infrastructure	Implement quickly	Socially acceptable	Feasible	Administratively Realistic	Reasonable cost to benefit	Environmentally sound	TOTAL SCORE
<b>Develop a plan to move the Fire Station and Town Garage out of the 500-Year Floodplain.</b>	5	4	4	3	5	5	4	4	5	<b>39</b>
<b>Explore emergency response communication training opportunities for key personnel and local officials to enhance town-wide response coordination.</b>	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	<b>39</b>
<b>Explore funding opportunities to purchase new communications and EOC equipment for Wolcott emergency responders and equipment for the Wolcott emergency shelter.</b>	5	4	3	4	5	5	5	3	4	<b>38</b>
<b>Secure funding to upsize undersized culverts on North Wolcott Road.</b>	5	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	4	<b>37</b>
<b>Participate in local and regional planning efforts to improve</b>	5	5	3	3	5	4	4	3	4	<b>36</b>

<b>broadband and cell phone service coverage to enhance emergency response capabilities.</b>										
<b>Explore funding opportunities to purchase a storage container to store emergency shelter supplies in.</b>	5	3	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	<b>36</b>
<b>Explore funding opportunities to purchase emergency shelter supplies (cots, blankets etc.) and signs.</b>	5	3	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	<b>36</b>
<b>Evaluate slope failures on North Wolcott Road and evaluate the rest of the Wild Branch for other potential failures.</b>	5	3	5	3	4	4	3	4	5	<b>36</b>
<b>Explore funding for engineering/flood modeling to evaluate upsizing/replacing the Bridge over the Elmore Brook near Flat Iron Road.</b>	5	3	4	2	4	5	3	5	4	<b>35</b>
<b>Evaluate and implement flood mitigation projects including upsizing culvert and bridges along the Wild Branch and Lamoille River that were identified as a constriction or undersized in Flood Modeling including the Gulf Road Bridge and Elmore Pond Road Bridge over the Lamoille River.</b>	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	<b>35</b>
<b>Annually review the Wolcott Culvert, Bridge, and Road Erosion Inventories and prioritize structures and road segments for upgrades to mitigate damages caused by natural hazards.</b>	5	4	5	3	5	5	2	2	3	<b>34</b>
<b>Further explore and develop mitigation projects along the Wild Branch and Lamoille Rivers that</b>	4	3	4	3	5	4	3	3	5	<b>34</b>

were identified by the Town or in the River Corridor Report or Lamoille River Hydraulic Model including streambank stabilization and floodplain restoration along North Wolcott Road.										
To further evaluate structures vulnerable to flooding, consider participating as a pilot town for the VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Project as funding is available to the Lamoille Watershed.	4	3	4	3	5	4	3	3	5	34
Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a municipal wastewater system in North Wolcott Village. This includes community septic systems to relocate septic out of the floodplain.	4	3	3	2	5	4	4	5	4	34
Coordinate with local utilities to prioritize roads to clear the utility right of way to minimize future damage to utility lines from snow, wind and ice.	5	4	5	3	5	5	2	2	3	34
As new development is proposed in the town, encourage utility lines to be buried and reference in zoning bylaw update.	4	2	5	2	4	3	3	4	4	31
Replace structure 27-1 (bridge) on North Wolcott Road near Four Wheel Drive as identified in the 2017 North Wolcott Bike and Pedestrian Study.	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	34
Adopt River Corridor protection bylaws per Act 121 within the local zoning bylaws, to better protect life and property in town.	5	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	5	33

<b>Secure funding for an engineering study to reconfigure Route 15/North Wolcott Road intersection.</b>	4	3	2	3	4	5	3	3	4	<b>31</b>
<b>Review final report from MPG FY 19 Partnership Project and decide whether to participate in the Vermont Community Rating System.</b>	3	4	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	<b>24</b>
<b>Assist in outreach and participation in regional flood resiliency forums.</b>	3	5	4	4	5	5	3	3	3	<b>35</b>
<b>Host education and awareness programs such as sharing information on the municipal website and text MyGov (Wolcott alert system) about hazards and personal property hazard mitigation, holding public events around hazards.</b>	3	5	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	<b>36</b>
<b>Provide educational materials to the public on flood risk and NFIP requirements.</b>	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	3	3	<b>39</b>

### **Wolcott Mitigation Actions Timeline**

<b>WOLCOTT MITIGATION ACTIONS</b>	<b>WHO (LEADERSHIP)</b>	<b>WHEN (DEADLINE)</b>	<b>HOW (FUNDING SOURCE)</b>	<b>HAZARD BEING MITIGATED</b>
Develop a plan to move the Fire Station and Town Garage out of the 500-Year Floodplain.	Wolcott Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Road Foreman	2025-2030	Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Flood, Erosion

Secure funding for an engineering study to reconfigure Route 15/North Wolcott Road intersection.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2026-2030	Vermont Agency of Transportation	Highway Accidents
Explore funding for engineering/flood modeling to evaluate upsizing/replacing the Bridge over the Elmore Brook near Flat Iron Road.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2026-2030	Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Clean Water Service Provider, Vermont Agency of Transportation Capitol Program/Structures Grant	Flood, Erosion, Highway Accidents
Replace structure 27-1 (bridge) on North Wolcott Road near Four Wheel Drive as identified in the 2017 North Wolcott Bike and Pedestrian Study.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2027-2030	Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Flood, Erosion, Highway Accidents
Further explore and develop mitigation projects along the Wild Branch and Lamoille Rivers that were identified by the Town or in the River Corridor Report or Lamoille River Hydraulic Model including streambank stabilization and floodplain restoration along North Wolcott Road.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2030	Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Clean Water Block Grants	Flood, Erosion, Highway Accidents

Evaluate and implement flood mitigation projects including upsizing culvert and bridges along the Wild Branch and Lamoille River that were identified as a constriction or undersized in Flood Modeling including the Gulf Road Bridge and Elmore Pond Road Bridge over the Lamoille River.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2030	Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Flood, Erosion, Highway Accidents
Secure funding to upsize undersized culverts on North Wolcott Road.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2030	Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Better Roads Program, Grant and Aid Program	Flood, Erosion, Highway Accidents
Explore emergency response communication training opportunities for key personnel and local officials to enhance town-wide response coordination.	Wolcott EMD, Road Foreman, Selectboard, Administrative Assistant	2025-2030	Trainings offered by Vermont Emergency Management	All hazards
Explore funding opportunities to purchase new communications and EOC equipment for Wolcott emergency responders and equipment for the Wolcott emergency shelter.	Wolcott EMD, Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2028	Vermont Emergency Management	All hazards
Explore funding opportunities to purchase a storage container to store emergency shelter supplies in.	Wolcott EMD, Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2030	Vermont Emergency Management	All hazards
Explore funding opportunities to purchase emergency shelter supplies (cots, blankets etc.) and signs.	Wolcott EMD, Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2028	Vermont Emergency Management	All hazards

Annually review the Wolcott Culvert, Bridge, and Road Erosion Inventories and prioritize structures and road segments for upgrades to mitigate damages caused by natural hazards. Highway department will update spreadsheet monthly.	Wolcott Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Road Foreman	As needed	HMGP, 404 Mitigation/ Public Assistance	All hazards
Evaluate and implement floodplain restoration/flood mitigation alternatives near Flat Iron Road/Dead End Road and School Street to reduce flooding in Wolcott Village.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2030	Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Clean Water Block Grant	Flood, Erosion, Highway Accidents
To further evaluate structures vulnerable to flooding, consider participating as a pilot town for the VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Project as funding is available to the Lamoille Watershed.	LCPC, Wolcott Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Wolcott Planning Commission	2025-2027	Vermont Agency of Transportation	Flood, Erosion
Evaluate the feasibility of implementing a municipal wastewater system in North Wolcott Village. This includes community septic systems to relocate septic out of the floodplain.	Wolcott Selectboard, Wolcott Wastewater Committee, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2026-2030	Northern Borders Regional Commission, VT DEC, Direct Congressional Spending	Drought, Power Failure
Coordinate with local utilities to prioritize roads to clear the utility right of way to minimize future damage to utility lines from snow, wind and ice.	Wolcott Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, Utility Companies, Road Foreman	2025-2030	FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant	Snow, Ice, Windstorm
As new development is proposed in the town, encourage utility lines to be buried and reference in zoning bylaw update.	Wolcott Selectboard, Utility Companies, Road Foreman, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator	2025-2030	Local tax base, grants	Snow, Ice, Windstorm

Participate in local and regional planning efforts to improve broadband and cell phone service coverage to enhance emergency response capabilities.	Wolcott Planning Commission, Selectboard, Administrative Assistant	2025-2030	Vermont Public Utility Commission	All hazards
Review final report from MPG FY 19 Partnership Project and decide whether to participate in the Vermont Community Rating System.	Wolcott Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2030	ACCD Municipal Planning Grant, LCPC Emergency Management Planning Grant	Flooding
Adopt River Corridor protection bylaws per Act 121 within the local zoning bylaws, to better protect life and property in town.	LCPC, Wolcott Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator	2025-2027	LCPC/Emergency Management Performance Grant, LCPC ANR FEMA Bylaws Grant, ACCD Municipal Planning Grant	Flood, Erosion
Evaluate slope failures on North Wolcott Road and evaluate the rest of the Wild Branch for other potential failures.	Selectboard, Administrative Assistant, LCPC	2025-2030	Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures Grant, Vermont Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Flood, Erosion, Landslide
Explore funding for the installation of a flood gauge along the Lamoille River upstream of Wolcott Village.	Selectboard, LCPC, Wolcott Emergency Management Director	2025-2030		Flooding
Establish and maintain an Emergency Relief Reserve Fund.	Selectboard, Wolcott Emergency Management Director	2026-2028	Local Tax Base	All hazards

Assist in outreach and participation in regional flood resiliency forums.	Town Administrator, REMC, LCPC, Wolcott Emergency Management Director	2025-2030	Local tax base, grants	Inundation Flooding, Ice Jams, Fluvial Erosion
Host education and awareness programs such as sharing information on the municipal website and text MyGov (Wolcott alert system) about hazards and personal property hazard mitigation, holding public events around hazards.	Town Administrator, Wolcott Emergency Management Director, LCPC	2025-2030	Local tax base, grants	All hazards
Provide educational materials to the public on flood risk and NFIP requirements.	Town Administrator, REMC, LCPC	2025-2030	Local tax base, grants	Inundation Flooding, Ice Jams, Fluvial Erosion

### 4.2.3 Ongoing Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness Strategies, Activities and Town Capabilities

#### Planning Activities

- Adopt and maintain a Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). *Completed. The town last adopted a LEMP in May 2025 which it will update annually after Town Meeting.*
- Emergency Response and Management staff attendance at professional training sessions. *Ongoing. The Wolcott Selectboard signed a resolution of compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in 2010, which includes a commitment to take FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) training. As local officials change, the Selectboard and EMD will re-evaluate appropriate emergency trainings.*
- Participation at Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) meetings and activities. *Completed. The Wolcott EMD frequently participates in the LEPC in recent years.*
- Ensure procedures are in place for rapid evacuation of essential facilities. *Completed. Residents of Wolcott village were briefly evacuated as a precautionary measure during Tropical Storm Irene. Evacuees were temporarily sheltered at the Elementary School and returned to their homes. Evacuations are coordinated by the Wolcott EMD, Fire Department and Lamoille County Sheriff's Department.*
- Integrate additional mitigation measures in local land use planning and ordinance development processes. *Complete. The Wolcott Planning Commission most recently adopted the Town Plan in February 2018. The Wolcott Planning Commission with technical assistance from the LCPC is updating the Wolcott Municipal Plan which will be adopted in 2026. The Planning Commission and interested members of the Selectboard re-examined and integrated mitigation priorities in the context of land use and emergency planning. The Wolcott Planning Commission worked with LCPC in 2016 to update the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations. This included updating the Flood Hazard Regulations. Updated Zoning and Subdivision Regulations were adopted on November 8, 2016.*
- The Wolcott Municipal Development Plan was last adopted in 2018, and a 2026 plan update is underway. In accordance with Vermont planning statute, the updated Plan contains a land use element that addresses hazard mitigation issues including floodplain storage and stormwater, among others.

#### Financial and Tax Incentives

- Annual investment of local tax dollars in highway mitigation projects. *In Progress. The town budgets road, bridge, and culvert investments in the annual highway budget.*
- Use of State and Federal funding for mitigation projects and activities. *In Progress. See mitigation actions progress section 4.2.1 on pages 31-32*

#### Hazard Control and Protective Works

- Highway Maintenance Programs (annual culvert inventories, surveys, and replacements, ditching along roadways, cutting vegetation to allow visibility at intersections, inspect and remove trees and/or limbs which endanger electrical lines and the road network during windstorms or ice storms. Mitigate damaged culverts, bridges, and road networks as needed.). *In Progress. Maintenance priorities are dictated by local needs and budget considerations. Wolcott consistently applies for grants from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT).*

- Adopt the revised Vermont Agency of Transportation recommended Codes and Standards for town highways. *Completed. Wolcott adopted the revised Road and Bridge Standards in February 2020. These standards have additional provisions to ensure investments in town highways are protected with proper drainage, ditching and construction techniques.*
- Update the existing culvert inventory and produce a map showing culvert size and condition. *Completed. In 2017, LCPC conducted a culvert inventory update. This update involved LCPC working with the Wolcott Road Foreman to conduct a partial culvert inventory update based on new culvert replacements. In 2018, LCPC provided an updated culvert inventory map to the Town of Wolcott.*
- To further evaluate structures vulnerable to flooding, consider participating as a pilot town for the VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Project as funding is available to the Lamoille Watershed. *Ongoing*
- Further explore and develop mitigation projects along the Wild Branch and Lamoille Rivers that were identified by the Town or in the River Corridor Report or Lamoille River Hydraulic Model including streambank restoration near the North Wolcott Road recreation field. *Ongoing. The North Wolcott recreation field project restored 3.7 acres of floodplain and improved flood resiliency along the Wild Branch.*

#### Insurance Programs

- Participation in NFIP. *Completed. Wolcott is currently enrolled in NFIP. In 2016, the Town of Wolcott adopted updated zoning and subdivision regulations including its flood hazard regulations— to ensure continued compliance and maximum protection to life and property. Wolcott does not have building codes, but the Town adheres to its zoning bylaws and NFIP standards. The Town also has a part-time zoning administrator to administer zoning regulations.*

#### Protection/Retrofit of Infrastructure and Critical Facilities

- Mapping of Critical and Essential Facilities. *Completed. LCPC updates the Lamoille County critical facilities database on an ongoing basis.*

#### Public Awareness, Training & Education

- Hazard Identification and Mapping. *Completed as part of the development of this plan. Since the first plan iteration, the disaster/declaration and response process has informed Town operations and the general public concerning the need for infrastructure and systems evaluation, monitoring and documentation especially as related to floods, winter storms, and power outages. This process will continue as public discussion, input and funding options for hazard mitigation projects are brought forward to the Selectboard. Additionally, all local and regional partners will use disaster events as a trigger to evaluate and improve the efficacy of this plan and necessary mitigation efforts.*
- Enhance public education and outreach regarding the National Flood Insurance Program. *In progress. In the aftermath of the unprecedented flooding of 2011, there is a renewed interest throughout the state in promoting NFIP. As part of its most recent Town Plan update, the Wolcott Planning Commission held a community meeting on flood hazard mitigation. Representatives from the Vermont Floodplain and River Management Program presented information about NFIP and FEH (Fluvial Erosion Hazard) programs. LCPC will continue to work with the Wolcott Planning Commission on flood hazard outreach in the coming year.*

- Conduct HAZMAT Drills involving all elements of the community to practice procedures associated with a simulated HAZMAT incident (LEPC, RPC, EMD, FD). *In progress. Drills will be an ongoing function of the REMC during this planning cycle. In addition, the Fire Department recently conducted a HAZMAT drill.*
- Distribute FireWise information during peak wildfire season. *Deferred. LCPC has previously assisted communities with wildfire protection planning and is available to work with the town on disseminating this information during future wildfire seasons.*

### Public Protection

- Designated and certified emergency shelters with the American Red Cross. *Completed. In 2010, the town worked with LCPC and a representative from the Red Cross to execute shelter agreements for the Town Clerk's Office and Mennonite School. The town also has a pre-existing shelter agreement for the Wolcott Elementary School. All three shelters were inspected in 2013. The Town of Wolcott recently designated the primary shelter as the Wolcott Elementary School.*
- Hazard Vulnerability Assessments. *Completed as part of this planning process.*
- Explore funding opportunities to purchase emergency shelter supplies (cots, blankets etc.) and signs. *Ongoing.*
- Explore funding opportunities to purchase new communications and EOC equipment for Wolcott emergency responders. *Ongoing.*
- Explore emergency response communication training opportunities for key personnel and local officials to enhance town-wide response coordination. *Ongoing. VEM provides various training opportunities, which are announced at REMC meetings.*

### Science and Technology

- Stream Geomorphic Assessments to identify flood and erosion hazards as well as mitigation strategies that address those hazards. *In Progress. Five rivers corridors in town have undergone various stages of assessment. Assessments are classified as either Phase 1 or Phase 2. A Phase 1 assessment consists of a remote analysis, identifying potential sites and issues that would benefit from further field study. Accordingly, Phase 2 includes field assessments of issues identified through the Phase 1 process, or other field observation.*
  - *Elmore Branch and Wild Branch– Phase 1, Phase 2 and River Corridor Management Plan was completed. Mapped fluvial erosion corridors for these branches have been produced by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation.*
  - *Lamoille River Mainstem– Phase 1 and Phase 2 fieldwork and report were completed in 2006. A river corridor management plan, project identification and municipal outreach was completed in 2010.*
  - *Green River and Elmore Pond Brook– Phase One fieldwork and data collection was completed for both streams. A Phase 1 Report was completed for the Green River and is scheduled to be completed for the Elmore Pond Brook as budgeting permits. A phase 2 (in-stream study) is not recommended due to the stability of both streams.*
- In 2018, the Town of Wolcott participated in a Lamoille Flood Modeling study conducted by Milone and MacBroom (now known as SLR International Corporation). The LCPC served as the project manager for this study and coordinated meetings with the Town of Wolcott and hired engineers to discuss modeling results and recommendations. Priority project recommendations to reduce flooding impacts have been incorporated into the mitigation actions of this plan.

Policy, plans, and programmatic Town capabilities of the Town of Wolcott to implement mitigation actions in this plan are highlighted above in the ongoing planning and emergency preparedness activities. For example, these include the Town's participation in NFIP, updated subdivision and zoning regulations (including a 2016 update of Flood Hazard Regulations), an updated Municipal Development Plan and Local Emergency Management Plan, and adopted 2018 Road and Bridge Standards. For a detailed list of town planning documents and technical studies that strengthen Wolcott's capabilities please see section 2.3. The Town of Wolcott has a dedicated staff, volunteer boards and officials to help facilitate implementation of priority mitigation actions as financial resources are available. Town staff include but are not limited to, a newly hired Selectboard Administrative Assistant, the Town Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Zoning Administrator, Road Foreman, and Fire Chief. The Town also has a designated Emergency Management Director as well as an active Planning Commission and Development Review Board. The Town of Wolcott has a dedicated Selectboard that meets twice a month and will be responsible for the annual review of this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to evaluate plan mitigation actions and effectiveness.

As described above, the Town of Wolcott has key staff and dedicated volunteers to assist in implementing mitigation actions in this plan as financial resources are made available to fund mitigation projects. The Town of Wolcott works closely with Regional partners such as the Lamoille County Planning Commission and the Lamoille Natural Resources Conservation District to explore funding opportunities to design and implement mitigation projects. The Wolcott Road Foreman is working with LCPC's Transportation Planner to identify grants that could help pay for infrastructure improvements.

At the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Selectboard Meeting areas to improve or expand on existing town capabilities were discussed. The Wolcott Selectboard suggested the Town focus on addressing high-risk areas and continue to be proactive in securing grants, to implement flood and erosion control practices along roadways and streambanks, to reduce future flood damage. The Town of Wolcott strives to increase internet and broadband coverage to improve communications and emergency response capabilities.

#### **4.3 Integration of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms**

For this hazard mitigation plan to be truly effective, it cannot stand on its own. The mitigation plan will be incorporated with other planning mechanisms, specifically the municipal plan, zoning and flood hazard regulations, and capital budgeting. As LCPC works with the Wolcott Planning Commission during a flood hazard bylaw update, LCPC will assist the Planning Commission with incorporating fluvial erosion hazard (FEH) areas. LCPC will also work with the Town to implement mitigation projects and strategies described in the river corridor plans.

Previous hazard identification, risk and mitigation studies and plans include securing funding for a wastewater system in Wolcott Village, a tributary/wetland restoration project completed in 2019 along Wild Branch north of Fort Hill Bridge, and the North Wolcott Recreation Fields floodplain restoration project completed in 2025. Wolcott will continue to actively pursue funding for

planning and implementation of identified hazard mitigation projects as well as the study of potential hazard mitigation strategies and projects that evolve based on new findings. If and when these documents are updated, the LHMP will be referenced to understand the community's risks, resources and priorities. Future reports and studies identified in this plan or elsewhere shall reference the LHMP as well.

Municipal plans are updated every 8-years and Wolcott most recently adopted its plan February 2018. The 2026 Municipal Plan update is underway. Hazard mitigation planning and policies are incorporated into the Wolcott municipal plan, as evidenced by the following goals and objectives:

- Ensure that development does not create a hazard for the residents of the property or public at large. For example, the roads should be safe for cars and pedestrians, the water and air should be kept clean, development should avoid flood hazard areas and should occur on soils suitable for the type of construction proposed, and hazardous materials should be stored and used in a manner that does not pose a risk.
- Residential development is not permitted in the flood hazard area and existing housing in the floodplain should be flood-proofed for the safety of the residents and the town as a whole. Likewise, no development should occur in fluvial erosion hazard areas.
- The Town strongly encourages that existing structures within the 500-year floodplain be protected against flood damage.
- The Town should develop in a way that respects environmental limits, protects the high quality built and natural environment of the Town, and minimizes flood risk.
- Consider adopting a River Corridor Overlay in conformance with the standards recommended by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. In conjunction with this, relocate the Fire Station out of the flood hazard zone.
- The town should consider, through grants and/or partnerships with interested organizations, purchasing structures within flood hazard areas to assist property owners relocation out of the floodplain.
- The planning commission should consider creating a plan for flood and erosion hazard areas to address recreational opportunities, flood hazard protection, and the potential for implementation of water quality measures.
- To preserve and protect wetlands from pollution, filling and any other uses of activities that will result in their degradation or a reduction in its capacity to provide wildlife habitat, flood control and water storage
- Silvicultural, agricultural and recreational activities are acceptable uses within the floodplain and should be encouraged. To maintain the quality and quantity of local groundwater supplies
- To maintain and-, where degraded, improve the water quality across the town
- For Wolcott to have a well-trained and funded fire, police and rescue service to provide a safe environment in which to work, live and play
- Explore ways to locally ensure the safety of private water impoundments below the state regulation threshold of 500,000 cubic feet.
- All bridges and culverts should be built to standards recommended by the Better Backroads program of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Ecosystem Restoration

Program initiative to ensure minimal impacts on rivers and streams and to prevent failure in the event of flooding.

- Restore floodplains and increase flood storage capacity.

## **Appendix A. Supplemental Information and Maps**

Meeting Minutes from March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

Meeting Minutes from March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 Wolcott Planning Commission Meeting

Meeting minutes from June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Wolcott Selectboard Meeting

Public Comment Notice

Floodplain Map

Areas of Local Concern Map

Transportation Concerns Map

Critical Facilities Map