

Wallingford, Vermont
2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan



Fluvial erosion causing a slope collapse in East Wallingford, destabilizing a portion of the railway next to the Mill River (DR4720)

FEMA Approval Pending Adoption Date:
Municipal Adoption Date:
FEMA Formal Approval Date:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	PURPOSE	1
3	COMMUNITY PROFILE.....	1
	Land Use and Development Patterns.....	1
	Land Features	2
	Demographics and Growth Potential.....	2
	Precipitation and Water Features	3
	Average Temperatures	3
	Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer	4
	Transportation	4
	Electric Utility Distribution System	5
	Public Safety	5
	Emergency Management.....	5
4	PLANNING PROCESS	6
	Plan Developers and Plan Development Process.....	6
	Mitigation Strategy Update – Changes Since 2021.....	8
5	HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT	10
	Local Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment	10
	Highest Risk Hazard Profiles	12
	Floods	12
	Extreme Cold, Snow, and Ice	20
	Strong Wind	22
	Extreme Heat	25
	Wildfires.....	26
	Invasive Species.....	28
	Drought	29
	Vulnerability Summary	31
6	HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY.....	34
	Mitigation Goal.....	34
	Community Capabilities	35
	Administrative & Technical	35
	Planning & Regulatory	35
	Financial	37
	Education and Outreach	37
	National Flood Insurance Program Compliance	37
	Mitigation Action Identification	38
	Local Plans & Regulations Examples	39
	Structure & Infrastructure Project Examples	39
	Natural Systems Protection Examples	40
	Outreach & Education Program Examples.....	40
	Mitigation Action Evaluation	40
	Mitigation Action Plan for Implementation	40
	Integrating Into Existing Plans and Procedures.....	49
7	PLAN MAINTENANCE	50
	Annual Evaluation and Monitoring	50
	5-Year Updates.....	53

Table 1: Power Outage Summary	5
Table 2: Plan Development Summary	6
Table 3: Existing Plans, Studies, Reports, & Tech Info	7
Table 4: Phase 1 Public Input: Survey & Pop-Up Results	10
Table 5: Community Hazard Risk Assessment (Planning Team Rankings).....	11
Table 6: USDA Drought Category Descriptions.....	29
Table 7: Mitigation Action Evaluation and Prioritization.....	42
Table 8: Mitigation Action Plan	44
Table 9: Mitigation Action Status.....	51
Appendix A: Certificate of Adoption	A-1
Appendix B: Mitigation Actions from the 2021 Plan	A-2
Appendix C: Public Engagement Summary.....	A-4

Prepared by the Wallingford Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Thomas Fort, Energy Committee Chair

Glenn Mayer, Selectboard Member

Jill Stone-Teer, Town Clerk

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator

Bill Weiss, Emergency Management Coordinator

Charlie Woods, Highway Department Representative

Technical Assistance by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC)

**Supported by Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development
Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) funds**



1 INTRODUCTION

Community planning and action can reduce the impact of expected but unpredictable natural events. The goal of this Plan is to advance mitigation investments that will reduce the risks posed by natural hazards and increase Wallingford's resilience to their impacts.

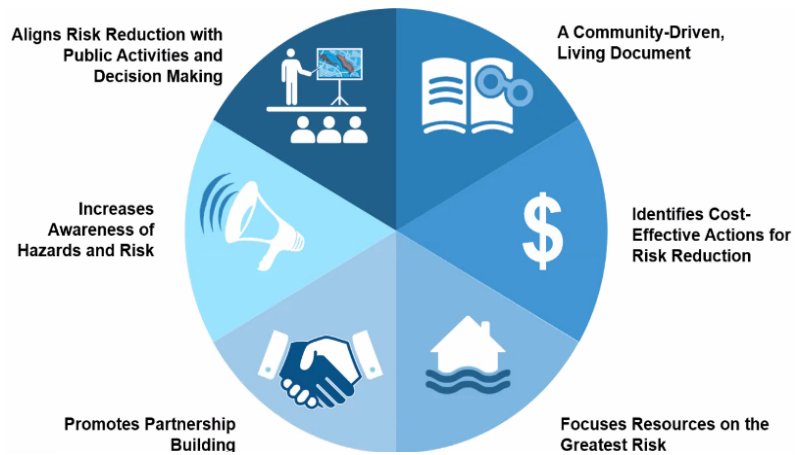
Hazard Mitigation is any sustained policy or action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from the effects of natural hazards. All levels of government have come to recognize that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after disasters strike. While the hazards themselves cannot be eliminated, it is possible to identify local hazards, where their impacts may be most severe, and what actions and policies can be implemented to reduce the severity of their impacts.

*Furthermore, the Town seeks to be in accordance with the strategies, goals, and objectives of the **2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan.***

This Plan recognizes that many hazards are interrelated and can cause cascading effects. Communities should therefore take a holistic approach to mitigation and integrate its principles and practices throughout government operations.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to identify all natural hazards facing the Town of Wallingford, rank them according to local vulnerabilities, and develop strategies to reduce the risks they pose. Once adopted, this Plan is not legally binding; instead, it outlines goals and actions to prevent future loss of life and property. The benefits of mitigation planning are summarized in the graphic on the right.



Source: FEMA LHMP Workshop 2024

3 COMMUNITY PROFILE



Land Use and Development Patterns

The forests and streams of the Green Mountains and the fertile soil of the Otter Creek Valley provided Wallingford settlers with the wood, waterpower, and farmland needed to establish their frontier agricultural community in 1780. Wallingford Village, a milling and manufacturing center for valley farms, developed at the confluence of Roaring Brook and Otter Creek. To the south, a stage stop along the road had evolved into the village of South Wallingford by 1830. After the Bellows Falls to Rutland railroad was completed in 1849, East Wallingford grew around a station on that line as a lumbering and manufacturing center.

The early 20th century saw an important shift in Wallingford's economy, as local manufacturing plants were acquired by out-of-state corporations while the recreation industry gained prominence. Traces of the once-dominant dairy industry, represented by Greek Revival-style farmsteads, are preserved in the fertile valley region of South Wallingford, known as the Rural Otter Creek Valley Multiple Resource Area. Some historic population centers, like Centerville, have few physical remains and now exist only in name.

Wallingford is situated in southern Rutland County, bordered by the towns of Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Mount Holly, Mt. Tabor, Danby, and Tinmouth. It ranks as the tenth-largest municipality in the Region and is located only 10 miles south of Rutland City, Vermont's fourth-largest municipality. The Town has evolved from a self-sufficient farming and commercial hub to a collection of increasingly interconnected communities. Originally characterized by closely packed villages surrounded by open land, farms, and residences, the area's land-use pattern has gradually shifted towards a more dispersed layout of residential and commercial areas.



The Old Stone Shop

Most non-federal land is used for residential purposes. Agriculture was once a key part of Wallingford's early development, but the number of farms has steadily declined since the 1800s. However, the Town still hosts several commercial dairy and small-scale beef farms. Livestock like sheep, goats, veal, and horses are raised alongside other domestic animals. Beyond traditional farming, the community also supports small-scale vegetable growers, maple syrup and honey production, Christmas tree farms, greenhouse or landscaping businesses, and the extraction of sand, gravel, and limestone.

Most of the Town's community facilities are situated in Wallingford Village. These include the Gilbert Hart Library, Town Hall, Wallingford Elementary School, the U.S. Post Office, the Wallingford Fire Station, and the Wallingford Thrift Store, as well as several churches, antique shops, inns, and country stores. East Wallingford hosts an additional Fire Department building and Post Office.

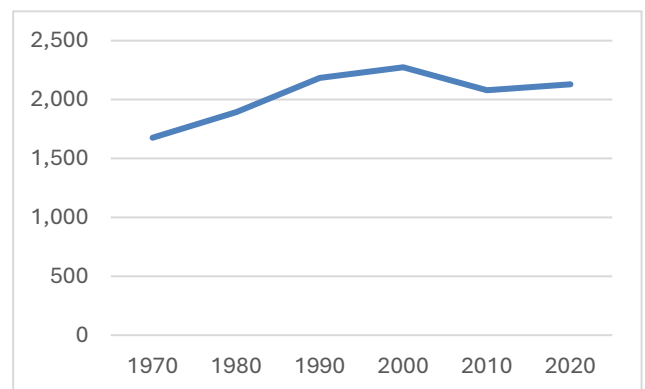
Land Features

Wallingford features three distinct physiographic regions, contributing to its diverse topography. The Town's remote eastern area lies within the Green Mountain region, which includes a large part of the Green Mountain National Forest, especially along the borders of Mount Holly and Mt. Tabor. This physiographic region extends along a north-south line that divides the town, with peaks ranging from 2,200 feet (Bear Mountain) to 2,650 ft (White Rocks). A narrow depression, known as the Vermont Valley region, runs through the Town's center at an elevation of ± 600 feet, containing U.S. Route 7, Otter Creek, and the villages of Wallingford and South Wallingford. The Taconic Mountain region, which covers the western part of town known as West Hill, remains largely undeveloped. This region, along with other ridgelines and high-altitude areas, features shallow soils and steep slopes, making them fragile and susceptible to erosion.

Forests are a significant resource in Wallingford. Nearly one-third of the Town's total land area (over 8,900 acres) is in Green Mountain National Forest or National Park Service ownership, including White Rocks Mountain and a ten-mile segment of the Appalachian/Vermont Long Trail. An estimated 24.6% of the Town's private land (or 6,883 acres) is enrolled in Vermont's Current Use Value Program, meaning it is actively managed for agricultural or forestry products. Two miles upstream from Wallingford Village, 355 acres of land are part of the Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Demographics and Growth Potential

The 2020 Decennial U.S. Census shows a population of 2,129 and 1,103 housing units, of which around 918 are occupied. From 1970 to 2000, Wallingford's population grew from 1,676 to 2,274 – an increase of nearly 600 people. The population then dipped slightly to $\pm 2,100$ beginning in the 2010s. American Community Survey data suggests the COVID-19 pandemic did not significantly affect population numbers.



Between 2010 and 2020, the median age of Wallingford residents increased from 47.5 to 50.1, slightly higher than Rutland County's median age of 47. Nearly 25% percent of the population in Wallingford is over 65, and around 12% are considered disabled. The Town's population density is 49 people per square mile, lower than the overall state density of 68 people per square mile.

Wallingford has an estimated 111 seasonal units. This represents 10% of the total housing stock, lower than the 17% average for Rutland County. Of the permanent residences, about 85% are site-built single-family units, about 7% are multi-family units of various sizes, and about 6% are manufactured or mobile homes. Renters occupy around 15% of residences.

Growth potential for Wallingford is mixed. Residential growth is somewhat limited by the fact that a large portion of the Town lies within either the FEMA-mapped floodplain or National Forest lands. However, there is the opportunity for targeted commercial and retail growth, given the recent expansion of “Planned Growth” areas surrounding the Wallingford Village Center and several existing vacant commercial sites.

Precipitation and Water Features

Wallingford experiences about 142 days of precipitation annually, making it drier than most locations in Vermont. The average annual rainfall is 44.4 inches, with July being the rainiest month. The average annual snowfall is 82.2 inches; while January is the snowiest month, significant snowfall occurs for seven months of the year. Projections from the University of California San Diego predict that by 2044, under scenarios of both intermediate and extreme greenhouse gas emissions, Wallingford will see 0-3 days of extreme precipitation per year. This relatively wide range results from the Town's varied topography, with lower-lying valleys having fewer extreme precipitation days (0-1) than the Green or Taconic Mountains (2-3).

Otter Creek, one of Vermont's largest rivers, runs alongside US Route 7 and passes near Wallingford Village Center. Similarly, the Mill River, a tributary of Otter Creek, approaches the East Wallingford Village Center. Both waterways are within FEMA-designated floodplains and State-mapped river corridors, indicating a significant flood risk to nearby populated areas that have historically been the focus of development. Other important tributaries, mainly in the Green Mountain region, include Bully, Feller, Homer Stone, Patch, and Roaring Brooks. Notable waterbodies include Elfin Lake, Wallingford Pond, Fifield Pond, and Little Rock Pond.

According to the Agency of Natural Resources, an estimated 6.4% of the Town's land area (or ~1,791 acres) is classified as Class II Wetlands. These play an important role in water absorption and retention, helping to mitigate flood risk and replenish groundwater supplies.

Average Temperatures

July is the hottest month in Wallingford, with an average temperature of 80.4°F, making it warmer than most places in Vermont. On average, there are 3.4 days per year when the high temperature exceeds 90°F. January is the coldest month of the year in Wallingford, with an average nighttime temperature of 7.9°F. There are ±173 days each year when nighttime low temperatures fall below freezing, which is about average compared to most places in Vermont.

*The Vermont Climate Action Office reports that **the period from 2010-2020 was the warmest decade on record**. If this trend continues, Wallingford will likely exceed 4 days with temperatures above 90°F by 2050.*

Projections from the University of California, San Diego predict that by 2044, under both intermediate emissions and extreme emissions scenarios, Wallingford will see 0-20 days above 90°F and 140-200 days below 32°F per year. The relatively wide range of below-freezing days results from the Town's varied topography, with lower-lying valleys having fewer cold days (140-160) than the Green or Taconic Mountains (180-200).

Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer

Municipal water service is provided by Wallingford Fire District # 1 and the South Wallingford Water Cooperative. Fire District # 1 serves ±334 customers in Wallingford Village and the areas surrounding the Wallingford Lodge. This gravity-fed system includes a gravel well, a 400,000-gallon water storage tank, and approximately four miles of distribution piping. The well is in the Otter Creek floodplain off Meadow Street. The South Wallingford Cooperative serves ±24 households on Homer Stone Road, Hartsboro Road, and US Route 7 S. It is a gravity-fed spring with a treatment house located on Homer Stone Road.

Sewer service in Wallingford is also provided to customers who depend on Wallingford Fire District # 1. The core of the Village is serviced by a series of gravity-fed lines to the treatment plant on Creek Road behind True Temper in the Village. The only exception to the gravity collection system is an air ejector station on US Route 7 S. The 1960s vintage sewer treatment plant includes two pump stations, an oxidation ditch, chlorine clarifiers, and sludge drying beds. This facility is also located within the Otter Creek floodplain on Creek Road.

There is a second Wallingford Fire District for East Wallingford; however, it is exclusively for fire protection and does not accommodate public water or sewer systems. Thus, the remaining homes and businesses in Town rely on individually drilled wells and springs for potable water and on-site septic systems for sanitary sewer disposal.

Transportation

Wallingford covers 43.4 square miles and has a highway network that spans much of the area outside state- and federally managed lands. The main highway corridor, US Route 7, travels north-south through Vermont and beyond, running directly through the Wallingford Village Center. Heavy truck traffic and high overall traffic volumes, with an estimated annual daily traffic count of 4,400 to 6,900 in 2025, continue to raise concerns for the Town about noise pollution, historical integrity, and traffic-calming and safety measures.

VT Route 103, which straddles the northeast corner of Town, is also a major arterial road, though it does not directly go through East Wallingford. VT Route 140 is an east-west connector between Wallingford Village and East Wallingford. The latter also contains the eastern terminus of VT Route 155, though much of this road lies in Mount Holly. Other collectors of local significance include Roaring Brook Lane, East Street, and Creek, Cross; Dawson Hill, Dugway, Freeman Brook, Haven Hill; Hartsboro, Seward Hill, Sugar Hill, Tifft, and West Hill Roads. Personal vehicles are the primary mode of transportation, though the Marble Valley Regional Transit District bus system makes a few stops in Wallingford on US-7 on its Rutland-Manchester Route.

According to 2026 VTrans Town Highway data, the Town has ±46.0 municipal road miles: 3.9 miles Class 2, and 42.1 miles Class 3. Approximately 82% are gravel or dirt, and 18% are paved. In addition, there are 16.6 miles of State highway in Wallingford; including Class 4 roads and legal trails, this brings the total to ±70.4 miles of traveled highways. The local road network is maintained by a Town highway maintenance crew of 3 full-time employees, whose garage is located on River Street.

*The Town's 2025 road erosion inventory shows that **59% of the road mileage is hydrologically connected, or within 100 feet of a water resource** (e.g., stream, wetland, lake, or pond). Proximity to water resources can make these sections of road more vulnerable to flooding and fluvial erosion.*

The Town's **2021 structures inventory** (short structures and culverts) shows Wallingford has 13 short structures (bridges with 6'-20' span), all of which are owned and maintained by the State. There are ±561 culverts in the municipal road right-of-way; all were inventoried by the RRPC in 2021. Of these, 107 culverts are classified as being in "poor", "urgent", or "critical" condition and should be considered for replacement and/or upgrade in accordance with the Town's Road and Bridge Standards.

According to VTrans, there are seven (7) Town-owned long structures (bridges with >20' span), with an additional six (6) long structures owned by the State. One of these – B15 on VT Route 155 – has been closed since January 2023 due to a sizable hole in the bridge deck and other major structural deficiencies. VTrans inspects long structures every two years through the Town Highway Bridge Program.

Rail freight service passes through Wallingford and East Wallingford on two railroads operated by Vermont Rail System. Vermont Rail System continues to do standard track maintenance on both the Vermont Railway and the Green Mountain Railroad. The State of Vermont, through its Bridge Management Program, continues to inspect rail bridges along both rail lines.

Electric Utility Distribution System

Green Mountain Power (GMP) provides electric service to 1,192 accounts via two primary circuits. Average annual outage statistics for 2021-2025 are summarized in **Table 1**.

The longest power outage affecting the greatest number of accounts between 2021 and 2025 was 10.70 hours, impacting 876 accounts in 2021. The longest outages during this period occurred in 2022, lasting over 57 hours and affecting 16 total accounts. In 2025, there was a 7.97-hour outage that affected 142 accounts.

Table 1: Power Outage Summary

Average Annual (2021-2025)	
Avg # of times a customer was without power in a year	2.34
Avg length of each outage in hours	4.27
Avg # of hours the typical customer was without power	9.74
2025 only	
Avg # of times a customer was without power in a year	1.52
Avg length of each outage in hours	4.83
Avg # of hours the typical customer was without power	7.36

Public Safety

Wallingford Fire District # 1 provides fire protection service to most of Town, including Wallingford Village and South Wallingford. This 16-member on-call volunteer Fire Department is based in the Fire Station located on River Street in Wallingford Village. Wallingford Fire District #2 provides fire protection service to East Wallingford. This 8-member on-call volunteer Fire Department is based in the Fire Station located at 5988 VT Route 140 East. Both Departments are members of the Rutland County Mutual Aid Association, allowing for additional assistance from surrounding communities when resources within the Town are maximized. Law enforcement is provided primarily by the Rutland County Sheriff's Department and the Vermont State Police.

Emergency medical response, including ambulance service, is provided by the Wallingford Rescue Squad, located just outside of Wallingford Village on Maple Street. The nearest hospital is the Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland City (±10 miles). Specialist/medivac support is available at Dartmouth Hitchcock (±63 miles), the University of Vermont (±84 miles), and LifeNet New York (±54 miles).

Emergency Management

Per the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP), the Town appoints an Emergency Management Director (EMD) and Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC). These individuals work with others in town to keep the LEMP up to date and coordinate with nearby municipalities and non-profit agencies that serve frontline populations. Wallingford offers various facilities for different needs: Lenny Burke Farm for individuals with disabilities, Wallingford House for seniors, and Serenity House and Emma's Place for rehabilitation.

Town Hall on School Street serves as the primary emergency operations center (EOC), with Wallingford Elementary School and Wallingford Rescue Squad serving as alternate locations. The elementary school also serves as the primary shelter, with Wallingford Lodge and Wallingford Rescue Squad serving as alternate locations. All properties can operate as warming and cooling centers to varying extents (i.e., on-site generators vs. portable hook-ups) in winter and summer, respectively.

4 PLANNING PROCESS

Plan Developers and Plan Development Process

The 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is an update to the 2021 single-jurisdiction mitigation plan. **Table 2** summarizes the process used to develop the 2026 update. Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team members include the Emergency Management Director, the Emergency Management Coordinator, the Town Clerk, the Town Administrator, the Energy Committee Chair, a Selectboard representative, and a highway department representative. Of these, the highway representative and Town Administrator previously participated in the 2021 update. **Appendix C provides a detailed summary of public engagement throughout the Plan update process**, from the kickoff to the final draft; refer to page **A-8** for more details.

Table 2: Plan Development Summary

Apr 29, 2026 Planning Team Kick-off Meeting: Discussed what a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is; benefits of hazard mitigation planning; current plan status; planning process; and developed the public engagement strategy (see **Appendix C**). Planning Team working meetings were not open to the public.

Apr – Jul 2026: Completed Phase 1 engagement activities (see **Appendix C**).

May 26, 2026 Risk Assessment Workshop: Confirmed community profile information (Section 3), completed risk assessment, and began developing profiles for the highest risk natural hazards (Section 5). Subject matter experts attended the Workshop to assist with risk assessments for Invasive Species and Infectious Disease.

July 1, 2026 Planning Team Meeting: Finalized Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (Section 5) with input from Phase 1 engagement. This is a critical milestone in the plan development process. The draft Plan was prepared for presentation to the Selectboard and the first public comment period.

July 20, 2026 Draft Plan Presentation: Draft Plan presented to the Selectboard to encourage input from local government and the public that could affect the plan's conclusions and better integrate with Town initiatives. The meeting was recorded, aired on Public Access Television (PEGTV), and is available on their YouTube channel and the Town website.

July 20 – Aug 3, 2026 Draft Plan Public Comment Period: Draft Plan posted for first public comment period. Draft plan discussed at the Aug 3 Selectboard meeting with opportunity for public comments – coincided with close of first public comment period. **The Selectboard authorized proceeding with the development of the mitigation strategy on Aug 3.**

Aug 12, 2026 Planning Team Meeting: Discussed comments received on Jul draft Plan; finalized Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (Section 5), and began work on Hazard Mitigation Strategy (Section 6).

Aug – Oct 2026: Completed Phase 2 engagement activities (see **Appendix C**).

Aug 26, 2026 Mitigation Action Evaluation Workshop: Evaluated a broad range of possible actions to address the highest risk natural hazards. Subject matter experts attended the workshop to assist the planning team with action evaluation.

Sep 16, 2026 Planning Team Meeting: Developed actions proposed for implementation (Section 6); began work on Plan Maintenance (Section 7) and Mitigation Strategy – Changes Since 2021 (Section 4).

Oct 6, 2026 Planning Team Meeting: Finalized actions proposed for implementation (Section 6) with input from Phase 2 engagement; finished work on Plan Maintenance (Section 7) and Mitigation Strategy – Changes Since 2021 (Section 4). The final draft Plan was prepared for presentation to the Selectboard and a second public comment period.

Oct 19, 2026 Final Draft Plan Presentation: Presented to the Selectboard to encourage input from local government and the public. Input at this milestone is crucial as it is the last opportunity to weigh in on the plan contents before submittal for Approval Pending Adoption. The meeting was recorded, aired on PEGTV, and is available on their YouTube channel and the Town website.

Oct 19 – Nov 2, 2026 Final Draft Plan Public Comment Period: Final draft Plan posted for last public comment period. Draft Plan discussed at Nov 2 Selectboard meeting with opportunity for public comment – coincided with close of last public comment period. **At meeting, Selectboard granted approval to submit final draft to VEM for APA review.**

In addition to the local knowledge of Planning Team members and other relevant parties, several existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information were used in preparing this Plan; see **Table 3**.

Table 3: Existing Plans, Studies, Reports, & Tech Info

2026 FEMA NFIP Insurance Reports: used to determine how many structures are insured, number/type of repetitive loss properties (Section 5), and describe NFIP compliance (Section 6).

2026 Local Emergency Management Plan: used to identify local organizations that support at-risk populations to ensure these organizations are invited to participate in the Plan update.

2026 State of Vermont Highway Mileage Summary: used to develop Transportation info in Community Profile (Section 3).

2025 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook & 2025 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide: used to ensure Plan meets Federal mitigation planning requirements.

2025-2021 Green Mountain Power Outage Data: used to develop Table 1 in Community Profile (Section 3).

2025 Road Erosion Inventory: referenced to develop Transportation info in Community Profile (Section 3), flood risk hazard profile (Section 5); and mitigation actions to address floods (Section 6).

2023 State of Vermont Hazard Mitigation Plan: referenced to develop risk assessment, including invasive species and infectious disease, and hazard profiles (Section 5).

2023 State of Vermont Municipal Vulnerability Indicators Tool: referenced to develop Average Temperatures info in Community Profile (Section 3) and risk assessment and hazard profiles (Section 5).

2021 Structures Inventory (culverts and short structures): referenced to develop Transportation info in Community Profile (Section 3), and to develop flood risk profile (Section 5) and mitigation actions to address floods (Section 6).

2021 Vermont Climate Assessment: referenced to develop flood risk profile (Section 5).

2020 United States Census Report: referenced to develop Demographics and Growth Potential info in Community Profile (Section 3).

2019 Wallingford Road Stormwater Master Plan: referenced to develop flood risk profile (Section 5) and mitigation actions to address floods (Section 6).

2018 Wallingford Municipal Plan: referenced to develop Community Profile (Section 3), Mitigation Strategy Updates – Changes Since 2021 (Section 4), and Integration into Existing Plans and Procedures (Section 6).

2017 FEMA Region 1 Mitigation Ideas for Natural Hazards: Used to develop mitigation actions to address impacts from severe winter storms, strong wind, drought, extreme temperatures, wildfires, and floods (Section 5).

2015 Zoning & Subdivision Regulations and 2011 Flood Hazard Area Regulations: Referenced to describe Wallingford's Planning capabilities and NFIP Compliance (Section 6).

2013 FEMA Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards: used to develop mitigation actions to address impacts from severe winter storms, strong wind, drought, extreme temperatures, wildfires, and floods (Section 5).

2009 Mill River Corridor Plan; 2009 Roaring & Baker Brook SGA; 2009 Upper Otter Creek Phase 2 SGA; 2007 Mill River Phase 1 & 2 SGA; and 2005 Upper Otter Creek Phase 1 SGA: referenced to develop flood risk profile (Section 5) and mitigation actions to address floods (Section 6).

2008 Flood Insurance Study for Rutland County, Vermont: referenced for flood risk profile (Section 5); however, given the age of the document, it provided little in terms of assessing and profiling current flood risk.

FEMA Disaster Declarations for Vermont: used to develop risk profiles and hazard histories (Section 5).

GIS Data Layers: incorporated into base mapping to assess and profile flood hazards (Section 5), including **FEMA Flood Rate Insurance Maps and National Flood Hazard Layers**.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center's Storm Events Database & FSA Disasters Archive: regional data for Rutland County used to develop risk profiles and hazard histories. (Section 5).

OpenFEMA Dataset Public Assistance Funded Project Summaries for Vermont: used to develop risk profiles and hazard histories (Section 5).

VTrans Town Highway Bridge Inspection Reports: referenced to develop Transportation info in Community Profile (Section 3), flood risk profile (Section 5), and mitigation actions to address floods (Section 6).

VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Tool: Used to develop flood risk profile (Section 5) and mitigation actions to address floods (Section 6).

Vermont Dam Inventory (VDI): Referenced to develop flood risk profile (Section 5) and mitigation actions to address floods.

5 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Local Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment

The Planning Team completed a risk assessment for a broad range of natural hazards, consistent with those in the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazards were ranked based on 1) probability of occurrence and 2) potential impact on community assets—people, infrastructure, the environment, and the local economy. The assessment considered the effects of future conditions, such as climate change or potential future development, on the types, locations, and intensity ranges of identified hazards.

The Planning Team’s ranking process, presented in **Table 5** on the following page, reflects the highest-risk hazards to which the Town believes it is most vulnerable. The **highest-risk hazards** are those with a higher probability of occurrence and/or more severe or extensive impacts on community assets.

Each of the **highest-risk hazards** is profiled in this section. **Lower risk hazards do not justify mitigation due to a lower probability of occurrence and/or negligible impacts and are not profiled in this Plan.** Refer to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan for additional information on lower-risk hazards.

In this Plan, natural hazards are defined as:

- Geological hazards including landslides and earthquakes.
- Environmental and climatic hazards including flooding, wind, hail, snow and ice storms, extreme temperatures, drought, wildfire, and invasive species.
- Biological hazards including infectious disease that can become epidemics or pandemics.

A summary of the risk assessment, including input from Phase 1 engagement activities, is provided here: **See Appendix C for more details about public engagement methodology and results.**

Table 4: Phase 1 Public Input: Survey & Pop-Up Results

Hazard	Risk Score	Phase 1 Engagement Input
Flooding/Fluvial Erosion	13.00 & 8.00	71% of survey respondents have experienced flooding; ranked #3 with extreme cold/snow/ice for hazards most likely to occur in the next 5 years
Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice	11.00	75% of survey respondents have experienced severe winter storms; 52% believe this hazard is likely to occur in the next 5 years
Strong Winds	7.00	78% of survey respondents have experienced strong wind; ranked #2 of hazards most likely to occur in the next 5 years
Extreme Heat	7.00	57% of survey respondents have experienced extreme heat events
Wildfires	6.50	1 in 5 pop-up event participants flagged wildfires as a “hazard of most concern.”
Invasive Species	6.00	Not surveyed; see Appendix C (page A-14) for more details
Drought	6.00	72% of survey respondents have experienced drought; ranked as the #1 hazard most likely to occur in the next 5 years

Infectious Disease

This Plan must assess the risks posed by all hazards identified in the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, including infectious diseases. This hazard is unique and diverse. While the probability of occurrence in Wallingford may be high, the potential impacts will depend heavily on the specific infectious agent.

During the risk assessment, the Planning Team assumed an endemic level of infectious disease spread. They concluded that the Vermont Department of Health (VDH), located in nearby Rutland City, is better equipped to mitigate any outbreaks; therefore, the team considered it a lower-risk hazard for the municipality.

Given the diverse nature of this hazard, this Plan cannot fully explore it. Readers should look to VDH for more information on infectious diseases.

Table 5: Community Hazard and Risk Assessment (Planning Team Rankings)

Hazards	Probability	Potential Impact					Risk Score*
		 People	 Infrastructure	 Environment	 Economy	Average	
Flash Floods/ Fluvial Erosion	4	3	3	3	4	3.25	13.00
Extreme Cold/ Snow/Ice	4	3	3	2	3	2.75	11.00
Inundation Floods	4	2	3	2	1	2.00	8.00
Strong Winds	4	2	2	1	2	1.75	7.00
Extreme Heat	4	3	2	1	1	1.75	7.00
Wildfires	2	3	3	3	4	3.25	6.50
Invasive Species	4	2	2	1	1	1.50	6.00
Drought	3	2	2	2	2	2.00	6.00
Infectious Disease	4	2	1	1	1	1.25	5.00
Hail	2	2	1	1	2	1.50	3.00
Landslide	1	1	1	1	1	1.00	1.00
Earthquake	1	1	1	1	1	1.00	1.00

*Score = Probability x Average Potential Impact

	Frequency of Occurrence: Probability of a plausibly significant event	Potential Impact: Severity and extent of damage and disruption to population, property, environment, and the economy
1	Unlikely: <1% probability of occurrence per year	Negligible: isolated occurrences of minor property and environmental damage, potential for minor injuries, no to minimal economic disruption
2	Occasionally: 1–10% probability of occurrence per year, or at least one chance in next 100 years	Minor: isolated occurrences of moderate to severe property and environmental damage, potential for injuries, minor economic disruption
3	Likely: >10% but <75% probability per year, at least 1 chance in next 10 years	Moderate: severe property and environmental damage on a community scale, injuries or fatalities, short-term economic impact
4	Highly Likely: >75% probability in a year	Major: severe property and environmental damage on a community or regional scale, multiple injuries or fatalities, significant economic impact

Invasive Species

This Plan must assess the risks posed by all hazards identified in the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan, including invasive species. This hazard is unique and diverse. While the probability of occurrence in Wallingford may be high, potential impacts will depend heavily on the specific invasive species.

For invasive species, the team focused on a specific forest pest of high concern, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), due to recently confirmed detections in Wallingford and nearby Clarendon, Danby, and Tinmouth. They concluded that EAB infestation is highly likely and that minor-to-moderate impacts justify mitigation.

Given the diverse nature of this hazard, this Plan cannot fully explore it. Readers should consult the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for more information on invasive species, including terrestrial and aquatic invasives and forest pests.

Highest Risk Hazard Profiles



Floods

Flood events can damage or destroy property, disable utilities, render roads and bridges impassable, destroy crops and agricultural land, disrupt emergency services, and cause fatalities. People may be stranded in their homes without power, heat, or communication, or be unreachable. Long-term collateral dangers include disease outbreaks, livestock losses, septic system washouts (which can pollute the water supply), downed power lines, fuel storage tank leaks, fires, and the release of hazardous materials.



Hartsboro Road was completely submerged during Irene (DR4022): note the pick-up truck in the red circle

As noted in the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan and 2021 Vermont Climate Assessment, the most common recurring hazard event impacting Vermont communities is flooding. There are two types of flooding: inundation and flash flooding. Inundation flooding is the often gradual rise of water onto low-lying land. Flash flooding is a more sudden, violent flood that often involves streambank erosion (i.e., fluvial erosion).

While inundation-related flood loss can be a significant component of flood disasters, the more common mode of damage in Vermont is fluvial erosion, often associated with physical adjustment of stream channel dimensions and location during flood events. These dynamic and often

catastrophic adjustments are due to bed and bank erosion of naturally unstable stream banks, debris and ice jams, or the structural failure of human-made structures, including flow diversion caused by such structures.

Several major flood events have recently affected Rutland County, resulting in multiple Disaster Declarations. Between 2001 and 2010, the county incurred approximately \$2.6 million in property damage resulting from flood events. The worst flood came in August 2011 from Tropical Storm Irene (DR4022), which dropped 7–8 inches of rain. Irene caused 2 deaths, \$55 million in property damage, and \$2.5 million in crop damage in Rutland County.

Although Irene was technically a tropical storm, its effects are included in this flooding section because the storm brought mainly heavy rainfall and flooding to the Town, rather than the strong winds usually associated with tropical storms. This caused most streams and rivers to flood, along with widespread and severe fluvial erosion.

From 2012 to 2020, Rutland County experienced approximately \$3.6 million in property and crop damage and three Disaster Declarations: \$420,000 in June & July 2013 (DR4140), \$2 million in July 2017 (DR4330), and \$1 million in April 2019 (DR4445). Of these events, Wallingford saw the most destruction during DR4330, with nearly \$172,000 in damages.

According to the NOAA Storm Events database, Rutland County experienced approximately \$200,000 in property damage in July 2023 (DR4720). However, FEMA's Public Assistance Project Summary indicates that this number could reach \$4.4 million, with Wallingford's damages exceeding \$115,650.

*In Rutland County, seven towns suffered more than \$1 million in damage due to Tropical Storm Irene. **Wallingford alone incurred about \$1.1 million in damages**, with \$274,952 from Public Assistance, \$196,928 from Individual Assistance, and \$604,334 from NFIP Claims. Its NFIP claims were the second highest in the Region after Rutland City/Town.*

The only other instance of significant flooding-related damage in Rutland County occurred in July 2024 (DR4762), resulting in approximately \$50,000 in property damage.

90 properties (9% of community structures) are located within the Special Flood Hazard Area, including 16 in the floodway. These are mainly residential structures (single- or multi-family homes and mobile homes), but also include accessory buildings, commercial and development sites, public parks, the IB Munson house B&B, Little Angels Preschool & Childcare Center, and critical facilities like the Town Garage, the sewer plant, the Wallingford Village Fire Station, and the East Wallingford Post Office.

According to FEMA, 33% of these properties have flood insurance. In total, these 30 policies cover \$7,431,000 in value. **There is one repetitive loss property, classified only as “Other Residential.”**

Wallingford has a history of inundation flooding along multiple stretches of Otter Creek. Within Wallingford Village, areas of impact include Florence Ave, Maple Street, Meadow Street, and Railroad Street. US-7/South Street is primarily vulnerable south of the Waldo Lane intersection. Other locations susceptible to inundation flooding include Creek Road and the western segment of Hartsboro Road (before Green Hill Lane). In East Wallingford, a Mill River tributary contributes to flooding on Earl Wade Road. These areas are shown on the following maps.

Damage from inundation flooding usually includes impacts to roads, culverts, bridges, and homes. The severity and extent of these impacts are typically minor; however, some critical facilities are located in the FEMA-mapped floodplain (see pages 17-18).

Unlike inundation floods, flash floods can occur whenever there is heavy rain. These flood events are inherently sudden and unpredictable and can impact areas outside of designated floodplains, also known as River Corridors. River Corridors encompass an area around and adjacent to the river where fluvial erosion is most likely to occur. The River Corridor map for Wallingford can be viewed on the Vermont Flood Ready Atlas and is also delineated on the following maps.

Flash flooding events periodically wash out sections of many roads in Wallingford; see the list below. There are 112 buildings in the State-mapped River Corridors- a mix of single and multi-family dwellings, mobile homes, commercial and development sites, camps, trailheads and access points, and the Transfer Station. Of these, around 40 properties overlap with the FEMA-mapped floodplain, such as the sewer plant, the East Wallingford Post Office, and the Little Angels Preschool & Childcare Center. Areas of flash flood concern are shown on the following maps.

- East Wallingford Village: Earl Wade Road, Seward Hill Road.
- South Wallingford Village: Dugway Road/Dugway Road extension, US Route 7 S.
- Wallingford Village: Elm Street, Meadow Street, River Street.
- Elsewhere: Bear Mountain Road; Blackwood Road; Carrara Camp Road; Centerville Road; Chapin Road; Cross Road; Dawson Hill Road; Hartsboro Road; Homer Stone Road; Ice Bed Road; Kent Farm Road; Parker Road; Senecal Way; Sugar Hill Road; Tifft Road; Waldo Lane; Wallingford Pond Road; West Hill Road; and Van Wyck Road.

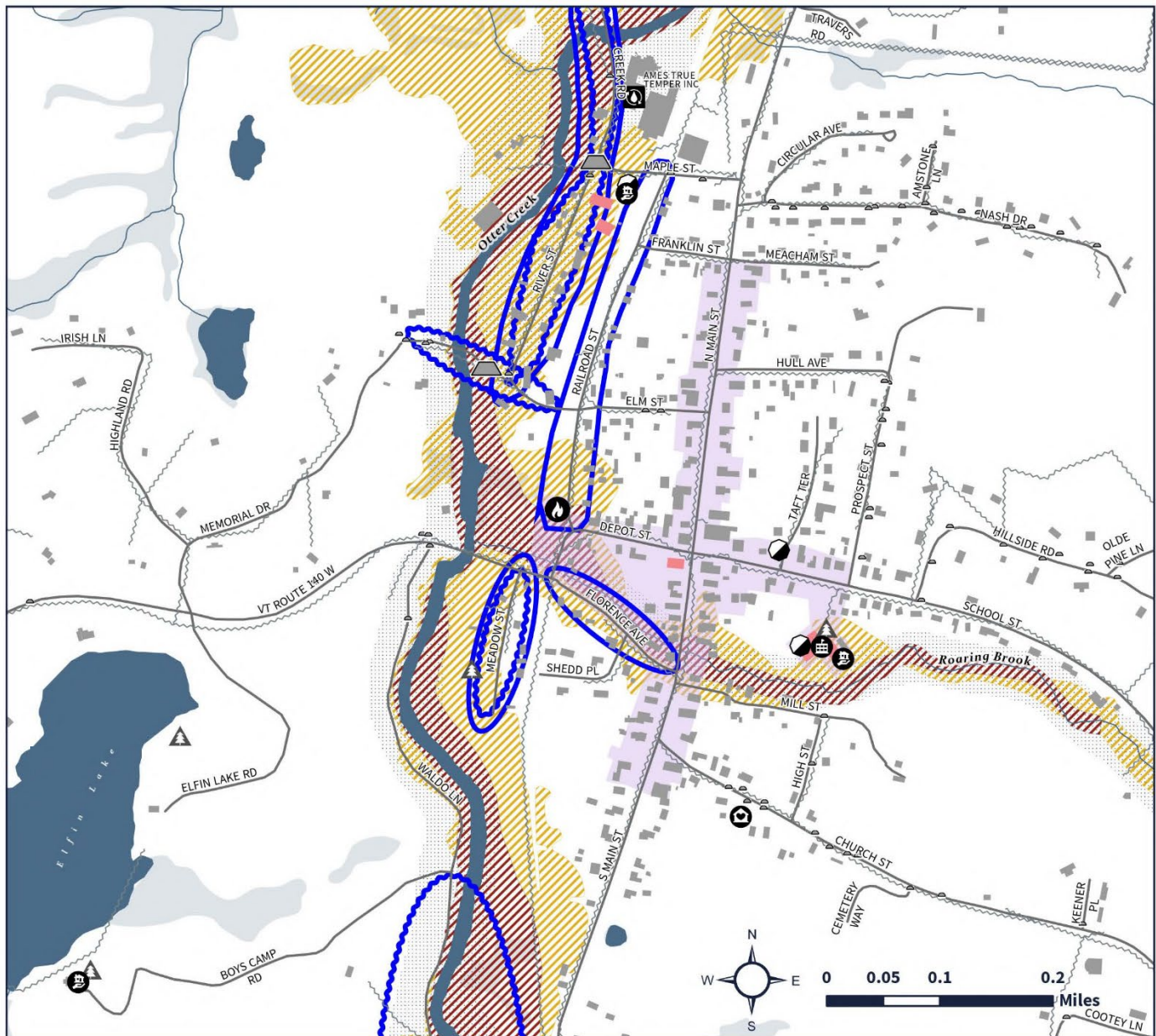


Major scouring on Sugar Hill Road in July 2023 (DR4720)



VCGI, E911, Local governments, RPCs (regional planning commissions), VT Lidar Program, VT Imagery Program, public domain., Green Mountain Power, See dataset specific metadata., Vermont River Corridor and Floodplain Protection Program
VT Dept of Environmental Conservation, ANR

WALLINGFORD VILLAGE

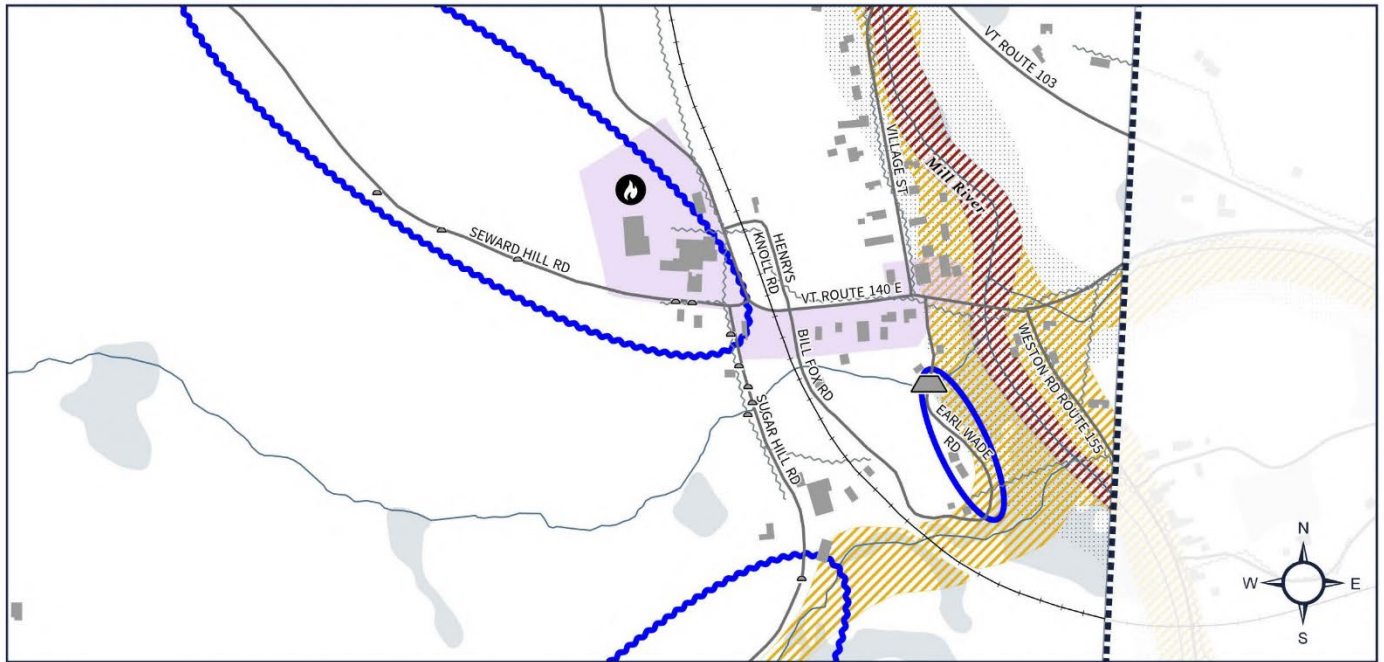


Credits: Nic Stark for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission | Produced: 7/2/2026

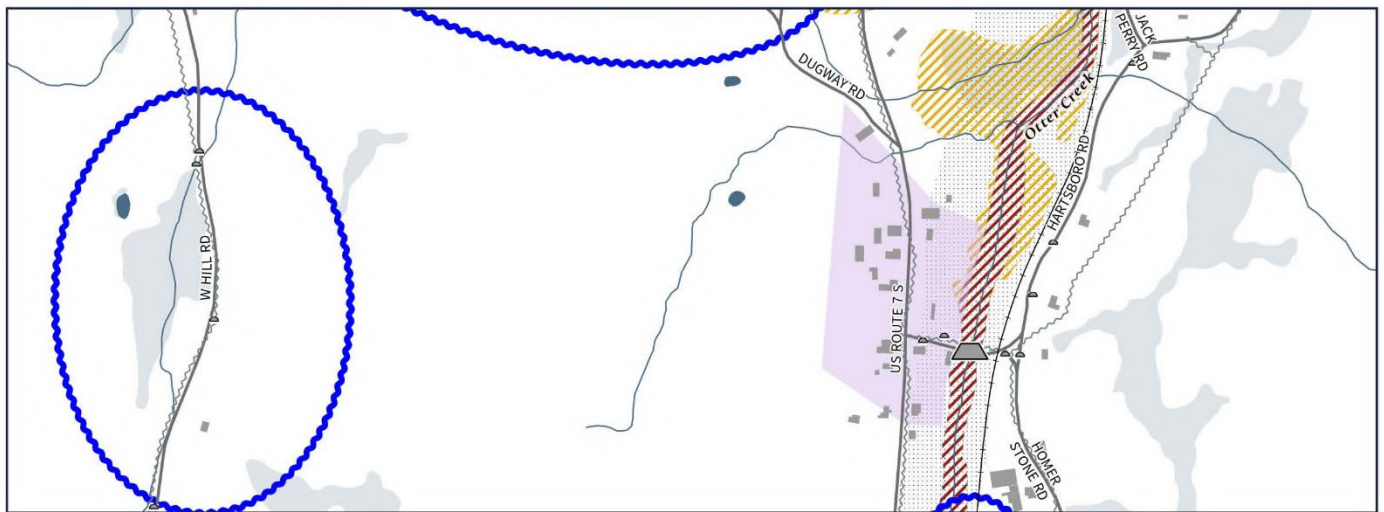
C:\Users\NicStark\Rutland Regional Planning Commission\GIS - Documents\LHMP\WALLINGFORD_LHMP_26\WALLINGFORD_LHMP_26.aprx

VCGI, E911, Local governments, RPCs (regional planning commissions), VT Lidar Program, VT Imagery Program, public domain., Green Mountain Power, See dataset specific metadata., Vermont River Corridor and Floodplain Protection Program
 VT Dept of Environmental Conservation, ANR

EAST WALLINGFORD



SOUTH WALLINGFORD



Credits: Nic Stark for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission | Produced: 6/23/2026

C:\Users\NicStark\Rutland Regional Planning Commission\GIS - Documents\Emergency\WALLINGFORD_LHMP_26\WALLINGFORD_LHMP_26.aprx

VCGI, E911, Local governments, RPCs (regional planning commissions), VT Lidar Program, VT Imagery Program, public domain., Green Mountain Power, See dataset specific metadata., Vermont River Corridor and Floodplain Protection Program
VT Dept of Environmental Conservation, ANR



71% of survey respondents have experienced floods. According to the National Weather Service, floods kill more people than any other weather-related hazard, except for extreme heat. Most flood-related deaths occur while driving a vehicle into flood waters.

For those sheltering in place, the greatest hazard beyond the floodwaters themselves is the risk of isolation. The rapid and erosive destruction of nearby infrastructure may render flooded areas inaccessible. The result is people becoming trapped and requiring swift-water rescues, or critical assets, such as medical services, becoming unavailable. This is especially problematic if the emergency response services themselves are located in flood-prone areas (e.g., both Wallingford Fire Department buildings), although the Wallingford Rescue Squad was constructed above two feet above base flood elevation. This reduced its vulnerability during Irene, when floodwaters came 6 inches short of inundating the property.

Wallingford's older and younger populations, people with pre-existing health conditions and limited range of motion, outdoor workers, and those living in substandard housing are at greatest risk of isolation. One survey respondent stressed the significance of *"having safe places with generators and storage for food & water located in several areas. It's also important to have the flexibility to answer unexpected situations."*

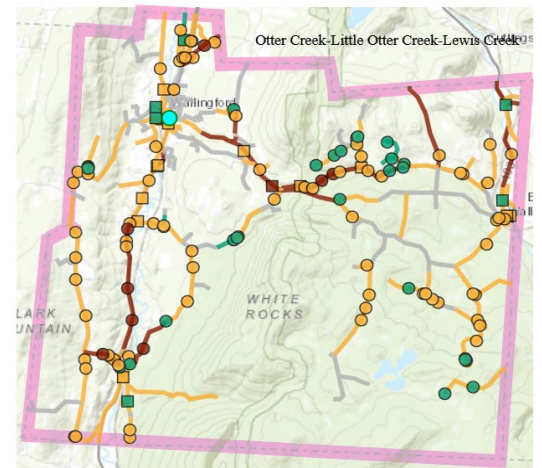
Inundation floods have cascading impacts on infectious disease risk. Mosquitoes, for example, breed in standing water, and as their population increases, so does the risk of the diseases they transmit, such as West Nile Virus and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). Another survey respondent expressed concern about the potential for E. coli contamination from livestock runoff on Centerville Road, a risk that would be exacerbated by more frequent flood events.



The most common type of flash flood damage is road washouts. When runoff volumes exceed the capacity of the stormwater drainage system (i.e., ditching and culverts), washouts can occur. The Town's structures and road erosion inventories, ANR's Municipal Vulnerability Indicators Tool, and VTrans Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) were used to help identify locations and assets at risk from flash flooding.

Road segments, culverts, and bridges that exhibit high flood risk according to the TRPT are shown in red on the graphic to the right. These include:

- Road segments (—): Dawson Hill Road, Dugway Road, East Street, Elm Street, Hartsboro Road, Haven Hill Road, Old Turnpike Road, School Street, South Main Street/US Route 7 S, VT Route 103 S, VT Route 140 E
- Culverts (●): Dugway Road, Hartsboro Road, Haven Hill Road, US Route 7 S, VT 140E
- Bridges (■): VT Route 140 E (B3 over Roaring Brook)



VTrans TRPT Flood Risk Results for Wallingford

Except for East Street and Haven Hill Road, these align with the Planning Team's identified areas of flood concern.

Culvert failures and road washouts can have a significant negative impact, especially if they occur on roads that are locally important for shortcuts, detours, and/or access to critical facilities. Impacts may extend to the rail lines as well; one survey respondent noted that *"the road/train crossing on the north end of Hartsboro Road routinely sinks and becomes hazardous to vehicles due to poor footing or support for the cargo trains using the rail daily."*

When roads are impacted by flooding, the Town coordinates with the Fire Department and State Dispatch to close roads and set up detours. Road closures can create longer commute times and longer emergency service response times.

Additional community assets survey respondents expressed concern about losing due to the impacts of flooding and other natural

hazards: True Temper sawmill, Thrive Holistic Health Center, Wallingford Rec Fields, Elfin Lake shoreline, Appalachian Trail Crossings, White Rocks picnic area, Stone Meadow Park, and the iconic “Boy with a Boot” statue.

The Fire District #1 well is sited in the Otter Creek floodplain off Meadow Street. It is housed in a flood-proofed vault and therefore not compromised during a flood. However, the entire sewer treatment plant and several sewer manholes on Meadow Street, River Street, Creek Road, and Railroad Street are also within the Otter Creek floodplain and are susceptible to flooding. During Tropical Storm Irene, the plant was submerged in 4 feet of floodwater. Following Irene, all controls were relocated above base flood elevation; however, the back-up generator remains vulnerable to flooding.

Ice or debris jams, as well as dam failures, may also cause flash flooding. The Town does not have a high incidence or high probability of ice jams, except at the intersection of VT Route 140 W and Florence Avenue along Roaring Brook. When ice jams do occur in this location, they typically do not result in flooding or other infrastructure damage.

The Highway Department and several survey respondents noted that beaver dams are a recurring issue for Wallingford, specifically near VT Route 140 E (on Roaring Brook, near the Long Trail crossing), near Parker Road (on an unnamed tributary), and near Davenport Farm on East Street (on an unnamed tributary). During extreme precipitation events, nearby roads and properties are susceptible to major flooding if the beaver dams fail or are overtopped. The Town frequently monitors beaver dams in these areas and clears them as needed when they interfere with a culvert in the municipal road right-of-way.

Dam failures can also cause flash flooding. There are three (3) dams in Wallingford listed in the Vermont Dam Inventory, a database managed by the VT Dam Safety Program:

- 1) Chase Dam is located on an unnamed tributary of the Otter Creek, southeast of the triangular intersection of Hartsboro and Ice Bed Roads. It is privately owned and classified as a minimal hazard potential dam. Its condition rating and latest year of inspection are unknown.
- 2) Quinn Upper Dam is located on Homer Stone Brook, west of the southern terminus of Wallingford Pond Road. It is privately owned and classified as a low hazard potential dam. Last inspected in 2023, its condition is poor.
- 3) Quinn Lower Dam is located on Homer Stone Brook, west of the southern terminus of Wallingford Pond Road. It is privately owned and classified as a low hazard potential dam. Last inspected in 2024, its condition is unsatisfactory.

There are no high hazard potential dams in Wallingford. The Town also does not own any such dams outside of its borders.



As mentioned previously, flash floods often involve streambank or fluvial erosion. Excessive erosion can trigger land or mudslides.² It may also result in heightened turbidity, increased phosphorus transport, or the release of legacy pollutants. Additionally, sediment mobilized by fluvial erosion can contribute to aggradation (i.e., a rise in the channel level) and to dammed streams.

² DR4720 damages in Vermont include those caused by landslides and mudslides. In Wallingford, these hazards only occur as a direct result of fluvial erosion. **Due to a lack of available data on purely terrestrial slides, landslides and mudslides are not profiled as a separate hazard in this Plan.**

Fluvial erosion in Wallingford is most prevalent along the Mill River and Otter Creek and their associated (unnamed) tributaries, as well as portions of Bully, Feller, Homer Stone, and Roaring Brooks. Many of these brooks are within Green Mountain National Forest, and any potential impacts would be addressed by the U.S. Forest Service. Existing studies helped identify other locations and assets at risk from fluvial erosion. These include Stream Geomorphic Assessments (Phase 1 and Phase 2), River Corridor Plans, and Stormwater Management Plans.

Stream Geomorphic Assessments (SGAs) and River Corridor Plans provide information about the physical condition of streams and factors that influence their stability. For Wallingford, these include:

- 2005 Upper Otter Creek Phase 1 SGA
- 2007 Mill River Phase 1 SGA
- 2007 Mill River Phase 2 SGA
- 2009 Mill River Corridor Management Plan
- 2009 Roaring & Baker Brook Phase 1 SGA
- 2009 Upper Otter Creek Phase 2 SGA

As weather patterns shift and we see larger storms and more frequent freeze-thaw cycles, the Town will monitor for signs that rivers that have historically been stable are becoming less stable, with increased erosion, widening, trees falling in from their banks, etc.

These reports identify priority locations for projects related to river corridor protection and restoring floodplain access. Identified potential projects in Wallingford include wetland restoration, planting stream buffers, removing berms, removing or replacing human-placed structures, and restoring incision areas (i.e., deeply undercut river valleys). There are 11 potential projects identified in Wallingford, though the current progress towards implementing them is unknown. No stream stabilization projects were proposed.

Stormwater Master Planning (SWMP) involves identifying stormwater, sediment, nutrient, and septic inputs to waterways and designing projects to mitigate those inputs, either by eliminating them at the source through green stormwater infrastructure, septic system improvements, and back road projects, or by improving floodplain access within the stream network to increase sediment attenuation. The stormwater reports for Wallingford Village (2012), East Wallingford (2017), and the Wallingford Stormwater Master Plan (2019) recommended a total of 12 projects designed to reduce stormwater flows and increase flood resiliency. These include installing subsurface chambers, bioretention areas, infiltration swales, and rain gardens, as well as addressing road erosion issues under the Municipal Roads General Permit (e.g., re-crowning and grader berm removal).



Environmental impacts from flooding may cut off access to recreation areas, which in turn adversely affect local tourism. Flood events, along with associated road closures, will also have a short-term impact on the local economy due to fewer shopping trips and commuter delays. Additionally, flooding may negatively affect maple syrup production by damaging trees and disrupting sap collection.

The Town has recently experienced multi-year delays in receiving reimbursement after declared disasters. This, combined with Individual Assistance denials, has significantly affected both municipal and personal budgets and deficits.



The aftermath of the July 2017 floods on West Hill Road (DR 4330)

Floods Hazard History

These are the most recent significant events impacting Wallingford. This hazard history is limited to the past **20 years**, except for federal Rutland County Disaster Declarations, which are shown in **bold**. All damages are to property unless otherwise noted.

7/11/2023: DR4720 4-5" rain: \$115,652 local damage; \$4.4 mil regional damage

6/20/2019: 6" rain; no reported local damage

4/15/2019: DR4445 1-2" rain with significant snowmelt: no reported local damage; \$1.0 mil regional damage

7/1/2017: DR4330 3-4" rain the previous 3-4 days with flash flooding on 7/1/17: \$171,927 local damage; \$1.9 mil regional damage

1/12/2014: 1-2" rain with significant snowmelt: \$10,000 local damage

6/25-7/11/2013: DR4140 heavy rain over multiple days: \$100,000 local damage; \$420,000 regional damage

8/28/2011: DR4022 Tropical Storm Irene with +5" rain: \$1.1 mil local damage; \$55.0 mil regional property damage, \$2.5 million regional crop damage

3/23/2010: 1-2" rain with significant snowmelt: \$10,000 local damage

6/12/2007: Unknown amount of rainfall: \$20,000 local damage to logging road

12/16/2000: DR1358 2-4" rain: \$13,125 local damage; \$100,000 regional damage

7/16/2000: DR1336 heavy rain: \$2,391 local damage; \$200,000 regional damage

9/16-9/21/1999: DR1307 Tropical Storm Floyd with 5-6" rain and 44 mph winds: \$6,205 local damage; \$100,000 regional damage



Extreme Cold, Snow, and Ice

These events typically occur between December and March in the Rutland Region. They can include snow, sleet, freezing rain, or a mix of these wintry forms of precipitation. Events may also be associated with Strong Wind or Floods, increasing the potential hazard impacts. The costs of these storms include power outages due to heavy snow or ice, damaged trees, school closures, and traffic accidents. Extreme cold—typically defined as temperatures and/or wind chills below zero during winter and below freezing in spring and summer—poses risks to human health and safety, damages water systems by freezing pipes, and harms garden plants and agricultural crops.

From 2001 to 2010, Rutland County experienced \$2.27 million in property damage and \$100,000 in crop damage from severe winter storms, including Disaster Declarations DR1367 in 2001 and DR1698 in 2007.

From 2011 to 2020, Rutland County experienced \$1.4 million in property damage and \$100,000 in crop damage from severe winter storms, with \$465,000 in property damage due to a 10" - 20" heavy, wet snowfall across the County on December 9, 2014 (DR4207).

From 2021 to March 2026, Rutland County experienced \$110,000 million in property damage and \$1.02 million in crop damage, the latter due to a hard freeze in May 2023 (S5470).



Extreme cold/snow/ice, tied with flash flooding and fluvial erosion, ranks #3 among the top three hazards likely to occur in the next five years. Severe winter storms increase the risk of car accidents, and extreme cold increases the risk of hypothermia and frostbite. This threat is amplified if extreme temperatures coincide with power outages, which can cut off heat and communications. See the Strong Wind profile for more information about the Town's vulnerability to power outages.

*75% of survey participants have experienced severe winter storms. **The impacts of greatest concern** are loss of road access and extended periods of extreme cold, coupled with a long-duration power outage.*

The impacts of extreme cold and severe winter storms are hardest felt by Wallingford's at-risk populations— the elderly, the youth, the disabled, outdoor workers, and those living in substandard housing. About 25% of Wallingford residents are over the age of 65; 9% are under the age of 5; 12% are considered disabled; 40% have below-average incomes; and 92% of houses were built before 2000.

The Town has particular concern for the more isolated residents in highly rural areas without reliable communications, mainly in East and South Wallingford. Within the Wallingford Village area, a survey respondent expressed concern about the number of people walking on roads rather than sidewalks due to the prevalence of “glare ice” (i.e., extremely smooth, reflective ice). Sidewalk clearing is typically handled by Wallingford Fire District #1.

The Town does not have a system for monitoring the needs of at-risk populations before or during a severe winter storm. However, it provides aid upon request and can set up temporary warming shelters at Wallingford Elementary School, Wallingford Lodge, and/or the Wallingford Rescue Squad, if needed.



Car accidents are a leading cause of death and injury during winter storms. To lessen roadway impacts, the Town maintains a fleet of equipment, including two tandem dump trucks equipped with two plows, one ton truck with a plow, one medium wheel loader, one grader, one backhoe loader, and one excavator. Overhead utility lines covered in ice or wet snow pose the greatest risk to infrastructure.

As shown on the previous map (page 14), roads prone to drifting include Blackwood, Centerville, Cross, Hawkins, Maranville, and Sugar Hill Roads. Notably, these are all areas that run up or down the hills of the Green Mountain region. These roads are maintained accordingly, and snow accumulation and ice events typically do not result in a long-term loss of road accessibility. Roads adjacent to critical facilities (Town Garage, Town Office, Elementary School, Fire Stations, sewer plant, etc.) are also well maintained.



Fallen trees near Dugway Rd in December 2014 (DR 4207)

There is potential for “mud season” to worsen in Wallingford. Mud season usually starts in late March or early April, when snow melts and the ground thaws, only to refreeze, creating mud on gravel roads. As hard winter freezes become less frequent, Wallingford is experiencing thaw-freeze cycles earlier in the season. This will make plowing its non-paved roads more challenging. Sugar Hill Road is a frequent problem spot for the Town during mud season.



The primary environmental concern is tree damage. Trees provide many environmental services and benefits, including stormwater management, improved air quality, carbon storage, shade, wildlife habitat, noise reduction, and aesthetic value.

Wallingford's vulnerability lies with roadside trees falling into the road and/or onto utility lines due to the weight of ice or wet snow accumulation. The resulting impacts include tree loss, utility disruptions, and road debris requiring clearing.



Given the Town's predominantly rural nature, farming and maple sugaring industries are primarily vulnerable. Local businesses are also at risk in the short term. Potential impacts include school and daycare closures, inaccessibility for employees and customers, and commute delays.

One town-wide risk that is difficult to predict in terms of location is the freezing and breaking of drinking water pipes, although it has occurred on Depot Street in the past.

Extreme Cold, Snow, and Ice Hazard History

These are the most recent significant events impacting Wallingford. Hazard histories are limited to the past **10 years**, except for federal Rutland County Disaster Declarations, which are depicted in **bold**. All damages are to property unless otherwise noted.

1/30/2026: sub-zero temps (5 to 10 below) with windchills of 25 to 35 below; no reported damages

3/23/2024: 30" snow; no reported damages

5/18/2023: S5470 record low in the 20s: \$1.02 mil regional crop damage

2/3/2023: record low of 15 to 30 below zero with windchills of 30-45 below; no reported damages

4/19/2022: 3-5" wet snow: \$20,000 regional damage

2/3/2022: 8-12" snow, mixed with sleet and ice: \$50,000 regional damage

1/16/2022: 6-10" wet snow with 50+ mph winds: \$50,000 regional damage

4/15/2021: 7" of snow; \$10,000 regional damage

1/16/2021: 8-18" wet snow; \$60,000 regional damage

2/7/2020: 8-12" snow; ¼" ice: \$35,000 regional damage

3/22/2019: 6-20" wet snow with 15-25 mph winds; \$30,000 regional damage

1/19/2019: 10-18" snow, 10 to 20 below 0°F with 30+ mph winds creating windchills colder than 20-40 below 0°F: \$25,000 regional damage

3/7/2018: 20" snow: \$40,000 regional damage

3/14/2017: 12-22" snow with 35 mph wind creating whiteout conditions: \$50,000 regional damage

11/29/2016: freezing rain with ¼" ice: \$20,000 regional damage

2/1/2015: Record cold month with 15-20+ days below zero and 6" snow: \$25,000 regional damage

12/9/2014: DR4207 10-20" snow: \$13,789 local damage; \$300,000 regional damage

3/5/2001: DR3167 20-30" snow: \$4,454 local damage; \$130,300 regional damage



Strong Wind

As defined by FEMA's National Risk Index, strong winds are those exceeding 58 mph and can be particularly damaging. It can occur alone, such as during straight-line or downdraft wind events (known as microbursts), or can accompany other natural hazards, including severe thunder and/or winter storms. Thunderstorm winds can cause power and communication outages, transportation and economic disruptions, and significant property damage, and pose a high risk of injuries and loss of life.

From 2001 to 2010, Rutland County incurred nearly \$7.9 million in property damage, with the most significant damage amounting to \$4.5 million from the "Norican" event on April 16, 2007 (DR1698).

78% of survey respondents have experienced a strong wind event. Many storms with high winds can result in downed trees and damage to phone and power lines, buildings, and other property. Wallingford is susceptible to winds town-wide, especially along the western Green Mountain slopes.

From 2011 to 2020, Rutland County experienced over \$2.4 million in property damage, with the most significant incident resulting in \$500,000 in damage on May 5, 2017. On September 8, 2012, winds over 70 mph toppled trees onto houses, camps, and vehicles in Wallingford and nearby Clarendon. Three years later, on October 28, 2015, widespread outages occurred in Wallingford and other communities along the western slopes of the Green Mountains due to downed trees on powerlines. Both events caused \$50,000 in damages each.

From 2021 to March 2026, wind events caused over \$1.3 million in property damage in Rutland County. On August 26, 2022, a microburst with winds over 65 mph caused an estimated \$500,000 in property damage and \$100,000 in agricultural damage, including the collapse of a barn in nearby Clarendon.



Strong wind ranked #2 of the top three hazards experienced by residents. It threatens lives, property, and vital utilities, primarily through flying debris, fallen trees, and downed power lines.

Wallingford is susceptible to high-directional winds townwide, especially in East Wallingford and along the western slopes of the Green Mountains more generally, posing a potentially significant risk to many residents. Roads called out as areas of concern by the Planning Team and survey respondents include Dawson Hill, Dugway, Hartsboro, Hawkins, Homer Stone, Sugar Hill, and West Hill Roads.

Those relying on electric-powered medical devices are especially at risk during power outages. Also, outside the service areas of the Fire District or South Wallingford Cooperative public water systems, those relying on private wells lose access to water. Without a backup power supply, people need to be prepared to withstand potentially 24 hours or more without power or to seek alternative accommodations. As noted in the Community Profile, the longest outages in the Town occurred in 2022, lasting over 57 hours during two separate events in December.

*One resident described how the wind “**comes up like a freight train**” on Parker Road; another stated, “In the past nine years, we have submitted **multiple catastrophic insurance claims** for wind damage to buildings and trees on our property.”*



Downed trees within the road right-of-way are a significant cause of power outages. Roads passing through dense wooded areas (i.e., most of Town) are especially vulnerable, as fallen trees can bring down utility lines for power and telecommunications. Power outages are the main cause of disruptions to communications, which are crucial in times of crisis.

The loss of phone service is especially concerning for Wallingford's more remote homes and at-risk populations. Landline phones, which have been upgraded from copper wiring to fiber, rely on an in-home battery backup that typically lasts less than eight hours, regardless of phone use. Notably, all municipal buildings – and most Town residents – have recently transitioned to fiber phone lines.



Due to Wallingford's natural terrain, many areas lack reliable cell phone service, particularly in East and South Wallingford. Therefore, during a power outage lasting more than eight hours, many will be unable to contact emergency response services. This is of concern given Wallingford's aging demographics and the prevalence of remote and isolated homes. Recent and upcoming installations of communications towers in Mount Holly and on Seward Hill in East Wallingford will help significantly improve cellular service for most Wallingford residents.

Telecommunications are essential for disaster warning systems and for response and recovery efforts. During an emergency, the Wallingford Town Hall's local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) manages municipal communications, including phone calls, internet access, and two-way radios. However, it does not have backup generator power, nor does the alternate EOC/primary shelter location (Wallingford Elementary School) or the alternate shelter location (Wallingford Lodge).

The only critical facilities with backup power are Fire District #1's sewer treatment plant and the Wallingford Volunteer Fire Department. This does not include the Fire District #1 well; however, in situations where Wallingford loses all power, there are four to five days' worth of water in the storage tank. A secondary emergency source would be one manual hydrant. Similarly, although there is no backup power at the sewer air ejector station on US Route 7 S, the system has storage capacity for approximately 2 days.

In addition to utility outages, fallen trees can damage buildings and block road access. When fallen trees become entangled in utility lines, clearing debris from the roadway becomes more difficult, and restoring access can take longer.



Like severe winter storms, the primary environmental impact of concern is tree damage. Damage or loss to them detracts from the quality of the ecological services they provide; see the extreme cold/snow/ice profile.

Unique to strong winds is the damage caused by wind shear, which results from differences in wind speed or direction over a short distance, either horizontally or vertically in the atmosphere. Wind shear can cause branches to fail and uproot even the strongest and healthiest trees. Its impacts are especially pronounced in forested, mountainous communities like Wallingford.



Strong winds, with associated power outages, can have a short-term impact on the local economy by causing business closures or blocking commutes due to downed trees or power lines. Since strong wind events rarely become federally declared disasters, the financial burden of response and recovery often falls on the Town and its local businesses.

Strong Wind Hazard History

These are the most recent significant events impacting Wallingford. Hazard histories are limited to the past **10 years**, except for federal Rutland County Disaster Declarations, which are depicted in **bold**. All damages are to property unless otherwise noted.

2/17/2025: 52 mph winds; no reported damages

4/3/2024: 52 mph winds: \$100,000 regional damage

2/28/2024: 41 mph winds: \$50,000 regional damage

1/10/2024: 50 mph winds: \$50,000 regional damage

8/4/2023: "wet microburst" with 55 mph winds and flash flooding: \$20,000 local damage

12/23/2022: 48 mph winds: \$175,000 regional damage

8/26/2022: 65 mph winds: \$500,000 local property damage, \$100,000 agricultural damage

12/11/2021: 45 mph winds: \$35,000 regional damage

11/12/2021: 35 mph winds: \$15,000 regional damage

3/1/2021: 46 mph winds: \$55,000 regional damage

12/25/2020: 43 mph wind: \$25,000 regional damage

8/4/2020: 45 mph winds: \$60,000 regional damage

2/24/2019: 48 mph winds: \$50,000 regional damage

7/10/2018: 55 mph wind: \$20,000 local damage

4/1/2018: 56 mph winds: \$100,000 regional damage

10/30/2017: 40 mph winds: \$200,000 regional damage

5/5/2017: 55 mph winds: \$525,000 local damage

2/29/2016: 35 mph winds: \$20,000 regional damage

8/28/2011: DR4022 Tropical Storm Irene: 48 mph winds: \$100,000 regional damage

4/15-16/2007: DR1698 "Nor'icane": 3" snow/rain, 60-80 mph wind: \$9,673 local damage; \$4.5 mil regional damage



Extreme Heat

Rising temperatures are an emerging concern for communities accustomed to cooler climates. Excessive heat events involve a combination of significantly high temperatures and high humidity. Heat waves are defined as periods of at least three consecutive days with maximum temperatures exceeding 90°F. Vermont's "heat season" typically lasts from May to September, although abnormally hot days are occurring more frequently in April, October, and even November. The latter is particularly dangerous as the human body may not be properly acclimated to extreme heat outside of the expected heat season.

Excessive temperatures have and will continue to impact Wallingford. 57% of survey respondents reported experiencing extreme heat events. The VDH Heat Vulnerability Index further indicates that Wallingford is **0.5-1.5x more likely to develop heat illness** compared to most other municipalities in Rutland County.

From 2001-2010, Rutland County experienced one heat wave in August 2006, with no reported damage.

From 2011 to 2020, Rutland County experienced five heat waves, four of which occurred during the Vermont heat season. The fifth, which occurred in March 2012, resulted in \$650,000 in damage to the regional maple sugaring industry.

From 2021 to March 2026, several short-lived heat outbreaks occurred, but these were too brief to be formally defined as heatwaves. This includes the June 2025 heat outbreak, which had apparent temperatures of 100-110°F for only two days.



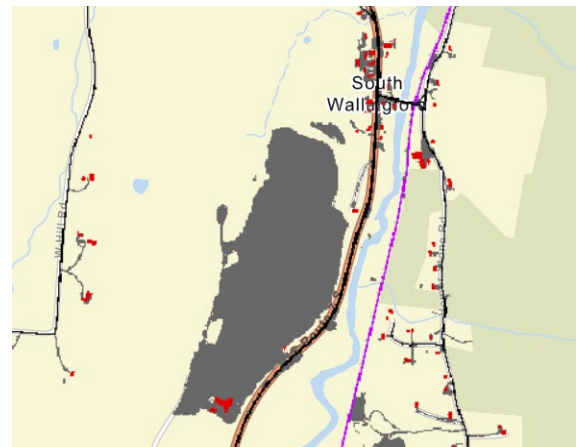
Vermont Department of Health (VDH) data indicates that state residents experience heat-related illnesses at around 87°F. While everyone is affected by hot weather, the risk of heat illness is greater for at-risk populations, including youth, the elderly, and the homeless. Other at-risk indicators include living alone, having limited transportation options, and lacking access to air conditioning or other cooling options. People with pre-existing health conditions, outdoor workers, and those living in older houses without central air or air conditioning are especially at risk from the impacts of extreme heat.

Wallingford is one of two communities in the Region to have an Extreme Heat response plan. This plan outlines communication and emergency response mobilization strategies and designates locations for cooling sites. Wallingford Rescue Squad, Gilbert Hart Library, and the Town Hall have been opened as cooling centers in recent years, although residents have yet to utilize these resources.



The materials used in transportation infrastructure exhibit a limited range of heat tolerance. Asphalt can melt and crack upon cooling, while concrete can buckle due to limited room for the slab to expand. Thermal expansion may cause bridge connections to swell and collapse, railway tracks to buckle, overhead lines to sag, and rails to bend.

The Town has a high percentage of unpaved roads and thus perceives a lower susceptibility of its highway infrastructure to damage, specifically from asphalt cracking. For residents who rely on drilled wells, increased evaporation rates may hinder access to potable water. Increased electrical loads from multiple cooling systems operating simultaneously may trigger a blackout, which further increases heat-related risks if residents rely on these systems as their primary cooling source.



The impervious surface of Wallingford Crushed Stone likely contributes to greater heat radiance. Source: VT Municipal Vulnerability Indicators Tool



A gradually warming climate will increase soil drying rates, contributing to drought-like conditions. Heat-stressed trees are more likely to succumb to disease or pest invasions. Conversely, warmer air can hold more water vapor, which in turn influences the frequency and magnitude of extreme precipitation events, weakening tree integrity.



Higher temperatures, especially if accompanied by drought, can significantly impact crops and other agricultural operations. Additionally, the potential for harmful algal blooms in water bodies increases, which may negatively affect recreation and local tourism

Extreme Heat Hazard History

These are the most recent significant events impacting Wallingford. Hazard histories are limited to the **past 20 years**. All damages are to property unless otherwise noted.

6/30/2026: Apparent temps of 90-110°F for four days; damages unknown

6/10/2026: Apparent temps of 90-95°F for three days; damages unknown

6/22/2025: Apparent temps of 100-110°F for two days; no reported damages

7/7/2020: Apparent temps of 95-100°F for four days; no reported damages

6/18/2020: Apparent temps of 95-100°F for six days; no reported damages

7/1/2018: Apparent temps of 95-110°F for six days; no reported damages

3/17/2012: 70 and 80°F temps, with maximums 30-40°F above normal for four days; \$650,000 regional damage to maple sugaring industry

7/21/2011: Apparent temps of 100-108°F for four days; no reported damages

8/1/2006: Apparent temps of 100-105°F for two days; no reported damages



Wildfires

This hazard is specific to uncontrolled, unsupervised, and/or unprescribed outdoor fires. Wildfire probability depends on local weather conditions (lightning, drought, extreme heat), outdoor activities (camping, debris burning), topography and slope, and the amount of “fuel” present in the environment. Once a wildfire threatens a community, it is often too late to protect nearby structures, and populations must be evacuated for their own safety. These fires could damage structures and utilities, as well as hundreds of acres of woodlands.

The 2017 Vermont Wildland Fire Program Annual Report notes that most fires in the state are caused by burning debris. To date, Vermont has not experienced any federally declared wildfire disasters. The climate, vegetation type, and landscape discourage major wildfires, and historically, the risk has remained low. However, climate change may heighten this threat due to more frequent extreme heat events and drought-like conditions, particularly for predominantly forested communities in the Green Mountains.

Wallingford reported ±12 wildfires to the State from 1998 to 2025. Causes include lightning strikes, debris burning, campfires, matches, and even locomotive exhaust. The worst-reported fire during this period occurred in December 1998 and burned 20 acres. See the Wildfire Hazard History for a summary of wildfire events in Wallingford.

*“Given the extensive forests in the area, a period of drought followed by a fire could result in significant damage to natural resources as well as private and public resources. **The entire character of the area could be significantly damaged.**” -Anonymous Survey Respondent*



Wildfires that are not extinguished can trap residents in their homes if evacuation routes are blocked. Emergency vehicles may be unable to reach isolated populations due to damage blocking transportation routes. This risk is especially pronounced for Wallingford’s more remote homes and at-risk populations.

Wallingford believes **there is an appreciable wildfire risk town-wide** due to changing climate conditions and the fact that **one-third of its land is in the Green Mountain National Forest**. One in five pop-up event participants flagged wildfires as a hazard of greatest concern.

During and after a wildfire, air quality in the surrounding area is compromised by the release of toxic pollutants. In large concentrations, the lingering toxins can cause cardiorespiratory illness in individuals who were previously healthy. Those with pre-existing cardiovascular and respiratory conditions may experience life-threatening symptoms due to smoke exposure. Outdoor workers and firefighters also face higher health and safety risks related to wildfires.

Even if a wildfire is occurring well outside Town boundaries, air quality may be compromised by drifting smoke, as seen during the Canadian wildfires of 2023 and 2025.



Wildfire vulnerability is considered higher in the wildland-urban interface. In this area, infrastructure intersects undeveloped land, creating the potential for fire to spread from forested areas to residential development.

The burning of buildings and infrastructure is an apparent impact. Scorch damage to electrical lines, pipelines, and roads can shut down key community services that support human health and safety, such as transportation, electricity, and public utilities.



Wildfires may burn both flora and fauna, damaging habitat and causing injury or loss of life. Trees and other vegetation are particularly prone to burning during drought and extreme heat events. Depending on the scale of the wildfire, fallen timber may be so abundant as to pose a significant hazard. Wildfires also negatively impact water quality. Ash and particulate matter can travel to nearby water sources via runoff, carrying contaminants and toxic metals that poison both humans and aquatic life.



Wildfires can be particularly disruptive to the economy if they spread to farms and forests designated for timber harvesting. Fields used for important crops, including maple trees, may be destroyed, and livestock could suffer injury or death depending on the amount of smoke they are exposed to. Damage to trail systems, along with the adverse effects on water quality, could make engaging in outdoor recreation activities – mainly swimming and fishing – unsafe, thus hindering local tourism.

Wildfire Hazard History

These are the most recent significant events impacting Wallingford. Hazard histories are limited to the **past 20 years**. As there are no FEMA-declared wildfire disasters in Vermont, this information is provided by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, with supplemental data from the Town. **Some information, including locations and damages, is unavailable for these events.**

8/25/2025: 0.1 acres burned due to unknown causes in Green Mountain National Forest (43°25'54.5"N, 72°56'31.9"W); no reported damages

5/10/2023: 0.1 acres burned due to debris burning near 141 West Hill Road (43°27'05.5"N 73°00'20.0"W); no reported damages

5/9/2023: 0.1 acres burned due to debris burning near 231 Mill Street (43°28'07.0"N, 72°58'21.7"W); no reported damages

10/31/2022: <0.1 acres burned due to debris burning in Green Mountain National Forest (exact lat/long unknown); no reported damages

8/19-20/2022: 0.1 acres burned due to unknown causes near 613 Wallingford Pond Road (exact lat/long unknown); no reported damages

5/16/2021: 3.5 acres burned due to lightning strike near 1950 West Hill Road (43°25'34.9"N, 73°00'20.2"W); no reported damages

10/10/2020: 0.7 acres burned due to "other causes" near 1598 US-7 (43°27'13.6"N, 72°59'40.8"W); no reported damages

9/23/2017: 0.5 acres burned due to campfire (43°27'01.3"N, 72°58'06.2"W); no reported damages



Invasive Species

Invasive species are typically introduced to non-native ecosystems by human activity, both intentional and accidental. Not every non-native species is invasive; to qualify, the organism must be capable of causing harm to the environment, the economy, or human health. The exact nature of these harms varies by species, but commonalities include reductions in native species compositions, disruptions of natural ecosystem functions, and millions of dollars spent annually on control and prevention measures.

Once detected, invasive species are virtually impossible to eradicate or contain. Millions of dollars are spent annually in Vermont on long-term management and asset protection.

Though many aquatic and terrestrial invasives currently inhabit Vermont, forest pests are most relevant given their impacts on local trees. Examples include Asian long-horned beetle, oak wilt, and spotted lanternfly. Given the data available, this Plan examines the impacts posed by the emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*), an exotic beetle.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was first identified in Rutland County in October 2020 and has since become well established in the Region. As of June 2026, 20 out of 28 municipalities in the County have confirmed EAB infestations, including nearby towns such as Clarendon, Danby, Mt. Tabor, and Tinmouth. In 2025, EAB was detected for the first time in Wallingford, west of the Timber Hill Estates near Mooney Road.

EAB larvae burrow through the inner layer of the ash tree's bark, impeding the tree's ability to conduct water and nutrients throughout the tree. Lacking sufficient water and nutrients, healthy ash trees can die within 1-4 years of exhibiting the first signs of invasion.



Those working to remove an infested tree are at the greatest risk of injury. Once infested, the tree becomes brittle, significantly increasing the risk and complexity of its removal. Otherwise, injury is most likely to occur if the infested tree falls directly on a property or a densely wooded road.



Infested trees along roads become hazards as they die, pulling down powerlines or falling into the roadway. During high-precipitation events, they also contribute to riverine debris. The Town lacks an ash tree roadside inventory, although the Tree Warden is in the early stages of starting one. Until the inventory is complete, it remains unknown how many ash trees are within the road right-of-way in Wallingford.



Photo Credit: State of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets



Because 5% of Vermont's trees are ash, the State's forest composition is vulnerable to this invasive species. While it is present in most Vermont counties, its population is low, and it has infested only a small percentage of the state's total ash trees. The current location and number of ash trees at risk in Wallingford are unknown. Due to their shade tolerance, areas potentially at risk include village centers, Stone Meadow Park, White Rocks Picnic Area, and the Green Mountain National Forest. Other forest pests, specifically hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) and elongate hemlock scale (*Fiorinia externa*), have also been observed in Wallingford near Elfin Lake, VT 140 E, and the White Rocks Picnic Area.



EAB has serious financial implications for forest landowners and municipalities, including losses of productive timber and costs of removing ash trees along roadsides. Assigning financial losses specifically to Rutland County would be challenging, so this information is not included.

Emerald Ash Borer Hazard History

Because invasive species often spread over a long period, identifying a hazard event involving them is difficult. FEMA also does not declare federal disasters for invasive species outbreaks.



Drought

This natural hazard is characterized by a period of below-average precipitation, leading to water shortages. It is typically a slow-onset natural hazard that can last months or even years. Higher temperatures, water demands exceeding availability, low winter snowpack, and insufficient rainfall are all factors that can lead to significant drought.

Drought is a natural part of the climate cycle and can occur anywhere, at any time. It is a complex phenomenon that is difficult to monitor and assess because it develops slowly and covers extensive areas. This hazard is therefore unique compared with other disasters with rapid onset and apparent destruction. Refer to the 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan for a complete discussion of how drought differs from other natural hazards and how it relates to extreme heat trends in Vermont.

The USDA rates droughts from D0-D4, depending on the severity of the drought, the amount of time it will take for vegetation to return to normal levels, and the possible effects of the drought on the vegetation and water supply:

Table 6: USDA Drought Category Descriptions

Category	Description	Possible Impacts
D0	Abnormally dry	Short-term dryness is slowing the planting/growing of crops or pastures.
D1	Moderate Drought	Some damage to crops and pastures. Streams, reservoirs, or wells are low; some water shortages are developing or imminent. Voluntary water restrictions are requested.
D2	Severe Drought	Crop or pasture loss is likely. Water shortages are common; water restrictions are imposed.
D3	Extreme Drought	Major crop/pasture losses; widespread water shortages or restrictions.
D4	Exceptional Drought	Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses; shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells, creating water emergencies.

For the purposes of this Plan, all moderate drought events (i.e., in which any percentage of the cumulative percent of land area is classified as D1 for at least four weeks) and above are featured in this hazard profile. For a history of abnormally dry events in Rutland County, see the U.S. Drought Monitor.

From 2001-2010, Rutland County experienced a moderate drought from August 2001 – March 2002. Severe drought (D2) occurred over a small area ($\leq 1\%$) in November and December 2001.

From 2011-2020, Rutland County experienced periods of moderate drought from May-June 2015, June-August 2016, September 2016–April 2017, June–September 2018, and Jun 2020–Dec 2020. Severe drought occurred in a majority of the county from October–November 2016 (~63% of cumulative land area) and a small portion of the county in September–October 2020 (~5% of cumulative land area).

From January 2021–February 2026, Rutland County experienced a moderate drought during the following periods: Jan – July 2021, July–September 2022, November 2024–March 2025, and August–November 2025. From September–October 2025, much of the County experienced at least a severe drought ($\geq 88\%$ cumulative land area), with extreme drought affecting 75% of the Region. Drought conditions improved from December 2025–May 2026, but over 50% of the cumulative land area remained abnormally dry.



Drought ranked #1 of the top three hazards likely to occur in the next five years. It can lead to low or dry water levels in drinking water wells. In addition to the obvious impacts on water quantity, water quality suffers due to increased concentrations of contaminants such as lead. In conjunction with extreme temperatures, drought can compromise food and nutrition and increase incidents of illness and disease.

Because drought is strongly correlated with extreme heat, there is overlap with the populations at higher risk—mainly the youth, the elderly, outdoor workers, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

*72% of survey respondents have experienced drought. During the past 20 years, Rutland County has seen several instances of moderate drought (D1) and severe drought (D2). **Extreme drought (D3) made its first appearance since the 20th century in September 2025.***



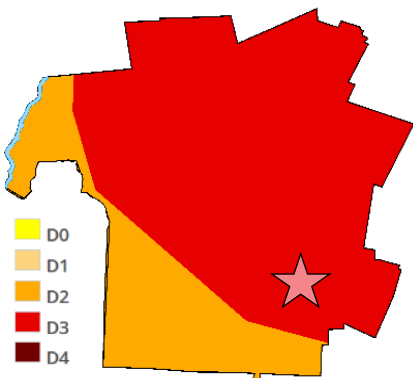
Structural impacts of drought are uncommon, making the risk to municipal buildings, facilities, infrastructure, or governmental functions low. If a drought is severe enough in its frequency, duration, and/or intensity, it may require constructing new community water supplies with improved storage capacity. However, this is unlikely in Wallingford, given that much of the Town resides on hills or higher elevations.

Water for residents served by Wallingford Fire District No. 1 is withdrawn from an aquifer located near the Town ball fields. The 2009 Roaring Brook Phase 1 Stream Geomorphic Assessment additionally notes a few small withdrawals on the mainstem of Roaring Brook along VT Route 140E. It once served as an emergency water supply for the Town but has been abandoned for some decades.

Elfin Lake and Wallingford Pond, two of Wallingford's larger water bodies, are primarily used for recreation. Otherwise, there are few ponds of substantial size to provide drinking water beyond a small-scale, individual basis, though this is not usually how residents obtain water. Residents are more likely to drill new, deeper wells on their properties if their current sources run dry, as was the case in 2025.



The impacts of drought on the natural environment can be extensive. Primarily, water availability becomes severely constrained for both cultivated and wild plants and animals. During droughts, deciduous trees in Vermont have experienced leaf scorch, leaf yellowing, and early leaf color change, all of which are indicators of poor leaf health.



Wallingford is marked with a star on this USDA drought monitor map from October 7, 2025.

As water levels in underground aquifers fall, the ground runs the risk of subsidence. Subsidence is the sinking of the ground, which can impact roads and buildings and can lead to the formation of sinkholes. Historic drought events suggest this is not likely in Wallingford, especially given the prevalence of ledges and steep slopes in the eastern portion of the Town.

Drought-like conditions can also increase the potential for brush fires. Brush fire probability depends on local weather conditions (lightning, drought, extreme heat); outdoor activities (camping, debris burning); and the amount of “fuel” present in the environment. While Wallingford has not experienced a notable brush fire in recent years, other nearby municipalities in Rutland County have, such as Chittenden and Killington. The Town believes wildfires may become more likely as drought periods become more common and prolonged. See the Wildfire profile for more details.



There may be situations in which water-intensive industries and agricultural production shift to other locations due to water scarcity. Other industries directly affected include energy, tourism, and fisheries. Generally speaking, the wide-ranging impacts of drought can consist of job losses, business failures, and lost investments. In Wallingford, where industry is minimal, the greatest threat is posed to farmers, particularly those focused on livestock, vegetable crops, and hay. Local water bodies used for recreation may also be affected by lower water levels and poor water quality.

Drought Hazard History

These are the most recent significant events impacting Wallingford. Hazard histories are limited to 20 years in the past, except for federal Rutland County Disaster Declarations, which are depicted in **bold**. All damages are to property unless otherwise noted.

9/30/2025: USDA Disaster S6088 2025 Crop Year

September-October 2025: D3 drought in 75% of county

November 2024 – March 2025: D1 drought in 15-50% of county

July-September 2022: D1 drought in 5-33% of county

11/25/2020: USDA Disaster S4887 2020 Crop Year

June 2020 – July 2021: Multiple periods of D1 drought in county; D1 drought in 100% of county in Jul-Aug 2020 and Mar-Apr 2021; D2 drought in 5% of county in Sept-Oct 2020

June - September 2018: D1 drought in 40-100% of county

February – April 2017: D1 drought in 0-20% of county

September 2016 – February 2017: D1 drought in 90%-100% of county; D2 drought in 65% of county from Oct-Nov 2016

June – August 2016: D1 drought in 0-15% of county

9/9/2015: USDA Disaster S3887 2015 Crop Year

May-June 2015: D1 drought in 0-50% of county



Above: Wallingford Pond. Credit: Jamie Dickinson

Right: The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment is the foundation for the Mitigation Strategy

Survey Respondents Said....

Natural hazard impacts they are concerned about:

- #1 Damage or loss of roads, bridges, public utilities
- #2 Loss of life or injuries, especially among vulnerable populations
- #3 Loss or damage to agricultural operations



Vulnerability Summary



Floods

Vulnerable Assets people (especially at-risk populations: the elderly, the youth, the disabled, outdoor workers, and those living in sub-standard housing); single/multi-family dwellings; mobile and seasonal homes; accessory buildings; access points; camps; commercial (standalone, farm, other); communications box; development site; trailhead; water tank; East Wallingford Post Office; IB Munson House B&B; Little Angels Preschool & Childcare; Rec Fields; Sewer Plant and manholes; Town Garage; Transfer Station; Wallingford Fire District Well; Wallingford & East Wallingford Fire Stations; Wallingford Rescue; highway infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, sidewalks); dams; rivers and streams; local businesses

Location *Inundation:* along Otter Creek: Creek Rd; East St, Florence Ave; Hartsboro Rd; Haven Hill Rd; Maple St; Meadow St; Old Turnpike Rd; Railroad St; River St; School St; US-7 S; VT-103 S

Flash: Bear Mountain Rd; Blackwood Rd; Carrara Camp Rd; Centerville Rd; Chapin Rd; Cross Rd; Dawson Hill Rd; Dugway Rd; Dugway Rd Ext; Earl Wade Rd; Elm St; Hartsboro Rd; Ice Bed Rd; Kent Farm Rd; Meadow St; Parker Rd; River St; Senecal Way; Seward Hill Rd; S Main St, Sugar Hill Rd, Tift Rd; Wallingford Pond Rd; West Hill Rd; Van Wyck Rd; VT-140 E; Waldo Ln

Fluvial Erosion: Mill River; Otter Creek; Bully Brook; Feller Brook; Homer Stone Brook; Roaring Brook

Extent ±5" rain; extent data for fluvial erosion is unavailable

Past Occurrence \$1.1 mill local property damage; \$55 mill regional property damage; \$2.5 mill regional crop damage

Future Probability Highly likely, >75% probability in a year

Outlook Poses ongoing risks to existing and future assets without targeted mitigation measures



Extreme Cold, Snow, and Ice

Vulnerable Assets people (especially at-risk populations: the elderly, the youth, the disabled, outdoor workers, and those living in sub-standard housing); highway infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, sidewalks); power lines; telecommunications systems; trees; building plumbing and service lines; schools and daycares; local businesses

Location Town-wide: snow drifts on Blackwood Rd; Centerville Rd; Cross Rd; Hawkins Rd; Maranville Rd; Sugar Hill Rd

Extent 15-20+ days below zero; windchills down to -45°F; up to 30" snow; up to ½" ice/freezing rain/sleet

Past Occurrence \$13,789 local property damage; \$300,000 regional property damage; \$1.03 mill regional crop damage

Future Probability Highly likely, >75% probability in a year

Outlook Poses ongoing risks to existing and future assets without targeted mitigation measures



Strong Wind

Vulnerable Assets people (especially at-risk populations: the elderly, the youth, the disabled, outdoor workers, and those living in sub-standard housing); Town Garage; Town Hall; Wallingford Lodge; highway infrastructure (roads, bridges); power lines; telecommunications systems; sewer and water systems; trees; schools and daycares; local businesses

Location Town-wide, especially East Wallingford and western Green Mountain slopes; Dawson Hill Rd; Dugway Rd; Hartsboro Rd; Hawkins Rd; Homer Stone Rd; Sugar Hill Rd; West Hill Rd

Extent 60-80 mph wind

Past Occurrence \$525,000 local property damage; \$100,000 local agricultural damage; \$4.5 mill regional property damage; one fatality (regional)

Future Probability Highly likely, >75% probability in a year

Outlook Poses ongoing risks to existing and future assets without targeted mitigation measures

Vulnerability Summary, Continued



Extreme Heat

Vulnerable Assets people (especially at-risk populations: the elderly, the youth; the disabled, outdoor workers, and those living in sub-standard housing); highway infrastructure (roads, bridges, sidewalks); railway infrastructure (overhead lines, tracks, rails); drilled wells; crops/agricultural products; trees; Elfin Lake; Wallingford Pond

Location Town-wide

Extent Apparent temperatures up to 110°F for six days

Past Occurrence \$650k regional damage to maple sugaring industry

Future Probability Highly likely, >75% probability in a year

Outlook Poses ongoing risks to existing and future assets without targeted mitigation measures



Wildfires

Vulnerable Assets people (especially at-risk populations: the elderly, the youth; the disabled, outdoor workers, and those living in sub-standard housing); highway infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, sidewalks); power lines; telecommunications systems; sewer and public water systems; crops/agricultural products; trees; local businesses; Elfin Lake; Wallingford Pond; Appalachian Trail; Stone Meadow Park; White Rocks Picnic Area; Green Mountain National Forest

Location Town-wide, especially Green Mountain National Forest

Extent 20 acres burned

Past Occurrence Past occurrence data is unavailable

Future Probability Occasionally, 1–10% probability in a year

Outlook Poses ongoing risks to existing and future assets without targeted mitigation measures



Invasive Species (EAB)

Vulnerable Assets people (especially outdoor workers); highway infrastructure (roads, bridges, sidewalks); power lines; telecommunications systems; trees; Elfin Lake shoreline, White Rocks Picnic Area, Green Mountain National Forest

Location Unknown: EAB first sighted in 2025 west of Timber Hill Estates

Extent Unknown

Past Occurrence Past occurrence data is unavailable

Future Probability Highly likely, >75% probability in a year

Outlook Poses ongoing risks to existing and future assets without targeted mitigation measures



Drought

Vulnerable Assets people (especially at-risk populations: the elderly, the youth; the disabled, outdoor workers, and those living in sub-standard housing); highway infrastructure (roads, bridges, sidewalks); drilled wells; crops/agricultural products; trees; Elfin Lake; Wallingford Pond, Green Mountain National Forest

Location Townwide

Extent D3 drought in 75% of county for one month

Past Occurrence Past occurrence data is unavailable

Future Probability Highly likely, >75% probability in a year

Outlook Poses ongoing risks to existing and future assets without targeted mitigation measures

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Community Engagement Strategy

During the kick-off meeting, the Wallingford Hazard Mitigation Planning Team came to a consensus on a 3-phase Community Engagement Strategy – see **Appendix Table 2**. This Strategy was designed to ensure that at-risk populations had an opportunity for equitable involvement throughout the entirety of the plan development process (i.e., from kickoff to final draft).

This Strategy also ensured the involvement of the Whole Community. For the purposes of this plan, the Whole Community is comprised of 1) local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation; 2) entities with authority to regulate development; 3) neighboring towns; 4) representatives of business, schools or academia, and other private organizations that sustain community lifelines; and 5) representatives of community-serving nonprofit organizations that work directly with frontline populations.

“A Whole Community approach attempts to engage the full capacity of the private and nonprofit sectors, including businesses, faith-based and disability organizations, and the general public, in conjunction with the participation of local, tribal, state, territorial, and Federal governmental partners.”
-A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action (FEMA, 2011)

A Goal Statement was developed to guide the planning team’s public outreach throughout the planning process:

The Town of Wallingford will:

- ***Notify the Whole Community about the plan update at the kickoff, mid-point draft, and final draft;***
- ***Solicit feedback from the Whole Community about the frequency and impacts of various natural hazards, and strategies and mitigation methods that should be prioritized; and***
- ***Integrate from the Whole Community perspectives and information about hazard impacts and likelihoods, and priorities for potential mitigation actions.***

In addition, as part of the Vermont Climate Action Office’s 2026 Municipal Climate Planning Guide Pilot Program, Wallingford sought direct engagement with at-risk populations using the framework provided by the draft Social Resilience Process Guide. See **Appendix Table 3** for more details.

Phase 1 Engagement Activities

Kick-off

To notify the Whole Community of the Plan Update, the Town conducted a robust advertising campaign. A landing page was created as a dedicated online resource for information on the planning process and opportunities for community engagement. The landing page url is: <https://tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26>.

Physical flyers were posted at the Wallingford Town Hall, Wallingford Village Post Office, and East Wallingford Village Post Office. Online notices were posted on the Wallingford Town Website, the Wallingford Facebook Page, the RRPC website, and the RRPC Facebook Page. The kick-off launch occurred after the submission deadline for the April Wallingford Standard Newsletter; however, the Planning Team agreed to post press releases for all other Plan update milestones.

Appendix Table 1. Whole Community Contacts & Partners

Hazard Mitigation Agencies: DEC River Engineer for Southwest VT • DEC Western VT Floodplain Manager • Otter Creek Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) • Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District • VDH Emergency Preparedness Specialist • VDH Rutland Office District Director • VTrans District 3 District Manager • VTrans District 3 Transportation Administrator • Wallingford Emergency Management Coordinator • Wallingford Emergency Management Director • Wallingford Fire Chief • Wallingford Fire District No. 1 • Wallingford Fire Warden • Wallingford Road Commissioner • Wallingford Road Foreman • Wallingford Tree Warden

Authorities Regulating Development & Other Local Officials: Wallingford Selectboard Chair • Wallingford Selectboard Members • Wallingford Planning Commission Chair • Wallingford Planning Commission Members • Wallingford Zoning Administrator • Wallingford Town Clerk/Treasurer • Wallingford Town Administrator • Wallingford Health Officer • Wallingford Conservation Commission Chair • Wallingford Energy Committee Chair

Neighboring Municipalities: Selectboard Chair, Planning Commission Chair, Town Clerk, and EMD/EMC for the Towns of Clarendon, Danby, and Tinmouth • Selectboard Chair, Planning Commission Chair, Town Clerk, Health Officer, and EMD/EMC for the Towns of Mount Holly and Shrewsbury • Selectboard Chair/EMD and Town Clerk for the Town of Mount Tabor (Note: Mount Tabor does not have a Planning Commission)

Business, Schools, & Private Orgs.: Council of Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) • Marble Valley Regional Transit District • Mill River School District Superintendent • Wallingford Representatives for the Mill River School District Board • Wallingford Elementary School

Non-profit Organizations: Advocacy Resources Community Rutland • Bayada Home Health/Care • Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council • Cornerstone Housing Partners • Gilbert Hart Library • Green Mountain Neighbors • Project VISION • Rutland County Health Partners • Rutland County Pride • Rutland Mental Health Services • Rutland Regional Medical Center • Serenity House • Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging • Turning Point Center • Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired • Vermont Center for Independent Living • Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice of Southwest Vermont • Wallingford Historical Society • Wallingford Rotary Club

Project communications were sent to segments of the Whole Community throughout the planning process; see **Appendix Table 1** for a complete list. Kick-off engagement materials can be seen starting on page A-XX.

No inquiries or comments were received from Town officials or the public in response to project kick-off notices.

Gather Data & Assess Risk

To inform the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment section of the plan, the Town employed five (5) engagement methods: survey, workshop, pop-ups, presentation to the Selectboard at a public meeting, and public comment period.

A survey was administered online and was open from April 29 – June 1, 2026. Physical surveys were also available at the Town Office and Gilbert Hart Library. Notice of the survey was included in the plan kick-off communications. **A total of 36 surveys were received.** A summary of the survey results is provided on page A-XX.

The Town conducted a workshop on May 26, 2026, with the planning team and two subject matter experts to complete the community hazard risk assessment. Noah Hoffman, from the Agency of Natural Resources, and Eric Pulver, the Emergency Preparedness Specialist with the Vermont Department of Health attended the workshop to assist with the risk assessments for Invasive Species and Infectious Disease, respectively. The results of the risk assessment are presented in **Table 5** of the Plan.

The Town conducted a “pop-up” event at the weekly Wallingford Village protest on Saturday, May 16, 2026. By “meeting people where they are”, the Town collected additional input from demographics that may not have otherwise been engaged. At the pop-up, people placed dot stickers on the natural hazards of most concern and vulnerable assets. **This method captured a total of 110 responses.** A summary of pop-up feedback is provided on page **A-XX**.

The draft Plan was provided to the Selectboard at their regular meeting on July 20, 2026, to encourage input from the local government and public on the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment results. Input at this milestone is critical as feedback could affect the plan’s conclusions and ensure that it integrates with other Town initiatives. The meeting was recorded, aired on PEG TV, and is available on both the Town’s website and PEG TV’s YouTube channel.

The draft Plan was posted for a 2-week public comment period from July 20 – August 3, 2026. It was available on the landing page and at the Town Office. The draft plan and the notice of the comment period were emailed directly to all five segments of the Whole Community. Notice of the comment period (as well as the July 20 presentation) was also posted in the Wallingford Standard Newsletter and on the Wallingford Town Website, the Wallingford Facebook Page, the RRPC website, and the RRPC Facebook Page. Physical flyers were posted at the Wallingford Town Hall, Wallingford Village Post Office, and East Wallingford Village Post Office. Notices included instructions to email comments to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

(Placeholder for summary of public comments received.)

Phase 2 Engagement Activities

(Placeholder)

Appendix Table 2. Wallingford Community Engagement Strategy

Engagement Phase	Project Milestone	Outreach Method	Purpose	Date
1	Kick-Off	Landing page, flyers, press release, social media, email blast	Notify (inform the Whole Community of the plan update)	4/29/2026
	Gather Data & Assess Risk	Survey	Solicit (feedback from Whole Community on potential natural hazard impacts)	4/29/2026 – 6/1/2026
		Workshop	Integrate (evaluate broad range of risks)	5/26/2026
		Pop-up Events	Solicit (feedback from Whole Community on potential natural hazard impacts)	5/16/2026
		<i>Joint Coalition Meeting</i>	<i>Integrate (lived experience guiding descriptions of vulnerability to natural hazard impacts)</i>	7/1/2026
		Selectboard Presentation	Notify (inform local officials of plan progress)	7/20/2026
		Public Comment Period	Solicit (feedback from Whole Community on draft Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment)	7/20/2026–8/3/2026
2	Develop Mitigation Strategy	Workshop(s)	Integrate (evaluate broad range of mitigation actions)	8/26/2026
		Survey	Solicit (reaction from Whole Community on mitigation strategy and actions)	8/28/2026 – 9/25/2026
		<i>Joint Coalition Meeting</i>	<i>Integrate (Connect mitigation strategy and actions to social resilience priorities)</i>	9/16/2026
3	Finalize Draft Plan	<i>Joint Coalition Meeting</i>	<i>Integrate (Embed social resilience priorities into other municipal plans and procedures)</i>	10/6/2026
		Selectboard Presentation	Notify (inform local officials of plan progress)	10/19/2026
		Public Comment Period	Solicit (feedback from Whole Community on final draft plan)	10/19/2026 – 11/2/2026

Appendix Table 3. Social Resilience Guide Pilot Program & Coalition Engagement

The Social Resilience Process Guide, developed by the Vermont Climate Action Office (CAO) in consultation with Siler Climate Consulting, is designed for Vermont municipalities and offers step-by-step guidance on how to work collaboratively with people most impacted by climate change due to systemic vulnerability. This guide is meant to support municipal governments in better understanding what social vulnerability looks like in their communities and in identifying climate resilience solutions that address the root causes of those vulnerabilities, thereby building social resilience. The goal is to leverage collective governance to better integrate social resilience goals and priorities into municipal planning and implementation. This process can be used independently or in conjunction with other planning efforts, such as a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

As part of a competitive Statewide Pilot Program, Vermont CAO chose Wallingford to pilot the use and implementation of the draft Social Resilience Guide in tandem with their LHMP update. Many of the “Core Team” members for the Pilot Program were also part of the LHMP Planning Team, including the Town Administrator, Selectboard Representative, and Energy Committee Chair. This aided cross-pollination between the “standard” public outreach engagement strategy and the potential to expand engagement by identifying and recruiting those with “lived expertise” in natural hazard impacts. The resulting “Coalition” group would have an independent process based on the draft Social Resilience Guide, while also periodically participating in joint meetings with the Planning Team to better incorporate challenges, concerns, priorities, and solutions into the Plan’s Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy sections. These opportunities are notated in *italics* in **Appendix Table 2** on the previous page.

The Core Team utilized several methods to recruit members of the public to the Social Resilience Coalition. Outreach methods included flyer postings at Glibert Hart Library; online postings on the Town Website, Front Porch Forum, RRPC Website, and RRPC Facebook Page; newsletter and mass distribution postings through the Wallingford Standard Newsletter, the SVCOA Newsletter, and Project VISION Listserv; and direct outreach (phone, email, or in-person conversations) to residents in flood-prone areas and local and regional social service agencies and organizations (e.g., Wallingford Fire Department, Wallingford House, Wallingford Rotary Club, Green Mountain Neighbors, Bayada, SVCOA, BROCC, Cornerstone Housing Partners, Rutland County Habitat for Humanity, and the Rutland County Housing Authority.) The Town also hosted a community dinner on June 3, 2026, to educate the public on the Social Resilience Guide and recruit individuals to the Coalition.

(Placeholder: to be completed as the process unfolds.)

Examples of Phase 1 Engagement Materials

Physical Flyers

Email Blasts

Social Media/Website Postings

Survey with Results

Pop-up Posters with Results

Public Comments Summary

KICK-OFF FLYER

Wallingford

LOCAL HAZARD
MITIGATION
PLANNING

Plan Purpose

- Increase Awareness
- Identify Actions
- Focus Resources
- Communicate Priorities

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines our long-term strategy to reduce natural disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.



Take our online survey to share what natural hazards you are most concerned about:



HELP US

PREPARE FOR
RESILIENCY!

Planning Schedule

- April 2026: Plan Update Kick-off ✓
- May-Jul 2026: Assess Risks & Identify Hazards ✓
- Aug-Sep 2026: Develop Mitigation Strategy ✓
- Oct-Nov 2026: Finalize Draft Plan ✓
- Dec 2026 - Jan 2027: Adopt Plan ✓

ACT NOW!

For More Information:

tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26

KICK-OFF SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE POSTS



**RUTLAND REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION**



Town of Wallingford
Apr 30 • 🌐

We're updating our 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan! The Plan serves as a guidebook for identifying and addressing local risks a... See more



**Rutland Regional Planning
Commission**
May 1 • 🌐

Public Notice - Wallingford Engaged in Hazard Mitigation Planning
The Town of Wallingford is updating it... See more

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED

(MAY 1, 2026 – JUNE 1, 2026) LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE- OPEN COMMENT PERIOD FOR NATURAL HAZARD IDENTIFICATION- TOWN OF WALLINGFORD



ATTENTION!

What natural hazards are you most concerned about?

Tell us by taking the Wallingford Local Hazard Mitigation Planning survey
[TINYURL.COM/WALLINGFORD-LHMP26-SURVEY](https://tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26-survey)



DID YOU KNOW ?

Wallingford is updating its **LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

For more information and ways to participate in the planning process, check out:
tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED

(MAY 1, 2026 – JUNE 1, 2026) LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE- OPEN COMMENT PERIOD FOR NATURAL HAZARD IDENTIFICATION- TOWN OF WALLINGFORD

📅 Date posted: May 1, 2026

Public Notice – Wallingford Engaged in Hazard Mitigation Planning The Town of Wallingford is updating its 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan! The Plan serves as a guidebook for identifying and addressing local risks and...

[Read More >](#)

Town of Wallingford, VT

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Government](#)
[Departments](#)
[Board Agendas & Minutes](#)
[Documents and Forms](#)

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Posted May 4, 2026 by admin & filed under Uncategorized.

We're updating our 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan! The Plan serves as a guidebook for identifying and addressing local risks and vulnerabilities, helping Wallingford become more resilient to natural hazards. For the month of May, we want to hear from our residents about what natural hazards you are most concerned about! Share your feedback by taking our online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26-survey>. Paper copies are also available at the Town Hall and Gilbert Hart Library and must be submitted to the Town Clerk by June 1, 2026. We will also be doing a "pop-up" event on May 16 (May 30 rain date), so keep an eye out for posters in the Wallingford Village Center and let us know your priorities with colorful stickers! To learn more about the process and opportunities to participate, visit <https://tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26>.

COALITION OUTREACH: SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE POSTS, FLYER, NEWSLETTERS



Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Apr 14 • 🌐

Attention **Town of Wallingford** -

We are seeking volunteers to serve on ... See more

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Wallingford Community Liaison

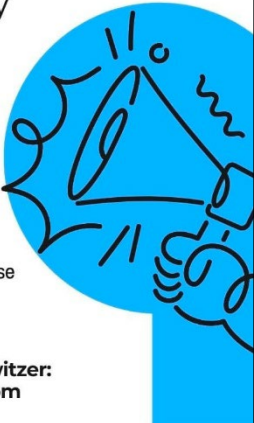
TIME COMMITMENT

1-3 hours a week from May to October 2026

ROLE

Connect with community members, understand their needs, and use these insights to shape mitigation and community resilience priorities.

Interested? Contact Sandy Switzer:
townadmin@wallingfordvt.com




RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Communities ▾ Programs ▾ Board & Committees Meeting Materials About ▾ [Contact Us](#)

PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED

WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY LIAISON SEARCH –

Date posted: April 14, 2026

We are seeking volunteers to serve on a committee that works alongside town staff to make Wallingford more resilient to natural hazards and climate change impacts, including supporting day-to-day community needs to build a stronger, healthier community. We are especially interested in those who have experienced weather-related emergencies and/or contributed to recovery efforts. We are also looking for people with strong ties to the community, including full-time residents, renters, and homeowners in East Wallingford and South Wallingford. All are encouraged to volunteer, as you will contribute critical perspectives and lived experiences to the conversation.

Volunteer responsibilities will include participating in regular meetings (1-2 meetings/month) and organizing community engagement activities for the local hazard mitigation plan. This project will run between May and October.

If you're interested in this opportunity, learn more by reading the position description (<https://tinyurl.com/wallingford-coalition-2026>) and contact Sandy Switzer via email at townadmin@wallingfordvt.com.

SVCOA News & Upcoming Events

Wallingford Community Liaison

TIME COMMITMENT

1-3 hours a week from May to October 2026

ROLE

Connect with community members, understand their needs, and use these insights to shape mitigation and community resilience priorities.

Interested? Contact Sandy Switzer:
townadmin@wallingfordvt.com



Are you a resident of **Wallingford**? If so, the Town of Wallingford is seeking volunteers to serve as Community Liaisons, helping connect with other residents, understand local needs, and inform strategies that strengthen community resilience. This flexible opportunity, requiring just **1-3 hours per week from May through October 2026**, plays a key role in shaping how communities prepare for and respond to climate-related challenges. The

POSITION DESCRIPTION

If you're interested in this opportunity, contact Sandy via email at townadmin@wallingfordvt.com.

Position: Community Liaison
Timeframe: 6 months (May 2026 – October 2026)
Location: Town of Wallingford

Time commitment

- 1-3 hours per week. This will include 1-2 two-hour meetings per month, on average, as well as additional time outside meetings spent leading community outreach and engagement activities and reviewing and providing feedback on materials.

Responsibilities

- Participation in regular meetings (1-2 meetings/month)
- Amplify and enhance community engagement activities for the local hazard mitigation plan.
- Working with other Coalition members to explore community and climate data

Are you passionate about connecting with members of your community?

The Town of Wallingford is seeking volunteers to serve as Community Liaisons for the Hazard Mitigation Plan!

What is a Community Liaison?

A Community Liaison is someone who brings strong connections within the Wallingford community. The role of the Community Liaison will be to **connect with community members, understand their needs, concerns, and priorities, and ensure that these insights shape project decisions.**

PHASE 1 & COALITION EMAIL BLASTS

 Maggie O'Brien

To: ☺ Maggie O'Brien

Cc: James Bagnall <jcbagnall@gmail.com>; WILLIAM WEISS <weisswilliam@sbcglobal.net>; +2 others

Wallingford Email Blast Flyer-... 193 KB

😊 ↩ Reply ↩ Reply all ➡ Forward 🗑️ 📌 📎 📧 ...

Wed 4/29/2026 3:41 PM

Hello, Local & Regional Hazard Mitigation Agencies,

On behalf of the Town of Wallingford, we are announcing the official launch of the 2026 update to the Town's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)! The local Planning Team is committed to providing targeted opportunities for community input, and we would like to hear from you throughout the plan development process. See below and attached for more information.

From **April 29 – June 1**, we are seeking your input on the natural hazards and risks of most importance to Wallingford. You can access the survey directly at <https://tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26-survey>. Physical copies of the survey may also be picked up at the Town Hall (75 School Street) and Gilbert Hart Library (14 US Route 7 South). All surveys must be submitted to the Town Clerk by June 1.

The project's landing page will be kept up to date with public involvement opportunities and is available at <https://tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26>. Questions should be directed to me, Maggie O'Brien, at maggie@rutlandrpc.org.

 Maggie O'Brien

To: Hawkins, Courtney <chawkins1@bayada.com>

Cc: Stewart, Greg <gstewart@bayada.com>

Bcc: Town Administrator; Ndemazea Fonkem <ndemazea@silerclimateconsulting.com>; +1 other

Coalition Team Position Desc... 68 KB

😊 ↩ Reply ↩ Reply all ➡ Forward 🗑️ 📌 📎 📧 ...

Wed 4/15/2026 10:21 AM

Hi Courtney,

I am reaching out today about a community resilience-building initiative (see below for more info) that is closely related to my work as an emergency management planner for the Rutland Region. I would appreciate it if you could forward this opportunity to anyone you know who might be a good fit for the role. Also, if there is another contact at Bayada who is better suited for this type of outreach, please feel free to pass it along as appropriate.

[DPS.ProjectVision-Rutland] Fw: Upcoming Wallingford Volunteer Opportunity - Please Share

From Prouty, Matthew <Matthew.Prouty@vermont.gov>

Date Fri 4/17/2026 7:27 AM

To dps.projectvision-rutland@list.vermont.gov <dps.projectvision-rutland@list.vermont.gov>

📎 2 attachments (69 KB)

Coalition Team Position Description.pdf; ATT00001.txt;

From: Maggie O'Brien <Maggie@rutlandrpc.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 10:28 AM

To: Matthew.Prouty@vermont.gov <Matthew.Prouty@vermont.gov>

Subject: Upcoming Wallingford Volunteer Opportunity - Please Share

Hello Chief Prouty,

I am reaching out today about a community resilience-building initiative (see below for more info) that is closely related to my work as an emergency management planner for the Rutland Region. Could you please forward the following to the Project VISION Listserv so we can amplify this opportunity? Since we are looking for individuals with direct links to those who have lived experience of climate change-related disasters, I believe this is the perfect audience to share this unique initiative with. Thank you so much!

DRAFT PRESENTATION & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EMAIL BLASTS

(Placeholder for email blast screenshots: first public presentation notice and first public comment period notice)

DRAFT PRESENTATION & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE POSTS

(Placeholder for social media and website screenshots)

WALLINGFORD STANDARD DRAFT PRESENTATION & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD NOTICE

PRESENTATION & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The draft Risk Assessment of the Wallingford Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be presented to the Selectboard and available for public review on July 20, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Accepting comments from July 20 to Aug 3, 2026.
Email: maggie@rutlandrpc.org

PRESENTATION

 **MONDAY**
July 20

 **TIME**
6:30 PM

 **PLACE**
Town Hall
75 School Street

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Beginning 7/21, view the draft Plan at: tinyurl.com/wallingford-lhmp26



GILBERT HART LIBRARY by Wendy Savery

There is a lot happening at the library this month, with something for everyone from the small to the tall. Programming connected to summer reading and this year's theme "Unearth a Story" will take place Monday June 29th & July 27th at 10:30am. Game On! Meet-ups will occur July 1st & 15th at 4pm, and the adult book discussion group meets at 6pm on July 1st and July 29th.

A home organizing workshop will be held Wednesday July 8th at 5:30pm and will surely inspire and direct participants. Thursday July 16th the Tamarack Music Festival presents a special musical story time for young listeners (all are welcome) at 11:00am in the Klock Room. Saturday July 18th at 10:30am, we welcome Fizzical Fairytales of Bennington for "Finding Rhymes as Diggy Digs," a performance sponsored by a grant from the VT Department of Libraries'.

Copies of this year's VT Reads selection *Charity and Sylvia* by Tillie Walden, have arrived from Vermont Humanities Council and will be distributed throughout the month with eyes on a discussion in early fall. In connection with the book, a VT Speaker's Bureau presentation by Howard Coffin is coming to Wallingford. 1800 and Froze to Death: The Cold Year of 1816 includes scores of anecdotes about the dark year of failed crops, scarce food, and religious revival. The plan is to hold this VHC event at noon on Wallingford Day at the Town Hall.

In addition to all these offerings, the library continues to have a VT State park day use pass and VT Historic Sites passes available for check-out. Also available is access to ebooks and audios through both Listen UP! Vermont and Palace Project. Make the library your spot to refresh, research, and read this summer; the a/c is on and other than being closed July 4th, we are here to welcome you!



JIMMY COLLINS
KEVIN MAGUIRE
— OWNERS —

PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING
SERVICE • REPAIRS • INSTALLATIONS

 802.558.7445
 802.774.8423

 PROUDLY SERVING CENTRAL VERMONT

FAMILY OWNED. QUALITY SERVICE. TRUSTED IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Live Music at Wallingford Rotary!



Join us on July 22nd at 7:00pm for an evening of creative music by Lizzie No and Friends! Lizzie will be joined by fellow musicians Kimaya Diggs, Kapali Long and Tray Wellington to play music from their new album, *Outlaws' Almanac*.



"*Outlaws' Almanac* is a compilation album that melds folk, Americana, roots, and more to respond to the occasion of this nation's anniversary, and to be of use to the American people. The album finds its roots in slave rebellion, in protest songs, and in traditional tunes. It roars into the present with full-throated visions for a better future."

There will be refreshments following the concert, and the opportunity to talk with the musicians.

See you there!



KEVIN C SPENCER LLC

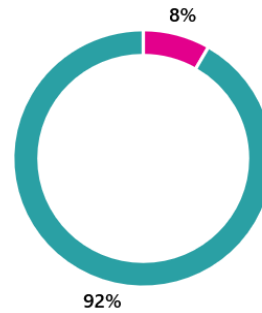
EXCAVATING • TRACTOR RESTORATION & REPAIR
PURE VT MAPLE SYRUP • HAY SALES

802-773-6687 & 802-236-7497

HAZARDS & RISKS SURVEY RESULTS – 36 SURVEYS RECEIVED

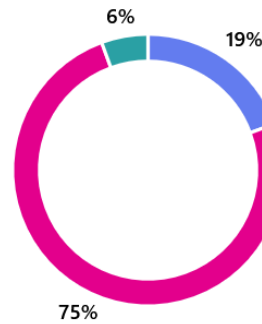
1. How long have you lived in or owned a business or property in Wallingford?

Less than one year	0
One to five years	3
More than 5 years	33

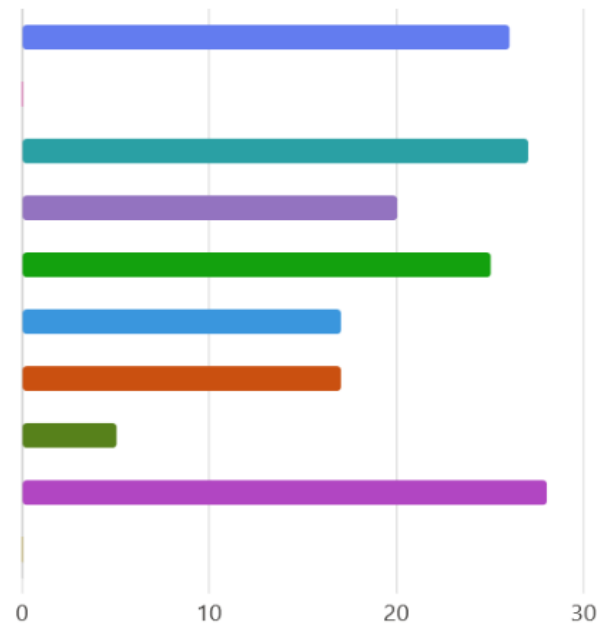


2. Is your home or business property located in a FEMA designated floodplain?

Yes	7
No	27
I don't know	2

3. Which of the following natural hazards¹ have you or someone you know experienced while living or doing business in Wallingford? (165 votes)

Drought	26
Earthquake	0
Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice	27
Extreme Heat	20
Flash Flood/Fluvial (Stream) Erosion	25
Hail	17
Inundation Flood	17
Landslide	5
Strong Wind	28
Wildfire	0



#1 Strong Wind 78%

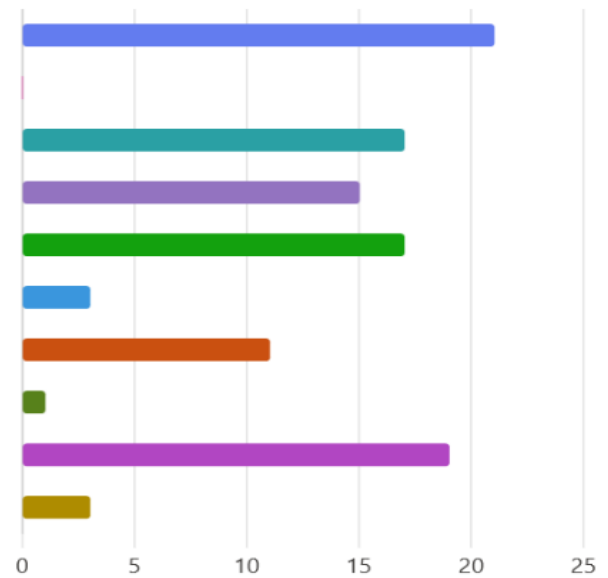
#2 Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice 75%

#3 Drought 72%

¹ The Planning Team chose not to survey invasive species given the unique and diverse nature of this hazard, and the subsequent decision during the hazard identification and risk assessment to focus on a specific forest pest of concern, the Emerald Ash Borer.

4. Of the natural hazards listed in Question 3, what are the top three you think are likely to occur in the next five years? (107 votes)

Drought	21
Earthquake	0
Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice	17
Extreme Heat	15
Flash Flood/Fluvial (Stream) Erosion	17
Hail	3
Inundation Flood	11
Landslide	1
Strong Wind	19
Wildfire	3



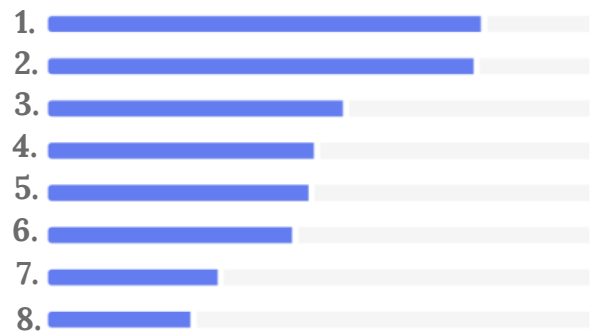
#1 Drought 63%

#2 Strong Wind 58%

#3 Tie: Extreme Cold/Now/Ice and Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion 52%

5. Which potential natural hazard impacts are most concerning to you? Rank from 1 to 8. It would be most concerning to experience damage or loss in regards to... (35 responses)

- Damage or loss of roads, bridges, public utilities (e.g., sewer)
- Loss of life or injuries, especially among vulnerable populations
- Loss or damage to agricultural operations
- Business closure or loss
- Damage to schools and other public properties (e.g., parks, buildings)
- Damage to environmental resources (e.g., wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers, forests)
- Damage or loss of cultural/historic properties
- Loss of wildlife



6. Are you aware of any location(s) in Wallingford that appear more prone to the impacts of flooding, ice, wind, or wildfires? Describe any past damages or recurring incidents in these areas. (34 responses)

ID ↑ Name Responses

1	anonymous	Route 103 and Village street in East Wallingford. Significant flooding since Irene. Now there is a bridge out leaving residents only one way out from Village street, and if it floods at that exit. Loss of life is imminent.
2	anonymous	River Street and creek rd residences and bridges

6. Are you aware of any location(s) in Wallingford that appear more prone to the impacts of flooding, ice, wind, or wildfires? Describe any past damages or recurring incidents in these areas. (Continued)

ID ↑	Name	Responses
3	anonymous	River St and Creek Rd
4	anonymous	River Street has flooded several times in the recent past, flooding homes, eroding banks, damaging property.
5	anonymous	Flooding on creek rd. High winds in East Wallindford. Road damage on route 140 in "the gulf".
6	anonymous	Hawkins Road, East Wallingford • Wind & Ice
7	anonymous	Properties in the floodplain
8	anonymous	Otter Creek through the village; Mill River in East Wallingford.
9	anonymous	Higher elevations such as Sugar Hill area are more prone to impact of high winds and ice
10	anonymous	Erosion of route 140 east of village
11	anonymous	Adjacent to Otter Creek
12	anonymous	Railway and maple street drainage north towards Shaw garage my
13	anonymous	Flooding: River Street, Waldo Lane & Meadow Street
14	anonymous	River Street, Meadow Street, Creek Road All these streets have had major damage to homes
15	anonymous	Flooding on River St
16	anonymous	I can tell you that the "floodplain" here on Mill Street has NOT been impacted by ANY of the floods since and including Irene in 2011, yet FEMA wants us to have flood insurance for mortgages and such. We used to have a LOMA but that apparently is no longer in effect.
17	anonymous	The area near otter creek has flooded numerous times
18	anonymous	River Street - severe flooding
19	anonymous	River Street
20	anonymous	Creek Road- River Street- Hartsboro Road

6. Are you aware of any location(s) in Wallingford that appear more prone to the impacts of flooding, ice, wind, or wildfires? Describe any past damages or recurring incidents in these areas. (Continued)

ID ↑	Name	Responses
21	anonymous	The dip east of the bridge at the north end of Hartsboro Road floods annually. The road/train crossing on the north end of Hartsboro Road routinely sinks and becomes hazardous to vehicles due to poor footing or support for the cargo trains using the rail daily. Both of these issues are related to flooding of Otter Creek. High winds and storms also cause several power outages annually on Hartsboro Road. In the last nine years, we have submitted multiple catastrophic insurance claims for wind damage to buildings and trees on our property.
22	anonymous	492 Centerville. Wind and snow drifts
23	anonymous	River and Creek Rds
24	anonymous	North end of Hartsboro floods
25	anonymous	Railroad and River Streets
26	anonymous	Creek Road has frequent flooding issues damaging properties. I'm worried about a forest fire in the National Forest in East Wallingford due to the clearing of trees and the debris that was left
27	anonymous	140 closure due to flooding, creek overflow behind the fire station
28	anonymous	Otter Creek flooding, Roaring Brook flooding
29	anonymous	Along Otter Creek/Creek Road
30	anonymous	River Street, Creek Road, Gulf Road - Flooding
31	anonymous	None
32	anonymous	River Road/Creek Road
33	anonymous	Creek Rd, River St, Railroad St, W. Hill Rd, Sugar Hill Rd, Dawson Hill Rd, Parker Rd, True Temper property
34	anonymous	River St & Meadow St
35	anonymous	Flooding!

7. List any specific community assets you are concerned about losing because of natural hazard impacts. Examples might include a local business or employer, a community gathering site, or a cultural/historical site or artifact. (30 responses)

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Wallingford Fire department, Rescue Squad buildings, Town highway and assets are in flood plain.
2	anonymous	Stone Meadow, True Temper (already lost to tariffs)
3	anonymous	I'm concerned about the potential impact of flooding on our water treatment facility, and the impact of sewer overflow on waterways.
4	anonymous	Hitorical properties.
5	anonymous	Thrive Center, Barn, Home
6	anonymous	Town Garage and Wallingford Rescue
7	anonymous	Recreation Field next to Otter Creek in the village.
8	anonymous	Given the extensive forests in the area, a period of drought followed by a fire could result in significant damage to natural resources as well as private and public resources. The entire character of the area could be significantly damaged.
9	anonymous	Fire station seems pretty vulnerable to flooding
10	anonymous	Housing Adjacent to Otter Creek, mountain roads
11	anonymous	My house and neighbors along railroad lines
12	anonymous	Wallingford Fire Station
13	anonymous	Wallingford Rec field
14	anonymous	Residential properties are more at risk
15	anonymous	It would be terrible to lose any of our town's historic buildings.
16	anonymous	Elfin lake shoreline
17	anonymous	Emergency Services
18	anonymous	The ball fields and access to the transfer station both are in low flood plain areas of Otter Creek. Appalachian Trail crossings over streams in town should be included in planning and mitigation processes. The trail/former road connecting Ice Bed Road to the White Rocks picnic area has experienced a lot of erosion and storm damage. It would be good to restore it for mountain bike and better hiking access.
19	anonymous	Every home and life above 492 Centerville is at risk.

7. List any specific community assets you are concerned about losing because of natural hazard impacts. Examples might include a local business or employer, a community gathering site, or a cultural/historical site or artifact. (Continued)

ID ↑	Name	Responses
20	anonymous	Town garage and equipment
21	anonymous	The village is well protected
22	anonymous	Firestation, town garage, rescue building, bridges over Otter Creek and on route140 in East Walligford
23	anonymous	A cultural/historical site would be hard to replace/replicate. Most other things can be rebuilt or replaced
24	anonymous	Farms, Main Street with its historic structures, housing & businesses
25	anonymous	The Rescue Squad, and homes near there I think are in a flood plain
26	anonymous	Stone Meadow, White Rocks Recreation Areas
27	anonymous	Boy Boot
28	anonymous	Ball Field, Rec Field
29	anonymous	Recreation fields, road washouts, damage to sewer & water systems
30	anonymous	Continued damage to people house

4 respondents (13%) answered Otter Creek for this question.

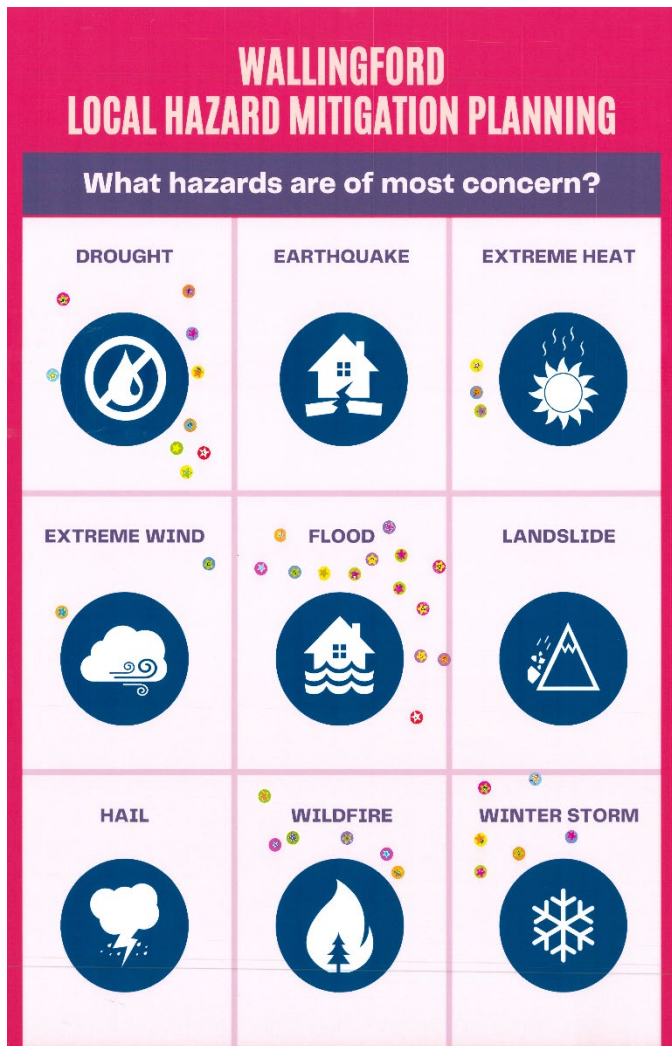
Word cloud visualization of responses for Otter Creek:

- Wallingford
- Otter Creek
- damage
- Home
- buildings
- Rescue Squad
- Stone Meadow
- fire station
- plain areas
- picnic area
- Town highway
- Town Garage
- area
- roads
- ball fields
- Rec field
- Recreation Field
- sewer & water
- streams in town
- flood plain

8. Anything else related to natural hazard risks or impacts you would like to provide for consideration and incorporation into the Wallingford Local Hazard Mitigation Plan? (17 responses)

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Beaver pond that has broken twice in the last 15 years above Route 140 East. Causing washouts, landslide and flooding each time.
2	anonymous	Fall/Injury risks in winter on sidewalks. Glare ice forcing all to walk in road.Sidewalks need repair!
3	anonymous	We need to repair all bridges to ensure efficient evacuation routes.
4	anonymous	Keep Oscar Daubenspeck on your radar & part of planning. He is a genius. I often say that Killington should have a billboard campaign that says "Thank You Oscar" - because without him nobody plays!
5	anonymous	We've lost roads and access to other communities from storms like Irene in the recent past.
6	anonymous	Impact of wind leading to trees on power lines has been a growing problem in recent years. GMP is in process of burying lines but it is not clear where Wallingford falls in the priority.
7	anonymous	If there is emergency sheltering available, it is not well advertised.
8	anonymous	FEMA response/available resources due to inept federal administration
9	anonymous	Drainage was done a year ago and is not working
10	anonymous	Property owners located between the Creek Rd bridge and the Clarendon border if there was extreme flooding.
11	anonymous	Tick control
12	anonymous	Runoff from livestock at 492 Centerville will affect the water source. E. coli will now be prominent as pastures were set too close to water. Snow drifts and wind from clear cut will continue to block the road with blow downs and snow drifts. Centerville residents will lose life and property.
13	anonymous	No
14	anonymous	Na
15	anonymous	Thank you for taking the time to do this for us
16	anonymous	Safe places with generators and storage for food & water located in several areas. It's also important to have the flexibility to answer unexpected situations. Medical access & resources should be addressed
17	anonymous	No.

HAZARDS & RISKS POP-UP POSTER RESULTS



Question: What Hazards Are of Most Concern?		
Response	Total	%
Flood	14	35%
Drought	9	23%
Wildfire	6	15%
Winter Storm (Extreme Cold/Snow/Ice)	6	15%
Extreme Heat	3	8%
Extreme Wind	2	5%
Earthquake	0	0%
Hail	0	0%
Landslide	0	0%

Question: What Assets Are Most at Risk?		
Response	Total	%
Infrastructure: Roads	12	17%
Economy: Crop/Property Damage	9	13%
People: Elderly	9	13%
Economy: Closed Businesses	8	11%
Environment: Rivers	8	11%
Environment: Wetlands	6	9%
Infrastructure: Power Lines	5	7%
People: Disabled	5	7%
Environment: Trees	4	6%
People: Youth	4	6%
Economy: Commuting	0	0%
Infrastructure: Buildings	0	0%



PHASE 1 PUBLIC COMMENTS SUMMARY

(Placeholder for public comments received)