

2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Onondaga County,
New York

**Town of Otisco
Annex**





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This Annex details the hazard mitigation elements specific to the Town of Otisco, a participating jurisdiction in the 2025 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan update. This Annex is not intended to be a standalone document but supplements the information contained in **Volume 1 (Countywide Planning Elements)**. Therefore, all sections of **Volume 1**, including the planning process, hazard identification and risk assessment, mitigation strategy (includes mitigation goals and objectives), and plan maintenance, apply to and were met by the Town of Otisco. This Annex provides additional information specific to the Town, with a focus on providing additional details on the hazard risk assessment and mitigation strategy (i.e., mitigation actions) for this community.

1. HAZARD MITIGATION LOCAL PLANNING TEAM

The following individuals have been identified as the Town of Otisco Local Planning Team for the 2025 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan. These individuals participated in all aspects of the planning process and developed a risk and vulnerability assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy (including mitigation actions) specific to the jurisdiction.

Name	Title	Department
Glenn Hall	Town Supervisor	Town of Otisco Board
Tyler Knapp	Town Councilman	Town of Otisco Board
Jesse Spaulding	Deputy Town Supervisor and Councilor	Town of Otisco Board

2. MUNICIPAL PROFILE

The Town of Otisco is located in the southwestern part of Onondaga County and has a total area of 31.2 square miles. Amber Brook flows into Otisco Lake by the hamlet of Amber. Bear Mountain in the northeast of the Town is known for the Blue Hole, a water hole on the mountain with swift currents and waterfalls. New York State Route 80 is a north-south highway in the Town, and a short part of US Route 20 crosses the northeast corner of the Town. The Town of Otisco is bordered to the north by the towns of Marcellus and Onondaga, to the south by the Town of Tully, to the east by the Town of Lafayette, and to the west by the Town of Sanford.

There are several communities located within the Town – Amber (hamlet), Bay Shores (hamlet), Gamble Mill (hamlet), Maple Grove (hamlet), Otisco, Otisco Valley, Rice Grove, and Williams Grove.

2.1. Population

In 2023, the Town of Otisco had a population of 2,494, a 1.7% decrease from the estimated 2018 population of 2,537. **Table 1** summarizes population distribution between 2010 and 2023, and the percentage of the 2023 population that is under five (5) years old, over 65 years old, and living below the poverty level.



Table 1. Population Trends

Population				Underserved Population		
2010 ¹	2018 ²	2023 ³	Population Change (2018 – 2023)	Youth ³ (Under 5 years old)	Elderly ³ (Over 65 years old)	Below Poverty Level ⁴
2,532	2,537	2,494	-1.7%	5.7%	21.1%	4.5%

2.2. History and Cultural Resources

The area became part of the former Military Tract of Central New York State, which consisted of nearly two (2) million acres of land that was set aside to compensate New York's soldiers after their participation in the Revolutionary War (American War of Independence). The Town was first settled by outsiders around 1798, and permanent settlement began around 1801. The Town of Otisco was formed in 1806 from parts of the towns of Marcellus, Pompey, and Tully.

3. GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Understanding development trends can help evaluate whether the jurisdiction’s vulnerability has increased, decreased, or remained the same. **Table 2** summarizes the total housing units built in the Town of Otisco between 2019 and 2023.⁵

Table 2. Housing Units Built (2019 – 2023)

Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single-Family Units	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Family Units	0	0	0	0	0
2-Family Units	0	0	0	0	0
3-Family Units	0	0	0	0	0
Apartment Units	0	0	0	0	0
Total Units	0	0	0	0	0

The Onondaga County Housing Needs Assessment, a component of the County’s Comprehensive Plan, explores the County’s housing market and its challenges in greater depth and argues that one of the County’s greatest housing needs is an improved approach to land use planning. In the Assessment, it is stated that there are similarities and affinities between certain groups of municipalities. Therefore, the County was sub-divided into seven (7) sub-regions, each of which covers multiple municipalities. The municipalities within each sub-region, share sufficient geographic and market characteristics to be treated as a single place for purposes of further understanding the county housing market.

¹ United States Census Bureau. (2010). DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates (2010: 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2010.DP05?g=060XX00US3606755651>.

² United States Census Bureau. (2018). DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates (2018: 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2018.DP05?g=060XX00US3606755651>.

³ United States Census Bureau. (2023). DP05: ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates (2023: 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP05?g=060XX00US3606755651>.

⁴ United States Census Bureau. (2023). S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables). Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1701?g=060XX00US3606755651>.

⁵ Data provided by the Onondaga County Department of Planning based on Real Property Data (2024).



The Town of Otisco is in the Rural Countryside sub-region. This sub-region has a greater proportion of married couple families, both elderly (17%) and non-elderly (65%), and relatively fewer single parent families and people living alone. Total household growth between 2000 and 2020 was 8.8% (the average of all the County towns/villages was 12.0%). Growing demand in the County would likely support continued large-lot homebuilding within the towns. Villages, without a clear market for aging housing in mostly remote locations, would slowly continue on their early 20th Century trajectory. If household growth in the towns within this sub-region grew sufficiently, it could encourage the development of some additional commercial uses. Under a low-growth scenario, it is likely that the towns within Rural Countryside could continue to add large-lot houses in a rural setting, though construction would likely slow. Market changes would happen gradually, with strong areas remaining strong for a period of time.

The Town of Otisco has ample land available for new construction and development; however, there is currently limited interest in major developments or large-scale construction within the Town. **Table 3** summarizes major recent residential/commercial development (in the past five (5) years), and any known or anticipated significant residential/commercial development and significant infrastructure development, as of December 2024, that is likely to occur within hazard-prone areas in the next five (5) years.

Table 3. Growth and Development

Property or Development Name	Location	Type <i>(e.g., residential, commercial)</i>	# of Units/ Structures	Known Hazard Zone(s)	Status of Development
Recent Development in the Past Five (5) Years (2019 – 2024)					
The Town has not experienced significant development in hazard-prone areas over the past five (5) years.					
Known or Anticipated Development in the Next Five (5) Years (2024 – 2029)					
The Town does not anticipate significant development in hazard-prone areas over the next five (5) years.					

3.1. Changes in Priority

The Town of Otisco did not participate in the previous iteration of the Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan; therefore, a change in priority for the Town includes ensuring participation in hazard mitigation initiatives and implementation of this Hazard Mitigation Plan throughout other Town planning mechanisms. Additionally, a more concerted effort to achieve equitable outcomes for all communities, including underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, has been implemented in the mitigation actions identified for this Plan.

4. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

Federal regulations require hazard mitigation plans to identify goals for reducing long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards in the planning area (Section 201.6(c)(3)(i)). A critical step in developing specific hazard mitigation actions and projects is assessing existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources and capabilities, and using or modifying local tools to reduce losses and vulnerability from profiled hazards.

A capability assessment was conducted for the Town of Otisco’s authorities, policies, programs, and resources. Goals and mitigation actions were developed using input from this assessment. Information regarding the Town’s implementation of and continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) can be found in Section 5 of this Annex.

The Local Planning Team assessed the Town’s capabilities that can contribute to the reduction of long-term vulnerabilities to hazards. The capabilities include the following categories:

- Planning and Regulatory Capabilities



- Administrative and Technical Capabilities
- Fiscal Capabilities
- Education and Outreach Capabilities

Additionally, ways to expand and improve these existing policies and programs to integrate hazard mitigation into the Town's day-to-day activities were considered.

4.1. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Table 4 includes local ordinances, policies, and laws to manage growth and development (e.g., land use plans, capital improvement plans, transportation plans, emergency preparedness and response plans, building codes, and zoning ordinances).

Table 4. Planning and Regulatory Tools

Capability Category	Yes/No	Authority <i>(local, county, state, federal)</i>	Responsible Department/ Agency	Code Citation and Comments <i>(e.g., Code Chapter, name of plan, explanation of authority, etc.)</i>
Planning Capability				
Comprehensive Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Capital Improvements Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Floodplain Management / Basin Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stormwater Management Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Open Space Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stream Corridor Management Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Watershed Management or Protection Plan	Yes	County	Otisco Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Committee (Onondaga County)	Otisco Lake Watershed Management Plan (2014)
Economic Development Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emergency Operation Plan	Yes	Local	Town Board	Undergoing an update in 2025
Evacuation Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A



Capability Category	Yes/No	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Department/ Agency	Code Citation and Comments (e.g., Code Chapter, name of plan, explanation of authority, etc.)
Strategic Recovery Planning Report	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Climate Adaptation Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resilience Plan	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Plans:	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regulatory Capability				
Building Code	Yes	State, Local	Code Enforcement	Chapter 16 of the New York State Building Code Local Law #3 of the Town Code
Zoning Ordinance	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subdivision Ordinance	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Yes	Local	Code Enforcement	Local Law #19 of the Town Code
NFIP: Cumulative Substantial Damages	Yes	Local	Code Enforcement	Local Law #19 of the Town Code
NFIP: Freeboard	Yes	Local, State	Code Enforcement	Chapter 16 of the New York State Building Code State mandated two (2) feet above the BFE for all construction, both residential and non-residential.
Growth Management Ordinances	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Site Plan Review Requirements	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stormwater Management Ordinance	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Natural Hazard Ordinance	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Post-Disaster Recovery Ordinance	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Real Estate Disclosure Requirement	Yes	State	New York State Department of State, Real Estate Agent	New York Code – Article 14 §460-467 (Property Condition Disclosure Act)



4.2. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

The administrative and technical capabilities listed in **Table 5** include community (i.e., public and private) staff, their skills, and tools that can be used for mitigation planning and implementation. This capability includes engineers, planners, emergency managers, Geographic Information System (GIS) analysts, building inspectors, grant writers, and floodplain managers. Small communities may rely on other government entities, such as counties or special districts, for resources.

Table 5. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Capability	Yes/No	Position/Department/Agency
Administrative Capability		
Planning Board	No	N/A
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Planning Team
Environmental Board/Commission	No	N/A
Open Space Board/Committee	No	N/A
Economic Development Commission/Committee	No	N/A
Maintenance programs to reduce risk	No	N/A
Mutual aid agreements	No	N/A
Technical/Staffing Capability		
Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Yes	Code Enforcement Officer Highway Superintendent, Highway Department
Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Yes	Code Enforcement Officer
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Yes	Town Board
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Code Enforcement Officer
Surveyor(s)	No	N/A
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	Yes	Town Board
Scientist familiar with natural hazards	No	N/A
Warning systems/services	Yes	Onondaga County Emergency Communications (911)
Emergency Manager	Yes	Town Board
Grant writer(s)	Yes	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Town Board
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	No	N/A
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	No	N/A



4.3. Fiscal Capabilities

Table 6 lists fiscal capabilities available to the Town that may be used to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk and enhance resiliency. This capability includes available funding sources from local budgets, state and federal grants, potential cost-sharing arrangements with private entities, existing insurance policies, and the ability to generate additional revenue through fees and bonds related to mitigation.

Table 6. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)	Yes
Federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (<i>i.e.</i> , Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), HMGP Post Fire, Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program)	Yes
Capital Improvements Project Funding	Yes
Authority to Levy Taxes for specific purposes	Yes
User fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	Yes
Stormwater Utility Fee	Yes
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes
Incur debt through special tax bonds	Yes
Incur debt through private activity bonds	No
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No
Other federal or state funding programs	Yes
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No

4.4. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Table 7 lists the Town’s education and public outreach capabilities that can be used to inform residents about potential hazards, educate on mitigation strategies, and encourage proactive actions to reduce the community’s impacts to disasters. These capabilities include fire safety programs, hazard awareness campaigns, public information, and communications offices.

Table 7. Education and Outreach Resources

Resource	Yes/No	Position/Department/Agency
Public Information Officer	Yes	Town Supervisor Code Enforcement Officer
Personnel skilled or trained in website development	Yes	Town Supervisor
Hazard mitigation information available on the jurisdiction’s website	Yes	
Utilize social media for hazard mitigation education	Yes	<i>The Town relies on the Otisco Fire Department and Amber Fire Department social media accounts.</i>
Citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation	No	N/A



Resource	Yes/No	Position/Department/Agency
Other programs already in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information	No	N/A
An established warning system for hazard events	Yes	Onondaga County Emergency Communications (911) Otisco Fire Department Billboard Amber Fire Department Billboard

4.5. Community Classifications

The community classification relates to the community’s ability to provide effective services to reduce its vulnerability to the identified hazards. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community’s capabilities across all phases of emergency management (i.e., preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation) and are used as underwriting parameters to determine the costs of various insurance forms. **Table 8** summarizes classifications for community programs available to the Town of Otisco.

Table 8. Community Classifications

Program	Yes/No	Classification <i>(if applicable)</i>	Date Classified <i>(if applicable)</i>
Community Rating System (CRS)	No	N/A	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	No	N/A	N/A
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	No	N/A	N/A
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Community	No	N/A	N/A
Storm Ready Certification	No	N/A	N/A
Firewise Communities classification	No	N/A	N/A
Natural disaster/safety programs in/for schools	No	N/A	N/A
Organizations with mitigation focus (advocacy group, non-government)	No	N/A	N/A
Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	No	N/A	N/A

4.6. Self-Assessment of Capability

Table 9 provides an approximate measure of the Town of Otisco’s capability to work in a hazard mitigation capacity and/or effectively implement hazard mitigation strategies to reduce hazard vulnerabilities.

Table 9. Self-Assessment Capability for the Municipality

Capability Area	Degree of Hazard Mitigation Capability		
	<i>Limited</i> <i>(If limited, what are your obstacles?)</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>
Planning and Regulatory Capabilities		X	
Administrative and Technical Capabilities		X	
Fiscal Capabilities		X	



Capability Area	Degree of Hazard Mitigation Capability		
	<i>Limited</i> <i>(If limited, what are your obstacles?)</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>
Education and Outreach Capabilities		X	
Community Political Capabilities		X	
Community Resiliency Capabilities		X	
Capability to integrate mitigation into municipal processes and activities		X	

4.7. Needs to Expand/Improve Capabilities

Based on the capability self-assessment in Section 4.6, the Town of Otisco identified existing authorities, policies, programs, funding, and/or resources that need to be expanded and/or improved in order to support the implementation of the hazard mitigation initiatives identified in this Plan (e.g., mitigation actions).

- Building and fire prevention codes and ordinances should be reviewed and updated based on developing trends in identified hazards and mitigation measures that can make them more effective at preventing losses. Building codes should comply with the latest international and state building codes.
- The Town’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is undergoing an update in 2025, and the EOP intends to expand/enhance education and outreach efforts, strengthen administrative and technical capabilities, and improve the hazard mitigation implementation process for the Town.

5. NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Town of Otisco is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), but has chosen not to participate in the NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) Program. The Town is in good standing with the NFIP through adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g., regulating all new and substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification and mapping, and flood insurance outreach to the community. The Town’s NFIP participation information is listed in **Table 10**.

Table 10. NFIP Participation Information

CID	NFIP Participation Date	Current Effective FIRM Date	CRS Entry Date	CRS Current Effective Date	CRS Rating
360589	5/31/1974	11/4/2016	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.1. NFIP Floodplain Administrator

All NFIP participating jurisdictions have a designated Floodplain Administrator who is charged with enforcing floodplain regulations, routinely monitoring the floodplains, and providing community assistance, such as encouraging owners to maintain flood insurance. The Town of Otisco Floodplain Administrator information is listed in **Table 11**.



Table 11. Floodplain Administrator

Name	Title	Department	Phone Number
Timothy Cusick	Code Enforcement Officer	Code Enforcement	(315) 877-2024

5.2. Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss Property

FEMA defines a Repetitive Loss property as an NFIP-insured property meeting at least one (1) of the following paid loss criteria since 1978, regardless of any changes in ownership:

- Four (4) or more separate claims payments greater than \$5,000 each (including building and contents payment).
- Two (2) or more separate flood insurance claims payments (building payments only), where the total of the payments is greater than the property’s current value.

Additionally, to receive a designation, at least two (2) of the claim payments must occur within 10 years of one another.⁶

A Severe Repetitive Loss property is defined by FEMA as any NFIP-insured single-family or multi-family residential building meeting at least one (1) of the following paid loss criteria since 1978 or from a building constructed after 1978, regardless of any changes in ownership:⁷

- That has incurred flood-related damage for which four (4) or more separate claims payments have been made, with the amount of each claim (including building and contents payments) exceeding \$5,000, and with the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeding \$20,000.
- For which at least two (2) separate claims payments (building payments only) have been made under such coverage, with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the building.

Table 12 summarizes FEMA Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss properties within the Town of Otisco.

Table 12. Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

Repetitive Loss Properties		Severe Repetitive Loss Properties	
Total	Occupancy	Total	Occupancy
0	--	0	--
<i>Occupancy Type: Single Family = Single family residence • Two (2)-Four (4) Unit Residential Building = Two (2)-four (4) unit residential building • More Than Four (4) Units Residential Building = Residential building with more than four (4) units • Non-Residential Building = Non-residential building • Non-Residential Business = Non-residential business • Single Family Residential Building = Single-family residential building with the exception of a mobile home or a single residential unit within a multi-unit building • Residential (2, 3, or 4 units) Non-Condo Building = Residential non-condo building with two (2), three (3), or four (4) units seeking insurance on all units • Residential (5 or more units) Non-Condo Building = Residential non-condo building with 5 or more units seeking insurance on all units • Residential Mobile/Manufactured Home = Residential mobile/manufactured home • Residential Condo Association = Residential condo association seeking coverage on a building with one (1) or more units • Single Residential Unit = Single residential unit within a multi-unit building • Non-Residential Mobile/manufactured Home = Non-residential mobile/manufactured home • Non-Residential Building = Non-residential building • Non-Residential Unit = Non-residential unit within a multi-unit building</i>			

⁶ Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Insurance Program. (2023). A Policyholder’s Guide to Severe Repetitive Loss. Retrieved from https://agents.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/fema_nfip-policyholders-guide-severe-repetitive-loss_brochure_07-2023.pdf.

⁷ Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Insurance Program. (2021). National Flood Insurance Program: Flood Insurance Manual. Retrieved from https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nfip-all-flood-insurance-manual-apr-2021.pdf.



Table 13 summarizes the NFIP active policies and coverage in force data for the Town of Otisco.

Table 13. NFIP Policies

NFIP Policies	Insurance in Force	Total Claims Paid	Sum of Claims Paid
1	\$332	3	\$7,042

5.3. Participation Activities

The Town of Otisco NFIP participation over the last five (5) years includes the following:

- Provides the following services – permit review, GIS, inspections, and engineering capability.
- Teaches property owners or other stakeholders about the importance of flood insurance through public outreach events, workshops, and/or seminars.
- Enforces local floodplain regulations and monitors compliance.
- Floodplain management regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements.

5.3.1. Regulatory

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

The Town of Otisco’s Flood Damage Prevention Law (Local Law No. 19 of 2016) meets FEMA and State minimum standards and specifies requirements which include a floodplain permit that is required for all construction and other development in special flood hazard areas and a certificate of compliance. The Local Law was adopted to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the Town of Otisco, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:

- Regulate uses which are dangerous to health, safety and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities.
- Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction.
- Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers which are involved in the accommodation of floodwaters.
- Control filling, grading, dredging and other development which may increase erosion or flood damages.
- Regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert floodwaters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.
- Qualify for and maintain participation in the NFIP.

The objectives of this Local Law include to:

- Protect human life and health.
- Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects.
- Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public.



- Minimize prolonged business interruptions.
- Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities, such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone, and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in areas of special flood hazard.
- Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of areas of special flood hazard so as to minimize future flood blight areas.
- Provide that developers are notified that property is in an area of special flood hazard.
- Ensure that those who occupy the areas of special flood hazard assume responsibility for their actions.

Substantial Damage

Substantial damage means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. (Town of Otisco No. 19 of 2016)

Substantial Improvement

Substantial improvement means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. The term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

- Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
- Any alteration of a "Historic structure", provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "Historic structure". (Town of Otisco No. 19 of 2016)

There are other local ordinances, plans, or programs (e.g., site plan review) that support floodplain management and meet the NFIP requirements.

Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement Determination Process

The Town of Otisco's Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement determination process ensures compliance with the NFIP and the local floodplain management ordinances (as outlined earlier in this section). To determine whether a structure has sustained Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement after a flood event, the Town building inspectors conduct an analysis and review of the structure or, if needed, with the assistance of a registered design professional (e.g., architect, engineer).

6. HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN INTEGRATION

For a community to successfully reduce long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into day-to-day planning mechanisms and initiatives. Plan integration is the process by which communities critically assess the existing planning framework and align efforts with the goal of reducing long-term risks and building a more resilient community. It involves a two (2) way exchange of information and incorporation of ideas and concepts between hazard mitigation plans and other community plans. In particular, plan integration involves incorporating hazard mitigation principles and actions into other plans and integrating planning mechanisms into hazard mitigation plans. Plan integration involves community plans, policies, codes, and programs that guide development, roles, and responsibilities in implementing these capabilities. Additionally, plan integration is achieved through the involvement of key staff and community officials in collaborative hazard mitigation planning.



6.1. Existing Plan Integration

A hazard mitigation plan must explain how the jurisdiction incorporated the previous Plan update over the last five (5) years to demonstrate progress in local mitigation efforts. However, the Town of Otisco did not participate in the previous iteration of the Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

6.2. Potential Future Integration

A hazard mitigation plan must explain how the jurisdiction intends to incorporate this Plan update into planning mechanisms over the next five (5) years. The capability assessment presented in Section 4 of this Annex identifies codes, plans, and programs that provide opportunities for integration. **Table 14** outlines planning mechanisms/initiatives that do not currently integrate the goals and recommendations of this Plan but provide opportunities to do so in the future.

Table 14. Potential Future Integration

Planning Initiative	Potential Integration Description
Ordinances	Hazard mitigation principles could be integrated into the development of future Zoning and Subdivision ordinances to guide appropriate land use within the Town. Portions of this Hazard Mitigation Plan should be reviewed and considered during the development of these ordinances, as well as future improvements to the Town’s Building Code.
Comprehensive Plan	The Town of Otisco has considered the development of a Comprehensive Plan in the future. In the event that the Town develops a Comprehensive Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Plan should be incorporated into the Town’s Comprehensive Plan to enhance the community’s resilience by integrating risk-reduction strategies into land use, development, and infrastructure planning. Furthermore, hazard mitigation goals could be aligned with the Comprehensive Plan's vision, and hazard risk assessment information could be used to address vulnerabilities.
Emergency Operations Plan	The Town’s EOP is undergoing an update in 2025. The hazards, associated vulnerabilities, impacts, and mitigation strategies identified in this Hazard Mitigation Plan could be integrated into the EOP update to enhance risk reduction.
Municipal Budget	The Town could add a line item for mitigation projects/activities into the Municipal Budget and capital improvement funding.

The Town’s Local Planning Team will identify all relevant planning initiatives scheduled for update in the next year and during the annual update process of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additionally, the Local Planning Team will identify opportunities to integrate key elements of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, specifically relevant strategies, into the planning initiatives. Mitigation actions were identified to promote plan integration in future revisions of this Plan.

7. SIGNIFICANT HAZARD PAST EVENTS

A complete risk assessment, including past incidents, for each identified hazard of concern, can be found in **Volume 1** of this Plan. A summary of past events is provided under each hazard profile and includes a chronology of events that have affected the County and its municipalities.

8. HAZARD VULNERABILITY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Exposure and vulnerability to certain hazards affect the entire County, and others are geographically defined. Although the entire County may be vulnerable to these hazards, their impacts may vary based on existing community conditions (e.g., underserved populations or those with access and functional needs may be more susceptible under certain conditions).



Table 15 outlines the *unique vulnerabilities and impacts* for the Town of Otisco and addresses only the hazards relevant to the jurisdiction. A complete risk assessment for each identified hazard of concern is in **Volume 1** of this Plan. Hazard mapping can be found in **Appendix A** of this Annex.

Table 15. Hazard Vulnerability and Impact Assessment

Hazard	Vulnerabilities and Impacts
Drought	The Local Planning Team determined that the Town does not have unique vulnerabilities and impacts to drought; rather, the jurisdiction’s vulnerability and impacts are consistent with those experienced throughout the County.
Earthquake	The Local Planning Team determined that the Town does not have unique vulnerabilities and impacts to earthquakes; rather, the jurisdiction’s vulnerability and impacts are consistent with those experienced throughout the County.
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	The Town has a significant aging population, which is uniquely vulnerable to heat waves/extreme heat events.
Flood <i>(riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure)</i>	The Local Planning Team determined that the Town does not have unique vulnerabilities and impacts to flooding; rather, the jurisdiction’s vulnerability and impacts are consistent with those experienced throughout the County.
Geological Hazards <i>(landslides, land subsidence, mudboils)</i>	The Local Planning Team determined that the Town does not have unique vulnerabilities and impacts to geological hazards; rather, the jurisdiction’s vulnerability and impacts are consistent with those experienced throughout the County.
Harmful Algal Bloom	Indirect impact from Otisco Lake because it is the Town’s main water source.
Invasive Species and Infestation <i>(Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases)</i>	There are significant amounts of ash trees along Town roads. Ash Borer has killed trees, and they are still standing along many roadways/right of ways.
Severe Weather <i>(severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm)</i>	The Local Planning Team determined that the Town does not have unique vulnerabilities and impacts to severe weather; rather, the jurisdiction’s vulnerability and impacts are consistent with those experienced throughout the County.
Winter Weather <i>(blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold, nor’easter)</i>	<p>Areas within the Town that are located in higher elevations are more vulnerable to winter weather. These areas experience increased wind intensity, snow accumulation, and a higher potential for whiteout conditions and blowdowns. Additionally, ice storms affect the electrical grid.</p> <p>The Lord’s Hill Apartment Complex on Route 80 and low-income housing within the Town may not have backup power options. Therefore, in the event of a prolonged power outage, these residents (including the underserved and at risk population) will not have access to heat, exposing them to cold temperatures that can lead to illness or death. Additionally, the Town has a significant aging population that is uniquely vulnerable to winter weather.</p>
Wildfire <i>(wildfire smoke)</i>	The Local Planning Team determined that the Town does not have unique vulnerabilities and impacts to wildfire; rather, the jurisdiction’s vulnerability and impacts are consistent with those experienced throughout the County.

The Town evaluated whether vulnerability in hazard-prone areas had increased, decreased, or remained the same for each natural hazard identified in this Hazard Mitigation Plan. Climate change, changes in population, infrastructure expansion, and economic shifts that can affect vulnerability were considered. For example, if planned development is in an identified hazard area or is not built to the updated building codes, it may increase the community’s vulnerability to future hazards and disasters. On the other hand, if development occurred with



mitigation practices in place, the vulnerability may have remained the same or decreased. Additionally, shifting demographics (e.g., underserved population) were taken into consideration.

Table 16 outlines whether climate change has increased or decreased the Town’s vulnerability (i.e., exposure) and impact to each natural hazard over the past five (5) years, and the effect of climate change on the future probability of occurrence and impacts from each natural hazard.

Table 16. Climate Change Current and Future Vulnerability and Impact

Hazard	Vulnerability and Impact
Current Vulnerability and Impact	
Drought	Increased
Earthquake	Remained the Same
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	Increased
Flood (<i>riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure</i>)	Remained the Same
Geological Hazards (<i>landslides, land subsidence, mudboils</i>)	Remained the Same
Harmful Algal Bloom	Increased
Invasive Species and Infestation (<i>Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases</i>)	Increased
Severe Weather (<i>severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm</i>)	Increased
Winter Weather (<i>blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold, nor'easter</i>)	Increased
Wildfire (<i>wildfire smoke</i>)	Remained the Same
Future Vulnerability and Impact	
Drought	Increase
Earthquake	No Change Anticipated
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	Increase
Flood (<i>riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Geological Hazards (<i>landslides, land subsidence, mudboils</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Harmful Algal Bloom	Increase
Invasive Species and Infestation (<i>Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases</i>)	Increase
Severe Weather (<i>severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm</i>)	Increase
Winter Weather (<i>blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold, nor'easter</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Wildfire (<i>wildfire smoke</i>)	No Change Anticipated

Table 17 outlines whether changes in population within the Town over the past five (5) years have increased or decreased the vulnerability (i.e., exposure) and impact to these natural hazards, and the anticipated effects changes in population may have on the future probability of occurrence and impacts from these natural hazards.



Table 17. Changes in Population Current and Future Vulnerability and Impact

Hazard	Vulnerability and Impact
Current Vulnerability and Impact	
Drought	Remained the Same
Earthquake	Remained the Same
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	Remained the Same
Flood (<i>riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure</i>)	Remained the Same
Geological Hazards (<i>landslides, land subsidence, mudboils</i>)	Remained the Same
Harmful Algal Bloom	Remained the Same
Invasive Species and Infestation (<i>Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases</i>)	Remained the Same
Severe Weather (<i>severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm</i>)	Remained the Same
Winter Weather (<i>blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold, nor'easter</i>)	Remained the Same
Wildfire (<i>wildfire smoke</i>)	Remained the Same
Future Vulnerability and Impact	
Drought	Increase
Earthquake	No Change Anticipated
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	Increase
Flood (<i>riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Geological Hazards (<i>landslides, land subsidence, mudboils</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Harmful Algal Bloom	Increase
Invasive Species and Infestation (<i>Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Severe Weather (<i>severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm</i>)	Increase
Winter Weather (<i>blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold, nor'easter</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Wildfire (<i>wildfire smoke</i>)	No Change Anticipated

Table 18 outlines whether development over the past five (5) years has increased or decreased the Town’s vulnerability (i.e., exposure) and impact to these natural hazards, and the anticipated effects changes in development may have on the future probability of occurrence and impacts from these natural hazards.

Table 18. Changes in Development Current and Future Vulnerability and Impact

Hazard	Vulnerability and Impact
Current Vulnerability and Impact	
Drought	Remained the Same
Earthquake	Remained the Same
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	Remained the Same
Flood (<i>riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure</i>)	Remained the Same
Geological Hazards (<i>landslides, land subsidence, mudboils</i>)	Remained the same



Hazard	Vulnerability and Impact
Harmful Algal Bloom	Remained the Same
Invasive Species and Infestation (<i>Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases</i>)	Remained the Same
Severe Weather (<i>severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm</i>)	Remained the Same
Winter Weather (<i>blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold, nor'easter</i>)	Remained the Same
Wildfire (<i>wildfire smoke</i>)	Remained the Same
<i>Future Vulnerability and Impact</i>	
Drought	No Change Anticipated
Earthquake	No Change Anticipated
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	No Change Anticipated
Flood (<i>riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Geological Hazards (<i>landslides, land subsidence, mudboils</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Harmful Algal Bloom	No Change Anticipated
Invasive Species and Infestation (<i>Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Severe Weather (<i>severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Winter Weather (<i>blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold, nor'easter</i>)	No Change Anticipated
Wildfire (<i>wildfire smoke</i>)	No Change Anticipated

8.1. Future Major Assets

Community assets should include anything that is important to a community's character and function. Assets include people (i.e., underserved population); structures (i.e., new and existing buildings); community lifelines and other critical facilities; natural, historic, and cultural resources; and the economy and other activities that have value to the community. Although all assets may be affected by the hazards identified in this Hazard Mitigation Plan, the jurisdiction has identified future major assets that may be more vulnerable and impacted by these hazards.

- Otisco Lake, a major source of drinking water for the Town, will be most vulnerable to harmful algal blooms.
- Any new assets (e.g., new construction in hazard-prone areas) will be constructed to adhere to the latest building codes and standards, and mitigation to protect them from identified and anticipated hazards, especially those that are expected to increase due to climate change.

9. CRITICAL FACILITIES FLOOD RISK

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Title 6, Chapter V, Subchapter A, Part 502 sets forth local floodplain management criteria for State projects located within flood hazard areas. The law states that no such projects related to critical facilities shall be undertaken in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) unless built in accordance with certain mitigation specifications, including being raised two (2) feet above the Base



Flood Elevation (BFE).⁸ While all vulnerabilities should be assessed and documented, the State places a high priority on exposure to flooding.

Jurisdictions must identify all critical facilities, assess their vulnerabilities, and ensure they are protected against a 0.2% chance (500-year) flood event. Critical facilities that are located in an SFHA and/or have been previously flooded must be protected against a repeat of that flood or the 0.2% chance flood event, whichever provides the greater protection. The Plan must document that those critical facilities are protected to a 0.2% flood event, or the previous worst-case flood event. For those that do not meet this level of protection, the Plan must include a mitigation action that meets or exceeds this criterion, or explain why it is not feasible to do so.⁹

Table 19 identifies critical facilities in the community located in the 100-year and 500-year floodplain.

Table 19. Potential Flood Losses to Critical Facilities

Name	Address	Type	Exposure		Potential Loss from 100-Year Flood Event		Facility Protected	Addressed by Proposed Action
			100-Year	500-Year	% Structure Damage	% Content Damage		
None identified								

10. HAZARD RISK RANKING

Table 20 presents the local hazard ranking for the Town of Otisco of all hazards of concern listed in Volume 1 of this Plan. This ranking summarizes how hazards vary for this jurisdiction. As thoroughly described in Volume 1 of this Plan, the ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard, along with its potential impacts on people, property, and the economy. For further details on how the probability, extent, vulnerability, and impact factors in Table 20 were calculated, please refer to Section 4.3 in Volume 1 of this Plan.

It is important to note that the sub hazards for severe weather (i.e., strong winds/damaging winds, severe thunderstorms, tropical storm/hurricane, hail, and tornado), geological hazards (i.e., landslide, land subsidence, and mudboils), flood (i.e., riverine/creek flooding and ice jam, and urban/flash flooding), and winter weather (i.e., blizzards, lake effect snow, nor’easter, and ice storm, and cold wave/extreme cold) were individually ranked in the hazard risk ranking; however, severe weather, geological hazards, flood, and winter weather are each considered as the main hazard throughout this Annex and Volume 1.

Table 20. Town of Otisco Hazard Risk Ranking

Hazard Event	Probability Factor	Sum of Weighted Extent Factors	Sum of Weighted Vulnerability Factors	Sum of Weighted Impact Factors	Consequence Score	Total Risk Score <i>(Probability x Consequence)</i>
Winter Weather (Blizzards, Lake Effect Snow, Nor’easter, Ice Storm)	3	12	14	20	46	66

⁸ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (n.d.). Chapter V – Resource Management Services. Retrieved from <https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/chapter-v>.

⁹ New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. (2022). 2022 New York State Hazard Mitigation Planning Standards. Retrieved from <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/11/2022-nys-mitigation-planning-standards-final.pdf>



Hazard Event	Probability Factor	Sum of Weighted Extent Factors	Sum of Weighted Vulnerability Factors	Sum of Weighted Impact Factors	Consequence Score	Total Risk Score <i>(Probability x Consequence)</i>
Flood (Urban/Flash Flood)	3	12	8	23	43	62
Severe Thunderstorm <i>(Severe Weather)</i>	3	12	16	14	42	61
Strong Winds/ Damaging Winds <i>(Severe Weather)</i>	3	12	11	16	39	57
Cold Wave/Extreme Cold <i>(Winter Weather)</i>	2	12	14	21	47	48
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	2	9	11	19	39	41
Drought	2	12	12	13	37	39
Invasive Species and Infestation	2	9	8	18	35	37
Flood (Riverine/Creek, Ice Jam)	2	12	6	16	34	36
Tropical Storm/Hurricane <i>(Severe Weather)</i>	1	9	16	24	49	27
Hail <i>(Severe Weather)</i>	1	6	16	14	36	21
Earthquake	1	6	16	12	34	20
Tornado <i>(Severe Weather)</i>	1	6	6	22	34	20
Landslide <i>(Geological Hazards)</i>	1	6	6	16	28	17
Harmful Algal Bloom	1	6	6	16	28	17
Dam and Levee Failure <i>(Flood)</i>	1	6	6	14	26	16
Wildfire (Wildfire Smoke)	1	6	6	14	26	16
Land Subsidence <i>(Geological Hazards)</i>	1	3	6	14	23	14



Hazard Event	Probability Factor	Sum of Weighted Extent Factors	Sum of Weighted Vulnerability Factors	Sum of Weighted Impact Factors	Consequence Score	Total Risk Score <i>(Probability x Consequence)</i>
Mudboils <i>(Geological Hazards)</i>	1	3	6	13	22	14

*Consequence: Sum of all weighted factors.
 Extent: Sum of the weighted Extent factors.
 Vulnerability: Sum of the weighted Vulnerability factors.*

*Impact: Sum of the weighted Impact factors.
 Total Risk Score* = Probability x Consequence
 * Normalized to 100*

Total Risk Score Legend

Classification	Probability Factor	Extent	Vulnerability	Impact	Consequence Score	Total Risk Score
Low (L)	1	0 – 6	0 – 6	0 – 12	0 – 24	0 – 24
Medium (M)	2	7 – 12	7 – 12	13 – 26	25 – 50	25 – 54
High (H)	3	13 – 18	13 – 18	27 – 39	51 – 75	55 and above

The legend—specifically the assignment of low, medium, and high—provides an additional means to qualitatively assess the probability factor, sum of weighted factors, and the total risk scores for each hazard. The Consequence Score represents the sum of the Extent, Vulnerability, and Impact Factors. The Total Risk Score is a measure of Probability and Consequence.



11. MITIGATION ACTIONS

This section includes the mitigation actions developed to address the risks and vulnerabilities to the hazards identified in this Plan. This Plan serves only to recommend mitigation measures based on the potential for risk reduction and available funding. Implementation of mitigation actions is dependent on risk reduction priorities, feasibility, and available funding. It is also dependent on the cooperation and support of the jurisdiction and/or department responsible for each action item. The Town of Otisco did not participate in the previous reiteration of the Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan; therefore, all mitigation actions are new.

The Town of Otisco agreed on **12** mitigation actions that apply to the jurisdiction’s properties for which it has jurisdictional responsibility and authority. A summary of the Town’s mitigation actions status is listed in **Table 21**.

Note: The mitigation actions outlined in this Plan are designed only to address those natural hazards that received a risk ranking of *medium* or *high* during the hazard risk assessment (**Table 20**). Hazards that ranked *low* (earthquakes, geological hazards, and wildfires) will not have specific mitigation actions detailed in this document.

Table 21. Town of Otisco Mitigation Action Summary

Status		Mitigation Action Total	
Continuous		0	
In Progress/Not Yet Completed		0	
No Progress/Not Yet Started		0	
New		12	
TOTAL		12	
Complete		0	
Discontinued		0	
Mitigation Actions per Hazard			
Drought	4	Harmful Algal Bloom	3
Earthquake	N/A	Invasive Species and Infestation <i>(Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, True Armyworm, Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Water Chestnut, Tick-Borne Diseases, Mosquito-Borne Diseases)</i>	4
Heat Wave/Extreme Heat	4	Severe Weather <i>(severe thunderstorms – hail, strong winds/damaging winds, tornadoes, hurricane/tropical storm, nor’easter)</i>	5
Flood <i>(riverine, flash/urban, ice jam, dam and levee failure)</i>	6	Winter Weather <i>(blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, cold wave/extreme cold)</i>	6
Geological Hazards <i>(landslides, land subsidence, mudboils)</i>	N/A	Wildfire <i>(wildfire smoke)</i>	N/A

A detailed explanation of the Mitigation Strategy can be found in Section 5 of **Volume 1**.



Mitigation Action	Conduct and facilitate community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses to include, but not limited to, the following, to promote and effect natural hazard risk reduction:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain links to the Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan website, and regularly post notices on the municipal homepage referencing the Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan webpages. • Prepare and distribute informational letters to flood vulnerable property owners and neighborhood associations, explaining the availability of mitigation grant funding to mitigate their properties, and instructing them on how they can learn more and implement mitigation. • Use the Town’s e-mail notification systems and local partner newsletters to better educate the public on flood insurance, the availability of mitigation grant funding, and personal natural hazard risk reduction measures. • Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding. 				
Action Number	TOO-1	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Prioritization Score	15/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline <i>(estimated)</i>	Ongoing	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated		Drought, Heat Wave/Extreme Heat, Flood, Harmful Algal Bloom, Invasive Species and Infestation, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Weather			
Project Status		New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.	N/A	
Benefits <i>(Loss Avoided)</i>		Low			
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board		Supporting Agency / Organization <i>(If applicable)</i>	Onondaga County Department of Planning	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions <i>(If applicable)</i>	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility <i>(Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)</i>	No	Additional Details <i>(optional)</i>			



Mitigation Action	Where appropriate, support retrofitting or relocation of structures in high-hazard areas, prioritizing structures that have experienced repetitive losses.				
Action Number	TOO-2	Goal(s) Addressed	2, 3, 6	Prioritization Score	13/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	Ongoing	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Drought, Heat Wave/Extreme Heat, Flood, Harmful Algal Bloom, Invasive Species and Infestation, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Weather				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	High				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Code Enforcement	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	High	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time), HMGP, FMA		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)	Identify facilities that are viable candidates for retrofitting based on cost-effectiveness versus relocation. Where retrofitting is determined to be a viable option, consider implementation of that action based on available funding.		



Mitigation Action	Actively support and participate in the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Hazard Mitigation Plan, as outlined and defined in Volume 1.				
Action Number	TOO-3	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Prioritization Score	15/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	Ongoing	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Drought, Heat Wave/Extreme Heat, Flood, Harmful Algal Bloom, Invasive Species and Infestation, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Weather				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	High				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board, Town of Otisco Code Enforcement	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)			



Mitigation Action	Ensure local plans include preparation for and management of the response to winter weather events, in particular, long-term disruption of power supplies and transportation infrastructure.				
Action Number	TOO-4	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 2, 6	Prioritization Score	11/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	1 to 2 Years	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Winter Weather				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	Low				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Highway Department	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)	Once completed, the plans will be updated annually.		



Mitigation Action	Designate vulnerable road segments within the Town and install permanent snow fences in adjacent open areas to reduce snow drifting, improve visibility, and mitigate hazardous driving conditions from whiteout conditions. Additional enhanced traffic control measures can include installing automated weather-responsive speed limit sign systems to improve driver safety by lowering speeds in real time.				
Action Number	TOO-5	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 2, 6	Prioritization Score	11/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	2 to 4 Years	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Winter Weather				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	High				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board, Town of Otisco Code Enforcement	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Medium	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)	Once completed, the plans will be updated annually.		



Mitigation Action	Proactively update and amend the Town’s building and zoning codes to adopt the most current New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code standards, and integrate specific, enhanced flood resilience provisions that exceed minimum state and federal requirements, focused on increased rainfall and flooding events. These updates should include explicit language specific to design standards and enforcement surrounding all aspects of floodplain construction.				
Action Number	TOO-6	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 6	Prioritization Score	12/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	6 Months to 1 Year	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Flood				
Project Status	New	<i>If Discontinued, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	Low				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)	N/A		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)			



Mitigation Action	Update the Town's existing State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Law. The existing Law dates back to the 1970s and must be brought up to current standards. Enable the Town to be more proactive towards environmental reviews for commercial development.				
Action Number	TOO-7	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 2, 4, 6	Prioritization Score	12/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	1 Year	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Flood, Severe Weather				
Project Status	New	<i>If Discontinued, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	Medium				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)	N/A		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)	At the time of this Plan update, the Town has already implemented a moratorium for commercial development until the SEQR Law is updated.		



Mitigation Action	Establish standards for all utilities (e.g., power lines) regarding the removal of dead ash trees within the right of ways.				
Action Number	TOO-8	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 5, 6	Prioritization Score	12/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	1 to 3 Years	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Invasive Species and Infestation				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	Medium				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Highway Department	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)	Onondaga County Department of Transportation		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Medium	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)	Town, county, and state roads are littered with dead ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer, which poses a significant risk to the power grid, road infrastructure, and human safety.		



Mitigation Action	Implement a strategic, adaptive community-based resilience initiative to build long-term community resilience to drought. The initiative will utilize a multi-channel public outreach campaign to provide residents, businesses, and the agricultural community with practical knowledge and resources needed for drought mitigation strategies (e.g., water conservation, the use of drought-tolerant landscaping).				
Action Number	TOO-9	Goal(s) Addressed	2	Prioritization Score	15/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	2 to 4 Years	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Drought				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	Low				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)			



Mitigation Action	Implement a strategic, adaptive community-based resilience initiative to build long-term community resilience against heat waves/extreme heat events. The initiative will utilize a multi-channel public outreach campaign to educate the public about public health illnesses associated with extreme heat, protective actions, and available resources to reduce risk and exposure during heat wave/extreme heat events. Outreach efforts will specifically target individuals who are particularly vulnerable during heat waves/extreme heat events, including, but not limited to, the elderly, young children, pregnant women, individuals with chronic illnesses, individuals without access to air conditioning, and outdoor workers (e.g., agricultural workers). Additionally, implementing climate adaptation measures, such as identifying community centers that can serve as cooling centers, will also be considered.				
Action Number	TOO-10	Goal(s) Addressed	2	Prioritization Score	15/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	2 to 4 Years	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Heat Wave/Extreme Heat				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	Low				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)			



Mitigation Action	Develop and implement a strategic, adaptive community-based resilience initiative to build long-term community resilience against severe weather and winter weather events, including extreme cold temperatures (e.g., cold waves) and power outages resulting from winter weather and severe weather events. The initiative will use a multi-channel public outreach campaign to educate the public about cold-weather illnesses, protective actions, and available resources to reduce risk and exposure during cold wave/extreme cold events. Outreach efforts will specifically target individuals who are particularly vulnerable during winter weather events. Additionally, it will consider implementing climate adaptation measures, such as identifying community centers that can serve as warming centers during winter weather events. The same facilities will be used as shelters during severe weather events, particularly for those residing in areas experiencing power outages and individuals who are electrically dependent.				
Action Number	TOO-11	Goal(s) Addressed	2	Prioritization Score	15/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline <i>(estimated)</i>	2 to 4 Years	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated	Severe Weather, Winter Weather				
Project Status	New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.		N/A	
Benefits <i>(Loss Avoided)</i>	Low				
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Board	Supporting Agency / Organization <i>(If applicable)</i>		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions <i>(If applicable)</i>	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Low	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility <i>(Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)</i>	No	Additional Details <i>(optional)</i>			



Mitigation Action	Establish a comprehensive program focused on proactive monitoring, safe manual breakup techniques, and debris management. This includes targeted training for local emergency responders (e.g., highway department personnel) to identify imminent ice jams and debris dams and perform safe manual intervention. Additionally, outreach and education for the public and farmers on recognizing and reporting potential jams early, and on providing guidelines for safe, limited intervention on their own properties.				
Action Number	TOO-12	Goal(s) Addressed	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	Prioritization Score	15/15
Year Added to Plan	2025	Timeline (estimated)	More than 4 Years	Implementation Priority	High
Hazard(s) Mitigated		Flood			
Project Status		New	If <i>Discontinued</i> , provide reason.	N/A	
Benefits (Loss Avoided)		Low			
Lead Agency / Organization	Town of Otisco Highway Department	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)		N/A	
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Estimated Cost	Medium	Potential Funding Source	General Fund (Staff Time)		
Critical Facility (Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain?)	No	Additional Details (optional)			



APPENDIX A. HAZARD MAPS

These maps are based on the best available data at the time this Plan was prepared and are considered adequate for planning purposes. Maps have been generated only for hazards that can be distinctly represented using available mapping technologies and data, and for which the Town of Otisco has significant vulnerability.

- **Figure 1** illustrates the jurisdiction's planning area boundary.
- **Figure 2** illustrates the critical facilities within the planning area.
- **Figure 3** illustrates the jurisdiction's Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), including the Flood Zones and the 500-year floodplain in the planning area. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) display flood zones, floodplain boundaries, and Base Flood Elevation (BFE), which are used for floodplain management, flood insurance ratings, and to determine flood insurance requirements. FIRMs show areas with a 1% chance of flooding each year, commonly known as the 100-year floodplains, and are illustrated as the SFHA (Flood Zones A, AE, and AO on the map). The 500-year floodplains show areas with a 0.2% chance of flooding each year.



Figure 1. Town of Otisco Planning Area

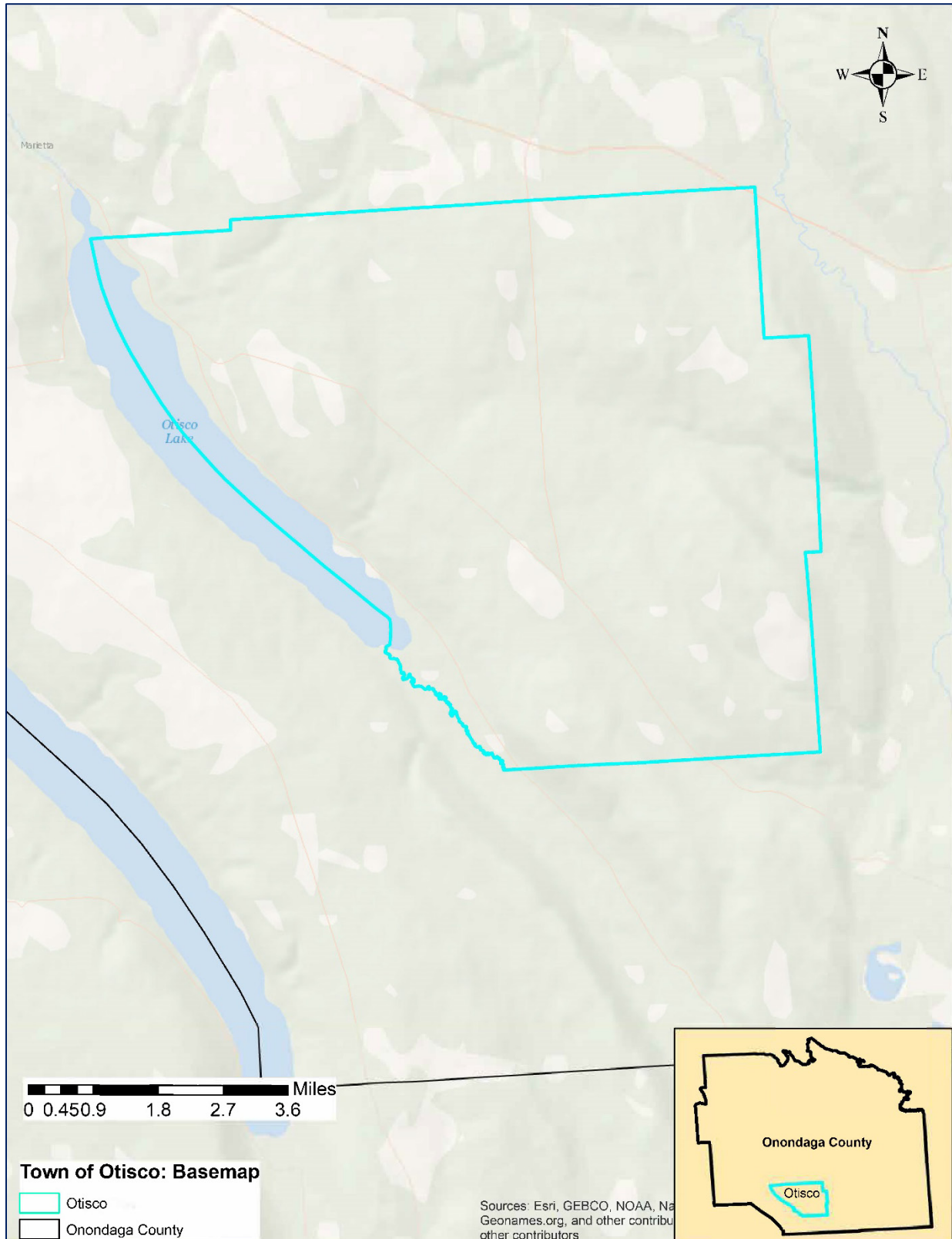




Figure 2. Critical Facilities

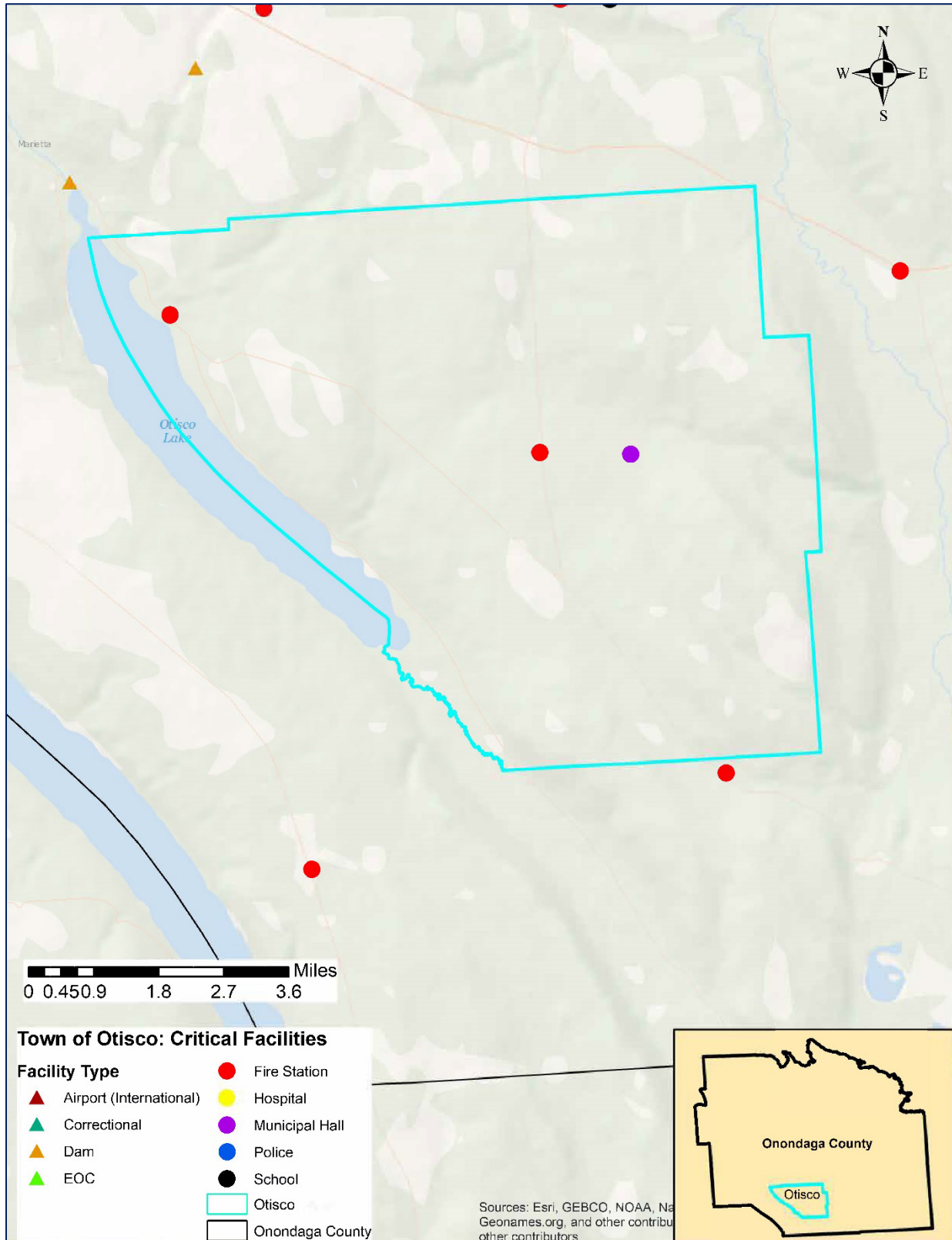
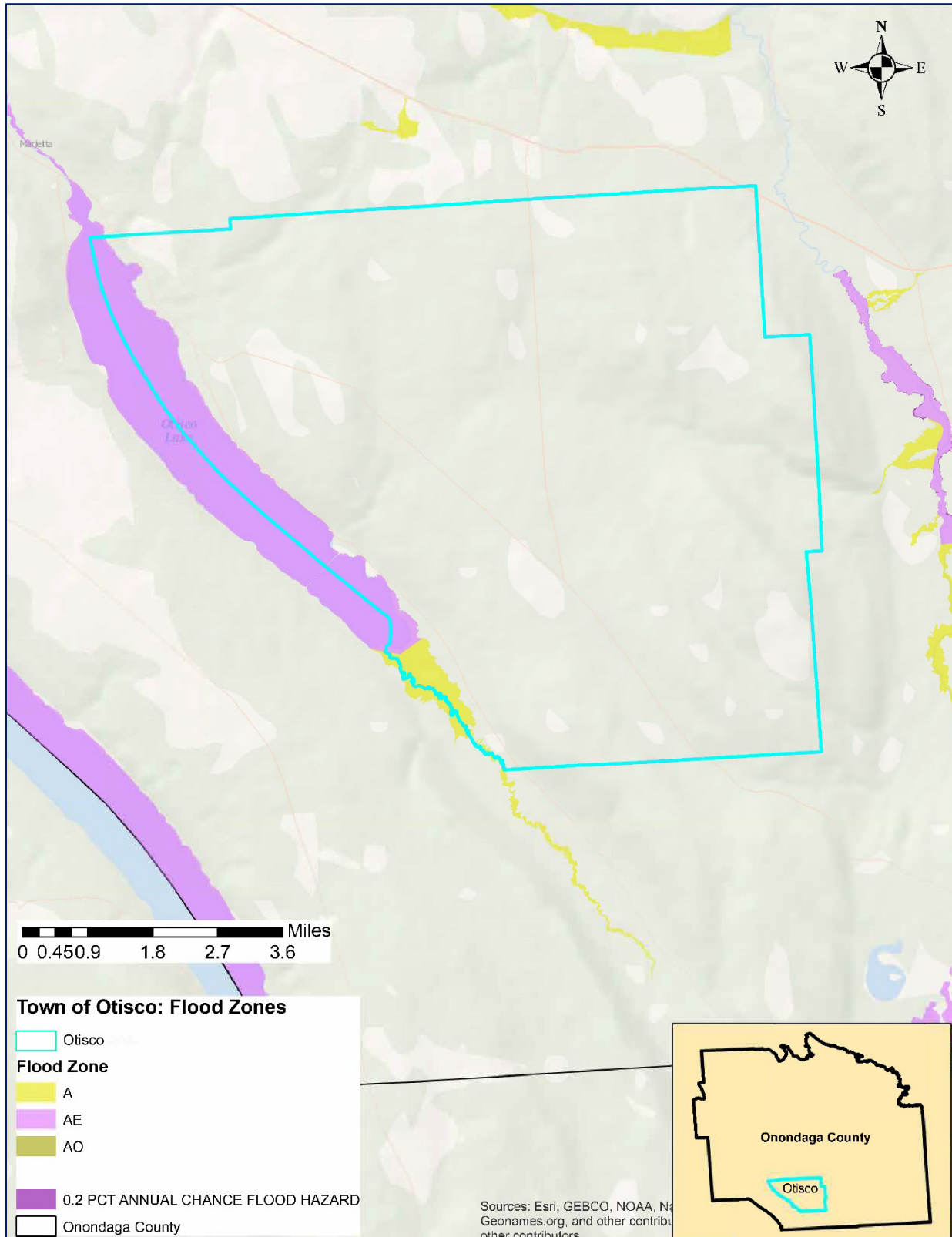




Figure 3. Special Flood Hazard Area





APPENDIX B. LETTER OF INTENT

**Statement of Intent to Participate in the
2024 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The purpose of this letter is to establish commitment from, and a cooperative working relationship between, all participating jurisdictions in the development and implementation of the 2024 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). In addition, the intent of this form is to ensure that the Plan update is developed in accordance with Title 44 of the Federal Code of Regulations Part 201.6; that the planning process is conducted in an open manner involving community stakeholders; that it is consistent with each participating jurisdiction’s policies, programs, and authorities; and that it is an accurate reflection of the community’s values.

To meet this requirement and to help reduce the loss of life and damage to property in the event of a natural disaster, our municipality intends to participate in a federally funded grant initiative to update the 2024 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

We understand that the planning process will include a limited number of meetings and/or calls between Planning Team representatives and representatives from participating municipalities and agencies. The subject of the meeting(s) will be to:

- Inform participants on the needs and methods for identifying and prioritizing hazards;
- Share information on hazards affecting local jurisdictions;
- Provide information related to local assets, plans/ordinances, hazard events and damages, new development, etc. within the jurisdiction; and
- Determine possible projects to reduce the impact of future incidents involving hazards which are prerequisites to municipalities later applying for hazard mitigation grant funds.

We recognize the importance of having an updated multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan to help safeguard the lives and property of our citizens and commit to participating in this process with Onondaga County.

Name of Jurisdiction: Town of Otisco

Name of Authorized Representative:
Glenn Hall

Signature of Authorized Representative:

Primary Point-of-Contact (POC):
Name: Glenn Hall
Title: Supervisor
Department:
Phone Number: 315-243-9646
Email: ghall@townofotisco.com

Secondary Point-of-Contact (POC):
Name: Tyler Knapp
Title: Councilman
Department:
Phone Number: 315-663-1297
Email: tylerrossknapp@gmail.com

Please return this form to jefferyharrop@ongov.net, or mail to the Onondaga County Dept. of Planning, 335 Montgomery St, Syracuse, NY 13202. Questions, call Jeff at (315)435-2673.



APPENDIX C. PLAN ADOPTION

[Placeholder for adoption documentation after State and FEMA Approval]