

Bushkill Township, Northampton County Annex

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact

Primary:

Belinda Roberts
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Alternate:

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Municipal Profile

Bushkill Township is a rural township located in the north-central part of Northampton County. It encompasses an area of approximately 25.3 square miles and has a population of 8,482 (2020 Census). The township is bordered by Moore Township to the west, Upper Nazareth Township to the south, Plainfield Township to the east, and Ross Township (Monroe County) to the north. The Bushkill Creek flows from the township's higher elevations in the north and west, to the southeast corner of the township and into Upper Nazareth Township.

PA Route 512 (Moorestown Road) travels northeast through the township, from the center of the western border with Moore Township to the northern part of the eastern border with Plainfield Township. PA Route 33 travels north south along the township's eastern edge before bending eastward into Plainfield Township.

Municipal Participation

1. Identify municipal stakeholders to be involved in the planning process such as, floodplain administrator, public works, emergency management, engineers, planners, etc., and include their specific role in the process.

Belinda Roberts, Township Manager
Role: Primary Contact

Thomas Barnowski, Local EMC
Role: Secondary Contact

Kerry Reider, Open Space Coordinator
Role: Floodplain Administrator

2. Identify community stakeholders such as; neighborhood groups, religious groups, major employers / businesses, etc., that will be informed and / or involved in the planning process and describe how they will be involved.

Board of Supervisors; Planning Commission & Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company

3. Describe how the public **will be engaged** in the current planning process (examples, newsletters, social media, etc.), **and how they were engaged** since the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Current: Newsletters, Website, Municipal meetings

Past: Same

Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Topic	Identify source of information if different from the one listed.	Additional Comments
1. Staff Resources		
Is the Community Floodplain Administrator (FPA) or NFIP Coordinator certified?	Community FPA	No
Is floodplain management an auxiliary function?	Community FPA	Yes
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GGIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	Community FPA	Permit review, education, outreach, inspections
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	Community FPA	None
2. Compliance History		
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?	State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP Specialist, or community records	Yes
Are there any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations)?		No
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visits (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?		Never
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?		No
3. Regulation		
When did the community enter the NFIP?	NFIP Community Status Book	11/8/1974
Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper? How are residents assisted with mapping?	Community FPA	Paper
Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?	Community FPA	Yes
Describe the permitting process	Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP	Compliance with the ordinance.
4. Insurance Summary		
How many NFIP policies are in the community? What is the total premium and coverage?	State NFIP Coordinator or FEMA NFIP Specialist	As of 9/22/2023 – 12 policies & \$11,179 in premiums
How many claims have been paid in the community? What is the total amount of paid claims? How many substantial damage claims have there been?	FEMA NFIP or Insurance Specialist	As of 9/22/2023 – 19 claims & \$456,557.32 paid to claims
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	Community FPA or GIS Analyst	0 – 5
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage	Community FPA or FEMA Insurance Specialist	None

Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – continued

5. Community Rating System (CRS)		
Does the community participate in CRS?	Community FPA, State, or FEMA NFIP	No
If so, what is the community's CRS Class Ranking?	Flood Insurance Manual (http://www.fema.gov/floodinsurancemanual.gov)	N/A
What categories and activities provide CRS points and how can the Class be improved?		N/A
Does the plan include CRS planning requirements?	Community FPA, FEMA CRS Coordinator, or ISO representative	N/A

Community Assets

Community assets are defined to include anything that is important to the character as well as the function of a community, and can be described in four categories, they are; people, economy, natural environment and built environment. Please identify the community assets and location under each category.

1. People

- ✦ Concentrations of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, physically or mentally disabled, non-English speaking, and the medically or chemically dependent.

William Manor (personal care home)	Step by Step
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- ✦ Types of visiting populations where large numbers of people are concentrated such as visitors for special events and students.

Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company annual carnival Bluegrass Festival

2. Economy

- ✦ Major employers, primary economic sectors such as agriculture and commercial centers where losses would have a severe impact on the community.

Kenneth Butz Elementary School	IU20 Colonial Academy
Jennings Transportation Corporation (school bus operations)	BioSpectra Inc.

3. Natural Environment

- ✦ Those areas / features that can provide protective functions that reduce the magnitude of hazard events such as, wetlands or riparian areas, and other environmental features important to protect.

Blue Mountain Rissmiller Landscape Corridor	Bushkill Creek Landscape Corridor
Knechts Landscape Corridor	Official Map Greenway Areas
Sobers Run Watershed	

Community Assets – continued

4. Built Environment

- ✦ Existing structures such as, concentrations of buildings that may be more vulnerable to hazards based on location, age, construction type and / or condition of use.

West Douglassville Road near Penny Hole floods during heavy rain events and tops roadway.

- ✦ Infrastructure systems such as water and wastewater facilities, power utilities, transportation systems, communication systems, energy pipelines and storage.

Met Ed electrical transfer substation – Jacobsburg Road near Rose Inn

- ✦ High potential loss facilities such as, dams, locations that house hazardous materials, military and / or civilian defense installations.

None

- ✦ Critical facilities such as, hospitals, medical facilities, police and fires stations, emergency operations centers, shelters, schools and airports / heliports.

Bushkill Township Police Department

Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company

St. Luke’s Wind Gap Medical Center

- ✦ Cultural / historical resources such as, museums, parks, stadiums, etc.

Jacobsburg Environmental Center (PA State Park DCNR)

Capability Assessment

Capability	✓ Regulatory ✓ Tools ✓ Programs	Status			Department / Agency Responsible	Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction: -Supports -Neutral -Hinders	Change since 2018 Plan? + Positive - Negative	Has the 2018 Plan been integrated into the Regulatory Tool/Program? If so, how?	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
		In Place	Date Adopted or Updated	Under Development						
1. Planning & Regulatory	Comprehensive Plan	X	2023							Nazareth Area Multi-Municipal Comp. Plan
	Capital Improvement Plan									
	Economic Development Plan									
	Continuity of Operations Plan									
	Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance	X								Ordinance
	Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan)	X	2007 / 2017		Open Space					
	Natural Resource Protection Plan	X	2007		Open Space					Included in OS Plan
	Transportation Plan									
	Historic Preservation Plan									
	Floodplain Management Plan									
	Farmland Preservation	X	2007		Open Space					Included in OS Plan
	Evacuation Plan									
	Disaster Recovery Plan									
	Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	2018					N/A		
	Emergency Operations Plan	X	9/2020							
	Zoning Regulations	X	2012							
	Floodplain Regulations	X	2014							
	NFIP Participation									
Building Code										
Fire Code										
Other										

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability	✓ Staff ✓ Personnel ✓ Resources			Department / Agency	Change since 2018 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
	Yes	No					
2. Administrative & Technology	Planners (with land use / land development knowledge)						
	Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human caused hazards knowledge)	X		Township Engineer			
	Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors)	X		Township Engineer			
	Emergency Manager	X		Emergency Management Coordinator			
	Floodplain administrator / manager	X		Open Space			
	Land surveyors	X		Township Engineer			
	Staff familiar with the hazards of the community	X		Public Works Department			
	Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program			Open Space			
	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants	X		Township Manager			
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability		Yes	No	Department / Agency	Change since 2018 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
3. Financial Resources	Capital improvement programming	X					Mostly for roadway improvements
	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)						
	Special purposes taxes	X					Open Space Tax – 0.25%
	Gas / Electricity utility fees						
	Water / Sewer fees						
	Stormwater utility fees						
	Development impact fees						
	General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds						
	Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements	X		Police			
Other							

Capability	✓ Program ✓ Organization	Yes	No	Department / Agency	Change since 2018 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
4. Education & Outreach	Firewise Communities Certification						
	StormReady Certification						
	Natural disaster or safety-related school programs						
	Ongoing public education or information programs such as, responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, & environmental education.	X		Township			Newsletter in Spring and Fall
	Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster related issues.						
	Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	X		Bushkill Stream Conservancy			Environmental Protection
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability		Degree of Capability			Change since the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan? If so, how?	Additional Comments
		Limited	Moderate	High		
5. Self – Assessment	Planning and Regulatory		X			
	Administrative and Technical		X			
	Financial		X			
	Education and Outreach		X			

Known or Anticipated Future Development / Redevelopment

Development / Property Name	Type of Development	Number of Structures	Location	Known Hazard Zone	Description / Status
Scenic View III	Residential	14	Clearview Avenue	No	In Progress
Vistas @ Bushkill	Residential	36	Cherry Hill Road	No	In Progress
Erhardt Tract	Commercial	3	State Route 512	No	In Progress

Natural & Non-Natural Event History

Type of Event and Date(s)	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Local Damage(s) or Loss(es)
Pennsylvania COVID-19 Pandemic – 1/2020	DR-4506-PA	Emergency Protective measures to combat COVID-19 Pandemic.
Remnants of Hurricane Ida	DR-4618-PA	Assistance to eligible individuals and families affected by this disaster.

2018 Municipal Action Plan Status

	Existing Mitigation Action (from 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan)	Status					Additional Comments
		No Progress / Unknown	In Progress	Continuous	Completed	Discontinued	
1	Retrofit structures located in hazard prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Phase 1: Identify appropriate candidates for retrofitting based on cost effectiveness versus relocation. Phase 2: Where retrofitting is determined to be a viable option, work with property owners toward implementation of that action based on available funding from FEMA and local match availability.			X			
2	Purchase, or relocate structures located in hazard- prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Phase 1: Identify appropriate candidates for relocation based on cost-effectiveness versus retrofitting. Phase 2: Where relocation is determined to be a viable option, work with property owners toward implementation of that action based on available funding from FEMA and local match availability.			X			
3	Maintain compliance with and good standing in the NFIP including 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. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP- related continued compliance actions identified as Initiatives below.			X			Adopted floodplain ordinance in 2014.

2018 Municipal Action Plan Status – continued

	Existing Mitigation Action (from 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan)	Status					Additional Comments
		No Progress / Unknown	In Progress	Continuous	Completed	Discontinued	
4	Conduct and facilitate community and public education for residents and businesses to include, but not be limited to, the following to promote and effect hazard risk reduction: - Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP 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 email notification systems and 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.			X			
5	Begin and/or continue the process to adopt higher regulatory standards to manage flood risk (i.e. increased freeboard, cumulative substantial damage/improvements) and sinkhole risk (e.g. carbonate bedrock standards).				X		See #3
6	Determine if a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC) is needed, and schedule if needed.			X			
7	Have designated NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA) become a Certified Floodplain Manager through the ASFPM and/or pursue relevant continuing education training such as FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis.	X					
8	Participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) to further manage flood risk and reduce flood insurance premiums for NFIP policyholders. This shall start with the submission to FEMA-DHS of a Letter of Intent to join CRS, followed by the completion and submission of an application to the program once the community's current compliance with the NFIP is established.	X					
9	Obtain and archive elevation certificates for NFIP compliance.	X					
10	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0.			X			
11	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.			X			
12	Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.			X			

2018 Municipal Action Plan Status – continued

	Existing Mitigation Action (from 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan)	Status					Additional Comments
		No Progress / Unknown	In Progress	Continuous	Completed	Discontinued	
13	Develop and maintain capabilities to process FEMA/PEMA paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/PEMA paperwork compilation, submissions, record keeping.			X			
14	Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers).			X			

Notes:

1. Actions not carried through to the 2023 Action Plan are so noted.
2. To maintain National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance, actions related to the NFIP were carried through to the 2023 Action Plan even if identified by the municipality as completed.

2023 Mitigation Action Plan

Mitigation Action	Mitigation Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
<p>1</p> <p>Retrofit structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Phase 1: Identify appropriate candidates for retrofitting based on cost-effectiveness versus relocation. Phase 2: Where retrofitting is determined to be a viable option, work with property owners toward implementation of that action based on available funding from FEMA and local match availability.</p>	1	Structure & Infrastructure	Flood	High	High	FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs and local budget (or property owner) for cost share	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) w/ support from PEMA, FEMA	Long-term (depending on funding)	Existing
<p>2</p> <p>Purchase, or relocate structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Phase 1: Identify appropriate candidates for relocation based on cost-effectiveness versus retrofitting. Phase 2: Where relocation is determined to be a viable option, work with property owners toward implementation of that action based on available funding from FEMA and local match availability.</p>	2	Structure & Infrastructure	Flood	High	High	FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs and local budget (or property owner) for cost share	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) w/ support from PEMA, FEMA pal	Long-term (depending on funding)	Existing

2023 Mitigation Action Plan – continued

	Mitigation Action	Mitigation Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
3	Maintain compliance with and good standing in the NFIP including adoption & enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g. regulating all new & substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification & mapping, & flood insurance outreach to the community. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP- related continued compliance actions identified below.	3	Local plans & Regulations	Flood	High	High	Municipal Budget	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) w/ support from PEMA, ISO FEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing

2023 Mitigation Action Plan – continued

Mitigation Action	Mitigation Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures
<p>4 Conduct and facilitate community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses to include, but not be limited to, the following to promote and effect natural hazard risk reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP 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 email notification systems and 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. 	4	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	High	Low-Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality w/ support from Planning Partners, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	N/A

2023 Mitigation Action Plan – continued

Mitigation Action		Mitigation Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
5	Begin and/or continue the process to adopt higher regulatory standards to manage flood risk (i.e. increased freeboard, cumulative substantial damage / improvements) sinkhole risk (e.g. carbonate bedrock standards).	5	Local plans & Regulations	Flood; Subsidence / Sinkholes	High	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality (Mun. Engineer / NFIP Floodplain Adm.) w/ support from PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	New & Existing
8	Determine if a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC) is needed, and schedule if needed.	3	Local plans & Regulations	Flood	High	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator w/ support from PADEP, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	N/A
7	Have designated NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA) become a Certified Floodplain Manager through the ASFPM and/or pursue relevant continuing education training such as FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis.	6	Local plans & Regulations	Flood	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Short-term (depending on funding)	N/A
8	Participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) to further manage flood risk and reduce flood insurance premiums for NFIP policyholders. This shall start with the submission to FEMA-DHS of a Letter of Intent to join CRS, followed by the completion and submission of an application to the program once the community's current compliance with the NFIP is established.	7	Local plans & Regulations	Flood	High	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator w/ support from PADEP, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	N/A

2023 Mitigation Action Plan – continued

Mitigation Action		Mitigation Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
9	Obtain and archive elevation certificates for NFIP compliance.	8	Local plans & Regulations	Flood	Low	Low	Municipal Budget	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Ongoing	N/A
10	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0.	9	All Categories	All Hazards	High	Low – High (for 5-year update)	Municipal Budget, possibly FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding for 5-year update	Municipality (via mitigation planning point of contacts) w/ support from Planning Partners (through their Points of Contact), PEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing
11	Complete the ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans.	10	Local plans & Regulations	All Hazards	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality w/ support from PEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing
12	Create/enhance/maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations.	11	All Categories	All Hazards	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Municipality w/ support from surrounding municipalities and County	Ongoing	New & Existing
13	Develop & maintain capabilities to process FEMA/PEMA paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post disaster capabilities – Damage assessment; FEMA/PEMA paperwork compilation, submissions, record keeping.	12	Structure & Infrastructure	All Hazards	Low	Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality w/ support from County, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	N/A

2023 Mitigation Action Plan – continued

Mitigation Action	Mitigation Action Category	Mitigation Technique Category	Hazard(s) Addressed	Priority (H / M / L)	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding	Lead Agency / Department	Implementation Schedule	Applies to New and / or Existing Structures
14 Work with regional agencies (i.e. County and PEMA) to help develop damage assessment capabilities at the local level through such things as training programs, certification of qualified individuals (e.g. code officials, floodplain managers, engineers).	13	Structure & Infrastructure	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Municipal Budget, FEMA HMA grant programs	Municipality w/ support from County, PEMA	Short-, long-term (depending on funding)	N/A

Notes:

Estimated Costs:

- Where actual project costs have been reasonable estimated: Low = < \$10,000; Medium = \$10,000 to \$100,000; High = > \$100,000; -
- Where actual project costs cannot reasonably be established at this time:
 - Low** = Possible to fund under existing budget. Project is part of, or can be part of an existing on-going program.
 - Medium** = Could budget for under existing work plan, but would require a reapportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.
 - High** = Would require an increase in revenue via an alternative source (i.e., bonds, grants, fee increases) to implement. Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project.

Potential Funding (FEMA HMA):

- **BRIC** = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- **FMA** = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- **HMGP** = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- **HSGP** = Homeland Security Grant Program
- **EMPG** = Emergency Management Performance Grant

Implementation Schedule:

- **Short Term** = 1 to 5 years
- **Long Term** = 5 years or greater
- **DOF** = Depending on Funding

Applies to New and/or Existing Structures:

- **N/A** = Not Applicable