

North Catasauqua Borough, Northampton County Annex

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points-of-Contact

Primary:

Roger W. Scheirer
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Alternate:

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Municipal Profile

North Catasauqua Borough is located in the western part of Northampton County. It encompasses an area of approximately 0.8 square miles and has a population of 2,971 (2020 Census). The borough borders Northampton Borough to the north, Allen Township to the north and the east, Catasauqua Borough (Lehigh County) to the south, and Whitehall Township (Lehigh County) to the west.

The Lehigh River forms the borough's western border with Whitehall Township (Lehigh County), and the Catasauqua Creek forms its eastern border with Allen Township, as it passes through the Willow Brook Golf Course.

There are no state highways in North Catasauqua. Howertown Road travels north south through the center of the borough. 4th Street enters the western part of the borough from the south, and travels northwest to Main Street, which travels north south into Northampton Borough. Lehigh Street crosses the Lehigh River east-west at approximately the middle of the borough. Grove Street is another notable east-west road in the borough.

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.

Roger W. Scheirer, Deputy EMC
Role: Attend meetings, provide info, etc.

Gregory P. Scheirer, Local EMC
Role: Attend meetings, provide info, etc.

Bill Molchany, Mayor
Role: Support

Travis Brett, Public Works
Role: Support

Peter Paone, Council President
Role: Support

Shawn Saylor, Public Works
Role: Support

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.

None at this time.

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: Social media, Borough newsletter

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	Floodplain management is enforced through the permitting process with the Zoning Ordinance: Article 3, Section 303, 5.2 Floodplain Conservation Area. The Floodplain Conservation Area is an overlay district.
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	Community FPA	Funding
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)?		N/A
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?		No
3. Regulation		
When did the community enter the NFIP?	NFIP Community Status Book	5/3/1974
Are the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) digital or paper? How are residents assisted with mapping?	Community FPA	Paper FIRMS/Zoning Officer provides zoning assessment service through the borough for determination of floodplain prone properties
Do floodplain regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?	Community FPA	Meets, Borough is required by state to adopt floodplain regulations that comply with FEMA regulations
Describe the permitting process	Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP	Zoning Officer makes determination if a property is in a Floodplain Conservation Area. This may involve further review involving the Borough Engineer and final approvals.

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

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 – 1 policies & \$794 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 – 1 claims & \$0 paid to claims
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	Community FPA or GIS Analyst	0
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage	Community FPA or FEMA Insurance Specialist	N/A
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.

Senior mid-rise apartments

- ✦ Types of visiting populations where large numbers of people are concentrated such as visitors for special events and students.

D & L Trail

William J. Albert Memorial Park

2. Economy

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

None at this time.

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.

Canal that runs along the Borough, east of Lehigh River

Farmland and Catasauqua Creek that runs east of the Borough.

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.

100 homes built under one of Lehigh Valley International Airports (LVIA) flight paths.

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

Sewer system pump station

Community Assets – *continued*

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

None at this time.

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

The borough office building which includes the police station, fire station, emergency management office and borough office.

Borough complex includes all public works equipment and materials.

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

William Albert Park

Capability Assessment

Capability	✓ Regulatory ✓ Tools ✓ Programs	Status			Department / Agency Responsible	Effect on Hazard Loss Reduction: -Supports -Neutral -Hinders	Change since 2024 Plan? + Positive - Negative	Has the 2024 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						
	Capital Improvement Plan									
	Economic Development Plan									
	Continuity of Operations Plan	X	9/2014		Emergency Management					
	Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance	X	11/2017		Public Works					
	Open Space Management Plan (or Parks/Rec., Greenways Plan)									
	Natural Resource Protection Plan									
	Transportation Plan									
	Historic Preservation Plan									
	Floodplain Management Plan									
	Farmland Preservation									
	Evacuation Plan	X	9/2014		Emergency Management					
	Disaster Recovery Plan	X	9/2014		Emergency Management					
	Hazard Mitigation Plan	X	2024		Emergency Management			N/A		
	Emergency Operations Plan	X	2/2023		Emergency Management					
	Zoning Regulations	X			Zoning Board					
	Floodplain Regulations									
	NFIP Participation									
	Building Code	X			Private Company					
	Fire Code	X			Fire Marshall					
	Other									

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability	✓ Staff ✓ Personnel ✓ Resources			Department / Agency	Change since 2024 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)	X		Planning Commission			
	Planners or engineers (with natural and / or human caused hazards knowledge)	X		Planning Commission			
	Engineers or professionals trained in building and / or infrastructure construction practices (including building inspectors)	X		Private Company			
	Emergency Manager	X		Emergency Management			
	Floodplain administrator / manager	X		Keystone Engineering			
	Land surveyors						
	Staff familiar with the hazards of the community	X		Emergency Management, Public Works			
	Personnel skilled in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and / or FEMA's HAZUS program	X		Keystone Engineering			
	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large / complex grants						
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability		Yes	No	Department / Agency	Change since 2024 Plan? + Positive - Negative	How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?	Additional Comments
3. Financial Resources	Capital improvement programming	X		Public Works	No	See note on Worksheet 9, Part 2	
	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	X		Borough	No		
	Special purposes taxes				No		
	Gas / Electricity utility fees				No		
	Water / Sewer fees	X		Borough	No		
	Stormwater utility fees				No		
	Development impact fees				No		
	General obligation, revenue, and / or special tax bonds				No		
	Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements				No		
	Other						

Capability	✓ Program ✓ Organization	Yes	No	Department / Agency	Change since 2024 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, and environmental education.	X		Fire, Police, & Emergency Management			
	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.						
	Other						

Capability Assessment – continued

Capability		Degree of Capability			Change since the 2024 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
Willowbrook Housing	Residential	154	1300 Howertown Road	No	Ongoing – 100 built/54 in progress (10/2023)

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			

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			
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.

2024 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
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.	1	Structure & Infrastructure	Flood, Windstorm/ Tornado, Winter Storm, Earthquake	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
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.	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	Long-term (depending on funding)	Existing

2024 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, Windstorm/ Tornado, Winter Storm	High	Low-Medium	Municipal Budget	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) w/ support from PEMA, ISO FEMA	Ongoing	New & Existing

2024 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
4	<p>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

2024 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
6	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

2024 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	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	Low	Medium	Local budget, FEMA HMA Grant programs	Municipality w/ support from County, PEMA, FEMA	Short-term	N/A

2024 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	Education & Awareness	All Hazards	Medium	Medium	Local 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):

- **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