

# Littleton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

## Public Meeting #1

November 16, 2023  
Littleton Planning Board

Martin Pillsbury and Jenifer Wallitsch  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

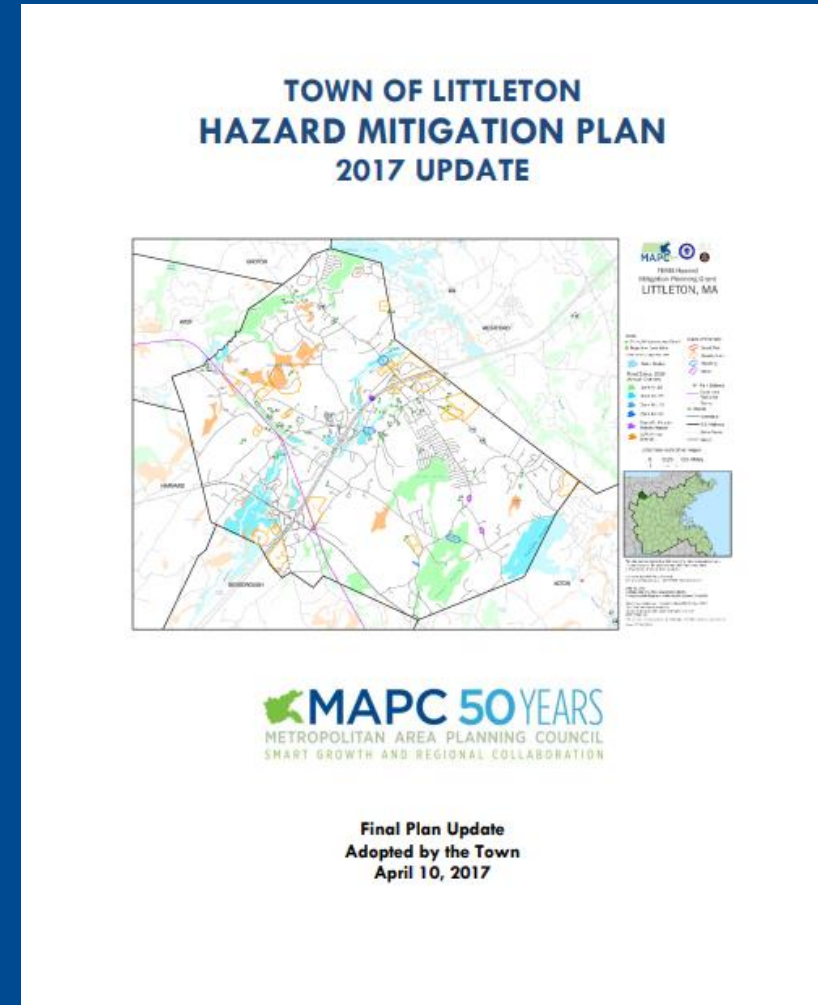


# Background: Hazard Mitigation

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# Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning

- **Disaster Mitigation Act:**  
*FEMA guidelines for local Hazard Mitigation Plans*
- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation:** plan for resilience before disaster
- **5-year plan update cycle:**  
*Update plan data and community priorities*
- **FEMA grant eligibility:**  
*Approved plan required for FEMA mitigation grants*



# Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning

*Reducing impacts of natural hazards through strategies including policy, projects, and programs.*

1. What preventative actions are being taken **now** to reduce risks and damages?
2. What **additional** actions can be taken in the future to increase resilience?

## A plan for Multiple Natural Hazards



Flooding (coastal and inland)



Wind events (thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes)



Winter hazards (blizzards, nor'easters)



Geologic hazards (earthquakes, landslides)



Wild Fires



Extreme temperatures and drought

# Breaking the Cycle of Disaster & Rebuilding



# Techniques for Hazard Mitigation

Prevention (*planning and zoning*)

Property Protection (*building elevation*)

Public Education (*public outreach*)

Protect Natural Resources (*wetlands, floodplains*)

Structural Projects (*culverts, pumps, dams*)

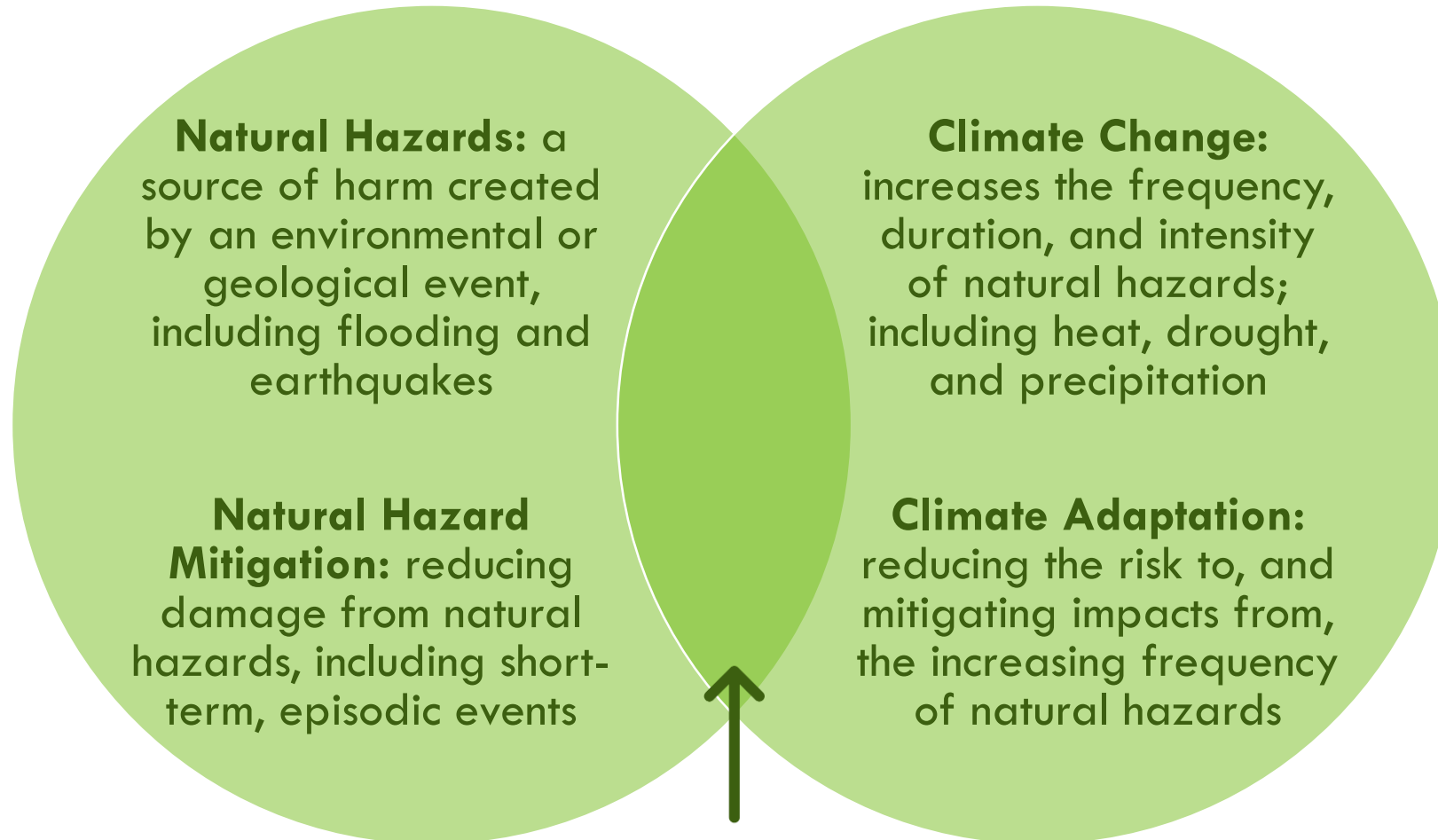
Emergency Services Protection  
(*protection of emergency facilities & infrastructure*)





# Natural Hazards and Climate Change

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Adapting to the expected impacts of climate change is a form of hazard mitigation

# The Planning Process

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# Plan Development Process



# Process Guided by the Local Hazard Mitigation Team

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## Local Team Role:

- Participate in four meetings
- Establish and endorse project goals
- Provide updated data and local expertise
- Finalize mitigation actions for the final plan

## Representatives from:

- Town Administrator
- Planning Administrator
- Fire Department
- Elder and Human Services
- Police Department
- Conservation Department
- Public Works Department
- Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments

# What We've Heard

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# What We've Heard: Examples of Critical Facilities & Infrastructure

## Municipal Facilities

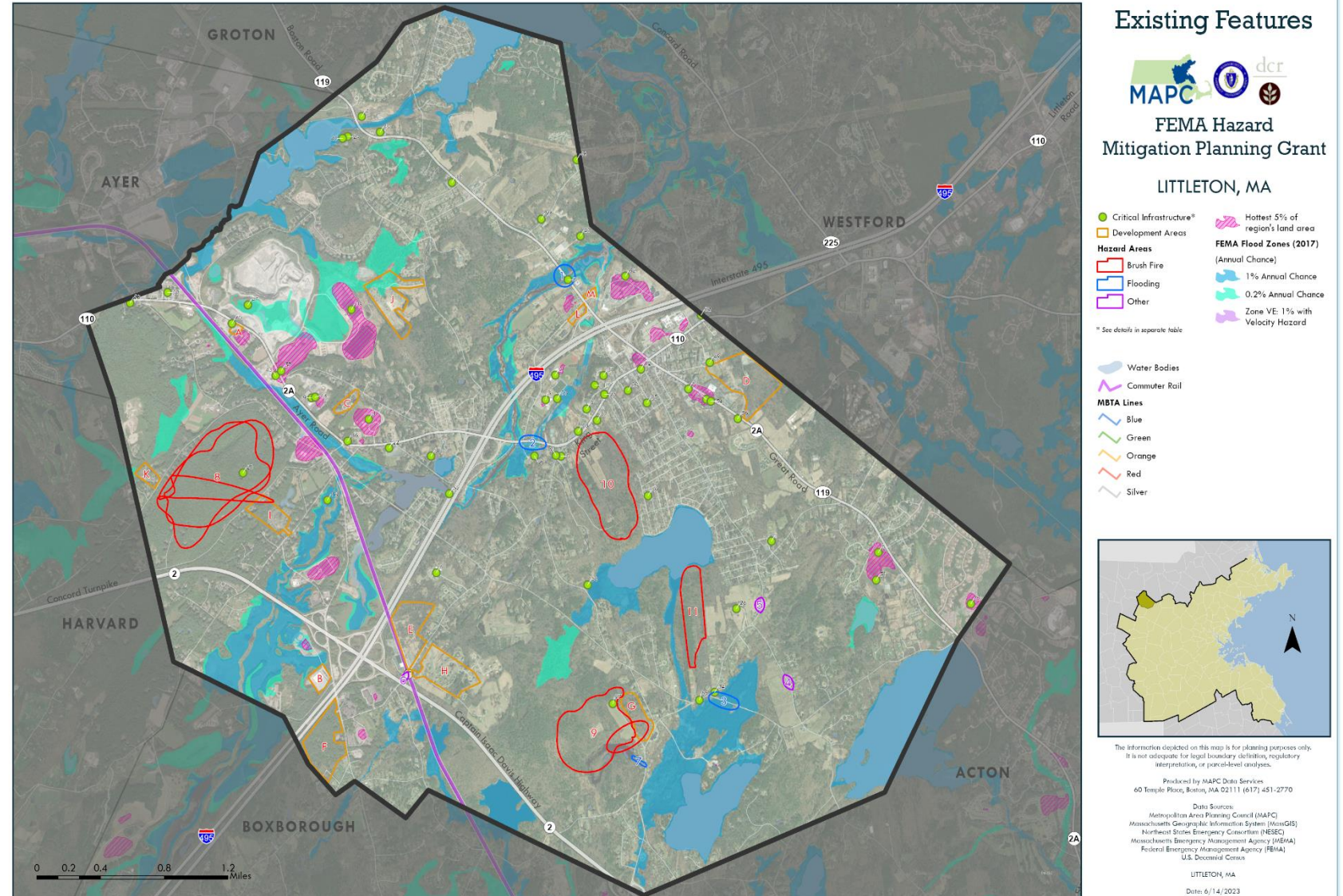
- Town Hall
- Fire Station
- Police Station

## Infrastructure

- Pump Stations
- Town Wells
- Water Towers
- Mill Pond Dam

## Community Facilities

- Littleton Schools
- Shattuck St Housing
- Life Care Center
- Acton Medical Associates





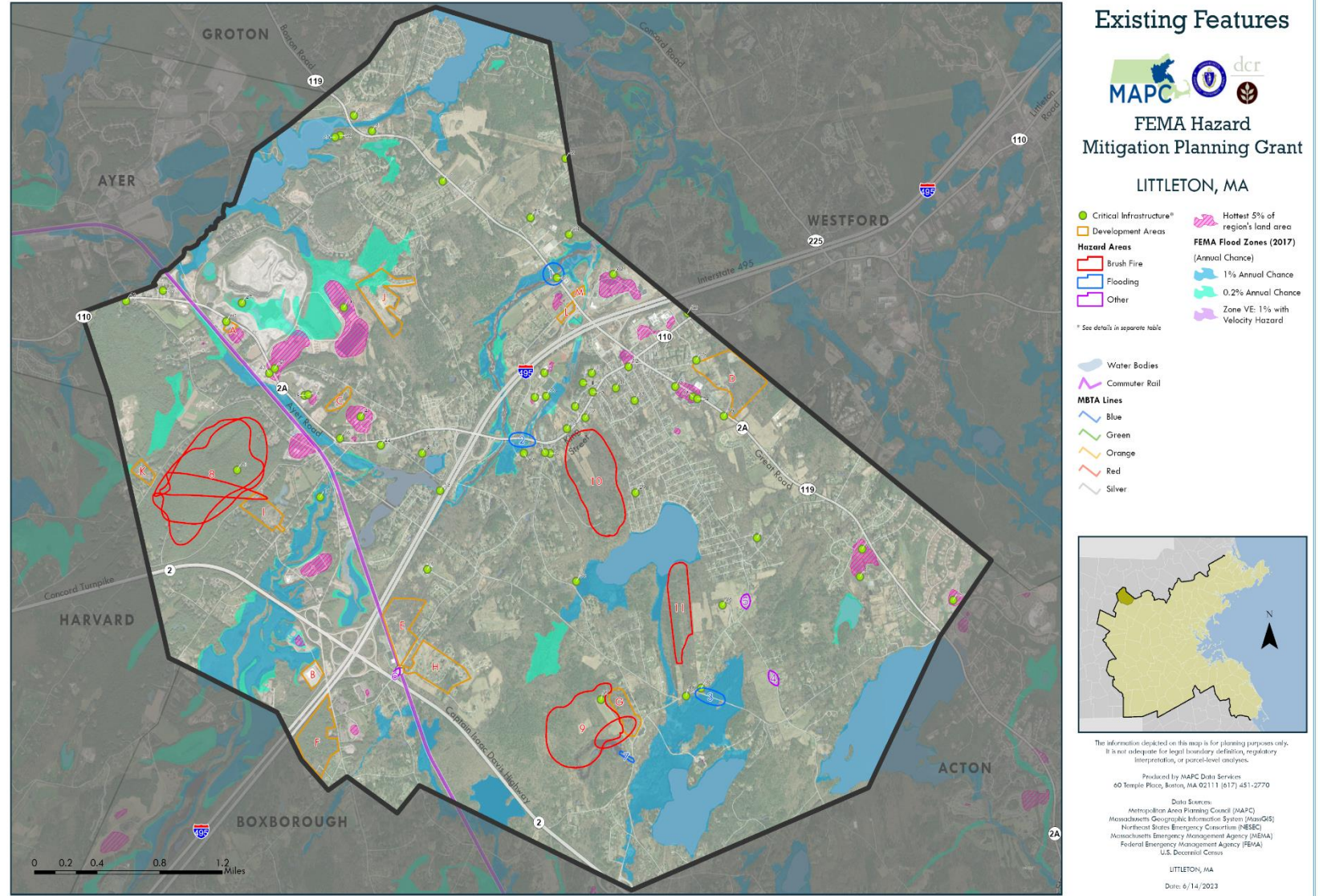
# What We've Heard: Examples of Local Hazard Areas

## Flooding areas:

- King Street
- Nashoba Road
- Beaver Brook/Great Road
- Gilson Road

## Other Hazards:

- **Snow** hazards at Nagog Hill Road and Newtown Road
- **Brushfire** hazard at Oak Hill, Morgan Property/Forest Foundation, Frost and Whitcomb Conservation Area, Smith Conversation Land and Cobb/Yapp Conversation Land



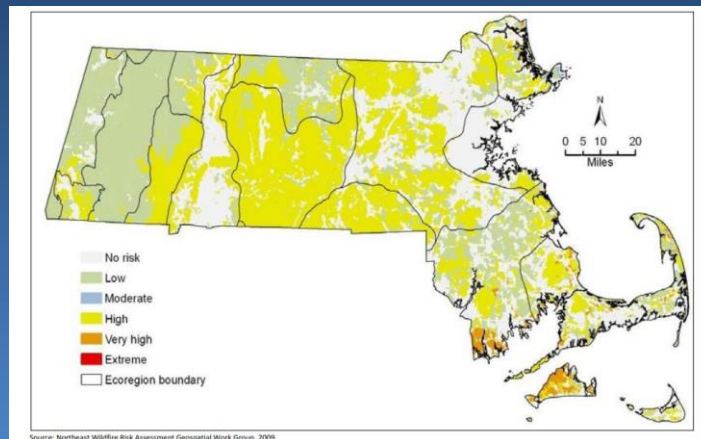


# Other Natural Hazards

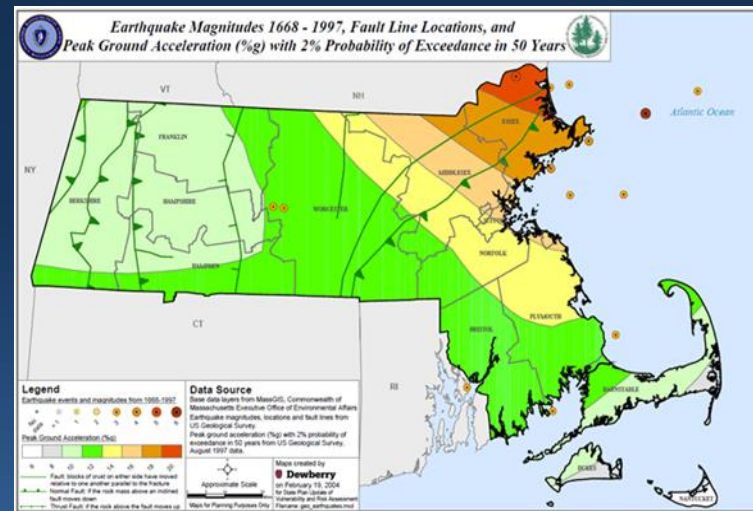
## Extreme Heat

		Temperature (°F)															
Relative Humidity (%)		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
	40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
	45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
	50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
	55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
	60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
	65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
	70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
	75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
	80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
	85	85	90	96	102	110	117	125	135								
	90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
	95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
	100	87	95	103	112	121	132										
Category		Heat Index		Health Hazards													
Extreme Danger		130 °F – Higher		Heat Stroke or Sunstroke is likely with continued exposure.													
Danger		105 °F – 129 °F		Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.													
Extreme Caution		90 °F – 105 °F		Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustions possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.													
Caution		80 °F – 90 °F		Fatigue possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.													

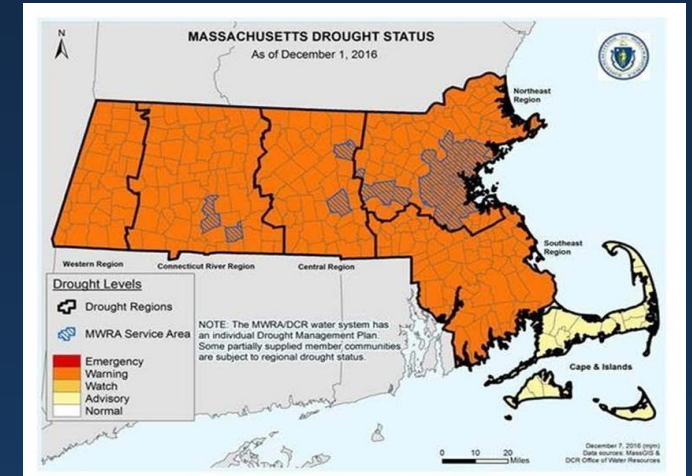
## Wildfires



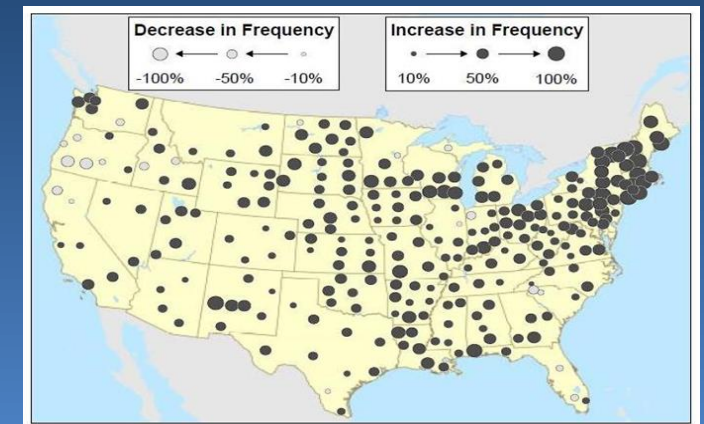
## Earthquakes



## Drought



## Extreme Precipitation



# Wind & Winter Hazards: Nor'easters/Blizzards

Storm Event	Date
Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	March 2018
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, Flooding	January 2015
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, Flooding	February 2013
Hurricane Sandy	October/November 2012





# What We've Heard: Examples of Existing Mitigation Measures

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## Multiple Hazard Mitigation:

Local Emergency Management Comm. (LEPC)  
Comp. Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

## Flood Mitigation:

- Annual Catch Basin Cleaning
- Drainage Maintenance
- Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Water Resources Protection
- Wetlands Protection
- Open Space Residential Design (OSRD)
- Community Preservation
- Site Plan Review

## Brush Fire Mitigation:

- Permits required for outdoor burning
- Fire department review of subdivision plans for fire safety

## Winter Hazard Mitigation:

- DPW conducts standard snow operations.

## Wind and Winter Mitigation:

- Trees trimmed for resilience to wind and ice and snow hazards (Town contractor and National Grid)
- MA State Building Code

# Next Steps

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# Next Steps for Developing the Plan

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1. 3rd Local Team Meeting – Status of Mitigation (January)
2. 4<sup>th</sup> Local Team Meeting – Finalize Mitigation Strategy (April)
3. 2nd Public Meeting – Present Draft Plan, public comments (May)
4. Finalize Plan – submit it to MEMA & FEMA (May)
5. Town Adoption of Final Plan (August)

***After FEMA approval of the plan, Littleton will be eligible for FEMA grants for hazard mitigation projects***

**We want to hear from you: please take our *brief* survey!**

***We are interested in:***

- 1. What hazards you are most concerned about***
- 2. How hazards have impacted you***
- 3. What mitigation you would like to see the Town consider***

<https://mapc.ma/LittletonSurveyaaaaa>

**Please visit [mapc.ma/LittletonSurvey](https://mapc.ma/LittletonSurvey)**

**Or scan this QR code:**



# Thank You!

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Questions and Comments may be sent to:

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[Mtoohill@littletonma.org](mailto:Mtoohill@littletonma.org)

**or**

Martin Pillsbury and Jenifer Wallitsch  
MAPC  
[LittletonResilience@mapc.org](mailto:LittletonResilience@mapc.org)

**Survey: [mapc.ma/LittletonSurvey](https://mapc.ma/LittletonSurvey)**