

# Littleton Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024 Update

**Public Meeting #2**

**May 28, 2024**  
**Littleton Select Board**

**Martin Pillsbury and Jenifer Wallitsch**  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

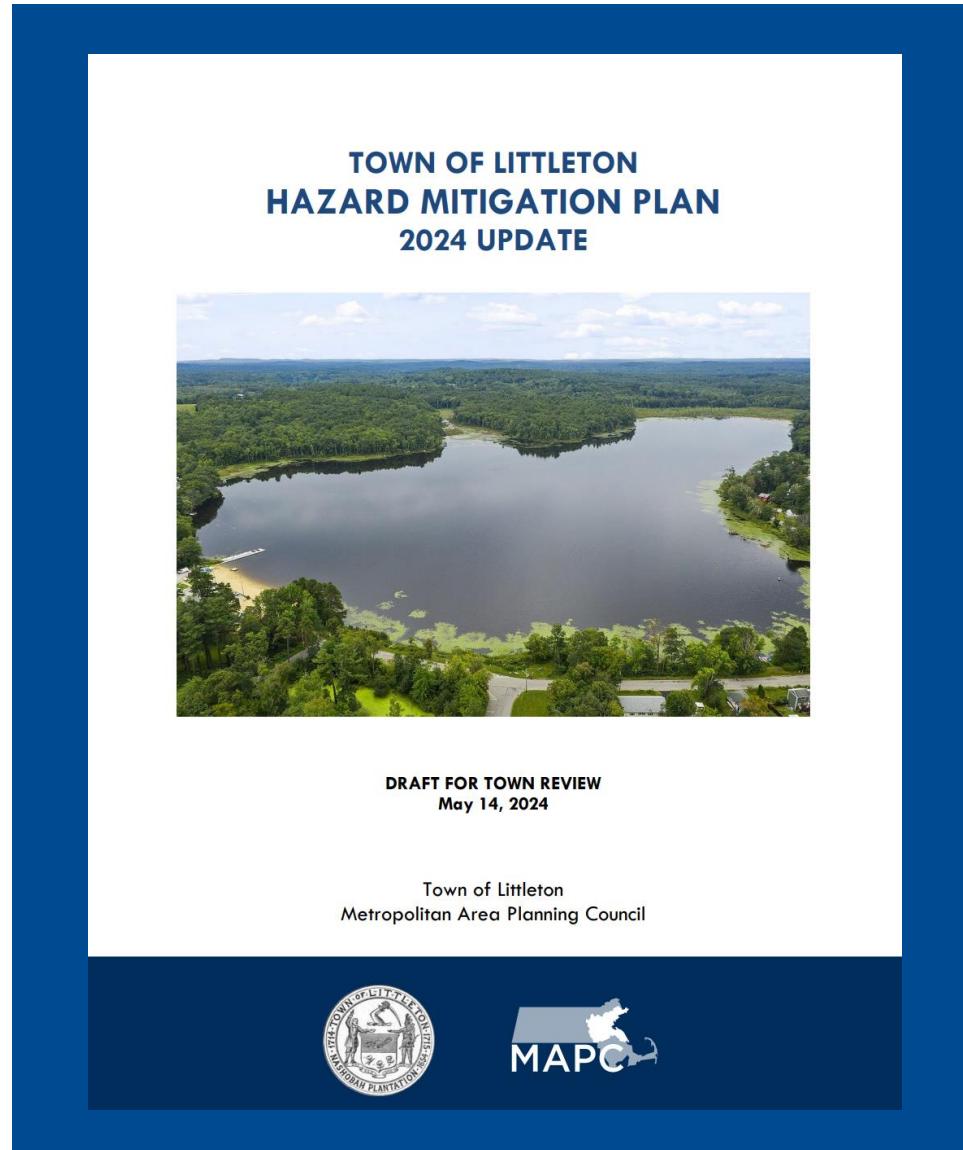


# Background: Hazard Mitigation

---

# Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning

- **Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000**  
*FEMA national guidelines for local Hazard Mitigation Plans*
- **5-year plan update cycle:**  
*Update plan data and community priorities for mitigation actions*
- **FEMA grant eligibility:**  
*Approved plan required for eligibility for FEMA mitigation project grants (BRIC)*



# 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*)

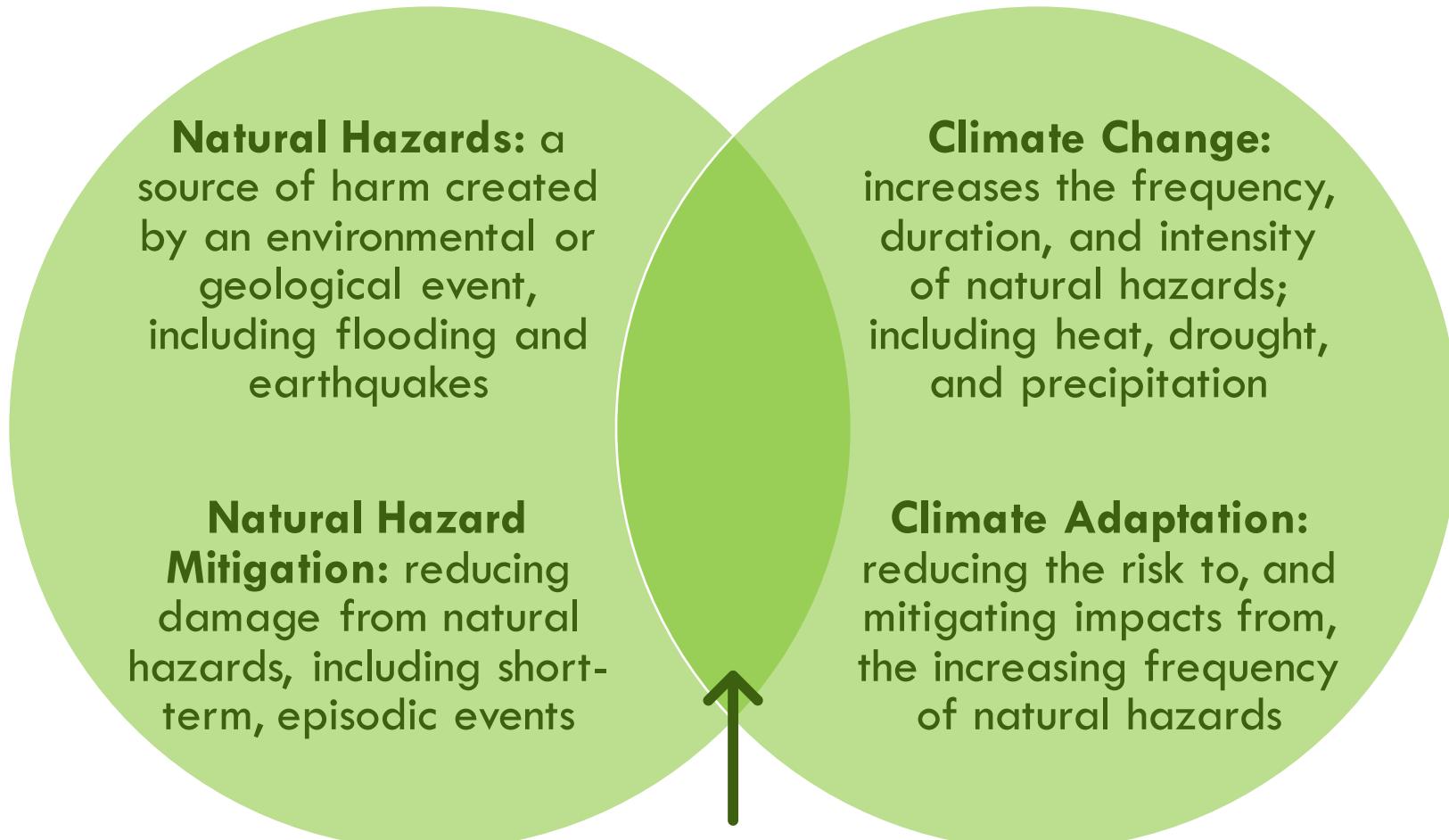
**Protect Natural Resources** (*wetlands, floodplains*)

**Structural Projects** (*culverts, pumps, dams*)

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

# Natural Hazards and Climate Change

---



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

# The Planning Process

---

# Process Guided by the Local Hazard Mitigation Team

---

## 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



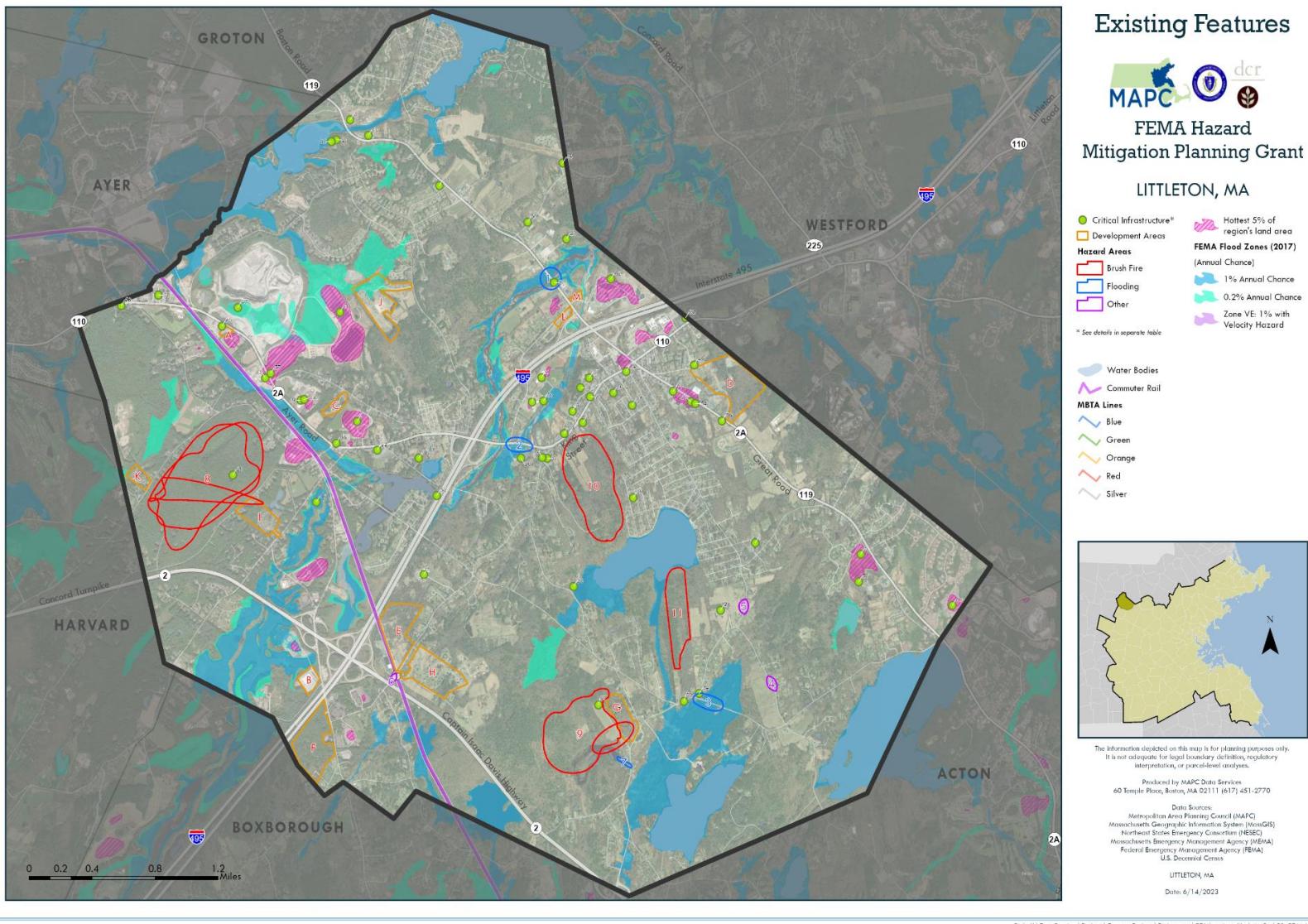
# Plan Development Process



# Highlight of the Plan

---

# 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

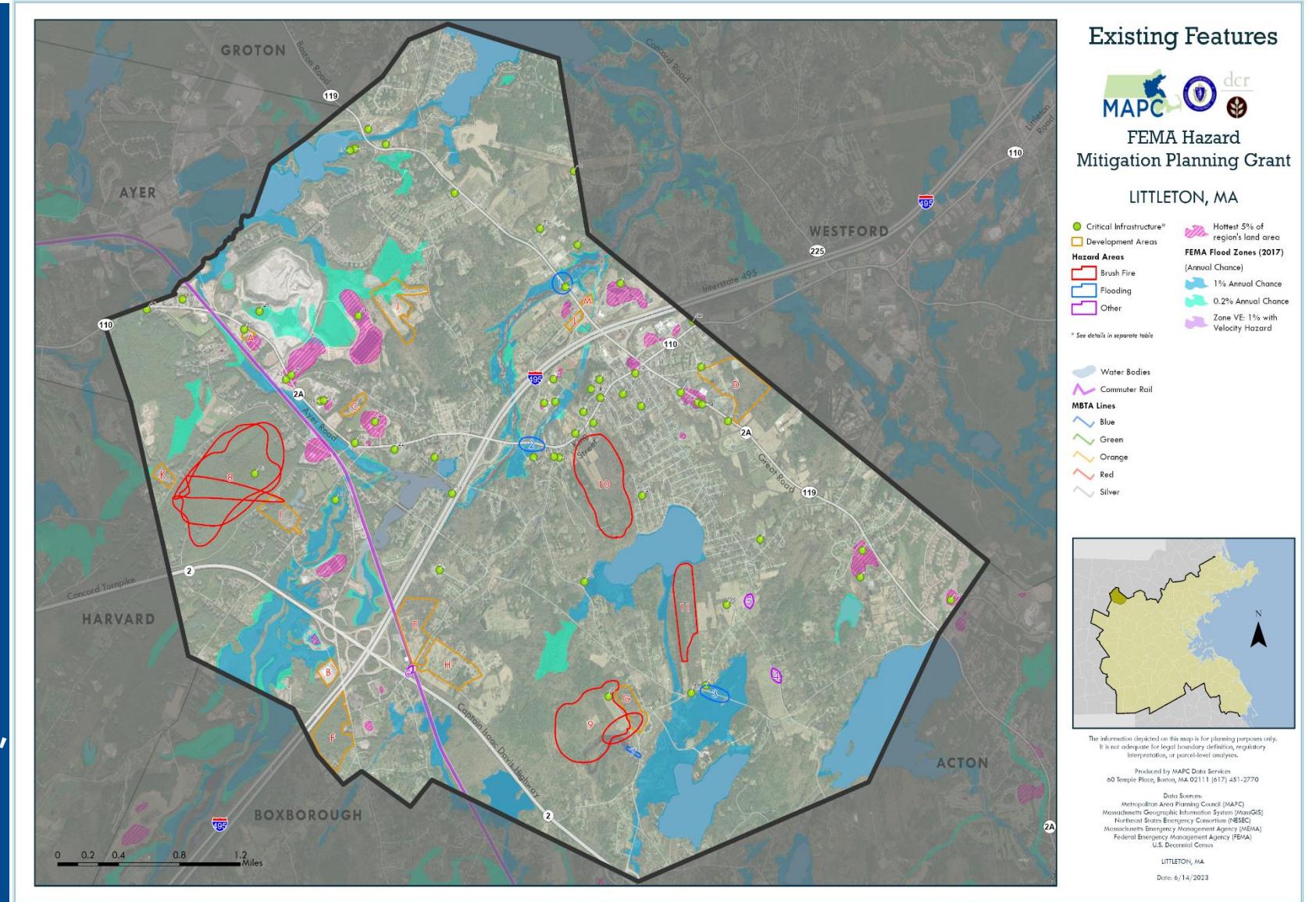
# Examples of Local Hazard Areas

## Flooding areas:

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

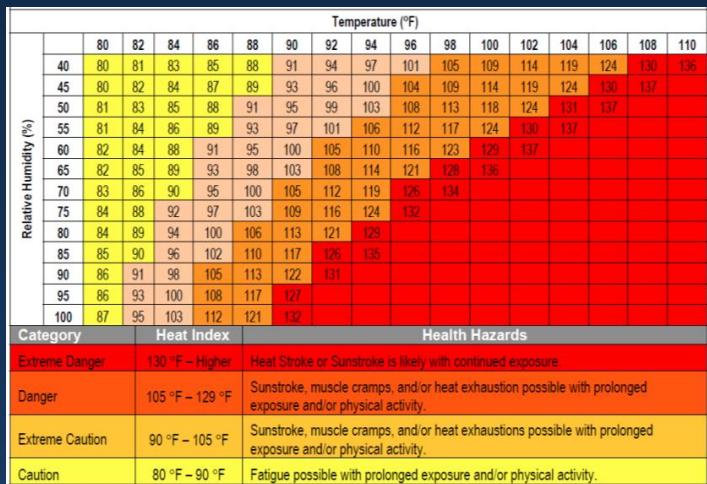
## Other Hazards:

- **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

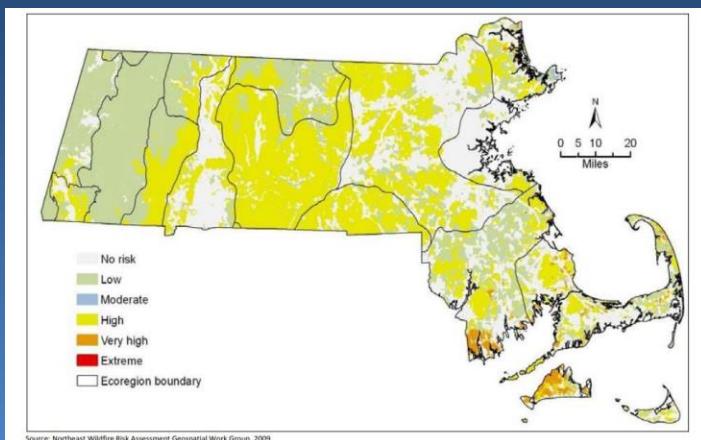


# Other Natural Hazards

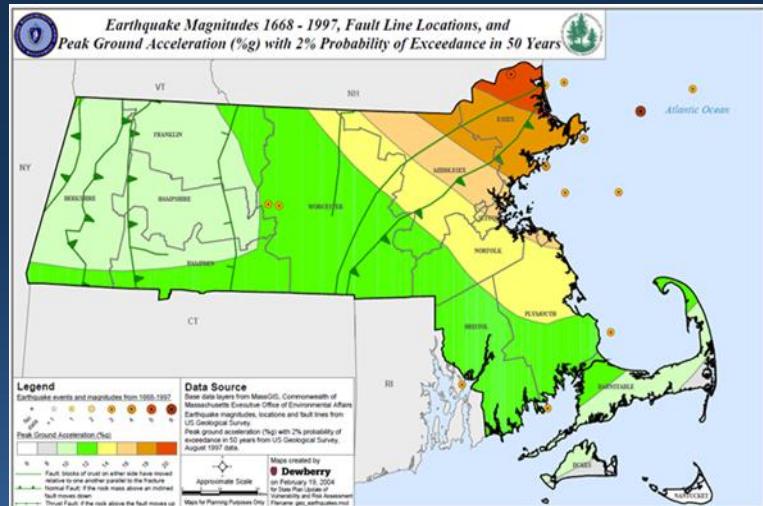
## Extreme Heat



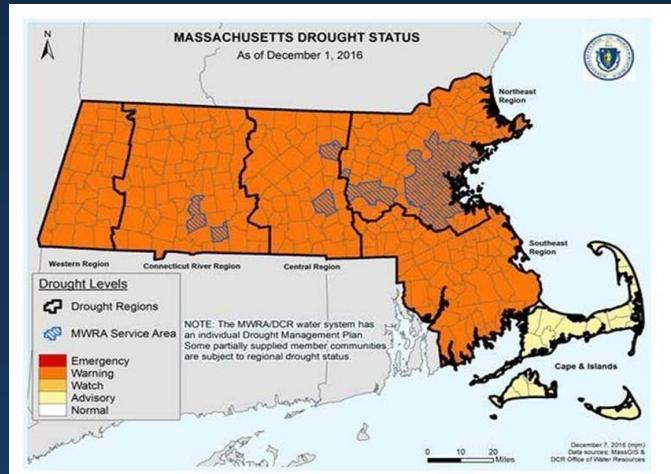
## Wildfires



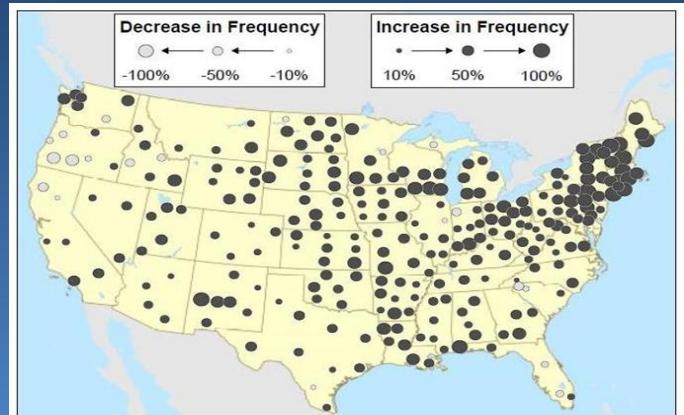
## Earthquakes



## Drought



## Extreme Precipitation



# Examples of Littleton's Existing Mitigation Measures

## 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

# Mitigation Strategy for 2024-29

---

Mitigation Measure	Priority
<b>FLOOD HAZARDS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create criteria for future open space parcels such as flood mitigation for purchase of parcels and interconnected and diverse open space land</li> </ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Open Space Residential Development bylaw, adopt cluster-by-right</li> </ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concentrate development in existing areas of development</li> </ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beaver control measures--Create a beaver mitigation plan</li> </ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review options for extending wetlands buffer zones</li> </ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct hydraulic analysis of flooding issues in the Mill Pond Area</li> </ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify more rain gardens and water retention basins on steep slopes</li> </ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make public aware of watershed sub-basins with signage at water divides</li> </ul>	Medium

## **WIND/EXTREME WEATHER**

• Install wind resistant windows in public buildings	Medium
--	--------

## **WILDFIRE HAZARDS**

• Maintain fire access roads at Oak Hill, Long Lake, Yapp Conservation Land, and NE Forestry Foundation Property	High
• Public Education on Brush Fire Prevention	High

## **WINTER HAZARDS**

• Assessing snow loads on flat building roofs.	Medium
--	--------

## **GEOLOGIC HAZARDS**

• Conduct feasibility study on how to make town facilities earthquake resistant	Medium
---	--------

## EXTREME TEMPERATURE HAZARDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The town will continue to add green roofs and solar canopies to future municipal properties.</li></ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update site plan requirements to eliminate heat islands in parking lots and to increase shade.</li></ul>	High

## DROUGHT HAZARDS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Include drought tolerant landscaping in site plan review, including a look at drought resistant grass seed</li></ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue and enhance the Boxboro and Littleton water conservation project region wide</li></ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Include rain barrels and drought resistant grass seeds in future projects</li></ul>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Public Education on reducing water consumption specifically regarding large area water consuming lawns</li></ul>	Medium

## **CLIMATE RESILIENCE/ADAPTATION**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to make climate considerations and sustainability a priority in the budgeting and capital investment plans</li></ul>	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore producing a climate action plan/municipal sustainable action plan using the sustainability committee</li></ul>	High

## **INVASIVE SPECIES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategically reduce invasive plants (e.g. garlic mustard pull) and combine with town-wide week-long clean-up effort as is done successfully in abutting towns</li></ul>	High
--	------

# Public Review of the Draft Plan

**Available for public review & comment:**

[www.mapc.org/resource-library/hull-hmp/](http://www.mapc.org/resource-library/hull-hmp/)

**Please send comments & questions to:**

[LittletonResilience@mapc.org](mailto:LittletonResilience@mapc.org)

**By June 18, 2024**

**TOWN OF LITTLETON  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN  
2024 UPDATE**



DRAFT FOR TOWN REVIEW  
May 14, 2024

Town of Littleton  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council



# Thank You!

---

**Maren Toohill, Town Planner**

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

**Martin Pillsbury and Jenifer Wallitsch**

**MAPC**

[LittletonResilience@mapc.org](mailto:LittletonResilience@mapc.org)

---

**Download Plan: [www.mapc.org/resource-library/hull-hmp/](http://www.mapc.org/resource-library/hull-hmp/)**

**Send comments: [LittletonResilience@mapc.org](mailto:LittletonResilience@mapc.org)**