9.33 Village of The Branch

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Village of The Branch. It includes resources and information to assist public and private sectors to reduce losses from future hazard events. This annex is not guidance of what to do when a disaster occurs. Rather, this annex concentrates on actions that can be implemented prior to a disaster to reduce or eliminate damage to property and people. This annex includes a general overview of the municipality and who in the village participated in the planning process; an assessment of the Village of The Branch's risk and vulnerability; the different capabilities utilized in the village; and an action plan that will be implemented to achieve a more resilient community.

9.33.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

The following individuals have been identified as the Village of The Branch's hazard mitigation plan primary and alternate points of contact.

Table 9.33-1. Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Name/Title: Mark Delaney, Mayor Address: 40 Route 111 (PO Box 725, Smithtown NY) Phone Number: 632-786-5568, 631-265-3315 (village number) Email: markvob@optonline.net	Name/Title: John Carro, Deputy Mayor Address: 40 Route 111 (PO Box 725, Smithtown NY) Phone Number: 516-650-0141 Email: johnvob@optonline.net
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	
Name/Title: Joe Arico, Building Inspector Address: 40 Route 111 (PO Box 725, Smithtown NY) Phone Number: 631-921-2419 Email: joevob@optonline.net	

9.33.2 Municipal Profile

The Village of the Branch was formerly incorporated in 1927. Previously it was part of the Town of Smithtown.

There is a legend that Richard Smythe, one of the first settlers in the mid 1600's, bought the Smithtown area from the Nesquake Indians who told him that he could own as much land that he could cover riding a bull in one day. He waited for the longest day of the year, rose at sunrise and covered an area that is approximately 27 square miles today. However, there is evidence that Smithtown was acquired by Lion Gardiner, an Englishman, who was a good friend of Chief Wyandanch, a Montauk Indian Heather Flower, Wyandanch's daughter, was kidnapped on her wedding day. Gardiner earned the Nesquake land as part of negotiations with Chief Wyandanch in the release of Heather Flower. Gardiner then handed the land over to Richard Smythe.

There were more than 700 residents in the Town of Smithtown in the 1700's. History tells us that they suffered severely during the American Revolution spreading debt and hardship. During the 19th century, the commercial center became known and the Village of the Branch where the first school was constructed.

The Village of the Branch was incorporated in 1927 with a population of 131 in an area of approximately one square mile comprised of large estates, open fields and cultivated areas. Today the village has almost no vacant land and is comprised of shopping centers, office buildings, residential subdivisions and historical sites. The population exceeds 1,895 people.

The issue that sparked the movement to incorporate was the desire to establish a municipal water plant. A group against this plan decided to leave the jurisdiction of the Township of Smithtown by incorporating. They would

thus gain control over such matters as zoning, planning, and services such as water, highway maintenance, police and fire protection.

The proposition for the incorporation of the Village of The Brach, dated February 5th, 1927, was circulated. The proposition stated that the requirements for incorporation had been met, the territory did not exceed one square mile, it was situated entirely within the Town of Smithtown, it did not include any part of any other village, there was a populations of at least 50 but not more than 200 people. The petition was followed by consent to the proposed incorporations signed by owners of at least one-half of the real property value. On this document were such Smithtownites as Miller, Goetchius, Blydenburgh, Huntting, Walker, Lawrence, Hewlett, Nicodemus, Arthur, Arnold, Turrell, White, and, of course, Smith. A public hearing on the subject was held on March 29, 1927, all of the 16 ballots were cast:11 yes votes and 5 no votes.

Opposition to the incorporation took many forms. Some felt that it was only a threat to prevent the municipal water plant from being pursued while others felt it was the secret ambition of the gentry who wished the incorporation to ally themselves with the already incorporated Village of Nissequogue. Others felt that incorporating villages would mark the end of the town. In 1927 proceedings were started to form incorporations of the Village of The Landing, which fell on hard times and was dissolved a few years later. After a court challenge to the incorporation process, the Village of The Branch became an incorporated village. Until this day, the village continues to work with the Town of Smithtown officials for the benefit of the residents.

The Village of The Branch is located within the Town of Smithtown, surrounded by the Hamlet of Smithtown. The Northeast Branch of the Nissequogue runs through the one square mile Village. The Town of Smithtown is on the North Shore of Long Island east of the Town of Huntington and west of the Town of Brookhaven. See brief history, below for more information.

The Village of The Branch enjoys a moderate climate with average low temperatures in the 30's degrees Fahrenheit (ºF) and average high temperatures in the mid 70's (ºF). The humidity ranges between 55 and 80% throughout the year. Over the long term, regional precipitation amounts average between 3.0 to 4.5 inches per month, receiving the highest amount of precipitation in March. However, the Village has been subject to higher accumulations of rainfall in twelve (12) of the last thirty-two (32) years. For example, in 2003, over 87 inches (7.25"/month) of rain fell, and recent weather history has shown that the Village may be subject to greater impact form precipitation events than regional analysis indicates.

In the 1920's the unpaid Mayor and two Trustees administered the needs of the village holding only four meetings a year. Today the village has a budget of $700,000, elects a Mayor, four Trustees and two Justices. An election is held every two years on the 3rd Tuesday of March. Monthly meetings address all village business. This body will assume the responsibility for the implementation and adoption of this plan.

According to the U.S. Census, the 2010 population for the Village of The Branch was 1,807. The estimated 2017 population was 1,770, a 2.0 percent decrease from the 2010 Census. Data from the 2017 U.S. Census American Community Survey indicate that 3.0 percent of the population is 5 years of age or younger and 17.9 percent is 65 years of age or older. Communities must deploy a support system that enables all populations to safely reach shelters or to quickly evacuate a hazard area.

9.33.3 Growth/Development Trends

Understanding how past, current, and projected development patterns have or are likely to increase or decrease risk in hazard areas is a key component to understanding a jurisdiction's overall risk to its hazards of concern. Table 9.33-2 summarizes recent and expected future development trends, including major residential/commercial development and major infrastructure development. The figures at the end of this annex

illustrate the geographically-delineated hazard areas and the location of potential new development, where available. The recent and anticipated development depicted on these figures excludes the Suffolk County wastewater upgrades; refer to Section 4 (County Profile) for additional information on this development.

Table 9.33-2. Recent and Expected Future Development

Type of Development	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
Number of Building Permits for New Construction Issued Since the Previous HMP* (within regulatory floodplain/ Outside regulatory floodplain)												
	Total	**Within SFHA**	**Total**	**Within SFHA**	**Total**	**Within SFHA**	**Total**	**Within SFHA**	**Total**	**Within SFHA**	**Total**	**Within SFHA**
Single Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Permits Issued	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zone(s)*	Description / Status of Development
Recent Major Development and Infrastructure from 2015 to Present					
None identified					
Known or Anticipated Major Development and Infrastructure in the Next Five (5) Years					
None anticipated					

SFHA Special Flood Hazard Area (1% flood event)

** Only location-specific hazard zones or vulnerabilities identified.*

9.33.4 Capability Assessment

The Village of The Branch performed an inventory and analysis of existing capabilities, plans, programs, and policies that enhance its ability to implement mitigation strategies. Section 5 (Capability Assessment) describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning. This section summarizes the following findings of the assessment:

- An assessment of legal and regulatory capabilities.
- Development and permitting capabilities.
- An assessment of fiscal capabilities.
- An assessment of education and outreach capabilities.
- Information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance.
- Classification under various community mitigation programs.
- The community's adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change.

For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into the day-to-day local government operations. As part of this planning effort, planning/policy documents were reviewed, and each jurisdiction was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of their progress in plan integration. Areas with current mitigation integration are summarized in Capability Assessment (Section 9.33.4). The Village of The Branch identified specific integration activities that will be incorporated into municipal procedures are included

in the updated mitigation strategy. Appendix G provides the results of the planning/policy document review and the answers to integration survey questions.

Planning, Legal, and Regulatory Capability

The table below summarizes the regulatory tools that are available to the Village of The Branch and where hazard mitigation has been integrated.

Table 9.33-3. Planning, Legal, and Regulatory Capability

	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Code Citation and Date (code chapter, name of plan, date of plan)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Department / Agency Responsible	State Mandated	Has this been integrated?	
						If no - can it be a mitigation action?	
Codes, Ordinances, & Requirements							
Building Code	Yes	Building and Zoning Administration, Code of the Village of The Branch, paragraph 31-25 (1987); Building Construction, Chapter 32; Fire Prevention, Chapter 43	Local	Building Department; Fire Inspector	Yes	Yes	-
Comment: Chapter 31 regulates building and development in the village. Chapter 32 regulates construction in the Village. Chapter 43 protects life and property from destruction by fire.							
Zoning Code	Yes	Zoning code, Code of the Village of The Branch, Chapter 85 (1973)	Local	Building Department	No	Yes	-
Comment: The Zoning code regulates development in the village.							
Subdivisions	Yes	Subdivision of Land, Chapter 74, Code of the Village of the Branch	Local	Planning Board	No	Yes	-
Comment: Chapter 74 regulates the subdivision of land within the Village.							
Stormwater Management	Yes	Stormwater Management, Illicit Discharges, Local Law No. 1 of 2011	Local	Stormwater Management Officer	Yes	Yes	-
Comment: The purpose of this law is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the Incorporated Village of the Branch through the regulation on non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).							
Post-Disaster Recovery	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
What other plans or codes refer to the Post-Disaster Recovery code/ordinance?							
What other plans or codes are referred to in the Post-Disaster Recovery code/ordinance?							
Real Estate Disclosure	Yes	Property Condition	State	NYS Department of	Yes	No	-

	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Code Citation and Date (code chapter, name of plan, date of plan)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Department / Agency Responsible	State Mandated	Has this been integrated? If no - can it be a mitigation action?	
		Disclosure Act, NY Code - Article 14 §460-467		State, Real Estate Agent			
Comment:							
Growth Management	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Site Plan Review	Yes	Part of State Mandated building code.	Local, State	Planning Board	No	Yes	-
Comment:							
Environmental Protection	Yes	Environmental Quality Review, Chapter 40	Local	Various	Yes	Yes	-
Comment: The purpose of this chapter is to implement for the Village of the Branch, the State Environmental Quality Review Act and Part 617 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR).							
Flood Damage Prevention	Yes	Flood Damage Prevention, Chapter 45, Village code	Local	FPA, Village board	Yes - BFE+2 feet for all construction in the SFHA (residential and non-residential)	Yes	-
Comment: A local law entitled "Flood Damage Prevention" was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of the Branch 3-10-1998 by L.L. No. 1-1998. This local law is on file in the office of the Village Clerk. Said local law repealed former Ch. 45, Flood Damage Prevention, adopted 12-8-1987 by L.L. No. 5-1987							
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)	Yes	Stormwater Management, Illicit Discharges, Local Law No. 1 of 2011	Local	Stormwater Management Officer	Yes	Yes	-
Comment: The purpose of this law is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the Incorporated Village of the Branch through the regulation on non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).							
Emergency Management	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment:							
Climate Change	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment:							
Disaster Recovery Ordinance	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Disaster Reconstruction Ordinance	No	-	-	-	No	-	
Comment:							
Other	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							

	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Code Citation and Date (code chapter, name of plan, date of plan)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Department / Agency Responsible	State Mandated	Has this been integrated? If no - can it be a mitigation action?	
Planning Documents							
Comprehensive Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Capital Improvement Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Disaster Debris Management Plan	Yes	Suffolk County Multi-Jurisdictional Debris Management Plan	County, Local	Suffolk County FRES	No	Yes	-
Comment: This NYS and FEMA approved comprehensive Multi-Jurisdictional Debris Management Plan was developed through the cooperative efforts of Suffolk County and each of the ten (10) Towns, working together in conjunction with partners from private, state and federal agencies.							
Floodplain or Watershed Plan	Yes	12/8/1987 L.L. No .5-1987	Local	Administration	No	Yes	-
Comment:							
Stormwater Plan	Yes	Stormwater Management Plan	Local	Stormwater Management Officer	No	Yes	-
Comment:							
Open Space Plan	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment:							
Urban Water Management Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Habitat Conservation Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Economic Development Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Shoreline Management Plan	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment:							
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes	Fire Prevention	Local	Administration	No	Yes	-
Comment:							
Forest Management Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Transportation Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							

	Do you have this? (Yes/No)	Code Citation and Date (code chapter, name of plan, date of plan)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Department / Agency Responsible	State Mandated	Has this been integrated? If no - can it be a mitigation action?	
Agriculture Plan	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment:							
Other (this could include a climate action plan, tourism plan, business development plan, etc.)	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Response/Recovery Planning							
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	Yes	Suffolk County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (2018)	Suffolk County and Associated Jurisdictions	Suffolk FRES	Yes	Yes	-
Comment: The County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) describes the emergency obligations of County government and its capability and capacity to undertake emergency assignments or acquire those resources necessary to support its emergency mission. The Concept of Operations of the CEMP describes the management of emergencies within the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and details emergency management programmatic efforts to accommodate present standards.							
Strategic Recovery Planning Report	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA)	No	-	-	-	Yes	-	-
Comment:							
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Continuity of Operations Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Public Health Plan	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							
Other	No	-	-	-	No	-	-
Comment:							

Table 9.33-4. Development and Permitting Capability

Indicate if your jurisdiction implements the following	Response Yes/No; Provide further detail
Development Permits. If yes, what department?	Yes, Building department
Permits are tracked by hazard area. For example, floodplain development permits.	No
Buildable land inventory If yes, please describe If no, please quantitatively describe the level of buildout in the jurisdiction.	No, built out

Administrative and Technical Capability

The table below summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to the Village of The Branch.

Table 9.33-5. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Resources	Available? (Yes or No)	Department/ Agency/Position
Administrative Capability		
Planning Board	Yes	Planning Board
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	-
Environmental Board/Commission	No	-
Open Space Board/Committee	No	-
Economic Development Commission/Committee	No	-
Warning Systems / Services (reverse 911, outdoor warning signals)	No	-
Maintenance programs to reduce risk	Yes	Work with County for projects
Mutual aid agreements	Yes	With Smithtown
Technical/Staffing Capability		
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Yes	Building Department, Engineering Contract Entity
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	Yes	Village Engineer, contract entity
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Yes	Village Engineer
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	Yes	Board of trustees and Village Clerk
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	Yes	Chief Building Official/Floodplain Administrator
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS and/or Hazards United States (HAZUS) – Multi-Hazards (MH) applications	Yes	Planning Board, Board Trustees
Scientist familiar with natural hazards	Yes	Available via Contract
NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA)	Yes	Chief Building Official
Surveyor(s)	Yes	Available via Contract
Emergency Manager	Yes	Village Clerk and The Town of Smithtown Department of Public Safety, and the technical resources they can coordinate from the Town, including but not limited to emergency management, and hazard mitigation planning and engineering are available to the Village
Grant writer(s)	Yes	Consultant
Resilience Officer	No	-
Other (this could include stormwater engineer, environmental specialist, etc.)	No	-

Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to the Village of The Branch.

Table 9.33-6. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No)
Community development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)	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, apply for grants
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No
Other (for example, Clean Water Act 319 Grants [Nonpoint Source Pollution])	No

Education and Outreach Capability

The table below summarizes the education and outreach resources available to the Village of The Branch.

Table 9.33-7. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Indicate if your jurisdiction has the following resources	Yes/No; Please describe
Public information officer or communications office?	Yes, Clerk
Personnel skilled or trained in website development?	Yes, Clerk and outside Consultant
Hazard mitigation information available on your website; if yes, describe	Yes
Social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Other programs already in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information; if yes, briefly describe.	Email list and phone numbers
Warning systems for hazard events; if yes, briefly describe.	No
Natural disaster/safety programs in place for schools; if yes, briefly describe.	The County completes safety programs in public schools
Other	

Community Classifications

The table below summarizes classifications for community programs available to the Village of The Branch.

Table 9.33-8. Community Classifications

Program	Participating? (Yes/No)	Classification (if applicable)	Date Classified (if applicable)
Community Rating System (CRS)	NP	-	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	Yes	3/3	2004

Program	Participating? (Yes/No)	Classification (if applicable)	Date Classified (if applicable)
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	Yes	3	-
NYSDEC Climate Smart Community	NP	-	-
Storm Ready Certification	NP	-	-
Firewise Communities classification	NP	-	-
Other	No	-	-

Note:
N/A *Not applicable*
NP *Not participating*
- *Unavailable*

Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is defined as "the ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences" (IPCC 2014). In other words, it describes a jurisdiction's current ability to adjust to, protect from, or withstand a hazard event. This term is often discussed in reference to climate change; however, adaptive capacity also includes an understanding of local capacity for adapting to current and future risks and changing conditions. The table below summarizes the adaptive capacity for each hazard and the jurisdiction's rating.

Table 9.33-9. Adaptive Capacity

Hazard	Adaptive Capacity (Capabilities) - High/Medium/Low*
Coastal Erosion	Medium
Cyber Security	Medium
Disease Outbreak	Medium
Drought	Medium
Earthquake	Medium
Expansive Soils	Medium
Extreme Temperature	Medium
Flood	Medium
Groundwater Contamination	Medium
Hurricane	Medium
Infestation and Invasive Species	Medium
Nor'Easter	Medium
Severe Storm	Medium
Severe Winter Storm	High
Shallow Groundwater	Medium
Wildfire	Medium

**High* *Capacity exists and is in use*
Medium *Capacity may exist; but is not used or could use some improvement*
Low *Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement*
Unsure *Not enough information is known to assign a rating*

The Village does not have access to resources to determine the possible impacts of climate change upon the municipality. Though the administration is supportive of integrating climate change in policies or actions, no current integration is taking place.

9.33.5 National Flood Insurance Program

This section provides specific information on the management and regulation of the regulatory floodplain.

NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA)

Joe Arico, Building Inspector.

The approach Smithtown and the Villages take to floodplain management is a team approach. Many personnel across diverse backgrounds assist on ensuring issues within the floodplain are addressed completely.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary

The following table summarizes the NFIP statistics for the Village of The Branch.

Table 9.33-10. NFIP Summary

Municipality	# Policies	# Claims (Losses)	Total Loss Payments	# RL Properties
Village of the Branch	7	3	$2,129	0

Source: *FEMA 2020*
Notes: *According to FEMA statistics as of 7/13/2020*
RL *Repetitive Loss*

Flood Vulnerability Summary

Lists are maintained of the properties that are damaged, however no tracking has been necessary for property owners interested in mitigation. For minimal losses, the Village Floodplain Administrator and Building Inspector has the capabilities to perform the damage reports. However, should a significant natural event widely impact the Village, or have other needs beyond current capabilities, the Town of Smithtown Department of Public Safety provide appropriate resources to address the properties of concern.

No damage was sustained to properties following Hurricane Sandy due to flooding.

To fully implement the floodplain management program in the Village of The Branch, additional areas in the Northeast Branch of the Nissequogue River, Nissequogue River and its tributaries need to be more fully studied and mapped by FEMA. These areas were not studied during the most recent FEMA Flood Insurance Study in 2009 and are on unprinted map panels. Flooding impacts in these areas are unknown and there could be unmet needs for additional flood insurance policies.

Resources

The community FDPO identifies the Building Inspector as the local NFIP Floodplain Administrator, currently Joe Arico, for which floodplain administration is an auxiliary duty.

In addition to the NFIP FPA, the community has supplementary staff for which NFIP is an auxiliary duty; personnel include a contracted professionally licensed Engineer and professional grant writer for the Village. The Town of Smithtown makes resources available to the Village as necessary to assist with implementation the floodplain management program.

Duties and responsibilities of the Building Inspector/NFIP Administrator are permit review, damage assessments, record-keeping, and inspections. GIS services can be provided, as necessary, by the Town of Smithtown or the Village Engineer.

Mr. Arico has received training in many aspects of floodplain administration, code enforcement and other related training regularly in the past. He is adequately trained to fulfill his responsibilities as the municipal floodplain

administrator. Should any local training opportunities arise for further training and/or certification, the Village would participate.

In the Village of The Branch, the Village Board of Trustees and the Mayor conduct educational and/or outreach activities related to the NFIP.

Compliance History

The Village of The Branch joined the NFIP on November 17, 1982 and is currently an active member of the NFIP. The current effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps are dated September 25, 2009. The community's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO), found at Chapter 45 of the local code, was last updated on March 10, 1998.

The community is currently in good standing in the NFIP and has no outstanding compliance issues. The last Community Assistance Visit (CAV) was performed September 18, 1992. The municipality sees no specific need for a CAV at this time.

Regulatory

The communities Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO) was last updated on March 10, 1998 and is found at Chapter 45 of the local code.

Floodplain management regulations and ordinances meet FEMA and New York State requirements. The Village does not have additional policies or programs to enhance the implementation of the National Floodplain Management Program.

Community Rating System

The Village of the Branch does not participate in the Community Rating System program. The benefit of joining the Community Rating System (CRS) to the Village of The Branch is low as, from their current knowledge of the program, it appears to cost more money to join than policy holders would see in a reduction of their premiums.

9.33.6 Integration with Other Planning Initiatives

As this HMP update is implemented, the Village of The Branch will use information from the plan as the best available science and data for natural hazards. The capability assessment presented in this annex identifies codes, plans, and programs that provide opportunities for integration. The Suffolk County and local action plans developed for this HMP update actions related to plan integration, as well as progress on these actions, will be reported through the progress reporting process described in Volume I. New opportunities for integration also will be identified as part of the annual progress report.

Existing Integration

- **Floodplain Management/Building Code, Ordinances, and Enforcement:** The Village works to develop and/or enhance the current stormwater management system to be in compliance with federal and state regulations such that there will be a net reduction in the flood risk caused by stormwater impacts.

Opportunities for Future Integration

- **Vital Records Security (2020-Village of the Branch-004):** The Village will work with the Town of Smithtown to copy vital records, in digital form, to Town computers to ensure backup copies exist and are accessible.

9.33.7 Evacuation, Sheltering, Temporary Housing, and Permanent Housing

Evacuation routes, sheltering measures, temporary housing, and permanent housing must all be in place and available for public awareness to protect residents, mitigate risk, and relocate residents, if necessary, to maintain post-disaster social and economic stability.

Evacuation Routes

The Village of the Branch follows State and County guidance on the declaration of evacuations and utilizes State and County established evacuation routes.

Sheltering

The Village of the Branch relies on the American Red Cross for sheltering. The Village Hall can be used as a staging area to house evacuees prior to transfer to official shelters. The Village Hall has a backup generator, bathrooms, and has room for 25-30 people.

Temporary Housing

The Village of the Branch does not have any publicly owned locations identified as suitable for the placement of temporary housing following a disaster event. There are three shopping centers that have parking lots that might be able to be utilized but these are private facilities and owners would need to be approached. The Village will work with Suffolk County to identify suitable temporary housing locations in the region.

Permanent Housing

The Village of the Branch does not have any locations available for the placement of permanent housing to transfer flood prone properties out of the flood zone due to being built out.

9.33.8 Hazard Event History Specific to the Village of The Branch

Suffolk has a history of natural and non-natural hazard events as detailed in Volume I, Section 5 (Risk Assessment) of this plan. A summary of historical events is provided in each of the hazard profiles and includes a chronology of events that have affected the County and its municipalities. The Village of The Branch's history of federally-declared (as presented by FEMA) and significant hazard events (as presented in NOAA-NCEI) is consistent with that of Suffolk County. Table 9.33-11 provides details regarding municipal-specific loss and damages the village experienced during hazard events. Information provided in the table below is based on reference material or local sources. For details of these and additional events, refer to Volume I, Section 5.0 of this plan.

Table 9.33-11. Hazard Event History

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration if applicable)	County Designated?	Summary of Event	Municipal Summary of Damages and Losses
February 8 – 9, 2013	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm (FEMA DR-4111)	Yes	Low pressure that formed along the northern Gulf coast by the morning of Thursday, February 7, 2013 moved northeast to near Cape Hatteras by the morning of Friday, February 8, 2013. The low then rapidly intensified while moving northeast to a position east of Cape Cod by the morning of Saturday, February 9, 2013, producing very heavy snowfall and blizzard conditions across	Although the County was impacted, the Village of The Branch did not report any damages.

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration if applicable)	County Designated?	Summary of Event	Municipal Summary of Damages and Losses
			central and eastern Long Island on February 8th and 9th, and winter storm conditions across the rest of southeast New York.	
March 14 – 15, 2017	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm (FEMA DR-4322)	Yes	On Tuesday, March 14th, rapidly deepening low pressure tracked up the eastern seaboard resulting in damaging winds in Suffolk County.	Costs incurred included overtime costs of $36,000, equipment costs of $13,510, and $65,000 for salt and sand. These costs include the Town of Smithtown and its villages.
June 30, 2019	Thunderstorm Wind, Hail	No	A strong upper level disturbance triggered severe thunderstorms across Southeastern New York. One inch hail reported in Islip. 0.75 inch hail was reported in West Sayville	Multiple Large trees down on Rhoda Avenue resulted in $7K in property damage in Village of the Branch.

Notes:

EM Emergency Declaration (FEMA)

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

DR Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)

N/A Not applicable

9.33.9 Hazard Ranking and Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities

The hazard profiles in Section 5 (Risk Assessment) of this plan have detailed information regarding each plan participant's vulnerability to the identified hazards. The following summarizes critical facility and community lifeline flood exposure, and the hazards of greatest concern and risk to the Village of The Branch. For additional vulnerability information relevant to this jurisdiction, refer to Section 5.

A gradient of certainty was developed to summarize the confidence level regarding the input used to populate the hazard ranking. A certainty factor of high, medium or low was selected and assigned to each hazard to provide a level of transparency and create increased understanding of the data used to support the resulting ranking. The following scale was used to assign a certainty factor to each hazard:

- High—Defined scenario/event to evaluate; probability calculated; evidenced-based/quantitative assessment to estimate potential impacts through hazard modeling.
- Moderate—Defined scenario/event or only a hazard area to evaluate; estimated probability; combination of quantitative (exposure analysis, no hazard modeling) and qualitative data to estimate potential impacts.
- Low—Scenario or hazard area is undefined; there is a degree of uncertainty regarding event probability; majority of potential impacts are qualitative.

Critical Facilities

New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Statute 6 CRR-NY 502.4 sets forth floodplain management criteria for State projects located in 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 constructed according to specific mitigation specifications, including being raised 2′ above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This statute is outlined at http://tinyurl.com/6-CRR-NY-502-4. While all vulnerabilities should be

assessed and documented, the State places a high priority on exposure to flooding. Critical facilities located in an SFHA, or having ever sustained previous flooding, must be protected to the 500-year flood event, or worst damage scenario. For those that do not meet these criteria, the jurisdiction must identify an action to achieve this level of protection (NYS DHSES 2017).

The table below identifies critical facilities and community lifelines located in the 1-percent and 0.2-percent floodplain. It also summarizes if the facility is already mitigated in compliance with NYS standards (i.e., to the 0.2-percent annual chance event or worse-case scenario), or if a new mitigation action is proposed in the plan update.

Table 9.33-12. Potential Flood Losses to Critical Facilities

Name	*Type*	*Exposure*			*Complies with NYS Standards*	*Addressed by Proposed Action*
		1% Event		*0.2% Event*		
		A-Zone	*V-Zone*			
None identified at this time						

Source: Suffolk County 2020; FEMA 2009
Notes: x = Facility is located in the floodplain boundary. *Community Lifeline

Hazard Ranking

This section provides the community specific identification of the primary hazard concerns based on identified problems, impacts and the results of the risk assessment as presented in Section 5 (Risk Assessment) of the 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 as well as community capability and changing future climate conditions. This input supports the mitigation action development to target those hazards with highest level of concern.

As discussed in Section 5.3 (Hazard Ranking), each participating jurisdiction may have differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability compared to Suffolk County as a whole. Therefore, each municipality ranked the degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to their community. The table below summarizes the hazard risk/vulnerability rankings of potential hazards for the Village of The Branch. The Village of The Branch has reviewed the county hazard risk/vulnerability risk ranking table and provided input to its individual results to reflect the relative risk of the hazards of concern to the community.

During the review of the hazard/vulnerability risk ranking, the Village of The Branch indicated the following:

- The Village changed the hazard ranking for earthquake from medium to low, based on low frequency of events and modern building codes.
- The Village agreed with the remainder of the calculated hazard rankings.

Table 9.33-13. Hazard Ranking

Coastal Erosion	Cyber Security	Disease Outbreak	Drought	Earthquake	Expansive Soils
Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low

Extreme Temperature	Flood	Groundwater Contamination	Hurricane	Infestation and Invasive Species	Nor'Easter

Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High

Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storm	Shallow Groundwater	Wildfire
Medium	Medium	High	Low

Identified Issues

The municipality has identified the following vulnerabilities within their community:

- Northeast branch of Nissequogue River is a flooding hazard.
- Keeping the drainage clear of debris is an ongoing concern.
- Roads need constant repair from school buses.
- Curbs are 50 years old and need updating.

9.33.10 Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization

This section discusses past mitigations actions and status, describes proposed hazard mitigation initiatives, and their prioritization.

Past Mitigation Initiative Status

The following table indicates progress on the community's mitigation strategy identified in the 2014 HMP. Actions that are carried forward as part of this plan update are included in the updated mitigation strategy table (Table 9.33-15). Previous actions that are now on-going programs and capabilities are indicated as such in the following table and may also be found under 'Capability Assessment' presented previously in this annex.

Table 9.33-14. Status of Previous Mitigation Actions

Project #	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Status (In Progress, Ongoing, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if complete)		Next Steps 1.Project to be included in 2020 HMP or Discontinue 2.If including action in the 2020 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3.If discontinue, explain why.
VB-1	Establish a Capital Improvement program for the village that is based on a Capital Improvement Plan, mechanism for funding projects, and process for review and update.	All Hazards			Ongoing Capability	Cost		1. Discontinue 2. 3. Ongoing Capability
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-2	Partner with Suffolk County in the development of an enhanced feasibility study to determine the most feasible retrofit to Millers Pond to enhance flood control for the village.	Flood, Severe storms, Nor' Easters, Hurricane			In Progress; Weir project is in progress	Cost		1. Include in 2020 HMP 2. 3.
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-3 (prev. VB-4)	Maintain National Incident Management System, State Emergency Management System, and Incident Command System training for Village Trustees and other critical Village personnel	All Hazards			Ongoing Capability	Cost		1. Discontinue 2. 3. Ongoing Capability
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		

Project #	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Status (In Progress, Ongoing, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if complete)		Next Steps 1.Project to be included in 2020 HMP or Discontinue 2.If including action in the 2020 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3.If discontinue, explain why.
VB-4 (prev. VB-5)	Continue to increase public awareness of natural hazards through use of the Village's website and other existing community outreach forums.	All Hazards			Ongoing Capability	Cost		1. Discontinue 2. 3. Ongoing Capability
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-5 (prev VB-4)	Partner with The Town of Smithtown on their Mitigation projects that impact the Village to leverage resources, and secure multiple tangible benefits for both entities.	Flood, Nor'Easter, Hurricane, Severe Weather, Shallow Ground water			Ongoing Capability	Cost		1. Discontinue 2. 3. Ongoing Capability
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-6 (prev VB-5)	As capabilities permit, support and participate in county led initiatives intended to build local and regional mitigation and risk-reduction capabilities (see Section 9.1), specifically it is acknowledged that opportunities for multi-jurisdictional partnership may be beneficial to enhance the following: • Natural hazard awareness and personal scale risk reduction/mitigation public education and outreach programs • Post-disaster assessment and recovery capabilities • Debris Management • Outreach to private property owners to improve understanding of damage history and create interest in mitigation activities • Regional, county and local capabilities to manage seismic risk, both pre- and post-disaster					Cost		1. Discontinue 2. 3. Ongoing Capability
						Level of Protection		

Project #	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Status (In Progress, Ongoing, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if complete)		Next Steps 1.Project to be included in 2020 HMP or Discontinue 2.If including action in the 2020 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3.If discontinue, explain why.
	• Alignment of Mitigation Initiatives through all levels of Government (effort to build State and Federal level recognition and support of the County and local hazard mitigation planning strategies identified in this plan)							
	See above.	All Hazards			Ongoing Capability	Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-7 (prev VB-9)	Participate in any locally-offered educational training opportunities regarding participation in incentive-based programs such as, CRS and "Storm-Ready".	Flood, Nor'Easter, Hurricane, Severe Weather			No Progress	Cost		1. Discontinue 2. 3. No longer interested in participation in these programs due to size of the Village
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-8 (prev VB-10)	Inventory areas of the Village that are subject to repetitive losses from surface and/or groundwater flooding. Evaluate potential improvements to stormwater management and/or other municipal infrastructure which could mitigate said losses. Perform feasibility studies, develop designs and implement projects as funding becomes available.	Flood, Nor'Easter, Hurricane, Severe Weather			In Progress	Cost		1. Include in 2020 HMP 2. 3.
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		

Project #	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Status (In Progress, Ongoing, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if complete)		Next Steps 1.Project to be included in 2020 HMP or Discontinue 2.If including action in the 2020 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3.If discontinue, explain why.
VB - 9 Sandy HMGP LOI#310 (NEW)	Support efforts of Suffolk County DPW to mitigate recurring groundwater flooding across a segment of the Northeast Branch with shared Village and County jurisdiction that impacts residents and businesses in the watershed area of Miller's Pond and the Northeast Branch of the Nissequogue River	Flood, Nor'Easter, Hurricane, Severe Storms, Shallow Groundwater			In Progress	Cost Level of Protection Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		1. Include in 2020 HMP 2. 3.
VB-10 (new)	Assess and prioritize needed groundwater remediation projects within the Village and investigate funding options. Implement prioritized projects as funding becomes available.	Flood, Nor'Easter, Hurricane, Severe Storms, Shallow Groundwater. Expansive Soils			In Progress	Cost Level of Protection Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		1. Include in 2020 HMP 2. 3.
VB-11 (new)	Support any actions undertaken by the Town of Smithtown concerning post-disaster action plans and debris management plans by continuing to adopt updates to the current emergency management plans.	All			Ongoing Capability	Cost Level of Protection Damages Avoided;		1. Discontinue 2. 3. Ongoing Capability

Project #	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Status (In Progress, Ongoing, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if complete)		Next Steps 1.Project to be included in 2020 HMP or Discontinue 2.If including action in the 2020 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3.If discontinue, explain why.
						Evidence of Success		
VB-12 (new)	Assess and prioritize needed flood prevention projects in the following risk/prone areas: Millers Pond and Nissequogue River corridor and implement improvements as funding becomes available.	Flood, Nor'Easter, Hurricane, Severe Weather			In Progress	Cost		1. Include in 2020 HMP 2. 3.
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-13 (new)	Inventory and evaluate all existing bridges/culverts under Village jurisdiction: develop project concepts to increase structural stability & drainage capacity of culverts significant to storm water conveyance & supporting critical evacuation and response routes.	Nor'Easters; Flooding; Shallow Groundwater			In Progress	Cost		1. Include in 2020 HMP 2. Culvert repair/replacement project 3.
						Level of Protection		
						Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		
VB-14 (new)	Inventory any private properties which have reported severe repetitive damages from natural hazards, for example, flooding and/or shallow	All			In Progress	Cost		1. Include in 2020 HMP 2. Dredging of River 3.
						Level of Protection		

Project #	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Status (In Progress, Ongoing, No Progress, Complete)	Evaluation of Success (if complete)		Next Steps 1.Project to be included in 2020 HMP or Discontinue 2.If including action in the 2020 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3.If discontinue, explain why.
	groundwater. Evaluate surrounding existing conditions. Consider the costs and benefits of mitigation measures such as municipal public improvements, acquisition, relocation, and/or structural retrofits. Develop a list of project proposals, prioritized using methods including FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis					Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success		

Completed Mitigation Initiatives Not Identified in the Previous Mitigation Strategy

The Village of The Branch has identified the following mitigation projects/activities that have also been completed but were not identified in the previous mitigation strategy in the 2014 HMP:

- Working in conjunction with the Town of Smithtown and local politicians and organizations, the Village was able to secure a grant of nearly $1 million in order to begin the next phase of the Northeast Branch Remediation project. This effort, sometimes referred to as dredging, is intended to remedy the groundwater issues that have been plaguing village residents for decades. Ironically this issue has been studied for over thirty years but has only been tackled in earnest in the past five. The project resulted in the culverts on Terrace and Branch being totally replaced.

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives for the HMP Update

The Village of The Branch participated in a mitigation action workshop in June 2020 and was provided the following FEMA publications to use as a resource as part of their comprehensive review of all possible activities and mitigation measures to address their hazards: FEMA 551 'Selecting Appropriate Mitigation Measures for Floodprone Structures' (March 2007) and FEMA 'Mitigation Ideas – A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards' (January 2013).

Table 9.33-15 summarizes the comprehensive-range of specific mitigation initiatives the Village of The Branch would like to pursue in the future to reduce the effects of hazards. Some of these initiatives may be previous actions carried forward for this plan update. These initiatives are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities. Both the four FEMA mitigation action categories and the six CRS mitigation action categories are listed in the table below to further demonstrate the wide-range of activities and mitigation measures selected.

As discussed in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy), fourteen criteria are used to evaluate and prioritize each proposed mitigation action. A numeric factor is assigned (-1, 0, or 1) to each criterion to provide a relative indication of the opportunities and constraints of each action. A numerical sum of the input provides the basis of the prioritization of actions wherein each action is assigned a category of Low, Medium, or High to indicate an implementation hierarchy. A High priority action indicates the jurisdiction will prioritize its implementation and apply for funding, if needed, as opportunities become available during the plan period of performance. This does not prevent the jurisdiction from implementing other ranked actions; however, this provides a snapshot of implementation priority at the time of this plan update.

Table 9.33-16 provides a summary of the evaluation and prioritization for each proposed mitigation initiative. Refer to the action worksheets at the end of this annex for more details on the high-ranked hazards identified first for implementation.

Table 9.33-15. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Project Number	Project Name	Goals Met	Hazard(s) to be Mitigated	Description of Problem and Solution	Critical Facility (Yes/No)	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Mitigation Category	CRS Category
2020-Village of the Branch-001	Northeast Branch Remediation project	2, 3, 5	Shallow Groundwater Flooding, Flood	**Problem**: Groundwater issues have been plaguing village residents for decades, focused along the northeast branch of the Nissequoge River, resulting in periodically sodden backyards, wet basements and overwhelmed septic systems. Roughly 50 homes are impacted. **Solution**: Complete Northeast Branch Remediation project: Working in conjunction with the Town of Smithtown and local politicians and organizations, remove 200 cubic yards of sediment clogging the river's Northeast Branch and replace culverts at Branch Drive and Terrace Lane, along with other upgrades intended to improve the flow of water into the Nissequogue River and out into the Long Island Sound.	No	None	Within 2 years	Town of Smithtown, Suffolk County	$1.8 Million	Reduction in groundwater flooding, flooding	New York State	High	NSP, SIP	NR, PP
2020-Village of the Branch-002	Flood Study	2, 3, 5	Shallow Groundwater Flooding, Severe Storm, Flood	**Problem**: Groundwater issues have been plaguing village residents for decades, focused along the northeast branch of the Nissequoge River, resulting in periodically sodden backyards, wet basements and overwhelmed septic systems. Roughly 50 homes are impacted. **Solution**: The Village will continue to search for	No	None	Within 5 years	Village Administration	TBD by identified solutions in flood study	Reduction in flood risk	HMGP, BRIC, Village budget	Medium	LPR, SIP	PP, SP

Table 9.33-15. Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives

Project Number	Project Name	Goals Met	Hazard(s) to be Mitigated	Description of Problem and Solution	Critical Facility (Yes/No)	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Lead Agency	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority	Mitigation Category	CRS Category
				additional methods to address flooding concerns along the Nissequoge River in relation to shallow groundwater flooding via a flood study and implement new identified solutions to the long-term problem.										
2020-Village of the Branch-003	Culvert Upgrades and Replacements	1, 2	Flood, Severe Storm	**Problem**: The Village has identified numerous culverts which need to be replaced or repaired to prevent collapse/clogging and flood risk. **Solution**: The Village will conduct an engineering study to determine the necessary repairs and replacement of culverts within the Village and conduct the necessary work.	No	None	Within 5 years	Village Engineer, Administration	High, estimated at $50,000 per replacement	Reduction in flood risk	HMGP, BRIC, Village budget	High	SIP	SP
2020-Village of the Branch-004	Vital Records Security	7, 8	All Hazards	**Problem**: The Village's vital records are currently stored in a single location in hard copy form. This presents a risk for loss or damage due to hazard events. **Solution**: The Village will work with the Town of Smithtown to copy vital records, in digital form, to Town computers to ensure backup copies exist and are accessible.	No	None	Within 2 years	Administration, Town of Smithtown	Staff time	Security and protection of vital records	HMGP, Village and Town budget	High	LPR	PR, ES

Notes:

Not all acronyms and abbreviations defined below are included in the table.

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

CAV	*Community Assistance Visit*
CRS	*Community Rating System*
DPW	*Department of Public Works*
EHP	*Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation*
FEMA	*Federal Emergency Management Agency*
FPA	*Floodplain Administrator*
HMA	*Hazard Mitigation Assistance*
N/A	*Not applicable*
NFIP	*National Flood Insurance Program*
OEM	*Office of Emergency Management*

Potential FEMA HMA Funding Sources:

FMA	*Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program*
HMGP	*Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*
PDM	*Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program*

Timeline:

The time required for completion of the project upon implementation

Cost:

The estimated cost for implementation.

Benefits:

A description of the estimated benefits, either quantitative and/or qualitative.

Critical Facility:

Yes *Critical Facility located in 1% floodplain*

Mitigation Category:

- *Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) – These actions include government authorities, policies or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.*
- *Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP) - These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.*
- *Natural Systems Protection (NSP) – These are actions that minimize damage and losses, and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.*
- *Education and Awareness Programs (EAP) – These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady and Firewise Communities*

CRS Category:

- *Preventative Measures (PR) - Government, administrative or regulatory actions, or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.*
- *Property Protection (PP) - These actions include public activities to reduce hazard losses or actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.*
- *Public Information (PI) - Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and educational programs for school-age children and adults.*
- *Natural Resource Protection (NR) - Actions that minimize hazard loss and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.*
- *Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) - Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, setback levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.*
- *Emergency Services (ES) - Actions that protect people and property during and immediately following a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities*

Table 9.33-16. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Technical	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social	Administrative	Multi-Hazard	Timeline	Agency Champion	Other Community	Total	High / Medium / Low
2020-Village of the Branch-001	Northeast Branch Remediation project	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
2020-Village of the Branch-002	Flood Study	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	Medium
2020-Village of the Branch-003	Culvert Upgrades and Replacements	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	9	High
2020-Village of the Branch-004	Vital Records Security	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	High

Note: Refer to Section 6, which conveys guidance on prioritizing mitigation actions. Low (0-4), Medium (5-8), High (9-14).

9.33.11 Proposed Mitigation Action Types

The table below indicates the range of proposed mitigation action categories.

Table 9.33-17. Analysis of Mitigation Actions by Hazard and Category

	FEMA				CRS					
Hazard	LPR	SIP	NSP	EAP	PR	PP	PI	NR	SP	ES
Coastal Erosion	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Cyber Security	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Disease Outbreak	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Drought	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Earthquake	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Expansive Soils	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Extreme Temperature	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Flood	2020-Village of the Branch-002, 2020-Village of the Branch-004	2020-Village of the Branch-001, 2020-Village of the Branch-002, 2020-Village of the Branch-003	2020-Village of the Branch-001,		2020-Village of the Branch-004	2020-Village of the Branch-001, 2020-Village of the Branch-002		2020-Village of the Branch-001,	2020-Village of the Branch-002, 2020-Village of the Branch-003	2020-Village of the Branch-004
Groundwater Contamination	2020-Village of the				2020-Village of the					2020-Village of the Branch-004

	FEMA				CRS					
Hazard	LPR	SIP	NSP	EAP	PR	PP	PI	NR	SP	ES
	Branch-004				Branch-004					
Hurricane	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Infestation and Invasive Species	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Nor'easter	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Severe Storm	2020-Village of the Branch-002, 2020-Village of the Branch-004	2020-Village of the Branch-002, 2020-Village of the Branch-003			2020-Village of the Branch-004	2020-Village of the Branch-002			2020-Village of the Branch-002, 2020-Village of the Branch-003	2020-Village of the Branch-004
Severe Winter Storm	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004
Shallow Groundwater	2020-Village of the Branch-002, 2020-Village of the Branch-004	2020-Village of the Branch-001, 2020-Village of the Branch-002	2020-Village of the Branch-001,		2020-Village of the Branch-004	2020-Village of the Branch-001, 2020-Village of the Branch-002		2020-Village of the Branch-001,	2020-Village of the Branch-002	2020-Village of the Branch-004
Wildfire	2020-Village of the Branch-004				2020-Village of the Branch-004					2020-Village of the Branch-004

Note: Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides for an explanation of the mitigation categories.

9.33.12 Staff and Local Stakeholder Involvement in Annex Development

The Village of The Branch followed the planning process described in Section 3 (Planning Process) in Volume I of this plan update. This annex was developed over the course of several months with input from many village departments, including: the Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor represented the community on the Suffolk County Hazard Mitigation Plan Planning Partnership and supported the local planning process requirements by securing input from persons with specific knowledge to enhance the plan. All departments were asked to

contribute to the annex development through reviewing and contributing to the capability assessment, reporting on the status of previously identified actions, and participating in action identification and prioritization.

The following table summarizes who participated and in what capacity. Additional documentation on the municipality's planning process through Planning Partnership meetings is included in Section 3 (Planning Process) and Appendix C (Meeting Documentation).

Table 9.33-18. Contributors to the Annex

Name	Title/Entity	Method of Participation
John Carro	Deputy Mayor	Alternate Point of Contact, attended plan participant meetings, provided impact data, contributed to mitigation strategy
Joe Arico	Building Inspector	NFIP Floodplain Administrator
Mark Delaney	Mayor	Primary Point of Contact

9.33.13 Hazard Area Extent and Location

Hazard area extent and location maps have been generated for the Village of The Branch that illustrate the probable areas that may be impacted within the municipality. These maps are based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan and are considered to be adequate for planning purposes. The maps have only been generated for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies, and for which the Village of The Branch has significant exposure.

Figure 9.33-1. Village of The Branch Hazard Area Extent and Location Map

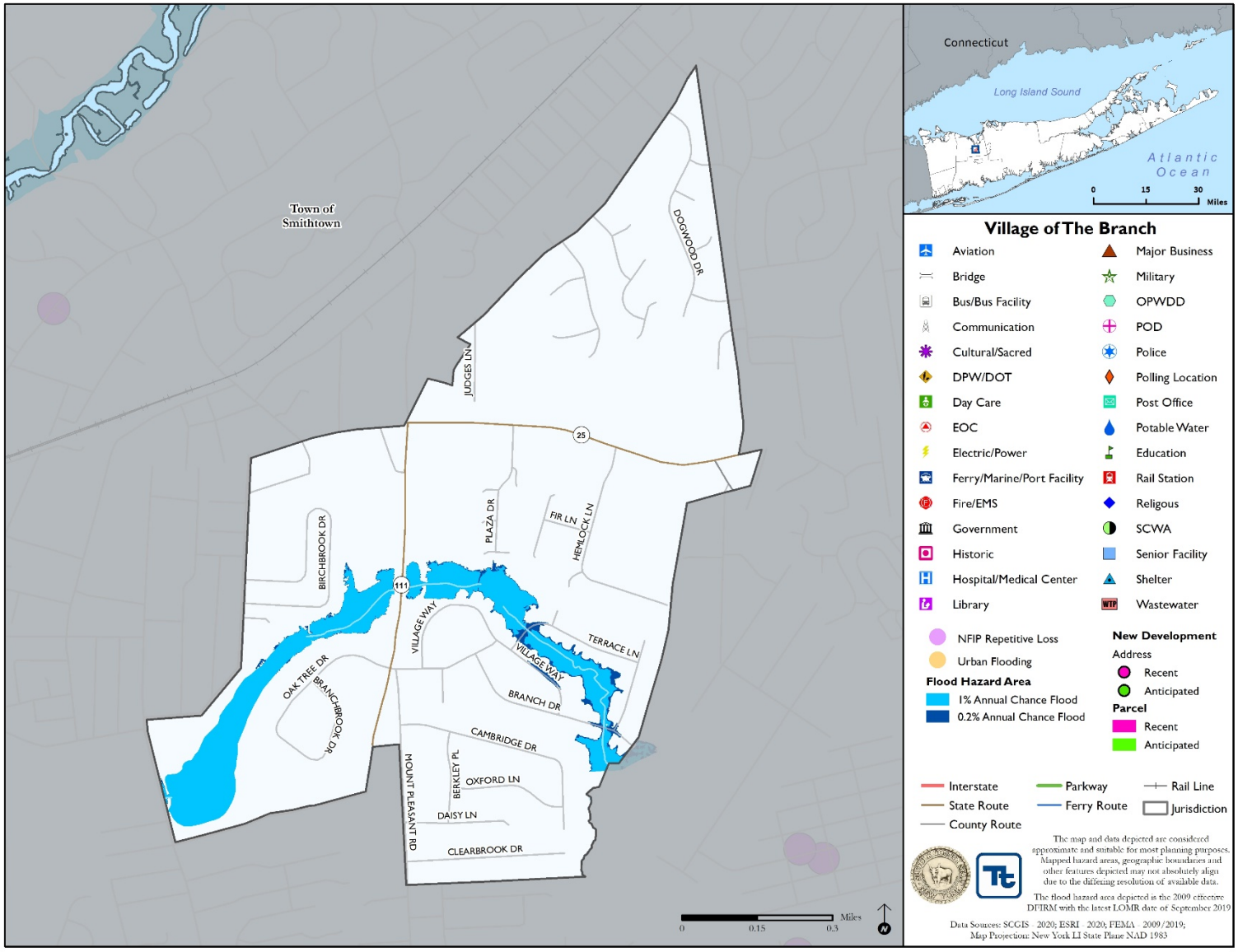


Figure 9.33-2. Village of The Branch Hazard Area Extent and Location Map 2

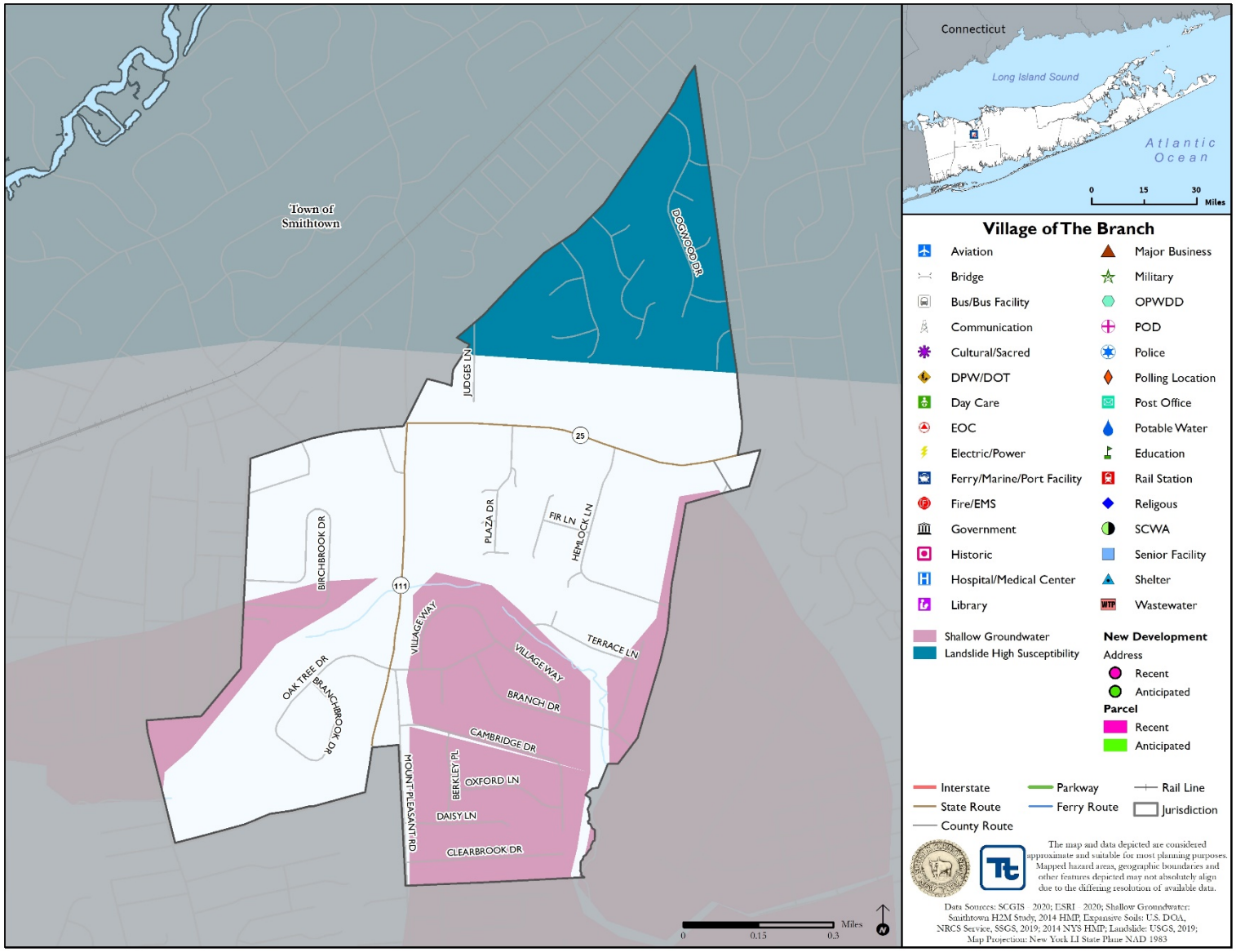


Figure 9.33-3. Village of The Branch Hazard Area Extent and Location Map 3

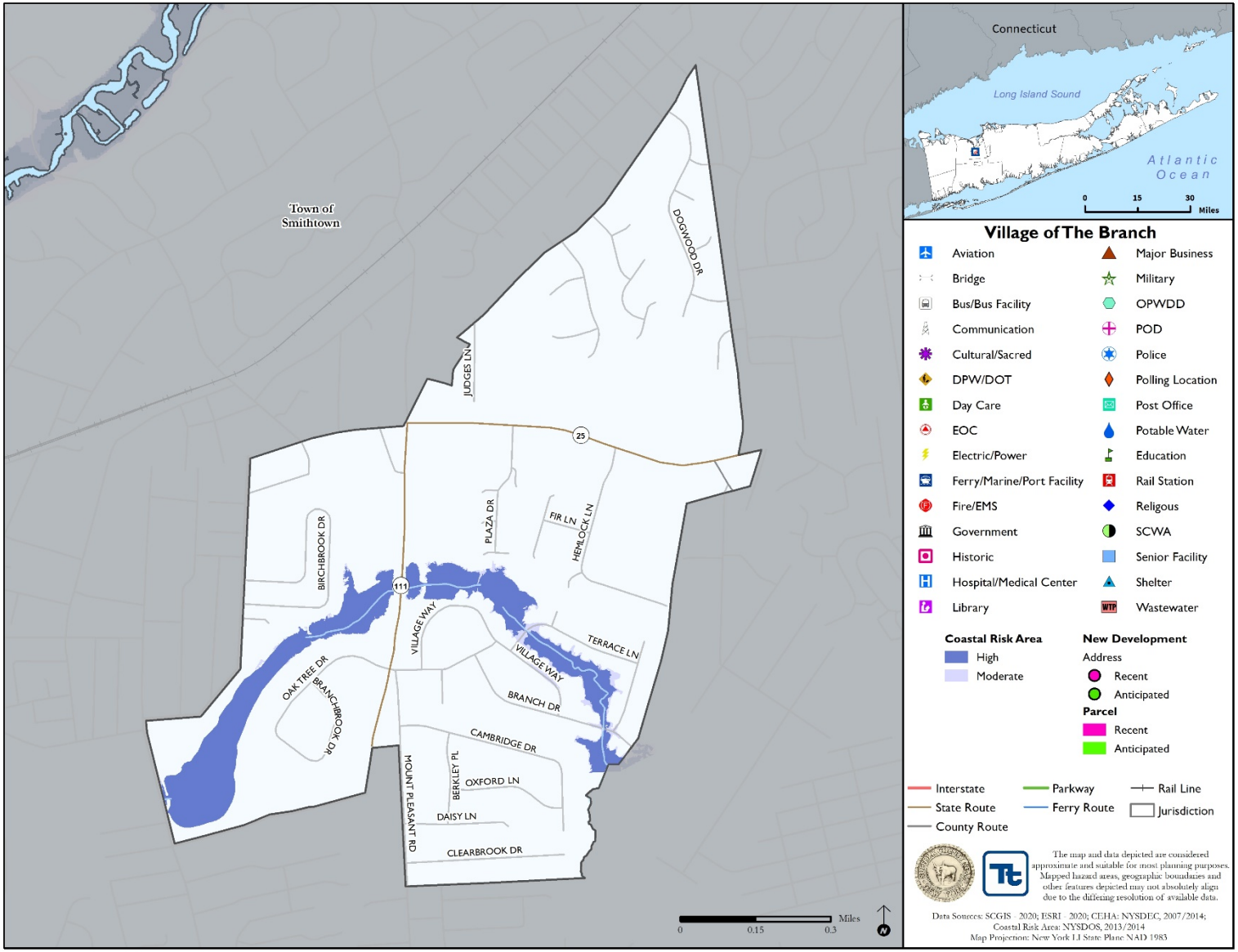


Figure 9.33-4. Village of The Branch Hazard Area Extent and Location Map 4

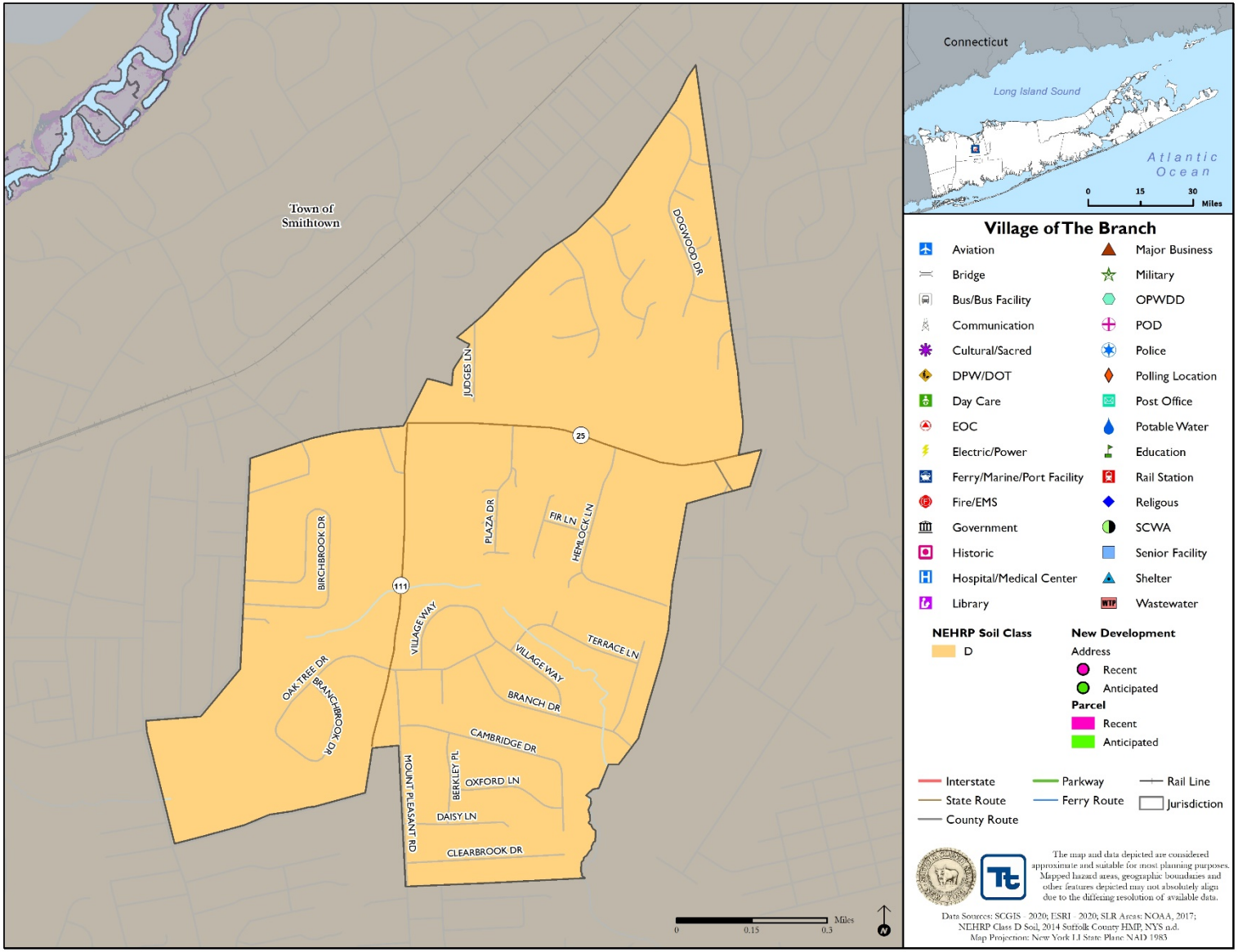
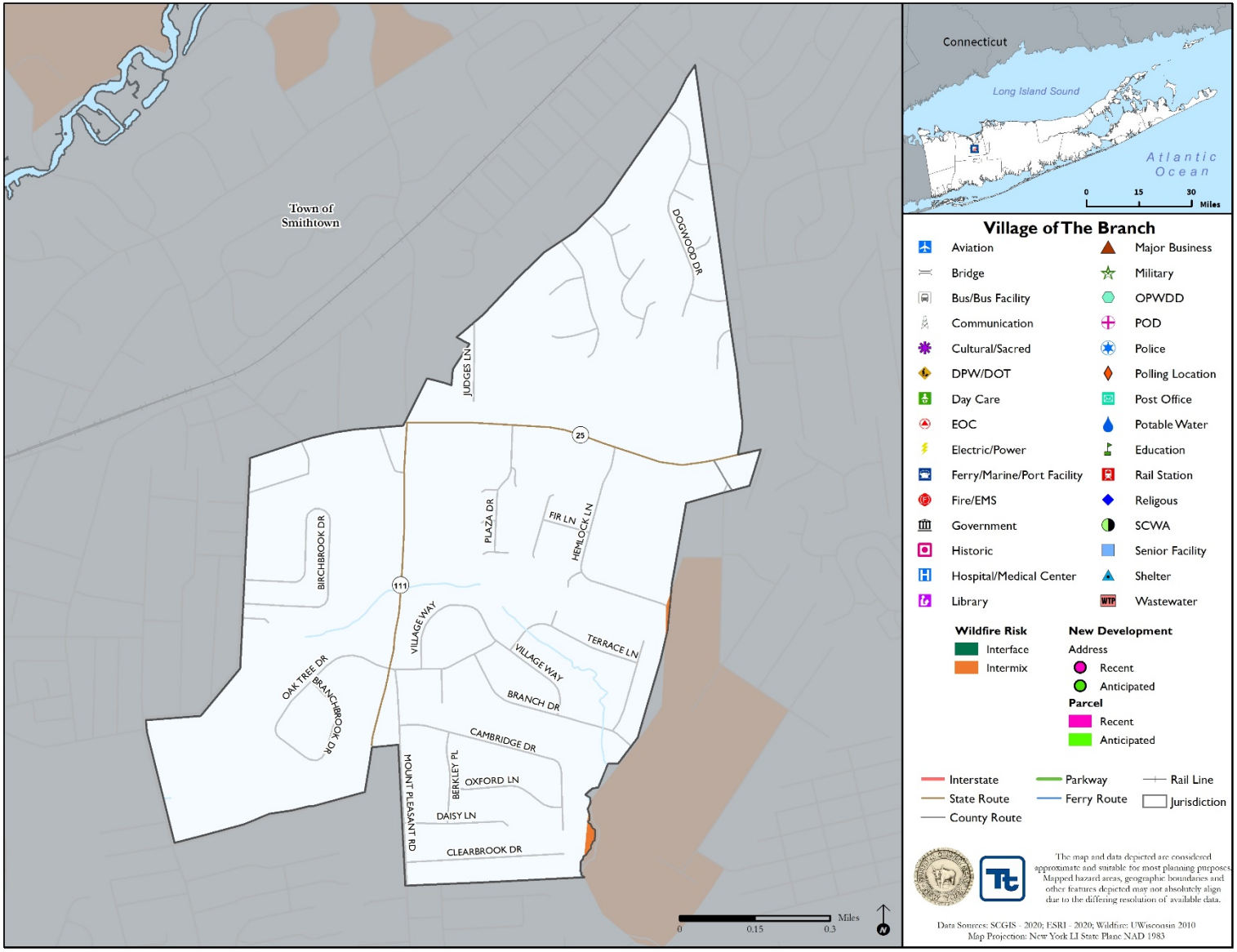


Figure 9.33-5. Village of The Branch Hazard Area Extent and Location Map 5



Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Flood Study		
Project Number:	2020-Village of the Branch-002		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	Shallow Groundwater Flooding, Severe Storm, Flood		
Description of the Problem:	Groundwater issues have been plaguing village residents for decades, focused along the northeast branch of the Nissequoge River, resulting in periodically sodden backyards, wet basements and overwhelmed septic systems. Roughly 50 homes are impacted.		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	The Village will continue to search for additional methods to address flooding concerns along the Nissequoge River in relation to shallow groundwater flooding via a flood study and implement new identified solutions to the long-term problem.		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes ☐	No ☒	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes ☐	No ☒	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect to the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	TBD by flood study selected actions	**Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):**	Reduction in flood risk
Useful Life:	TBD by flood study	**Goals Met:**	2, 3, 5
Estimated Cost:	TBD by flood study	**Mitigation Action Type:**	Local Plans and Regulations, Structure and Infrastructure Projects
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	**Desired Timeframe for Implementation:**	Within 5 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	5 years	**Potential Funding Sources:**	HMGP, BRIC, municipal budget
Responsible Organization:	Engineering	**Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:**	Hazard mitigation planning, stormwater planning
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	**Action**	**Estimated Cost**	**Evaluation**
	No Action	$0	Problem continues.
	Elevate roadways	$500,000	Costly and may not solve problem
	Relocate roadways	N/A	Not possible
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			

Evaluation and Prioritization		
Project Name:	Flood Study	
Project Number:	2020-Village of the Branch-002	
Criteria	**Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)**	**Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate**
Life Safety	0	.
Property Protection	1	Reduction in flooding risk
Cost-Effectiveness	0	
Technical	1	Technically feasible project
Political	1	
Legal	1	The Village has the legal authority to conduct the project.
Fiscal	0	Project will require grant funding.
Environmental	1	
Social	0	Project would reduce flooding impacts.
Administrative	0	
Multi-Hazard	1	Shallow Groundwater Flooding, Severe Storm, Flood
Timeline	0	
Agency Champion	1	Engineering
Other Community Objectives	1	
Total	8	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	Medium	

Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Culvert Upgrades and Replacements		
Project Number:	2020-Village of the Branch-003		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard(s) of Concern:	Flood, Severe Storm		
Description of the Problem:	The Village has identified numerous culverts which need to be replaced or repaired to prevent collapse/clogging and flood risk.		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	The Village will conduct an engineering study to determine the necessary repairs and replacement of culverts within the Village and conduct the necessary work.		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes ☐	No ☒	
Is this project related to a Critical Facility located within the 100-year floodplain?	Yes ☐	No ☒	
(If yes, this project must intend to protect to the 500-year flood event or the actual worse case damage scenario, whichever is greater)			
Level of Protection:	25-year storm	**Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):**	Reduction in flood risk
Useful Life:	30 years	**Goals Met:**	1, 2
Estimated Cost:	High, estimated at $50,000 per replacement	**Mitigation Action Type:**	Structure and Infrastructure Projects
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	**Desired Timeframe for Implementation:**	Within 5 years
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	5 years	**Potential Funding Sources:**	HMGP, BRIC, Village budget
Responsible Organization:	Village Engineer, Administration	**Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation if any:**	Hazard mitigation, Stormwater management
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	**Action**	**Estimated Cost**	**Evaluation**
	No Action	$0	Problem continues.
	Elevate roadways	$500,000 per roadway	Costly and may not solve problem
	Relocate roadways	N/A	Not possible
Progress Report (for plan maintenance)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			

Evaluation and Prioritization		
Project Name:	Culvert Upgrades and Replacements	
Project Number:	2020-Village of the Branch-003	
Criteria	**Numeric Rank (-1, 0, 1)**	**Provide brief rationale for numeric rank when appropriate**
Life Safety	1	Protects life from flooding.
Property Protection	1	Protects culvert from flood damage
Cost-Effectiveness	0	
Technical	1	Technically feasible project
Political	1	
Legal	1	The Village has the legal authority to conduct the project.
Fiscal	0	Project will require grant funding support
Environmental	1	
Social	0	Project would reduce flooding impacts
Administrative	0	
Multi-Hazard	1	Flood, Severe Storm
Timeline	0	Within 5 years
Agency Champion	1	Village Engineer, Administration
Other Community Objectives	1	
Total	9	
Priority (High/Med/Low)	High	