



## Appendix 19: Town of Westfield

This appendix is part of the 2016 Union County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update, and only includes jurisdiction-specific information about the Town of Westfield, which is one of the twenty (20) municipalities within Union County that is participating in the plan update.

### 1. Planning Process and Participation

The County formed a Steering Committee, which was responsible for key decisions during the plan update. This committee sent a letter to the Mayor of each municipality within the County. The Mayors and local officials selected a single individual to represent the town in the broader process. This person was the point of contact for the plan update, but worked with other municipal employees, consultants, volunteers, and other stakeholders throughout the planning process. This collection of participants, considered the local planning committee, is listed below. The committee was responsible for various decisions that informed the development of this appendix, including: prioritizing the natural hazards that can affect the community, reviewing and prioritizing the mitigation actions, and informing community leaders about the status of the County mitigation plan update, including this appendix.

The Westfield Planning Committee evaluated and identified the hazards of concern, completed the request for information (RFI), reviewed the plan documents and vulnerability assessment, identified local stakeholders for outreach, and worked collectively to update the mitigation strategy. In order to complete the update process, Westfield attended the kickoff meeting held by Princeton Hydro in May 2013. To further the plan development, the Westfield Planning Committee met with Princeton Hydro to review the plan documents and revise the mitigation strategy in a workshop format on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and again on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2015. Local ordinances, site plan requirements, emergency procedures and response plans, and stormwater management plans were reviewed for integration into this plan update. As the plan was developed, the Planning Committee reviewed all of the drafts and provided input on this individual appendix.

**Table 19-1**  
**Westfield Planning Committee Members**

Name	Title	Organization
James H. Gildea	Town Administrator	Town of Westfield
Chief David Wayman	Police Chief	Town of Westfield
Chief David Kelly	Fire Chief	Town of Westfield
Kris McAloon	Town Engineer	Town of Westfield
Megan Avallone	Public Health Officer	Town of Westfield
Don Sammet	Town Planner	Town of Westfield
Paul Horta	Town Surveyor	Town of Westfield
Greg O' Neil	Director of Public Works	Town of Westfield
Steve Freedman	Construction Official	Town of Westfield



## 2. Community Profile

The Town of Westfield has a total area of 6.73 square miles and is located in the south-central region of Union County, New Jersey.

As of 2010, the population was estimated at 30,316. This is a 2.27 percent increase from the 2000 population, which was estimated at 29,644. See Section 2 of the 2016 Plan update for a map of Union County.

Westfield was settled in 1720, as part of the Elizabethtown Tract. It was incorporated as part of New Jersey's first 104 towns.

The Town of Westfield was formally incorporated on March 4th, 1903. The Town is governed by an elected mayor and eight councilpersons, representing four wards. The Mayor is elected directly to a four-year term of office. Town Council members are elected to serve four-year terms on a staggered basis, with one seat in each ward coming up for election every other year. The Town Council holds bi-weekly meetings open to the public where it discusses legislation under consideration.

### Land Use and Development

Westfield is a developed residential community, with nearly 92 percent of its 6.73 square miles classified as urban/developed. Nearly 91 percent of the parcels within Westfield are classified as residential, based on tax assessment data. Between 2004 and 2012, 852 building permits were issued for residential homes within the Town. This is 5.3 percent of the total building permits issued for Union County during this time period. Approximately 98 percent of these permits were for 1- and 2-family homes.

Westfield has a population density of 4,505 people per square mile, which is a little below the County average of 5,421. The 2010 census estimates that 81 percent of the housing within the Town was owner-occupied, higher than the County average of 68.5 percent owner-occupied properties.

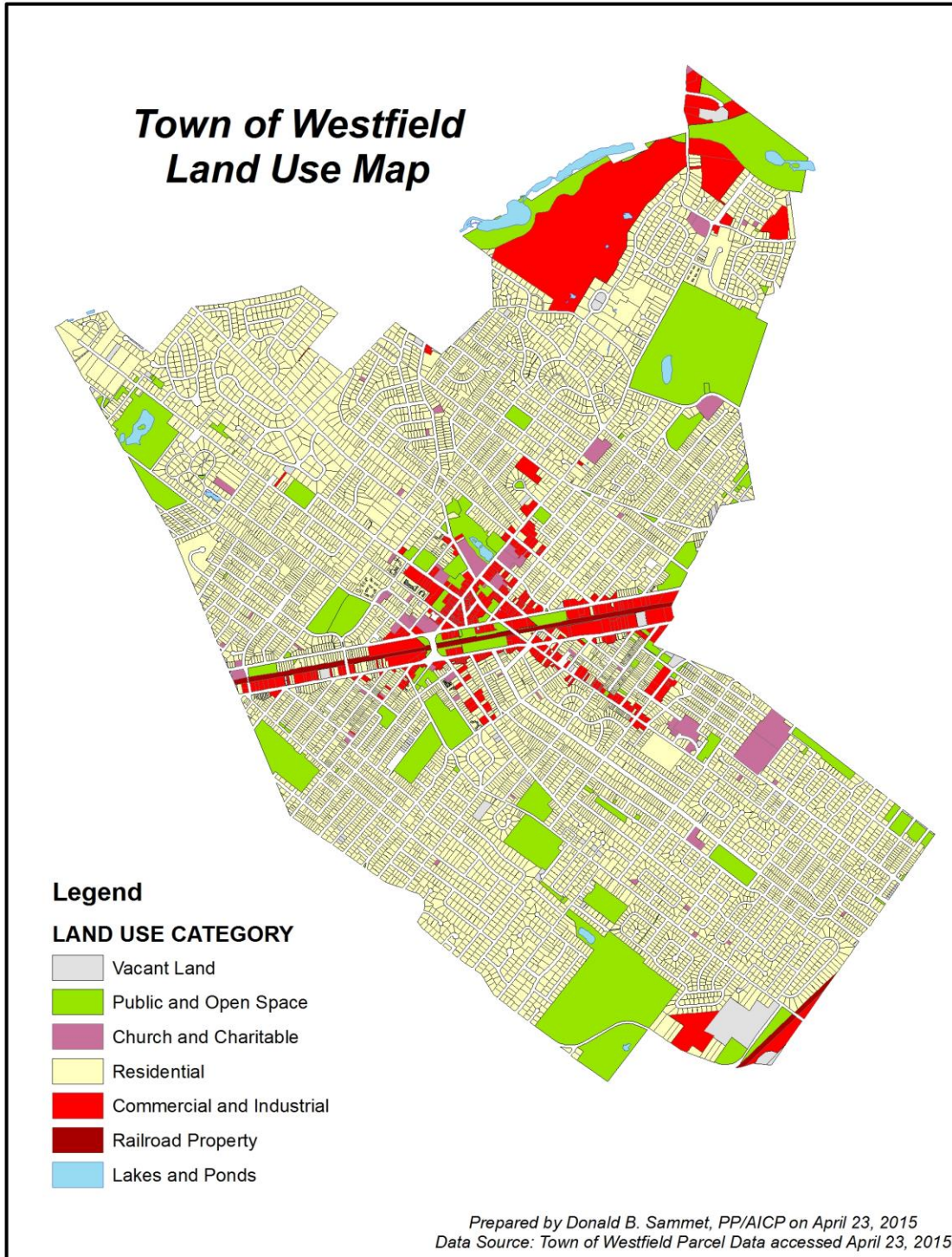
**Table 19-2:**  
**Land Use Change in the Town of Westfield**

Land Cover Class	2002 (acres)	2007 (acres)	Percent Change	Percent of Total Land <sup>1</sup>
Agriculture	16.21	13.45	-17.03%	0.31%
Barren Land	17.60	13.83	-21.42%	0.32%
Forest	271.47	261.91	-3.52%	6.07%
Urban	3,945.26	3,961.28	0.41%	91.83%
Water	23.99	24.24	1.01%	0.56%
Wetlands	39.04	38.86	-0.45%	0.90%

<sup>1</sup> Uses the 2007 land cover values



Figure 19-1: Map of Westfield Town Land Use





### 3. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

This section of the Westfield mitigation plan appendix describes the natural hazards and risks that can affect the community. It should be noted that -- in accordance with FEMA requirements -- only the hazards with aspects that are unique to the community are included in detail in this appendix.

#### 3.1 Background and Hazard Rankings

Like all the other jurisdictions in Union County, the Town of Westfield is potentially subject to the effects of all the hazards that are considered in this mitigation plan. However, the majority of these hazards have minimal impacts on the area, and are discussed in detail in the County part of the mitigation plan. FEMA mitigation planning guidance requires that County mitigation plans include a risk assessment section that “assess[es] each jurisdiction’s risks where there vary from the risks facing the entire planning area” (44CFR 201.6 (c) (2) (iii)). Because the Union County HMP update includes separate appendices for each jurisdiction, this requirement is met in the appendices, while risks that affect the entire County uniformly are discussed in the County part of the HMP.

One of the first steps in developing jurisdictional appendices was for participating municipalities to review and prioritize the hazards that can affect them. This was done based on how often a hazard has occurred, how significant effects have been in the past, the difficulty and cost of recovering from such events. Jurisdictions ranked the list of hazards as either high, medium, low, or no concern.

Table 19-3 shows Westfield’s hazard rankings. The level of discussion and detail about specific hazards in this section are based on these rankings. Hazards that are ranked *high* include the most detail, and to the extent possible include probabilistic assessments of risk, i.e. likely future damages in the community based on the likelihood of occurrence. Hazards that are ranked *medium* have less detail and may in some cases refer to the main part of the county mitigation plan; they usually do not have probabilistic risk assessments, although potential future losses are discussed based on best available data. Hazards ranked *low*

**Table 19-3  
Westfield Town Hazard Identification  
and Prioritization**

Hazard	Priority
High wind – straight-line winds	H
Severe storm – winter weather	H
Hazmat release – fixed site	M
Hazmat release – transportation	H
Flood	M
Drought	L
Earthquake / Geological	L
Erosion	L
Extreme temperature – cold	H
Extreme temperature – heat	L
Hail	L
High wind – tornado	L
Ice storm	H
Landslide (non-seismic)	L
Severe storm – lightning	M
Storm surge	L
Dam failure	L
Wildfire	L

*\*Only the hazards ranked high and medium are analyzed in this appendix*



and *none* are not addressed in this jurisdictional appendix because they are discussed in the County part of the HMP, and there are no significant differences in risk between the County and the municipality.

## 3.2 Straight Line Wind Hazard

### 3.2.1 Type, Location and Extent

The high wind – straight line wind hazard is uniform across Union County, and is discussed in detail in the County portion of this mitigation plan. For reasons of brevity these details are not repeated here. There are no wind hazards that are unique to Westfield.

### 3.2.2 Previous Occurrences and the Probability of Future Occurrences

Previously occurrences and the probability of future events are the same for Westfield as for Union County. Refer to Section 4 for that information at a County level.

### 3.2.3 Straight Line Wind Impacts and Vulnerabilities to the Hazard

Westfield is a typical residential community, predominated by balloon-frame and unreinforced masonry residential structures, the majority of which have gable or hip roofs. As discussed in the County part of the plan, wind profiles in this area of the country indicate a relatively low potential for severe events, and adequate construction techniques and building codes have generally sufficed to keep risks low. There are two main sources of potential wind damage in such communities: (1) structural damage to residential and non-residential buildings, and (2) power losses, mainly due to trees falling on above-ground lines. There are established methodologies for completing general risk assessments for these hazards. These are explained in detail in the County portion of the plan (see Section 4). Table 19-4 below summarizes annual straight-line wind risks and cumulative risks over 50- and 100-year planning horizons in Westfield. Risks are in seven discreet categories: building damages, contents damages, inventory loss, relocation costs, business income lost, rental income lost and wages lost.

**Table 19-4: Straight-line Wind Risks for Range of Loss Types  
Annualized and 50- and 100-year Planning Horizons**

Occupancy Class	Total SF	Total Annualized Damages	50-year Risk	100-year Risk
Residential	16,537,373	\$409,660	\$5,653,720	\$5,845,441
Commercial	3,627,514	\$44,437	\$613,276	\$634,073
Industrial	347,176	\$2,784	\$38,427	\$39,730
Agricultural	59,968	\$693	\$9,570	\$9,894
Religious	285,053	\$3,349	\$46,215	\$47,783
Government	182,250	\$1,949	\$26,902	\$27,814
Education	251,209	\$2,425	\$33,466	\$34,601
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21,290,543</b>	<b>\$465,298</b>	<b>\$6,421,576</b>	<b>\$6,639,335</b>



**Table 19-5: Power Loss Horizons**

The next table shows power loss risks in Westfield, again annualized and for 50- and 100-year planning horizons. The methodology for these calculations (and additional jurisdiction-level data) can be found in Section 4 of the County plan.

Period	Risk Value
Annual	\$341,306
50-year planning horizon	\$4,710,278
100-year planning horizon	\$4,870,181

### 3.3 Winter Weather Hazard in the Community

#### 3.3.1 Previous Occurrences and the Probability of Future Occurrences

Severe storms and winter weather risks are discussed in detail in Section 4 of the County portion of this mitigation plan. There are no significant differences in the type, location or extent of this hazard between the County and Westfield, and there are no aspects of the hazard that are unique to this jurisdiction.

#### 3.3.2 Previous Occurrences and the Probability of Future Occurrences

Previous occurrences of the severe storm-winter weather hazard are discussed in detail in the County portion of this hazard mitigation plan (see Section 4), and for reasons of brevity are not repeated here. There are no meaningful differences between the County as a whole versus Westfield with regard to occurrences or the future probability of this hazard.

#### 3.3.3 Severe Storm – Winter Weather Impacts and Vulnerabilities to the Hazard

Winter weather impacts in Westfield are substantially similar to the County as a whole, and include lost productivity, traffic accidents, downed trees, medical events (such as heart attacks), and hypothermia (which rarely causes any significant or long-term problems). The community has no unique or pronounced vulnerabilities to this hazard. Like most established communities, over time Westfield has adapted its systems and infrastructure to minimize the effects of cold weather and associated meteorological effects. In rare cases, buildings may experience structural problems due to snow loads, and public or private infrastructure may fail due to freezing. However, these problems are usually minor and are addressed by private citizens (through their own work, or via insurance proceeds) or by the government in the case of infrastructure.

Perhaps the most significant potential impact of winter weather is traffic accidents and related injuries and fatalities. For the most part, damage to vehicles is addressed via private insurance, records of which are proprietary. However, there are national statistics regarding injuries and deaths related to such weather. Local values for injuries and deaths can be deduced from national statistics. Figures for Westfield are displayed in the table below. Refer to the County portion of this mitigation plan for source citations and an explanation of the methodology.



**Table 19-6:  
Winter Storm-related Risks (traffic injuries and fatalities),  
Westfield Town 50- and 100-year Planning Horizons**

	Injuries (combined)	Deaths
Snow/sleet	\$4,163,774	\$472,844
Icy pavement	\$3,239,448	\$356,631
Snow/slush	\$3,122,454	\$314,205
Total annual risk (all hazards)	\$10,525,677	\$1,143,680
50-year risk	\$145,254,336	\$15,782,783
100-year risk	\$150,201,404	\$16,320,313

**Table 19-6 Risks from Hypothermia  
Annually and 50- and 100-year Planning Horizons**

2010 Population	% of US	Annual Death \$	50-year Horizon	100-year Horizon
30,316	0.0096%	\$818,039	\$11,288,933	\$11,673,411

## 3.4 Flood Hazard

### 3.4.1 Type, Location, and Extent

Flooding in Westfield most often occurs during extreme rain events. These can be simply intense inland storms, tropical cyclones (including hurricanes and their remnants), and sometimes “nor’easters”. There are 4 areas of flood concern in Westfield.

1. Nomahegan Brook – this large flood area mostly affects Lenape and Echo Lake Parks but does touch a few residential properties located on Orenda Circle and Manitou Circle.
2. Gallows Hill Road branch – mostly all of this small flood area is located within the Fairview Cemetery retention basin but affects some residential properties on Harding St. and Gallows Hill Rd.
3. Brookside Place brook & retention basin – located on the border between Westfield and Garwood, this small flood area encompasses a small brook that runs behind some Cranford Avenue residential properties and empties into the retention basin in Garwood.
4. Robinson’s Branch of the Rahway River – this is the largest flood area in Westfield and affects multiple residential properties along Knollwood Terrace, Normandy Drive, Willow Grove Road and Lamberts Mill Road. Underground storm sewer drainage pipes discharge into a man-made concrete flume near Shackamaxon Place. This concrete structure,



constructed in the 1970's, holds the waterway within its walls before opening up into a free flowing stream in Tamaques Park and running into a large flood zone in Clark.

One of the best resources for determining flood risk in a jurisdiction is Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which are produced by FEMA. The FIRM is the official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the special flood hazard areas (1% annual chance of flooding) and the risk premium zones applicable to the jurisdiction.<sup>2</sup> The effective FIRM date for Union County is September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and is shown in Figure 19-2. The Preliminary FIRM was released for Union County on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The area within Winfield was not restudied for this map update. Therefore, there are no changes between the Effective FIRM and the Preliminary FIRM.

Current FEMA guidance uses the term *extent* as analogous to potential severity. The extent of the flood hazard in Westfield is relatively minor. The areas discussed above have experienced fairly shallow and low-velocity flooding at various times in the past, and in this case this is the best indicator of extent in the future. The most flood-prone areas of the jurisdiction can expect to experience flooding of a foot or two maximum (occasionally), with more frequent rain events causing a few inches of inundation at low spots, and those adjacent to culverts and stream channels. The current engineering design standard for the jurisdiction is a 25-year event (i.e. one with a 4% annual chance of occurring), so events more significant than that have the potential to inundate areas.

Table 19-8 shows the number of parcels in Town of Westfield with at least 60% of their area in the 100-year (1% annual) and 500-year (0.2% annual) floodplain. Although these figures offer some insight into the flood hazard in this jurisdiction, they are not particularly reliable as a risk indicator because in many cases structures and infrastructure (where the risk-producing impacts occur) are not located in the specific areas that are in the floodplain.

**Table 19-7: Flood-prone Properties**

Flood hazard area	Number of Parcels
100-year (1%) floodplain	53
500-year (0.2%) floodplain	22

### 3.4.2 Previous Occurrences and the Probability of Future Floods

Minor flooding occurs in Westfield at least annually, although the severity of these frequent events is minimal. As discussed in the main (County) section of the mitigation plan, more significant events like tropical cyclones and nor'easters occur every few years (section citation to main plan), and can result in significant flooding. Notwithstanding the potential effects of climate change on weather patterns, the Town can probably expect to experience some level of flooding every year or two, with more significant

<sup>2</sup> FEMA online - Floodplain Management. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) definition



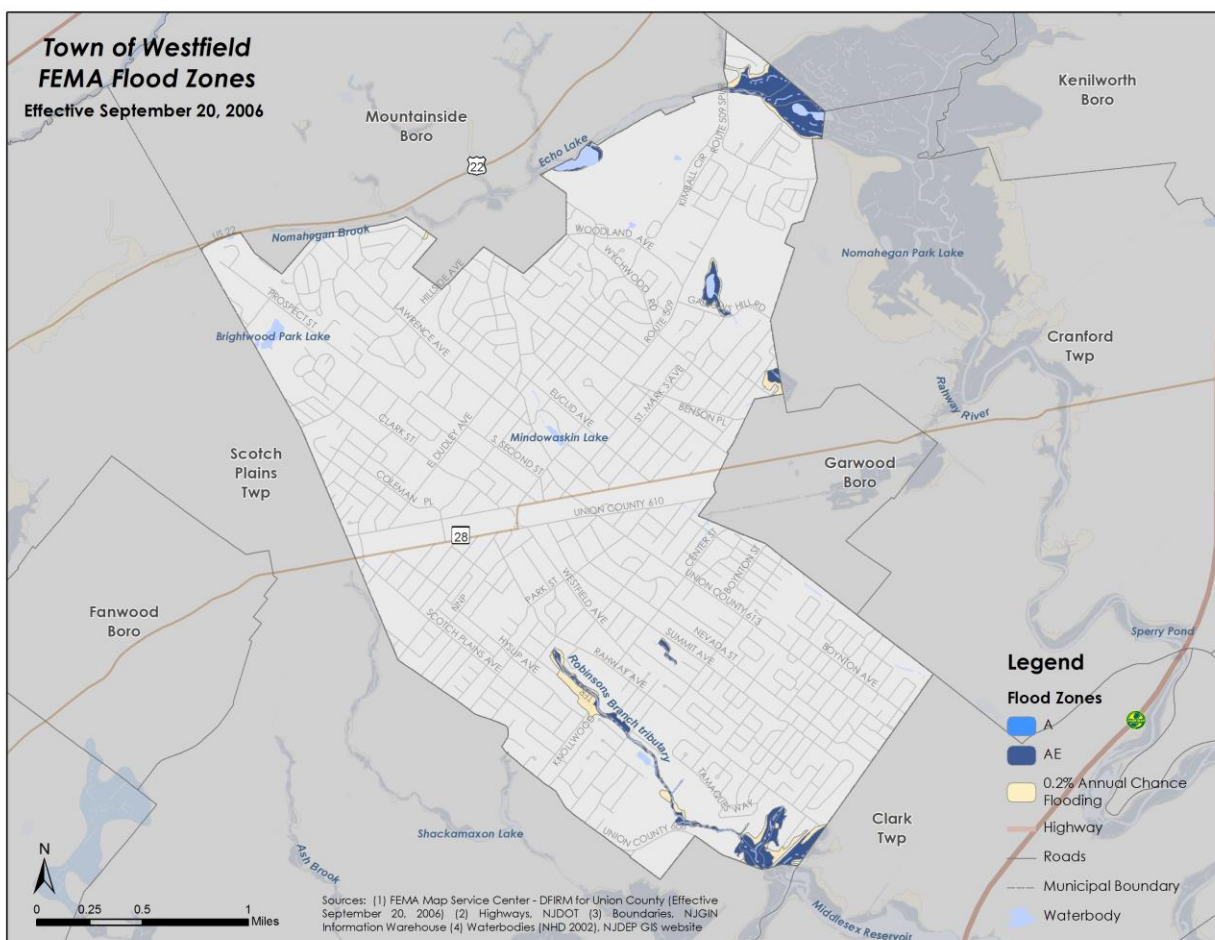


events happening every five to ten years on average. The main (County) part of this HMP discusses past occurrences in detail, and that history and statistics are generally the same as for Westfield.

### 3.4.3 Flood Impacts and Vulnerabilities to Flooding

As discussed elsewhere, flood impacts in Westfield are relatively minor based on various metrics such as NFIP claims, FEMA PA Program Project Worksheets, and the known history of flooding. There is no significant history of flood damage to critical facilities or populations in the jurisdiction.

**Figure 19-2**  
**Effective FIRM Town of Westfield**



### 3.4.4 National Flood Insurance Program and Repetitive Loss Properties

To provide a sense of the flood risk in a community it is also beneficial to summarize the policies in force and claims statistics from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The U.S. Congress



established the NFIP with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. The NFIP is a Federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for State and community floodplain management regulations that

**Table 19-8  
NFIP Policies and Claims**

<b>Number of Parcels:</b>	
Westfield:	10,002
Union County:	199,489
<b>Number of Policies In-Force:</b>	
Westfield:	151
Union County:	6,055
<b>Number of Claims:</b>	
Westfield:	28
Union County:	5,560
<b>Total Paid Claims</b>	
Westfield:	\$201,222
Union County:	\$96,782,279
<b>Repetitive Loss Properties:</b>	
Westfield:	1
Union County:	707
<b>Total Building</b>	
Westfield:	\$4,030
Union County:	\$16,597,500
<b>Total Contents</b>	
Westfield:	\$0
Union County:	\$3,787,671
<b>Number of Claims</b>	
Westfield:	2
Union County:	2,115
<b>Average Claim</b>	
Westfield:	\$2,015
Union County:	\$9,891

reduce future flood damages. Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between communities and the Federal Government. If a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risk to new construction in floodplains, the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses. Westfield Township has been a member of the NFIP since 1979.

FEMA NFIP statistics indicate that as of February 2014, federal flood insurance policies were in-force on 151 properties in Town of Westfield. This represents a dollar value of property and contents coverage totalling \$44,726,100. Between 1978 and 2014, there have been a total of 28 NFIP insurance claims in Town of Westfield with a total claims value of \$201,222. <sup>3</sup> Table 19-9 compares the number of policies in-force and paid claims in the jurisdiction. The Table shows that Town of Westfield comprises 2.5% of the NFIP policies in-force in Union County.

Town of Westfield is not presently a member of the Community Rating System (CRS), a voluntary program for communities participating in the NFIP. The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. For CRS participating communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted in increments of 5% based on creditable activities.<sup>4</sup> CRS communities are ranked between 1 and 10, with Class 1 communities receiving a 45% premium discount.

It should be noted that NFIP claims are not a direct or completely accurate proxy for flood risk in a community. The data does not include flood damages to structures that had no flood insurance.

Also, in some cases, structures or contents may have been underinsured. The NFIP claims data also does not include any damages to public facilities, which may be insured via other means (such as self-

<sup>3</sup> FEMA – Policy and Claim Statistics for Flood Insurance

<sup>4</sup> FEMA – Community Rating System (CRS).



insurance or non-FEMA policies); such damages may also be addressed through other federal programs such as FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

FEMA requires a discussion of NFIP Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive flood loss statistics in hazard mitigation plans. The NFIP defines *repetitive loss* properties as those with two or more claims of more than \$1,000 each during any rolling ten-year period.

The flood risk assessment method is based on analysis of NFIP data on repetitive flood loss properties. The NFIP defines repetitive loss (RL) properties as those that have received at least two NFIP insurance payments of more than \$1,000 each in any rolling ten-year period. As of February 2014, Union County had 707 such properties based on a query of the FEMA BureauNet NFIP interface. Of this total, one property was located within Westfield; this comprises less than one percent of the County total. Table 19-9 provides a comparison of the residential repetitive loss claims for Union County and Westfield. The tables below include the number of repetitive loss properties, building and contents damages, the total number of claims, and the average claim amounts. Town of Westfield has one such property, and the total of claims on it is relatively small, as shown in Table 19-9.

### **3.4.5 Flood Risk to Repetitive Loss Properties in Westfield**

The single RL property in Westfield made two insurance claims, in 2010 and 2011, thus placing it on the repetitive loss list. These are a result of basement flooding from a sump pump failure and the property is not in the SFHA. Given the relatively small amount of the claims and the short time period, it is not possible to use this information for a meaningful risk projection.

### **3.4.6 Flood Risk to Severe Repetitive Loss Properties in Westfield**

The definition of Severe Repetitive Flood Loss is included in the County portion of this mitigation plan. As of February 2014, Westfield had no NFIP severe repetitive flood loss properties.



### 3.5 Critical Facilities

There are a few facilities with identified risk to flooding, the Town has included mitigation actions for these buildings in the strategy.

Facility	Address
Beadleston High School/Westlake School	1571 Lamberts Mill Rd.
Lincoln School (Kindergarten)	728 Westfield Ave.
Crossroads School	45 Cardinal Dr.
Edison Middle School (6-8)	800 Rahway Ave.
Fire Headquarters	405 North Ave.
Fire Station 2	1029 Central Ave.
First Congressional School (Private)	125 Elmer St.
Franklin School ( 1-5)	700 Prospect St.
Holy Trinity School (Private)	336 First St.
Jefferson School (1 – 5)	1200 Boulevard
McKinley School (1 – 5)	500 First St.
Public Library	550 E. Broad St.
Redeemer Lutheran School (PreK – 6)	229 Cowperthwaite Pl.
Roosevelt Middle School (6-8)	301 Clark St.
Tamaques School (1-5)	641 Willow Grove Rd.
Town Hall & Police Headquarters	425 E. Broad St.
Washington School (1 – 5)	900 St. Marks Ave.
Westfield High School (9-12)	550 Dorian Rd.
Westfield Station (West Bound)	
Westfield Station (East Bound)	
Wilson School (1 -5)	301 Linden Ave.



## 4 Town of Westfield Mitigation Strategy

This section contains goals, objectives, and action items for the Town of Westfield, as part of the Union County Plan Update. The goals are similar to the goals outlined in the County plan, but the objectives are adjusted for the jurisdiction. The definitions for these terms can be found in Section 5 of the Union County Plan Update.

### 4.1 Goals

- Goal 1: Improve **LOCAL KNOWLEDGE** about the potential impacts of hazards, and the identification of specific measures that can be taken to reduce their impacts
- Goal 2: Improve **DATA COLLECTION, USE, AND SHARING** to reduce the impacts of hazards
- Goal 3: Improve **CAPABILITIES, COORDINATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES** to plan and implement risk reduction projects, programs, and activities
- Goal 4: Pursue a range of **MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES**, including addressing NFIP repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties, and reducing risk to public properties and infrastructure

### 4.2 Objectives

- Objective 1.A: Increase risk awareness among officials and citizens.
- Objective 1.B: Maintain and improve jurisdiction-level awareness regarding funding opportunities for mitigation, including that provided by FEMA and other federal and State agencies.
- Objective 2.A: Improve the availability and accuracy of risk- and mitigation-related data at the local level, as the basis for planning and development of risk-reduction activities.
- Objective 2.B: Ensure that government officials and local practitioners have accurate and current information about best practices for hazard mitigation planning, project identification, and implementation.
- Objective 2.C: Develop and maintain detailed data about critical facilities, as the basis for risk assessment and development of mitigation options.
- Objective 3.A: Continue support of hazard mitigation planning, project identification, and implementation at the municipal level.
- Objective 3.B: Continue close coordination with the County in a range of risk-related areas, such as FEMA programs, mitigation planning, development of hazard mitigation projects, etc.
- Objective 3.C: Increase property owner participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Objective 3.D: Implement activities to improve the community's CRS rating.
- Objective 3.E: Work towards increasing the integration of mitigation principles and activities in a range of local regulations, plans, ordinances and activities.
- Objective 3.F: Maintain and improve coordination with surrounding communities with regard to understanding and reducing risks.
- Objective 4.A: Facilitate development and timely submittal of project applications meeting state and federal guidelines for funding (1) for RL and SRL properties and (2) for hardening/retrofitting infrastructure that is at the highest risk.
- Objective 4.B: Maintain and enhance local planning and regulatory standards related to future development and investments.



### 4.3 Mitigation Strategy

The table below lists prioritized mitigation projects and actions identified by the Town of Westfield.

Mitigation Action, Program, or Project	Hazard	Priority	Implementation Mechanism	Responsible Party	Project Duration	Estimated Cost	Current Status
Conduct all-hazards public education and outreach program for hazard mitigation and preparedness.	All	High	Emergency Management	OEM Coordinator, in coordination County OEM	1 year	Staff Time	Ongoing
Flood proofing of the Police Building/Municipality Building/Data Storage	Flood	High	Floodplain Management	Westfield Police Chief/OEM	3 - 6 months	\$150,000	Pending funding
Retrofit of Fire Department on North Avenue	High Wind/ Extreme Weather	High	Capital Improvement	Westfield Fire Chief	3 - 6 months	To be determined by engineer & architect	Pending funding
Retrofit of Fire Department on Central Avenue	High Wind/ Extreme Weather	High	Capital Improvement	Westfield Fire Chief	5-10 years	To be determined by engineer & architect	Pending funding
Backup generator for the Department of Public Works	High Wind/ Extreme Weather	High	Capital Improvement	Westfield DPW	As soon as funds are available	\$100,000	Completed
Flood proofing for the Genesis Elder Care: Senior Housing	Flood	High	Floodplain Management	Westfield OEM	3-6 months	\$180,000	Pending funding
Consider possible drainage project or elevation of repetitive loss property	Flood	Medium	Floodplain management	Engineering	2-5 years	Varies	New



## 4.4 Capability Assessment

As part of this plan update each town self-assessed their existing planning and regulatory tools, communication and emergency response capabilities, staff and personnel, and their capabilities to leverage municipal funds to achieve hazard mitigation planning objectives. This capability assessment should be updated as part of the ongoing maintenance process.

### 4.4.1 Planning and Regulatory

Tool	Community Has (y/n)
Zoning Ordinance	Y
Subdivision Ordinance	Y
Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (per NFIP)	
Special Purpose Ordinances (e.g. wetlands, critical or sensitive areas)	N
Stormwater Management Plan/Ordinance	Y
Comprehensive Plan / Master Plan	Y
Capital Improvements Plan	Y
Site Plan Review Requirements	Y
Habitat Conservation Plan	N
Economic Development Plan	Y
Local EOP	Y
Continuity of Operations Plan	Y
Post Disaster Recovery Plan or Ordinance	Y
Wildfire Protection Plan	N
Real Estate Disclosure req.	Y
Other (e.g. steep slope ordinance, local waterfront revitalization plan)	N
Freeboard	N
Cumulative Substantial Damages	N
Shoreline Management Plan	N/A

### 4.4.2 Communication and Emergency Response

	Does the Town have this (y/n)
Outdoor warning system	Y
Nixle	Y
Auto-Dialer/Reverse 911/Emailer	N
Social Media	Y
Website Updates	Y
Other Emergency Communications	Y – AM Radio
Mutual Aid Agreements	Y
Emergency Operations Center	Y
Evacuation Vehicles	Y
Swift-water rescue	Y
Shallow water boats	Y



### 4.4.3 Staff/Personnel

	Does the Town have this (y/n)
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	Y
Grant Writer(s)	Y
Emergency Manager	Y
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	Y
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in the municipality.	N
Personnel skilled or trained in "GIS" applications	Y
Surveyor(s)	Y
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Y
Planner(s) or Engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Y
Engineer(s) or Professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Y

### 4.4.4 Fiscal Capabilities

	Does the Town have this capability (y/n)
Community development Block Grants (CDBG)	Y
Capital Improvements Project Funding	Y
Authority to Levy Taxes for specific purposes	Y
User fees for water, sewer, gas or electric service	Y
Impact Fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	N
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Y
Incur debt through special tax bonds	Y
Incur debt through private activity bonds	N
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas mitigation grant programs	N





## 5. Plan Maintenance and Adoption

### 5.1 Plan Maintenance

The Town of Westfield will review this Appendix of the County's hazard mitigation plan each year and give the County's HMP Coordinator an annual progress report. The Town Administrator is responsible for convening the LPC, initiating the plan review, and submitting the annual progress report. The LPC may use worksheets #1 and #3 in the FEMA 386-4 guidance document, to facilitate the review and progress report. FEMA guidance worksheets are provided in Appendix G. Local progress reports shall be provided to the County HMP Coordinator at least two weeks prior to the annual plan review meeting.

Additionally, the LPC will convene and review the plan when major hazard events impact the jurisdiction, potentially yielding opportunities for mitigation grant funding, or when new information suggests that plan elements do not accurately reflect the community's risk or its mitigation priorities.

If necessary, the Town Administrator, or designated HMP Coordinator, will convene a meeting of the LPC to review and approve all changes. The Town retains the discretion to implement minor changes to the document without formal procedures involving the Town Council subject to local policies and regulations.

In addition to the annual progress report, the Town of Westfield will provide Union County with a copy of the written notice of any changes to the jurisdictional appendix at the time such changes are implemented.

The LPC shall document, as needed and appropriate:

- Hazard events and losses in Westfield and the effects that mitigation actions have had on impacts and losses,
- Progress on the implementation of mitigation actions, including efforts to obtain outside funding for projects,
- Any obstacles or impediments to the implementation of actions,
- Any changes to local capabilities,
- Efforts to integrate the information included in this plan into other local planning mechanisms including, but not limited to, the comprehensive plan, capital improvement planning, budgeting, zoning amendments, and variance approvals,
- Additional mitigation actions believed to be appropriate and feasible,
- All public and stakeholder input and comment on the Plan that has been received by the Town.
- Copies of any grant applications filed on behalf of the Town



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### 5.1.2 Continued Public Input

The Town of Westfield is committed to incorporating public input into its ongoing hazard mitigation planning. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Plan prior to any changes and during the 5-year plan update. The annual progress reports will be posted on the County mitigation website in addition to the adopted Plan. The Town will post a link to the plan on the municipal website.

All public comments and input on the plan will be recorded and addressed, as appropriate. Opportunity to comment on the plan will be provided directly through the County's website. Public comments can also be submitted in writing to the County's HMP Coordinator. All public comments shall be addressed to: Union County Office of Emergency Management c/o All Hazards Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan Coordinator 300 North Ave East, Westfield, NJ 07090.

The Town of Westfield's LPC shall ensure that:

- Copies of the latest approved Plan are available for review at Town Hall along with instructions to facilitate public input and comment on the Plan.
- Public notices are made as appropriate to inform the public of the availability of the Plan, particularly during Plan update cycles.
- For minor changes to this appendix, the Town of Westfield will post a notice on the Town's website and invite the public to review and comment.
- For major changes involving Town Council approval, the Town will use its standard public notice procedures inviting the public to review the document and provide feedback.

## 5.2 Plan Integration

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a critical tool to help identify vulnerabilities and develop specific projects to reduce studied risk within the jurisdiction. However, it is not the only tool that may help minimize the impact of future hazard events on the people, infrastructure, and economy in the community. Using the data included in this Plan update to inform future updates of its Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Planning and annual budget, stormwater management, zoning and code updates, and variance and subdivision applications will improve the resiliency of the community and reduce future risk to persons and property. All efforts to integrate the plan into other local mechanisms can be reported to the Plan Coordinator at each annual update.

## 5.3 Plan Adoption

On [insert date] Union County submitted the initial draft of the 2016 Plan Update to NJOEM for review and comment. After addressing NJOEM comments in the document, the HMP was resubmitted for final consideration and approval by NJOEM and FEMA. FEMA approved the plan on [insert date], and the Plan update was forwarded to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders for adoption, which occurred on [insert date].



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The Town Council approved the plan on [insert date]. The Town resolution and the County's adoption resolution are provided as Appendix E of the 2016 HMP update. Following adoption, the plan update was resubmitted to FEMA for final approval, which occurred on [insert date]. The FEMA approval letter is included as Appendix D.