

#### Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Town of Old Saybrook & Borough of Fenwick February 7, 2024

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## Today's Meeting

- ✓ Introduce Planning Team
- ✓ Present Project Overview
- ✓ Review Planning Process
- ✓ Present Assets Inventory Update
- Provide Natural Hazard Characterization Update
- ✓ Vulnerability Assessment
- ✓ 2019 Mitigation Goals and Actions
- ✓ Discuss Next Steps

Second Public Meeting: May 15, 2024

# Planning Team

## Local Planning Team (Working Group)

Local Planning Team	
Old Saybrook Zoning Enforcement Officer/ Town Chris Costa Planner	
Fenwick ZEO/Land Use Administrator	Marilyn Ozols
Old Saybrook Assistant Town Planner	Lynette Wacker
Fenwick Resident	Bruce Baird
Old Saybrook Planning Commission Liaison	Dennis Tulimieri

## Local Planning Team (Working Group) Meetings

Planning Team Meetings	Date
Project Initiation Meeting	9/20/2023
Working Group Meeting	11/2/2023
Working Group Meeting	2/6/2024
Working Group Meeting	4/16/2024

## Project Hazard Planning Consultant

#### About GZA

Offices nationwide, Engineers, Scientists, Planners and Technical Specialists providing expert, risk-informed and pragmatic advice and solutions in the following **Core Service** areas....



## Project Overview

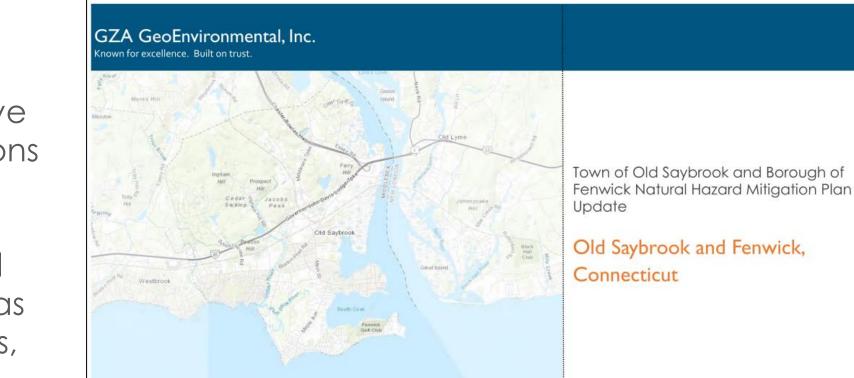
# Other Related Studies



## HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING BACKGROUND

#### PURPOSE:

Hazard Mitigation planning is a proactive effort to identify actions that can reduce the dangers to life and property from natural hazard events, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, winter storms and earthquakes.



#### Local Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Prepared in accordance with the requirements presented in the 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.6, FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide and the Local Mitigation Handbook Prepared by: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Prepared For: Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut Land Use Department and Borough of Fenwick, Connecticut Building and Land Use Department

## HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING BACKGROUND

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Federal Disaster The Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all municipalities that wish to be eligible to receive FEMA funding for hazard mitigation grants, to adopt a local multihazard mitigation plan and update this plan in five year intervals.

# <text>

Town of Old Saybrook and Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

#### Old Saybrook and Fenwick, Connecticut

Prepared by: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Prepared For: Town of Old Saybrook, Connecticut Land Use Department and Borough of Fenwick, Connecticut Building and Land Use Department

#### October 2, 2019 (effective through October 1, 2024)

#### Local Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Prepared in accordance with the requirements presented in the 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.6, FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide and the Local Mitigation Handbook

# Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



# Planning Goals:

- ✓ Document progress made per the 2019 Plan Update
- ✓ Update Town (Old Saybrook and the Borough of Fenwick) asset inventory
- ✓ Characterize the natural hazards and climate-change effects
- ✓ Assess current and future hazard vulnerability
- ✓ Provide public education and outreach throughout the planning process
- ✓ Revise and develop strategies and actions to mitigate the hazard risks
- ✓ Adopt the Plan Update

# Project Overview

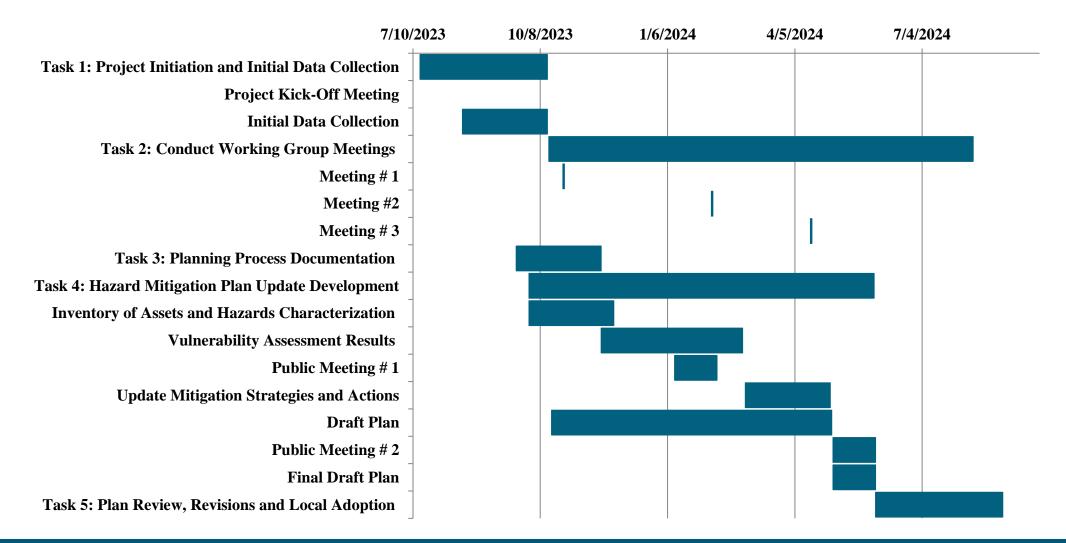
# Planning Tasks:

- 1. Project Initiation
- 2. Conduct Working Group Meetings
- 3. Planning Process Documentation
- 4. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Development
- 5. State and Federal Plan Review Revisions and Local Adoption

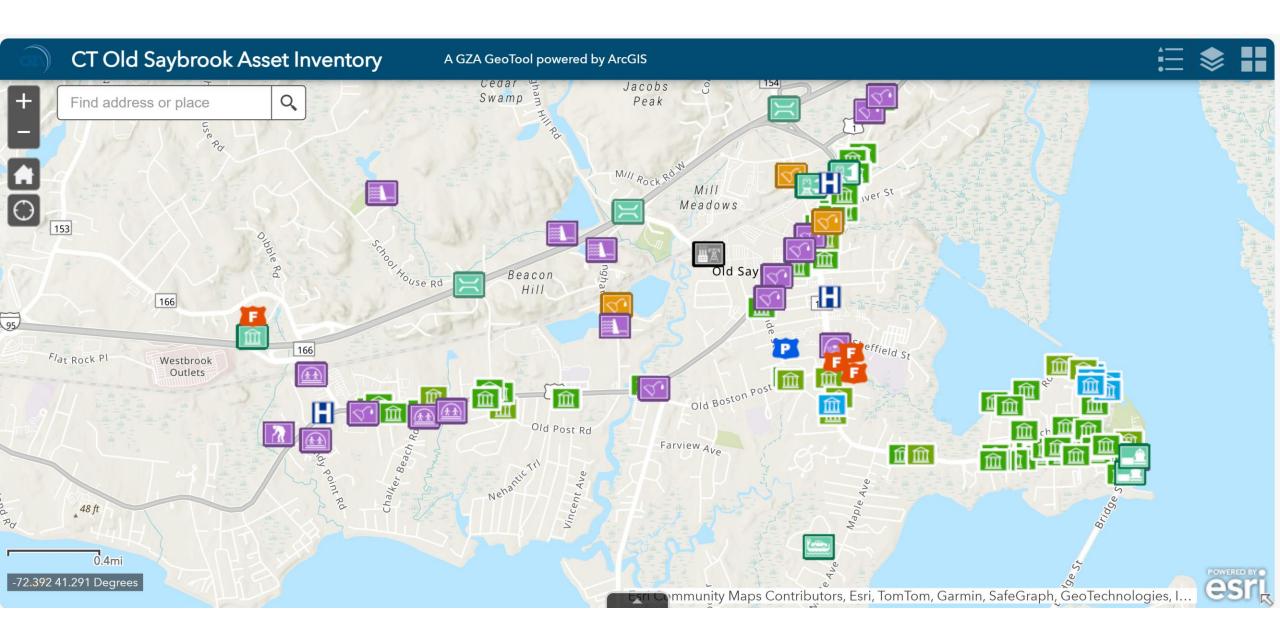


Harvey's Beach

## Plan Schedule



# Project Approach: GIS Data Management



# Planning Process

## Planning Process

## ✓ Assess Risk:

- Community Demographics/Social Vulnerability
- Asset Inventory
- Natural Hazards Characterization
- Risk Assessment
- ✓ Mitigation Strategy and Actions
- ✓ Plan Adoption and Maintenance



Figure credit FEMA/Jenny Burmester – Aug 21, 2017

#### Plan Components

#### **Table of Contents**

	Quick Plan Reference Guide
p.3	Section 1: Introduction
P.7	Section 2: Planning Process
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P.27	Section 5: Natural Hazard Mitigation Strategies
P.39	Section 6: Regional and Intercommunity Considerations
P.43	Section 7: Plan Adoption and Implementation

Ouick Plan Reference Guide

#### Attachments:

Community Profile Details
 Natural Hazard Details
 Natural Hazard Risk Details
 FEMA HAZUS-MH Simulation Results
 State and Federal Funding Sources
 Public Meeting Documentation
 References and Resources
 Key Contacts

# Assets Inventory

## 2019 Plan Update Asset Categories and 2024 Updates

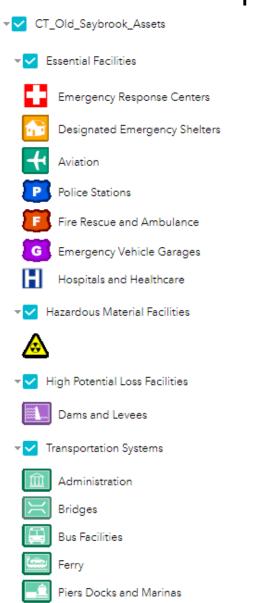
- 1. Essential Facilities
- 2. Lifeline Utility Systems
- 3. Hazardous Material Facilities
- 4. High Potential Loss Facilities
- 5. Transportation Systems
- 6. Support, High Occupancy and Vulnerable Populations
- 7. Natural Resources and Recreation Areas
- 8. Historic and Cultural Assets
- 9. Stormwater Infrastructure

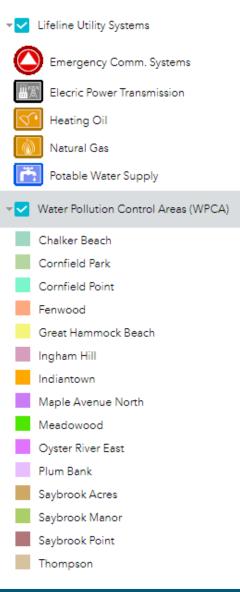


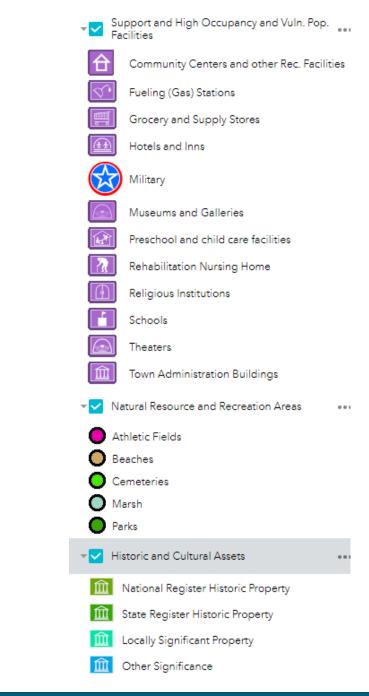


## 2024 Plan Update Community Assets

Lifeline Utility Systems







**Rail Station** 

## **Essential Facilities**

#### Site - Assets and Infrastructure

**Essential Facilities** 

Emergency Response Centers

Designated Emergency Shelters



Police Stations

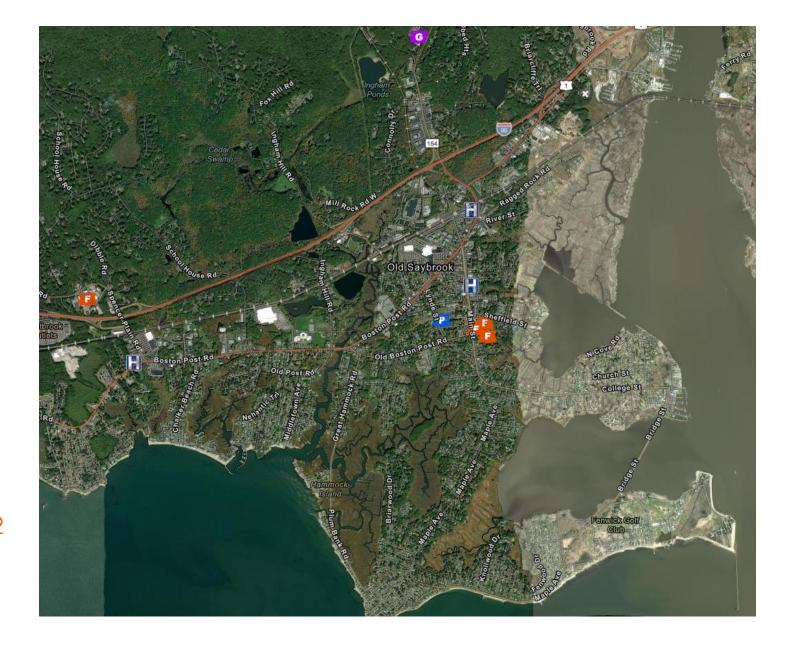
Fire Rescue and Ambulance

G Emergency Vehicle Garages

Hospitals and Healthcare

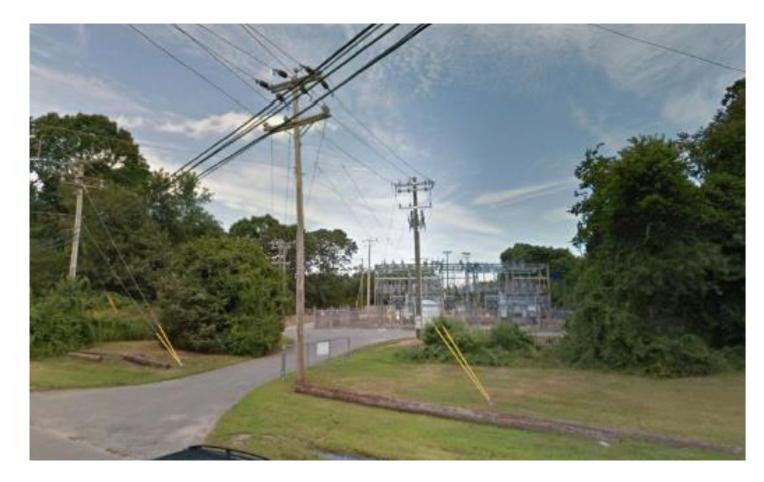
#### Essential Facilities:

- Hospitals: none
- Healthcare Facilities: 3
- Police Station: 1
- Fire Rescue and Ambulance: 2
- DPW Garage: 1
- Emergency Management: 2



## Lifeline Systems

- Electric Power Generation
- Electric Power Transmission
- Natural Gas
- Heating Oil
- Potable Water Supply
- Wastewater Distribution
  - On-site septic
  - 15 Wastewater Districts
- Telecommunications



## Lifeline Systems

#### Site - Assets and Infrastructure

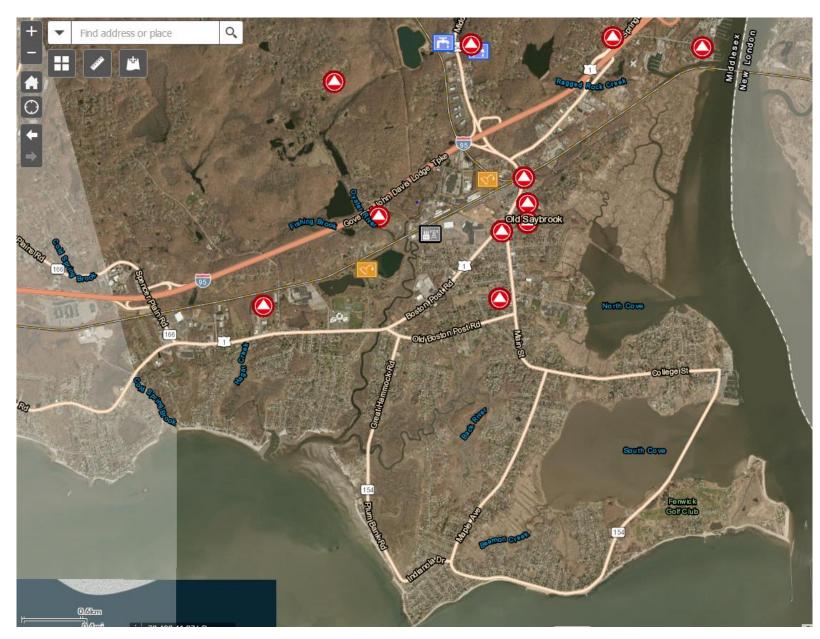


#### Water:

- Connecticut Water
   Company
- Guilford Water System (wells and reservoirs)
- Water Supply Source: Holbrook Wellfield

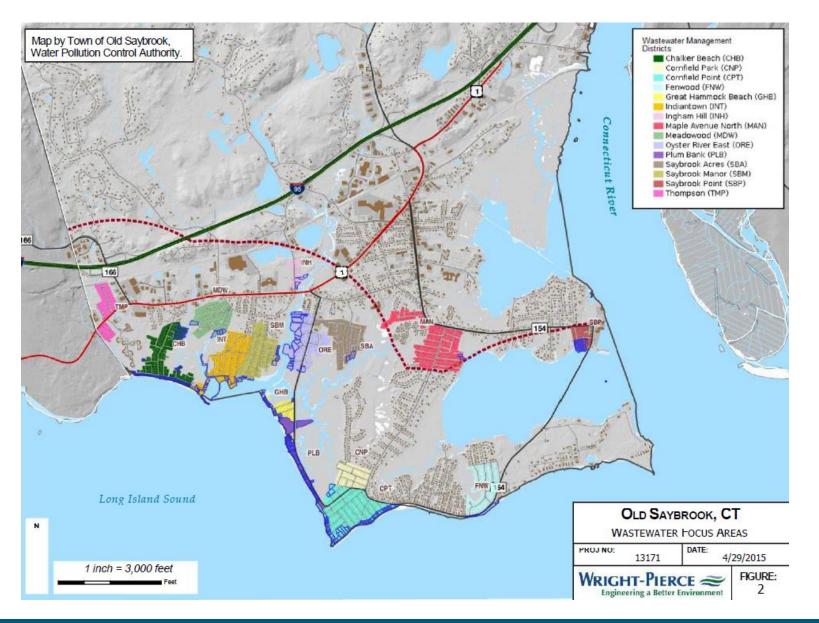
Electrical:

- Eversource
- Overhead transmission
- Two Substations: Bokum Road and Elm Street



## Decentralized Wastewater Management

- 15 Wastewater Districts
- 1900 parcels
- 10 of 15 districts upgrades
- 5 remaining are most vulnerable



#### Transportation Systems

#### Site - Assets and Infrastructure



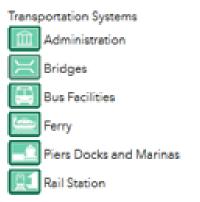
Six (6) I-95 (Connecticut Turnpike) bridges:

- I-95 Bridge over School House Road
- I-95 Bridge over Elm Street
- I-95 Bridge over Middlesex Turnpike
- I-95 Bridge over Springbrook Road
- I-95 Bridge over Essex Road
- I-95 Bridge over Route



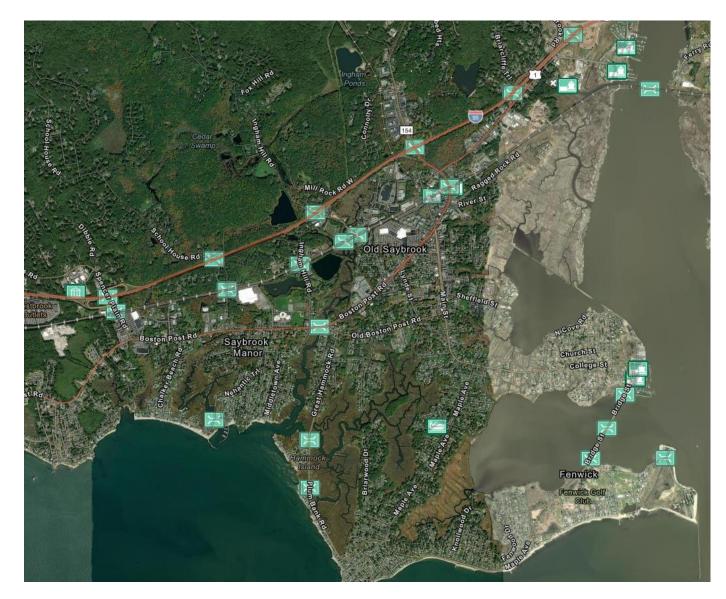
#### Transportation Systems

#### Site - Assets and Infrastructure



#### Five (5) State bridges:

- Raymond E. Baldwin Bridge
   over the Connecticut River
- Route 1 Bridge over the Oyster River
- Causeway Middle Bridge
   over South Cove (Route 154)
- Causeway North Bridge over South Cove (Route 154)
- Causeway South Bridge over South Cove (Route 154)Key Local Roadways



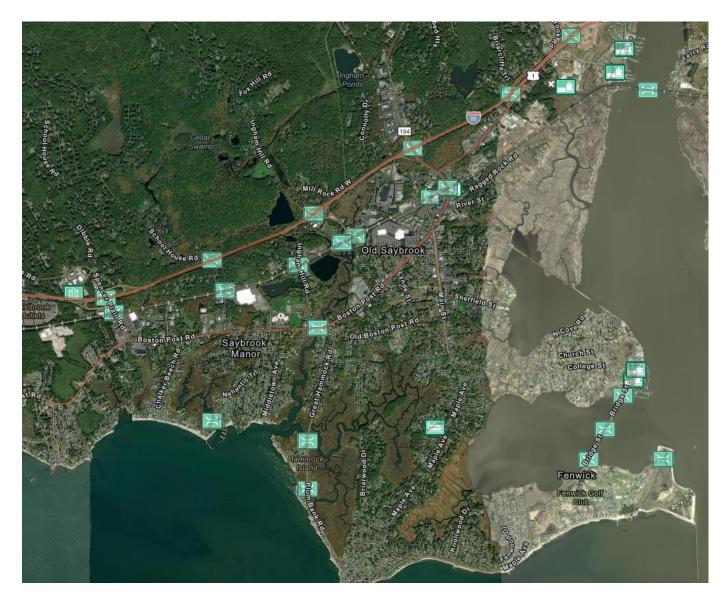
#### Transportation Systems

#### Site - Assets and Infrastructure



#### Eight (8) Town bridges:

- Great Hammock Road Bridge over Back
   River
- Ingham Hill Road Bridge over Amtrak
- Nehantic Trail Bridge over Hager Creek
- Plum Bank Road Bridge over Plum Bank Creek
- School House Road Bridge over Amtrak
- Sequassen Avenue Bridge over Crab Creek (in Borough of Fenwick)
- Spencer Plain Rd Bridge over I-95
- Spencer Plain Road Bridge over Amtrak



## Transportation – Key Federal and State Roadways

1 Key Federal Roadway

- Interstate 95 (Connecticut Turnpike)
- 4 Key State Roadways 18 Total
  - 3 State Interstate I-95 Route 9 (Chester Bowles Highway)
  - Route 1 (Boston Post Road)
  - Route 154 (Main Street and College St.; Bridge Street and Maple Ave.; Indianola Dr.; Plum Bank Rd. and Great Hammock Rd.; South Cove Causeway)
  - Route 166 (Spencer Plain Road)



#### Transportation – Key Local Roadways

#### Key Local Roadways:

- Essex Road
- Ferry Road
- Springbrook Road
- Elm Street
- Lynde Street
- Pennywise Lane
- Sheffield Street
- Old Boston Post Road
- Chalker Beach Road

- Niabang Avenue
- Sequassan Avenue
- Sea Lane
- Baum Avenue

## Support, High Occupancy and Vulnerable Population

#### Site - Assets and Infrastructure

 Support and High Occupancy and Vuln. Pop. Facilities

 Community Centers and other Rec. Facilities

 Fueling (Gas) Stations

 Grocery and Supply Stores

 Hotels and Inns

 Military

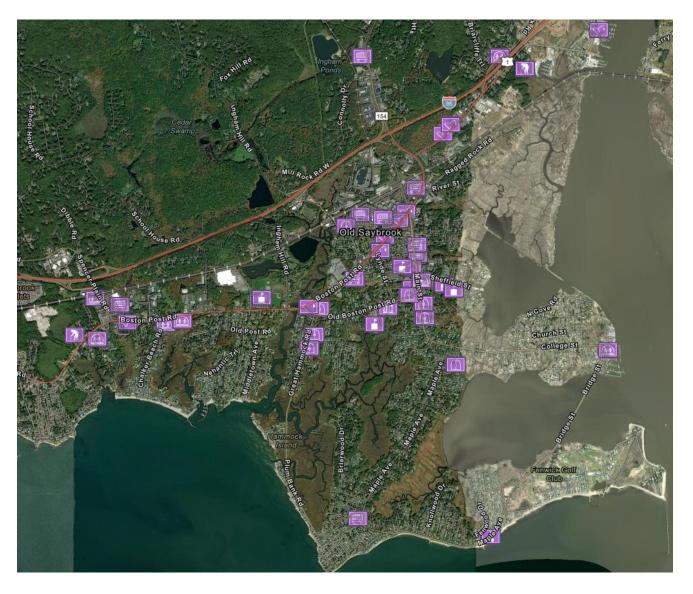
 Rehabilitation Nursing Home

 Religious Institutions

 Schools

 Theaters

 Town Administration Buildings



#### Natural/Ecological Resources

#### Site - Assets and Infrastructure



#### Site - Old Saybrook GIS Planimetrics

ENVIRONMENTAL

Coastal Access

 $\circ$ 

Fish Ladders

Vernal Pools

Vernal Pools 2015

Vernal\_Pools\_URA

Field mapped wetland boundaries

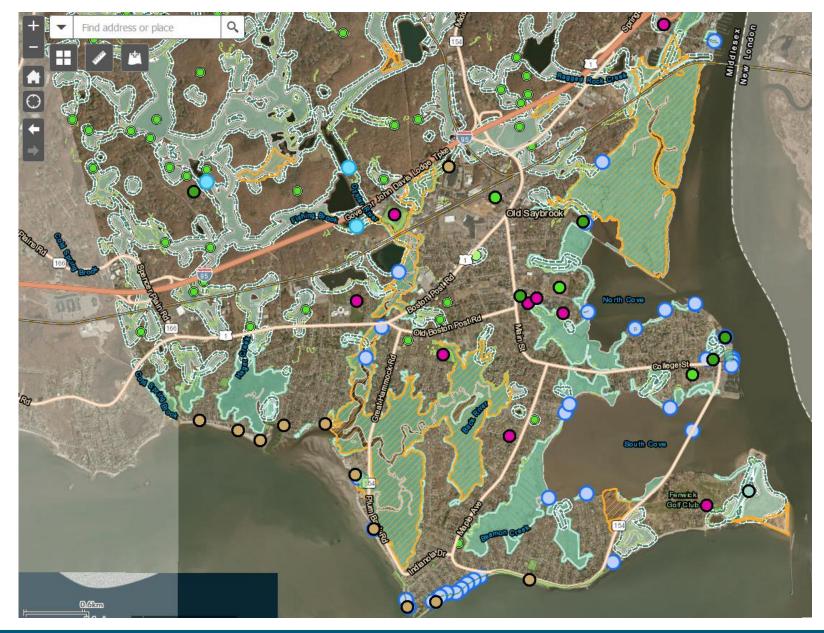
Critical Habitats

24

Inland Wetlands

Inland Wetlands URA

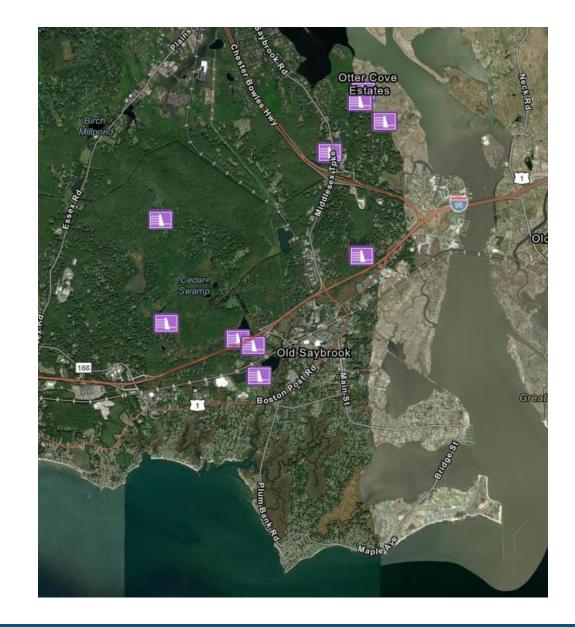
Tidal Wetlands



## High Loss Potential Facilities: Dams

#### High Loss Potential Facilities:

• Dams: 10



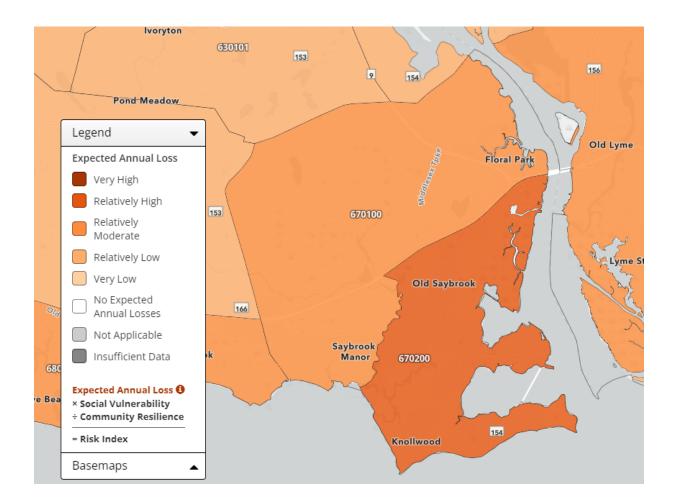
# Natural Hazards

2019 Plan Update Natural Hazard Categories (same for 2024)

- 19 natural hazards identified as applicable to Town
- Four hazard categories:
  - ✓ Severe Weather Hazards
  - ✓ Climate-Related Hazards
  - ✓ Geologic Hazards
  - ✓ Secondary Hazards

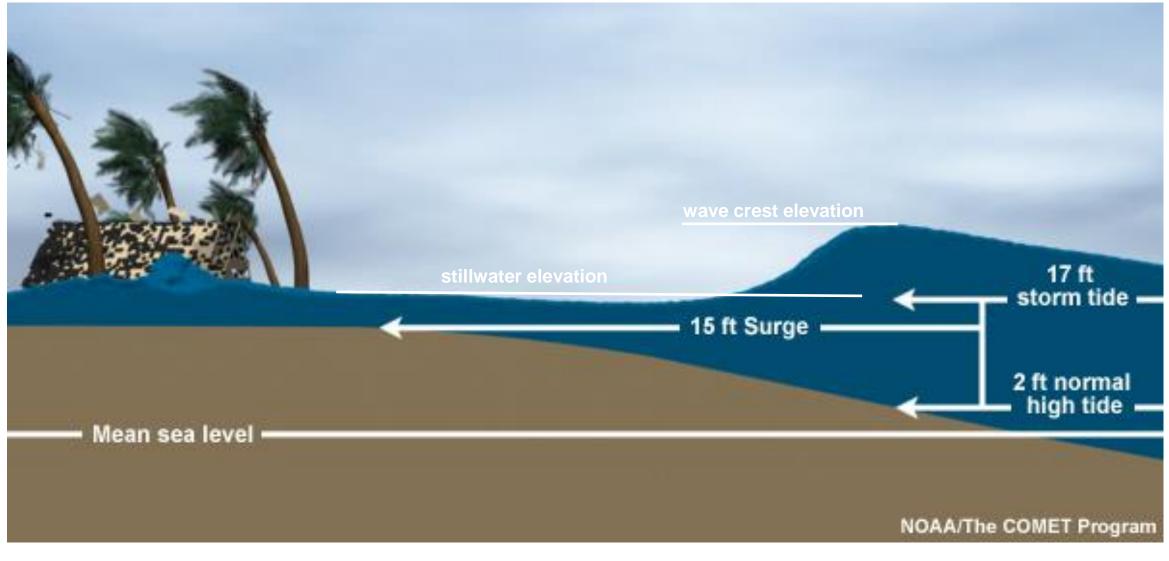
Severe Weather Hazards:	
Severe Wind:	
	Hurricanes/Tropical Storm
	Thunderstorm
	Tornadoe
Lightning	
ntense Rainfall	
Hail	
Flood:	
	Storm Surge
	Sea Level Rise
	Urban Drainage Flooding
Severe Winter Weather	
	Snowfa
	Ice Storm
Climate-Related Hazards:	
Extreme Temperature:	
	Hea
	Colo
Drought	
Wildfire	
Geologic Hazards:	
Earthquake	
Landslides	
Isunami	

#### Natural Hazards



Hazard Type	Annualized Frequency
Avalanche	
Coastal Flooding	3.8 events per year
Cold Wave	0.2 events per year
Drought	0 events per year
Earthquake	0.128% chance per year
Hail	3.4 events per year
Heat Wave	0.8 events per year
Hurricane	0.4 events per year
Ice Storm	2.9 events per year
Landslide	0 events per year
Lightning	31.6 events per year
Riverine Flooding	1.2 events per year
Strong Wind	4.4 events per year
Tornado	0 events per year
Tsunami	n/a
Volcanic Activity	
Wildfire	0.002% chance per year
Winter Weather	7.4 events per year





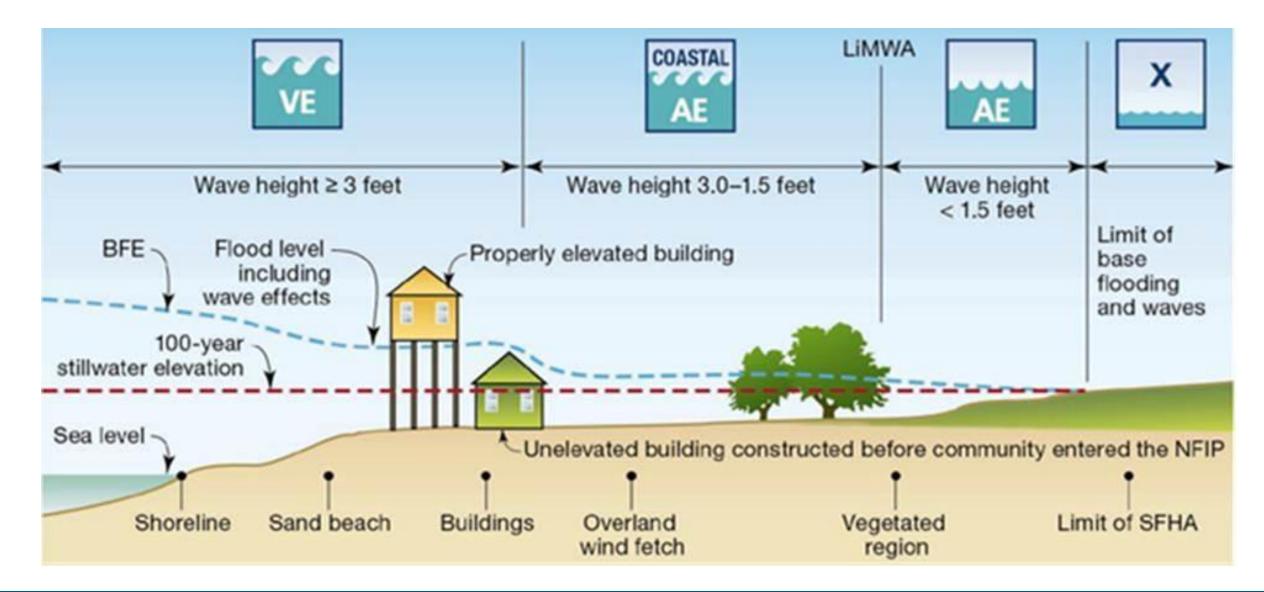
STORM FACTORS

GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS

#### FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map: Base Flood



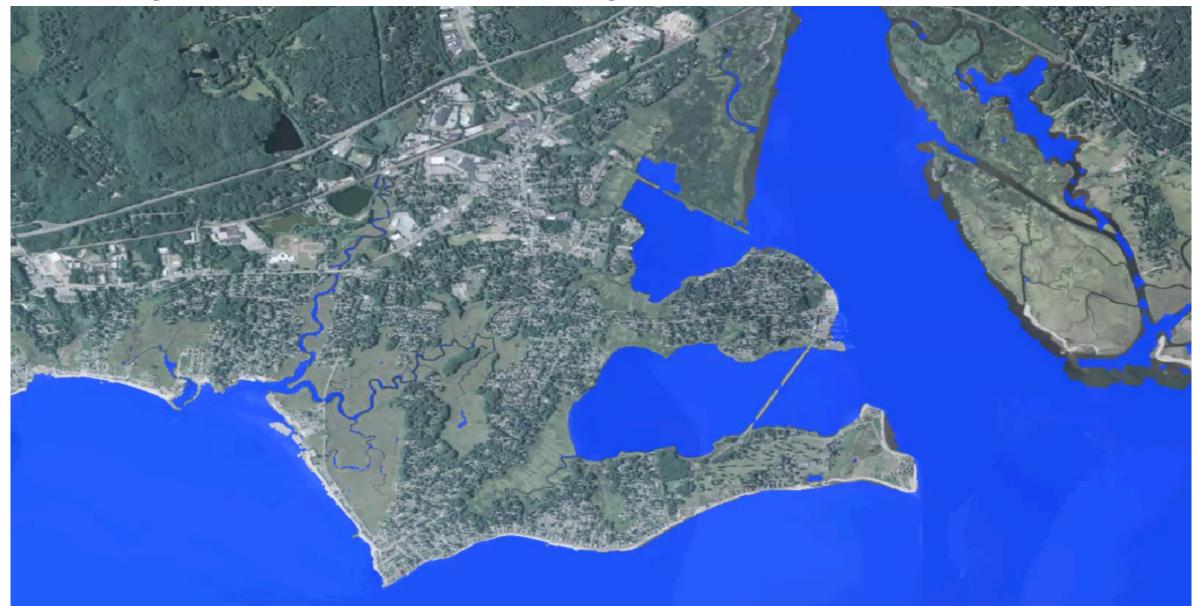
#### FEMA Flood Hazard Zones



#### FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map: Base Flood



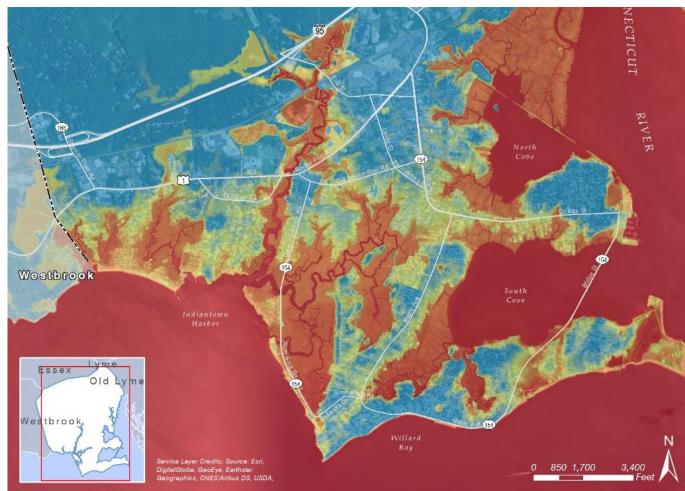
#### GZA High Resolution Modeling – 2016 100-yr



## Vulnerability Assessment

#### Coastal Flooding Vulnerability

- High vulnerability to coastal flooding due to coastal setting and topography
- Experienced extensive flood impacts during the Hurricane of 1938
- More recently during Sandy and Irene



✓ Impacted Communities



- Impacted Essential Facilities
- Evacuation Impacts
- ✓ Shelter Impacts

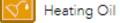


Impacted Lifeline
 Systems



Emergency Comm. Systems - Cell Towers

Elecric Power Transmission



Natural Gas

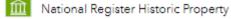


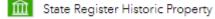
Potable Water Supply



#### ✓ Historic Structures

Type of Historic Property	Total Number	Total Number in VE/V Zone	Total Number in AE/A Zone
National Register Federal Historic Properties	17	3	3
State Register Historic Properties	76	1	17
Locally Significant Historic Properties	236	2	38
Other Significance	6	None	None
Total	335	6	58





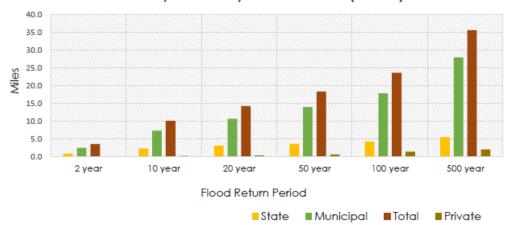


(1) Other Significance



✓ Roadways and Bridges

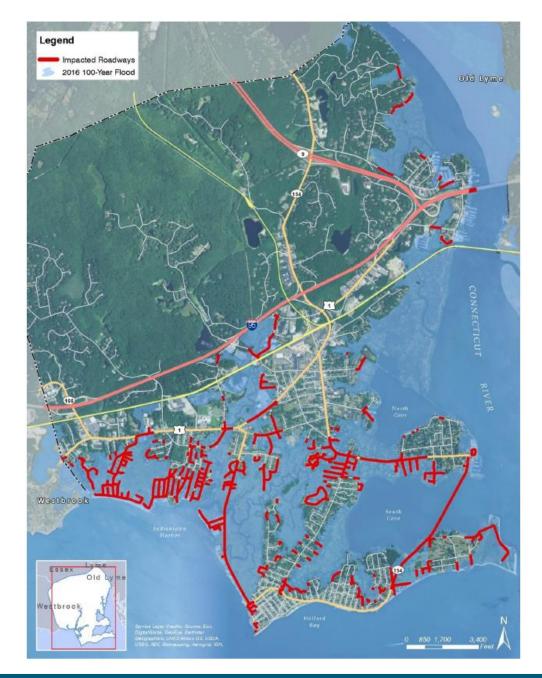
Current Flood Risk



Probability of Roadway Flood Inundation (in miles)

	2-year	10-year	20-year	50-year	100-year	500-year
State	2.9%	7.4%	9.6%	11.3%	13.1%	16.9%
	1 mile	2.4 mile	3.2 mile	3.7 mile	4.3 mile	5.6 mile
Municipal	3%	8.5%	12.4%	16.2%	20.6%	32.3%
	2.6 mile	7.4 mile	10.7 mile	14.0 mile	17.9 mile	28.0 mile
Private	3.6%	10.5%	15%	23.7%	50.4%	71.4%
	0.1 mile	0.3 mile	0.4 mile	0.7 mile	1.5 mile	2.1 mile
Total	+/4 miles	+/-10 miles	+/-14 miles	+/-18.5 miles	+/-24 miles	+/-36 miles

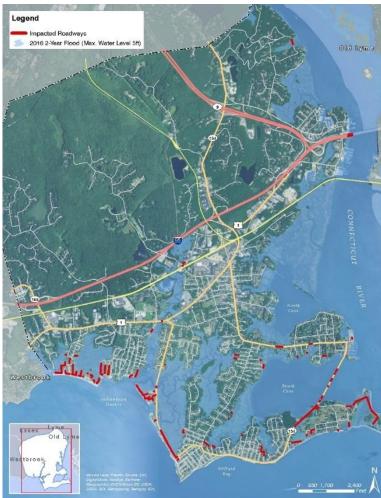
Table 4-14: Probability of Roadway Flood Inundation (in percentage) Due to Coastal Flooding under the



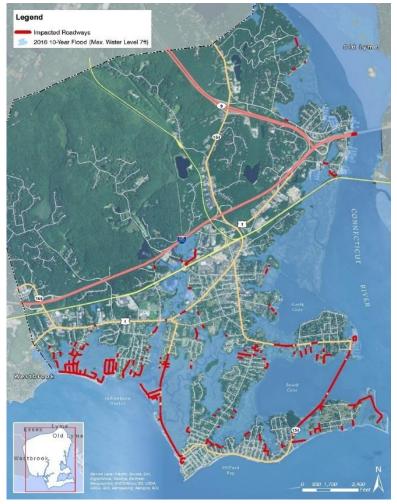
#### GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

#### Town-wide Roadway Impacts

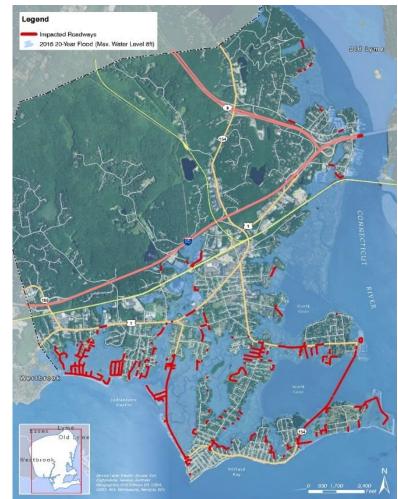
#### 2-Year (2016)



#### 10-Year (2016)



#### 20-Year (2016)



#### Town-wide Roadway Impacts

#### 50-Year (2016)



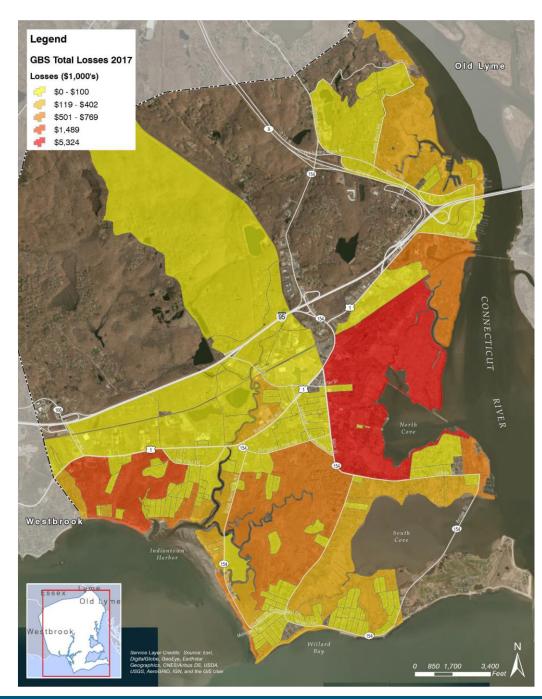
#### 100-Year (2016)



#### 500-Year (2016)



- Economic Loss (Average Annualized Loss)
- Muni Bond Rating



✓ Property Damage



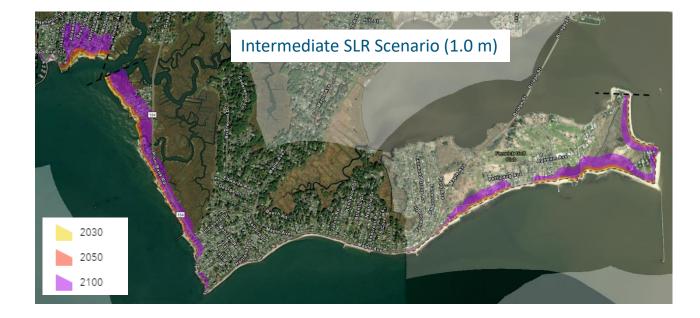


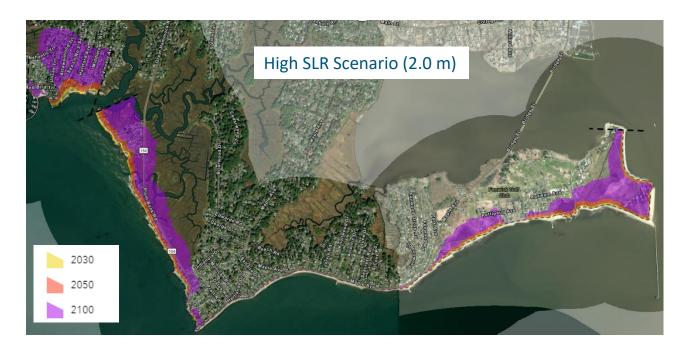
Dock and Dine on Saybrook Point one week after Sandy image from <u>https://gardendaze.wordpress.com/2012/11/09/storm-sandy-one-week-later-old-saybrook-ct/</u>

Flooding within the Chalker Beach Neighborhood during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 (from CT Mirror File Photo February 7, 2014)

✓ Shoreline Change

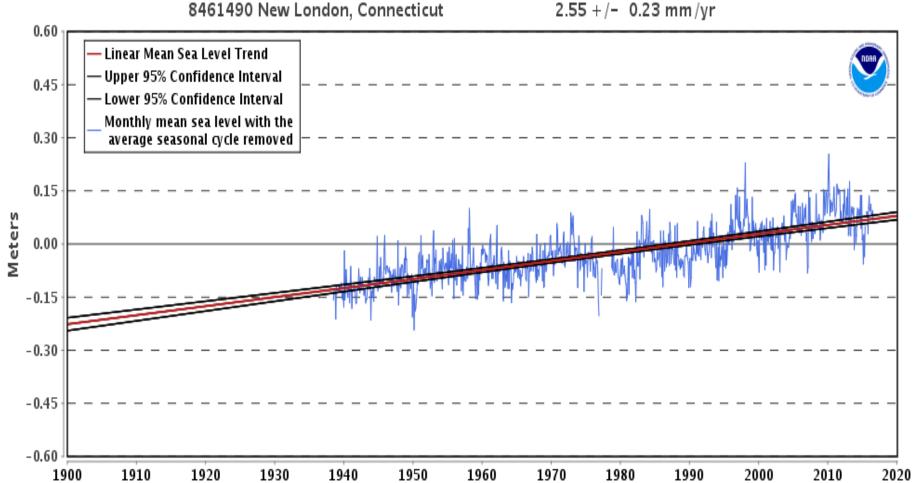
FEMA Coastal Erosion Hazard Maps





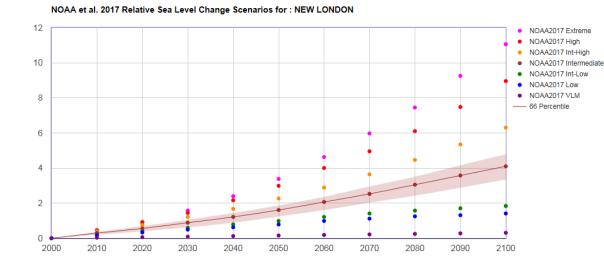
#### Climate Change Effects

Observed Rate of Relative Sea Level Rise Near Old Saybrook 2.55 +/- 0.23 mm/yr

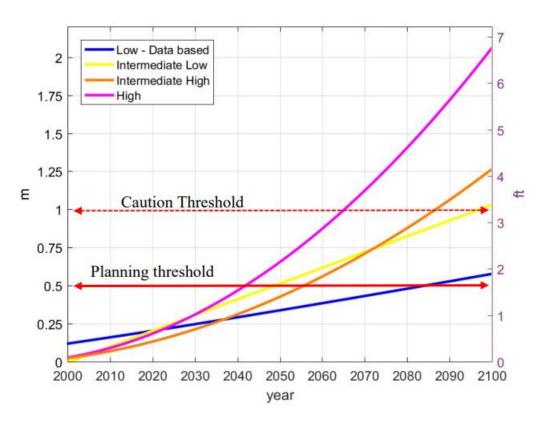


#### Climate Change Effects

Projected Sea Level Rise Near Old Saybrook: 2040: 0.05 to 1.23 feet 2065: 0.24 to 2.96 feet 2100: 0.5 to 6.46 feet



Year



RSLC in feet

## Planning Implications of Sea Level Rise

State of Connecticut Guidance and Regulation:

- PA 12-101
- PA 13-179

#### Must Consider RSLC:

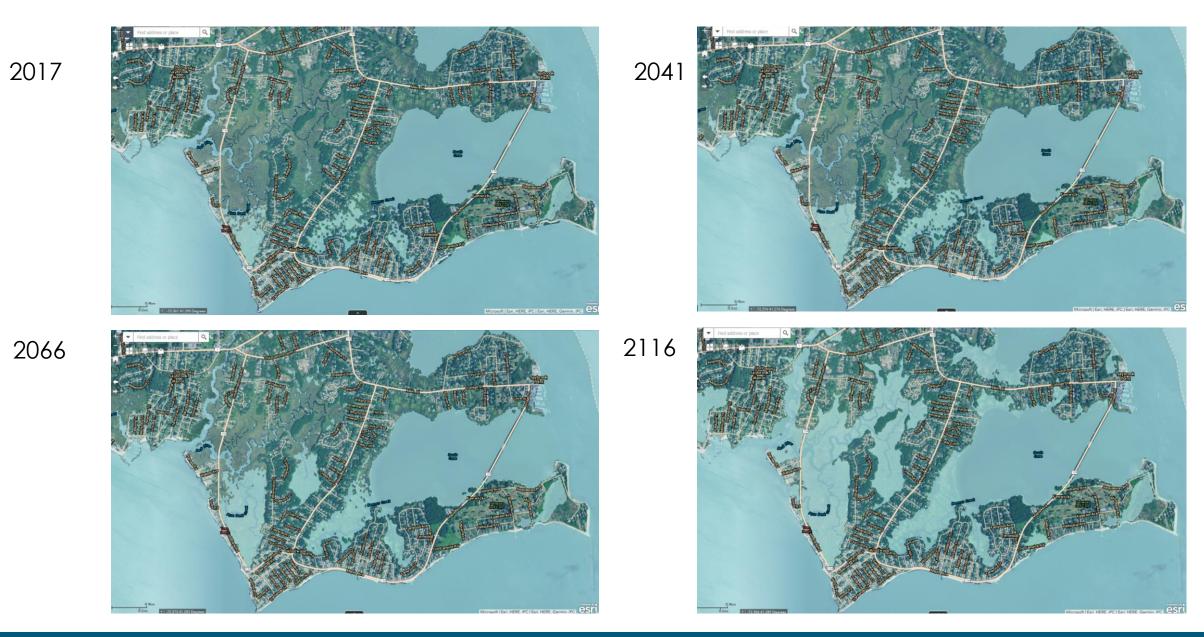
- Plans of Conservation and Development
- Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Coastal Management
- Inconsistencies in definition of sea level rise
- Does not consider structure criticality

#### State Guidance: UCONN/CIRCA:

- Mid-range Planning 1.7 feet by 2050
- Long Term be aware 3.38 feet by 2100
- Updated every decade

UCONN   UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT	Q A-Z
Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)	Search this site
Home About + What We Do + Funding Opportunities + Projects & Products + Resources + Announcements + Contac	et Us
Sea Level Rise         CIRCA Sea Level Rise Projects & Products         CIRCA's current research projects in the area of sea level rise are listed on the Sea Level Rise         Projects & Products site. There you can find a description of ongoing projects and any products from the project, including tools, reports, data, presentations, etc.         CIRCA local sea level rise projections: ODonnell 2017 Technical Report Executive Summary for and Presentation (with audo) of and slides only for the sea level rise are level rise impacts.	
CIRCA works to enhance coastal resilience to sea level rise in Connecticut. Sea level change is caused	

#### Sea Level Rise Effects (Mean High Tide)



## Implications of Sea Level Rise

- 1. Increased frequency, extent and depth of coastal flood inundation
- 2. Larger wave effects
- 3. Increased rate of shoreline erosion
- 4. Long term effects on salt marshes
- 5. Increased amount of property damage and economic losses
- 6. Long term effects to economic development
- 7. Long term reduction to Muni Bond Rating
- 8. Loss of future real estate tax revenue



Street flooding in Chalker Beach following Sandy )(mage from <u>https://ctmirror.org/</u>)

#### Strategies and Actions



#### Hazard Mitigation Strategies & Actions

#### Mitigation Strategy Approach

1. Hazard Risk Mitigation Goals

2. Hazard Mitigation Implementation and Progress

3. Existing Hazard Mitigation Capabilities

4. Hazard Risk Mitigation Measures/Actions

## 2019 Mitigation Goals

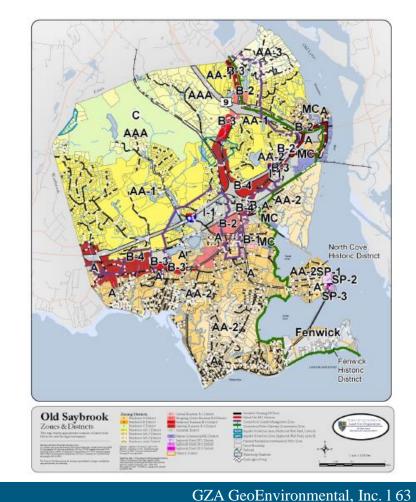
- 1. Promote Implementation of sound Floodplain Management and Other Natural Hazard Mitigation Principals on a State and Local Level;
- 2. Implementation of Effective Natural Hazard Mitigation Projects on a State and Local Level
- 3. Increase Research and Planning Activities for the Mitigation of Natural Hazards on a State and Local Level
- 4. Develop a Resiliency Strategy For Historic Resources
- 5. Increase and Promote Response Preparedness

## 2024 DRAFT Mitigation Goals

- 1. The prioritization of addressing coastal flooding issues including sunny day and storm event high tides
- 2. Addressing the most vulnerable areas, such as low-lying infrastructure and maintaining emergency access
- 3. Identifying responsibilities for advanced planning and response/repair of damages between the Town and the State
- 4. Promoting resilience strategies for multiple resource categories (historic, residential, etc.)

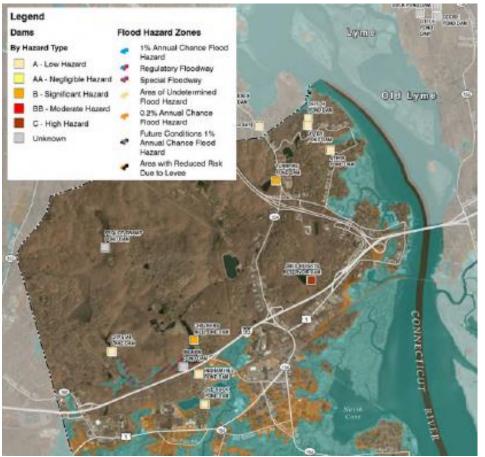
#### 2019 Multiple Hazards Mitigation Capabilities

- ✓ Design Standards (i.e. enforcement of State Building & Fire Codes)
- ✓ Local Emergency Operations Plan
- Land Use Regulations: Subdivision and Zoning Regulations
- ✓ Preparedness & Recovery Webpages
- ✓ Centralized Public Safety Dispatch/CT Alert Emergency Notification System
- ✓ Emergency Generators
- ✓ Group Homes Permitting
- ✓ Geographic Information Systems
- ✓ Electronic & Paper Records Preservation



## 2019 Severe Weather Hazards: Flood Related Hazards Mitigation **Capabilities**

- ✓ Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- ✓ Dam Emergency Action Plans
- Design Standards (Flood Regulatory Enforcement)
- ✓ Stormwater Management
- ✓ Water Quality Monitoring
- ✓ Street Sweeping and Leaf Removal
- ✓ Local Sea Level Rise Committee



# 2019 Severe Weather Hazards: Wind and Winter Weather Mitigation **Capabilities**

- ✓ Mandatory Wind Code Compliance
- ✓ Tree Trimming
- ✓ Roadway Treatments

## 2019 Climate Related Hazards: Fire Related Hazards Mitigation **Capabilities**

- ✓ Permits Required for Outdoor Burning
- ✓ Fire Hydrant Regulations
- $\checkmark$  Subdivision Review



#### 2019 Multiple Hazards High Priority Actions

 Neighborhood Mitigation: Establish a neighborhood working group to organize beach and neighborhood associations to engage these stakeholders in:

1) Long-term retreat from very high vulnerability areas, including the beaches;

2) Land acquisition for: a) future voluntary relocation; b) expansion of tidal marsh; c) conservation land, including beach-front property;

3) Process for developing perimeter flood protection berms, including easements or land acquisitions, and responsibility for maintenance & operation during flooding;

4) the possibility of using perimeter flood protection berms as public greenways.

#### 2019 Multiple Hazards High Priority Actions

- ✓ Cooperative Agreements for Shelters : Prepare supporting documentation and encourage the BOS to establish agreement for shelters that can provide specialized services throughout the region.
- ✓ Street Tree Program: Implement a tree hazard management program to encourage appropriate planting and maintenance practices to minimize future storm damage to buildings, utilities and streets.

- Develop a roadway improvement plan to identify specific projects, project costs and funding mechanisms.
- Pursue grant funding for engineering, design, construction (as needed) for Near-Term Roadway Improvement Candidates including:

1) Elm Street underpass and roadway toward culvert over Oyster River;

- 2) Main and College Streets in the low-lying areas b/w Maple Ave. and Saybrook Point;
- 3) Sections of Rt. 1/ Boston Post Road at lower elevations near and adjacent to the Oyster River;
- 4) Sequassen Ave.; and

5) sections of Maple Ave.

Develop conceptual plans and prioritization for pursuing engineering, design and construction funding of roadways identified in the 2014 HMP Update including:

- 1) Banbury Crossing;
- 2) South Cove Causeway;
- 3) South Cove Causeway;
- 4) Plum Bank RD and Salt Meadow RD near Cornfield Pt.;
- 5) Shetucket Trail;
- 6) Fourth & Sunset Avenues;
- 7) Old Post RD (eastern end);
- 8) Shetucket Trail-to-Bellaire DR;
- 9) Owenco, Obed & Nehantic Trails;

- 10) Mohican & Red Bird Trails;
- 11) Bokum-to-Barley Hill Road;
- 12) Dwayne to Kitteridge Hill RD;
- 13) Rock Ridge DR to Dibble RD;
- 14) Niabang Ave. at Route 154;
- 15) Sequassen Ave; and
- 16) Day DR to Acorn Dr (Westbrook).

- ✓ Emergency Response and Evacuation Planning.
- ✓ Flood Protection. Provide flood protection for at-risk Essential and Life-line Facilities.
- $\checkmark$  Develop program to maintain existing groins and sea walls.
- ✓ Develop a Town-wide and regional beach nourishment plan. Include an evaluation the technical feasibility of constructing dunes and berms into the plan.
- Coordinate with USACE relative to proposed, future dredge projects and reuse of dredge materials for Town beach nourishment, salt marsh maintenance and restoration projects.
- Create a re-development plan for Saybrook Point that requires measures to achieve compliance with flood regulations as well as addresses sea level rise.

- ✓ PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. Protect homes, on an individual property basis, using methods available under the existing flood regulations and ordinances (such as elevating houses).
- ✓ HISTORIC PROPERTIES. Provide flood mitigation guidance to property owners that is consistent with Historic District Regulations.
- ✓ STORMWATER. Analyze the existing stormwater infrastructure under precipitation only and combined coastal flood-precipitation events.
- Every 10-years, update future coastal flood risk overlay maps and sea level rise projections.

#### 2019 Climate Related Hazards High Priority Actions

- Conduct a Town-wide and Borough-wide study of ground and surface water capacity as it relates to planning for droughts.
- ✓ Coordinate with the CWC on public education and public service announcements in anticipation of and during times of drought.
- Firefighting Infrastructure Analysis: Evaluate existing firefighting infrastructure to identify needs for improvement to cover gaps in availability.

#### Next Steps

- 1. Conduct Vulnerability Assessment
- 2. Update Mitigation Strategy and Actions
- 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting May 15, 2024
  - Vulnerability Assessment Results
    - Updated Mitigation Strategy & Actions
- 4. Provide Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update for review

## Thank you for attending!

Questions? Comments?

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