



MIDDLETOWN

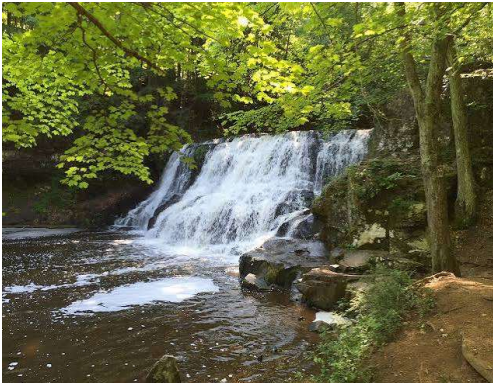


Photo Credit: Downtown Middletown, Connecticut History, Nextdoor, Tripadvisor

Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings

JULY 2026



City of Middletown, Connecticut

Community Resilience Building

Summary of Findings

Overview

The need for municipalities, regional planning organizations, academic institutions, corporations, states, and federal agencies to increase resilience to extreme weather events and a changing climate is strikingly evident amongst the communities across the state of Connecticut. Relatively recent events such as Super Storm Sandy, severe winter storms (2013 & 2015), COVID-19 pandemic, and Tropical Storm Isaias have reinforced this urgency and compelled leading communities like the City of Middletown to proactively collaborate on planning and mitigating risks. Ultimately, this type of leadership is to be commended because it will reduce vulnerability and reinforce the strengths of people, infrastructure, and ecosystems and serve as a model for other communities in Connecticut, New England, and the nation.

Recently, the City of Middletown embarked on a Gold certification with Sustainable CT (Bronze certified (2018); Silver certification (2023)). As part of that recertification, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Sustainable CT provided the City with a community-driven process to assess current hazard and climate change impacts and to generate potential and prioritized solutions to improve resilience and sustainability. In July 2026, Middletown's Core Team helped organize a Community Resilience Building process and workshop facilitated by TNC in partnership with Sustainable CT. The core directive of this effort was the engagement with and between community members to define strengths and vulnerabilities and the development of actions and priority resilience actions for the City of Middletown.

The Middletown Community Resilience Building Workshop's central objectives were to:

- Define top local, natural, and climate-related hazards of concern.
- Identify existing and future strengths and vulnerabilities.
- Identify and prioritize actions for the City.
- Identify opportunities to collaboratively advance actions to increase resilience alongside residents and organizations from across the City, and beyond.

The City of Middletown employed an “anywhere at any scale”, community-driven process called Community Resilience Building (CRB) (www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org). The CRB’s tools, reports, other relevant planning documents, and local maps were integrated into the workshop process to provide both decision-support and visualization around shared issues and existing priorities across Middletown. The Middletown Plan of Conservation and Development (2021) and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Plan of Conservation and Development (2021), and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2021) were particularly instructive as references. Using the CRB process - rich with information, experience, and dialogue - the participants produced the findings presented in this summary report. This includes an overview of the top hazards, current concerns and challenges, existing strengths, and proposed actions to improve Middletown’s resilience to hazards and climate change today, and in the future.

The summary of findings transcribed in this report, like any that concerns the evolving nature of risk assessment and associated action, is offered for comments, corrections and updates from workshop attendees and other stakeholders alike. The leadership displayed by the City of Middletown on community resilience building will benefit from the continuous participation of all those concerned.

Summary of Findings

Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas for the Community

Prior to the CRB Workshop, the Middletown Core Team identified the top hazards for the Town. The hazards of greatest concern included severe storms (resulting in power outages), flooding and extreme precipitation events, and extreme weather resulting in cold snaps and heat waves. Additional hazards highlighted by participants during the CRB Workshop included heavy wind events, drought, and hurricanes and tropical storms. These hazards have direct and increasing impacts on the infrastructure, environment, and residents of and visitors to Middletown. These effects are seen within residential areas, natural areas (wetlands, rivers, forests, preserves), roads, bridges, businesses, farms, municipal facilities, churches, schools, social support services, arts and culture, and other critical infrastructure and community assets within Middletown.

Current Concerns and Challenges Presented by Hazards

The City of Middletown has several concerns and faces multiple challenges related to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. In recent years, Middletown has experienced a series of highly disruptive and damaging weather events including Superstorm Sandy (October 2012), large snowfall events winter 2015-2016 (84" cumulative), extreme wind events (October 2017), ice jams along Connecticut River (January 2018), Tropical Storm Isaias (August 2020), and other less impactful but more frequent events. Impacts from Sandy included rain-induced, inland flooding, tree damage and associated power outages to the majority of City. The magnitude and intensity of these events and others across Connecticut have increased awareness of natural hazards and climate change, while motivating communities such as Middletown to proactively improve their resilience.

This recent series of extreme weather events highlights that the impacts from hazards are diverse. In Middletown this included riverine flooding of critical infrastructure, roads, and low-lying areas; riverine flooding of areas adjoining the Connecticut River; localized flooding from stormwater runoff during intense storms and heavy precipitation events; and property damage and utility outages from wind, snow, and ice. Longer periods of elevated heat, particularly in July and August, have raised concerns about vulnerable segments of the population, including elderly, unhoused, and/or disabled community members. The combination of these issues presents a challenge to preparedness and mitigation priorities and requires comprehensive, yet locally specific actions for the City.

The workshop participants were generally in agreement that Middletown is experiencing more intense and frequent storm events and heat waves. Additionally, there was a general concern about the increasing challenges of being prepared for the worst-case scenarios (e.g., major thunderstorms and hurricanes (Cat-3 or above)) particularly in the late summer and in the fall/winter months when more intense storms coincide with colder weather (i.e., snow/ice storms, Nor'easters, blizzards).

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges

As in any community, Middletown is not uniformly vulnerable to hazards and climate change. Certain locations, assets, and populations have been and will be affected to a greater degree than others. Workshop participants identified the following items as their community's key areas of concern and challenges across several broad categories. Vulnerabilities and associated mitigation actions identified in the current Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2021) are provided in Appendix A for cross reference.

Municipal Functions, Operations, & Growth:

- Inflation and economic factors are affecting how the City can hire and fund positions. Concerns were expressed regarding the funding of positions in the future, especially positions in the schools and emergency management department. Department of Public Works is already seeing the effects of decreased capacity in positions and leadership due to decreased funding.
- Lack of affordable housing supply which leads to many people living in single units to reduce living costs.
- Increasing need for “middle housing” or more modest housing such as affordable multi-family housing, studio apartments, and small single-family homes. This requires minimizing land use conflicts, flexible zoning accommodations, and long-term planning.
- Housing shortage in Middletown and in the region is at crisis levels. Requests to the City for help and assistance from families struggling economically and on the verge of being evicted are becoming more routine.
- The waiting list for working family housing (“affordable housing”) is nonexistent because there are no vacancies.
- Lack of clarity around the amount of provisions in place and funding to provide resources for unhoused individuals and families.
- Large and growing unhoused population concentrated in the North End and on Main Street that seems to not be interested in utilizing city services or there is a disconnect between available services and needs.
- Growing social needs in Middletown include mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, aging population, and food insecurity, among others.
- Middletown is affected by the trash crisis in New England where most of the City's trash is shipped to landfills in Ohio. Shipping to Ohio is currently cheaper than burning at a City owned burn site in Lisbon.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Surrounding municipalities do not have the emergency management resources and teams that Middletown has which get called on for support with the cost of those shared services being passed on to Middletown taxpayers.
- Long-term sustainability plan(s) for the City have not been updated and require strengthening to meet current and future needs.
- Concerns raised regarding the susceptibility of electrical grid and drinking water supply to cyberattacks and the level of preparedness to counter or deal with impacts of that type of attack.
- Wesleyan University's biggest vulnerability is power outages which can interrupt food service centers and student housing. The University is working on getting more generators and has a co-gen system on Campus but it not 100% reliable, currently.
- Plans for waterfront development that includes impervious surfaces can increase the risk from flooding.
- Lack of centralized funding or county-level governance requires relying on the Council of Governments to fill various regional roles and functions.
- Many municipal buildings need repairs due to years of neglect.
- The electrical utility needs to upgrade and improve electrical delivery and capacity for Middletown (particularly the Downtown area) in order for the City to meet current needs and expand economic development in the future.
- The Russell Library is experiencing a large increase in requests for information on housing, food, and other critical livelihood issues ("real housing crisis").
- Workshop participants noted growing social isolation and societal fracturing due to social media and AI, which often spread misinformation.

Emergency Management & Preparedness:

- Concerns were raised over the multiple methods and sources of information distributed to residents, resulting in a patchwork of messages of varying quality and levels of credibility ("lack of coordinated and consistent information when it is needed the most").
- Everbridge is a good emergency communications system, but only a limited number of residents know about and benefit from it.
- Ongoing renovations at the YMCA shelter have reduced the available shelter capacity, forcing more people onto the streets.
- Increases in urban heat during the summer are having a more pervasive impact on residents ("not possible to not have AC anymore").

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Smoke from wildfires in Canada and elsewhere is becoming an annual problem in Middletown.
- The recent large fire on Lamentation Mountain forced the realization that the City does not have a plan to create access for dealing with similar situations in large, densely wooded areas.
- Flooding from the Connecticut River poses a serious risk to Middletown and increases the vulnerabilities of multiple areas and features of the City.
- Large amounts of land with buildings (residential and commercial) and other types of development directly adjacent to the Connecticut River results in greater risk and cost to replace after flooding events (e.g., Tates Restaurant).
- Certain roads flood routinely, which interrupts travel and commerce and limits passable routes through the City (examples: State Route 66 heading towards New Haven, State Route 9 in select segments, and Randolph Road, among others).
- The unhoused population in Middletown is the most prone to danger from exposure during extreme cold and hot weather events. Last winter, there were 9 cold weather protocols activated by the Governor that required warming centers to stay open.
- Middletown Area Transit buses merged with Estuary Transit District routes recently, but there is still a great deal of uncertainty regarding available transportation for vulnerable communities during extreme weather events.

Roads, Bridges, Road Networks, & Dams:

- Concerns persist about the long-term plan for State Route 9 and shifting traffic onto city streets or away from city streets, depending on how the roadway is altered.
- In the North End, the Miller and Bridge Street area are geographically and socially isolated between the railroad line and State Route 9, which make access for emergency services difficult.
- Municipal roadways have a large backlog of needed repairs, but there is never enough time, staff, or funding to address them all. Residents are keenly aware of the condition of roadways throughout Middletown.
- Concerns that infrastructure improvement needs for the 220 miles of city-owned roads in Middletown will not be proactively met.
- Insufficient reach and connectedness of the current sidewalk system.
- Greater redundancy in transportation options during hazard events will allow residents to seek safety or be rescued when roads are blocked for example.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Middletown has a relatively high percentage of impervious surfaces, which makes it difficult to improve tree canopy and provide shade for residents.
- Many dams are in poor condition, with Crystal Lake Dam and Dooley Pond Dam listed as at highest risk to catastrophic failure.
- Concerns persist that Pameacha Pond Dam needs to be replaced or removed to ensure long-term sustainability or safety to downstream people and property. A breach of the Dam three years ago was repaired with temporary measures. If the Dam is removed, there will be a need to remediate layers of toxic sediment which will be expensive.

Stormwater, Waste Systems, & Drinking Water Supply:

- Stormwater management infrastructure is old and constructed to manage storm events that occurred in the City seventy years ago. Its inadequate capacity results in flooding of private property and streets across Middletown.
- Water delivery infrastructure has had some ruptures recently in the downtown area, with some pipes over 100 years old. Broken water mains have had and can have a big impact on the community.
- Droughts and the impact on drinking water is a concern given likely future demand across Middletown.

Watersheds, Wetlands, Rivers, Open Space, Forests, Agricultural Lands, & Trees:

- Invasive insect species such as the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) are beginning to have an impact on farms and orchards in the greater Middletown region.
- Ongoing impacts to American beech trees (*Fagus grandifolia*) due to an invasive pest are changing the forest landscapes around Middletown.
- Water dependent invasive plant species such as water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) and Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) are impacting the ecology of Connecticut River as well as affecting the safety of shipping lanes.
- Lack of resources to manage open space and ensure the ecological health of natural systems in Middletown combines with pest and pathogen infestations to reduce biodiversity and increase regional fragmentation of ecosystems.
- Large old trees in Middletown are an asset to the community but leave the City vulnerable during high winds and extreme winter events such as ice storms.

Current Strengths and Assets

Just as certain locations, facilities, and populations in Middletown stand out as particularly vulnerable to the effects of hazards and climate change, other features are notable assets for Middletown's resilience-building. Workshop participants identified the following items as their community's key strengths and expressed interest in centering them as the core of future resilience-building actions.

Municipal Functions, Operations, & Growth:

- Clearly, the responsive and committed engagement exhibited by leadership, staff, and residents is a greatly appreciated character/feature of Middletown. Ongoing collaboration between municipal staff, committee/commission/board volunteers, the business community, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, adjoining municipalities, the Council of Government, Wesleyan University, and various state-wide organizations (i.e., Sustainable CT, The Nature Conservancy), among others, on priorities identified in this convening will help advance comprehensive, cost-effective, community resilience-building actions.
- Diversity of landscapes makes one feel like you are in a City, but there are also ample opportunities to gain access to natural areas and parks.
- Middletown is centrally located in Connecticut on the largest river in New England and lies about halfway between Boston and New York City.
- Middletown is unique for Connecticut in that it has a thriving urban core, but also suburban and rural areas in close and accessible proximity.
- Main Street coupled with the Connecticut River creates a unique location that is sought after by residents and visitors alike ("its beauty and celebration of diversity make it a place people want to go to and enjoy").
- Middletown feels like a "complete community" where organizations are robust and well connected to one another, with an emphasis placed on helping the more vulnerable parts of the community ("Middletown has all the assets needed to help us grow and solve issues").
- Many residents really care about the community and want to make things that are good thrive and the things that need work better.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Very engaged and non-apathetic populace when it comes to issues of importance for people in the City.
- Large number of non-profit organizations that partner with the City departments and staff to help meet the needs of residents.
- Exceptionally strong, supportive, and engaged Chamber of Commerce in Middletown.
- Diverse assortment of businesses, including manufacturers like Pratt and Whitney.
- Large number and diversity of restaurants in the downtown area makes it a “destination city” for residents and visitors.
- Middlesex Hospital and the Community Health Center help make residents and adjoining municipalities feel supported and comfortable when it comes to their health care needs. Hospital was instrumental in providing the capacity and expertise needed to get through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Coordination between social services and support networks, such as between faith-based organizations and Middletown United Way and food provisioning by Amazing Grace Food Pantry, among others.
- Social services organizations meet and talk regularly about ways to address the needs of people in the City. This includes the role the United Way plays in coordinating the work of various organizations to help avoid duplication of efforts.
- Core of the City is walkable with large number of sidewalks downtown and spreading out into adjoining areas.
- Residents in the downtown can meet most daily needs without leaving Middletown although there is no longer a full-service grocery store in the downtown area.
- City has a relatively large number of community events during the year (i.e., fireworks, car show, Pride parade, etc.).
- City is hosts the second largest Pride celebration in New England and is regarded as a safe place for LGBTQIA people to come and visit and settle (“close-knit and supportive community”).

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Good collaborative working relationships between Wesleyan University and the City, which has helped the University recover quickly after various emergencies given the City's larger amount of resources and staff capacity.
- The presence of Wesleyan University results in making Middletown a "learning community" where discussions, public discourse and community engagement during planning efforts result in more inclusive outcomes and projects.
- Wesleyan worked with the City to increase drainage capacity around the Campus Athletic Center, which has not flooded since the intervention two years ago. This project has saved the University hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Wesleyan University is actively increasing the energy grid independence across Campus with the switch to a district energy system that converted from steam to hot water and is safer and easier to manage over time.
- Public school system is working to make improvements that are adaptive and responsive to the needs of the students.
- Russell Library serves as a community gathering place during crises.
- Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments provides support with planning and other crucial activities for Middletown and the surrounding municipalities (e.g., Transit-Orientated Development Vision (Middletown, Old Saybrook, and Clinton)).
- Public transportation via River Valley Transit is viewed as a significant asset because it provides fixed route bus service with new bus shelters as well as on-demand services to help people get around.
- Mayor's Homeless Task Force meets monthly to coordinate and pool resources as well as seek out ways to collaborate with departments and organizations on this important issue.
- Lucy's Luncheonette encourages partons to buy bread for community members in need. Other businesses have similar programs that help to address the food provisioning and availability needs in the City.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Student population at Wesleyan University increases the positive aspects in the City via many engagement opportunities, including a thriving art community accessible to non-student residents (“student create a positive and excited energy about Middletown”).
- Zoning regulations associated with development in flood hazard areas require one foot of freeboard, which has restricted development in these areas.
- Strong GIS capacity in the City is a great asset to planning and project implementation.

Emergency Management & Preparedness:

- Emergency management team and their responses to routine and crisis situations are true strengths with dedicated people who care about the City.
- Emergency response professionals are highly trained to respond to a wide range of emergencies in various types of environments (i.e., dive teams, rope/rock climbing teams, etc.)
- City has 40-50 buses that are ready to deploy and move people in case of an emergency.
- Large number of staff between the Department of Public Works and Water and Sewer Departments that help the City get back to normal after disasters.
- Significant portion of the City has underground utilities, which helps to reduce impacts from major storms.
- Proactive tree trimming by Eversource has helped to reduce the incidences of power outages in the City.
- Middlesex Hospital is in a constant state of readiness with plans and preparations in place for climate induced situations and/or pandemics.
- Communications networks are effective and strong; key information about climate-related events can easily be transmitted via the Public Health Department along with critical information regarding preparedness in advance of major storms.
- Everbridge texting system provides an effective and quick means to get information out to residents in the City.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Eversource has had good response time during extreme weather events, with communication via phone to residents about incoming weather and suggested preparedness measures to take.
- Department of Public Works keeps the roadways and people safe through their quick and effective responses to clearing snow after routine and major snowstorms.
- Strong and engaged Police Department is very responsive during extreme weather events.

Roads, Bridges, Road Networks, & Dams:

- Harbor Park and Summer Brook keep the highway from flooding by absorbing and retaining flood waters during major highwater events.
- Recent infrastructure upgrades such as lighting improvements along State Route 9 increase safety and help people get around.
- Public Works Department, with others, is working to remove approximately 2% of the impervious surfaces in the City annually.

Stormwater, Waste Systems, & Drinking Water Supply:

- Water and sewer infrastructure is aging but systematic attempts have been made to replace or maintain these systems over the years.
- Drinking water supply is secured due to availability of two city-owned reservoirs with large reserves (“main reservoir and a backup reservoir”).

Watersheds, Wetlands, Rivers, Open Space, Forests, Agricultural Lands, & Trees:

- Large number and wide distribution of trees across the City (“forest city”) help to ameliorate the day and nighttime temperature and keep place cool.
- Deputy Tree Warden makes a priority list of trees that need to come down each year within the annual budget allocation.
- Strong knowledgeable Urban Forestry Commission has done well maintaining street trees and the overall tree canopy in Middletown with a limited budget.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Public parks are attractive and strong, which results in areas that are well loved and used.
- Wealth of large municipal parks, smaller neighborhood parks, and community gardens available to all residents as well as guests from elsewhere.
- Natural areas and parks and trails, including the riverfront, are well protected and able to accommodate people's needs for the outdoors.
- Proximity to and presence of the Connecticut River is viewed as an asset to residents ("city wouldn't be as awesome to live in without it").



Credit: Downtown Middletown



Credit: Yelp



Credit: Middletown Pride

Recommendations to Improve Resilience

A common theme among workshop participants was the need to continue community-based planning efforts focused on developing adaptive measures to reinforce Middletown's strengths and reduce vulnerability to extreme weather, climate change, and other common concerns raised. To that end, the workshop participants helped to identify several priority topics requiring more immediate and/or ongoing attention including:

- **Long-term vision and growth** (i.e., sustainable growth, volunteerism, conservation & recreation, housing, vulnerable group provisions, regionalization, economy);
- **Infrastructure improvements** (i.e., roads/bridges/dams/road crossings, green stormwater infrastructure/management systems);
- **Quality of life improvements** (i.e., parks and recreation, open space & accessibility, sustainability, health & safety, economic prosperity, housing, education, regionalization);
- **Emergency management** (i.e., communications, outreach, education, continuation of services, business recovery, evacuation, vulnerable populations).

In direct response, the Community Resilience Building workshop participants developed the following actions and identified, but did not rank, them as priority or as additional actions. Mitigation actions from the Middletown Municipal Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex (2021) are provided in Appendix A for cross reference with the actions presented here. Maps provided during the CRB Workshop, gathered from the Middletown Plan of Conservation and Development (2021), Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2021), and Lower Connecticut River Valley Plan of Conservation and Development (2021), are provided in Appendix B.

Priority Actions

- The City to conduct a comprehensive, community-based, strategic planning process to prioritize limited resources in a multi-year plan with assigned resources to provide a basic framework for Middletown.
- City needs to develop and formalize a Capital Improvement Plan and earnestly commit to funding the capital budget on an annual basis to ensure necessary improvements are made.

Priority Actions (cont'd)

- Increase and broaden the use of the Community Resilience Building process to include more members of the public (focus specifically on underserved groups) and staff to secure even more ideas that could assist the City.
- Formalize emergency response relationships with surrounding municipalities so there is a standard billing procedure for emergency services sent from Middletown to elsewhere (especially for emergency diver response).
- Develop a network of affordable housing owners and developers to accelerate getting Section 8 and/or affordable units built and leased to residents in need.
- Include a QR code on city mailings to residents coupled with other methods to help increase the use of the City's communications platform.
- Work to consolidate and update communications lists across the City (i.e., Department of Public Works list updates) so that alerts go out to the right places at the right times (e.g., construction projects happening in Middletown with detours).
- During extreme events look to replicate the same communications model that was used during the COVID 19 pandemic which included periodic community meetings, a daily meeting of the core team, and regular updates to the various community networks.
- Ensure that there's a plan, with associated regulations, to mitigate flood impacts through additional restrictions on future development in current and future floodplains.
- Evaluate cyber-attack preparedness across all critical infrastructure services and systems in the City.
- Continue to build out the sidewalk network in Middletown, with a focus on major transportation corridors, using federal grants managed through River Council of Governments ("safe streets and roads for all grants"). Confer with staff in Portland and Glastonbury on approaches used for sidewalk buildouts in those municipalities.

Priority Actions (cont'd)

- Consider securing a road or transportation bond for the City that would prioritize needs and systematically plan upgrades, including crosswalks, bike lanes, and sidewalk expansion (i.e., Old Mill).
- Ensure adequate staffing and leadership in the Department of Public Works Department to ensure the ability to proactively plan instead of being reactive during major events.



Credit: Downtown Middletown



Credit: Homes.com



Credit: Homes.com

Additional Actions

- Ensure more collaborative and proactive planning across departments and agencies to reinforce or create inter-department and regional networks with clear roles and responsibilities to achieve agreed upon goals and outcomes.
- Look at the example of the process established and executed for the City fireworks.
- Support the regionalization of emergency services (and other services) through the Council of Governments or another regional entity to help balance costs and needs and relieve some of the pressure on Middletown's emergency services.
- Encourage a deeper sense of community among residents by strengthening social networks, which will help with recovery after major crises or extreme weather events (e.g., Neighbor helping Neighbor program(s), business engagement with volunteer organizations, etc.).
- Incorporate further the resources and capacity provided by Sustainable CT to assist with environmental aspects of the City as well as sustainability aspects such as the arts, communications, and housing ("use as guiding light for many City commissions and departments").
- Look to increase resident participation and involvement in local government to fill gaps in commissions and committees. Disseminate Government Guide created through a partnership with Wesleyan University to help with the understanding of how to participate and be involved.
- Conduct systematic planning for the replacement of essential equipment (i.e., dump trucks, paving equipment, front loaders, etc.).
- Prioritize and incentivize infill development within built-up areas to reduce flooding risk and minimize spread and increases in impervious surfaces.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Install or restore green infrastructure (i.e., wetlands, riparian buffers) around water bodies to help store floodwater versus managing with traditional engineering approaches such as walls that deflect and push floodwater downstream.
- Seek to address waste management problems by developing modern waste to energy conversion solutions that are within the current limitations and regulations.
- Examine the potential for use of underutilized parcels and buildings to increase the housing supply and counter the affordability crisis in Middletown. Work with state programs to achieve this goal.
- Continue to advance creative ways to develop including zoning updates that provide affordable housing options. Collaboration between city staff, committees, and developers will be crucial.
- Address overcrowding in renovated single family homes to help improve fire safety.
- Continue to pursue a grant from the state's Community Connectivity Grant Program to help improve access and mobility for residents in the City.
- Create an ad-hoc commission or task force, with representation of as many constituencies as possible, to study the problem and propose solutions to increasing connectivity between the Wesleyan University student population and that of the City.
- Advance bonding for open space in Middletown that includes funding for maintenance and management of parks and conservation lands (i.e., pest and pathogen management, tree culling and pruning, etc.).
- Begin to plant trees and vegetation that are accustomed to a more southern U.S. climate and are therefore more resilient to ongoing shifts in temperature and rainfall patterns.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Bring an arborist on as a staff member to assist the City's deputy tree warden, who currently has to focus on tree removal while tree planting and maintenance work is carried out by volunteers.
- Improve the overall invasive species management and activity in Middletown by providing educational opportunities for the community through multiple outlets.
- Provide more training for the Department of Public Works and Park employees on invasive species removal.
- Work to achieve net zero emissions for City schools and buildings with renewable power rather than natural gas (i.e., McDonough Elementary School, Russell Library (80,000 sq. ft. building)).
- Create a plan to manage and expand services for extreme heat and cold events that incorporates the contributions of all involved entities throughout the City. The plan should also address the expansion of considerations such as the provision of AC units for residential units occupied by vulnerable segments of Middletown's community.
- Set aside City funds to ensure resource and capacity needs during extreme weather events and consider the expenditures now that could save money in the longer term ("money isn't set aside for things needed in five years").
- Assess the condition and location of emergency shelters in the City and include designations for the service provided (heating, cooling, electricity, food preparation, showers, etc.). Use assessment to better understand current gaps in services and work to ensure proper coverage for residents in advance of future extreme events.
- Work with the United Way and others to manage an "available" resource bank with a directory of which organizations have both staff capacity and resources to maintain and manage. Potentially establish an ad-hoc committee to manage resource bank.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Conduct additional conversations and secure grant assistance to overcome the financial burden of replacing and removing the dam on Pameacha Pond.
- Prioritize addressing flooding around Harbor Park (from Connecticut River), Washington Street behind CVS (from a small stream) and along Bretton Road.

CRB Workshop Participants: Department/Organization

City of Middletown – Office of the Mayor
City of Middletown – Police Department
City of Middletown – Fire Department
City of Middletown – Department of Public Works
City of Middletown – Library Services
City of Middletown – Central Communications
City of Middletown – Land Use Department
City of Middletown – Clean Energy Taskforce
City of Middletown – Urban Forestry Commission
City of Middletown – Complete Streets Committee
City of Middletown – Sustainability Commission
Middletown Housing Authority
Sustainable Middletown Team
Wesleyan University – Office of Sustainability
Wesleyan University – Facilities
Wesleyan University – Sustainability Intern
The Johan Center for Earth and Art
Middlesex Health – Community Health Improvement
Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments
Cultivating Justice
St. Vincent de Paul Middletown - Amazing Grace Food Pantry

Middletown Core CRB Project Team

Lisa Liesener – Coordinator, Recycling & Sustainability, City of Middletown

Jen Kleindienst – Director, Office of Sustainability, Wesleyan University

Krishna Winston – The Jonah Center for Earth and Art, Clean Energy Task Force,
Sustainability Commission, Middlesex County Historical Society,
Wesleyan University Professor Emerita, Sustainable Middletown Team

Online CRB Workshop Facilitation Team

The Nature Conservancy – Adam Whelchel, Ph.D. (Lead Facilitator)

The Nature Conservancy – Drew Goldsman (Small Group Facilitator)

Sustainable CT – Torin Radicioni (Small Group Facilitator)

The Nature Conservancy – Angela Toumi (Small Group Facilitator)

Sustainable CT – Katie Meder (Scribe)

The Nature Conservancy/RIDEM – Beth Bannar (Scribe)

Sustainable CT – Nathaniel Hill (Scribe)

Recommended Citation

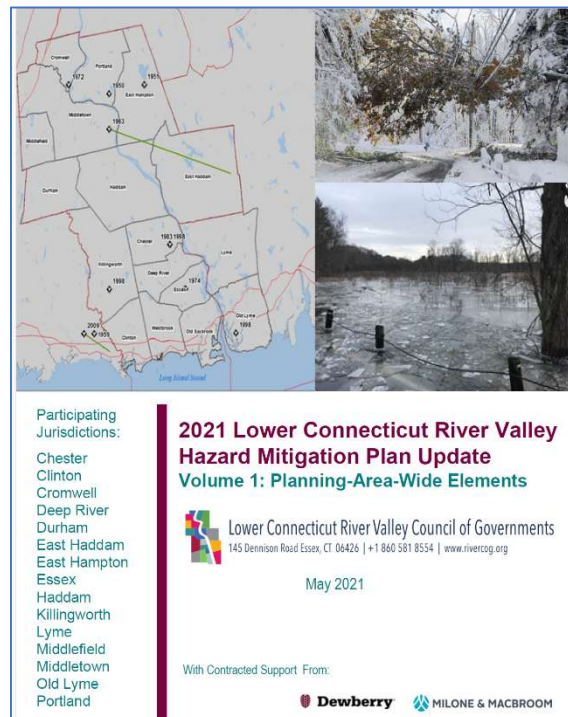
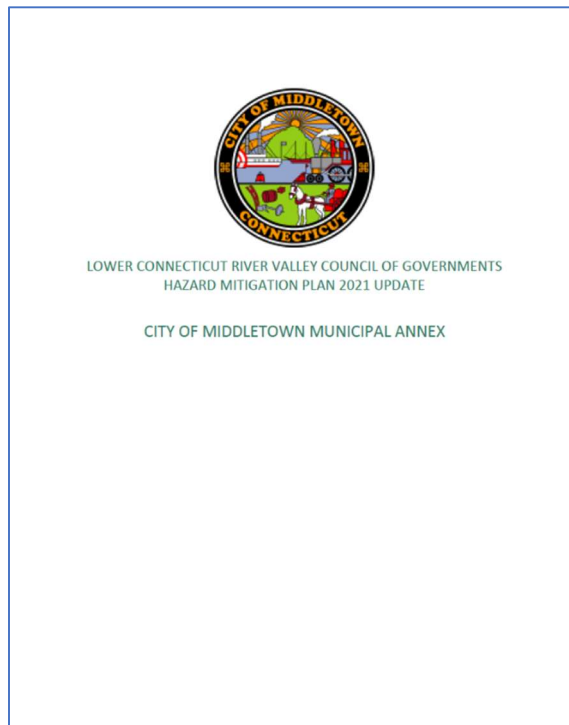
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Appendix A

Middletown Mitigation Action Plan and Actions*



***Gathered from Middletown's Municipal Annex within the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2021).**

Table 5-3. Middletown Hazard Mitigation Strategies and Prioritization.

Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Lead Agency	Est. Cost*	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe for Completion	Hazard (s) Addressed	Weighted STAPLEE Criteria														Total STAPLEE Score/Priority
								Social Benefit	Social Cost	Technical Benefit	Technical Cost	Administrative Benefit	Administrative Cost	Political Benefit	Political Cost	Legal Benefit	Legal Cost	Economic Benefit	Economic Cost	Environmental Benefit	Environmental Cost	
1	1-1, 3-1	NFIP Community Rating System Participation. Work with FEMA's contractor to complete a "quick-check" to determine if ongoing activities in Middletown would qualify it for a class 9 rating in the CRS. If so, join and identify additional activities for additional points.	PZ, PW, EM	\$0-\$5,000	OP, Staff Time	2022	F	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6/H
2	1-1	Update the Debris Management Plan. Annually survey trees that need to come down. 35-50 per year. Add requirement for on-call trimming. Create an inventory of ash trees and management plan.	PW, EM	\$0-\$10,000	CIP, OP	Annually through 2025	SW, TW, WS, F, WF	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4/H

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Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Lead Agency	Est. Cost*	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe for Completion	Hazard (s) Addressed	Weighted STAPLEE Criteria														Total STAPLEE Score/Priority
								Social Benefit	Social Cost	Technical Benefit	Technical Cost	Administrative Benefit	Administrative Cost	Political Benefit	Political Cost	Legal Benefit	Legal Cost	Economic Benefit	Economic Cost	Environmental Benefit	Environmental Cost	
3	1-1	Budget appropriate money necessary to maintain and remove dead, dying, dangerous, and diseased trees in rights-of-way and on town land	PW	\$40-50K	CIP, OP	Annually through 2025	TI	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	6/H
4	1-1, 3-1	Comprehensive River Management Plan. Update and research property acquisition strategies for undeveloped property(ies) along the river front.	LUO, PW	\$40-50K	HMGP, RLP, FMA, CIP	2025	F	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	10/H
5	1-1	Flood Prone Area Mitigation Materials. Increase inventory of flood prone mitigation items (i.e. sand bags and barricades. Items necessary for flooding in all flood prone areas.	PW	\$1,000-\$10,000	CIP	2021-2022	F	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/M

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6	2-1, 3-1	Flood Study(ies) for RLP on Millbrook Road. Conduct a flood study South of Randolph Road for a feeder brook into the main stem (Summer Brook) that may address strategies for flooding on Millbrook Road.	LUO, BO, FM	\$10,000-\$25,000	HMGP, RLP, FMA	2022	F	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	8/H
7	2-1	Bank Stabilization. Conduct remediation project at RLP - Canoe Club, Harbor Drive to stabilize river bank and increase storage capacity.	LUO	\$10,000-\$25,000	HMGP, RLP, FMA	2021	F	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	8/H
8	2-1	Financing and Mitigation for Nejako Drive RLPs. Study was conducted with mitigation strategies recommended. Implement strategies. Research funding sources.	LUO	\$50,000-100,000	HMGP, RLP, FMA	2022	F	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	8/H

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Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Lead Agency	Est. Cost*	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe for Completion	Hazard (s) Addressed	Weighted STAPLEE Criteria														Total STAPLEE Score/Priority
								Social Benefit	Social Cost	Technical Benefit	Technical Cost	Administrative Benefit	Administrative Cost	Political Benefit	Political Cost	Legal Benefit	Legal Cost	Economic Benefit	Economic Cost	Environmental Benefit	Environmental Cost	
9	2-1	Evacuation Routing. City working with contractor to improve current system and increase efficiency(ies) for evacuation routing.	LUO	\$10,000-\$25,000	HMGP, RLP, FMA	Ongoing through 2022	SW, TW, WS, F	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/H
10	2-1	Business Continuity. Continue to improve COOP (City Hall)	BOF	\$0-\$1,000	HMGP, CIP	Annually through 2025	SW, TW, ET, WS, F, TI, WF, D, E, CC	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/H
11	1-1, 3-1	Debris Management Plan. Continue to develop an updated debris management plan town wide.	PW	\$1,000-\$5,000	CIP	2021-2022	SW, TW, WS, TI, WF	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4/H
12	1-1	Critical Facilities. Currently the senior center needs a generator to operate elevators for evacuation. Conduct analysis of gas stations and supermarkets for cost of generators.	BOS	\$1,000-\$5,000	CDBG	2022	SW, TW, WS	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	6/H

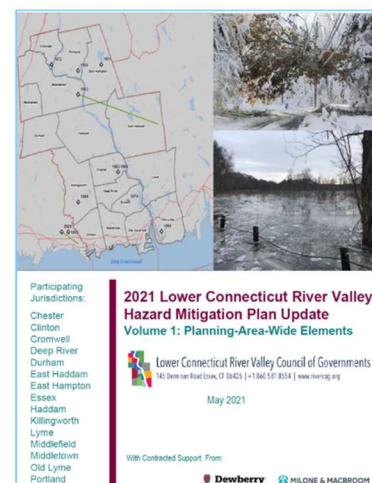
Activity #	Goal/Objective	Activity Description	Lead Agency	Est. Cost*	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe for Completion	Hazard (s) Addressed	Weighted STAPLEE Criteria																Total STAPLEE Score/Priority
								Social Benefit	Social Cost	Technical Benefit	Technical Cost	Administrative Benefit	Administrative Cost	Political Benefit	Political Cost	Legal Benefit	Legal Cost	Economic Benefit	Economic Cost	Environmental Benefit	Environmental Cost			
13	2-1	Upgrade Wells and Facilities. Replace two wells below the 100-year flood at J.S. Roth Well field. Well Improvements/Storm Hardening.	Water and Sewer	\$1.7M (Wells)	HMGP, CIP, OP	2020-2021	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/H		
14	2-1	Harbor Park Pumping Station. Abandon some facilities and install watertight grinder pump.	Water and Sewer	\$100K	HMGP, CIP, OP	2023	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/H		
15	2-1	Johnson Street Pumping Station. Upgrade Storm Wall.	Water and Sewer	\$15K	HMGP, CIP, OP	2025	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/H		
16	2-1	Adder Brook Dam. Repair Diversion Chamber.	Water and Sewer	\$25K	HMGP, CIP, OP	2023	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/H		

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17	2-1	South Main Street. Replace station to upland site.	Water and Sewer	\$400K	HMGP, CIP, OP	2025	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/H
18	2-1	Adder Brook Dam (see Dam Hazard Report). Repair outlet at gatehouse. Spillway needs improvement and dam raised to pass ½ PMF	Water and Sewer	\$250K (outlet) \$2M (raise dam)	HMGP, CIP, OP	2025 (raising dam may be longer term project)	F	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	12/H
19	2-1	Mt. Higby Dam. Using Dam Hazard Report perform improvements to spillway and dam raised to pass ½ PMF.	Water and Sewer	\$2.5M	HMGP, CIP, OP	2025 (may be longer term project)	F	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	12/M
20	2-1	Laurel Brook Dam. Intake improvements and dike repairs to pass ½ PMF.	Water and Sewer	\$800K	HMGP, CIP, OP	2025	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/H

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21	2-1	Saw Mill Interceptor. Need waterproof repair tops.	Water and Sewer	\$50K	HMGP, CIP, OP	2025	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/H
22	2-1	#3 Dam. Improvements needed to spillway. DOT Project (Route 66 Widening Project) is complete.	Water and Sewer		HMGP, CIP, OP	2025	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/M
23	2-1	Coginchaug River Sewer. Raise all structure tops above flood elevation.	Water and Sewer	\$50K	HMGP, CIP, OP	2025	F	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	9/M

Appendix B

Middletown Map Resource Packet* Used During Workshop



***Gathered from Middletown Plan of Conservation and Development (2021), the Lower Connecticut River Valley Plan of Conservation and Development (2021), and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2021).**



Lower Connecticut River Valley Region

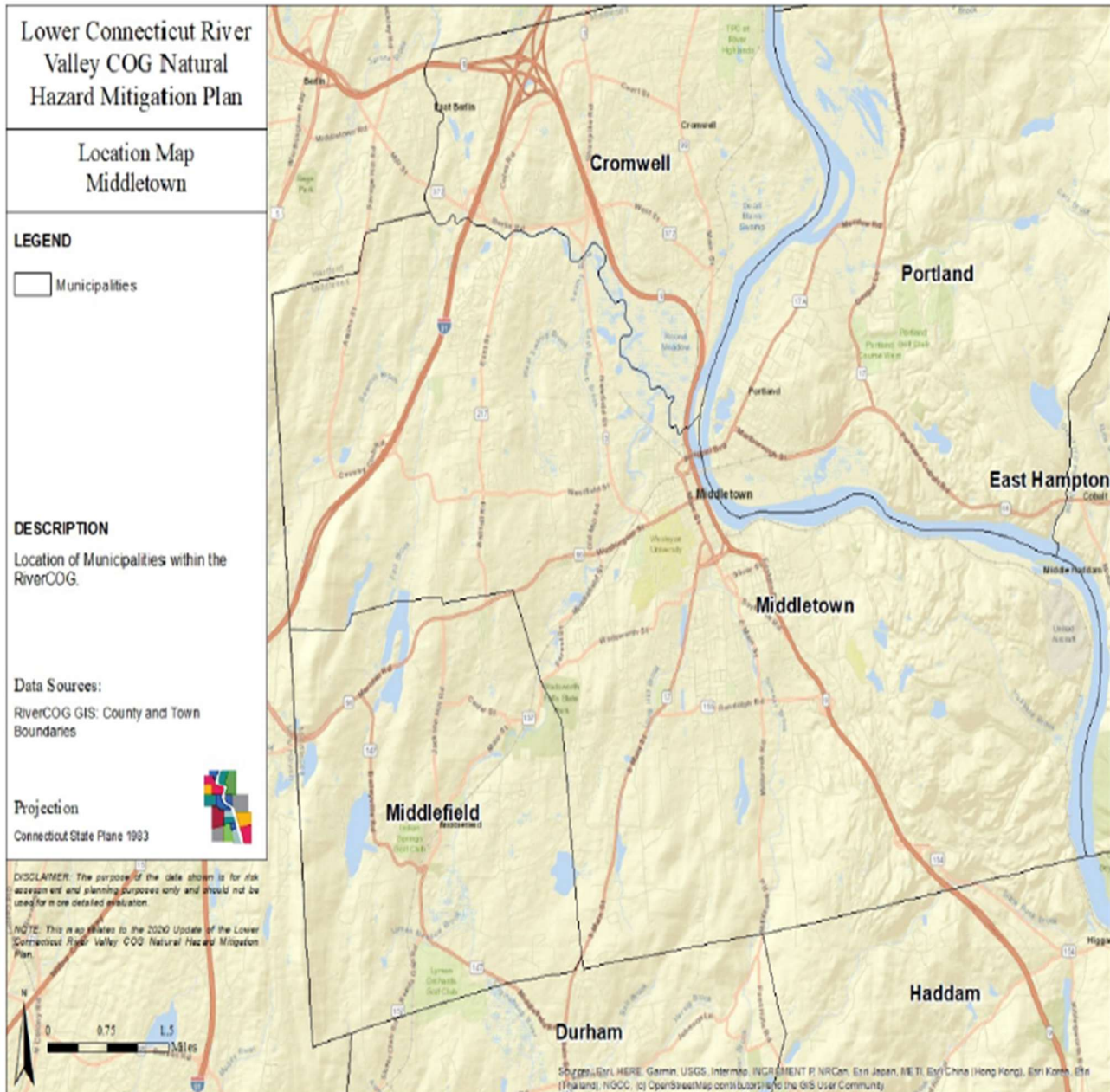
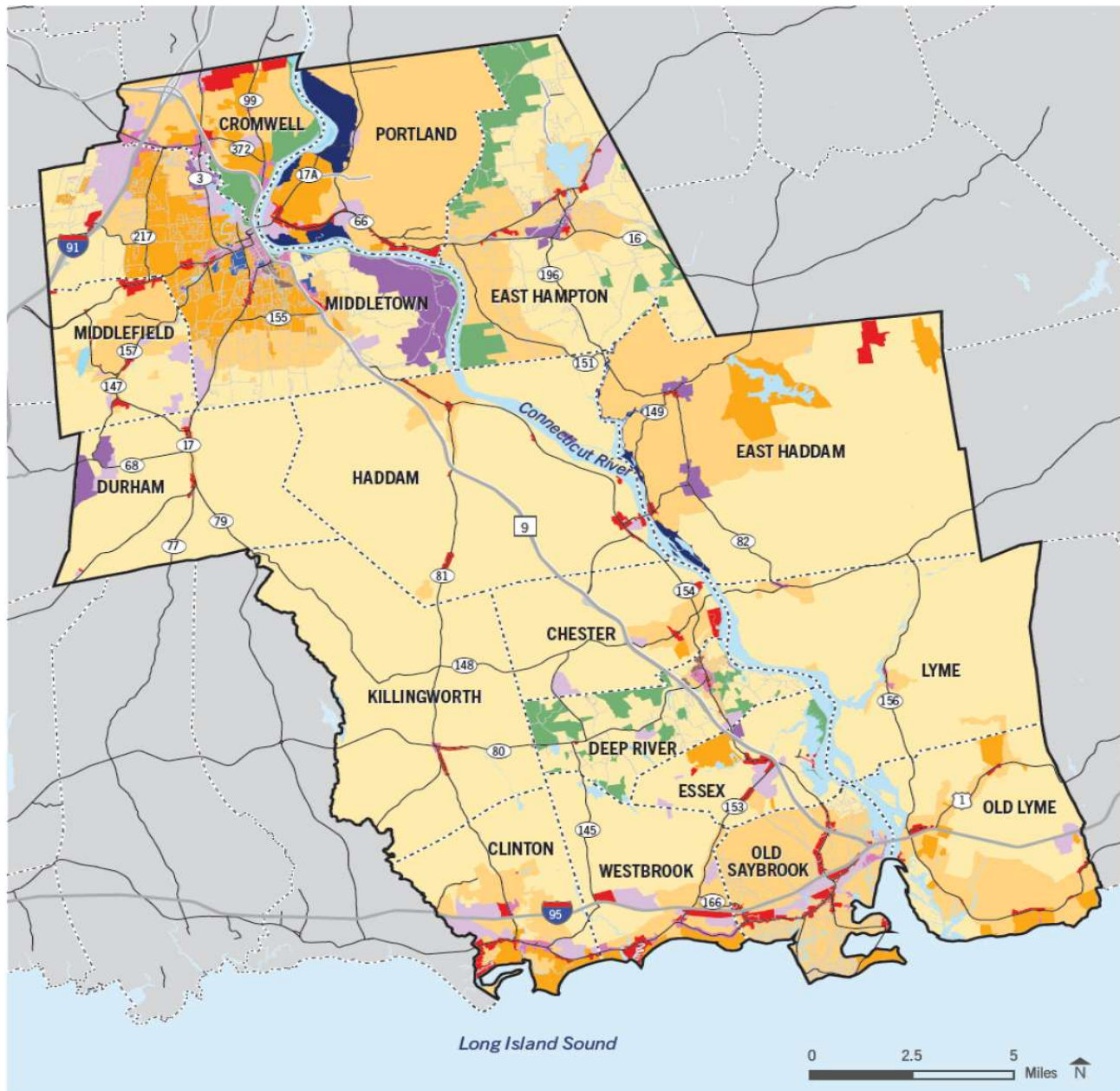
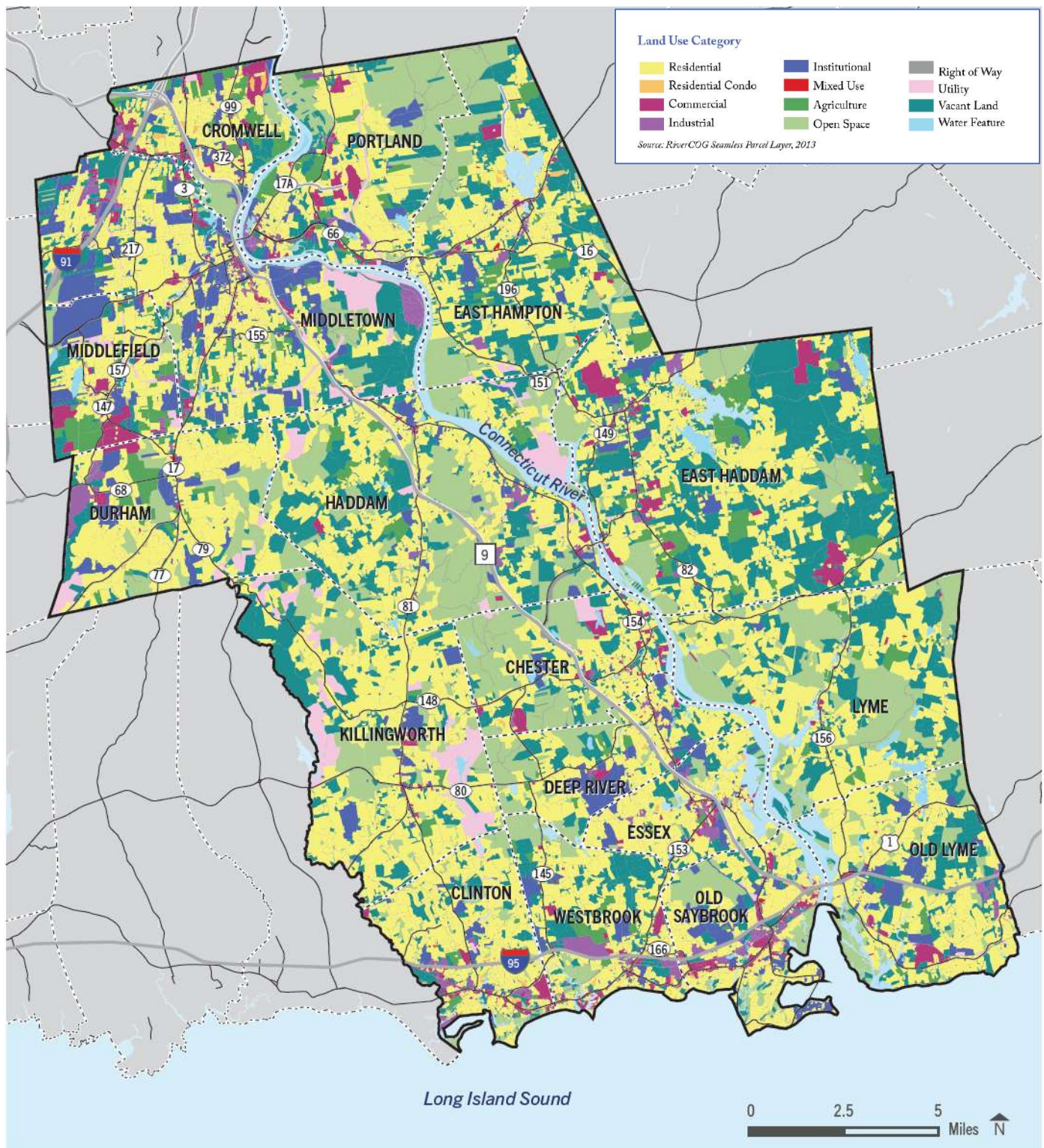


Figure 2-1. Middletown Location.



Generalized Zoning Map Source: Compiled Municipal Zoning Maps





2013 Generalized Land Use Map*

*This map is a generalized land use map for the purpose of comparing land use across the Region. It is not intended to replace local land use maps which may be more accurate than this map.

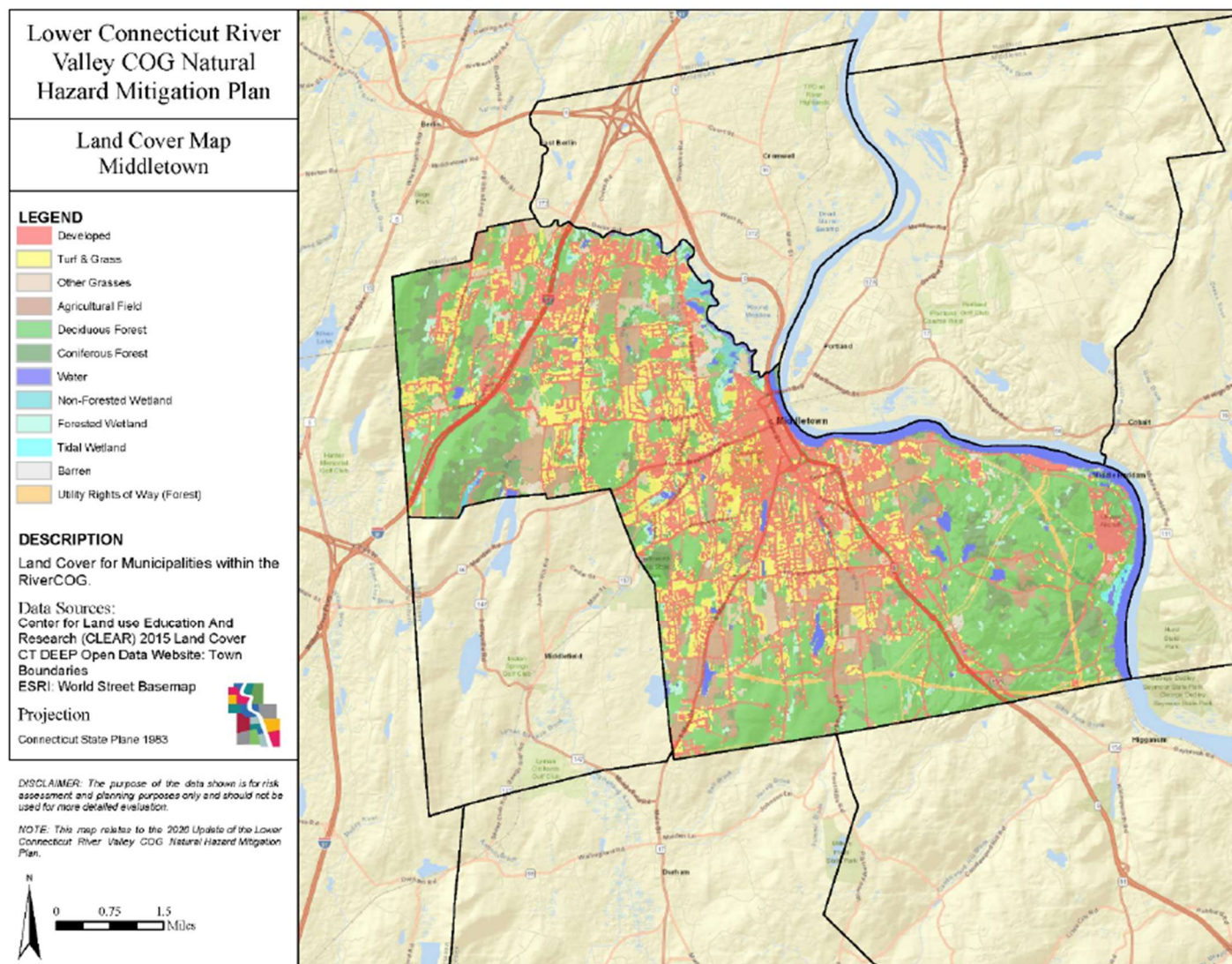


Figure 2-2. Middletown Land Cover.

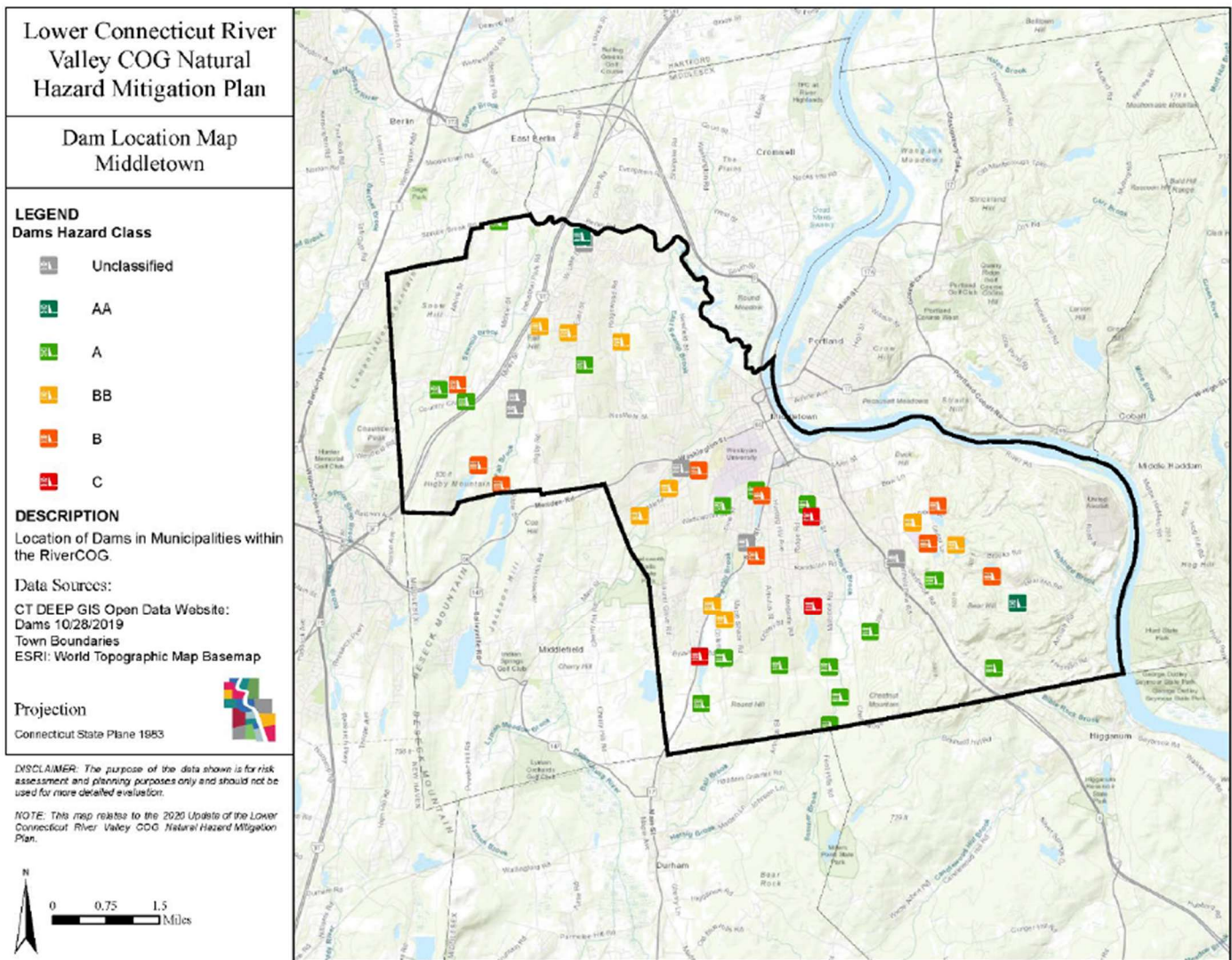


Figure 2-4. Location Middletown Dams.

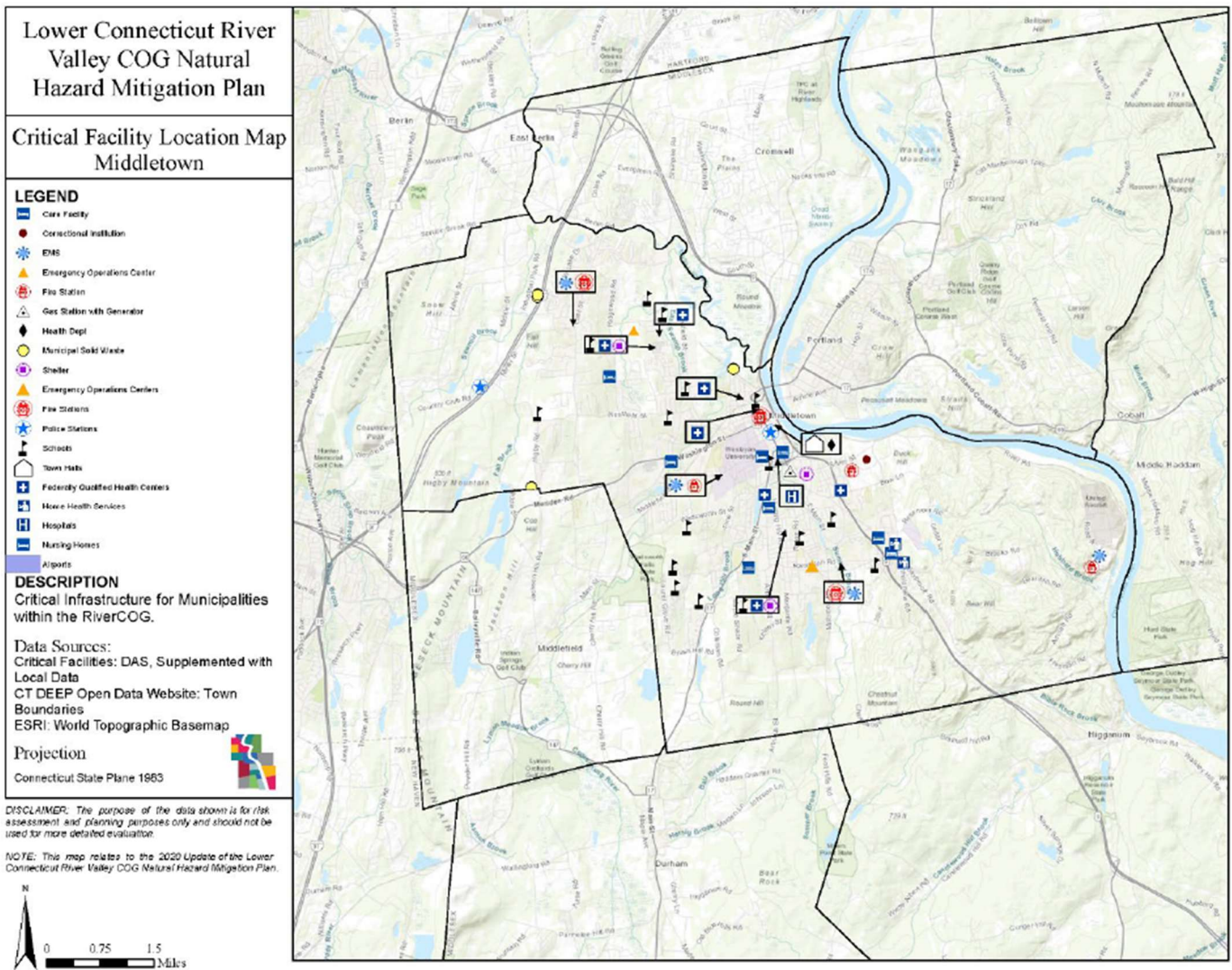
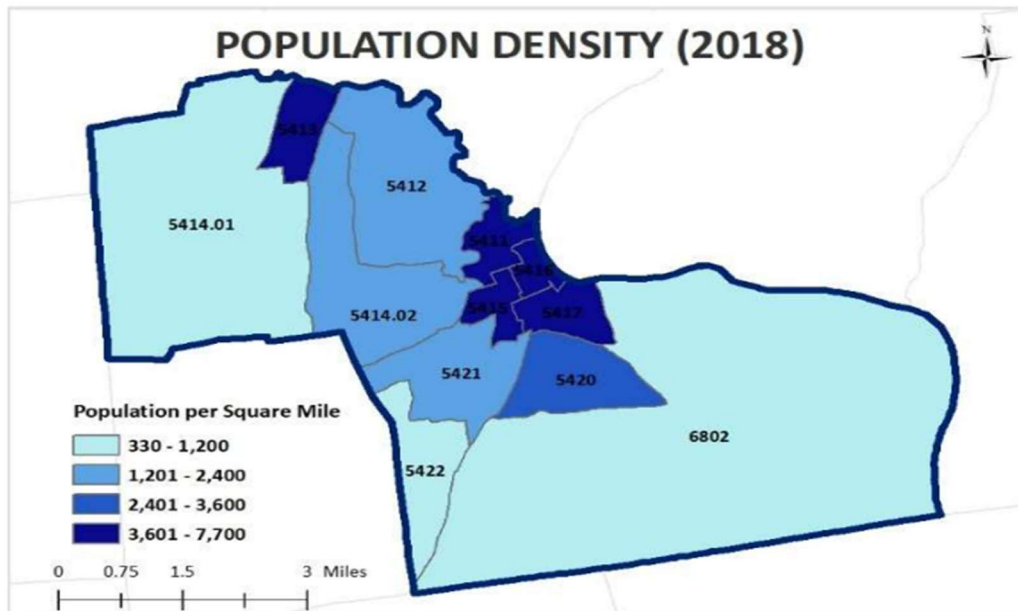
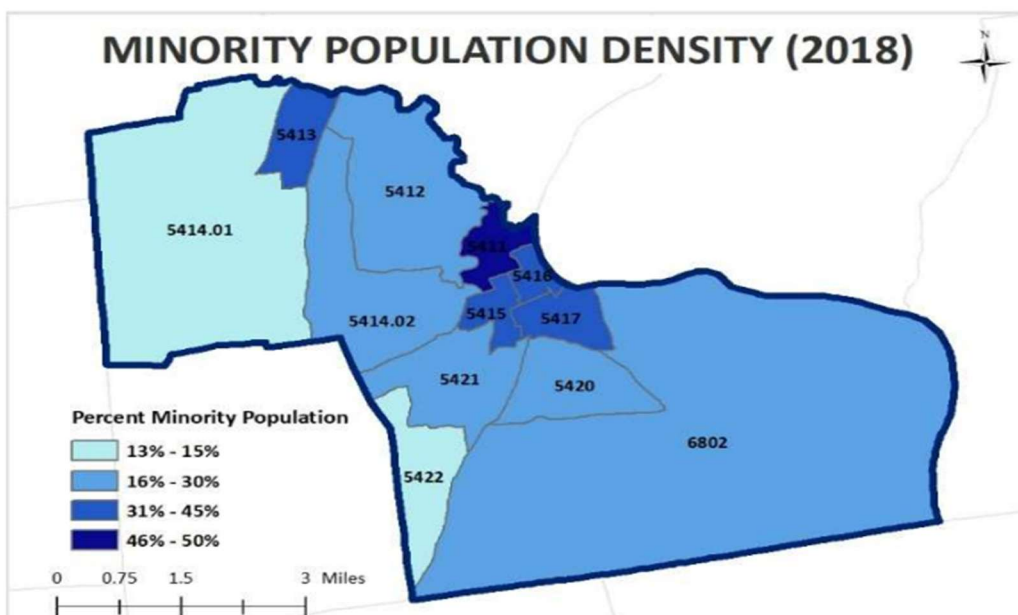


Figure 4-1. Location of Critical Facilities in Middletown.

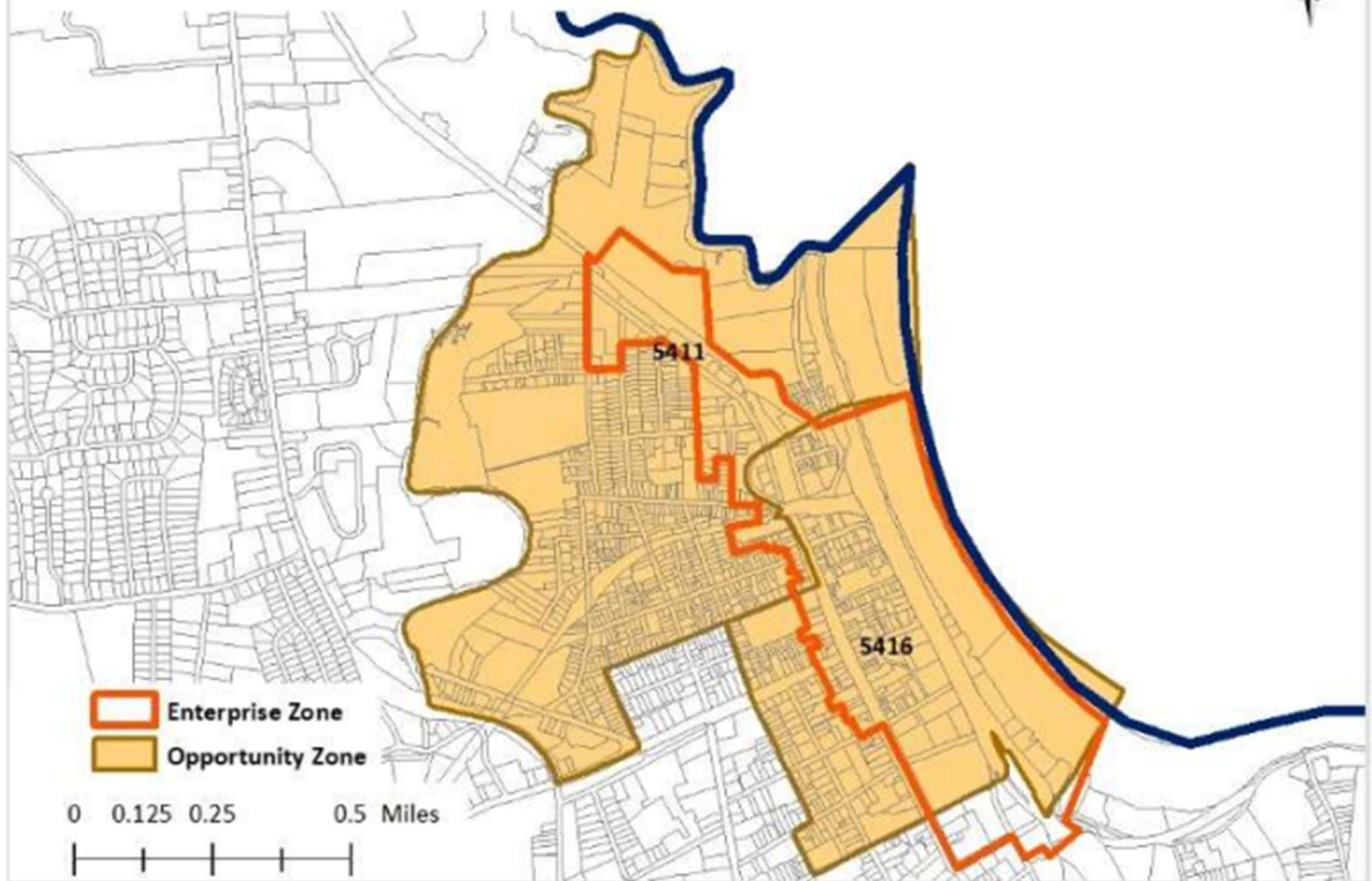


*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Five Year Estimates.*

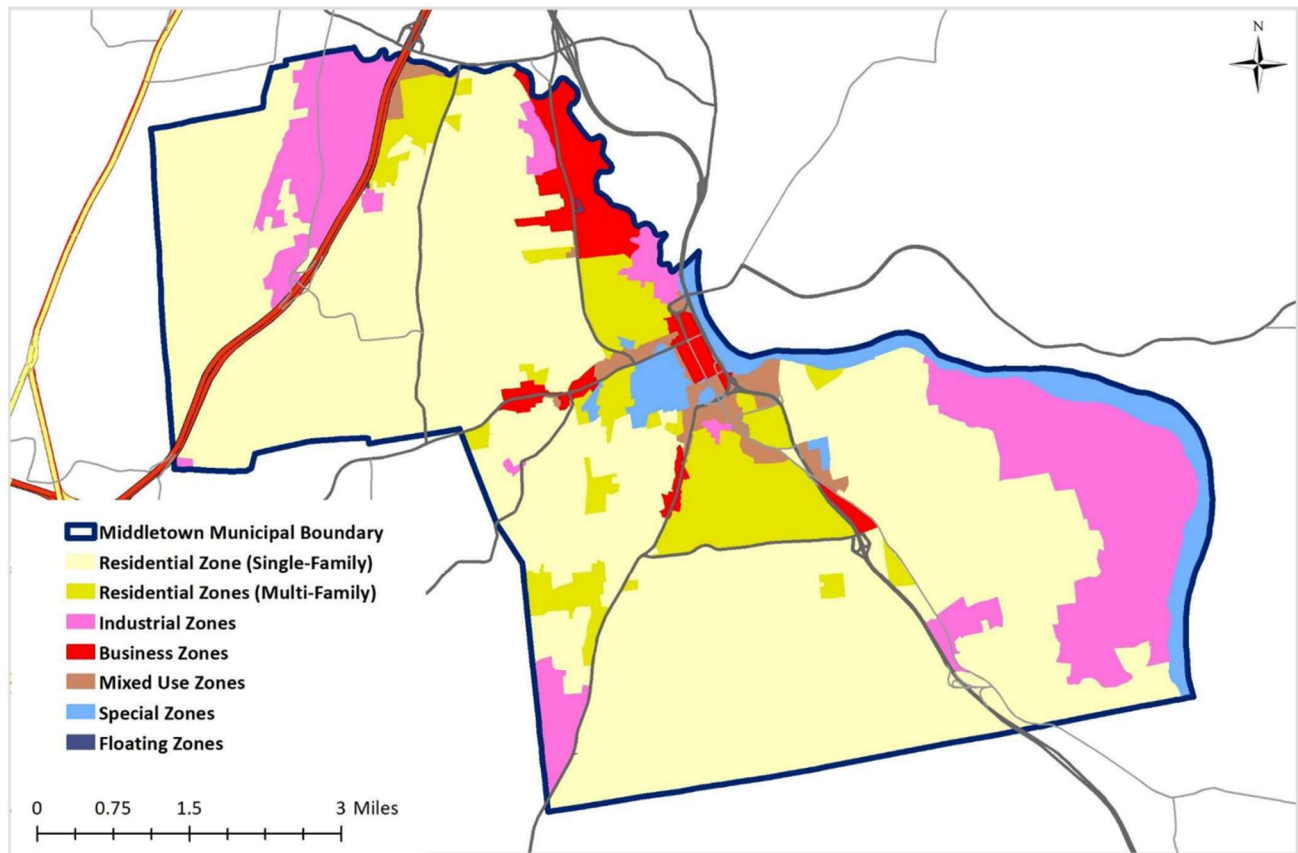


*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Five Year Estimates.*

OPPORTUNITY AND ENTERPRISE ZONES

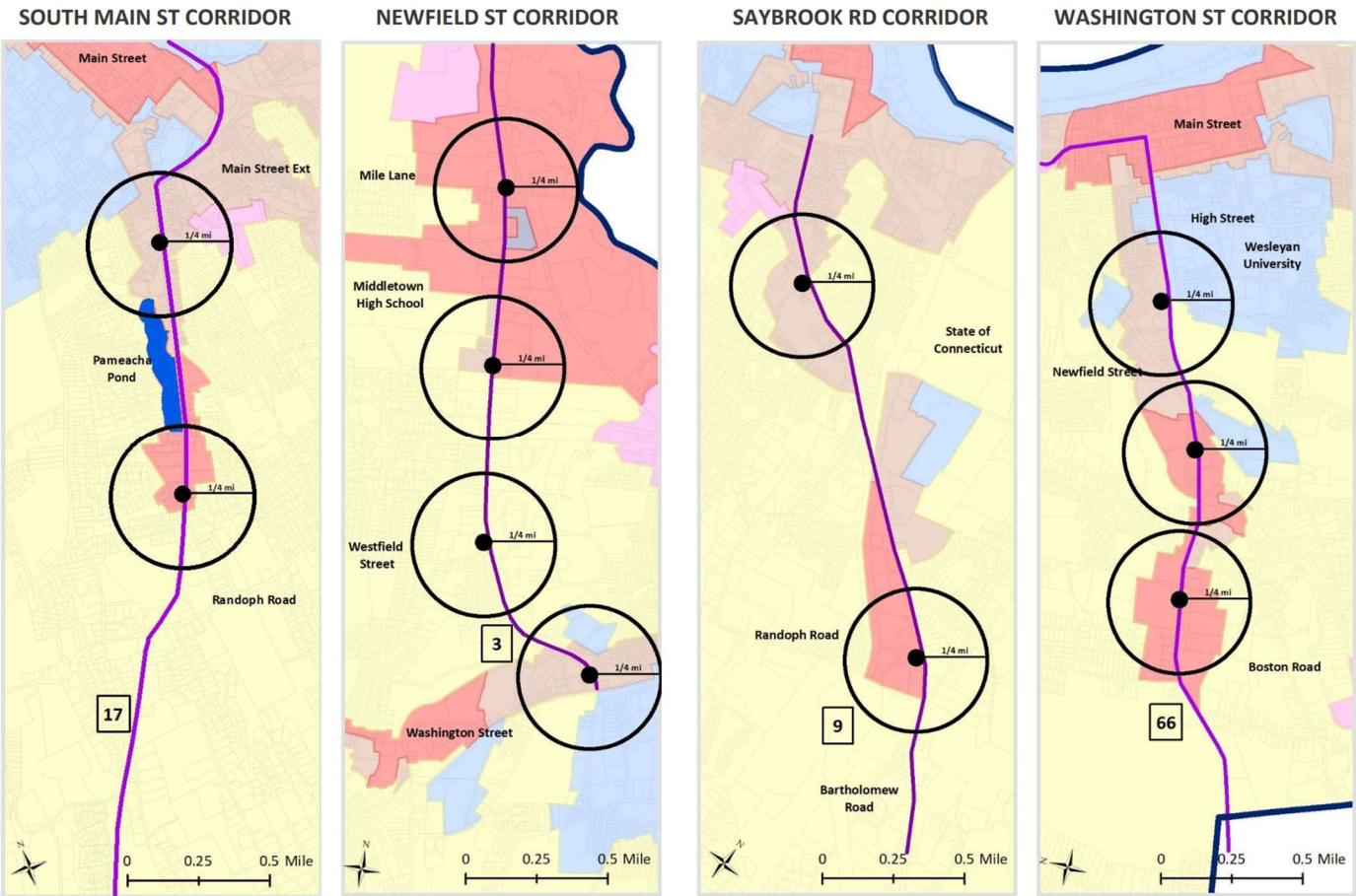


MIDDLETOWN ZONING MAP (UNOFFICIAL)

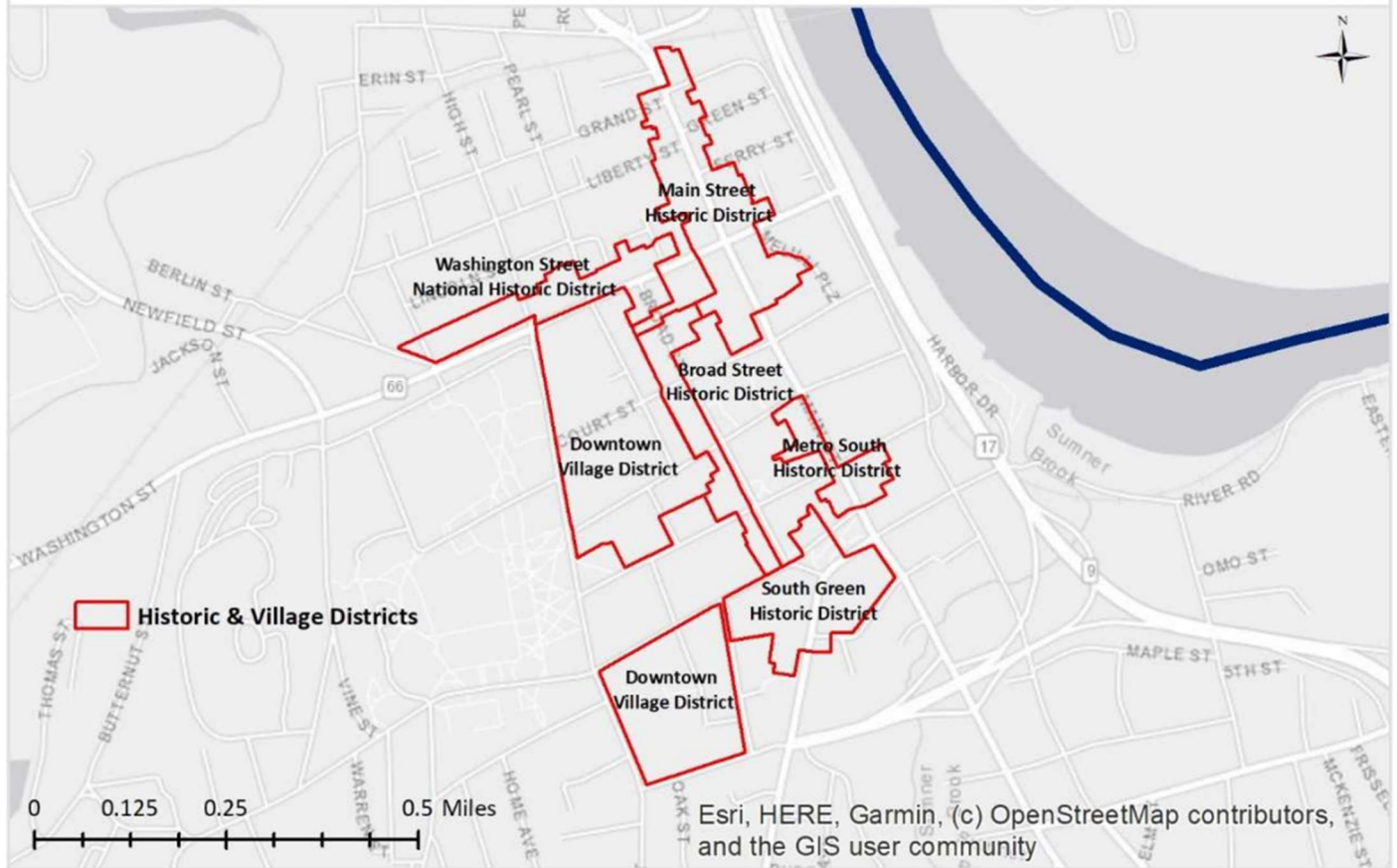


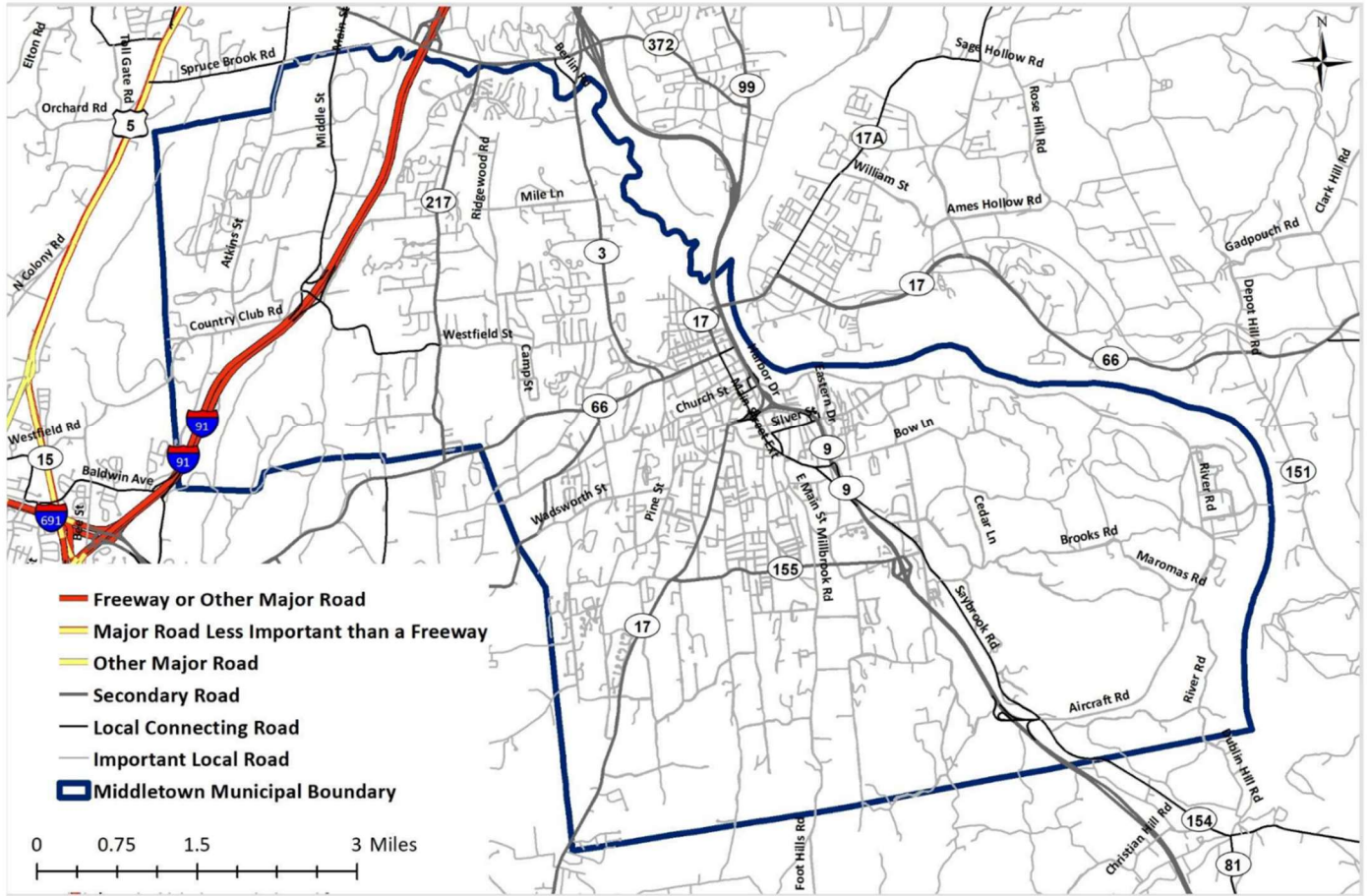
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CORRIDOR PLANS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS



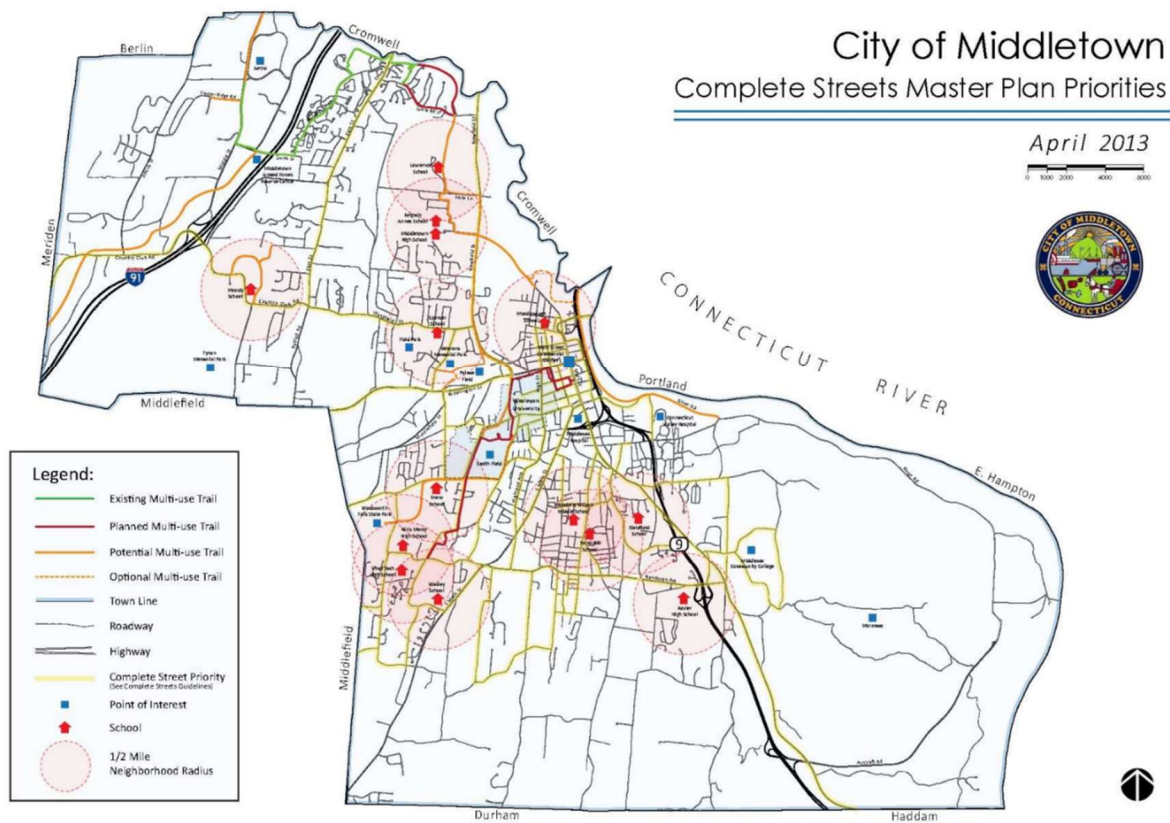
DOWNTOWN HISTORIC & VILLAGE DISTRICTS





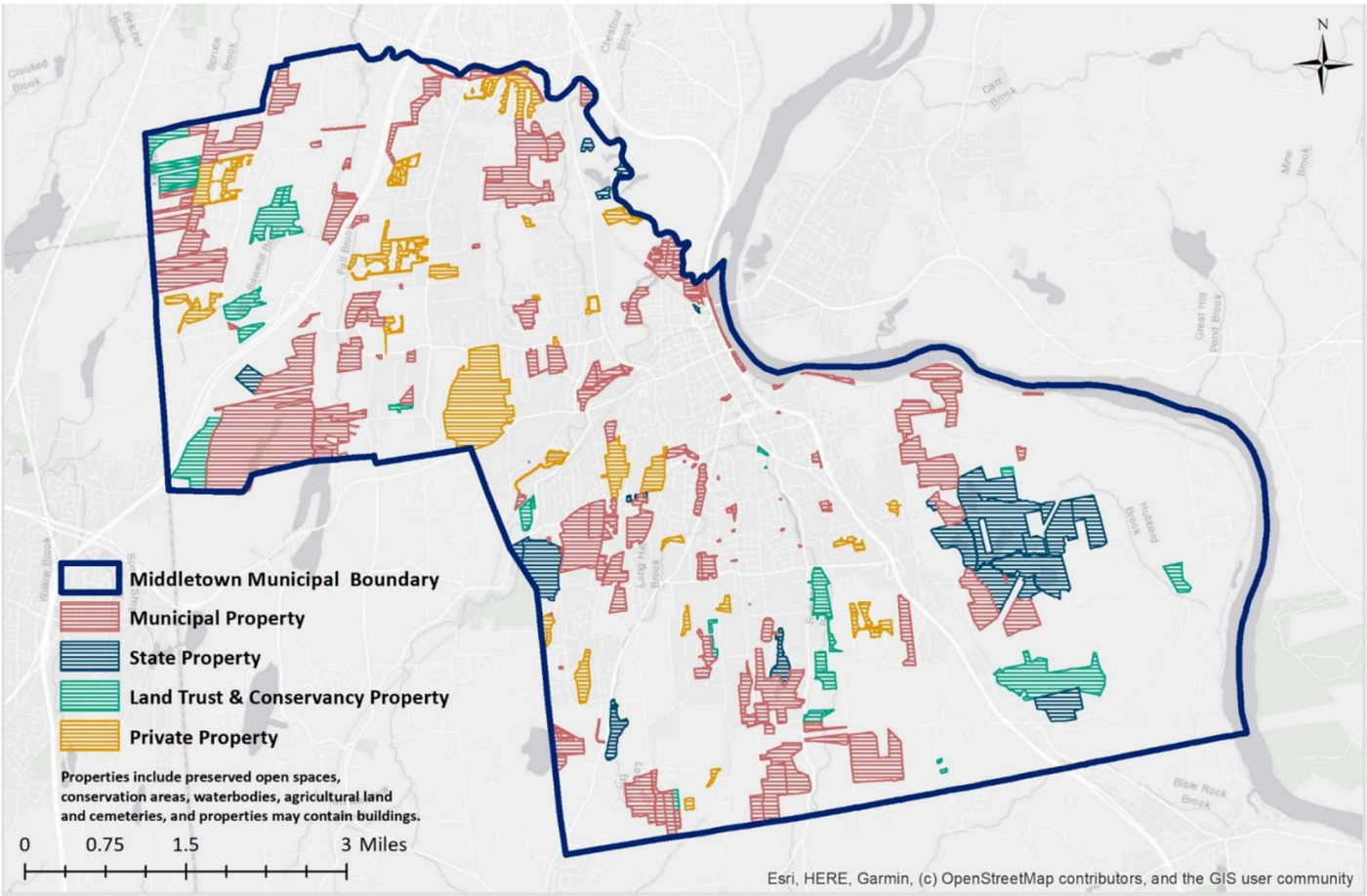
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MIDDLETOWN COMPLETE STREETS MASTER PLAN

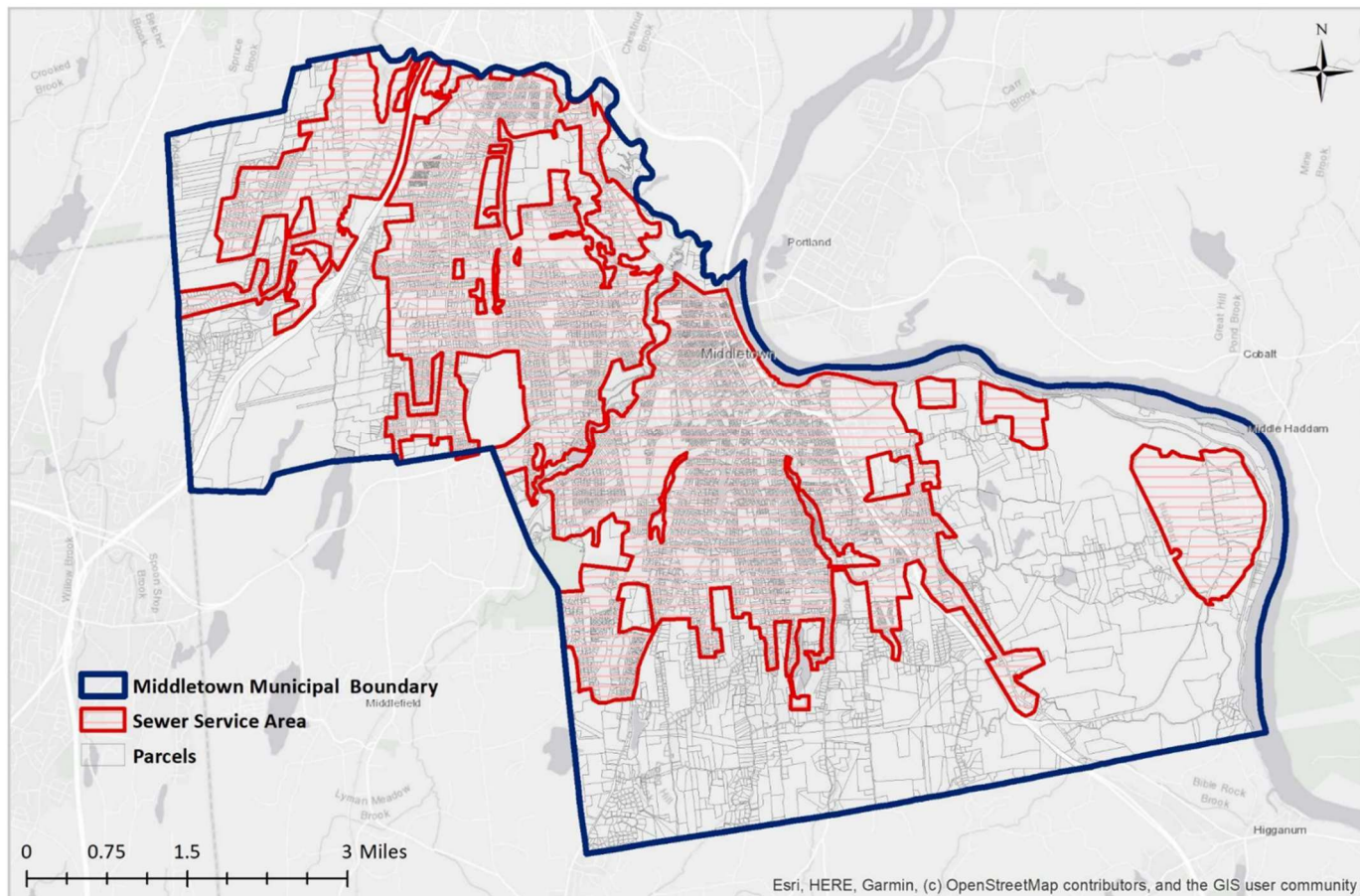


Middletown 2030 | 44

MIDDLETOWN OPEN SPACE MAP

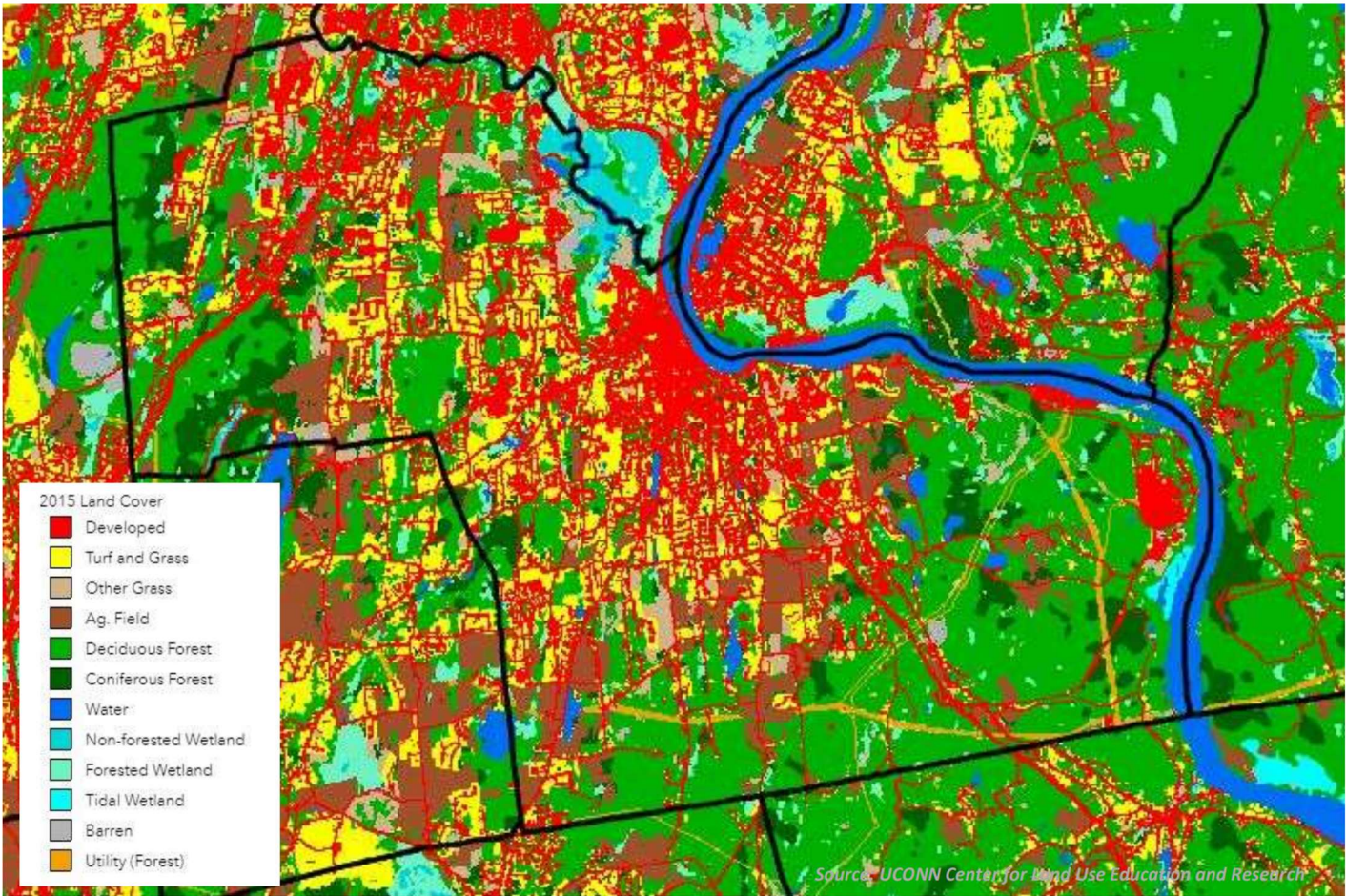


MIDDLETOWN SEWER SERVICE AREA



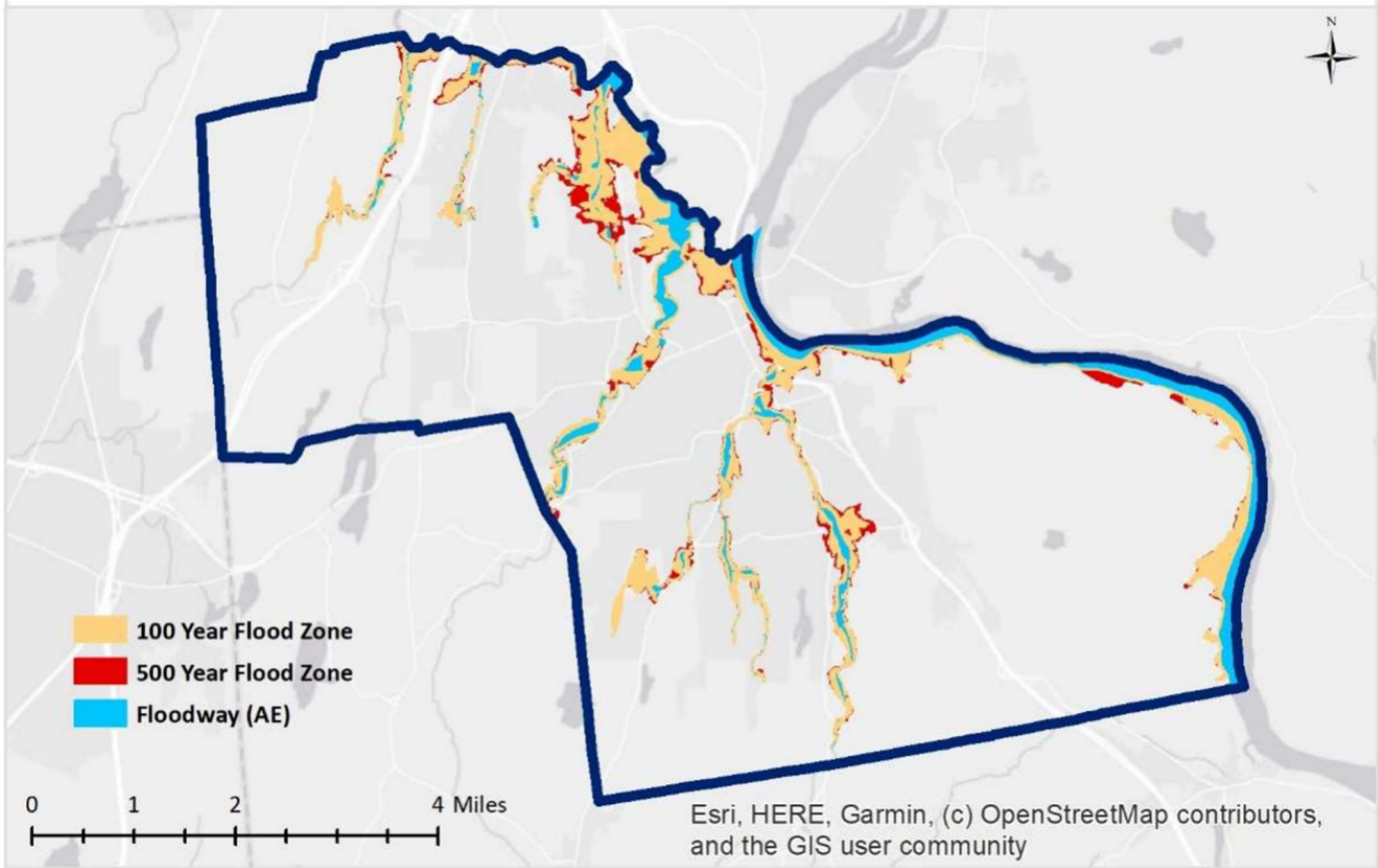
Middletown 2030 | 59

MIDDLETOWN LAND COVER MAP



Middletown 2030 | 64

FEMA FLOOD ZONES



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