



MANSFIELD



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Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings

May 2025



Town of Mansfield, 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 Town of Mansfield to proactively collaborate on planning and mitigating risks. Ultimately, this type of leadership is to be commended because it will reduce the 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 Town of Mansfield embarked on an additional certification with Sustainable CT. As part of that certification, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Sustainable CT provided the Town 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 May 2025, Mansfield'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 priority resilience actions for the Town of Mansfield.

The Mansfield 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 Town.
- Identify opportunities to collaboratively advance actions to increase resilience alongside residents and organizations from across the Town, and beyond.

The Town of Mansfield 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 Mansfield. The Mansfield Tomorrow (Plan of Conservation and Development) (2015), Mansfield Community Resilience Building Summary of Findings (2018), and Capital Region Hazard Mitigation Plan Update -Mansfield Municipal Annex (2024) were particularly instructive as references. In addition, Mansfield conducted a survey of residents identified as most vulnerable to extreme weather and climate impacts to better understand their experiences with extreme weather, what support they rely on during extreme weather events, their use of municipal support systems, and additional support needs. The results of this survey also helped to inform the CRB workshop (see Appendix C for survey results). 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 Mansfield’s resilience to hazards and climate change today, and in the future.

The summary of findings transcribed in this report, like any that concern the evolving nature of risk assessment and associated action, is proffered for comments, corrections and updates from workshop attendees and other stakeholders alike. The leadership displayed by the Town of Mansfield 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 Mansfield Core Team identified the top hazards for the Town. The hazards of greatest concern included flooding and heavy wind events (particularly when associated with ice or snowstorms), riverine flooding, localized stormwater runoff-related flooding, and droughts. Additional hazards highlighted by participants during the CRB Workshop included extended heat waves, Nor'easters and blizzards during fall, winter, and spring months as well as storm conditions generated by hurricanes and tropical storms. These hazards have direct and increasing impacts on the infrastructure, environment, and residents of and visitors to Mansfield. These effects are seen within residential areas, natural areas (wetlands, rivers, forests, preserves), roads, bridges, businesses, farms, municipal and academic facilities, social support services, arts and culture, and other critical infrastructure and community assets within Mansfield.

Current Concerns and Challenges Presented by Hazards

The Town of Mansfield has several concerns and faces multiple challenges related to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. In recent years, Mansfield has experienced a series of highly disruptive and damaging weather events including Superstorm Sandy (October 2012), winter Nor'easter Nemo (February 2013), large snowfall events winter 2015-2016 (84" cumulative), extreme wind events (October 2017), 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 across Town for multiple days. Major blizzards dropped several feet of snow on the Town knocking out power and isolating residents and neighborhoods. 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 Mansfield to proactively improve their resilience.

This recent series of extreme weather events highlights that the impacts from hazards are diverse. In Mansfield this included riverine flooding of critical infrastructure, roads, and low-lying areas; localized flooding from stormwater runoff during intense storms and heavy precipitation events; and property damage and utility outages (lasting several days or more) 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 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 Town.

The workshop participants were generally in agreement that Mansfield 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, Mansfield 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 Capital Region Council of Governments Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Mansfield Municipal Annex (2024) are provided in Appendix A for cross reference.

Municipal Functions, Operations, & Growth:

- Decrease in federal funding from agencies and departments such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will result in a lower number of mitigation projects designed to keep residents safe and increase resilience in Mansfield.
- Lack of federal funding will have a direct impact on capital improvement projects, staffing, and the overall health of Mansfield, adjoining municipalities, and the region.
- Dispersed nature of residential development across Mansfield presents a challenge to the provision of municipal services and utility supply/restoration.
- Large and growing percentage of Mansfield's population are elderly requiring greater attention and resources from municipal departments.
- Aging population consists of seniors who may be disabled and not technologically savvy enough to connect with and receive proper assistance when needed.
- Demographic dynamics resulting in many younger aged residents (students from University of Connecticut (UConn)) and increasingly older residents ("we have a demographic barbell in Mansfield – lots of young and old people, middle aged has decreased").
- Overall, housing is becoming more expensive, and availability is low with development companies acquiring land for purpose-built student housing.
- Lack of affordable housing due to the demand in the marketplace to purchase homes and convert to rentals to accommodate demand for UConn student off-campus housing. Many starter homes are being purchased by landlords from outside Mansfield to be rentals for UConn students.
- Limited and declining availability of "middle-housing" which causes young families and middle-aged people to move or locate outside of Mansfield despite secure employment in Town.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Decline in business in the downtown area and surrounding UConn campus during the summer months when students are elsewhere.
- Ongoing traffic congestion challenges in the downtown area and surrounding UConn campus. Congestion will change in accordance with when Campus is in session (i.e., lower traffic volume during the summer break months). Current road systems are not built to manage increased levels of traffic volume.
- Increased occurrence of basement flooding during spring coupled with power outages result in costly repairs for residents, especially when homeowner's insurance policies don't cover (i.e., sump pump failure due to power outages).
- Approximately 27% of families with school aged children are part of free or reduced school lunch programs.
- Limited public transportation system with buses running only a few times a day on routes and accessibility issues for residents using bus stops along routes. The dispersed population in Mansfield presents a challenge to provide adequate public transport and accessibility.
- Natchaug Hospital provides mental health and substance abuse treatment along with outpatient and in-patient services. However, the facility presents a significant demand on municipal services that respond to issues during power outages.
- Mansfield Depot Campus (former Mansfield Training School) is a vacant property with dilapidated building as well as the location of a confirmed brownfield site (i.e., asbestos, etc.). Property is part of the UConn campus.
- Slow response times, lack of investments in increasing the resilience of the electrical grid, and tree impacts have diminished the reliability of power provided by Eversource Power within the community of Mansfield as well as adjoining municipalities.
- Long response times to resolve connectivity issues during and after outages due to Frontier's instability as a company that led to the lack of investment in upgrades to telecommunication infrastructure and staff cuts.
- Public school children populations are declining due in part to the lack of affordable housing for younger families.
- Aging infrastructure in need of repairs including the Fire Station, Police Department inside the Town Hall, and Senior Center.
- Concerns about the reoccurrence frequency and duration of drought conditions and the impacts it is having on people, agriculture, and natural ecosystems.
- Climate-driven emergence and expansion of waterborne diseases such as eastern equine encephalitis, west nile virus, and lyme disease.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Need for support amongst town leadership to invest in battery storage infrastructure to help reduce impacts on residents and municipal capabilities during emergencies with power outages. Battery bank installation has been proposed to accompany the solar array at E. O. Smith High School.

Emergency Management & Preparedness:

- Cycles of drought and intense rainstorms coupled with a warming climate is increasing the risk of vector borne diseases across Connecticut including Mansfield.
- Potential loss of FEMA and other supportive federal agencies will have a significant impact on the level of local response needs if left to manage and respond to growing number of natural disasters independently.
- General lack of awareness amongst residents of what to do in advance of emergencies resulting in power outages regarding securing adequate water for household use (i.e., flushing toilets, etc.). The dispersed decentralized nature of private wells presents a challenge to common solutions (municipal water supply, community holding tanks, etc.).
- Impacts of tornadoes on the three mobile home parks are a concern because these types of structures are more vulnerable to high winds than other types. Several tornadoes were reported in Mansfield in 2024 which was an unusual occurrence.
- Increases of wildfire danger with several smaller fires recently are likely due to longer drought periods and increased fuel loads in forested areas.
- Ongoing and growing outward expansion of off-campus rentals to UConn students who are not often educated or equipped to manage issues that may arise with housing during events such as cold snaps (i.e., burst pipes) and major precipitation or snowstorms. Concerns that landlords are not investing in upgrades necessary to become more resilient (i.e., deeper wells, etc.).
- Extensive reliance on municipal resources (Fire, EMS, Police, etc.) to support a growing number of off-campus students during significant weather events such as Nor'easters.
- Concern with areas that experience flooding such as neighborhoods along the Willimantic River in southwestern Mansfield, Depot Road, and Natchaug Reservoir, among others.

Roads, Bridges, Road Networks, & Dams:

- Road to Mansfield Hollow is always closed when there is flooding which cuts off access to this part of Town although there are no homes impacted in this area.

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

- Residential driveways that were built over small waterways in many parts of Town in the 1970s are not sized correctly to manage increased volumes of precipitation resulting in washouts and need for permits to rebuild. This places an extra burden on municipal staff responsible for reviewing and issuing permits.
- Concerns regarding the potentially catastrophic downstream impacts to Willimantic if the Eagleville Dam was to be compromised.
- Concerns around a catastrophic failure of the Mansfield Hollow Dam, which would result in significant flooding across much of the greater Willimantic area.

Stormwater, Wastewater Systems, & Drinking Water Supply:

- Concerns of rising costs to replace or repair culverts with a growing number of infrastructure projects associated with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. Recent and anticipated declines in unstable federal funding for infrastructure repairs and upgrades are also a concern.
- Ongoing concerns regarding the systems and agreements for shared drinking water resources between supplier (Connecticut Water) and the Town of Mansfield and UConn that date back to 2008. Concerns that standing agreement doesn't adequately address the realities of current needs and the growing impacts of climate change on this shared and limited resource. Concerns that Mansfield could be without adequate drinking water in the future without modifications to agreement(s).
- Growing concerns around potential for drinking water contamination from new pollutants such as perflourooctane sulfonate (PFAS).
- Testing of Natchaug River and Reservoir have shown the presence of PFAS that could potentially result in a spread to Willimantic Waterworks and other public drinking water sources.
- Alteration to the depth of groundwater presents a challenge for most residents on private drinking water wells that are more regularly drying up during drought periods (i.e., in shallower wells currently).
- Approximately, 60-70% of year round residents rely on private drinking water wells which creates issues during power outages when pumps are no longer working as well as growing issues with private dug wells running dry during extended drought periods (particularly in northern parts of Mansfield).

Specific Categories of Concerns and Challenges (cont'd)

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

- Concerns about the impacts of more intense and extended droughts on forest species diversity and distribution over time in the forested landscapes of Mansfield.
- Declining forest health due to a growing number of impactful pests and pathogens (i.e., Emerald ash borer, spongey moss caterpillar, beach leaf disease, among others) that increase the number and distribution of trees susceptible to high winds across the approximately 2,000 acres of forest owned and managed by Mansfield.
- Approximately 30% of the tree canopy in Mansfield is comprised of dead or dying trees (i.e., ash, beech, white pines) that are increasingly becoming hazards during major weather events such as ice storms and/or heavy wind events.
- Estimates that approximately 75% of trees in Mansfield will likely be compromised during a Category-3 Hurricane, which is currently underappreciated.
- Downed trees and limbs pose an ongoing problem on electrical grid across Mansfield.
- Lower Willimantic River area very susceptible to flooding.
- Beaver dams and other activities result in flooding on Route 195.
- Low lying agricultural fields located on floodplain soils adjoining rivers are subject to impacts and crop loss during floods.



Credit: Mansfield Downtown Partnership



Credit: Town of Mansfield



Credit: Homes.com

Current Strengths and Assets

Just as certain locations, facilities, and populations in Mansfield stand out as particularly vulnerable to the effects of hazards and climate change, other features are notable assets for Mansfield'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 very appreciated strength within and across Mansfield. Ongoing collaboration between municipal staff, committee/commission/board volunteers, business community, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, adjoining municipalities, UConn, Council of Government, health district, and various state-wide organizations (i.e., Sustainable CT, The Nature Conservancy), among others, on priorities identified herein will help advance comprehensive, cost-effective, community resilience building actions.
- Municipality and residents really care about their community with a “sense of community” where people come together and help one another during times of crises (i.e., COVID-19 pandemic).
- Dedicated municipal staff with a supportive work environment that lends to comradery within Town Hall and a willingness to collaborate with other municipalities on resource sharing and problem solving.
- Mansfield residents have a strong interest and commitment to increasing the sustainability of the community including increasing renewable power sources in Town.
- Consistent and reliable commitment amongst residents to volunteerism in the community. Mansfield volunteers fill positions on municipal committees and boards (approximately 300 volunteers at present).
- Town voted the safest place to live (assessed by zip code) according to Slate Magazine.
- Mansfield benefits from a high degree of regional collaboration as well as serving as a hub for regional services.
- Regular and ongoing communication and coordination amongst municipal departments with all department heads located in one building as well as monthly department head meetings.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Municipal employees are professionally well connected with one another and understand the proper channels for contact if someone requires assistance. These connections and communication channels were strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) and their regional health network is based within the Mansfield Town Hall. The EHHD is professionally managed and staffed with extensive experience in public health emergency procedures and response.
- University of Connecticut's population (students, staff, faculty) represent 65% of the overall population of the municipality and provide support services including food provisioning and shelter.
- University of Connecticut students volunteer to help the community during natural disasters that impact Mansfield.
- Topographically and geographically Mansfield is located at the upper reaches of the watersheds within the municipality, which helps to limit extensive riverine-related flooding issues.
- Flood hazard protection zoning coupled with ample preserved open space in riparian zones has helped to mitigate the impacts from flooding along waterways in Mansfield.
- Smart growth areas have been identified for future development areas across Town.
- Board of Education is aware and sensitive to issues such as the impacts of climate change and the need to become more resilient and sustainable.
- Mansfield's public schools provide curriculum designed to enhance awareness of the impacts of climate change.
- Municipal managed tree management crew partners with Connecticut Department of Transportation and Eversource to help further reduce impacts to power lines, roadways, and associated infrastructure from downed trees and limbs.
- Mansfield is a bike friendly community as designated by the American Bicyclists League.
- Active agricultural committee and informal groups of farmers in Mansfield provide options for residents to buy locally grown or raised products and produce.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Work by Eversource to upgrade the electric grid systems has included installing new circuits and high durable tree wires to help prevent impacts from falling trees and limbs.
- Two cogeneration power systems (via Eversource) and multiple sewer systems increases the redundancy of critical infrastructure in Mansfield.
- Strong municipal public transit system with connections directly to Hartford. Previously residents had to drive to Coventry or Bolton to connect with public bus service to Hartford.
- Food pantry usage and volume of resources made available to support the community has increased over the last year.
- Mansfield Human Services has recently joined with East of River Hunger Action Team that focuses on food security in the region.
- Robust agricultural community with a great deal of accessibility for residents to local farms and their produce and products.
- Four-town coalition called CT Countryside helps to promote the agricultural community in Mansfield.
- Numerous assisted living facilities are available within Town.

Emergency Management & Preparedness:

- Geographically, centrally located, which helps with disaster management as well as topographically favorable higher elevations that help reduce impacts of hazards such as riverine flooding.
- Strong and well exercised communications processes and channels, both internally and externally (i.e., UConn, National Weather Service, Eversource, CT Natural Gas, US Army Corps of Engineers, CT DEMHS, EHHD, etc.), with strong policies and practices in place to address all individual hazards and various combinations of hazards simultaneously.
- Mutual aid agreements in place which cross multiple adjoining municipal boundaries.
- Emergency warning systems ahead of hazard events are considered a strength amongst the Mansfield community. Residents get warnings from the power company as well as from the Town via Code Red (i.e., text, voice/phone, email, local TV).

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Code Red communication system in place which provides the emergency management professionals and leadership in Mansfield to proactively reach out to residents before, during, and after emergencies to help share critical information on preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.
- Mansfield coordinated with alerting using the same Code Red system with University of Connecticut's emergency management professionals during routine and major events.
- Mansfield Fire Department's data management system has a record of the number and extent of "brush fires" ("fire involving low-growing plants") to which the Department has responded. The term "wildfire", which is defined as "a sweeping and destructive conflagration" is not normally used in eastern areas of the United States by emergency managers.
- Two radio towers with one shared with UConn helps to ensure continuity of communications during periods of concern.
- Municipal facilities are available and properly resourced to provide services to residents during emergencies including the Community Center, E. O. Smith Highschool, Town Hall, Senior Center, and Library.
- Community Center is the primary center to open for emergencies with E. O. Smith Highschool activated if additional space is required.
- Whole building generators are installed and properly maintained at the Library, Senior Center, Town Hall, and part of the Community Center. Town has deliberately dedicated resources to ensure an adequate number of municipal facilities have whole building power generators to better service and support residents during emergencies ("Mansfield is committed to keep people safe during emergencies").
- UConn has emergency preparedness policies and protocols in place to help minimize the impacts and respond to emergency issues caused by flooding, drought, and high winds, among many other hazards. UConn has preparedness checklists for each hazard of concern.
- Town services responsive to community needs such as opening and running heating and cooling stations across the municipalities, which are part of a network of emergency-related facilities made available during major events.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Fire Department provides Emergency Management Services in a timely manner for residents during both routine and more major events.
- Community Resilience Hubs located within Mansfield (i.e., E. O. Smith High School, Community Center) and within facilities on University of Connecticut Campus. These Hubs have hardened infrastructure that can provide power supplied via UConn along with heat and drinking water.
- University of Connecticut has the ability to shelter, feed, and provide water to students for reasonable periods of time.
- Residents are self-reliant and in many locations that experience flooding (i.e., Thornbush neighborhood) people are well prepared to manage impacts.
- Many residents have generators at private residences allowing for greater self-reliance and resilience.
- Eversource maintains a critical facility list and will work to prioritize power at those locations quickly after outages. Mansfield's list with Eversource includes the Community Center and Town Hall, among others.
- Mansfield Hollow Lake within Mansfield Hollow State Park has an engineered system to help with downstream flood management and is regularly reviewed via the Mansfield Hollow Lake Master Plan per the US Army Corps of Engineers. System is designed to manage precipitation events with significant above average rainfall totals over short time periods (i.e., 24 hours).
- Strong geographic information systems for Mansfield assists emergency managers with effectiveness and efficiencies during major events.

Roads, Bridges, Road Networks, & Dams:

- Many upgrades to roadways across Mansfield have been made recently to improve drainage for major precipitation events. Town has been proactive about installing upgrades.
- Existing roadway system provides many different north-south and east-west access routes across Mansfield.

Current Strengths and Assets (cont'd)

- Limited amount of development downstream from major dams in Mansfield.
- Five dams on UConn campus are routinely inspected and have dam management plans in place to increase preparedness and response in the event of failure.

Stormwater, Waste Systems, & Drinking Water Supply:

- Three water supply systems in Mansfield with built in power redundancies and duplicative infrastructure (pipes and pumps) to ensure reliability and continuity of service for residents.
- Northern parts of Mansfield are served by a drinking water system that is operated by UConn. Southern parts of Mansfield are served by a drinking water system that is operated by Windham/Willimantic.

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

- Strong community desire to preserve and maintain the character of Mansfield through open space protection and working agricultural landscapes.
- Open space areas such as Mansfield Hollow State Park are huge outdoor recreational locations with walking trails and other passive recreation opportunities that enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.
- Parks and Natural Resources Committee and Conservation Commission monitor and maintain trails with Department of Public Works and volunteers from the community.
- Diverse and geographically well dispersed network of protected open space across Mansfield.
- Extensive trail network across protected open spaces provides residents and visitors with hiking and biking opportunities that connect people to different points of Town.
- Mansfield has an abundance of intact and healthy forests with embedded habitat types such as wetlands.
- Sound regulations in place to protect the aquifer coupled with the protection of watersheds in Mansfield.
- Long standing track record of avoiding development in the floodplains across Mansfield.

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 Mansfield'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. affordable/available housing, sustainable growth, volunteerism, conservation & recreation, drinking water provisioning, agriculture, transportation);
- **Infrastructure improvements** (i.e. roads/bridges/dams/road crossings, green stormwater infrastructure/management systems, culverts);
- **Quality of life improvements** (i.e. parks and recreation, open space & accessibility, sustainability, health & safety, economic prosperity, housing, education, transportation);
- **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 not ranked, them as priority or as additional actions. Mitigation actions from the Mansfield Municipal Annex within the Capital Region Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2024) and actions generated during the Mansfield Community Resilience Building process (August 2018) are respectively provided in Appendix A and Appendix B for cross reference with other actions presented herein. The results of the survey of Mansfield residents who are most vulnerable to extreme weather and climate impacts are provided in Appendix C. Maps utilized during the CRB Workshop, gathered from the Mansfield Tomorrow - Plan of Conservation and Development (2015) and the Capital Region Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2024), are provided in Appendix D.

Priority Actions

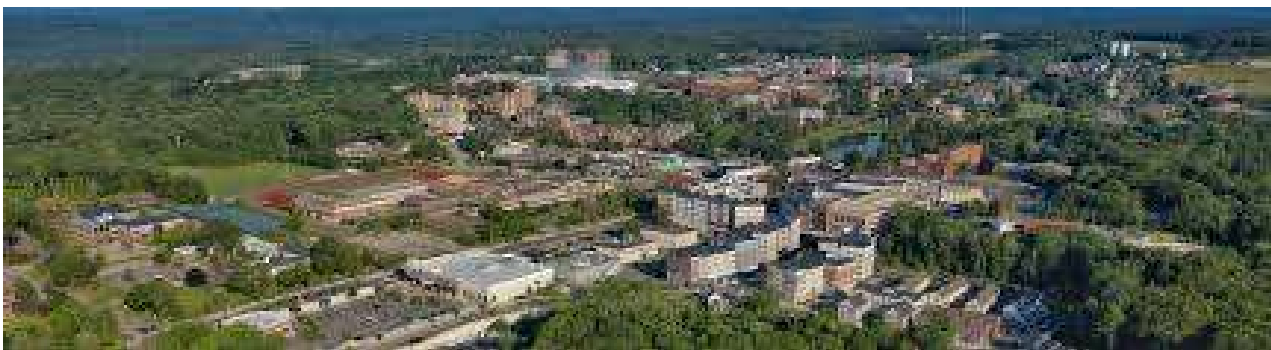
- Work towards incenting the building or conversion of housing that can be made available for young families and middle-aged residents (i.e., “missing middle housing”) and help prevent existing housing from being converted to off-campus housing for UConn students.

Priority Actions (cont'd)

- Incentivize diverse housing development via revisions to regulations and zoning as well as fast tracking approval of development (“offer sheets for developers”) that follows certain guidelines and needs of the community (i.e., “middle housing”).
- Update drinking water provisioning agreements with UConn and supplier to ensure adequate amounts are provided to all parties as needed.
- Look to establish a monitoring method to capture fluctuations in groundwater levels in areas surrounding private drinking water wells to help determine the extent and degree of impacts from more intense and longer duration drought conditions. Couple monitoring with outreach and alerts to private drinking water well owners to help with preparedness.
- Explore the potential for electrical battery storage to help supply areas that experience regular and longer-term power outages across Mansfield.
- Conduct an analysis regarding the potential for installation of mini – microgrids to help reduce impacts during outages.
- In response to increases in dead, dying, and standing trees in forested lands look to advance a wildfire prevention initiative that could include demonstration pilots for controlled burns.
- Ensure the forthcoming Forest Management Plan is holistic and includes diverse stakeholders such as UConn, private landowners, land trust, and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to help solidify connections and agreement on best management practices that build resilient forests and provide ecosystem services.
- Expand awareness of emergency services available to residents, which will give the Town the opportunity to provide full transparency of services offered including highlighting transportation, food, and heating and cooling, among others.

Priority Actions (cont'd)

- Improve and develop communications systems amongst seniors and residents with disability with an inclusion of direct contact for said individuals. Look into the potential for providing pre-disaster drop off of emergency supplies to said individuals that have mobility challenges.
- Work on developing and implementing a more holistic outreach plan, process, and program to increase awareness and directly support those with greater needs before, during, and after major crises.



Credit: Town of Mansfield

Additional Actions

- Engage with neighboring municipalities regarding priority actions generated during Community Resilience Building workshops in hopes of fostering more regional approaches and projects over time.
- Utilize information and actions generated during Mansfield's Community Resilience Building process to help inform the oncoming update to the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development.
- Continue to update Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development to include resilience and risk reduction actions.
- Investigate potential solutions to address issues of extreme heat and impacts on residents with a focus on energy upgrades such as heat pumps, air conditioning installations/upgrades, and tree planting operations.
- Work with the agricultural community in hopes of increasing planning and preparedness for flooding on farmlands in Mansfield.
- Continue to protect prime agricultural lands to help address issues of food security, flooding, and water quality control.
- Look to conduct more in-person events to increase awareness amongst residents about emergency preparedness and resilience and get more sign-ups for Code Red system.
- Continue to develop toolkit and preparedness materials to better prepare businesses in downtown areas.
- Rejuvenate the Mansfield Emergency Management meetings and directly coordinate with UConn's Emergency Management Services to help enhance response, recovery, preparedness, and mitigation activities.
- Continue to develop a forest inventory for municipal parks that identifies concentrations of dead standing trees are located along with an action plan to reduce impacts.

Additional Actions (cont'd)

- Recognize importance of and complete Facilities Master Plan, which should include studies on locations of emergency services and possibilities for improvement that maximize strategies to increase resilience across Mansfield.
- Secure funding for flooding infrastructure improvements per a municipal assessment of priority infrastructure that floods along with anticipated cost and highest priority. Currently, six culverts have been identified as critical with an additional twelve identified as critical over the next decade as precipitation events increase in frequency and intensity.
- Continue to pressure State Department of Transportation to address well known flooding vulnerabilities on state highways and roads, which will help to improve access and egress for residents in Mansfield during major disasters.
- Implement the “Connections” Bike & Pedestrian Plan that has been adopted by Mansfield.
- In hopes of improving public transit in Mansfield, work to deepen coordination with Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) via meetings and dialogue to gain a better understanding of their knowledge on schedules and route alignment and distribution. Include HuskyGo routes for students on UConn campus in broader conversation with Mansfield and WRTD about options for greater awareness and coordination of transportation systems.
- Pursue funding to help advance more sustainability projects across Mansfield.
- Secure an updated plan for US Army Corps of Engineers and Windham Water Works for dams along with conducting table-top exercises focused on catastrophic dam failure scenarios.
- Expand action plan to monitor pollution plume from UConn landfill that may mobilize under high or low (drought) conditions as well as under flood conditions to help elevate concerns amongst residents living near the landfill.

CRB Workshop Participants: Department/Organization

Town of Mansfield – Office of the Mayor
Town of Mansfield – Office of the Town Manager
Town of Mansfield – Department of Human Services
Town of Mansfield – Department of Planning and Development
Town of Mansfield – Department of Public Works
Town of Mansfield – Police Department
Town of Mansfield – Fire Department
Town of Mansfield – Emergency Management Department
Town of Mansfield – Facilities Management Department
Town of Mansfield – Transportation Advisory Committee
Town of Mansfield – Sustainability Committee
Town of Mansfield – Planning & Zoning Commission
Mansfield Downtown Partnership
University of Connecticut – Office of Emergency Management
State Police Department
Sustainable CT

Mansfield Core CRB Project Team

Lynn Stoddard – Chair of Sustainability Committee

Maria Capriola – Chief of Shared Services & Administration

Jessica St. Louis – Director of Human Services

Adam Libros – Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal

Virginia Walton – Mansfield Recycling Coordinator

Rebecca Stanton – Sustainable CT Intern

Online CRB Workshop Facilitation Team

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

The Nature Conservancy – Drew Goldsman (Small Group Facilitator)

Sustainable CT – Dorothy Piszczek (Small Group Facilitator)

Sustainable CT – Torin Radicioni (Scribe)

Sustainable CT – Summer Mitchell (Scribe)

Sustainable CT for the Town of Mansfield – Rebecca Stanton (Scribe)

Recommended Citation

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Appendix A

Mansfield

Mitigation Action Plan and Actions*



20 Mansfield

Community Overview

The Town of Mansfield is a collection of small villages and community neighborhoods nestled in a rolling landscape defined by forests, farmland, and rivers. Mansfield is a unique blend of rural and suburban living in a college-town setting. Mansfield covers 44.5 square miles and has a population of 25,892 (2020 Census). The University of Connecticut located in the village of Storrs covers approximately 5.7 square miles.

According to the University of Connecticut Center for Land Use Education & Research (UConn CLEAR, 2015) Mansfield is approximately 64% forested (including deciduous, coniferous, and wetland forest), and is mostly rural with some agriculture. Of the approximately 18,6756 acres of Mansfield's forest land, 5,000 acres are owned by public agencies, including the Town, the State, University of Connecticut, and US Army Corps of Engineers. Mansfield's extensive forests are integral to the overall health and function of the town's natural systems.

Approximately 3% of the Mansfield's land area is comprised of watercourses (rivers and their tributary streams) and water bodies (lakes and ponds). These form a complex network of connected features that drain into either the Willimantic River or the Natchaug River watersheds. Water bodies in the Town include: Chapins Pond, Dunham Pond, Eagleville Pond, Echo Lake, Hansens Pond, Knowlton Pond, Mansfield Hollow Lake and McLaughlin Pond. Mirror Lake, Swan Lake and the Mansfield Training Center ponds are on the UConn Campus.

Mansfield's elevation ranges from about 160 feet in the southeast corner of town at the Natchaug River to about 730 feet in the north/northwest section.

Urban densities of population are found in the village of Storrs (UConn main campus) and in southern Mansfield. The number of students living on-campus at UConn accounts for 44.3% of the Town's total population. While 19,388 undergraduates and 6,334 graduate students were enrolled in the Fall 2023 semester, UConn's housing facilities accommodate approximately 12,690 students while the university is in session. A new residence hall in South Campus opening in the Fall of 2024 will allow for an additional 650 students to live on campus. Approximately 7,000 UConn students live off campus in Mansfield and the surrounding communities.

[Mansfield Tomorrow: Plan of Conservation and Development Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, October 8, 2015](#), sets the foundation for Mansfield's development, conservation, and land use. Regarding development, Mansfield is conducting a Facilities Master Plan, which will identify improvements and repurposing of municipal buildings in the next few years. The town actively tracks development projects, primarily featuring multi-family developments in non-high-risk areas. Below is a list of developments approved since 2020.

***Gathered from the Mansfield's Municipal Annex within the Capital Region Council of Governments Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2024).**

Table 20-4: Active Mitigation Strategies and Actions, Mansfield

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EI?	PERSISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
MF1	Explore the feasibility of solar panels and batteries at some or all of the following: Town Hall, Community Center, E.O. Smith High School, Library, Town Garage.	Ensure that critical facilities are resilient, with special attention to shelters and cooling centers.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Chief Elected Official	\$0-\$10,000	DCRF; FEMA HMA	001/2025-12/2025	Medium	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	7	126
MF2	Establish a 24-hr. cooling center	Address risks associated with extreme heat events, especially as they interact with other hazards.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Emergency Management	\$100,000 - \$500,000	STEAP; Municipal CIP Budget; FEMA HMA	07/2024 - 06/2025	High	Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	4	76
MF3	Develop a comprehensive plan for the modernization and renovation of municipal buildings.	Ensure that critical facilities are resilient, with special attention to shelters and cooling centers.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Planning	\$50,000 - \$100,000	Municipal CIP Budget	07/2024 - 06/2025	Medium	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	4	72
MF4	Develop a list of best practices with regard to sustainable and resilient design to be incorporated into town projects when feasible.	More than one goal.	Natural Resources Protection	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	001/2025-12/2025	Medium	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133
MF5	Pursue funding for mitigating flood losses at buildings in the area at Perkins Corner.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and	Structural Project	Public Works	\$50,000 - \$100,000	FEMA HMA; STEAP; Municipal	07/2025 - 06/2027	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed	19	6	114

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EI?	PERSISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
		consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.				CIP Budget				Municipality			
MF6	Ensure that transportation and transit options are available to bring people to cooling centers.	Address risks associated with extreme heat events, especially as they interact with other hazards.	Preparedness & Emergency Response	Emergency Management	\$10,000 - \$50,000	Transit; IJJA BBFP	07/2024 - 06/2026	High	Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	3	57
MF7	Address the maintenance of fire protection systems (cisterns and dry hydrants) through ordinances.	Reduce losses from other hazards.	Natural Resources Protection	Fire Department	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026-12/2026	High	Wildfires	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	9	180
MF8	Undertake a study of flood risks at the Perkins Corner Area.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Structural Project	Public Works	\$50,000 - \$100,000	DCRF; FEMA HMA	07/2024 - 06/2026	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	6	114
MF9	Improve north side of Bassetts Bridge Road west of the bridge crossing the Naubesatuck Lake; this section of road is frequently washed out in high water events.	Invest in resilient corridors to ensure that people and services are accessible during floods and that development along corridors is resilient over the long term.	Structural Project	Public Works	\$500,000 - \$1M	LOTICIP; IJJA AOP, BIP; STEAP	07/2024 - 06/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	4	80
MF10	Develop a list/contact info for private dam owners.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and	Property Protection	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	001/2025-12/2025	Medium	Dam Failure	Yes - Distressed	19	7	133

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	EF?	PERSISTS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSISTS x STAPLEE =
		consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.								Municipality			
MF11	Develop guidelines and educational material for private dam owners on the proper Maintenance requirements for dams.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Education and Awareness	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026-12/2026	High	Dam Failure	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133
MF12	Ensure that options are available to help property owners make their water supply wells resilient to droughts, floods, and loss of capacity	More than one goal.	Water & Wastewater Utility Projects	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	DWSRF; FEMA HMA; STEAP	07/2025 - 06/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods/ Drought	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	10	200
MF13	Expand public water systems to areas served by private wells when needed to address drought impacts and provide fire protection	Reduce losses from other hazards	Water & Wastewater Utility Projects	Fire Department	>\$1M	DWSRF; FEMA HMA; STEAP	07/2026 - 06/2028	High	Drought/Wildfire	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	8	160
MF14	Conduct a town wide assessment of stream crossings to identify vulnerabilities and develop a priority list for maintenance and upsizing.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Structural Project	Public Works	\$10,000 - \$50,000	DCRF; Municipal CIP Budget	07/2025 - 06/2027	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	6	114
MF15	Work with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to develop an appropriate scope of work to address flooding and extreme heat	More than one goal.	More than one type	Public Works	\$0-\$10,000	CIRCA	07/2024 - 06/2027	Medium	Riverine and Pluvial Floods/ Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	5	95

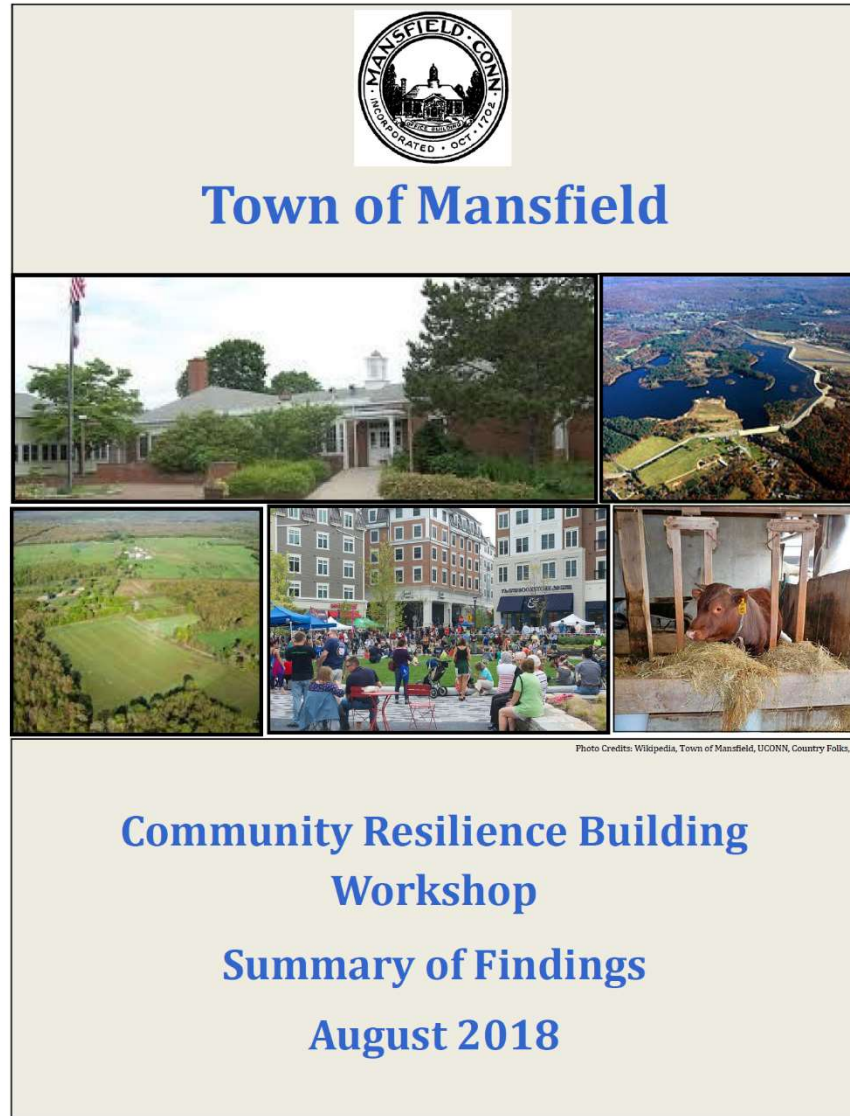
Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	El?	PERSITS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSITS x STAPLEE =
	concerns in Resilient Opportunity Areas (ROARs).												
MF16	Contact the owners of Repetitive Loss Properties and nearby properties at risk to inquire about mitigation undertaken and suggest options for mitigating flooding in those areas. This should be accomplished with a letter directly mailed to each property owner.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Property Protection	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026 - 12/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	7	140
MF17	Work with CT DEEP to complete a formal validation of the Repetitive Loss Property list and update the mitigation status of each listed property.	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Property Protection	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026- 12/2026	High	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	20	5	100
MF18	Review the Connecticut Cultural Resource Information System (ConnCRIS) to identify and understand historic and archaeological resources in areas of hazard risks found here: https://conncris.ct.gov .	Reduce flood and erosion risks by reducing vulnerabilities and consequences, even as climate change increases frequency and severity of floods.	Property Protection	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	SHPO; Municipal Operating Budget	01/2026 - 12/2026	Medium	Wildfires/Tornadoes and High Winds/Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	9	171
MF19	Plant native tree species near the town hall to manage extreme heat.	Address risks associated with extreme heat events, especially as they interact with other hazards.	Prevention	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	07/2025 - 06/2026	Low	Extreme Heat	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133

Number	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Actions	Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Goal	Type of Action	Responsible Department	Approx. Cost Range	Potential Funding Sources	Timeframe	Priority	Hazard(s)	El?	PERSITS Score	STAPLEE Score	PERSITS x STAPLEE =
MF20	Educate property owners on vegetation clearing techniques that will reduce water runoff and reduce the amount of combustible fuel.	More than one goal.	Education and Awareness	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2027- 12/2027	Low	Riverine and Pluvial Floods	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	7	126
MF21	Conduct outreach to private property owners encouraging them to remove dangerous trees and branches on their property.	Reduce losses from other hazards.	Education and Awareness	Emergency Management	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	01/2025 and annually during this month	Medium	Hurricanes and Tropical Storms/Tornadoes and High Winds/ Severe Winter Storms	Yes - Distressed Municipality	18	6	108
MF22	Increase the amount of information available on natural disasters and preparedness on the Town's website with links to state and federal resources.	More than one goal.	Education and Awareness	Planning	\$0-\$10,000	Municipal Operating Budget	001/2025- 12/2025	High	All Hazards	Yes - Distressed Municipality	19	7	133

Appendix B

Mansfield

Community Resilience Building Actions*



***Actions generated during Mansfield's Community Resilience Building process – August 2018. Additional comments generated during an action review meeting amongst Mansfield's municipal department heads (November 2024) are provided in parenthesis (**bold/italicized**) for each action.**

Top Recommendations to Improve Resilience

A common thread throughout the Community Resilience Building Workshop's discussions was the recognition that Mansfield needs to be better prepared through longer-term, community-based, contingency planning across all areas of concern. This need and additional key issues surfaced by the Workshop participants are addressed below.

Higher Priority

- Explore opportunities to establish a standalone, upgraded Emergency Operations Center. Current facility is adequate. ***(Stay on List)***
- Look for ways to enhance existing communications outreach to ensure Code Red is reaching as many residents as possible. ***(Stay on List)***
- Strengthen volunteer recruitment and retention with Medical Reserve Corps in partnership with Eastern Highlands Health District. ***(Significant progress has been made towards the above priority. The EHHD MRC unit currently consists of 128 fully vetted and registered volunteers. MRC volunteers regularly support EHHD vaccination and health clinics, participate in regular training events, with approximately 30-unit activations occurring annually. The MRC was instrumental in supporting the local public health response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.)***
- Continue to pursue open space acquisition opportunity to help preserve the rural character, health of residents, and ecological resilience of Mansfield. ***(Stay on List)***
- Seek ways to increase the resilience of local food production and delivery by strengthening linkages between the farming community, residents, and Town. ***(Ongoing – Stay on List)***
- Maintain and upgrade as needed the existing generator resources in Mansfield. Seek to retain improvement funding in Town's Capital Improvement Plan. ***(Remove from List)***
- Increase funding to create a right-of-way maintenance plan and remove all dead and standing trees across Mansfield. ***(Funding and resources increased – Remain of List – but maybe change priority)***
- Work with UCONN to ensure an emergency food service option remains a possibility in the event of a disaster that compromises food preparation facilities in Mansfield. ***(Stay on List – no MOU/MOA exists)***

Higher Priority (cont'd)

- Support the Senior Centers newsletter and different social programs to help strengthen the connections between residents - in particular the vulnerable populations such as elderly in Mansfield. ***(Town has newsletter now but still need this action on list)***
- Design and install green infrastructure project in Town that will help minimize stormwater runoff and precipitation-driven flooding of structures and roadways. ***(Ongoing with each new building or road project)***
- Review and support progressive Town planning and zoning to focus growth in downtown, retain agricultural lands and rural character, and intact ecosystems. ***(Stay on List)***
- Explore opportunities to reduce impacts to the 80% of residents in Mansfield who are on private wells and septic that are dependent on electricity from the grid. ***(Working with Eversource to improve but stay on list)***
- Ensure off-campus students are well accounted for by emergency response teams in Mansfield - in partnership with UCONN - in the event of a disaster. ***(Stay on List – ongoing due to student changes ever year. John Armstrong’s office helps immensely)***
- Mansfield to continue to provide support for surrounding towns (Ashford, Willington, Coventry, etc.) for sheltering and other services, as needed. ***(As this what we do – we think this can be removed from list)***
- Continue to require underground installation of new utility lines in new subdivisions and encourage property owners to work with utility companies to explore possibilities for undergrounding existing lines. ***(It is the requirement so not sure it needs to be on list – it is ongoing)***
- Establish protocols for evaluation of snow loads on Town buildings. ***(Not sure if protocols exists – so keep on list)***

Moderate Priority

- Initiate an assessment of stormwater management capacity against the potential of major precipitation events in the downtown area - in partnership with UCONN. ***(Stay on List)***

Moderate Priority (cont'd)

- On an annual basis connect with federal (ACOE) and state representative regarding the ongoing maintenance plans and contingency exercises for the major dams within Mansfield (i.e. Mansfield Hollow and Eagleville Dams). ***(Stay on List)***
- Define the level of mobility limitation for residents and explore potential solutions to increase access to transportation to and from Senior Center and other town facilities. ***(Stay on List – move to higher priority because this is the main issued for a few things discussed under moderate and high priority. It is about communication and transportation in emergencies, and these are essential things to understand.)***
- Work to ensure food provisioning remains a strength of the community by supporting the food pantry in Willimantic (WAIM), soup kitchen in Willimantic, and the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in Mansfield. ***(Need to revise and update this bullet – but concept should stay on list)***
- Continue to support Regional Action Team that services Mansfield that provides programs such as Meals on Wheels (15-22 meals a day). ***(Ongoing – could be looking at a future reduction)***
- Update lists of people in need with Human Services and faith-based communities can to ensure assistance during and after major events as well as longer-term issues such as heating and cooling. ***(Ongoing)***
- Continue to attend fairs (i.e. Celebrate Mansfield Festival), give presentations, and supply direct information on preparedness to residents via the emergency management professionals in Town (i.e. family emergency preparedness checklist). ***(Ongoing)***
- Connect on a routine basis with Mansfield Housing Authority to explore needs and ways to improve resilience for residents. ***(Ongoing – have established a better connection)***
- Identify ways to implement projects to improve the viability of impaired waterbodies in Mansfield (Eagleville Brook, lower Natchaug). ***(Ongoing)***
- Identify places in need for water supply for fire suppression throughout Town and add dry hydrants, as necessary. ***(Adding hydrants but ongoing)***
- Consult directly with UCONN during future updates to Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans for Mansfield and region. ***(Completed)***

Moderate Priority (cont'd)

- Assist with infectious disease outbreak planning exercises as needed in partnership Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD). Work with EHHD to fill any identified shortcomings via post-exercise debriefs to ensure a high state of preparedness. This should include working closely with EHHD and Red Cross to make sure E O Smith High School (Regional Sheltering/Dispensing Center) is fully operational when activated. ***(Excellent progress has been made towards the above priority. The COVID-19 Pandemic demonstrated that an excellent planning and preparedness partnership exists between the Town of Mansfield and the EHHD. The Town and the EHHD worked closely to ensure an effective local response to this real world public health emergency.)***
- Maintain Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program (i.e. Grade 5). ***(Ongoing)***
- Prepare Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for Town-owned and maintained dams. Implement recommendations resulting from inspections of Town-owned dams. Encourage owners of private dams to develop EOPs and share with Town. ***(Ongoing)***
- Consider acquiring property on Laurel Lane that is isolated during flooding events and restoring to pre-development condition. ***(Remove from List)***
- UCONN to continue to reduce contamination from old landfill on Campus. ***(Under UConn jurisdiction)***
- Provide vocational training and path to farm management/ownership with next generation to ensure farms remain part of Mansfield's resilient landscape. ***(EO Smith VOAG does this – who else should?)***
- Increase awareness amongst residents of emergency management plans. ***(Ongoing)***

Lower Priority

- Increase the availability of tree clearing equipment for Department of Public Works. ***(Remove from List)***
- Investigate and find solutions for drainage issues at Senior Center. ***(Won't be solved until new building – not an immediate threat)***
-

Lower Priority (cont'd)

- Examine the extent and duration of flooding along Route 31 and initiate process to identify potential flood-proofing solutions. ***(Stay on List)***
- Maintain 3000 acres of open space to increase ecological resilience and access to residents for passive recreation and resilient health improvements. ***(Ongoing)***
- Increase the extent and availability of community garden plots for residents to help encourage locally grown produce and subsequent health benefits. ***(Ongoing – have not increased any)***
- Continue to open Mansfield Landfill to serve as a temporary storage site for debris after major events. ***(Potential future issue with solar farm being constructed on landfill – need new area or areas?)***
- Alert the waste hauler (Willimantic Wastepaper) along Willimantic River regarding threats from flooding under extreme events. ***(Why is this on list?)***
- Provide greater visibility to emergency preparedness checklists for families and vulnerable groups. ***(Ongoing)***
- Routinely check in with Algonquin Gas regarding gas main through Town to identify any proactive steps that may reduce potential issues. ***(Ongoing or need to set up)***
- Seek ways to strengthen Low Impact Development (LID) requirements for development over an acre in Mansfield. ***(Ongoing)***
- Look to expand the Farm-to-School program as well as food festivals like Taste of Mansfield. ***(Ongoing)***
- Purchase or rehabilitate Vac-all equipment for silt removal. ***(Remove from List)***

Appendix C

“Input from Mansfield Residents on Extreme Weather Vulnerabilities and Impacts”*

Community Input on Weather Impacts for Mansfield CRB

***Slides generated for presentation during Mansfield’s Community Resilience Building Workshop. Slide show results of a community survey of Mansfield residents conducted by members of the Mansfield Sustainability Committee.**

Outreach to Communities

Door to Door:

- Holinko Estates
- Renwood Apartments
- Foster Drive
- Woods Edge
- Valley View
- Juniper Hill (at residents' meeting)
- Rolling Hills (at residents' meeting)

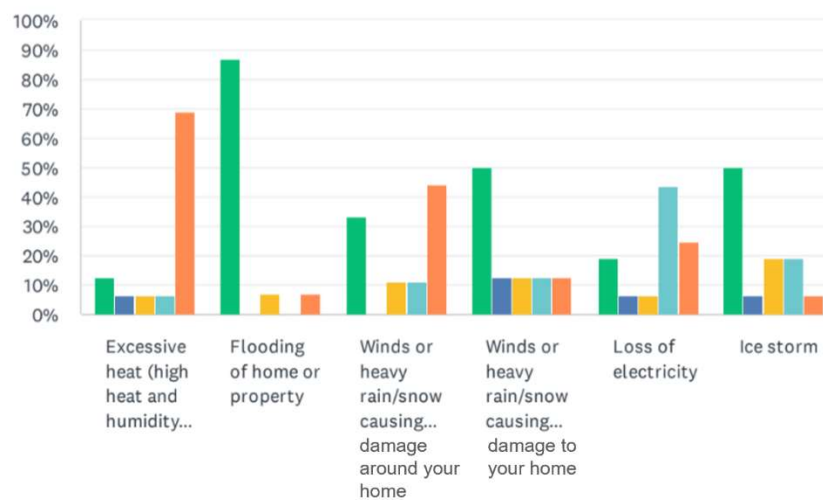
Alternative Communications:

- Included in town newsletter
- Posted on town Facebook page

~ 700 units were visited through door to door efforts

Q1 Which extreme weather conditions/hazards have you experienced at your home in the past 5 years? Please mark the frequency on the chart below.

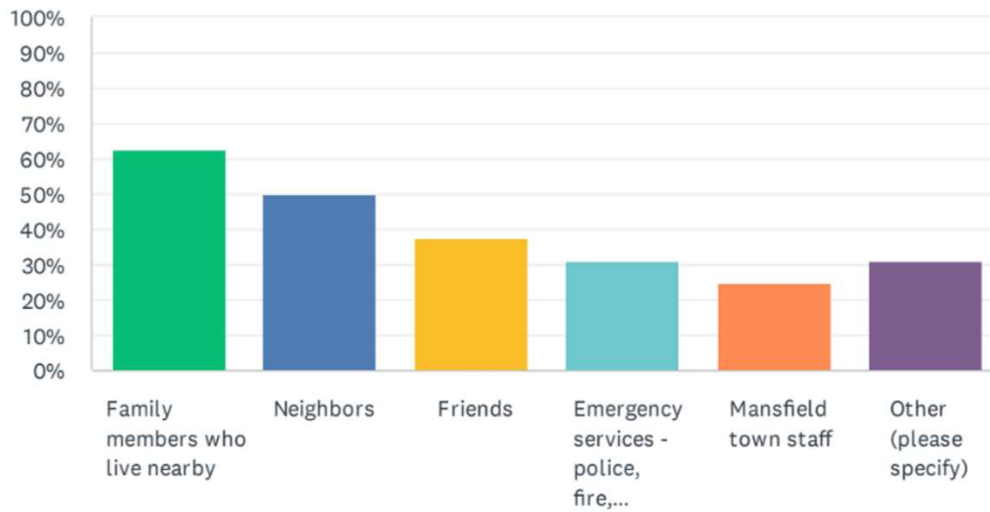
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



■ Never ■ Once every 5 years ■ Once every few years ■ One time per year ■ More than one time per year

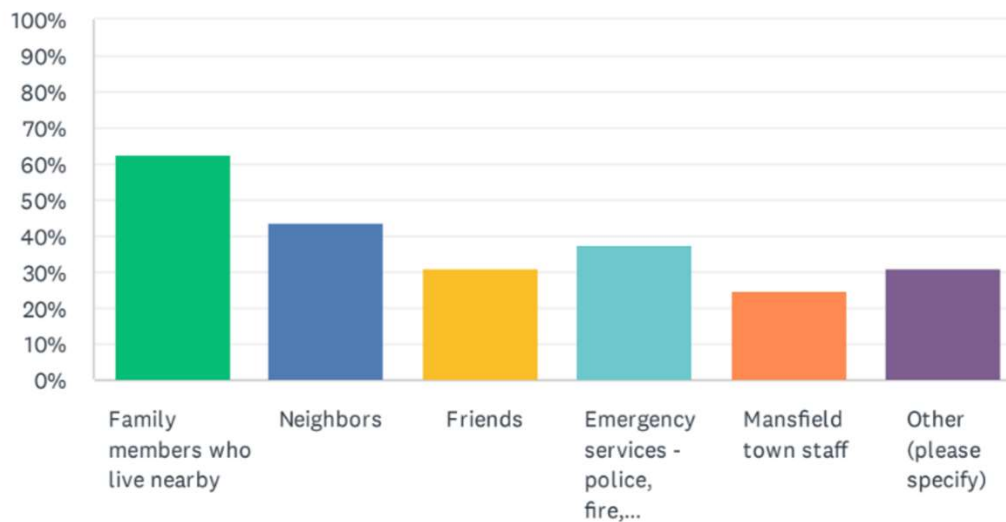
Q3 Who do you contact to help you during an extreme weather event?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



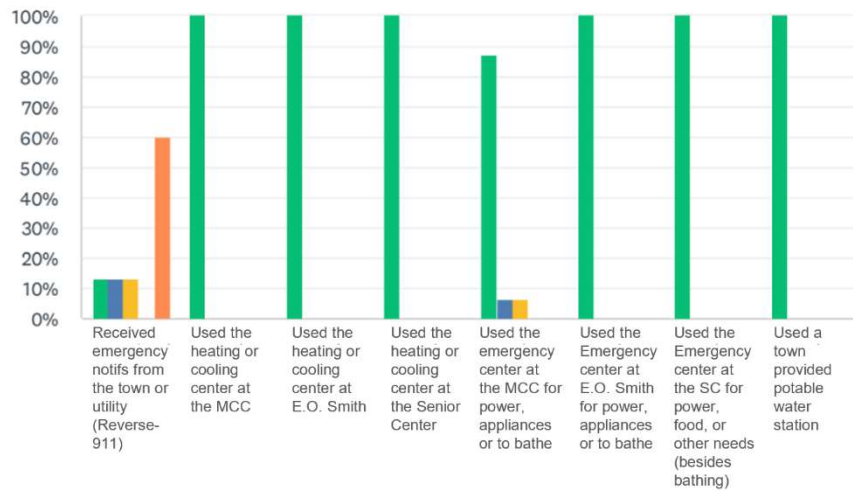
Q4 Who do you contact to help you if there are any issues following an extreme weather event?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



Q5 How frequently, if ever, have you relied on the following town services during or following an extreme weather event? Please mark the frequency on the chart below.

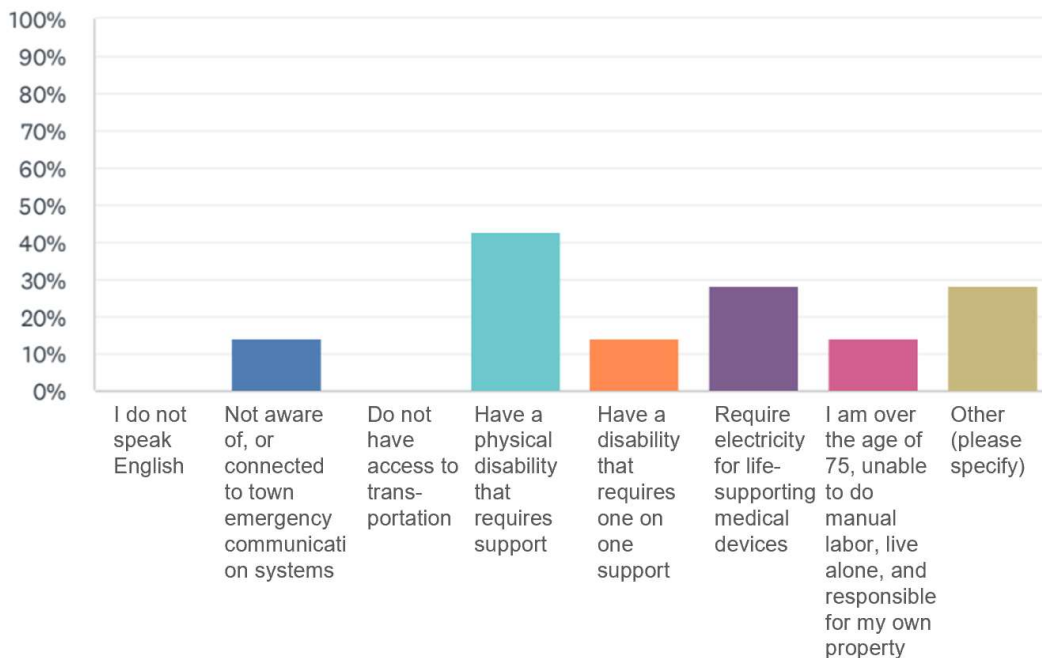
Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



Never Once every 5 years Once every few years One time per year More than one time per year

Q6 Do you have any challenges that place you or a member of your household at higher risk during an emergency?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 9



Positive Feedback

- Emergency notifications
 - 13/16 respondents receive emergency notifications
- Alerts for road closures and downed trees
- Emergency center at the Mansfield Community Center
- The town is “pretty quick and useful”

Support Requested

- 3/16 people reported having medical issues that require assistance
- Transportation to facilities with power during outages
- Alerts prior events
- Emergency kits for power outages
- In person or over the phone communication
- Generators for Wright’s Village
- Including Alder Lane on Google maps and Town maps
- Food and water at the Mansfield Senior Center

Conclusions

- People are not aware of the heating and cooling centers the town provides
- Text and call notifications are crucial
- Updating people on weather events through Facebook
- People are not contacting emergency services or town staff often during extreme weather events

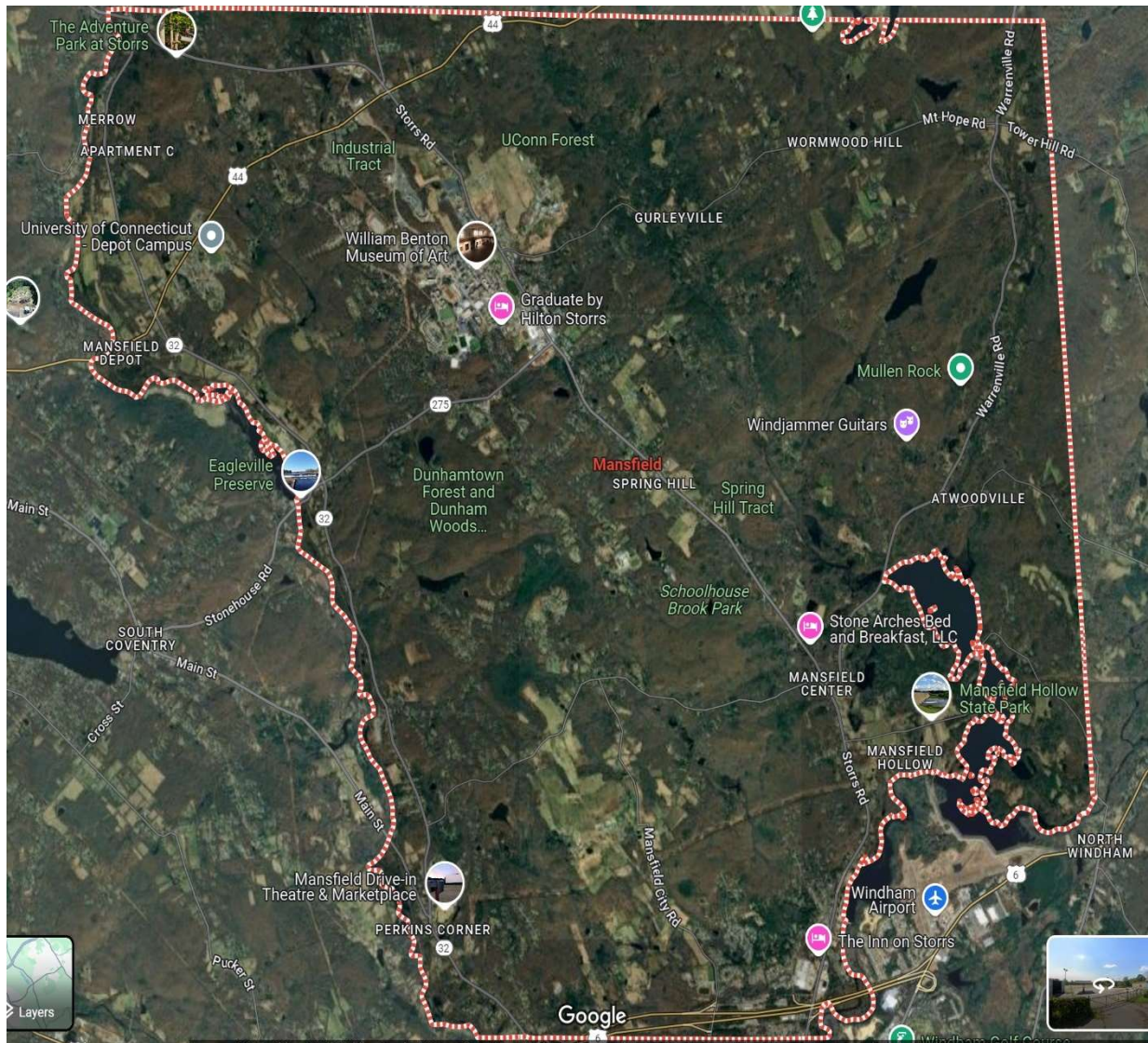
Appendix D

Mansfield Map Resource Packet*

Used During Workshop

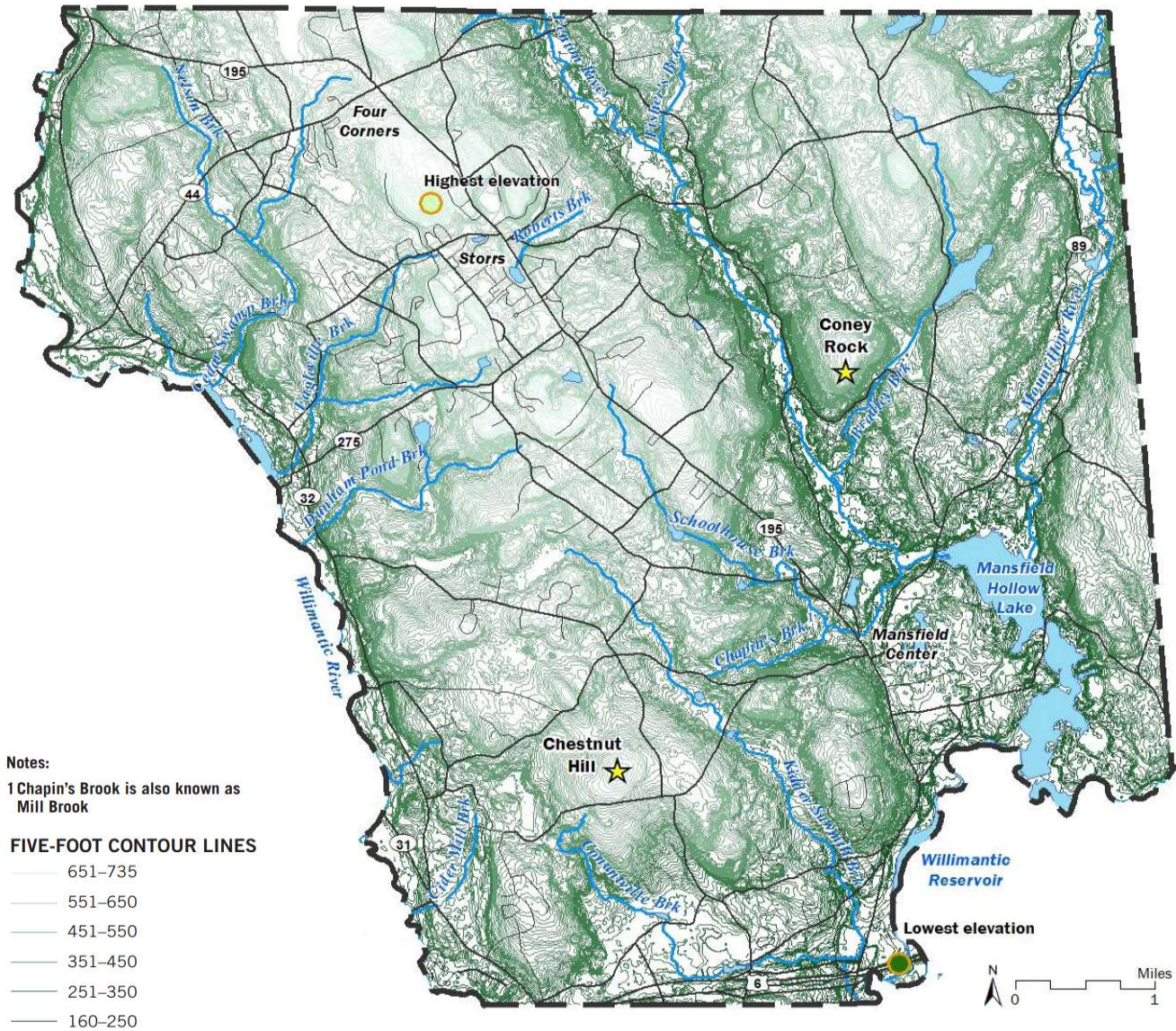


***Gathered from Mansfield Tomorrow - Plan of Conservation and Development (2015) and the Capital Region Council of Governments Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2019 & 2024).**



Source: Google Maps (2025)

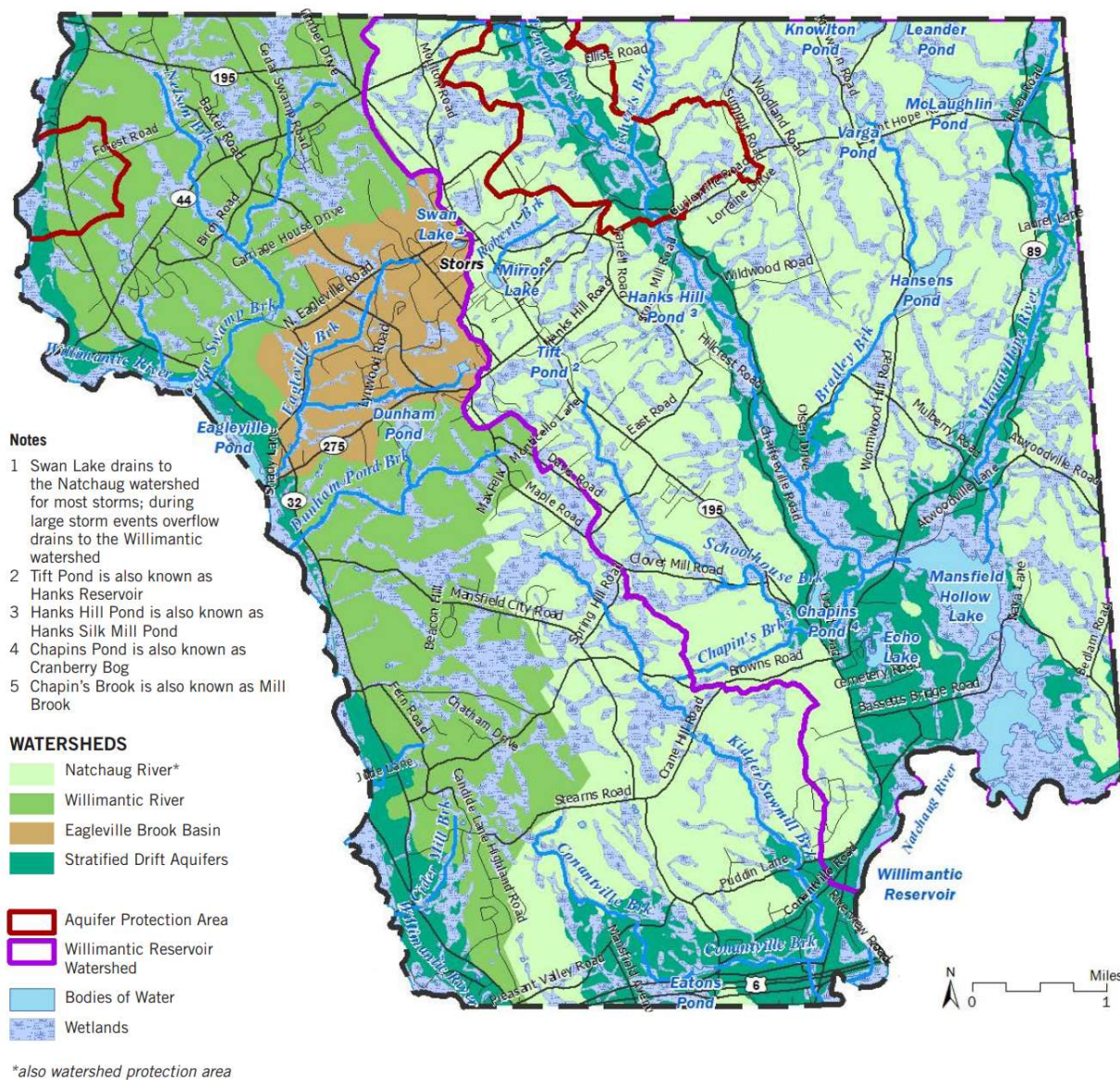
MAP 2.1: TOPOGRAPHY



Source: CT DEEP, 2011

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

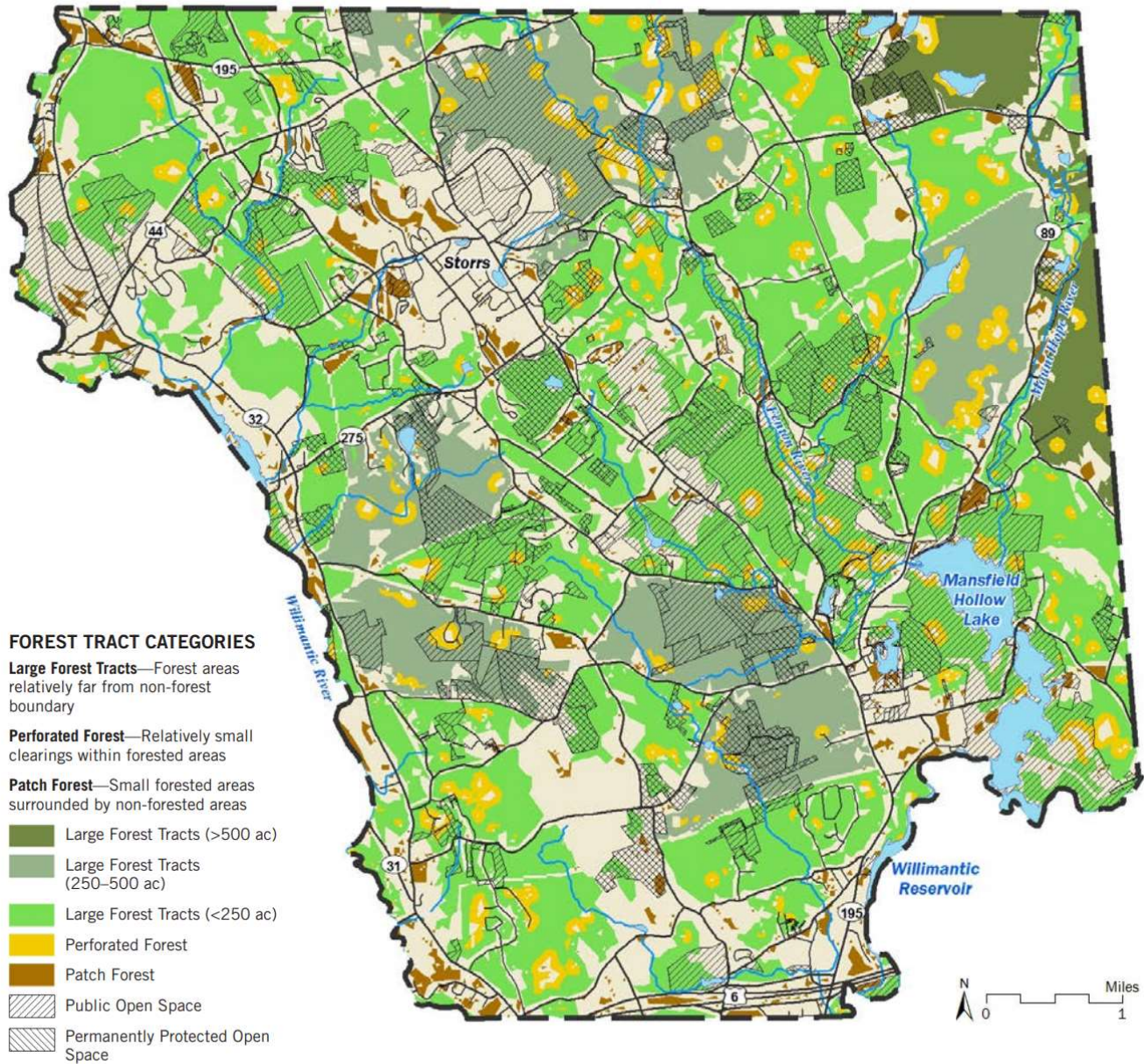
MAP 2.2: **HYDROLOGY**



Sources: CT DEEP, 2010; Plan of Conservation and Development, 2006

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

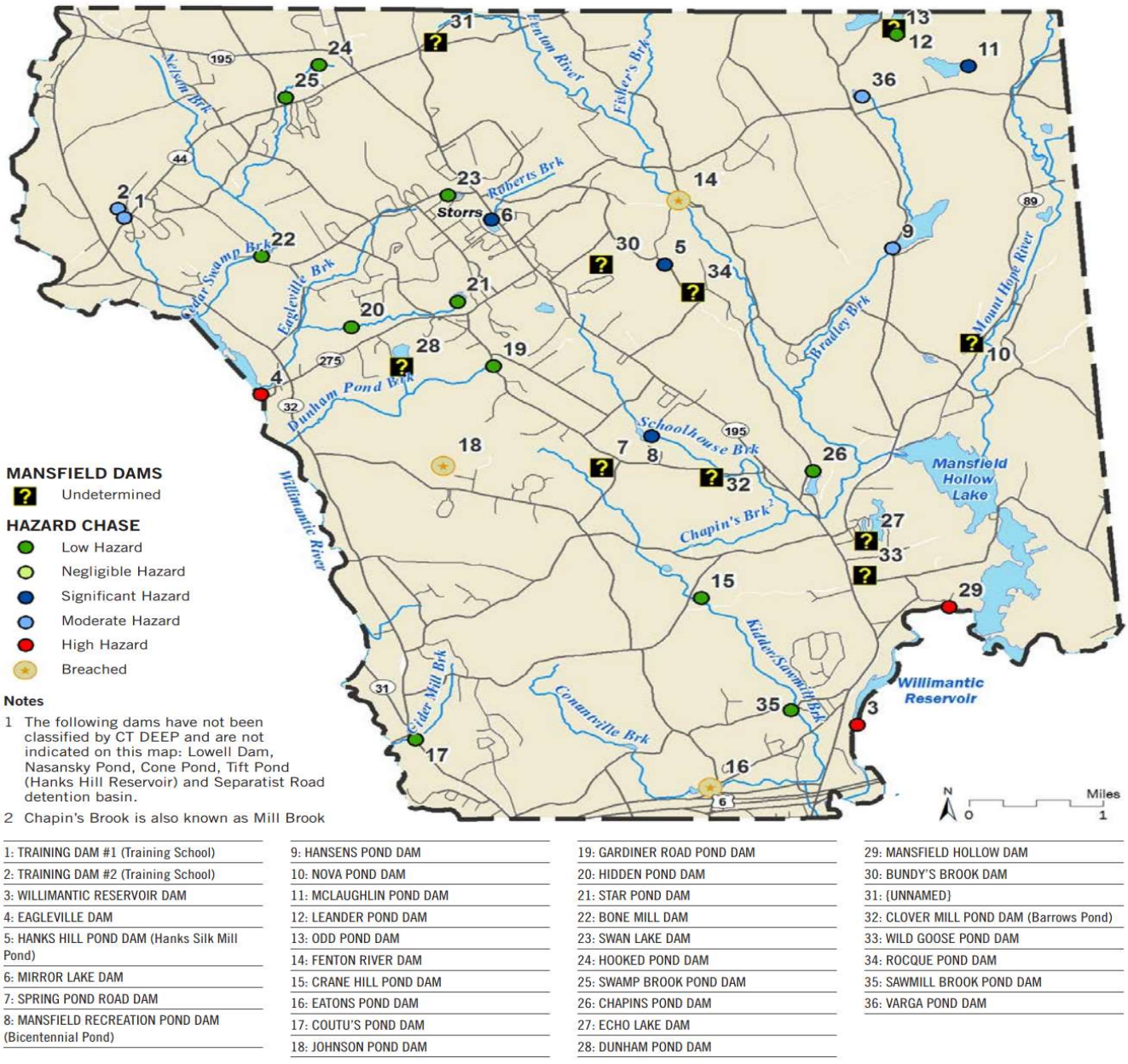
MAP 2.3: FOREST LAND



Sources: UConn CLEAR, 2006; Town of Mansfield, 2013

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

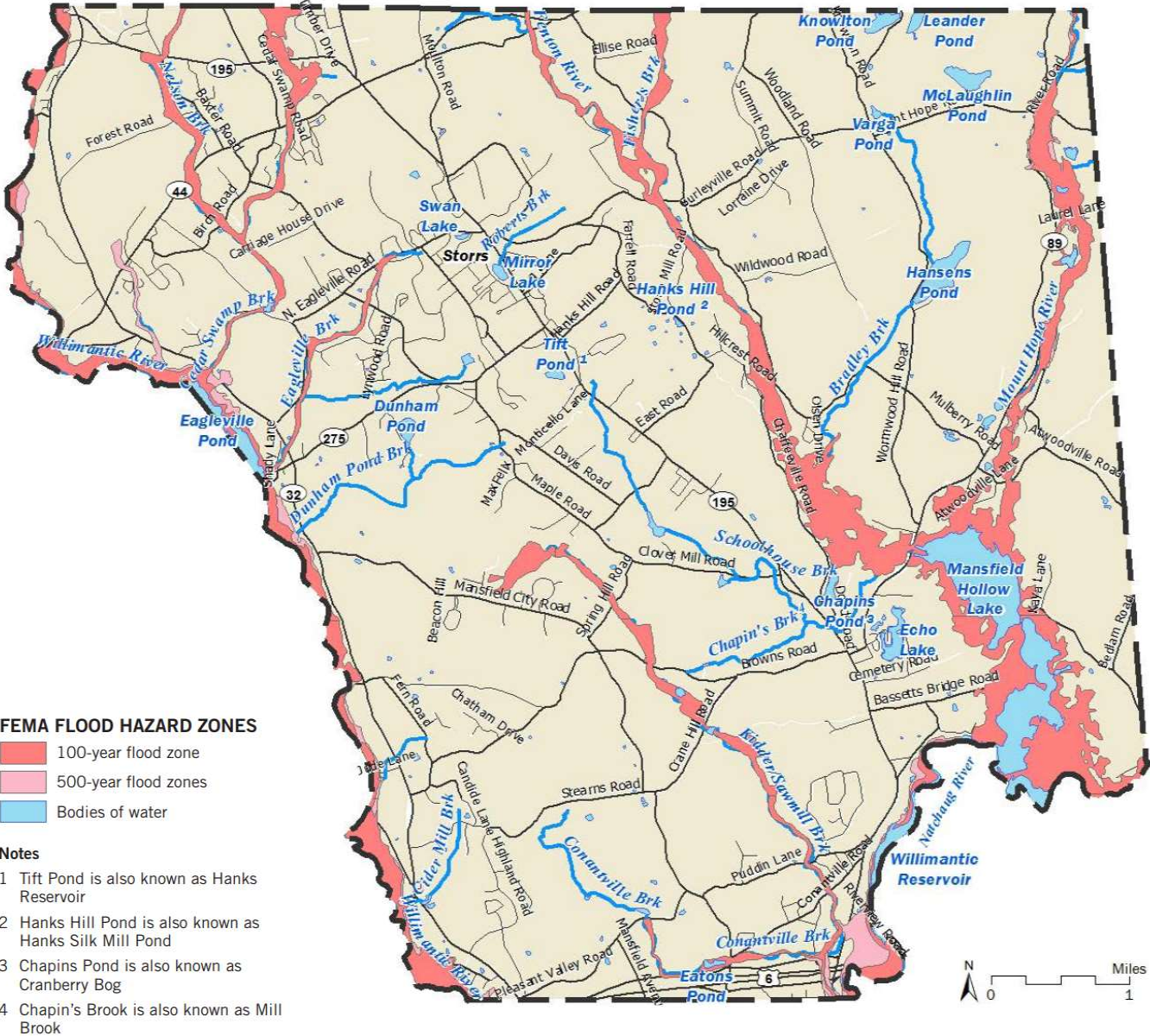
MAP 2.4: DAMS



Sources: CT DEEP, 2014

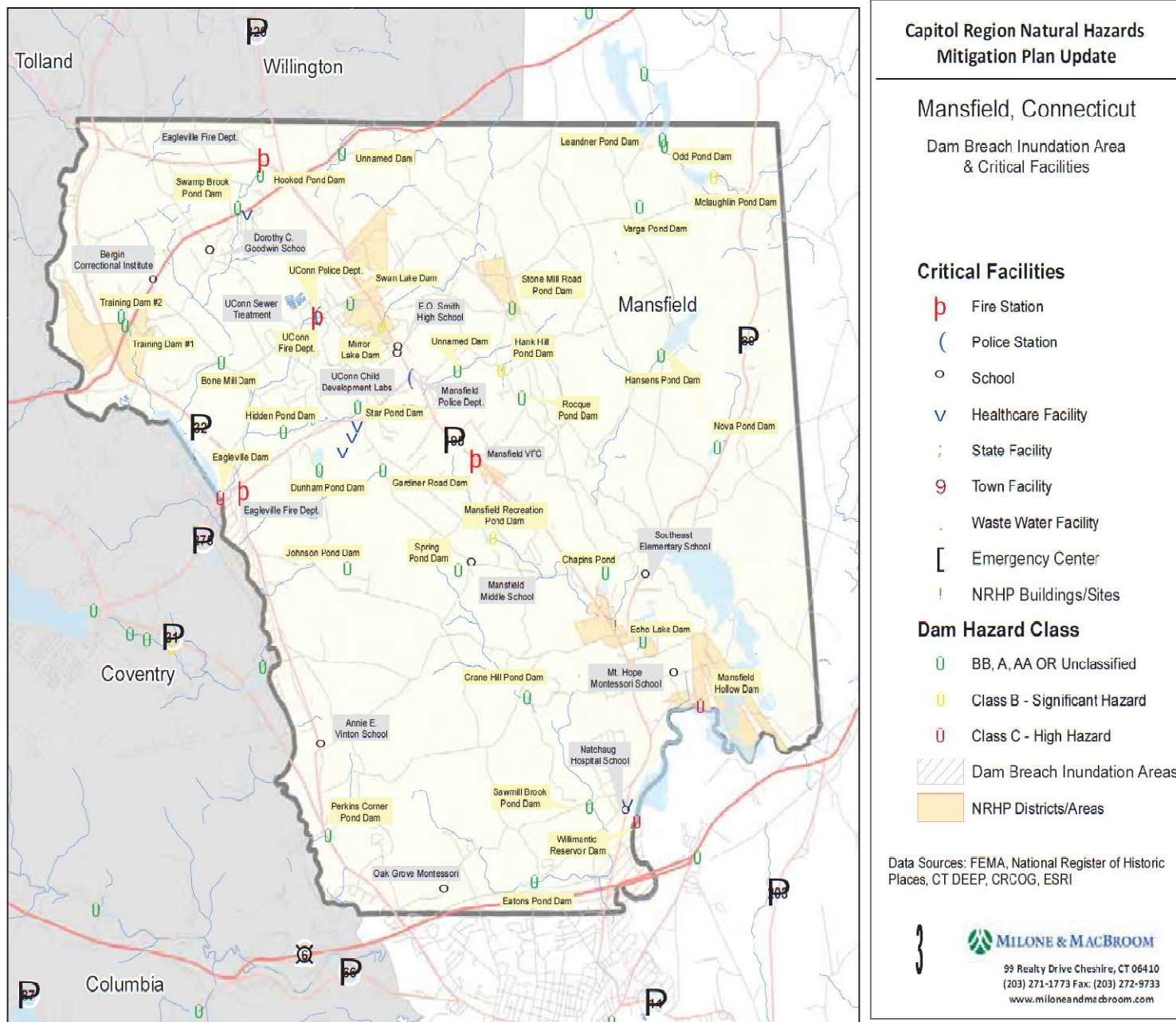
Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

MAP 2.5: FLOOD RISK ZONES

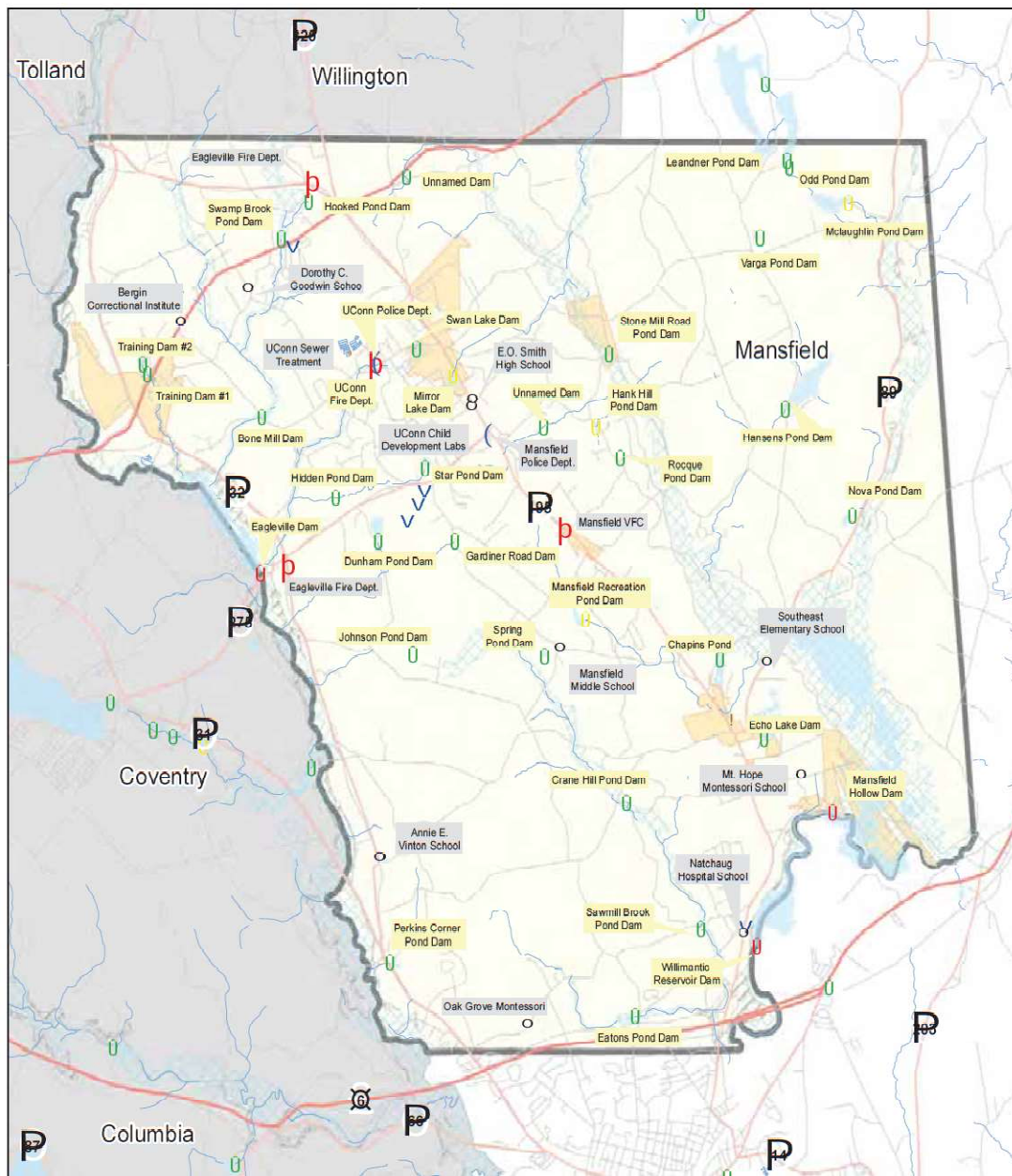


Sources: CT DEEP, 2010; Plan of Conservation and Development, 2006

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)



Source: Capitol Region Nature Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Municipal Annex – Mansfield (2019)



Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

Mansfield, Connecticut

Flood Plains, Dams
& Critical Facilities

Critical Facilities

- P Fire Station
- (Police Station
- o School
- v Healthcare Facility
- ; State Facility
- 9 Town Facility
- . Waste Water Facility
- [Emergency Center
- ! NRHP Buildings/Sites

Dam Hazard Class

- U BB, A, AA OR Unclassified
- U Class B - Significant Hazard
- U Class C - High Hazard

FEMA Flood Hazard Area

- [100 Year Flood Zone
- [500 Year Flood Zone
- [NRHP Districts/Areas

Data Sources: FEMA, National Register of Historic Places, CT DEEP, CRCOG, ESRI

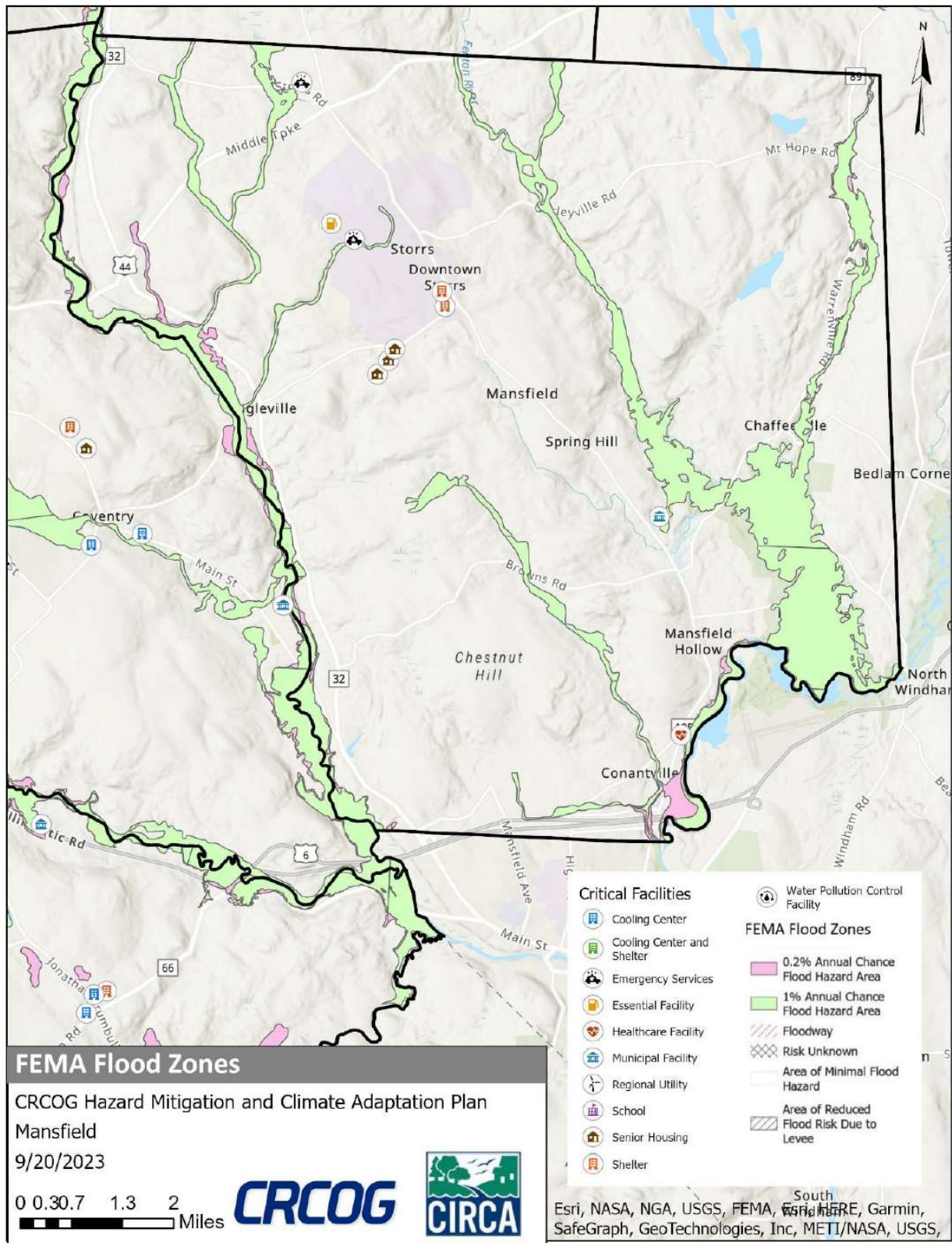


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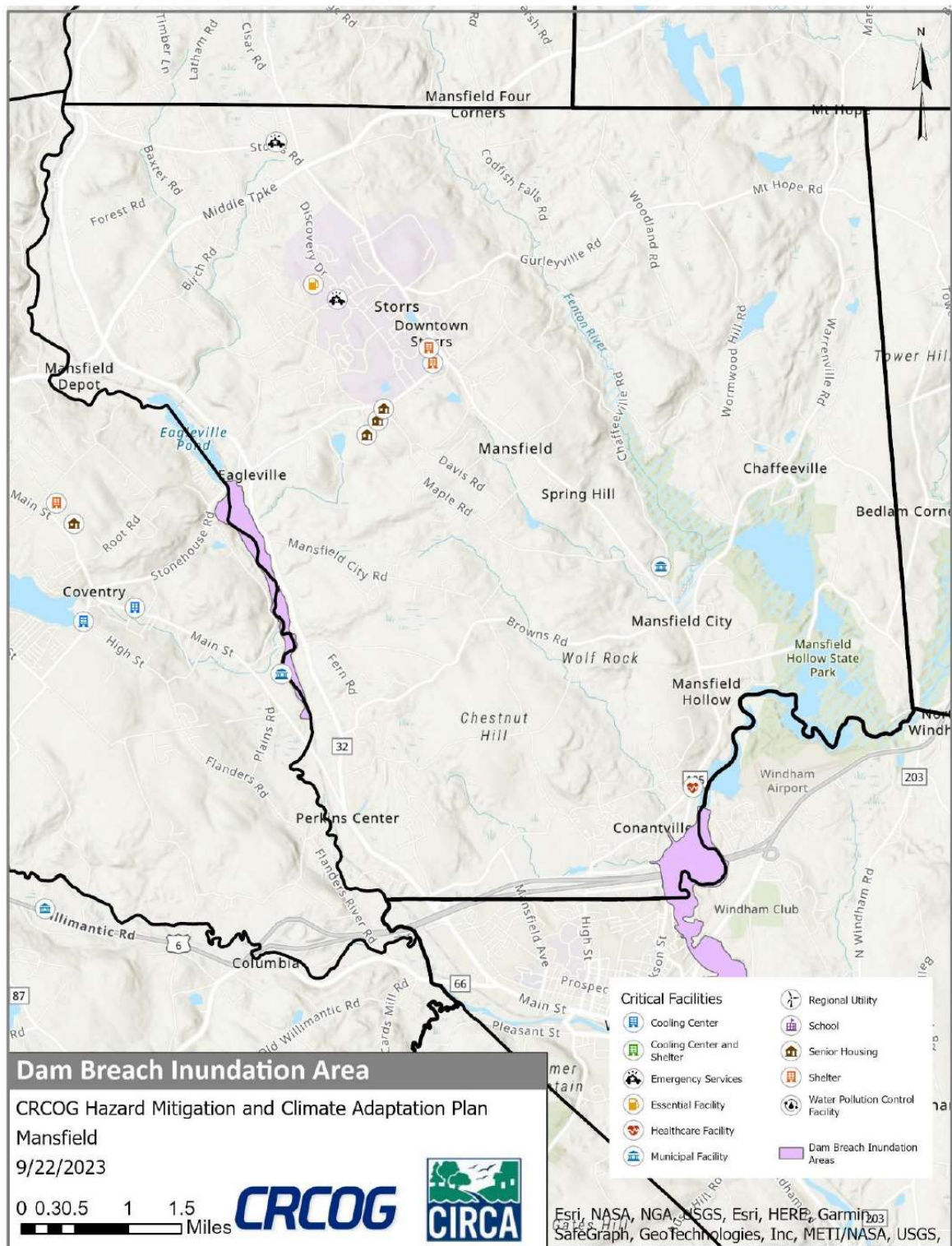
Source: Capitol Region Nature Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Municipal Annex – Mansfield (2019)

Figure 20-2: FEMA Flood Zones and Critical Facilities, Mansfield

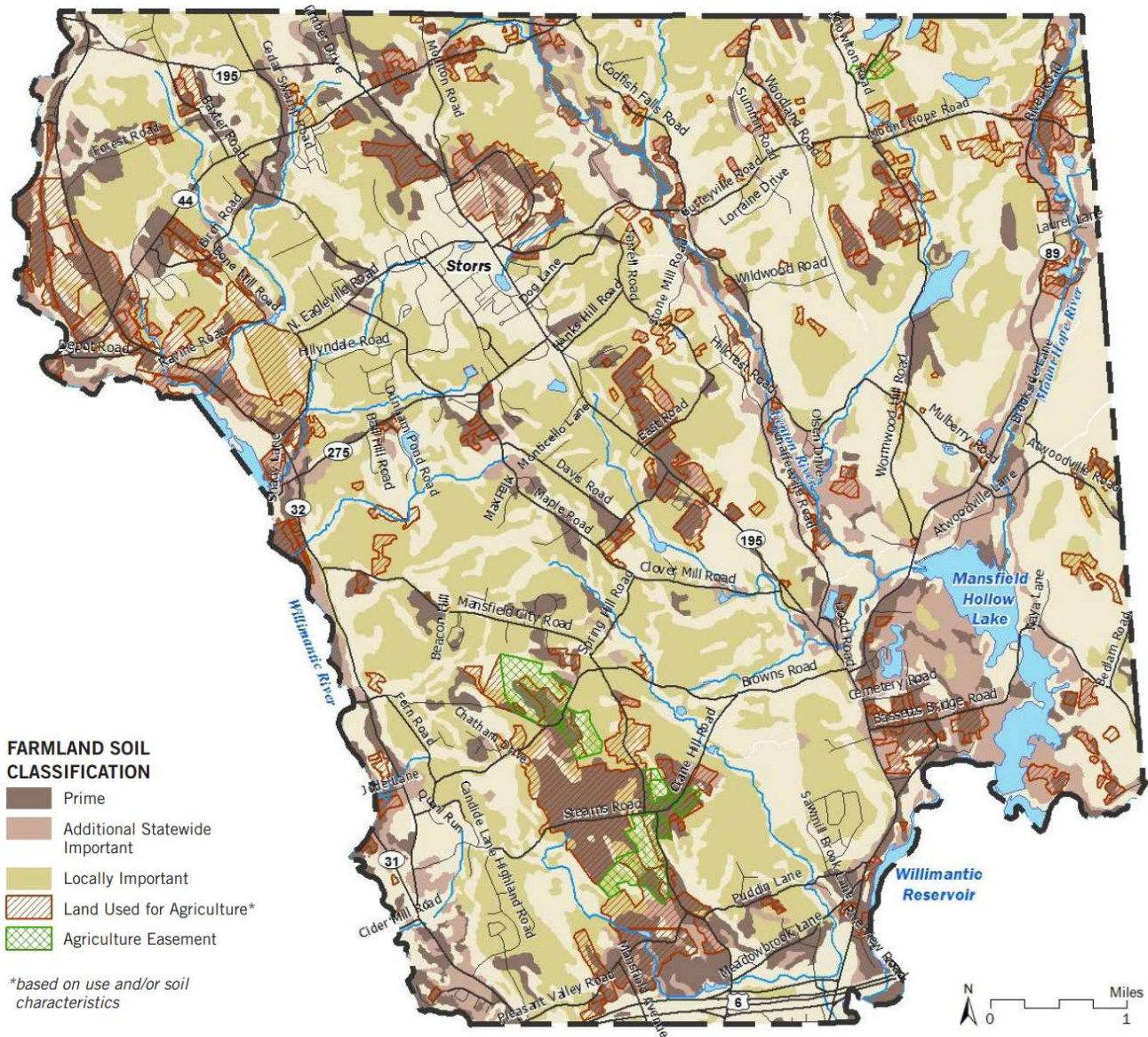


Source: Capital Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Municipal Annex – Mansfield (2024)

Figure 20-4: Dam Inundation Area and Critical Facilities, Mansfield



Source: Capital Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Municipal Annex – Mansfield (2024)

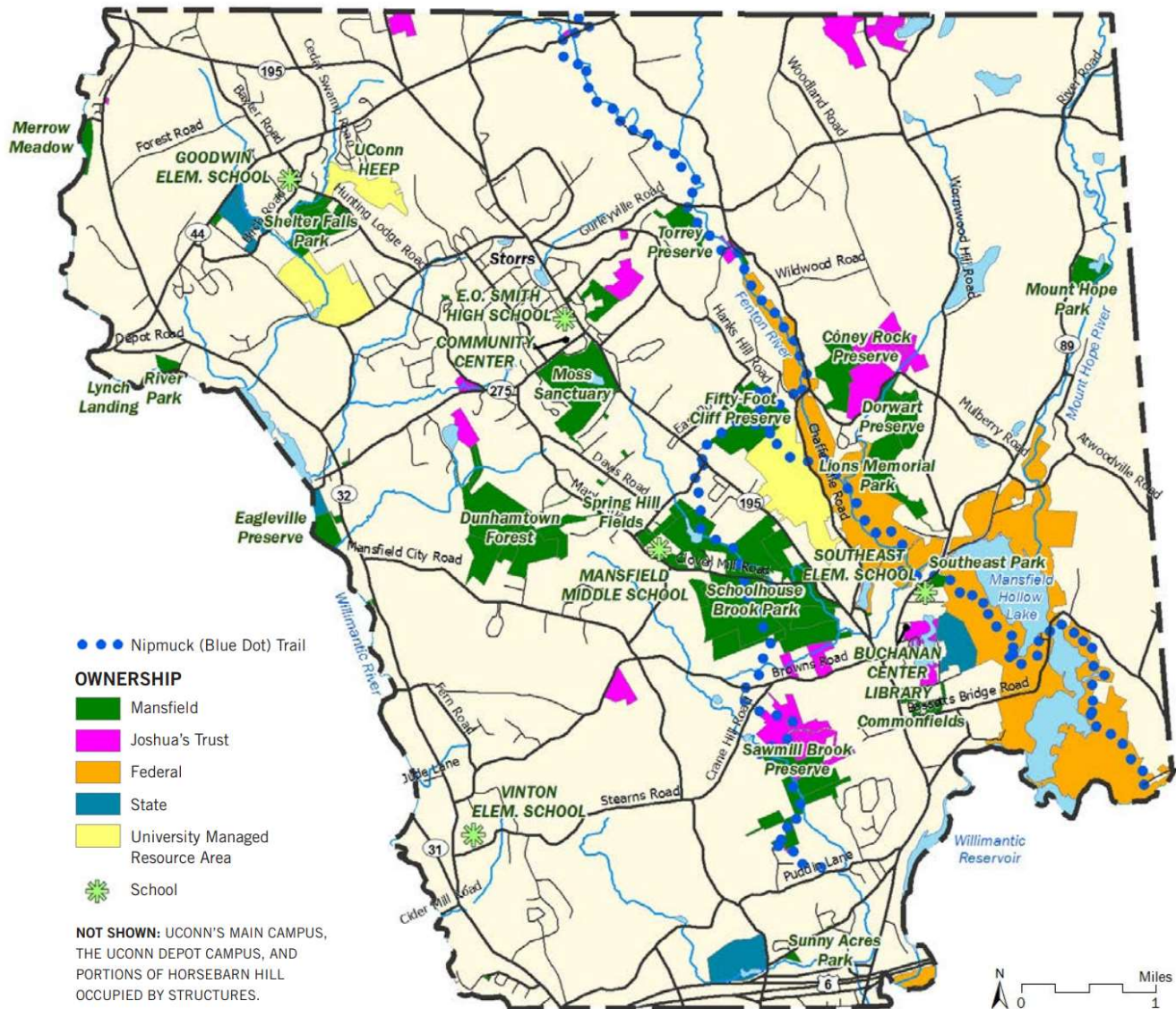


Map based on best available data as of November 2014

Source: Soils from NRCS Survey provided by Town of Mansfield, 2013; other data from Town of Mansfield, 2013

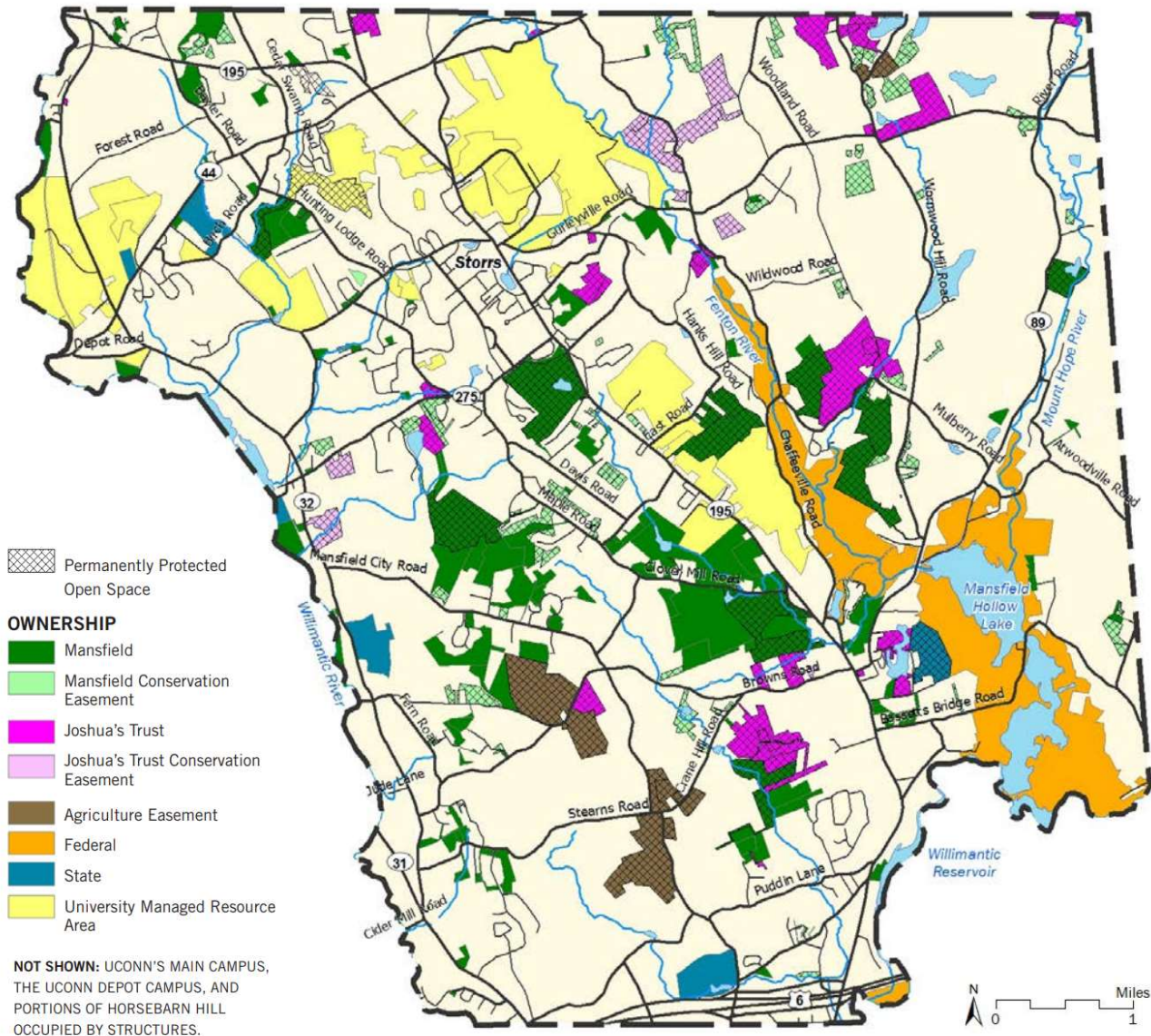
Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

MAP 3.2: PRESERVES, PARKS AND ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS WITH PUBLIC ACCESS



Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

MAP 3.4: PUBLIC AND PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

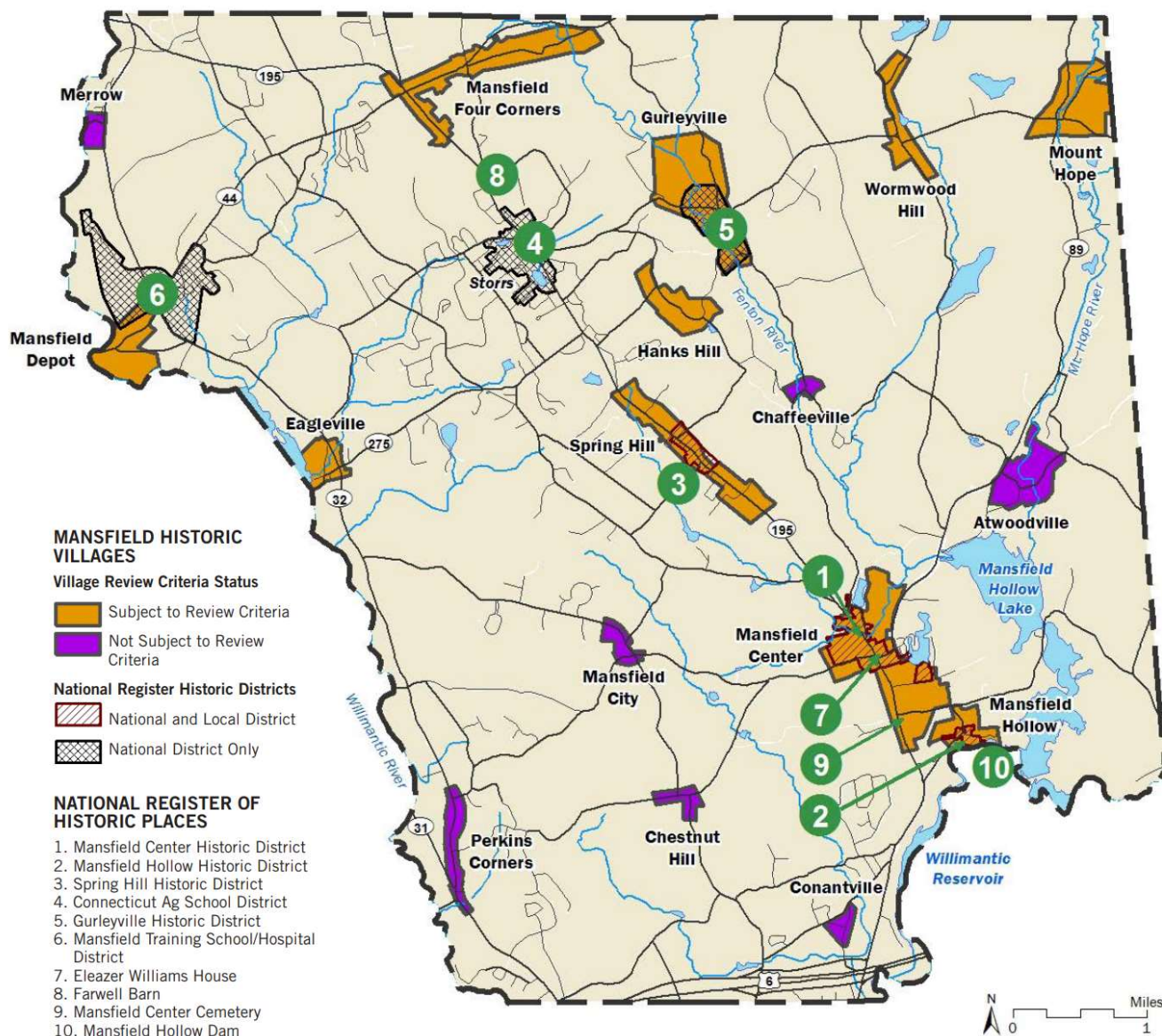


Map based on best available data as of November 2014

Source: Town of Mansfield Assessor, 2012

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

MAP 4.3: HISTORIC VILLAGES AND DISTRICTS



Source: National Register of Historic Places; Town of Mansfield, 2013; Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development, 2006.

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

1. Main Campus

2. North Campus

3. Agricultural Campus

4. Depot Campus

5. Spring Manor Farm

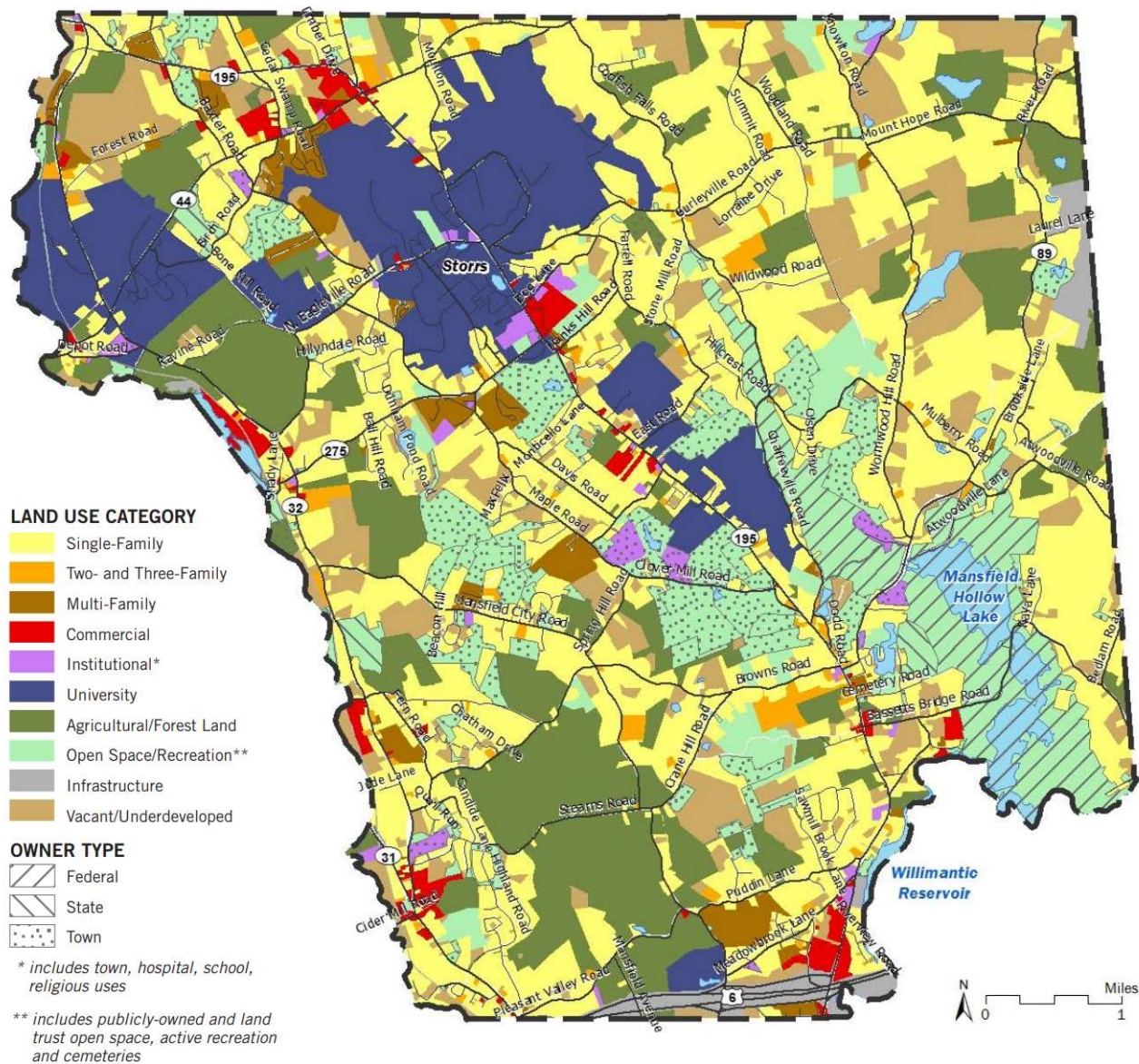
6. North Eagleville Tract

7. Spring Hill Region

* The Town of Mansfield does not have land use jurisdiction over land controlled by the University of Connecticut due to its status as a state institution.

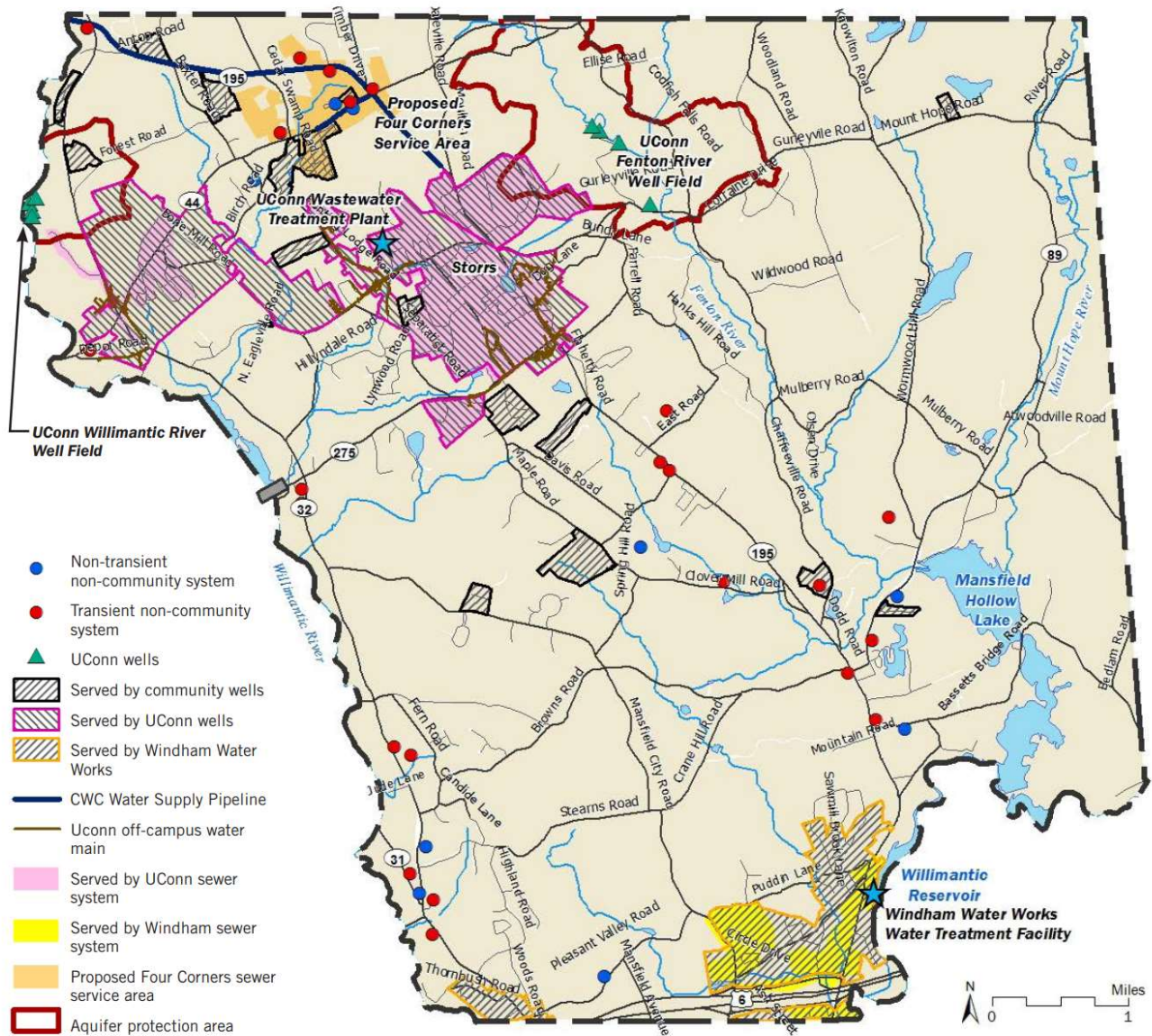
Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

MAP 8.1: EXISTING LAND USE



Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

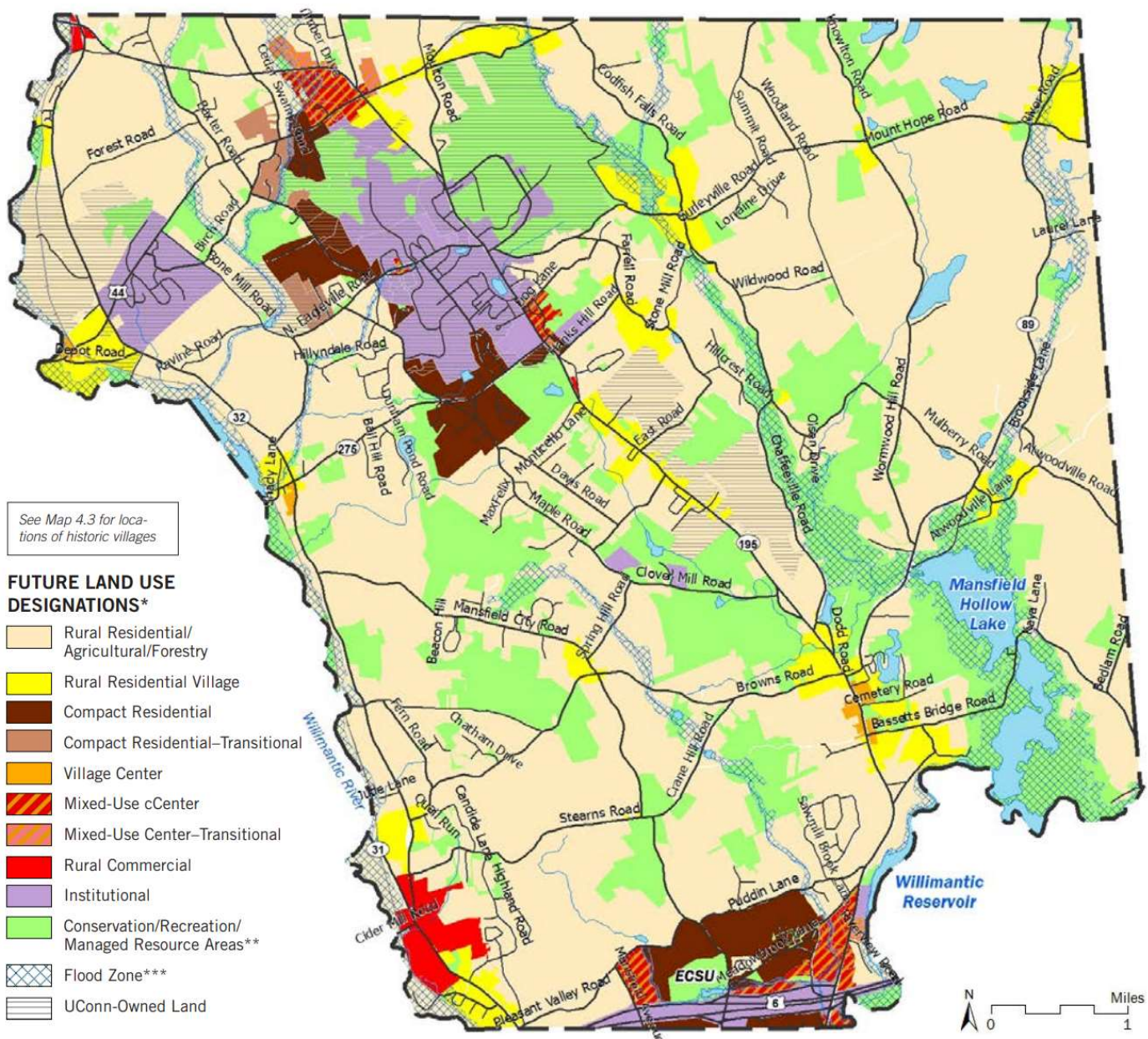
MAP 9.4: WATER AND SEWER SERVICE



Source: Town of Mansfield, 2013; The Connecticut Water Company (CWC), 2014

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

MAP 8.3: FUTURE LAND USE

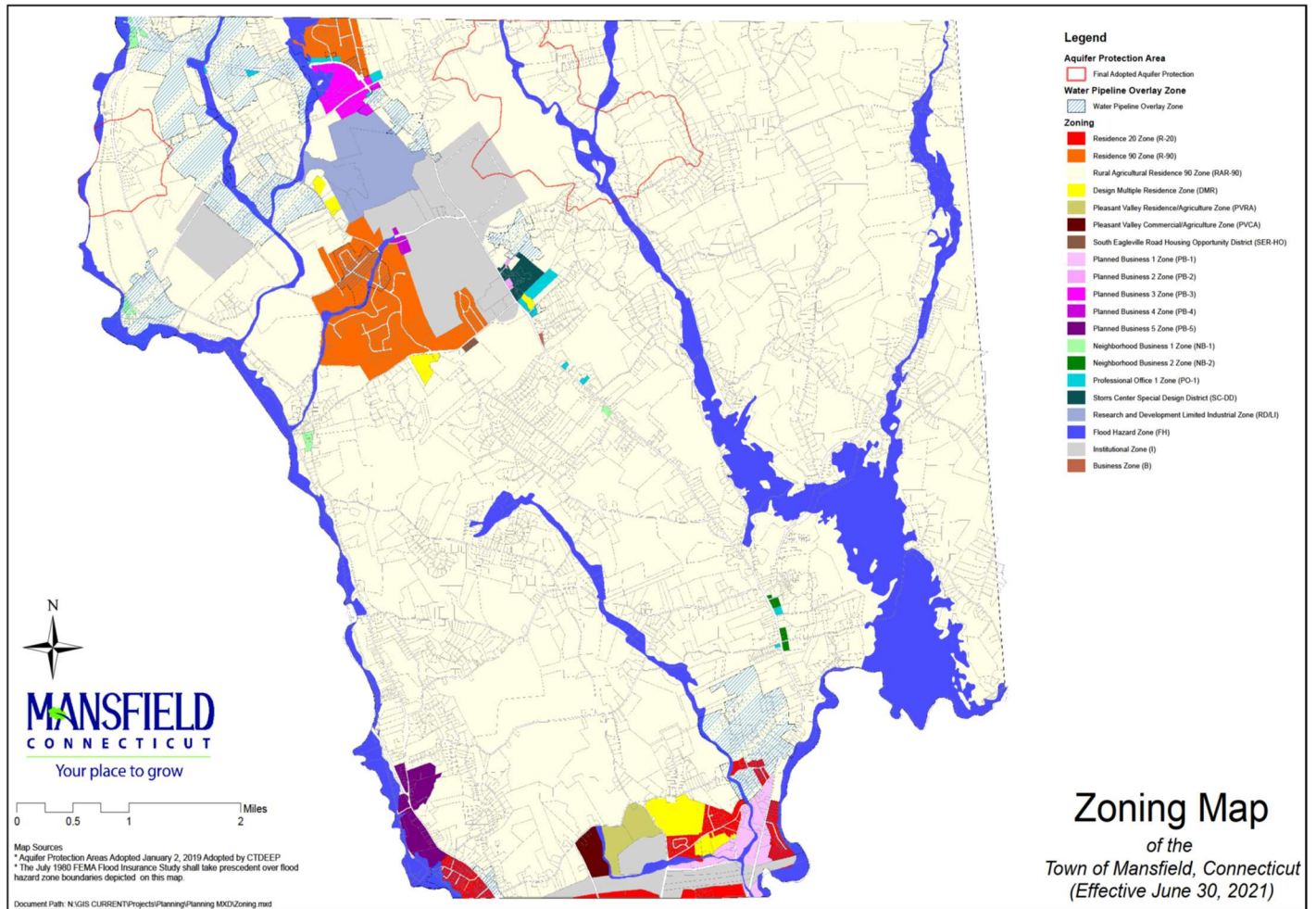


* Future land conservation/recreation projects can occur in any category. Such projects will be reflected in the map as part of periodic updates to the Plan.

** This designation shows the status of this land use as of 2014 and is subject to change as new properties are acquired or protected. If the actual conservation restriction does not apply to the entire property on which it is shown, the Commission shall determine the most appropriate land use designation based on the surrounding context.

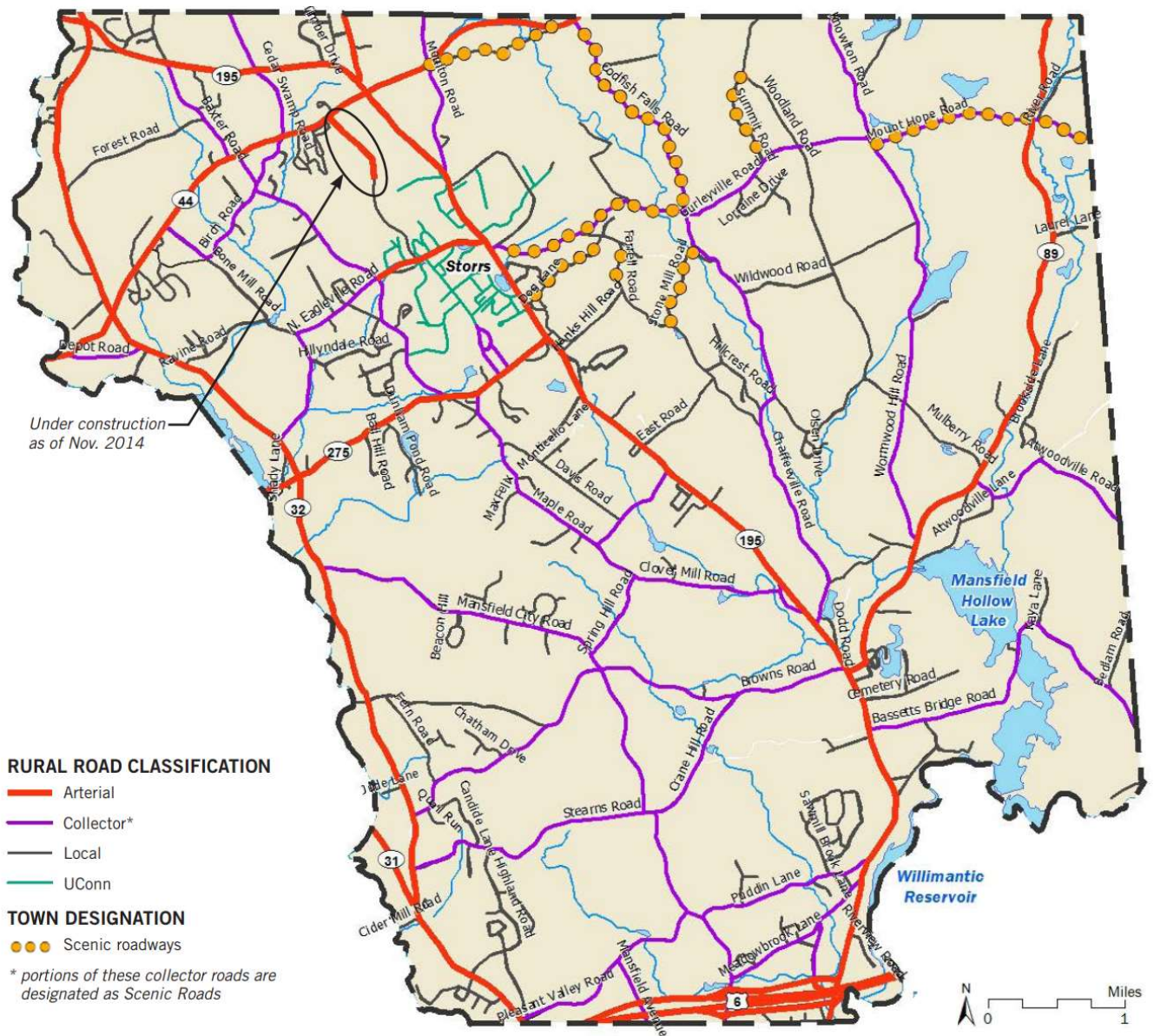
*** Flood zone data is from most recent FEMA mapping done in 1980 and is for general reference only.

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)



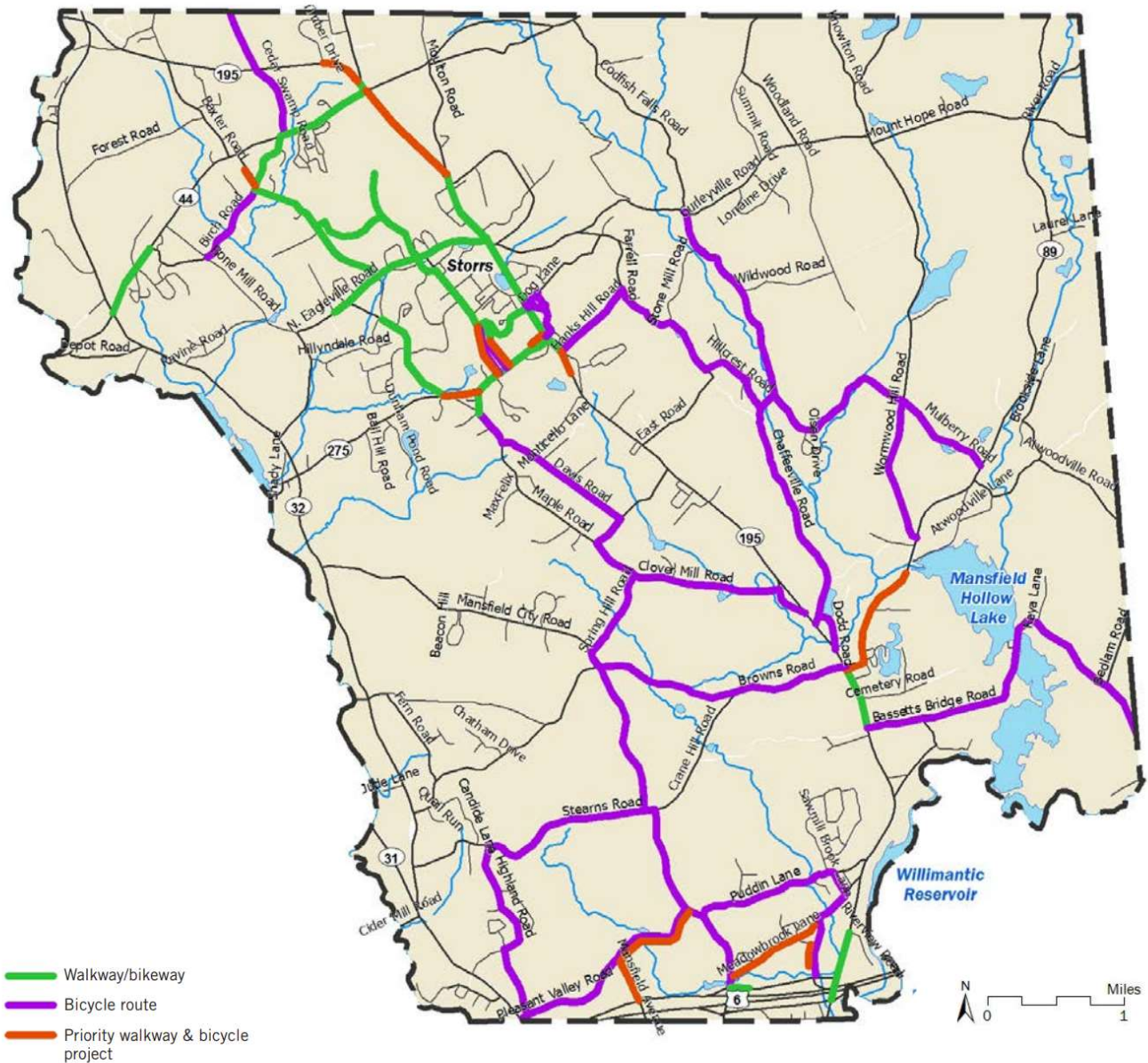
Source: Town of Mansfield – Official Zoning Map (2021)

MAP 9.1: ROAD SYSTEMS



Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

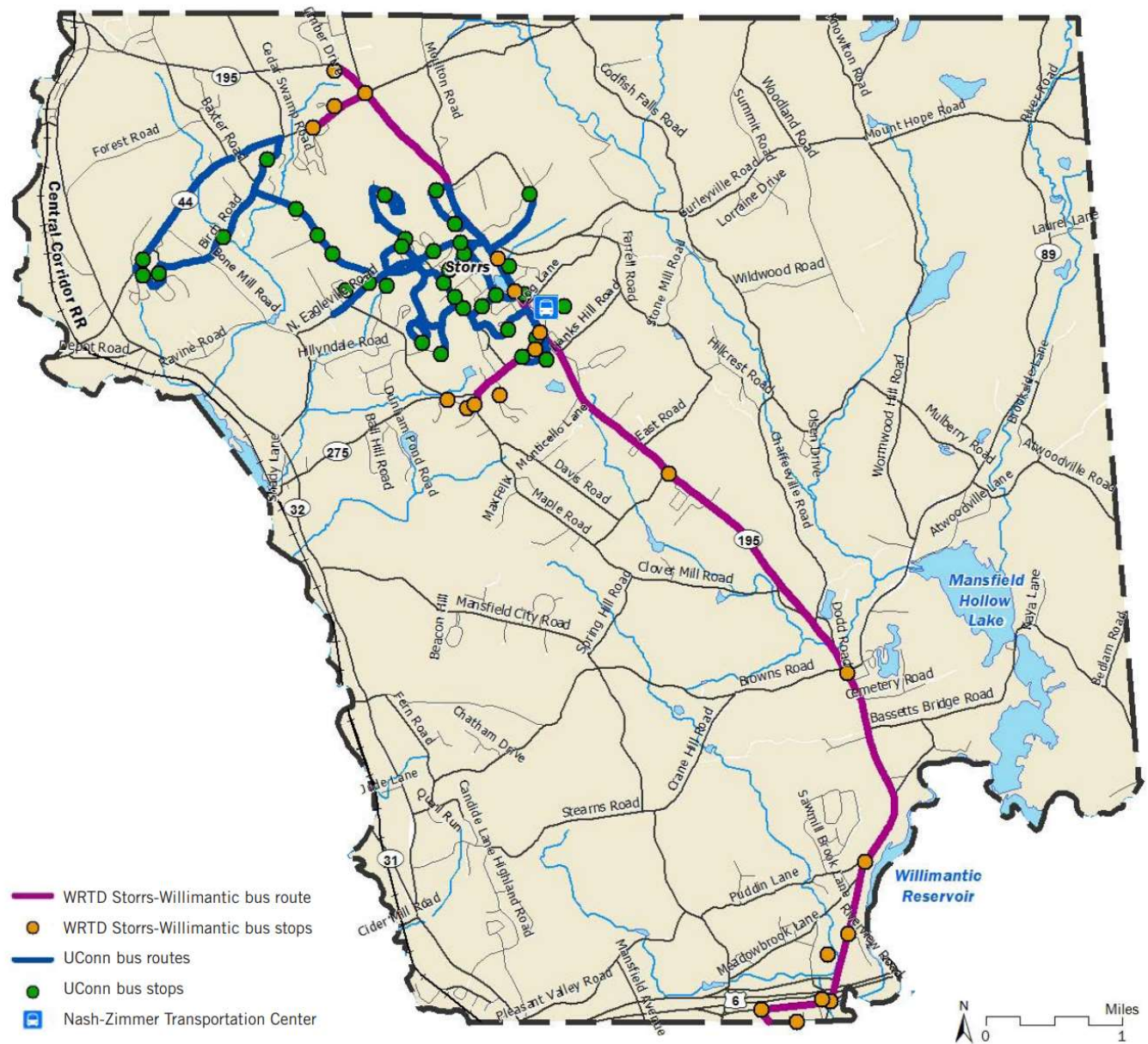
MAP 9.2: WALKWAYS AND BICYCLE FACILITIES



Source: Town of Mansfield, 2014

Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)

MAP 9.3: BUS ROUTES



Source: Town of Mansfield - Mansfield Tomorrow (2015)



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