

Jurisdictional Annex II

Town of Athens

Town Profile

The Town of Athens is located along the Hudson River at the eastern end of Greene County. See Table II-1.

History: The Town of Athens was established in 1815 from parts of the Towns of Catskill and Coxsackie. The Hudson-Athens Ferry service was a major influence on the Town and area until 1935 when the Rip Van Winkle Bridge opened, eliminating the need for the ferry. The Town has more than 300 buildings that are listed on national and state historic registers; the buildings include many examples of the predominant styles of the 18th and 19th centuries. (*Source: Town of Athens Website*).

Form of Government: The Town is governed by a Town Board composed of the Supervisor and four Council Members. The Town Board sets policy, approves the budget, adopts local laws, implements policies, and administrates local affairs. Each Council Member serves a 4-year term and the Supervisor serves a 2-year term.

Growth and Development Trends: Potential growth areas in the Town are identified in the 2007 Greene County *Comprehensive Economic Development Plan*.¹ This plan notes that at the time the plan was written, the following growth was warranted: commercial/office at the intersection of Route 9W and Schoharie Turnpike; commercial/retail on Main Street from Water St. to Warren St (in the Village); light industrial in the vicinity of the Travco Industrial Park; and waterfront development uses along the Hudson River, including parks and recreation, and water-related businesses such as a marina and restaurant.

The Town of Athens and Village of Athens have a joint *Comprehensive Plan (2007)* that recommends considering extending public water service to commercial properties at the intersection of Route 9W and Schoharie Turnpike, but no further, to keep development in the desired growth area and prevent creating a long commercial strip along 9W.

U.S. Census statistics show that the Town of Athens (excluding the Village of Athens) grew from 2,296 to 2,421 people between 2000 and 2010 (see Table II-1), and the number of housing units increased from 1,179 to 1,363.

Village Contact Information

PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT:

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**Table II-1:
Town of Athens Statistics**

2010 Population	Total Land Area	Land/Water Area
2,421	24.26 sq. mi	22.83/1.44 sq. mi

Village of Athens not included

¹ <http://greeneconomy.com/departments/planning-and-economic-development/studies-plans-and-data>

Recent Hazard Events

In the last 5 years, there have been a few storms that were significant for the Town but details are not available.

Summary of Vulnerabilities

The Town of Athens is one of Greene County’s River Towns located along the Hudson River. Flooding occurs in low lying areas. Table II-2 details the number of parcels that are located in or touch the floodway, 100-year floodplain, or 500-year floodplain.

As shown in Figure II-1, there are no critical facilities located in the floodplain in the Town of Athens, and no repetitive loss properties.

Table II-2: Number of Parcels in Flood Hazard Areas

Floodway	100-Year Floodplain	500-Year Floodplain
26	346	272

Capability Assessment

Each municipality analyzed four capability assessment areas that are relevant for reducing long-term vulnerabilities through mitigation planning. These four areas include: Planning (legal) and Regulatory, Administrative and Technical, Financial, and Education and Outreach. Changes that have occurred since the 2009 *Greene County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan*² (HMP) are described below.

Planning (legal) and Regulatory: There have not been any identifiable or confirmable changes in capabilities for reducing long-term vulnerability since the 2009 HMP. The Town has a number of relevant documents and ordinances, as listed in the “Relevant Documents and Ordinances” text box.

Administrative and Technical: In addition to the Town Board, the Town has a Town Clerk, Highway Department, Code Enforcement Officer, Police Department, three Fire Departments and several volunteer boards and committees.

Financial: There have not been any identifiable or confirmable changes in capabilities for reducing long-term vulnerability since the 2009 HMP.

Education and Outreach: There have not been any identifiable or confirmable changes in capabilities for reducing long-term vulnerability since the 2009 HMP.

Relevant Documents and Ordinances

- ✓ Town of Athens and Village of Athens joint *Comprehensive Plan* (2007)
- ✓ Site Plan Review
- ✓ Building Code
- ✓ Zoning Ordinance
- ✓ Subdivision Ordinance
- ✓ NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- ✓ *Growth Management Plan*
- ✓ *Floodplain Management/Basin Plan*
- ✓ *Stormwater Management Plan/Ordinance*
- ✓ *Emergency Response Plan*

² <http://greenegovernment.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/HMP.pdf>

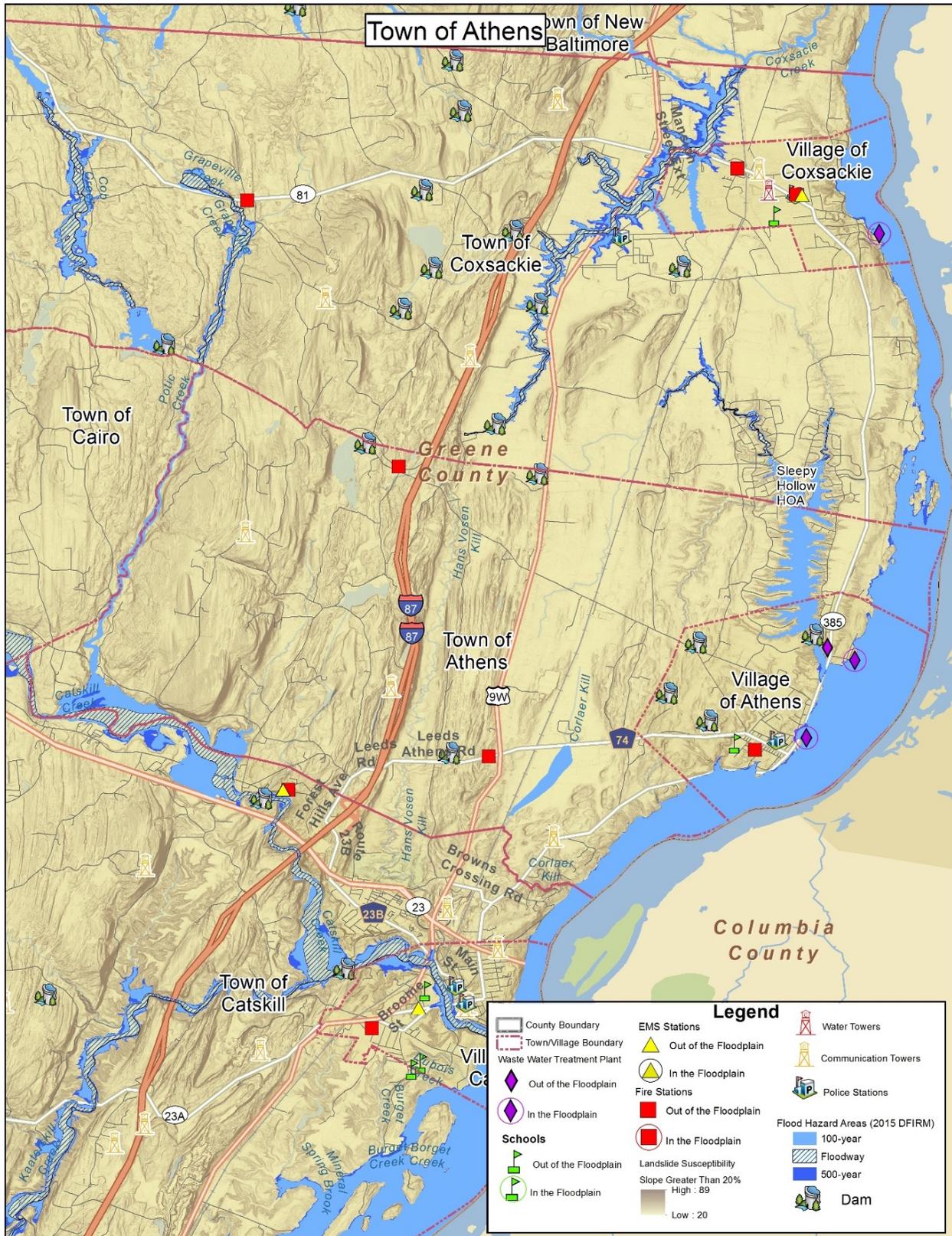


Figure II-1: Town of Athens Hazard Area Map

Mitigation Strategies

Hazard Mitigation Actions Completed or in Progress: In the last 5 years, the Town of Athens has not undertaken any identifiable or confirmable completed or in progress mitigation actions to reduce long-term vulnerability due to resource constraints.

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Actions: In addition to the Greene County actions discussed in this Plan, the Town of Athens has considered its individual needs related to risk and vulnerability and is pursuing or proposing the following hazard mitigation actions:

- (T)ATH-1: Emergency Communications Upgrade – Update to the P25 Compliance and expand the radio communications system. Conduct a radio study throughout the Town to better understand exactly how to enhance radio communications. Apply to the FCC for a license to have own frequency for use by the Town Highway and other public safety agencies. Upgrade physical equipment for Town agencies, particularly radios which will be P25 compliant, and work with the Fire Departments to understand how to best begin upgrading their equipment.
- (T)ATH-2: Box Culvert Replacement – Replace the undersized culvert on Schoharie Turnpike. This culvert has led to localized flooding and some road damage during heavy rain and spring runoff events.
- (T)ATH-3: Automatic Standby Generator – Purchase a standby generator to provide sufficient and consistent backup power supply capability.

The Town will also participate in the action identified for all municipalities to integrate this plan's actions with existing planning, consider hazards in future development decisions, and attempt 500-year level protection for critical facilities.

Details about each proposed hazard mitigation action can be found in the Action Worksheets.