

Jurisdictional Annex XV

Town of Lexington

Town Profile

The Town of Lexington is one of Greene County's Mountaintop Towns located in the southwest part of the county within the Catskill State Park. See Table XV-1.

History: The Town of Lexington was first settled in 1788 as part of the Town of Windham. It was officially separated and incorporated in 1813. The Town was first called New Goshen, after the Connecticut town that many of its early settlers came from, but was renamed a few months later to Lexington by Silas Fowler, a captain in the Revolutionary War.

Form of Government: The Town of Lexington consists of an elected board comprised of four Council members and as well as the Town Supervisor. The Town Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The Board sets policy, approves the budget, adopts local laws, implements policies, and administrates local affairs.

Growth and Development Trends: The Town of Lexington generally has a few homes built every year (about a dozen). A sewer district is being installed in the Hamlet of Lexington. Commercial growth is encouraged for the hamlet areas.

U.S. Census statistics show that the Town shrank from 830 to 805 people between 2000 and 2010 (see Table XV-1), while the number of housing units increased from 854 to 895.

Recent Hazard Events

In the past 5 years, there were a few storms that were significant for the Town, in particular Hurricane Irene but the details of damage are not available.

Summary of Vulnerabilities

Flooding is a concern in particular. Table XV-2 details the number of parcels that are located in or touch the floodway, 100-year floodplain, or 500-year floodplain.

There are nine repetitive loss properties in the Town.

Town Contact Information

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Table XV-1: Town of Lexington Statistics

2010 Population	Total Land Area	Land/Water Area
805	79.72 sq. mi.	79.69/0.04 sq. mi.

Table XV-2: Number of Parcels in Flood Hazard Areas, Town of Lexington

Floodway	100-Year Floodplain	500-Year Floodplain
319	383	402

Source: 2015 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map



Damage on Route 42 from Hurricane Irene (courtesy, Greene County Emergency Services)

As shown in Figure XV-2, the Town’s wastewater treatment plant and fire station/EMS facility are located in the floodplain.

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*¹ (HMP) are described below.

Planning (legal) and Regulatory: The Town completed a Local Flood Analysis (LFA), funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection’s Stream Management Program, in 2015 for the Town’s two hamlets to model flood vulnerabilities and the effects of potential mitigation solutions. A Flood Advisory Committee was formed to guide the LFA process and long-term flood mitigation projects and initiatives in the Town. Recommendations are included in Town of Lexington’s proposed mitigation actions discussed below.

The Town also has a guidance document for improved site planning to mitigate stormwater runoff, reduce impervious surface, and preserve and enhance existing natural areas.

The Town has a number of other relevant documents and ordinances, as listed in the “Relevant Documents and Ordinances” text box.

Relevant Documents and Ordinances

- ✓ *Comprehensive Plan*
- ✓ *Building Code*
- ✓ *Zoning Ordinance (2005)*
- ✓ *Subdivision Ordinance (2005)*
- ✓ *Emergency Response Plan (2007)*
- ✓ *NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (2008)*
- ✓ *West Kill and Schoharie Stream Management Plans (2008)*
- ✓ *Mountaintop Better Site Design Roundtable (Recommended Model Development Principles, 2012)*
- ✓ *Local Flood Analysis (2015)*

¹ <http://greenegovernment.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/HMP.pdf>

Administrative and Technical: In addition to the Town Board, the Town has a Town Clerk, Assessor, Highway Department, and Building Inspector, and consulting engineers. A Memorandum of Understanding was adopted with GCSWCD for implementing the *Stream Management Plans*.

Financial: While the Town has been successful in planning for its recovery post-Irene, there haven't been any identifiable or confirmable changes in locally based financial capabilities for reducing long-term vulnerability since the 2009 HMP.

The Town has access to Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) funding among other grant programs. The CWC's Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation (FHMI) Program was developed to help fund projects that reduce flood impacts including property protection measures, floodplain reclamation projects, public infrastructure protection, and property buyout/relocation. Projects are typically funded through an LFA funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Stream Management Program.

Education and Outreach: The Town has conducted and completed outreach and education efforts since Hurricane Irene devastated the community.



Figure XV-2: Town of Lexington Hazard Area Map

Mitigation Strategies

Hazard Mitigation Actions Completed or in Progress: The Town of Lexington recently completed an LFA planning effort in 2015.

Table XV-3: Summary of Mitigation, Town of Lexington

Mitigation Action	Project Status
LFA	Complete

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

- (T)LEX-1: Comprehensive Flood Mitigation – Proceed with comprehensive flood mitigation in Lexington Hamlet center through the projects described in the 2015 LFA (these include repetitive loss properties):
 - Acquire and remove homes on south side of Route 13A
 - Acquire and remove Lexington Hotel
 - Lower the sewer pipe between Route 13A and Schoharie Creek
 - Create floodplain bench
 - Replace Route 42 bridge with larger span based on H/H modeling
- (T)LEX-2: Flood Mitigation along SR 23A and Banks Road– Mitigation of properties may include property-specific options (elevations) and conveyance/backwater mitigation projects.
- (T)LEX-3: Flood Mitigation near West Kill Creek – Pursue property-specific flood mitigation options in Lexington and West Kill Hamlets near the West Kill Creek.
- (T)LEX-4: Stream Stabilization along West Kill Creek – Stream stabilization needed to protect the bridge from structural damage during future floods.
- (T)LEX-5: Building Elevations on Spruceton Road and Route 42 within the 500-year Floodplain – Per the LFA (2015), elevate buildings in the floodplain, including five on Route 42 and one located east of Town Hall.
- (T)LEX-6: Elevate Buildings in 500-year Floodplain –, Elevate buildings three building on Spruceton Road, including Community Hall, and one on Route 42.
- (T) Lex-7: Beech Ridge Road Embankment Stabilization Project - Stabilize the embankment along part of the West Kill above Pushman’s bridge on Rt. 42.

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, focus on mitigation of repetitive loss properties, and attempt 500-year level protection for critical facilities.

Details about each of the proposed hazard mitigation actions can be found in the individual Action Worksheets.