

Jurisdictional Annex XVII

Town of Prattsville

Town Profile

The Town of Prattsville is one of Greene County's Mountaintop Towns. It is located in the northwest corner of the county within the Catskill State Park. The Town shares its northern border with Schoharie County and its western border with Delaware County. See Table XVII-1.

History: The Town, originally called Schoharie Kill, was first settled around 1763. The Town of Prattsville was established in 1824 from portion of the Town of Windham. In 1848, some of the area of the Town was carved out to become the Town of Ashland. The Town was named after Zadock Pratt, a congressman and prominent citizen who built a tannery larger than any other in the world at the time. The population of the Town grew from 830 in 1830 to 1,989 in 1850. By 1845 all the hemlock bark had been extracted and Pratt was forced to close the tannery, which resulted in the loss of a significant amount of the population. (*Source: Prattsville Local Development Corporation website*).

Form of Government: The Town is governed by a Town Board that is composed of a Supervisor and four Council members. The Town Board sets policy, approves the budget, adopts local laws, implements policies, and administrates local affairs.

Growth and Development Trends: The U.S. Census shows that the Town grew from 665 to 700 people between 2000 and 2010 (see Table XVII-1), and the number of housing units increased from 406 to 506.

Recent Hazard Events

In the last 5 years, there have been a few storms that were significant for the Town, in particular Hurricane Irene.

Hurricane Irene (2011): Hurricane Irene resulted in record flooding of the Schoharie Creek, causing major damage and destroying large areas of the Town. Every structure located along Main Street was damaged or destroyed, including all 22 of the businesses in Town. Eleven houses collapsed, 15 were condemned and demolished, and more than 100 were damaged to the point that residents could not return to their homes. Despite the widespread damage and destruction, there were no fatalities.

Town Contact Information

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Table XVII-1: Town of Prattsville Statistics

2010 Population	Total Land Area	Land/Water Area
700	19.73 sq. mi.	19.63/0.11 sq. mi.

Summary of Vulnerabilities

The Town of Prattsville is one of Greene County’s Mountaintop Towns located within the Catskill State Park. Flooding along the Schoharie Creek is common and resulted in near destruction of the Village during Hurricane Irene. Table XVII-2 details the number of parcels that are located in or touch the floodway, 100-year floodplain, or 500-year floodplain.

Table XVII-2: Number of Parcels in Flood Hazard Areas, Town of Prattsville

Floodway	100-Year Floodplain	500-Year Floodplain
80	219	234

Source: 2015 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map

The *NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan* (2013) identified six structures as critical public facilities (listed below). As shown in Figure XVII-1, two of these—the Prattsville Rescue/Prattsville Hose Company and the community septic system—are located in the floodplain:

1. Greene County Sheriff Substation
2. Prattsville Fire Station/EMS
3. Prattsville Highway Garage
4. Prattsville Town Hall
5. Wastewater Treatment Plant
6. Prattsville Water Tower

There are six repetitive loss properties in the Town.

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 has completed a Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis (2013) and a NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan (2014). 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 Clerk, Bookkeeper, Building Inspector, Superintendent of Highways, and Assessor, as well as a Local Development Corporation and an on-call engineering firm.

Financial: While the Town has been very successful in obtaining significant financial assistance to help recover from Hurricane Irene, there has not been any identifiable or confirmable changes in locally-based financial capabilities for reducing long-term vulnerability since the 2009 HMP.

Relevant Documents and Ordinances

- ✓ *NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan* (2014)
- ✓ *Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis* (2013)
- ✓ Master Plan Renderings (2014)
- ✓ *Conceptual Streetscape Plan* (2013)
- ✓ Building Code
- ✓ Subdivision Ordinance
- ✓ NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- ✓ *Floodplain Management/Basin Plan*
- ✓ *Comprehensive Plan*
- ✓ *Capital Improvements Plan*
- ✓ Site Plan Review Requirements
- ✓ *Emergency Response Plan*
- ✓ *Regional Stream Management Plan and MOU with GCSWCD*

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



Figure XVII-1: Town of Prattsville Hazard Area Map

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

Mitigation Strategies

Hazard Mitigation Actions Completed or in Progress: In the last 5 years (as of February 2015), the Town of Prattsville Local Development Corporation has successfully facilitated over \$6.3M in grants, administered a CDBG economic development grant of \$500,000, a streetscape grant of \$250,000, parks improvement grant of \$300,000, and provided oversight for the CDBG Housing and RARP grants totaling \$700,000.

Table XVII-2 shows the hazard mitigation actions described in the 2009 HMP that have been completed or are in progress.

Table XVII-2: Summary of Mitigation Actions, Town of Prattsville

Mitigation Action	Project Status
NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan	Complete
Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis	Complete
Master Plan Renderings	Complete
Conceptual Streetscape Plan	Complete
Route 23 Bridge Replacement(s) over Schoharie and Huntersfield Creeks	In-Progress (Expected Completion Summer 2016)

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

- (T)PRA-1: “Made in Prattsville” Business Recovery Park – This is a multi-faceted project that includes relocating dimensional hardwoods out of the floodplain (and developing a relocation strategy), reclaiming 12 acres of floodplain on the Schoharie Creek in Prattsville’s business district, relocating the Huntersfield Creek outlet, removing berms, and undertaking channel dredging.
- (T)PRA-2: Berm and Floodplain Alteration – Undertake a survey to lower the berm below the State Route (SR) 23 bridge to determine the potential flood reduction to nearby homes and properties.
- (T)PRA-3: Deepen and Widen the Schoharie Creek – Deepen and widen the creek in the vicinity of the business district using the HEC RAS modeling already performed as part of the 2014 Town of Prattsville Local Flood Analysis (LFA).
- (T)PRAT-4: SR 23 Bridge Replacement – Based on bridge modeling done in the 2014 LFA, replace the bridge with a larger span to pass higher flood flows.

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 proposed hazard mitigation action can be found in the individual Action Worksheets.