



5. BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE

This jurisdictional annex to the Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) provides information to assist public and private sectors in the Borough of Branchville with reducing losses from future hazard events. This annex is not guidance of what to do when a disaster occurs; its focus is on actions that can be implemented prior to a disaster to reduce or eliminate damage to property and people. The annex presents a general overview of Branchville, describes who participated in the planning process, assesses Branchville's risk, vulnerability, and capabilities, and outlines a strategy for achieving a more resilient community.

5.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TEAM

The Borough of Branchville identified primary and alternate HMP points of contact and developed this plan over the course of several months, with input from many Borough departments. The Emergency Management Coordinator represented the community on the Sussex County HMP Planning Partnership and supported the local planning process by securing input from persons with specific knowledge to enhance the plan. All departments were asked to contribute to the annex development through reviewing and contributing to the capability assessment, reporting on the status of previously identified actions, and participating in action identification and prioritization.

Table 5-1 summarizes Borough officials who participated in the development of the annex and in what capacity. Additional documentation of the Borough's planning activities through Planning Partnership meetings is included in Volume I.

Table 5-1. Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Name/Title: Jeff Lewis, OEM Coordinator Address: 5 Main Street, P.O. Box 840, Branchville, NJ 07826 Phone Number: 973-479-7203 Email: Jlewis310@embaraqmail.com	Name/Title: Kathryn Leissler, Clerk Address: 5 Main Street, P.O. Box 840, Branchville, NJ 07826 Phone Number: 973-948-4629 Email: branchvilleclerk@yahoo.com
National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Administrator	
Name/Title: Dave Simmons, Floodplain Administrator Address: 17 Plains Road, Augusta, NJ 07822 Phone Number: 973-948-6463 Email: -	
Additional Contributors	
Name/Title: Jeff Lewis, OEM Coordinator Method of Participation: Provided previous hazard history information and hazard mitigation capabilities of the Borough. Provided information on building permits and planned development. Provided NFIP information. Participated in planning partnership meetings and the mitigation action workshop. Completed final review of the draft annex and completed sign-off sheet.	
Name/Title: Dave Simmons, Floodplain Administrator Method of Participation: Reviewed and signed off on the final draft annex.	
Name/Title: Harold Pellow, Municipal Engineer Method of Participation: Reviewed and signed off on the final draft annex.	
Name/Title: Rich Bizik, Construction Official Method of Participation: Reviewed and signed off on the final draft annex.	



Name/Title: Anthony Frato, Mayor

Method of Participation: Completed final review of the draft annex and completed sign-off sheet.

Name/Title: Darren Hagerty, Public Works Superintendent

Method of Participation: Completed final review of the draft annex and completed sign-off sheet.

Name/Title: Kathryn Leissler, Clerk

Method of Participation: Completed final review of the draft annex and completed sign-off sheet.

Name/Title: Mike Clune, Planner

Method of Participation: Completed final review of the draft annex and completed sign-off sheet.

5.2 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Borough of Branchville is located in northwestern Sussex County and surrounded entirely by the Township of Frankford. Culvers Creek and Dry Brook both flow through the Borough. The Borough has a total area of 0.6 square miles. According to the U.S. Census, the 2020 population for Branchville was 791, a 5.9-percent decrease from the 2010 Census.

Research has shown that some populations are at greater risk from hazard events because of decreased resources or physical abilities. These populations can be more susceptible to hazard events based on a number of factors including their physical and financial ability to react or respond during a hazard, and the location and construction quality of their housing. Data from the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Population Estimates indicates that 0.6-percent of the population is 5 years of age or younger, 0.6-percent is 65 years of age or older, 1.5-percent is non-English speaking, 0.5-percent is below the poverty threshold, and 0.5-percent is considered disabled.

The Steering Committee also identified households that are above the Federal Poverty Level, but earn less than the basic cost of living as socially vulnerable. For the Borough of Branchville, 28-percent of households earn less than the basic cost of living and are considered socially vulnerable.

Communities must deploy a support system that enables all populations to safely reach shelters or to quickly evacuate a hazard area.

5.3 JURISDICTIONAL CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND INTEGRATION

Branchville performed an inventory and analysis of existing capabilities, plans, programs, and policies that enhance its ability to implement mitigation strategies. Volume I describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning. The jurisdictional assessment for this annex includes analyses of the following:

- Planning and regulatory capabilities
- Development and permitting capabilities
- Administrative and technical capabilities
- Fiscal capabilities
- Education and outreach capabilities
- Classification under various community mitigation programs
- Adaptive capacity to withstand hazard events



For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into day-to-day local government operations. As part of the hazard mitigation analysis, planning and /policy documents were reviewed and each jurisdiction was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of their progress toward plan integration. Development of an updated mitigation strategy provided an opportunity for Branchville to identify opportunities for integrating mitigation concepts into ongoing Borough procedures.

5.3.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability and Integration

Table 5-2 summarizes the planning and regulatory tools that are available to Branchville.

Table 5-2. Planning and Regulatory Capability and Integration

	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
CODES, ORDINANCES, & REGULATIONS				
Building Code	Yes	International Building Code – New Jersey Edition, 2018, NJAC 5:24-3.14 Adopted 9/3/2019; State Uniform Construction Code Act (N.J.S. 52:27D-119 et seq.)	State & Local	Building Department
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? <i>The building code provides guidance on how to design, build, and operate buildings. Modern building codes lead to major reductions in property losses from natural disasters.</i>				
Zoning/Land Use Code	Yes	State of NJ Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) L. 1975, s. 2, Effective 8/1/1976, 40-55D-62: 49 (Chapter 123-Zoning).	Local	Mayor and Council
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? <i>Power to zone, requires all jurisdictions to have current zoning and other land development ordinances after the planning board has adopted the land use element and master plan. New zoning procedures recognize natural hazard areas.</i>				
Subdivision Code	Yes	Grant of power; referral of proposed ordinance; county planning board approval a. P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-47): 40:55D-37; Municipal Land Use Law. NJ Statute 40:27-6.2 (Chapter 104-Subdivision of Land)	Local	Planning Board
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? <i>The governing body may by ordinance require approval of subdivision plats by resolution of the planning board as a condition for the filing of such plats with the county recording officer and approval of site plans by resolution of the planning board as a condition for the issuance of a permit for any development, except that subdivision or individual lot applications for detached one or two dwelling-unit buildings shall be exempt from such site plan review and approval; provided that the resolution of the board of adjustment shall substitute for that of the planning board whenever the board of adjustment has jurisdiction over a subdivision or site plan pursuant to subsection 63b. of this act . Dictated by the Municipal Land Use Law. NJ Statute 40:27-6.2 - the board of any county having a county planning board shall provide for the review of all subdivisions of land within the county by said county planning board and for the approval of those subdivisions affecting county road or drainage facilities as set forth and limited hereinafter in this section.</i>				



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
Site Plan Code	Yes	Municipal Land Use Law, NJ Statute 40:27-6.2 (Chapter 97-3)	Yes	Planning Board

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Dictated by the Municipal Land Use Law which sets forth minimum requirements for plans, etc., timeframes for development review. The board of any county having a county planning board shall provide for the review of all subdivisions of land within the county by said county planning board and for the approval of those subdivisions affecting county road or drainage facilities as set forth and limited hereinafter in this section. 40:27-6.10 In order that county planning boards shall have a complete file of the planning and zoning ordinances of all municipalities in the county, each municipal clerk shall file with the county planning board a copy of the planning and zoning ordinances of the municipality in effect on the effective date of this act and shall notify the county planning board of the introduction of any revision or amendment of such an ordinance which affects lands adjoining county roads or other county lands, or lands lying within 200 feet of a municipal boundary, or proposed facilities or public lands shown on the county master plan or official county map. Such notice shall be given to the county planning board at least 10 days prior to the public hearing thereon by personal delivery or by certified mail of a copy of the official notice of the public hearing together with a copy of the proposed ordinance.

Stormwater Management Code	Yes	Title 7 of the NJ Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 7:8; Chapter 121-6, Adopted 3/15/2006 by Ord. No. 3-2006	Local	Mayor and the Council; Stormwater Engineer: Harold Pellow and Associates
-----------------------------------	-----	--	-------	--

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Sets minimum standards for collection of stormwater for new development to help reduce stormwater flooding.

Post-Disaster Recovery/ Reconstruction Code	No	-	-	-
--	----	---	---	---

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Real Estate Disclosure Requirements	Yes	Senate Bill 3110; P. L. 2023, c. 93, July 3, 2023	State	Sellers and Landlords of commercial or residential property
--	-----	---	-------	---

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

For leases, the law amends the New Jersey Truth-in-Renting Act, N.J.S.A. 46:8-43 et seq., to require every landlord to notify in writing each of the landlord's tenants, prior to lease signing or renewal, whether the property is located in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area ("100-year floodplain") or Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area ("500-year floodplain") and if the landlord has actual knowledge that the rental premises or any portion of the parking areas of the real property containing the rental premises has been subjected to flooding. The law does not apply to (1) landlords who lease commercial space or residential dwellings for less than one month, (2) residential dwellings in a premises containing not more than two units, (3) owner-occupied premises containing not more than three units, or (4) hotels, motels, or other guest houses serving transient or seasonal guests for a period of less than 120 days.

The model notice is to contain the heading "Flood Risk" and questions for the landlord to answer regarding the landlord's actual knowledge of past flooding of the property. The questions regarding the property being in a FEMA Special or Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area shall not contain the option for "unknown." To determine how the questions are to be answered, FEMA's current flood insurance rate maps for the leased premises area must be consulted. The landlord will be required to answer whether the rental premises or any portions of the parking areas of the real property containing the rental premises ever experienced any flood damage, water seepage, or pooled water due to a natural flood event and, if so, the number of times that has occurred.

The notice to residential tenants must also indicate that flood insurance may be available to renters through FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program to cover their personal property and contents in the event of a flood and that standard renter's insurance does not typically cover flood damage.



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
--	---------------------------------	--	---	--

For sales, the law also amends the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., to require sellers of real property to disclose, on the property condition disclosure statement, whether the property is located in the FEMA Special or Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area and any actual knowledge of the seller concerning flood risks of the property to the purchaser before the purchaser becomes obligated under any contract for the purchase of the property.

The disclosure statement must contain the heading "Flood Risk" and ask the seller the following questions:

- Is any or all of the property in the Special Flood Hazard Area ("100-year floodplain") or a Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area ("500-year floodplain") according to FEMA's current flood insurance rate maps?*
- Is the property subject to any requirement under federal law to obtain and maintain flood insurance on the property? Properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to obtain and maintain flood insurance.*
- Have you ever received assistance from, or are you aware of any previous owners receiving assistance from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, or any other federal disaster flood assistance for flood damage on the property? For properties that have received flood disaster assistance, the requirement to obtain flood insurance passes down to all future owners.*
- Is there flood insurance on the property? A standard homeowner's insurance policy typically does not cover flood damage.*
- Is there a FEMA elevation certificate available for the property? If so, it must be shared with the buyer. An elevation certificate is a FEMA form, completed by a licensed surveyor or engineer, that provides critical information about the flood risk of the property and is used by flood insurance providers to determine the appropriate insurance rating for the property.*
- Have you ever filed a claim for flood damage to the property with any insurance provider? If the claim was approved, what was the amount received?*
- Has the property experienced any flood damage, water seepage, or pooled water due to a natural flood event, such as heavy rainfall, coastal storm surge, tidal inundation, or river overflow? If so, how many times?*

Not all provisions of this law have become effective at the time of the writing of this plan.

Growth Management	Yes	State Development & Redevelopment Plan (Plan Endorsement); Zoning Ordinance; Chapter 123-Zoning	State, Local	State Development & Redevelopment Plan (Plan Endorsement); Zoning Ordinance; Chapter 123-Zoning
--------------------------	-----	---	--------------	---

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Provides for the delineation of Growth Areas and Environs; Use of the endorsed plans in the implementation of state environmental regulations makes the Plan Endorsement process a growth management strategy.

New zoning procedures recognize natural hazard areas.

Environmental Protection Ordinance(s)	No	-	-	-
--	----	---	---	---

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Yes	NJ State Law Flood Area Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58:16A-52); National Flood Control Act of 1968 (NFIP), Adopted in 2007 and amended effective 6/20/2016; Chapter 64-Flood Damage Prevention	Local	Construction Official
--	-----	--	-------	-----------------------

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

The NJ State Law Flood Area Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58:16A-52) and the National Flood Control Act of 1968 (NFIP) are state and federal acts to support minimization of flood losses. They do not require local adoption but as enforced by the NJDEP, the floodplain ordinances of each municipality must be reviewed for compliance with these regulations. In



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
--	---------------------------------	--	---	--

addition, participation in the NFIP requires a floodplain ordinance. Regulations for the Flood Control Hazards Act were adopted in 2007 and amended effective June 20, 2016.

The Mayor and Council are responsible for this ordinance in compliance with Chapter 64- Flood Damage Prevention. It is the purpose of this chapter, to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to Protect human life and health; Minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects; Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public; Minimize prolonged business interruptions; Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in areas of special flood hazard; Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the second use and development of areas of special flood hazard so as to minimize future flood blight areas; Ensure that potential buyers are notified that property is in an area of special flood hazard; and Ensure that those who occupy the areas of special flood hazard assume responsibility for their actions.

Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

Wellhead Protection	No	-	-	-
----------------------------	----	---	---	---

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Emergency Management Ordinance	No	-	-	-
---------------------------------------	----	---	---	---

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Climate Change Ordinance	No	-	-	-
---------------------------------	----	---	---	---

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Other: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	Yes	Chapter 144-Sewage Disposal Systems, Individual.	Local	Mayor and Council
---	-----	--	-------	-------------------

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

The purpose of Chapter 144 is to apply the standards for the Construction of Individual Subsurface Disposal Systems. It requires permits for locating, constructing, or altering individual sewage disposal systems.

Other: Special Purpose Ordinances (i.e. sensitive areas, steep slope)	Yes	Chapter 111-Trees and Shrubbery; Chapter 131-Flooding and Standing Water	Local	Borough Administration
--	-----	--	-------	------------------------

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

The purpose of Chapter 111 is to require permits for tree maintenance, chemical sprays, removal, and more for trees and shrubbery.

The purpose of Chapter 131 is to regulate the creation or maintenance of standing or flooding waters, that are defined as unsanitary conditions or nuisances.

PLANNING DOCUMENTS

General/Comprehensive Plan	Yes	Borough of Branchville Master Plan, 2018	Local	Mayor and Council
-----------------------------------	-----	--	-------	-------------------

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

This Master Plan is intended to provide direction to elected and appointed officials, the general citizenry, landowners, developers, and other area governmental entities for short-term and long-term growth and development within Vernon. It is a policy guide for community development decisions, community facility planning and budgeting, and a comprehensive guide for the future development of housing, employment, and cultural and educational opportunities for the Vernon community. The plan must be able to respond to changing conditions such as increased population and demand for public services, housing supply, legislative policies, technological development, and economic circumstances.



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
Capital Improvement Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Disaster Debris Management Plan	Yes	Disaster Debris Management Plan, 2018	Local	Public Works
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? <i>Since the last HMP update, the Borough has developed a Disaster Debris Management plan that can be used to properly manage debris following a Severe Weather event and flooding. This plan provides specific guidance for municipal and business owners on how to determine what needs to be done with excess debris.</i>				
Floodplain Management or Watershed Plan	Yes	Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin (Basin Plan), 2004	County	Mayor and Council
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? <i>The Borough is included in the Basin Plan, which is a 30-year goal-based framework to guide governmental and non-governmental stakeholders whose actions may affect water resources in the Delaware River Basin. This plan is a product of a four-year stakeholder process and the establishment of a broad-based Watershed Advisory Council.</i>				
Stormwater Management Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Open Space Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Urban Water Management Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Habitat Conservation Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Economic Development Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Shoreline Management Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Community Forest Management Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
Transportation Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Agriculture Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Climate Action/ Resilience/Sustainability Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Tourism Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Business/ Downtown Development Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Other How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
RESPONSE/RECOVERY PLANNING				
Emergency Operations Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? <i>The local EOP is County and State approved and was last updated in 2023. It is scheduled to be updated in 2025.</i>	Yes	Local Emergency Operation Plan, 2023	County and State	Public Works, OEM
Continuity of Operations Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Substantial Damage Response Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-
Public Health Plan How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?	No	-	-	-



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
Other	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				

5.3.2 Development and Permitting Capability

Table 5-3 summarizes the capabilities of Branchville to oversee and track development.

Table 5-3. Development and Permitting Capability

	Yes/No	Comment
Do you issue development permits? - If you issue development permits, what department is responsible? - If you do not issue development permits, what is your process for tracking new development?	Yes	The Zoning Department is responsible for issuing development permits.
Are permits tracked by hazard area? (For example, floodplain development permits.)	Yes	Floodplain development permits are issued.
Do you have a buildable land inventory? If you have a buildable land inventory, please describe	Yes	The Borough completed a Housing Element and a buildable lands inventory.
Describe the level of buildout in your jurisdiction.	N/A	There is available space for build-out within the Borough.

5.3.3 Administrative and Technical Capability

Table 5-4 summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to Branchville and their current responsibilities that contribute to hazard mitigation.

Table 5-4. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Resources	Available? (Yes/No)	Comment (available staff, responsibilities, support of hazard mitigation)
ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY		



Resources	Available? (Yes/No)	Comment (available staff, responsibilities, support of hazard mitigation)
Planning Board	Yes	Planning Board/Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of Branchville. The Board has nine members. The Board is authorized to adopt bylaws governing its procedural operation; make and adopt and from time to time amend a Master Plan; administer the provisions of the Land Subdivision Ordinance and Site Plan Review Ordinance; hear applications for conditional uses and, in proper cases, to approve conditional use permits in accordance with provisions of the Zoning Chapter; participate in the preparation and review of programs or plans; among other authorizations. The Planning Board/Zoning Board of Adjustment shall exercise, to the same extent and subject to the same restrictions, all the powers of a Zoning Board of Adjustment.
Zoning Board of Adjustment	No	See above
Planning Department	No	-
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	-
Environmental Board/Commission	No	-
Open Space Board/Committee	No	-
Economic Development Commission/Committee	No	-
Public Works/Highway Department	Yes	The Department of Public Works includes Roads, Water, and Sewer divisions. The Department also conducts snow removal, brush collection, and maintains the Borough's sewage treatment plant.
Construction/Building/Code Enforcement Department	Yes	The Construction Office is within the Zoning Department. The Construction Official enforces the Uniform Construction Code.
Emergency Management/Public Safety Department	Yes	The Borough has an Office of Emergency Management, located within the Office of Emergency Services. The OEM works with the Blue Ridge Rescue Squad, the Branchville Fire Department, and any other necessary agencies in the times of power outages or other emergencies.
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (stormwater maintenance, tree trimming, etc.)	No	-
Mutual aid agreements	Yes	Mayor, Council, OEM, Fire Chief
Human Resources Manual - Do any job descriptions specifically include identifying or implementing mitigation projects or other efforts to reduce natural hazard risk?	No	-
Other	No	-
TECHNICAL/STAFFING CAPABILITY		
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Yes	Mayor and Council



Resources	Available? (Yes/No)	Comment (available staff, responsibilities, support of hazard mitigation)
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	Yes	Mayor and Council
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Yes	Mayor and Council
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	No	-
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	Yes	Mayor and Council
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS and/or Hazus applications	No	-
Staff that work with socially vulnerable populations or underserved communities	No	-
Environmental scientists familiar with natural hazards	No	-
Surveyors	Yes	Mayor and Council
Emergency manager	Yes	Office of Emergency Management
Grant writers	No	-
Resilience Officer	No	-
Other (this could include stormwater engineer, environmental specialist, etc.)	Yes	Stormwater Engineer: Harold Pellow and Associates

5.3.4 Fiscal Capability

Table 5-5 summarizes financial resources available to Branchville.

Table 5-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use? (Yes/No)
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)	Yes
Capital improvement project funding	Yes
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes
User fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	Yes
Stormwater utility fee	No
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes
Incur debt through special tax bonds	Yes
Incur debt through private activity bonds	No
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No
Other federal or state funding programs	Yes
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No



Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use? (Yes/No)
Other (for example, Clean Water Act 319 Grants [Nonpoint Source Pollution])	No

5.3.5 Education and Outreach Capability

Table 5-6 summarizes the education and outreach resources available to Branchville.

Table 5-6. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Outreach Resources	Available? (Yes/No)	Comment
Public information officer or communications office	Yes	Clerk, Mayor, and Office of Emergency Management
Personnel skilled or trained in website development	Yes	Clerk, outside contractor
Hazard mitigation information available on your website	Yes	If needed, flooding and hazard events can be added.
Social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach	No	-
Citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation	No	-
Warning systems for hazard events	Yes	Office of Emergency Management, Reverse 911; Borough Clerk
Natural disaster/safety programs in place for schools	No	-
Organizations that conduct outreach to socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations	No	-
Public outreach mechanisms / programs to inform citizens on natural hazards, risk, and ways to protect themselves during such events	Yes	Borough newsletter

5.3.6 Community Classifications

Table 5-7 summarizes classifications for community programs available to Branchville.

Table 5-7. Community Classifications

Program	Participating? (Yes/No)	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS)	No	-	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	No	-	-
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	Yes	6/10	-
National Weather Service StormReady Certification	No	-	-
Firewise Communities classification	No	-	-
New Jersey Sustainable Jersey Community	No	-	-
Other: Organizations with mitigation focus (advocacy group, non-government)	No	-	-

N/A = Not applicable

— = Unavailable



5.3.7 Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is defined as “the ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences” (IPCC 2022). Each jurisdiction has a unique combination of capabilities to adjust to, protect from, and withstand a future hazard event, future conditions, and changing risk. Table 5-8 summarizes the adaptive capacity for each identified hazard of concern and the Borough’s capability to address related actions using the following classifications:

- Strong: Capacity exists and is in use.
- Moderate: Capacity might exist; but is not used or could use some improvement.
- Weak: Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement

Table 5-8. Adaptive Capacity

Hazard	Adaptive Capacity - Strong/Moderate/Weak
Dam Failure	Moderate
Disease Outbreak	Moderate
Drought	Moderate
Earthquake	Moderate
Flood	Moderate
Geological Hazards	Moderate
Hazardous Materials	Moderate
Hurricane	Moderate
Infestation	Moderate
Nor’easter	Moderate
Severe Weather	Moderate
Severe Winter Weather	Moderate
Wildfire	Moderate

5.4 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

This section provides specific information on the management and regulation of the regulatory floodplain, including current and future compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The floodplain administrator listed in Table 5-1 is responsible for maintaining this information.

5.4.1 NFIP Statistics

Table 5-9 summarizes the NFIP policy and claim statistics for Branchville.

Table 5-9. Branchville NFIP Summary of Policy and Claim Statistics

# Policies	3
# Claims (Losses)	9
Total Loss Payments	\$57,588.67
# Repetitive Loss Properties (NFIP definition)	2



# Policies	3
# Repetitive Loss Properties (FMA definition)	0
# Severe Repetitive Loss Properties	0

NFIP Definition of Repetitive Loss: The NFIP defines a repetitive loss property as any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the NFIP within any rolling 10-year period since 1978.

FMA Definition of Repetitive Loss: FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program defines a repetitive loss property as any insurable building that has incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event.

Definition of Severe Repetitive Loss: A residential property covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and: (a) That has at least four NFIP claim payments over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000; or (b) For which at least two separate claims payments have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building. At least two of the claims must have occurred within any 10-year period, more than 10 days apart.

Source: FEMA 2024

5.4.2 Flood Vulnerability Summary

Table 5-10 provides a summary of the NFIP program in Branchville.

Table 5-10. NFIP Summary

NFIP Topic	Comments
Flood Vulnerability Summary	
Describe areas prone to flooding in your jurisdiction.	Areas prone to flooding in the Borough are the Dry Brook and Culver Brook areas.
Do you maintain a list of properties that have been damaged by flooding?	Yes, the Borough maintains a list at this time.
Do you maintain a list of property owners interested in flood mitigation?	No, not at this time.
How many homeowners and/or business owners are interested in mitigation (elevation or acquisition)?	Unknown
Are any RiskMAP projects currently underway in your jurisdiction? If so, state what projects are underway.	No, not at this time.
How do you make Substantial Damage determinations?	The Construction Official is responsible for making these determinations.
How many Substantial Damage determinations were declared for recent flood events in your jurisdiction?	Unknown at this time.
How many properties have been mitigated (elevation or acquisition) in your jurisdiction? If there are mitigation properties, how were the projects funded?	None have been mitigated at this time.
Do your flood hazard maps adequately address the flood risk within your jurisdiction? If not, state why.	Yes, the flood hazard maps address flood risk within the Borough.
NFIP Compliance	
What local department is responsible for floodplain management?	The Borough Engineer is responsible for floodplain management.



NFIP Topic	Comments
Are any certified floodplain managers on staff in your jurisdiction?	Yes, there are certified staff at the Borough.
Do you have access to resources to determine possible future flooding conditions from climate change?	Yes, the Borough has access to these resources.
Does your floodplain management staff need any assistance or training to support its floodplain management program? If so, what type of assistance/training is needed?	The FPA would consider attending training and/or continuing education training if offered in the County.
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services you provide (e.g., permit review, GIS, education/outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	The Borough provides permits and inspection services.
How do you determine if proposed development on an existing structure would qualify as a substantial improvement?	The Borough Engineer determines if a proposed development would qualify as a substantial improvement.
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	None at this time.
Does your jurisdiction have any outstanding NFIP compliance violations that need to be addressed? If so, state the violations.	No
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?	None.
What is the local law number or municipal code of your flood damage prevention ordinance?	FDPO, Chapter 64
What is the date that your flood damage prevention ordinance was last amended?	Adopted 10/20/1982 and last amended 8/3/2011.
Does your floodplain management program meet or exceed minimum requirements? If exceeds, in what ways?	The program meets minimum requirements.
Are there other local ordinances, plans or programs (e.g., site plan review) that support floodplain management and meeting the NFIP requirements? For instance, does the planning board or zoning board consider efforts to reduce flood risk when reviewing variances such as height restrictions?	Yes
Does your community plan to join the CRS program or is your community interested in improving your CRS classification?	The Borough would attend a CRS seminar if offered locally.

5.5 GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Understanding how past, current, and projected development patterns have or are likely to increase or decrease risk in hazard areas is a key component to appreciating a jurisdiction's overall risk to its hazards of concern. Recent and expected future development trends, including major residential/commercial development and major infrastructure development, are summarized in Table 5-11 through Table 5-13.

Table 5-11. Number of Building Permits for New Construction Issued Since the Previous HMP

	New Construction Permits Issued			
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	Total
2019				
Total Permits	0	0	0	0



	New Construction Permits Issued			
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	Total
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2020				
Total Permits	0	0	0	0
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2021				
Total Permits	0	0	0	0
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2022				
Total Permits	0	0	0	0
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2023				
Total Permits	0	0	0	0
Permits within SFHA	2	0	0	2

SFHA = Special Flood Hazard Area (1% flood event)

Table 5-12. Recent Major Development and Infrastructure from 2019 to Present

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zones*	Description / Status of Development
None Identified.					

* Only location-specific hazard zones or vulnerabilities identified.

Table 5-13. Known or Anticipated Major Development and Infrastructure in the Next Five Years

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zones*	Description / Status of Development
None Anticipated.					

5.6 JURISDICTIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The hazard profiles in Volume I provide detailed information regarding each planning partner's vulnerability to the identified hazards, including summaries of Branchville's risk assessment results and data used to determine the hazard ranking. Key local risk assessment information is presented below.



5.6.1 Hazard Area

Hazard area maps provided below illustrate the probable hazard areas impacted within the Borough are shown in Figure 5-1 through Figure 5-3. These maps are based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan and are adequate for planning purposes. Maps are provided only for hazards that can be identified clearly using mapping techniques and technologies and for which Branchville has significant exposure. The maps show the location of potential new development, where available.

Figure 5-1. Branchville Flood and Sinkhole Hazard Area Extent and Location Map

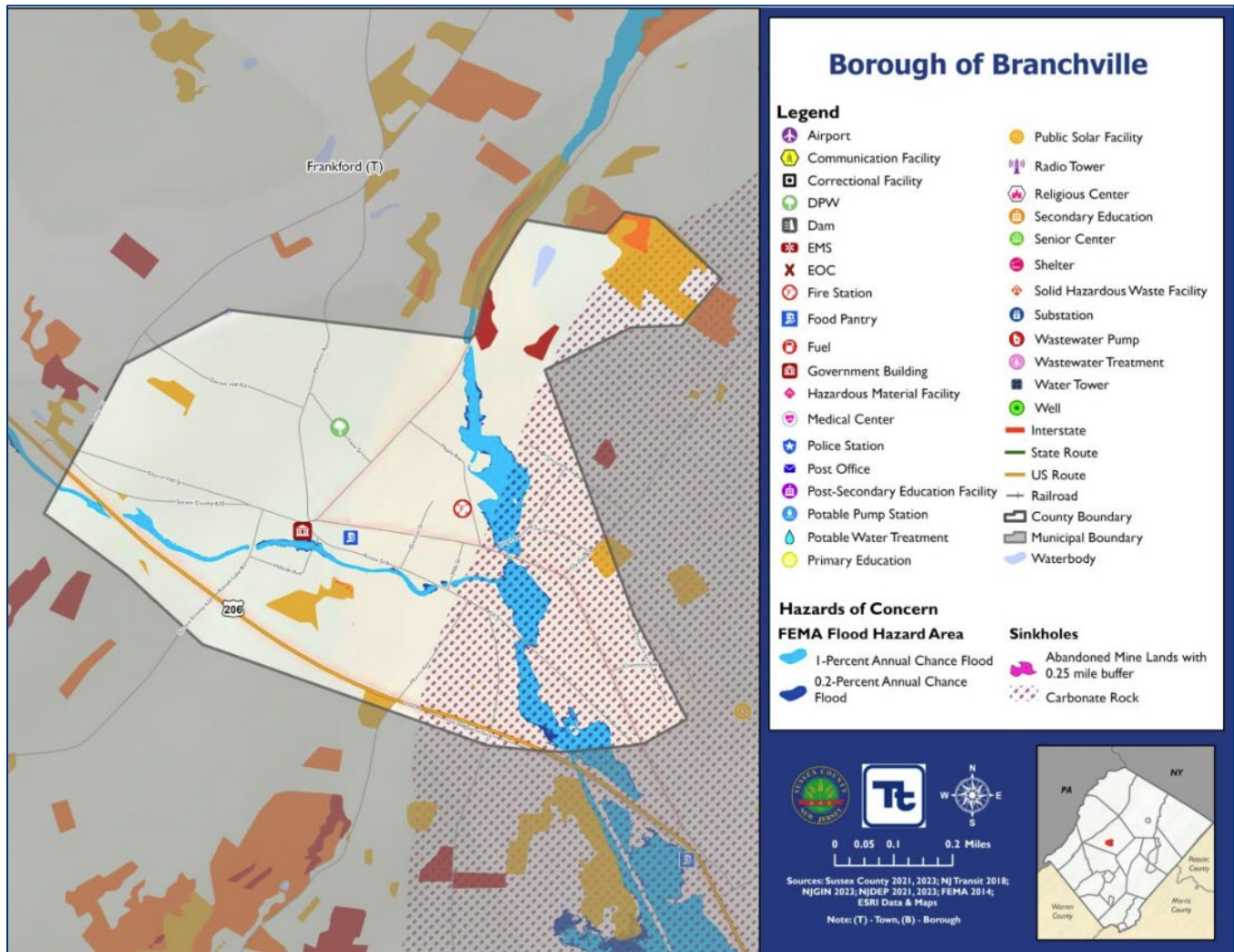




Figure 5-2. Branchville HAZMAT and Wildfire Hazard Area Extent and Location Map

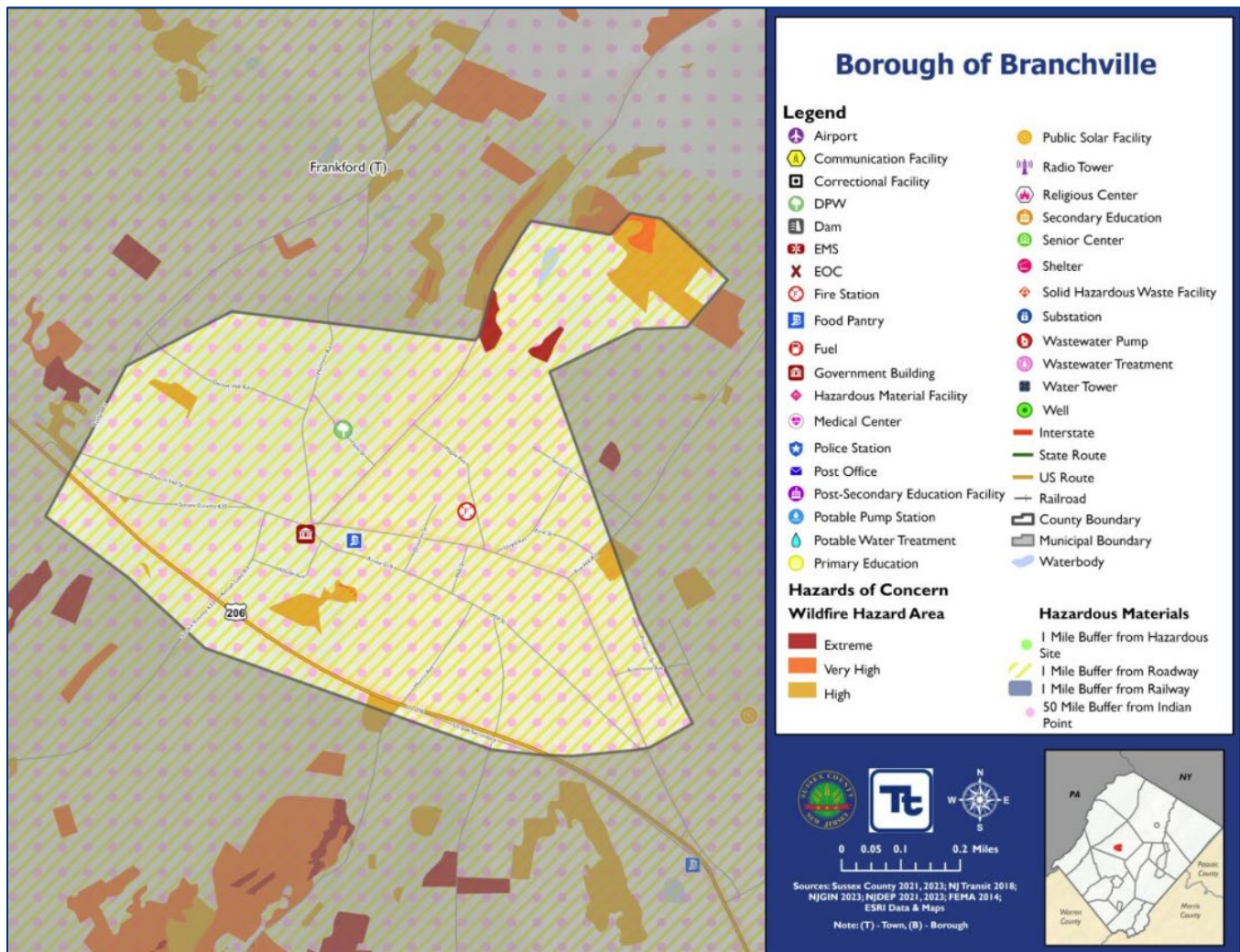
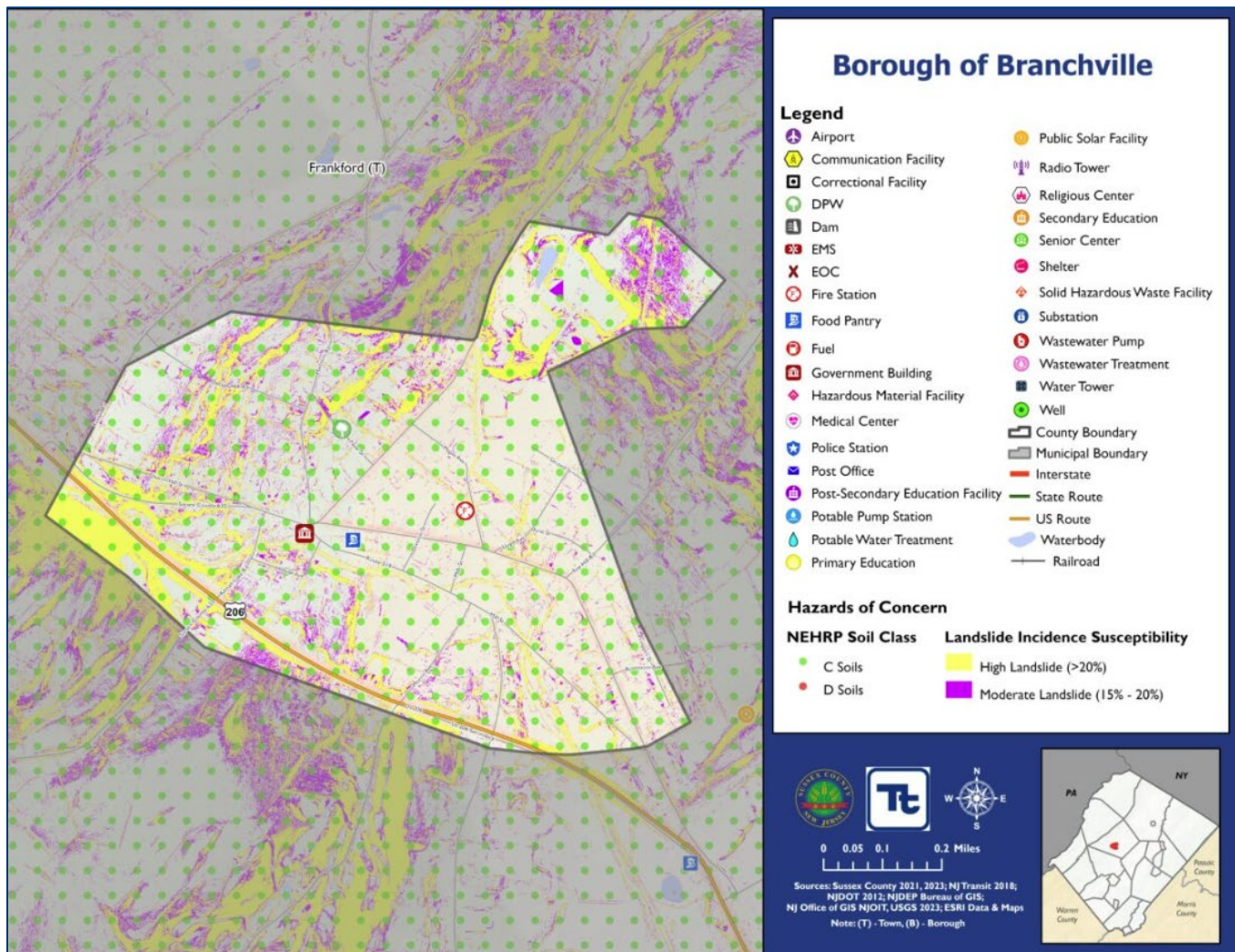


Figure 5-3. Branchville NEHRP and Landslide Hazard Area Extent and Location Map





5.6.2 Hazard Event History

The history of natural and non-natural hazard events in Branchville is detailed in Volume I, where each hazard profile includes a chronology of historical events that have affected the County and its municipalities. Table 5-14 provides details on loss and damage in Branchville during hazard events since the last hazard mitigation plan update.

Table 5-14. Hazard Event History in Branchville

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration)	County Designated?	Summary of Event	Summary of Damage and Losses in Branchville
January 20, 2020 – May 11, 2023	Covid-19 Pandemic (EM-3451-NJ, DR-4488-NJ)	Yes	Sussex County accounted for 37,642 positive cases of COVID-19 in the State of New Jersey, and 425 of the reported deaths. A total of 277,542 vaccinations were delivered in the County to both residents and non-residents.	The Borough was subject to state mandated masking and 6ft social distancing requirements.
August 4, 2020	Tropical Storm Isaias (DR-4574-NJ)	Yes	Tropical Storm Isaias brought high winds and heavy rain to Sussex County; there were numerous reports of downed trees and power lines. Observations from surrounding areas suggest sustained tropical storm force winds likely occurred.	Although the County experienced damages, the Borough did not report significant impacts.
January 31 – February 2, 2021	Severe Winter Storm (DR-4597-NJ)	Yes	Heavy precipitation developed producing areas of extreme snowfall rates of 2 to 4 inches per hour in northern New Jersey. Numerous reports of 24 to 32 inches were received from across the County.	Over \$13,969.15 in recorded damages for the Borough.
September 1-3, 2021	Remnants of Hurricane Ida (EM-3573-NJ, DR-4614-NJ)	Yes	The remnants of Hurricane Ida produced heavy rainfall and flash floods. Widespread flash flooding occurred in Sussex County with numerous road closures.	Although the County experienced damages, the Borough did not report significant impacts.

EM = Emergency Declaration (FEMA)

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency

DR = Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)

N/A = Not applicable

5.6.3 Hazard Ranking and Vulnerabilities

The hazard profiles in Volume I have detailed information regarding each planning partner's vulnerability to the identified hazards. The following presents key risk assessment results for the Borough of Branchville.

Hazard Ranking

The participating jurisdictions have differing degrees of vulnerability to the hazards of concern, so each jurisdiction ranked its own degree of risk to each hazard. The community-specific hazard ranking is based on problems and



impacts identified by the risk assessment presented in Volume I. The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard; the potential impacts of the hazard on people, property, and the economy; community capabilities to address the hazard; and changing future climate conditions. The Borough of Branchville reviewed the County hazard ranking and individual results to assess the relative risk of the hazards of concern to the community. During the review of the hazard ranking, the Borough indicated the following:

- The Borough agreed with the following calculated hazard ranking outlined in Table 5-15.

Table 5-15 shows the Borough of Branchville's final hazard rankings for identified hazards of concern. Mitigation action development uses the ranking to target hazards with the highest risk.

Table 5-15. Hazard Ranking

Hazard	Rank
Dam Failure	Low
Disease Outbreak	Low
Drought	Low
Earthquake	Low
Flood	Medium
Geological Hazards	Medium
Hazardous Materials	Medium
Hurricane	Medium
Infestation	Low
Nor'easter	High
Severe Weather	High
Severe Winter Weather	High
Wildfire	Medium

Note: The scale is based on the hazard rankings established in Volume I, modified as appropriate based on review by the jurisdiction

Critical Facilities

Table 5-16 identifies critical facilities in the community located in the 1 percent and 0.2 percent annual chance floodplains.

Table 5-16. Critical Facilities Flood Vulnerability

Name	Type	Vulnerability		Addressed by Proposed Action	Already Protected to 0.2% Flood Level (describe protections)
		1% Annual Chance Event	0.2% Annual Chance Event		
The Borough does not have any critical facilities located within the 1- or 0.2-percent annual chance floodplains.					

Source: Sussex County 2021, 2023; NJGIN 2023



5.6.4 Identified Issues

After review of Branchville's hazard event history, hazard rankings, hazard location, and current capabilities, Branchville identified the following vulnerabilities within the community:

- A recent audit of New Jersey's model ordinances by FEMA for conformance with NFIP, resulted in a review of existing local flood damage prevention ordinances. Based upon FEMA's review, specific language related to NFIP regulations was not consistent. Additionally, it was determined that better coordination was needed between the three sets of regulations that regulate development and construction in the floodplain.
- Although the Borough has flood exposure, the Borough does not participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. By participating in the CRS program, the Borough can reduce and avoid flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program, and foster comprehensive floodplain management. Borough residents which have flood insurance through the NFIP may see a decrease in flood insurance rates.
- The municipality does not have a Substantial Damage Management Plan in place, nor do they have a formal process in place when conducting substantial damage determinations. The municipality is in need of a formal process and plan to provide a framework for conducting such inspections and determinations.
- Mitigation planning in the Borough is often a separate effort from many other types of planning within the Borough, such as pandemic response and recovery. Disregarding mitigation considerations may cause gaps in the ability to fully prepare for these newer hazard events.
- Dry Brook near the Borough baseball field is prone to erosion of streambanks. The erosion of streambanks can cause flooding conditions in surrounding areas, putting infrastructure, property, and lives at risk.
- Frequent flooding events have resulted in damages to residential properties. These properties have been repetitively flooded as documented by paid NFIP claims. The Borough has two repetitive loss properties, but other properties may be impacted by flooding as well.
- The Borough does not have any organizations that conduct outreach to socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations. Identifying, communicating, and educating vulnerable populations can increase the resiliency of the Borough. Furthermore, emergency responders will be able to prioritize assistance, when feasible, in an emergency to help those who need it most.

5.7 MITIGATION STRATEGY AND PRIORITIZATION

This section discusses the status of mitigation actions from the previous HMP, describes proposed hazard mitigation actions, and prioritizes actions to address over the next five years.

5.7.1 Past Mitigation Action Status

Table 5-17 indicates progress on the Borough's mitigation strategy identified in the 2021 HMP. Actions that are still recommended but not completed or that are in progress are carried forward and combined with new actions as part of the mitigation strategy for this plan update. Previous actions that are now ongoing programs and capabilities are indicated as such and are presented in the capability assessment earlier in this annex.



5.7.2 Additional Mitigation Efforts

Branchville did not identify any additional mitigation efforts completed since the last HMP. Since the adoption of the County's first HMP, Branchville has made significant mitigation progress in the following areas:

- Public Outreach and Education.
- Backup Power
- Disaster Debris Management



Table 5-17. Status of Previous Mitigation Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Action Review 1. Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete) 2. Provide a narrative to describe progress or obstacles that have prevented implementation	Next Steps 1. Project to be included in the 2025 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2025 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
2021-Branchville-001	Generator Installation	Severe Winter Weather, Severe Weather	Borough Administration	Problem: The Borough Hall and well house do not have adequate backup power to operate during a hazard event. The Borough hall is an essential facility that acts as the emergency operation center for the municipality, while the well house is critical for public utilities that are required to be fully operating at all times. The Borough would like to install 3 phase multi-fuel source generators to power each respective facility. Solution: The Borough engineer would need to conduct a needs assessment to determine the technical energy capacity needed before determining the proper generator needed for installation. The engineer would then be tasked to purchase and install the generator at each facility. The Borough board shall assist as needed.	1. Completed. 2. Not applicable	1. Discontinue. 2. Not applicable 3. Completed - Generator installed & working at Municipal Building. Generator has been purchased for Well House (issues with electric for starting well).
2021-Branchville-002	Dry Brook Embankments	Flood	Borough DPW/Engineer	Problem: The existing embankments along Dry Brook are relatively low and are prone to overflow, causing potential widespread flooding to surrounding properties. In previous years, due to severe storm events, the brook has flooded main roads entering and existing town, in addition to forcing hundreds of residents to evacuate.	1. In Progress. 2. Not applicable	1. Keep in the 2025 HMP. 2. Not applicable 3. Not applicable



Project Number	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Action Review 1. Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete) 2. Provide a narrative to describe progress or obstacles that have prevented implementation	Next Steps 1. Project to be included in the 2025 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2025 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
				Solution: The Borough DPW and engineer will raise embankments along 70 feet of the Dry Brook near Borough baseball field. This will decrease flooding within the municipality and reduce overflow of creek during extreme weather events.		
2021-Branchville-003	Disaster Debris Management Plan	All Hazards	Borough Engineer & DPW	Problem: The Borough has previously experienced severe flooding in its brooks and streams that pass through the borough, including Dry Brook and Culvers Creek. In one year, the municipality experienced all in and outbound road closures due to stream flooding and a hundred residents forced to evacuate their homes as a result. The resulting debris from these types of events continue to be an issue to the municipality. Solution: The Borough will develop a disaster debris management plan that can be used to properly manage the debris after Severe Weathers and flooding. Having specific guidance can help municipal and business owners determine what needs to be done with excess debris. The Borough board shall lead the initiative to develop this plan, along with assistance from the DPW and engineer for technical guidance.	1. Completed 2. Not applicable	1. Discontinue. 2. Not applicable 3. Completed



Project Number	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Action Review 1. Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete) 2. Provide a narrative to describe progress or obstacles that have prevented implementation	Next Steps 1. Project to be included in the 2025 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2025 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
2021-Branchville-004	Repetitive Loss Properties	Flood, Severe Weather	NFIP Floodplain Administrator, supported by homeowners	Problem: Frequent flooding events have resulted in damages to residential properties. These properties have been repetitively flooded as documented by paid NFIP claims. The Borough has 2 repetitive loss properties but other properties may be impacted by flooding as well. Solution: Conduct outreach to 10 flood-prone property owners, including RL/SRL property owners and provide information on mitigation alternatives. After preferred mitigation measures are identified, collect required property-owner information and develop a FEMA grant application and BCA to obtain funding to implement acquisition/purchase/moving/elevating residential homes in the flood prone areas that experience frequent flooding (high risk areas).	1. Completed 2. Not applicable	1. Discontinue. 2. Not applicable 3. Completed
2020-Branchville-005	Incorporate Freeboard into FDPO	Flood	Borough Board	Problem: The Borough's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance does not have any information in regard to the state's mandated freeboard requirement. Solution: The municipality will update its flood damage prevention ordinance using the model flood prevention ordinance from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection: https://www.nj.gov/dep/floodcontrol/modelord.htm	1. Completed 2. Not applicable	1. Discontinue. 2. Not applicable 3. Completed



5.7.3 Proposed Hazard Mitigation Actions for the HMP Update

Branchville participated in the mitigation strategy workshop for this HMP to identify appropriate actions to include in a local hazard mitigation strategy. Its comprehensive consideration of all possible activities to address hazards of concern included review of the following FEMA documents:

- FEMA 551 “Selecting Appropriate Mitigation Measures for Floodprone Structures” (March 2007)
- FEMA “Mitigation Ideas—A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards” (January 2013).

The action worksheets included at the end of this annex list the mitigation actions that Branchville would like to pursue in the future to reduce the effects of hazards. The actions are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in Borough priorities.

Table 5-18 indicates the range of proposed mitigation action categories. The four FEMA mitigation action categories and the six CRS mitigation action categories are listed in the table to further demonstrate the wide range of activities and mitigation measures selected.

Volume I identifies 14 evaluation criteria for prioritizing the mitigation actions. To assist with rating each mitigation action as high, medium, or low priority, a numeric rank is assigned (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the evaluation criteria. Table 5-19 provides a summary of the prioritization of all proposed mitigation actions for the HMP update.



Table 5-18. Analysis of Mitigation Actions by Hazard and Category

Hazard	Actions That Address the Hazard, by Action Category									
	FEMA				CRS					
	LPR	SIP	NSP	EAP	PR	PP	PI	NR	SP	ES
Dam Failure	X			X	X		X			X
Disease Outbreak	X			X	X		X			
Drought	X			X	X		X			
Earthquake	X			X	X		X			X
Flood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Geological Hazards	X			X	X		X			X
Hazardous Materials	X			X	X		X			X
Hurricane	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Infestation	X			X	X		X			
Nor'easter	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Severe Weather	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Severe Winter Weather	X			X	X		X			X
Wildfire	X			X	X		X			X

Local Plans and Regulations (LPR)—These actions include government authorities, policies or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.

Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)—These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct structures to reduce the impact of hazards.

Natural Systems Protection (NSP)—These are actions that minimize damage and losses and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.

Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)—These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady and Firewise Communities

Preventative Measures (PR)—Government, administrative or regulatory actions, or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.

Property Protection (PP)—These actions include public activities to reduce hazard losses or actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.

Public Information (PI)—Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and educational programs for school-age children and adults.

Natural Resource Protection (NR)—Actions that minimize hazard loss and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.

Structural Flood Control Projects (SP)—Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, setback levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.

Emergency Services (ES)—Actions that protect people and property during and immediately following a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities



Table 5-19. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Scores for Evaluation Criteria															High / Medium / Low
		Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social Vulnerability	Administrative	Hazards of Concern	Climate Change	Timeline	Community Lifelines	Other Local Objectives	Total	
2025-BranchvilleB-01	Code Coordinated Ordinance	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
2025-BranchvilleB-02	Community Rating System Program Participation	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	9	Medium
2025-BranchvilleB-03	Substantial Damage Management Plan	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
2025-BranchvilleB-04	Plan Integration for New Hazards	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	10	Medium
2025-BranchvilleB-05	Dry Brook Streambank Stabilization	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	10	Medium
2025-BranchvilleB-06	Repetitive Loss Properties	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	12	High
2025-BranchvilleB-07	Socially Vulnerable Populations Outreach	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	High

Note: Volume I, Section 21 (Mitigation Strategy) conveys guidance on prioritizing mitigation actions. Low (0-6), Medium (7-10), High (11-14).



Action 2025-BranchvilleB-01. Code Coordinated Ordinance

Lead Agency:	Floodplain Administrator		
Supporting Agencies:	Construction Official, Administration, NFIP State Coordinator, FEMA Regional Office		
Hazard(s) of Concern:	☐ Dam Failure ☐ Disease Outbreak ☐ Drought ☐ Earthquake ☒ Flood ☐ Geological Hazards ☐ Hazardous Materials ☐ Hurricane ☐ Infestation ☐ Nor'easter ☐ Severe Weather ☐ Severe Winter Weather ☐ Wildfire		
Description of the Problem:	A recent audit of New Jersey's model ordinances by FEMA for conformance with NFIP, resulted in a review of existing local flood damage prevention ordinances. Based upon FEMA's review, specific language related to NFIP regulations was not consistent. Additionally, it was determined that better coordination was needed between the three sets of regulations that regulate development and construction in the floodplain.		
Description of the Solution:	After obtaining the appropriate review and concurrence by the NFIP State Coordinator and the FEMA Regional Office, the municipality will update and adopt the Code Coordinated Ordinance.		
Estimated Cost:	Staff time		
Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal budget		
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years		
Goals Met:	1, 2		
Benefits:	The updated ordinance will improve floodplain management, meet NFIP requirements, and increase resilience of new and substantially improved structures in the floodplain.		
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	The action will result in better regulation of construction standards within the Special Flood Hazard Area where significant risk to socially vulnerable populations, such as the elderly or disabled, may exist.		
Impact on Future Development:	The action will result in stronger regulation of construction standards for future development in the Special Flood Hazard Area within the Borough.		
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Critical facilities and lifelines located in the Special Flood Hazard Area of the Borough will be required to meet the same requirements as general building construction that are set forth in the ordinance. These critical facilities will be better protected against flooding events and will remain operational during a severe flood event.		
Impact on Capabilities:	This action will improve floodplain management capabilities through better outlining Borough responsibilities and administrative procedures.		
Climate Change Considerations:	The updated ordinance includes the State's higher standards that are in place to address heightened flood risk due to climate change such as those for floodway rise and mandatory freeboard have been incorporated in these new model ordinances.		
Mitigation Category	☒ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) ☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP) ☐ Natural Systems Protection (NSP) ☐ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)		
CRS Category	☒ Preventative Measures (PR) ☐ Property Protection (PP) ☐ Public Information (PI) ☐ Natural Resource Protection (NR) ☐ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) ☐ Emergency Services (ES)		
Priority	☒ High	☐ Medium	☐ Low
Alternatives:	Action	Evaluation	
	No action	Problem persists	
	Modify existing flood damage prevention ordinance	Time intensive and there may not be the capabilities in place for the Borough.	
	Leave NFIP	Residents lose flood insurance coverage, which is not publicly favored.	



Action 2025-BranchvilleB-02. Community Rating System Program Participation

Lead Agency:	Floodplain Administrator		
Supporting Agencies:	Borough Administration, Emergency Management		
Hazard(s) of Concern:	☐ Dam Failure ☐ Disease Outbreak ☐ Drought ☐ Earthquake ☒ Flood ☐ Geological Hazards ☐ Hazardous Materials ☐ Hurricane ☐ Infestation ☐ Nor'easter ☐ Severe Weather ☐ Severe Winter Weather ☐ Wildfire		
Description of the Problem:	Although the Borough has flood exposure, the Borough does not participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. By participating in the CRS program, the Borough can reduce and avoid flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program, and foster comprehensive floodplain management. Borough residents which have flood insurance through the NFIP may see a decrease in flood insurance rates.		
Description of the Solution:	The Borough will evaluate the benefits and costs of participating in CRS program. If feasible, the Borough will join the program and begin implementing standards that exceed NFIP requirements.		
Estimated Cost:	Low		
Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal Budget		
Implementation Timeline:	2 years		
Goals Met:	2, 5		
Benefits:	The participation in the CRS benefits communities by offering discounted rates for flood insurance premiums, which addresses the three goals of the program: reduce and avoid flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program, and foster comprehensive floodplain management.		
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	The participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) benefits communities by offering discounted rates for flood insurance premiums, which may be more affordable for some socially vulnerable populations.		
Impact on Future Development:	Future development would need to adhere to any increased standards established as part of joining the CRS program such as increased freeboard and elevation certificate requirements.		
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Not applicable		
Impact on Capabilities:	This action would enhance the Borough's floodplain management capabilities.		
Climate Change Considerations:	A warmer atmosphere means storms have the potential to be more intense and occur more often, including increased periods of intense rain events. These changes are likely to increase flood risks.		
Mitigation Category	☐ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) ☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP) ☐ Natural Systems Protection (NSP) ☒ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)		
CRS Category	☐ Preventative Measures (PR) ☐ Property Protection (PP) ☒ Public Information (PI) ☐ Natural Resource Protection (NR) ☐ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) ☐ Emergency Services (ES)		
Priority	☐ High ☒ Medium ☐ Low		
Alternatives:	Action	Evaluation	
	No action	-	
	Adopt aspects of the CRS program into the floodplain management program	Increased floodplain management capabilities but no reduction in flood insurance premiums	
	Abandon any floodplain management practices not required by NFIP	Reduction in floodplain management capabilities and increase in risk.	



Action 2025-BranchvilleB-03. Substantial Damage Management Plan

Lead Agency:	Floodplain Administrator		
Supporting Agencies:	Public Works, OEM		
Hazard(s) of Concern:	☒ Dam Failure ☐ Disease Outbreak ☐ Drought ☒ Earthquake ☒ Flood ☒ Geological Hazards ☒ Hazardous Materials	☒ Hurricane ☐ Infestation ☒ Nor'easter ☒ Severe Weather ☒ Severe Winter Weather ☒ Wildfire	
Description of the Problem:	Officials in NFIP-participating communities are responsible for regulating all development in SFHAs by issuing permits and enforcing local floodplain requirements, including Substantial Damage, for the repairs of damaged buildings. After any disaster event, they must: - Determine where the damage occurred within the community and if the damaged structures are in an SFHA. - Determine what to use for "market value" and cost to repair; uniformly applying regulations will protect against liability and promote equitable administration. - Determine if repairing plus improving the damaged structure equals or exceeds 50% of the structure's pre-damage value. - Require permits for floodplain development. The Borough does not have a Substantial Damage Management Plan in place, nor do they have a formal process in place when conducting substantial damage determinations. The Borough is in need of a formal process and plan to provide a framework for conducting such inspections and determinations.		
Description of the Solution:	The Borough will develop a Substantial Damage Management Plan, following the six step planning process in 2021 <i>Developing a Substantial Damage Management Plan</i> (https://crsresources.org/files/500/developing_subst_damage_mgmt_plan.pdf). This plan will outline responsibilities for Substantial Damage determinations, determining market value, and permit approval processes following a disaster event.		
Estimated Cost:	Low		
Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal budget		
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years to develop the plan; ongoing to maintain and update the plan		
Goals Met:	1, 2, 3, 4		
Benefits:	This plan will provide a process in making Substantial Damage Determinations and allow the municipality to make these determinations and meet NFIP requirements more quickly.		
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Substantially damaged structures are required to be rebuilt to be compliance with current codes. Socially vulnerable populations may not have the financial means to make these improvements. This action may allow for the identification of potential resources to address substantial damages to structures owned by socially vulnerable populations.		
Impact on Future Development:	A Substantial Damage Management Plan would include all existing, current, and future development in the municipality.		
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	A Substantial Damage Management Plan would include all critical facilities and lifelines in the municipality.		
Impact on Capabilities:	This action improves disaster recovery capabilities.		
Climate Change Considerations:	Climate change is likely to increase the intensity and frequency of many climate related disaster events. This action provides additional planning for disaster recovery.		
Mitigation Category	☒ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) ☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)	☐ Natural Systems Protection (NSP) ☐ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)	
CRS Category	☒ Preventative Measures (PR) ☐ Property Protection (PP) ☐ Public Information (PI)	☐ Natural Resource Protection (NR) ☐ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) ☒ Emergency Services (ES)	
Priority	☒ High	☐ Medium	☐ Low
Alternatives:	Action	Evaluation	



	No action	Problem persists
	Rely on state or federal resources following disaster events	Resources may not be available during major widespread events
	Establish MOUs with outside agencies to conduct Substantial Damage Determinations	A plan outlining responsibilities is still necessary to prevent missing important requirements



Action 2025-BranchvilleB-04. Plan Integration for New Hazards

Lead Agency:	Planning Department		
Supporting Agencies:	Office of Emergency Management, Borough Administration, State, FEMA		
Hazard(s) of Concern:	☒ Dam Failure ☒ Disease Outbreak ☒ Drought ☒ Earthquake ☒ Flood ☒ Geological Hazards ☒ Hazardous Materials	☒ Hurricane ☐ Infestation ☐ Nor'easter ☒ Severe Weather ☒ Severe Winter Weather ☒ Wildfire	
Description of the Problem:	Mitigation planning in the Borough is often a separate effort from many other types of planning within the Borough, such as pandemic response and recovery. Disregarding mitigation considerations may cause gaps in the ability to fully prepare for these newer hazard events.		
Description of the Solution:	During future updates of the Master Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, or the Emergency Operation Plan, Borough agencies will work together to integrate hazard mitigation principles and recommendations for newer hazards such as pandemic response into the plans.		
Estimated Cost:	Low		
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, BRIC, FMA, Annual Budget		
Implementation Timeline:	Short		
Goals Met:	1, 2, 3, 4		
Benefits:	Provides an opportunity for coordination amongst agencies and their planning efforts to improve the overall ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from events.		
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Communities that collaborate and coordinate their planning efforts are more likely to have identified ways to best work with vulnerable populations to increase their level of preparedness.		
Impact on Future Development:	N/A		
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Hospitals and shelters, which are critical facilities, will be better able to respond to newer hazard events such as pandemics by following updated master plan and EOP guidance.		
Impact on Capabilities:	A consolidated planning process brings together the capabilities of agencies and departments and better identifies what resources are available at any given point in time and where they are needed most.		
Climate Change Considerations:	As the climate changes, planning processes will require a more intense focus on plan maintenance and gathering of the best data to remain current and accurate over time.		
Mitigation Category	☒ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) ☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)	☐ Natural Systems Protection (NSP) ☐ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)	
CRS Category	☒ Preventative Measures (PR) ☐ Property Protection (PP) ☐ Public Information (PI)	☐ Natural Resource Protection (NR) ☐ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) ☐ Emergency Services (ES)	
Priority	☐ High	☒ Medium	☐ Low
Alternatives:	Action	Evaluation	
	No action	Problem persists	
	Rely on State mitigation and response	Effort is still needed on a local level to ensure community safety.	
	Rely on Federal mitigation and response	Effort is still needed on a local level to ensure community safety.	



Action 2025-BranchvilleB-05. Dry Brook Streambank Stabilization

Lead Agency:	Engineering																
Supporting Agencies:	Public Works																
Hazard(s) of Concern:	<table><tr><td>☐ Dam Failure</td><td>☒ Hurricane</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Disease Outbreak</td><td>☐ Infestation</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Drought</td><td>☒ Nor'easter</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Earthquake</td><td>☒ Severe Weather</td></tr><tr><td>☒ Flood</td><td>☐ Severe Winter Weather</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Geological Hazards</td><td>☐ Wildfire</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Hazardous Materials</td><td></td></tr></table>			☐ Dam Failure	☒ Hurricane	☐ Disease Outbreak	☐ Infestation	☐ Drought	☒ Nor'easter	☐ Earthquake	☒ Severe Weather	☒ Flood	☐ Severe Winter Weather	☐ Geological Hazards	☐ Wildfire	☐ Hazardous Materials	
☐ Dam Failure	☒ Hurricane																
☐ Disease Outbreak	☐ Infestation																
☐ Drought	☒ Nor'easter																
☐ Earthquake	☒ Severe Weather																
☒ Flood	☐ Severe Winter Weather																
☐ Geological Hazards	☐ Wildfire																
☐ Hazardous Materials																	
Description of the Problem:	Dry Brook near the Borough baseball field is prone to erosion of streambanks. The erosion of streambanks can cause flooding conditions in surrounding areas, putting infrastructure, property, and lives at risk.																
Description of the Solution:	The Borough Department of Public Works and Engineer will raise embankments along 70 feet of the Dry Brook near Borough baseball field. This will decrease flooding within the municipality and reduce overflow of creek during extreme weather events.																
Estimated Cost:	High																
Potential Funding Sources:	FEMA BRIC, HMGP, Municipal Budget																
Implementation Timeline:	3 years																
Goals Met:	2																
Benefits:	This action will prevent erosion along the Dry Brook, protecting property and infrastructure from further impact.																
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	This action will assist socially vulnerable populations whose properties are impacted by flooding from the Dry Brook. Furthermore, this action will assist in keeping roadways clear of flood waters for the populations which may need to attend medical appointments or require medical attention from first responders.																
Impact on Future Development:	Future development in the impacted area will be less likely to be flooded.																
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	This action would assist in the reduction of roadway flooding from the Dry Brook, permitting first responders to traverse the roadways safely.																
Impact on Capabilities:	Not applicable																
Climate Change Considerations:	A warmer atmosphere means storms have the potential to be more intense and occur more often, including increased periods of intense rain events. These periods of intense rain may lead to more instances of flooding and increased erosion.																
Mitigation Category	<table><tr><td>☐ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR)</td><td>☒ Natural Systems Protection (NSP)</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)</td><td>☐ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)</td></tr></table>			☐ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR)	☒ Natural Systems Protection (NSP)	☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)	☐ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)										
☐ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR)	☒ Natural Systems Protection (NSP)																
☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)	☐ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)																
CRS Category	<table><tr><td>☐ Preventative Measures (PR)</td><td>☒ Natural Resource Protection (NR)</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Property Protection (PP)</td><td>☒ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP)</td></tr><tr><td>☐ Public Information (PI)</td><td>☐ Emergency Services (ES)</td></tr></table>			☐ Preventative Measures (PR)	☒ Natural Resource Protection (NR)	☐ Property Protection (PP)	☒ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP)	☐ Public Information (PI)	☐ Emergency Services (ES)								
☐ Preventative Measures (PR)	☒ Natural Resource Protection (NR)																
☐ Property Protection (PP)	☒ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP)																
☐ Public Information (PI)	☐ Emergency Services (ES)																
Priority	☐ High	☒ Medium	☐ Low														
Alternatives:	<table><tr><th>Action</th><th>Evaluation</th></tr><tr><td>No action</td><td>Current problem continues</td></tr><tr><td>Remove properties impacted by stream overflow</td><td>Costly</td></tr><tr><td>Construct floodwall to prevent flooding</td><td>Cost prohibitive and could ruin natural floodplain function</td></tr></table>	Action	Evaluation	No action	Current problem continues	Remove properties impacted by stream overflow	Costly	Construct floodwall to prevent flooding	Cost prohibitive and could ruin natural floodplain function								
Action	Evaluation																
No action	Current problem continues																
Remove properties impacted by stream overflow	Costly																
Construct floodwall to prevent flooding	Cost prohibitive and could ruin natural floodplain function																



Action 2025-BranchvilleB-06. Repetitive Loss Properties

Lead Agency:	Floodplain Administrator		
Supporting Agencies:	Sussex County		
Hazard(s) of Concern:	☐ Dam Failure ☐ Disease Outbreak ☐ Drought ☐ Earthquake ☒ Flood ☐ Geological Hazards ☐ Hazardous Materials ☐ Hurricane ☐ Infestation ☐ Nor'easter ☐ Severe Weather ☐ Severe Winter Weather ☐ Wildfire		
Description of the Problem:	Frequent flooding events have resulted in damages to residential properties. These properties have been repetitively flooded as documented by paid NFIP claims. The Borough has two repetitive loss properties, but other properties may be impacted by flooding as well.		
Description of the Solution:	The Borough will promote and support non-structural flood hazard mitigation alternatives for at risk properties within the floodplain, including those that have been identified as Repetitive Loss (RL), such as acquisition/relocation or elevation depending on feasibility. The parameters for this initiative would be funding, benefits versus cost, and willing participation of property owners.		
Estimated Cost:	Medium		
Potential Funding Sources:	FEMA FMA, FMA SWIFT, Municipal Budget, County Budget, Property Owners		
Implementation Timeline:	3 years		
Goals Met:	2, 3		
Benefits:	This action would foster comprehensive floodplain management by removing at risk properties from the flood hazard area or elevating properties to reduce the flood risk.		
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Socially vulnerable populations may be able to have houses elevated or acquired when it would otherwise be unaffordable.		
Impact on Future Development:	Increased outreach to homeowners within a flood prone area will limit construction in areas that are prone to hazard events. Homes may be acquired, which will remove those structures from the floodplain and prevent future development on those sites.		
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Removing structures from the floodplain decreases the demand on utilities and emergency services including health and medical, law enforcement, and search and rescue.		
Impact on Capabilities:	This action will enhance the Borough's current NFIP capabilities.		
Climate Change Considerations:	A warmer atmosphere means storms have the potential to be more intense and occur more often, including increased periods of intense rain events.		
Mitigation Category	☐ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) ☒ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP) ☐ Natural Systems Protection (NSP) ☐ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)		
CRS Category	☐ Preventative Measures (PR) ☒ Property Protection (PP) ☐ Public Information (PI) ☐ Natural Resource Protection (NR) ☒ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) ☐ Emergency Services (ES)		
Priority	☒ High	☐ Medium	☐ Low
Alternatives:	Action	Evaluation	
	No action	Current problem continues	
	Construct flood walls/barriers around vulnerable areas	Costly and can divert floodwaters to other areas	
	Deployable flood barriers for vulnerable areas	Requires a great deal of work to implement prior to each event	



Action 2025-BranchvilleB-07. Socially Vulnerable Populations Outreach

Lead Agency:	Emergency Management		
Supporting Agencies:	Borough Administration, Sussex County		
Hazard(s) of Concern:	☒ Dam Failure ☒ Disease Outbreak ☒ Drought ☒ Earthquake ☒ Flood ☒ Geological Hazards ☒ Hazardous Materials	☒ Hurricane ☒ Infestation ☒ Nor'easter ☒ Severe Weather ☒ Severe Winter Weather ☒ Wildfire	
Description of the Problem:	The Borough does not have any organizations that conduct outreach to socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations. The Borough has struggled with identifying where socially vulnerable populations are located at within the jurisdiction. Identifying and educating these populations can increase resiliency in the Borough and potentially reduce the number of emergency calls during hazardous events.		
Description of the Solution:	Create outreach materials, or utilize those from Sussex County, on hazard risks for socially vulnerable populations. Methods of distribution may include Borough events, the Borough newsletters, social media, the Borough website, and having the materials on display for the public at Borough libraries and offices. Consider hiring staff to work directly with socially vulnerable populations. Work with Sussex County to identify and create a list of socially vulnerable populations utilizing Register Ready.		
Estimated Cost:	Low		
Potential Funding Sources:	Borough Budget, HMGP		
Implementation Timeline:	Within 3 years		
Goals Met:	1, 2, 3, 7		
Benefits:	This action will ensure there is an individual working to identify and work with the socially vulnerable populations in the Borough. Furthermore, this action will create opportunities to educate and inform populations on hazard risks.		
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Socially vulnerable populations in the Borough will become educated on hazards risks. The Borough will identify an individual to identify and work with these populations to ensure the most up to date information is being shared.		
Impact on Future Development:	Not applicable		
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Educating populations on hazard risk and how to mitigate the risks can decrease the demand on utilities and emergency services including health and medical, law enforcement, and search and rescue.		
Impact on Capabilities:	This action would build upon the Borough's already existing public education and outreach program. It would also assist the Borough in identifying where socially vulnerable populations are located in the jurisdiction.		
Climate Change Considerations:	Climate change is likely to increase the intensity and frequency of many climate related disaster events. This action will inform residents and business owners of how to reduce risk from hazards and how climate change may exacerbate those risks.		
Mitigation Category	☐ Local Plans and Regulations (LPR) ☐ Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)	☐ Natural Systems Protection (NSP) ☒ Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)	
CRS Category	☐ Preventative Measures (PR) ☐ Property Protection (PP) ☒ Public Information (PI)	☐ Natural Resource Protection (NR) ☐ Structural Flood Control Projects (SP) ☐ Emergency Services (ES)	
Priority	☒ High	☐ Medium	☐ Low
Alternatives:	Action	Evaluation	
	No action	Current methods remain the only ones used	
	Rely on state or federal resources	Resources may be generalized and not specific to the risks in the Borough	



	Use only a few methods for distribution	Using only a few methods of distribution may hinder socially vulnerable populations from receiving the guidance
--	---	---