Waltham 2026 LHMP Executive Summary

The Town of Waltham developed its All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in 2026. Town officials and citizens worked with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission to conduct a hazards inventory and risk assessment matrix, identify locations where hazards are known to the community, and identify potential mitigation projects associated with the hazards identified.

The committee identified the following hazards as their **HIGHEST** vulnerabilities, based on probability, warning time, geographic impacts, property damage, and other concerns:



- **High Winds (9.60)**
- **Flash Flooding & Fluvial Erosion (9.60)**



The following hazards were identified as **HIGH** vulnerabilities:




- **Invasive Species (8.00)**
- **Severe Ice Storm (6.60)**
- **Highway Accidents (6.00)**
- **Drought (6.00)**




The following hazards were identified as **MODERATE** vulnerabilities:




- **Lightning Storm (5.40)**
- **Severe Snow Storm (4.20)**
- **Extreme Heat (4.20)**
- **Extreme Cold (4.20)**
- **Structure Fire (3.60)**
- **Infectious Disease (3.60)**
- **Tornado (3.20)**
- **Wildfire (3.20)**
- **Severe Hail Storm (2.80)**
- **Insect-borne Illness (2.80)**
- **Inundation Flooding (2.50)**











For each hazard type, the committee considered previous occurrences and extent, current vulnerability, and future probability. The committee set these overall mitigation goals and objectives:

Goal 1: Increase Community Awareness of Waltham's Vulnerability to Natural Hazards

Objective: Inform and educate the community about the types of hazards the Town of Waltham is exposed to, where they occur, how to prepare, and recommended responses

Goal 2: Reduce Vulnerability of People, Property, and the Environment to Natural Hazards

Objective: Provide mechanisms to enhance life safety
Objective: Reduce impacts to critical facilities and services
Objective: Reduce impacts to existing buildings and infrastructure to the extent possible
Objective: Reduce impacts to future development and infrastructure to the extent possible
Objective: Reduce impacts to the town's natural and historic resources
Objective: Reduce impacts to public health

Goal 3: Increase Interagency Capabilities and Coordination to Reduce the Impacts of Natural Hazards

Objective: Continue to collaborate and coordinate with other agencies on planning, projects, hazard response, and funding opportunities

The committee also developed a prioritized list of future mitigation actions and projects, with care taken to include only those projects which could be considered reasonable and feasible based primarily on capacity, cost, and political feasibility. The highest priority actions include:

Hazard	Future Mitigation Actions
All Hazards	Provide community information on Preparation Kits and Go-Bags Encourage residents to sign up for statewide VT Alert and the CARE Registry systems
	Obtain a back-up generator or solar panels + storage battery for the Town Hall and Office Support installation of residential energy storage/generators
High Winds	Remove dead and dying trees from town rights of way as part of normal maintenance- especially central portion of Route 66 Support GMP efforts to maintain rights of way and bury power lines
Flash Flooding	Update town zoning Flood Hazard Area language and adopt FEMA FIRM in order to enroll in National Flood Insurance Program Evaluate and replace high flood-risk culverts on town-owned roads and rights-of-way
Invasive Species	Follow state recommendations for roadside mowing to prevent seed production of Poison Parsnip Provide education and monitoring of Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer damage.
Severe Ice Storm	Support GMP efforts to maintain rights of way and bury power lines Manage vegetation in town ROW's to minimize/allow space for powerlines
Highway Accident	Maintain contract with Addison County Sheriff for limiting speeding and parking enforcement on Route 66 Support lower speed limit on portions of Route 17
Drought	Provide education to residents about water conservation measures
Lightning Storm	Provide lightning-mitigation education materials on the Town website
Severe Snow	Identify appropriate shelters for people who may need to evacuate due to loss of electricity, isolation, cold temperatures Work with private landowners to encourage construction of wind/blow rows
Extreme Heat	Work towards Town Hall capacity as emergency cooling shelter with back-up power Develop and implement a Hot Weather-Cooling Shelter plan
Extreme Cold	Encourage residents to sign up for the CARE registry and set up a process to check on vulnerable populations during severe cold events
Structure Fire	Continue financial and personnel support of Vergennes Fire Dept
Infectious Disease	Develop and maintain continuity planning and agreements for potential town staff shortages.
Tornado	Encourage residents to sign up for VT-Alert to receive early weather warnings
Wildfire	Require outdoor burn permits prior to any outdoor burning.
Severe Hail Storm	Provide hail-safety education materials on the Town website
Insect-borne Illness	Provide mosquito-safety educational materials on the use of appropriate repellants and behavior patterns to reduce the mosquito bites
Inundation Flooding	Update Town Zoning to meet National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards and adopt new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps

A Hazard Mitigation Plan is dynamic and should not be static. To ensure that the plan remains current and relevant, it is important that it be updated periodically. The hazard mitigation plan should be reviewed by all new town officials and revised and updated in its entirety every 5 years.