

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
NO. 12-21-307

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL
ALL-HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

RESOLUTION: Public Safety Committee

WHEREAS Middlesex County, NJ has exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment and the County's economy; and

WHEREAS pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS a Multi-jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan has been developed by the County's Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS the Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy including a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time, will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park:

1. The Borough of Highland Park adopts in its entirety, the Middlesex County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (the "HMP") as the jurisdiction's official Hazard Mitigation Plan; minor revisions to the HMP recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management may be incorporated without further action.
2. The Borough of Highland Park resolves to execute the actions identified in the HMP that pertain to this jurisdiction, and municipal departments identified in the HMP are directed to pursue implementation of the recommended high-priority activities that are assigned to them.
3. The Borough of Highland Park will use the adopted and approved portions of the HMP to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
4. The Borough of Highland Park will coordinate the strategies identified in the HMP with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
5. The Borough of Highland Park will continue its support of the Local Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.
6. The Borough of Highland Park will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
7. The Borough of Highland Park will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.

- 8. The Borough of Highland Park will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

ADOPTED: December 21, 2021

ATTEST:

Jennifer Santiago, Deputy Clerk

I, Jennifer Santiago, Deputy Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on the 21st day of December 2021.

Jennifer Santiago, Deputy Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

Council Member	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canavera				
Foster				
George				
Hale				
Hersh				
Kim-Chohan				



Appendix A-7: Borough of Highland Park

The Borough of Highland Park participated in the 2020/2021 Middlesex County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update. This appendix includes the locally-specific information about the Borough. The following sections detail the planning process and participants; the current population, building stock, and land development trends; hazards that specific to the Borough and corresponding risk assessments; the Borough's mitigation strategy, and a local capability assessment. Information and data that is uniform throughout the planning area is included in Sections 1-7 of this plan update.

1. PLAN DEVELOPMENT

On July 2, 2020, the Borough of Highland Park returned a Letter of Intent to Participate in the Hazard Mitigation Plan, designating various municipal employees to sit on a Local Planning Committee, as listed below. The Local Planning Committee completed municipal worksheets (included in Appendices C & E) and worked to gather the necessary information to support the plan update. Members of the LPC and other municipal representatives met with the Planning Consultant on November 5, 2020. The LPC reviewed all drafts of this appendix prior to adoption.

See section 2.2 in the main body of the Hazard Mitigation Plan for a description of the stakeholder engagement process and the list of members on the stakeholder engagement committee. The members included representatives from social service, health, educational, environmental and utility organizations that serve Middlesex County residents, with service areas that range from local to county-wide. Stakeholder input received from the committee is summarized in section 4.2.3.

Due to the limitations on participation posed by the pandemic and the strains on time and resources for many local governments and other community organizations during the year 2020, participation of stakeholders at the municipal level was limited. In accordance with FEMA guiding principles for inclusive participation at various levels, the planning team will place a high priority on expanded efforts towards stakeholder participation on local planning committees in future plan updates.

Table 1. Borough of Highland Park Local Planning Committee Members (2021)

Name	Title	Organization
Teri Jover	Borough Administrator	Borough of Highland Park
Scott Brescher	Construction Code Official	Borough of Highland Park
Bruce Koch	Borough Engineer (consultant)	CME Associates
Kathleen Smith	Health Department	Middlesex County
Gayle Brill Mittler	Mayor	Borough of Highland Park
Jim Polos	OEM Coordinator	MPM, MCIAuth
Chris Cosenza	Planner (consultant)	LRK
Mike Wiczorkiewicz	Public Works Superintendent	Borough of Highland Park
Allan Williams	Environmental Commission	Borough of Highland Park



2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Physical Location

The Borough of Highland Park has a total area of 1.82 square miles and is located in the west-central region of Middlesex County, New Jersey. Highland Park is located on the north bank of the Raritan River, and is bordered by Edison and Piscataway to the north, east and west, and New Brunswick to the south across the Raritan River. Primary transportation routes include Route 18, Route 27, County Routes 514, 622, 676, and 692. New Jersey Transit provides bus service. There are no commuter rails in Highland Park.

Hydrography and Hydrology

Highland Park is part of the Lower Raritan Watershed, within the Raritan Basin. The Raritan River flows along the Borough's southern border. The river is tidal through this stretch, as the head of tide is located in the adjacent Township, Piscataway, north of the Borough. There are a few tributaries to the Raritan that flow through the Borough, including the Mill Brook.

History and Governance

The Borough of Highland Park was formally incorporated on March 15, 1905, from Raritan Township (now called Edison). Highland Park is governed under the Borough form of government and has an elected Mayor and six Council members. The Mayor is elected directly to a four-year term of office. Town Council members are elected to serve three-year terms on a staggered basis, with two seats coming up for election every year. The Borough Council holds monthly meetings open to the public where it discusses legislation under consideration.

3. CLIMATE PROFILE

Table 2. Climate Change Interactions and Impacts Summary

Primary Climate Change Interaction	Natural Hazard	Other Interactions	Potential Climate Change Impacts
Changes in Precipitation	Drought		Less rainfall can prompt droughts; both possess negative impacts on agricultural output.
	Flooding	Dam/Levee Failure	Increased rainfall will cause more floods that can overtop dams and break levees.
	Geologic	Power Failure	Increased rainfall can lead to soil saturation, which catalyzes landslides. Landslides can damage existing power and fuel infrastructure.
Sea Level Rise	Flooding		Exacerbated by sea level rise, events like coastal floods, hurricanes, and nor'easters can all overburden and damage existing engineering and utility infrastructure.
	Hurricanes, Nor'easter	Power Failure	
Extreme Temperature	Drought, Wildfire		Increased heat can kill trees and accumulate masses of flammable dry wood or brush. This can cause wildfires or brushfires to burn longer and with more intensity.
		Power Failure	Electricity use for air conditioning may strain power grids leading to outages.
Non-Climate Influenced Hazards	Earthquake	Power Failure	There are no established connections between climate change and the likelihood of this hazard.



4. DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Trends

According to the American Community Survey, the population in 2019 was 13,982.¹ This is a 0.1% decrease from 2000. The Borough of Highland Park has a population density of 7,688 persons per square mile. It is the 3rd densest municipality within the County. A summary of major population and household characteristics may be found in the following tables.

Table 3. Population Summary Estimates (2019 American Community Survey)

Population	Quantity	Percent of Municipal Population
Total Population	13,992	100
Median Age	35.2	N/A
17 years and under	3,080	22
65 years and over	1,662	11.9
Race		
White	9,437	67.4
Black/African-American	1,412	10.1
Native American/Alaskan Native	34	0.2
Asian	1,937	13.8
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0
Other Race (unspecified)	629	4.5
Two or More Races	543	3.9
Hispanic or Latino	2,283	16.3

Population statistics may further reveal potential vulnerabilities in the community. The following table details the distribution of two groups included in vulnerable population analyses (children and the elderly) according to household description. Residents living alone, particularly the elderly, may have fewer coping mechanisms and resource than those in household groups, therefore may constitute a demographic that could require assistance in mitigating their vulnerability.

Table 4. Household Characteristics Summary Estimates (2019 American Community Survey)

Households	Quantity	Percent of Total
Total Households	5,608	100
Family Households (related)	3,438	61.3
Family Households w children under 18	1,853	33
Non-Family Households (unrelated)	2,170	38.7
Non-Family Households, living alone	1,605	28.6
Non-Family Households, living alone over 65	425	7.6



The majority of housing units in Highland Park are renter-occupied with nearly 58% of units in the rental sector. The housing stock is predominantly over 40 years old with nearly 80% built before 1979.

Table 5. Housing Characteristics Summary Estimate (2019 American Community Survey)

Housing Characteristics	Estimate
Total Occupied Housing Units	5,608
Percent Owner-occupied	42.4
Percent Renter-occupied	57.6
Percent built after 2010	1.7
Percent built before 1979	79.8

Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations include those groups that may require special assistance, considerations, accommodation or other needs during emergency events to facilitate their effective and safe compliance with emergency instructions. This includes, but is not limited to, those individuals needing mobility assistance (strollers, wheelchairs, etc.), those with financial needs (cannot afford hotel rooms, food, necessities, during evacuation periods, etc.), those requiring translation or interpretation services to understand emergency information (non-English-speaking populations, deaf and hard of hearing), persons considered legal minors, persons with cognitive impairments, persons with specialized medical needs (electric dependent equipment, refrigerated medications, use of personal assistants for routine and basic care, medical transportation needs, etc.), and populations with social disadvantages or other needs that may require unique considerations during emergency events. Identifiable vulnerable populations in Highland Park include (but may not be limited to) the following:

Table 6. Highland Park Social Vulnerability Profile

High Overall Social Vulnerability Tracts	0	
Municipal Socioeconomic Status		
High Vulnerability Tracts		0
Population Variable	Population Within Variable	% of Total Population
Below Poverty	1,463	10.46%
Unemployed	468	3.34%
No High School Diploma	346	2.47%
Municipal Household Composition & Disability		
High Vulnerability Tracts		0
Population Variable	Population Within Variable	% of Total Population
Aged 65 or Over	1,662	11.88%
Aged 17 Or Younger	3,080	22.01%
Civilian with a Disability	1,275	9.11%



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Household Variables	Households Within Variable	% of Total Households
Single-Parent Households	474	7.81%
Average Household Income: \$45,349		

<i>Municipal Minority Status & Language</i>		<i>High Vulnerability Tracts</i>	<i>0</i>
Population Variable	Population Within Variable	% of Total Population	
Minority	5,937	42.43%	
Black or African American	1,336	9.55%	
AIAN	0	0.00%	
Asian	1,937	13.84%	
NHPI	0	0.00%	
Other	9	0.06%	
Two Or More Races	372	2.66%	
Hispanic or Latino	2,283	16.32%	
Speak English "Less than Well"	514	3.67%	

<i>Municipal Housing & Transportation</i>		<i>High Vulnerability Tracts</i>	<i>0</i>
Household Variables	Households Within Variable	% of Total Households	
Multi-Unit Structures	1,343	22.14%	
Mobile Homes	0	0.00%	
Crowding	167	2.75%	
No Vehicle	627	10.34%	
Population Variable	Population Within Variable	% of Total Population	
Group Quarters	15	0.11%	

Social vulnerability is presented in section 3.4.1 of the main County report. During our discussion, the individual municipalities referenced considerations for vulnerable populations. In Highland Park, officials identified vulnerable populations as seniors, people with language barriers, renters, and residents who do not use technology during Shabbat.

Recent and Expected Development

The majority of new construction has been on River Road and on Cleveland Avenue. The Overlook development is at the corner of River Road and Cedar Lane and the Crossings redevelopment is on Wayside Drive at River Road. On Cleveland Avenue, Heritage at Highland Park is nearing completion and a private school has recently been approved there as well. A 40-unit development on 1 acre lots is under construction at River Road and Walter Avenue. Buck Woods has been rezoned for 75 units near Donaldson and South 7th Ave. East of the Buck Woods site, and south of Donaldson Street, a large solar field has been installed by PSEG.

All new development projects are subject to floodplain regulations and stormwater management regulations.

The Borough did a Master Plan re-examination and land use update in 2019.



Table 7. Land Use Change and Projects Proposed

Project Name	Type	# of Structures	Location	Known Hazards	Description/ Status
Overlook	Multi-family residential	82 units	Cedar Ave and River Rd	Not in SFHA	Complete
Crossings	Single-family and multi-family residential	94 units	Wayside Dr and River Rd	Not in SFHA	Complete
433 Cleveland Ave	Private school	1 structure	Cleveland Ave	Not in SFHA	Planning Board Approval; awaiting construction permit application
Heritage @ Highland Park	Multi-family	110 units	Cleveland Ave	Not in SFHA	Construction nearly complete; sales ongoing
31 River Rd	Multi-family residential	1 structure; 40 units	River and Walter	Not in SFHA	Construction underway
Buck Woods between S. 5 th & S. 7 th Aves	Multi-family residential	75 units (zoned)	Donaldson and South 7 th Avenue	Not in SFHA	Zoning adopted
PSEG Solar Field at Donaldson St	Solar array	Ground mounted solar array	East of Buck Woods and south of Donaldson	Not in SFHA	Complete

Community Lifelines and Interconnections with Hazard Mitigation and Response

In the main body of the HMP, Section 4.5 summarizes the reliance and relationships between municipalities and community lifelines with regard to specific hazards. Each of the seven lifelines (safety/security, food/water/shelter, health/medical, energy, communications, transportation, hazardous material) represent a critical area for response. This is the first year that the plan is using this lifeline framework. As a result, each of the municipal entities may have some data deficiencies regarding the reporting about the presence of specific lifeline sub-components. NJOEM intends to further inventory and identify data sources that will assist communities in building out comprehensive lifeline and asset inventories.

In Highland Park, there is a concern to build up the food/water/shelter lifeline to support vulnerable populations during extreme high temperature events, particularly if combined with power outage. Officials also mentioned that during flooding, community lifelines could help to respond to the needs of multi-family units. Regarding the communication lifeline, Highland Park noted that there are technology challenges in reaching seniors and language barriers in reaching non-English speakers. All emergencies present challenges to reach renters, as well as reaching the Jewish community during Shabbat. There is a concern that if an accident occurred on the freight lines, lifelines would be necessary to deal with potential hazardous materials. Finally, Highland Park officials remarked that the pandemic affected the food/water/shelter lifeline in that it presented challenges to safely operating food pantries.

5. HAZARDS



Table 8. Hazard Assessment

Hazard	2015 Priority	2021 Priority	LPC Comments
Civil Unrest	<i>new in 2021</i>	Low	
Coastal Erosion	Low	Low	tidally influenced
Dam/Levee Failure	Low	Low	
Drought	Medium	Medium	
Earthquakes	Low	Low	
Extremely High Temperatures	High	High	Would be a concern if had power outage during high heat event
Extremely Low Temperatures	Low	Medium	increased demand - housing security issues, people from New Brunswick.
Floods (riverine, coastal, storm surge, tsunami, and stormwater flooding caused by local drainage and groundwater levels)	High*	High	Top concern: Capacity of stormwater system as Highland Park is "downstream" from other municipalities. Drainage pipes under railroad get clogged and back up. Also concerned with flooding from Raritan and ice flow backups - get flooding when Raritan floods. Mill Brook goes overbank from stormwater.
Geologic Hazards (landslides, subsidence, and sinkholes)	<i>not ranked</i>	Low	
Hazardous Materials (fixed sites, rails, and other transportation)	Medium	Medium	
Hurricanes/Tropical Storms	High*	High	
Nor'easters	High	High	
Pandemic	<i>new in 2021</i>	High	
Power Outages	High	High	Power outages are a top concern.
Severe Weather (high winds, tornadoes, and hail)	High	High	High winds are a top concern.
Wildfire	Low	Low	
Winter Storm (snow, blizzards, and ice storms)	Medium	Medium	

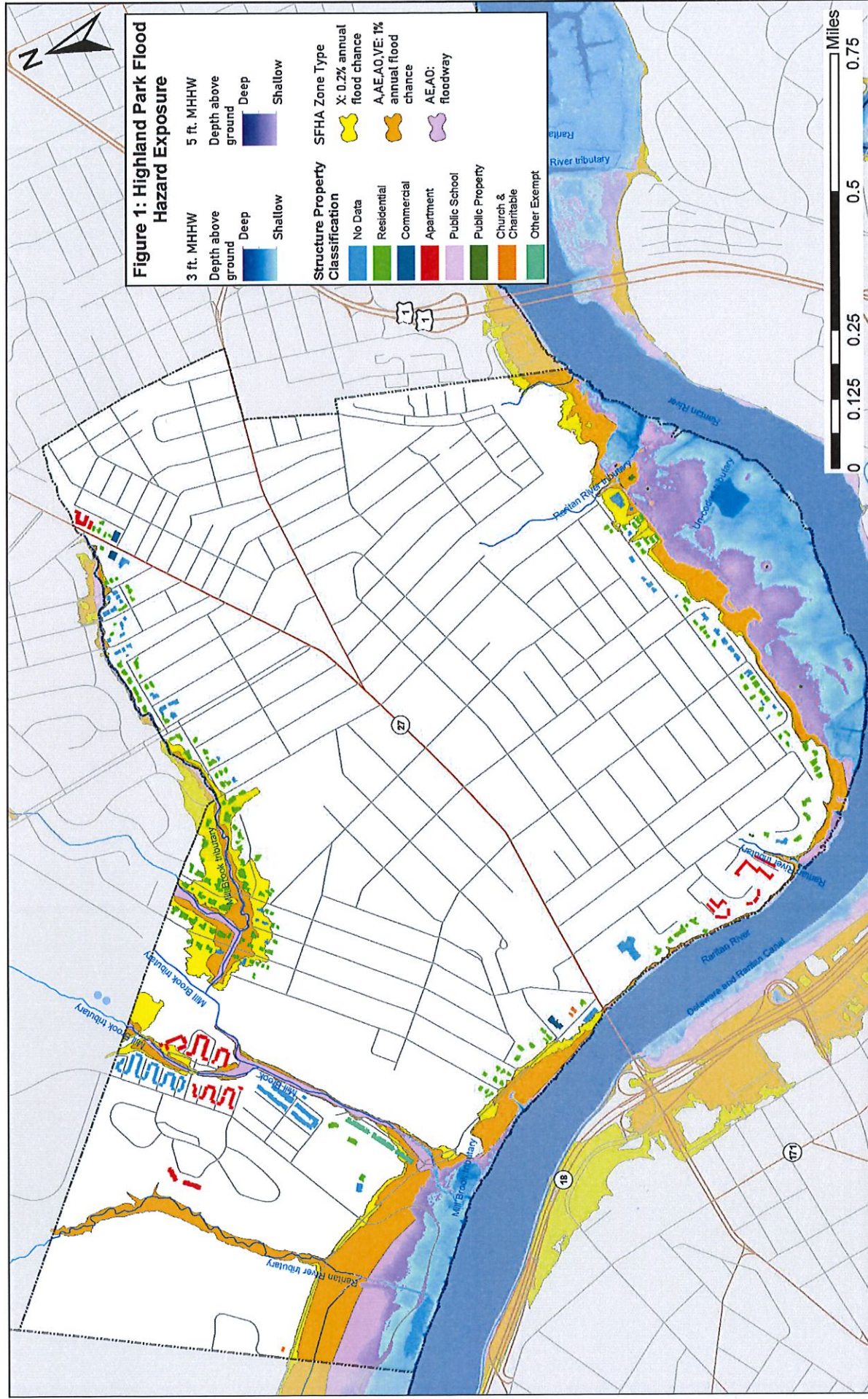
Table 8 shows the community hazard rankings from 2015 and from 2021. As part of the development of the jurisdictional appendices for the 2015 plan, municipalities ranked the list of hazards as high, medium, low, or no concern. For the 2021 update, municipalities again considered and ranked the salience of the hazards. This time, municipalities selected the top three priority hazards, shown as "High" in the 2021 column of the table. (Note that two hazards, pandemic and civil unrest, were added to the 2021 list). For those hazards not ranked as the top three, the 2021 column carries through the same ranking as the 2015 column, unless there was a specific discussion about that hazard changing in severity in the five-year span. The specific hazards in the subsections below are based on these rankings.

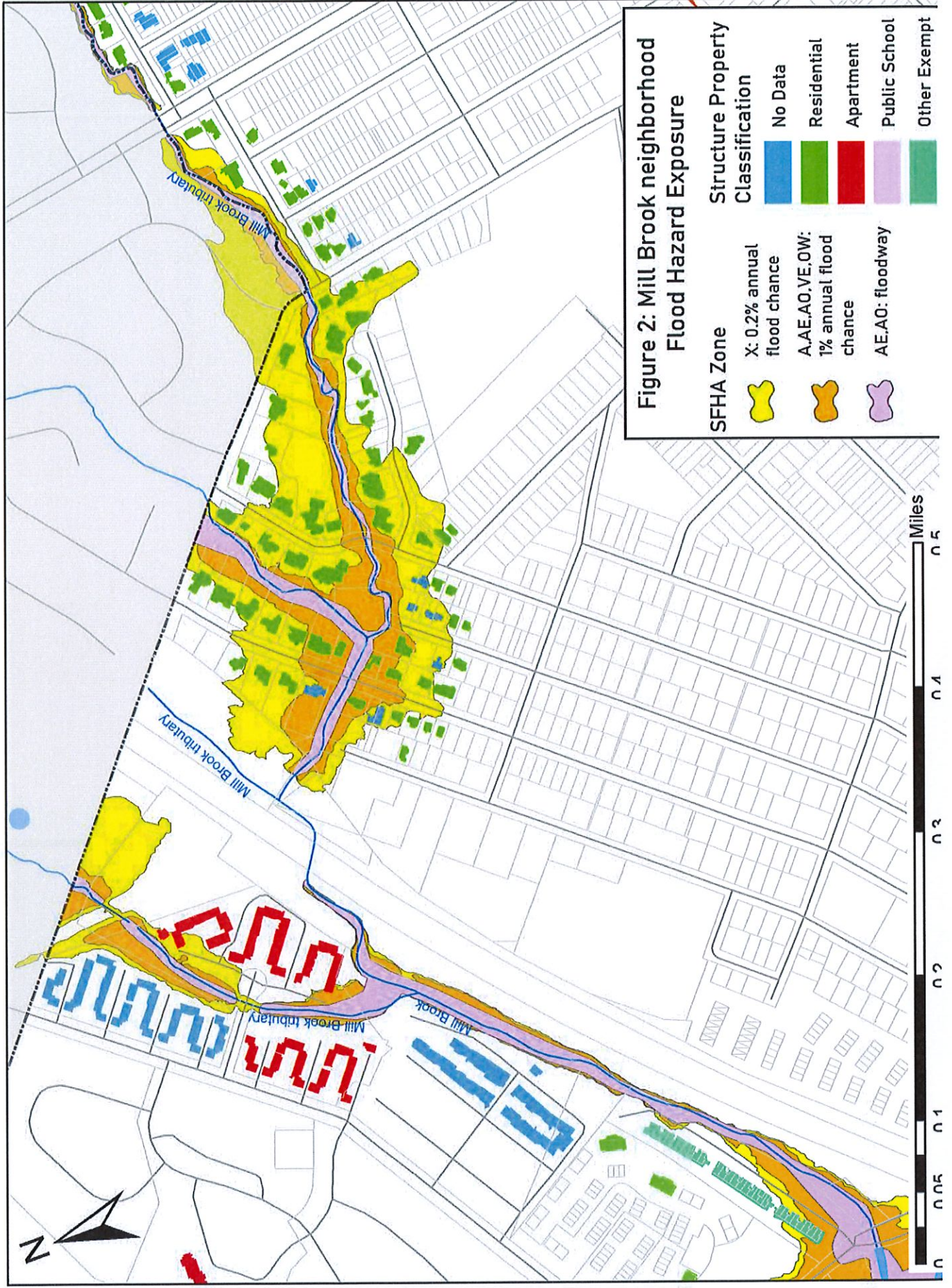


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Here we highlight any changes in the hazard profile between 2015 and 2021, with detail about those changes drawn from meetings with the local planning committee.

- Extremely Low Temperatures – Rank increased from Low to Medium. Increased demands on warming centers because there are housing security issues and people coming from New Brunswick.







National Flood Insurance Program and Repetitive Loss Properties

To provide a sense of the flood risk in a community it is also beneficial to summarize the policies in force and claims statistics from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Highland Park has been a member of the NFIP since 1978. Highland Park does not currently participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program.

FEMA NFIP statistics indicate that as of December 2020, federal flood insurance policies were in-force on 46 (66) properties in Highland Park. Between 1978 and 2020, there have been a total of 55 (45) NFIP insurance claims in the jurisdiction, with a total claims value of \$381,245 (\$382,951). As of September 2019, FEMA calculated that 14.29% of structures whose parcels were within the effective special flood hazard area held federal flood insurance.

Table 9 compares the number of policies in-force and paid claims in the jurisdiction. The table shows that Highland Park comprises 1.4% of the NFIP policies in-force in Middlesex County. The average NFIP claim in Highland Park \$6,932 (\$8,510) is significantly less than the County average of \$26,259 (\$31,549).

It should be noted that NFIP claims are not a direct or completely accurate proxy for flood risk in a community. The data does not include flood damages to structures that had no flood insurance. Also, in some cases, structures or contents may have been underinsured. The NFIP claims data also does not include any damages to public facilities, which may be insured via other means (such as self-insurance or non-FEMA policies); such damages may also be addressed through other federal programs such as FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

Table 9. NFIP Policies and Claims in Highland Park

Measure	Highland Park	Middlesex County	Local Percent
2020 Policies in Force	46	3,344	1.4
Total Claims (1978 – Current)	55	4,331	1.3
Total Paid (1978 – Current)	\$381,245	\$113,730,153	0.3

Source: FEMA HUDEX Report (https://nfipservices.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/NFIP_HUDEX-Policy-Loss-Data-by-Geo_20201231.xlsx)

FEMA FIRM maps and hazard areas are the current standard for floodplain management, and this standard was used to determine properties in hazard areas (Table 10). The 100- and 500-year flood zones and building footprints are shown in Map 1, with additional neighborhood-scale detail for Mill Brook, centered on the northern dead-end of Grant Ave (Map 2).

For a 1% chance flood event (100-year flood), residential property exposures are greatest in number, followed closely by public properties. Specific areas of the Boro with properties in the 100-year zone include residences along Harrison, Grant, and Lincoln Aves near the Mill Brook; County facilities in Donaldson Park; and the WCTC-AM radio tower building in The Meadows. The Public School property class appears to be Rutgers-owned unoccupied land.

Within the 500-year floodplain, the risk expands considerably; the Mill Brook floodplain area includes more homes along Harrison, Grant, and Lincoln; along Brookdale and on S Park Ave between N 5th and N 7th Aves. Lower along the Mill Brook, the floodplain includes portions of apartment complexes on Bartle Ct and Lambiance Court. Near Donaldson park, the floodplain includes the HP Public Works building and homes on the Parkview Terrace dead-end.



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Table 10. Replacement Value of Properties (in thousands (\$000)) within FEMA FIRM Inland and Coastal Flood Hazard Areas

Highland Park		2 residential	4A commercial	4C apartment	15A Public Sch Property	15C public property	15D church + charitable	15F other exempt	no class data	Grand Total
AE (100yr)	Value	\$2,606	\$64		\$0	\$0			\$0	\$2,671
	Number	6	1		1	4			2	14
X (500yr)	Value	\$10,373	\$0	\$1,581		\$0	\$0	\$1,658	\$489	\$14,101
	Number	25	0	1		0	0	1	7	34

Notes: Exposures include flooding from both tidal and non-tidal waters. The 'X' (500-year floodplain) exposures represent those facilities exposed between the 100-year and 500-year floodplain, not a cumulative value. The replacement value for church & charitable properties is consistently \$0 because those assessments are based on property tax payments, from which such properties are exempt. Public properties partially represent buyout properties where previous building footprints have been purchased and come under public ownership and demolition. Commercial and apartment buildings represent more than one unit / household exposure.

As sea-levels rise, the number of exposed structures in Highland Park increase slightly. Table 11 depicts the building footprints that are either fully inundated or partly exposed to more than 700 sq ft of flooding when a coastal flood event for each of the given heights (2, 3, 5, 7, and 12 ft above MHHW) occurs. The replacement value of the structures and property classifications are derived from the 2019 NJ MOD-IV database of property tax records.

Table 11. Cumulative Replacement Value of Properties (in thousands (\$000)) Exposed to Coastal Flooding Water Levels

		2 residential	4A commercial	15C public property	no class data	Grand Total
5 ft MHHW	Value			\$0		\$0
	Number			2		2
7 ft MHHW	Value		\$64	\$0		\$64
	Number		1	2		3
12 ft MHHW	Value	\$653	\$64	\$0	\$0	\$718
	Number	2	1	3	2	8

Notes: Each row represents cumulative counts and values for all properties exposed to a flood event at the given threshold. Exposure include only coastal flooding (i.e., inland flood exposures from non-tidal waters are not assessed). The replacement value for church & charitable properties is consistently \$0 because those assessments are based on property tax payments, from which such properties are exempt. Public properties partially represent buyout properties where previous building footprints have been purchased and come under municipal ownership. Commercial and apartment buildings represent more than one unit / household exposure.

There are few facilities exposed to current high tide flooding (approximately 2 ft above MHHW) in Highland Park. At 5 ft above MHHW, vulnerability is limited to public facilities in Donaldson Park, and at 7 feet MHHW, the WCTC-AM commercial structure. At 12 ft MHHW, the remaining public buildings in Donaldson Park, two residences on Parkview Terrace, and the Public Works buildings all experience flooding. Note that at this water level, the lowest-lying buildings on Lambiance Court are partly-inundated, but to less than the 700sqft threshold mentioned above.



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Table 12. Repetitive Loss Properties (NFIP) in Highland Park

Flood Zone	Number of Repetitive Loss Properties			Number of Repetitive Loss Claims			Property Losses (thousands of dollars)		
	At-Risk	Mitigated	Total	At-Risk	Mitigated	Total	At-Risk	Mitigated	Total
AE	4	0	4	17	0	17	\$188	\$0	\$188
X	4	0	4	9	0	9	\$119	\$0	\$119
All zones	8	0	8	26	0	26	\$306	\$0	\$306

Table 12 above accounts for all Repetitive-Loss properties in the Borough. The following list delineates areas where clusters of such properties occur; specific addresses of individual Repetitive Loss properties may not be divulged.

- 4 at-risk properties: between Cleveland and Grant Avenues, between Madison Ave and the border with Edison Twp.



6. CAPABILITIES ASSESSMENT

Each community within the planning area has a unique set of capabilities and priorities that affect its mitigation strategy. The following tables detail the capabilities assessed for the Borough of Highland Park during this plan update.

Table 13. Planning and Regulatory

Tool / Program (code, ordinance, plan)	2015 2021 Updated			Mitigation Updates
Master Plan	Y	Y	Y	2019 – Reexamination Report https://www.hpboro.com/home/showdocument?id=1997 2019 – Land Use Plan Element, https://www.hpboro.com/home/showdocument?id=1999 2019 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, https://www.hpboro.com/Home/ShowDocument?id=2129
Capital Improvements Plan	Y	Y	N	
Floodplain Management / Basin Plan	N	N	N	
Stormwater Management Plan	Y	Y	N	
Open Space Plan	N	N	N	
Stream Corridor Management Plan	Y	Y	N	
Watershed Management or Protection Plan	N	N	N	
Economic Development Plan	N	N	N	
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	N	N	N	
Emergency Operation Plan	N	N	N	
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	N	N	N	
Transportation Plan	N	N	N	
Strategic Recovery Planning Report	N	N	N	
Zoning Ordinance	Y	Y	N	
Subdivision Ordinance	Y	Y	N	
NFIP: Cumulative Substantial Damages	Y	Y	N	
Growth Management Ordinances	N	N	N	
Site Plan Review Requirements	Y	Y	N	
Stormwater Management Ordinance	Y	Y	N	
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)	Y	Y	N	
Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO)	N	N	N	
Natural Hazard Ordinance	N	N	N	
Post-Disaster Recovery Ordinance	N	N	N	
Real Estate Disclosure Requirement	N	N	N	
Other [Special Purpose Ordinances (i.e., sensitive areas, steep slope)]	Y	Y	N	Building Code under review



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Table 14. Staff/Personnel

Resources	2015	2021	Updated	Comments
Planning Board	Y	Y	N	
Mitigation Planning Committee	N	N	N	
Environmental Board/Commission	Y	Y	N	
Open Space Board/Committee	N	N	N	
Economic Development Commission/Committee	Y	Y	N	
Maintenance Programs to Reduce Risk	N	N	N	
Mutual Aid Agreements	Y	Y	N	
Planner(s) or Engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Y	Y	N	
Engineer(s) or Professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Y	Y	N	
Planners or engineers on staff with a strong understanding of natural hazards	Y	Y	N	
NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Y	Y	N	
Surveyors	N	N	N	
GIS layers and maps	N	N	N	
Personnel trained in GIS	N	N	N	
Personnel trained in HAZUS	N	N	N	
Emergency Manager	Y	Y	N	
Grant Writer	N	N	N	
Staff with expertise in cost/benefit analysis	N	N	N	
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	N	N	N	

Table 15. Education/Outreach and Community Classifications

Program	2015	2021	Updated	Comments
Community Rating System (CRS)	N	N	N	
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	N	N	N	
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	N	N	N	
Storm Ready	N	N	N	
Firewise	N	N	N	
Disaster/Safety Programs in/for Schools	N	N	N	
Organizations with Mitigation Focus (advocacy group, non-government)	N	N	N	
Public Education Program/Outreach (through website, social media)	Y	Y	N	
Public-Private Partnerships	N	N	N	



Table 16. Fiscal Capabilities

	2015	2021	Updated
Do you have a line item in your operating budget for mitigation project funding?	N	N	N
If no, will you look at mitigation actions when allocating funding in the future?	Y	Y	N
Do you have a line item in the Capital Improvement Budget for mitigation project funding?	N	N	N
Have you provided funding for mitigation projects identified in the hazard mitigation plan?	N	N	N
Does your town have the authority to Levy Taxes for specific purposes?	Y	Y	N
Does your town have user fees for water, sewer, gas or electric service?	Y	Y	N
Do you impose impact Fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes?	N	N	N
Does your community have an open space acquisition fund?	N	N	N
Do you use bonds to finance projects (general obligation bonds, special tax bonds, private activity bonds)	Y	Y	N



7. MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 17. Previous Mitigation Actions – Completed and/or Ongoing

LMA #	HMP round	Mitigation action	Anticipated benefits to hazard mitigation	Applies to existing or new structures	Existing implementation mechanism	Responsible Party	Target Date	Estimated cost (\$)	Funding Source	Priority (H/M/L)	Status/Review
1	2010, renewed 2021	Based on jurisdiction determination work with NJDOT to eliminate flooding on Montgomery Street near Lincoln Avenue	Flood	Existing	Capital Improvement Plan	Municipal Department of Public Works	Based on jurisdiction determination	<\$500,000	NJDOT, FMA, PDM-C & HMGP if available.	H	Ongoing (Prior efforts cleared storm drains). <i>Re-evaluating conditions in this location based on reported flood impacts from Hurricane Ida</i>
2	2010	Backup power (generator) and/or utility protective measures for Highland Park Borough Hall (serves as EOC) and adjacent Senior Center	All	Existing	Capital Improvement Plan	Municipal OEM	1 year	<\$250,000	HMGP (5% initiative), PDM, Capital Improvements	H	Ongoing. Generator installed at Community Center; connection to Borough Hall being evaluated
3	2010	Notification System such as reverse 911 and/or warning sirens	All	NA	Capital Improvement Plan	Municipal OEM	1 to 2 years	To be decided by system specs chosen at time of application	HMGP (5% initiative)	H	Completed. The Borough uses "Code Red" as their reverse 911 system, Nixle, Borough Web-site and Kiosks around town



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4	2010	Bring Police, Fire Station, First Aid Squad up to current codes and standards	All	Existing	Capital Improvement Plan	Municipal Public Safety Committee	3 years	\$100,000	HMGP, PDM, Capital Improvements	H	Completed. Built a new Police Station and renovated the Fire House. The First Aid Squad updated their building
5	2015, renewed 2021	Elevation or acquisition of repetitive loss (RL) properties.	Flooding in RL areas, as described in Table 12 of this document	Existing	Capital Improvement Plan	OEM	1-3 years	Varies	Grants, e.g. NJDEP Blue Acres Program; HMGP	H	Ongoing. Looking into available programs at NJDEP and FEMA. In correspondence with Blue Acres.
6	2015, renewed 2021	Pursue CRS application	Flood	Existing	Local Ordinances	OEM	2-3 years	Staff time	Technical assistance grants	M	Ongoing. CRS application

Table 18. Current Mitigation Actions – Carryover and/or New

LMA #	HMP round	Mitigation action	Anticipated benefits to hazard mitigation	Applies to existing or new structures	Existing implementation mechanism	Responsible Party	Target Date	Estimated cost (\$)	Funding Source	Priority (H/M/L)	Status/Review
7	2021	Develop microgrid to service Borough buildings and critical uses during extended power outages	All	Existing	Capital Improvement Plan NIBPU TCDER Microgrid Program	BPU PSEG	1-5 years	Costly, but team is studying how to make the finances work as part of the ongoing feasibility analysis	BPU	H	Complete Phase II study with design specifications



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8	2021	Full inspection and mapping of storm water system to ensure capacity and identify maintenance needs	Flood	Existing and future	Capital Improvement Plan	Municipal Public Works Committee	1-2 years	\$200,000	Storm water utility fees (requires local legislation); Grants; Loans, e.g. NJ I-Bank	H	Developing scope of work and identifying funding options
9	2021	Establish and maintain emergency shelter to serve vulnerable residents during extreme weather events	All	Existing and future	Local policies and budget	Municipal Public Safety Committee	ongoing	\$10,000/year	Grants, e.g. Middlesex County Code Blue Support Grant	M	Continue successful partnership with RCHP-AHC to provide shelter service utilizing municipal property
10	2021	Better coordination with neighboring communities regarding downstream development impacts	Flood	Future	Local policies	Municipal administration and Borough Engineer	ongoing	Staff time	n/a	M	Establish regular communication with neighboring Edison and Piscataway
11	2021	Expand two-way communications options during periods of electronic isolation to ensure adequate emergency notifications	All	Existing and future	Local policies and budget	Municipal administration and communications department	Ongoing	\$5,000/year	Grants	H	Convert to premium Nixle product that allows for reverse 911 and SMS communications Develop specifications for smoke test of the sanitary sewer system to identify illegal tie-ins; review ordinance and amend as necessary
12	2021	Address illegal sump pump tie-ins to sanitary sewer system	Flood	Existing	Capital Improvement Plan	Municipal Public Works Committee	1-2 years	\$100,000	Grants; loans e.g. I-Bank	M	



8. PLAN ADOPTION

On [insert date] Middlesex County submitted the initial draft of the 2020 Plan Update to NJOEM for review and comment. After addressing NJOEM comments in the document, the HMP was resubmitted for final consideration and approval by NJOEM and FEMA. FEMA approved the plan on [insert date], and the Plan update was forwarded to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for adoption, which occurred on [insert date].

The Borough Council approved the plan on [insert date]. The Borough resolution for adoption is provided below, and Middlesex County's adoption resolution is provided as Appendix K of the 2021 HMP update. Following adoption, the plan update was resubmitted to FEMA for final approval, which occurred on [insert date]. The FEMA approval letter is included as Appendix L.

9. PLAN MAINTENANCE

The Borough of Highland Park will review this Appendix of the County's All Hazards Mitigation Plan every year and give the County's HMP Coordinator an annual progress report. The OEM Coordinator is responsible for convening the LPC, initiating the plan review, and submitting the annual progress report. The LPC may use [worksheet 7.1](#) in FEMA's *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* to facilitate the review and progress report.. Local progress reports shall be provided to the County HMP Coordinator at least two weeks prior to the annual plan review meeting.

Additionally, the LPC will convene and review the plan when major hazard events impact the jurisdiction, potentially yielding opportunities for mitigation grant funding, or when new information suggests that plan elements do not accurately reflect the community's risk or its mitigation priorities.

If necessary, the OEM Coordinator will convene a meeting of the LPC to review and approve all changes. The Borough retains the discretion to implement minor changes to the document without formal procedures involving the Borough Council subject to local policies and regulations.

In addition to the annual progress report, the Borough of Highland Park will provide Middlesex County with a copy of the written notice of any changes to the jurisdictional appendix at the time such changes are implemented.