

Town of Wilton, New Hampshire

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026



Prepared with Assistance from the Nashua Regional Planning Commission



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Emergency Management



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Nashua Regional Planning Commission and the Town of Wilton wish to thank the following individuals for serving on the Town's Hazard Mitigation Committee and for their assistance in the development of this Plan:

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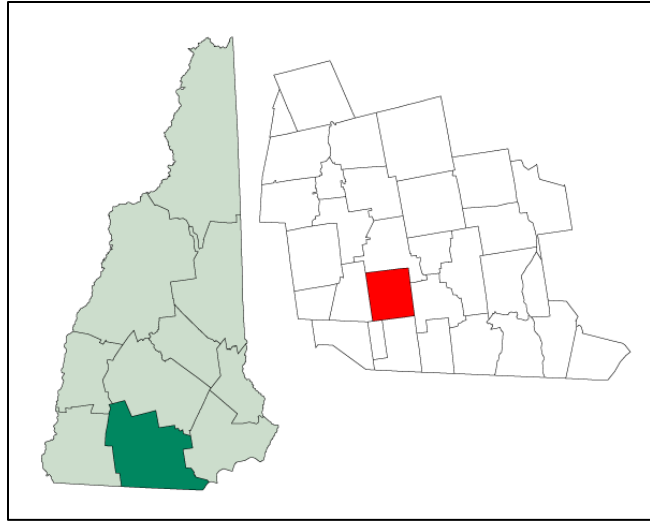
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¹EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jurisdiction and Community Profile

This plan addresses the Town of Wilton, NH. Wilton is located in the southern part of the state in Hillsborough County, bordering Lyndeborough to the north, Milford to the East, Mason and Greenville to the south, and Temple to the west. The town is comprised of 25.8 square miles (approximately 16,390 acres), sitting on the convergence of the Souhegan and Stony Brook Rivers. Major transportation routes include NH RT 101 and NH RT 31.



According to the 2023 American Community Survey, there are approximately 3,935 residents and the median age is 46.1 years. At this time there were approximately 1,646 households and about 71% of housing consists of single-family homes. Wilton participates in Pre-K through grade 12 through the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative District (SAU 63). Public schools in town include the Florence Rideout Elementary School (grades 1-5) and the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Middle High School (grades 6-12). Residents attend preschool and Kindergarten at the Lyndeborough Central School Early Learning Center (also in SAU 63).

Wilton is governed by a Board of Selectmen with an Annual Town Meeting, and with a Town Administrator running the daily administrative functions. Town Departments include but are not limited to Administrative, Ambulance, Assessing, Building Inspector, Emergency Management, Fire, Police, Welfare, Health Officer, Highway Department, and Recycling Center.

Scope of the Plan

This Plan addresses the following types of Hazards:

- Drought
- Earthquake
- Extreme Temperatures
- Flooding
- Severe Wind
- Lightning & Hail
- Severe Winter Weather
- Tornado
- Wildfire
- Infectious Disease

¹ Photo Source: Andrew Sawyer - Created from [Boundary/Border Outline Files](#) of the Libre Map Project which held a [BY-SA creative commons license](#). Data originally from [2000 US Census boundary data](#).

Other hazards that are mentioned but not addressed due to minimal risk:

- Avalanches
- Landslides
- Coastal Flooding
- Solar Storms & Space Weather
- Ice Jams
- Erosion

Hazard Mitigation Goals

The first step in developing a mitigation strategy is to establish goals that reflect what the municipality wishes to achieve through the implementation of its Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team established the following goals and objectives, based on its desire to protect the Town's population, critical facilities, infrastructure, emergency services, natural resources, and private property. These goals provided the basis for identifying and prioritizing mitigation actions.

Goal 1—Prevent the impacts of natural hazards on the Town's population, critical facilities, infrastructure, emergency services, natural resources, and private property whenever possible.

- Objective 1.1—Manage development of known hazard areas to avoid the risks associated with natural hazards.
- Objective 1.2—Plan to incorporate hazard mitigation into capital improvements and other future initiatives.
- Objective 1.3—Ensure building codes and other standards include requirements that make new construction more disaster resistant.
- Objective 1.4—Support the maintenance of this hazard mitigation plan.

Goal 2—Protect the Town's existing critical facilities, infrastructure, and private property from the impacts of natural hazards through cost effective mitigation activities.

- Objective 2.1—Modify existing structures to reduce damage from future natural hazard events.
- Objective 2.2—Perform cost effective flood hazard mitigation measures to protect private property.

Goal 3—Educate and inform the Town's residents to help them become more resilient to natural hazards impacting the community.

- Objective 3.1—Utilize educational methods to change the perception from "disaster losses are acceptable" to "many disaster losses are preventable if mitigation practices are followed."
- Objective 3.2—provide educational opportunities across all age ranges.
- Objective 3.3—Develop and distribute public awareness materials regarding the relative risk of natural hazards and practical mitigation measures to reduce damage and injuries.

Goal 4—become more resilient to the impacts that climate change has on the Town's population, critical facilities, infrastructure, emergency services, natural resources, and private property.

- Objective 4.1—Ensure development in hazard areas does not destroy natural barriers to damage, such as floodplains and vegetation.

- Objective 4.2—Protect or recreate environmental assets to help safeguard the built environment.
- Objective 4.3—Prioritize which climate change impacts to address and when. Prioritization could be based on vulnerability assessment results, current needs, upcoming plans, feasibility, or budget considerations.
- Objective 4.4—Develop an adaptation strategy, including potential mitigation measures, timelines, responsible parties, and available funding sources.
- Objective 4.5—Implement the adaptation strategy and incorporate finding into hazard mitigation plan updates.
- Objective 4.6—Track progress and monitor results to determine where improvements can be made. Adjust the implementation strategy as necessary.

Goal 5—Address the challenges of natural resource degradation and the associated increased risk from hazards.

- Objective 5.1—Ensure development in hazard areas does not destroy natural barriers to damage, such as floodplains and vegetation.
- Objective 5.2—Protect or recreate environmental assets to help safeguard the built environment.

Goal 6—Protect and harden emergency services, critical facilities, and other critical capabilities from hazard damage for them to remain operational.

- Objective 6.1—Identify critical facilities, infrastructure, and emergency services and their vulnerabilities to natural hazards, along with any existing deficiencies.
- Objective 6.2— Develop and implement programs to promote hazard mitigation actions that protect the provision of emergency services in Town.
- Objective 6.3—Identify, maintain, and protect evacuation routes from hazard damage so they are usable when needed.

CHAPTER 1. PLANNING PROCESS

Section 1.1. Overview of Planning Process

The Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026 was prepared by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) for the Town of Wilton, NH. NRPC staff worked closely with the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team to write this plan.

NRPC staff met with the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team for a series of 4 meetings to prepare the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026. Agendas from these meetings appear in the Appendix to this Plan. In between meetings, NRPC worked directly with the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team members to obtain additional information needed to write the Plan.

The primary differences between the 2026 Plan and the 2021 Plan are 1) Infectious Disease is now recognized by the State as a hazard, and 2) Solar and Space Weather is now recognized by the State as a hazard.

Section 1.2. Involvement of Neighboring Communities and Local/Regional Agencies

At the first Hazard Mitigation Team meeting, held on March 14, 2025, the group discussed who should be invited to participate in the planning team. It was determined that the current Team provided adequate representation, and no additional members were necessary. The Team also discussed who should be informed about the Plan, such as neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation, agencies with authority to regulate development, and others. It was concluded that the following entities should be informed of the Plan update:

- Board of Selectmen, Mont Vernon, NH
- Select Board, Milford, NH
- Board of Selectmen, Lyndeborough, NH
- Select Board, Mason, NH
- Board of Selectmen, Greenville, NH
- Select Board, Greenfield, NH
- Select Board, Temple, NH
- Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District, Lyndeborough, NH
- High Mowing School, Wilton, NH
- Souhegan Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Amherst, NH
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Concord, NH
- American Red Cross, Concord, NH
- Kimball Physics Inc., Wilton, NH
- Atlantic Prefab Incorporated, Wilton, NH
- Monadnock Water, Wilton, NH
- SHARE Center, Milford, NH
- Open Cupboard Pantry, Wilton, NH
- Roedel Companies, Wilton, NH

A copy of the letter that was sent to these entities appears in the Appendix to this Plan. There were no responses from any of the entities listed above.

Section 1.3. Public Participation

During the first Hazard Mitigation Team meeting, held on March 14, 2025, the Team brainstormed methods currently employed to notify the public of Town meetings and news. These methods primarily include the Town's website (<https://www.wiltonnh.gov/>), Town of Wilton Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/townofwilton>), Wilton Ambulance Service Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/TownofWiltonAmbulance>), Wilton Fire Department Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558624195329>), Wilton Department of Public Works Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1882205912605423>) and the Wilton Police Department Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/wiltonnhpd>).

The Team determined that these methods should also be used to encourage public participation in the Hazard Mitigation Plan update process. There was no public response to provide input to the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2021 process.

NRPC staff also developed a webpage for the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026 (https://nashuarpc.org/about_nrpc/our_region_communities/wilton_hazard_mitigation_plan_update.php), which allows members of the public to participate in the update process even if they cannot attend meetings. The webpage was updated throughout the planning process and includes the 2021 Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Outline, and Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Checklist. It also provides meeting times, locations, agendas, and homework assignments. The Town of Wilton's website links to this webpage. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission will keep the website active and will add information about ongoing updates over the next five years. A screen shot of the website appears in the Appendix to this Plan.

Section 1.4. Existing and Potential Authorities, Policies, Programs, and Resources

At the first Hazard Mitigation Team meeting, held on March 14, 2025, the Team discussed Wilton's existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources related to hazard mitigation and its ability to expand and improve on these. The purpose of this discussion was to determine the ability of the Town to implement its hazard mitigation strategies and to identify potential opportunities to enhance specific policies, programs, or projects. The evaluation of Wilton's existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources includes planning and regulatory capabilities, emergency management capabilities, floodplain management capabilities, administrative and technical capabilities, and fiscal capabilities. Each of these areas provides an opportunity to integrate hazard mitigation principles and practices into the local decision-making process.

Specifically, the Hazard Mitigation Team is comprised of select individuals that represent various town functions and capabilities that will be needed to expand on and improve existing policies and programs, as well as be the responsible parties to implement mitigation strategies.

Emergency Management Director – The EMD will facilitate any update to emergency operations and plans/programs. Many hazard mitigation actions involve providing education and services to residents, which falls under the jurisdiction of emergency management.

- Emergency Management Director (EMD) - The EMD will facilitate any update operations and plans/programs. Many hazard mitigation actions involve providing education and services to residents, which falls under the jurisdiction of emergency management.
- Fire Chief - The Fire Chief implements improvements to programs and policies of the Fire Department to support mitigation strategies and priorities.
- Police Chief – The Chief of Police interacts with the public on a regular basis and will directly support expansion and improvement programs involving public education, protection, and communication as well as the Police Department in general.
- Public Works Director – The Public Works Director provides insight on existing conditions and deficiencies in municipal infrastructure as well as directs Public Works Department functions such as maintenance of transportation and stormwater infrastructure. Many mitigation actions include infrastructure maintenance and improvement as well as implementation of new programs.
- Town Administrator – The Town Administrator is a central contact for all departments and will assist in implementing department-wide changes and mitigation actions.
- Deputy Town Administrator – The Deputy Town Administrator assists the Town Administrator in coordinating with departments and implementing department-wide changes and mitigation actions.
- Building Inspector - The Building Inspector ensures that buildings/structures meet safety requirements by enforcing building codes.
- Finance Officer – the Finance Officer oversees and manages Wilton’s financial activities and budget. Many mitigation actions require financial planning in which the Finance Officer plays a key role.

Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

Planning and regulatory capability is based on the implementation of plans, ordinances, and programs that demonstrate Wilton’s commitment to guiding and managing growth in a responsible manner. The following is a summary of the relevant local plans, ordinances, and programs already in place in the Town of Wilton. Each one should be considered as an available mechanism for incorporating the recommendations of the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.

- [Wilton Land Use Laws & Regulations, Zoning Ordinance 10.0, Floodplain Conservation District](#)— regulations in this district apply to all lands designated as special flood hazard areas by FEMA
- [Wilton Land Use Laws & Regulations, Zoning Ordinance 11.0, Wetlands Conservation District](#)— the regulations in this District are intended to guide the use of land with extended periods of high-water tables, in the interest of public health, convenience, safety, and welfare.
- [Wilton Land Use Law & Regulations, Zoning Ordinance 12.0, Aquifer Protection District](#)—the purpose of this district is to protect, preserve, and maintain existing and future municipal water supply sources of the Town by regulating the uses of land over known aquifers and their

recharge areas, so as to protect such supplies from contamination caused by adverse or incompatible land use practices or developments.

- [Wilton Land Use Laws & Regulations, Zoning Ordinance 14.0, Watershed District](#)—the purpose of this district is to preserve water quality and to protect the health and welfare of the residents of the Town by minimizing sources of pollution through regulation and restriction of population density and activity, and by keeping organic and inorganic wastes to a minimum.
- [Wilton Land Use Laws & Regulations: Section D, Site Plan Review Regulations](#)—includes provisions for Special Flood Hazard Areas, environmental factors, storm drainage, and erosion and sediment control
- [Wilton Land Use Laws & Regulations: Section E, Building Code \(Amended 2025\)](#)—the purpose of this code is to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of Wilton residents by ensuring a minimum standard of building construction. Building permits are required from the building inspector as specified by the International Code Council’s complete suite of International Codes.
- [Wilton Master Plan](#)—Natural Resources chapter was updated in 2023, Housing and Population chapter was updated in 2024, and the Historical and Cultural Resources chapter was updated in 2022.
- [Capital Improvements Plan – 2024](#)
- [National Flood Insurance Program](#)

Emergency Management Capabilities

Hazard mitigation is a key component of emergency management, along with preparedness, response, and recovery. Opportunities to reduce potential losses through mitigation practices are typically implemented before a hazard occurs, such as enforcement of policies to regulate development that is vulnerable to hazards due to its location or design. Existing emergency management capabilities for the Town of Wilton include:

Emergency Management Plans

- Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021—this document provides a guide for the community to reduce the impact of natural hazards on its residents and the built environment.
- Wilton Emergency Operations Plan – adopted in 2013, amended in 2019 and 2024.

Emergency Management Departments, Facilities, Personnel, and Volunteers

- Florence Rideout Elementary School – provides emergency shelter, emergency power generator
- Gregg Free & Wilton Public Library – provides emergency warming/cooling shelter, device charging
- Wilton Fire Department
- Wilton Police Department
- Wilton Ambulance Service—serves the Towns of Wilton, Lyndeborough, and Greenfield; provides mutual aid to Milford and Greenville
- Emergency Management Director
- Emergency Operations Center at Fire Department
- Souhegan Valley Mutual Aid—provides fire, police, ambulance, and highway assistance to municipalities in southwest Hillsborough County
- County-wide Police mutual aid

Emergency Management Communications

- Dispatch—primary dispatch is through the Milford Area Communications Center in Milford. Hollis Communications Center is backup along with the State Police Communications Center.
- [Wilton Ambulance Service Facebook](#), [Wilton Police Department Facebook](#) and [Wilton Fire Department Facebook](#)—emergency management announcements
- [Wilton Municipal Website](#)—emergency management announcements and education
- Nixle – utilized by MACC Base
- Code Red – emergency alert service
- Agreement with Nashua Fire for Hazardous Events

Floodplain Management Capabilities

The Town of Wilton participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This provides full insurance coverage based on risk as shown on detailed Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Wilton joined the NFIP on April 15, 1980. As a participant in the NFIP, communities must agree to adopt a floodplain management ordinance and enforce the regulations found in the ordinance. Wilton has adopted the “Floodplain Conservation District,” which establishes regulations for development activities in the Town’s designated flood hazard areas. Additional information on the Floodplain Conservation District and Wilton’s participation in the NFIP can be found in Section 3.7 of this Plan.

Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Wilton’s ability to develop and implement mitigation projects, policies, and programs is closely related to the staff time and resources it allocates to that purpose. Administrative capability can be improved by coordinating across departments and integrating mitigation planning into existing Town procedures. The following departments, boards, and personnel are critical to Wilton’s hazard mitigation administrative and technical capabilities:

- Emergency Management Director
- Building Inspector
- Health Officer
- Road Agent
- Town Administrator
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Ambulance Service
- Public Works
- Board of Selectmen
- Zoning Board of Adjustments
- Planning Board
- Sewer Commission
- Water Commission

Fiscal Capabilities

In addition to administrative and technical capabilities, the ability of the Town of Wilton to implement mitigation actions is closely associated with the amount of money available for these projects.

Mitigation actions identified in this Plan, including those that will appear in **Table 18 - Implementation and Administration**, may utilize the following funding sources:

- [Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality \(CMAQ\) Program](#)—this program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration and was implemented to support surface transportation projects and related efforts that contribute to air quality improvements and provide congestion relief.
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#)—the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the Program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.
- [FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program](#)—the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster.
- Community Development Block Grant Program—the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, administered through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs, including Disaster Recovery Assistance. HUD provides flexible grants to help cities, counties, and States recover from Presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations.
- Highway Block
- [2024-2029 Wilton Capital Improvements Plan](#) - the Wilton Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) links local infrastructure investments with long-term planning. As authorized by RSA 674:5-8 the CIP is the responsibility of the Planning Board or a formally appointed capital improvements program committee, to prepare and amend a recommended program of municipal capital improvements projected over a period of at least six years. The following funding methods maybe used:
 - 1-Year Appropriation—most commonly used financing option and refers to those projects that are to be funded by property tax revenues within a single fiscal year. Funds for projects that are financed using this method are most often included in the Town’s operating budget but can appear as warrant articles to be voted on individually.
 - Capital Reserve—a capital reserve account is a non-lapsing savings account, separate from the General Fund. Voters can deposit funds into with approval of a warrant article, with the intent of withdrawing the funds to use for the specific purpose or purchase for which the account was established. This method requires appropriations over more than one year, with the actual project being accomplished only when the total appropriations meet the project cost.
 - Lease Purchase—lease purchasing an item allows a municipality to spread the cost over a period of years, generally no more than 7. A municipal lease typically allows for Town ownership at the end of the lease term and usually enjoys lower tax-

exempt interest rates. Unlike a bond or loan, a municipal lease has a “non-appropriation clause” that allows the town to cancel the lease if the annual payment is not appropriated. The town then loses the equipment that was financed. Lease purchasing is typically used by departments to purchase vehicles.

- Bonding—bonding allows the municipality to negotiate the purchase of goods or services at a set price and then pay for that item or service over a period of time. Bonds, unlike capital reserve accounts, allow the town to utilize the item being purchased or constructed while payments are being made. The most important part of a bond transaction is the promise of the town to repay the debt with interest. There are two major types of bonds: general obligation and special revenue. General Obligation Bonds typically have lower interest rates than other types of long-term debt. Revenue Bonds rely on a set revenue source or sources as security for the bond. Bonding is generally limited to the most expensive capital projects, such as major renovations, additions, or construction of new school or municipal buildings and facilities.
- Impact fees—these fees are collected from new developments to pay for new facility capacity. Money collected is placed in a fund until it is either expended within six years or returned to the party from whom it was collected.

Summary and Analysis of Wilton’s Existing Authorities, Policies, Programs, and Resources

Measures of Effectiveness are defined as follows:

- Excellent—the existing program works as intended and is exceeding its goals
- Good—the existing program works as intended and meets its goals
- Average—the existing program works as intended but could be improved to meet higher standards
- Poor—the existing program does not work as intended, often falls short of its goals, and/or may present unintended consequences

Capability	Description	Area of Town Covered	Responsible Entities	Effectiveness	Changes or Improvements Needed
Planning and Regulatory	Floodplain Conservation District, Wetlands Conservation District, Aquifer Protection District, Site Plan Review Regulations, Code for Building and Sanitation, Capital Improvements Plan, NFIP	Entire jurisdiction	Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment	Good	Ordinances should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they are consistent with goals outlined in the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan. Consider conducting a Town specific vulnerability assessment to improve local resiliency to climate change impacts.
Emergency Management	Plans; Departments, Facilities, Personnel, and Volunteers; Communications	Entire jurisdiction	Wilton Fire Dept., Wilton Ambulance Service, Wilton Police Dept., Wilton Police Mutual Aid, Souhegan Fire Mutual Aid, Statewide Fire Mutual Aid	Average	Utilize a variety of communications methods to ensure all residents are educated about emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation measures they can take. *Need communications antenna for emergency communication
Floodplain Management	Floodplain Conservation District, NFIP	Designated Flood Hazard Areas in Wilton	Wilton Planning Board	Good	Revise/adopt regulations to improve floodplain management if needed. Ensure future updates of Wilton Master Plan include floodplain considerations. Incorporate updated floodplains for Merrimack

					Watershed into municipal planning activities when they become available.
Administrative and Technical	Planning Dept., Fire Dept., Ambulance Service, Police Dept., Emergency Management, Building Inspector, Health Officer, Road Agent, Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Entire jurisdiction	Entities listed in Description	Excellent	Promote communication across all departments and committees to ensure Hazard Mitigation Plan goals and actions are implemented.
Fiscal	Grant funding, Town Budget, CIP	Entire jurisdiction	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board	Good	Hazard mitigation actions should be considered for inclusion in the departmental budgets. Wilton's Hazard Mitigation Plan should be updated at least every five years to maintain eligibility for FEMA grants.

Section 1.5. Review and Incorporation of Existing Documents

Several existing documents were reviewed and incorporated into the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026. The Wilton Zoning Ordinance was used to provide information on where and how the Town builds. This was particularly helpful when mapping critical facilities corridors (Section 3.3). The Wilton Master Plan provided insight on future development patterns (Section 2.1) and helped to inform the analysis and prioritization of mitigation actions (Section 4.3). The State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2023 provided insight when developing the description of natural hazards (Section 3.1), description of previous hazards (Section 3.2), probability of future hazards (Section 3.3), vulnerability by hazard (Section 3.5), and goals to reduce vulnerabilities (Section 4.1). The City of Nashua's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was referenced to write the hazard descriptions used to determine Wilton's vulnerability by hazard (Section 3.5). Finally, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission's "Nashua Regional Water Resiliency Action Plan" provided insight when developing the description of natural hazards (Section 3.1), probability of future hazards (Section 3.2), vulnerability by hazard (Section 3.5), and goals to reduce vulnerabilities (Executive Summary). It was used to inform the analysis and prioritization of mitigation actions (Section 4.3).

Section 1.6. Updating the Plan

Plan Evaluation

In coordination with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, the Wilton Emergency Management Director will call meetings of all responsible town parties to review plan progress annually on the anniversary of plan adoption and as needed, based on occurrence of hazard events, and report outcomes to the Selectboard. The public will be notified of these meetings in advance through the posting of the agenda at Town Hall. Responsible parties identified for specific mitigation actions will be asked to

submit their reports in advance of the meeting. Meetings will entail the following actions:

- Review previous hazard events to discuss and evaluate major issues, effectiveness of current mitigation, and possible mitigation for future events.
- Assess how the mitigation strategies of the plan can be integrated with other Town plans and operational procedures, including the Zoning & Land Use Ordinance.
- Review and evaluate progress toward implementation of the current mitigation plan based on reports from responsible parties.
- Amend current plan to improve mitigation practices.
- Meetings will involve evaluation and assessment of the plan, regarding its effectiveness at achieving the plan's goals, stated purpose, and priorities. The following questions will serve as the criteria that are used to evaluate and update the plan:

Plan Mission and Goal

- Are the Plan's stated goal and mission still accurate and up to date, reflecting any changes to local hazard mitigation activities?
- Are there any changes or improvements that can be made to the goal and mission?

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- Have there been any new occurrences of hazard events since the plan was last reviewed? If so, these hazards should be incorporated into the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.
- Have any new occurrences of hazards varied from previous occurrences in terms of their extent or impact? If so, the stated impact, extent, probability of future occurrence, or overall assessment of risk and vulnerability should be edited to reflect these changes.
- Is there any new data available from local, state, or Federal sources about the impact of previous hazard events, or any new data for the probability of future occurrences? If so, should this information be incorporated into the plan?

Existing Mitigation Strategies

- Are the current strategies effectively mitigating the effect of any recent hazard events?
- Has there been any damage to property since the plan was last reviewed?
- How could the existing mitigation strategies be improved to reduce the impact of recent occurrences of hazards?

Proposed Mitigation Strategies

- What progress has been accomplished for each of the previously identified proposed mitigation strategies?
- How have any completed mitigation strategies reduced the Town's vulnerability and impact from hazards that have occurred since the strategy was completed? If not and if they have been tested, what changes need to make them more effective?
- Should the criteria for prioritizing the proposed strategies be altered in any way?
- Should the priority given to individual mitigation strategies be changed, based on any recent changes to financial and staffing resources, or recent hazard events?

Review of the Plan and Integration with Other Planning Documents

- Is the current process for reviewing the Hazard Mitigation Plan effective? How could it be improved?
- Are there any Town plans in the process of being updated that should have the content of this Hazard Mitigation Plan incorporated into them or integrated with other Town planning tools and operational procedures, including the Zoning & Land Use Ordinance and the Capital Improvement Plan?

Following these discussions, it is anticipated that the planning team may decide to reassign the roles and responsibilities for implementing mitigation strategies to different town departments and/or revise the goals and objectives contained in the plan.

Plan Update

The Emergency Management Director will be responsible for a complete update of the Plan every five years and incorporating the results of Wilton's plan monitoring and evaluation procedures. The next update of the plan is anticipated to begin in calendar-year 2029, with the goal of adoption in 2030. A The first meeting, initiated by the EMD, is anticipated in November 2028. The plan update may begin earlier following a significant natural hazard event within the town and region, such as a federally declared disaster.

The public meetings of the hazard mitigation team shall be publicized through legal notices in local newspapers, posted fliers, and on the town and regional planning commission websites. Written and email comments shall be directed to the EMD. The updated plan will incorporate input from the public, other municipalities and government agencies. The Selectboard is responsible for approving the plan submission to FEMA and for adoption of the plan.

The update will likely follow a similar planning process and the outline to the current planning process, making deviations when needed.

CHAPTER 2. CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS PLAN

Section 2.1. Changes in Development

There have been no significant changes in development patterns in Wilton since the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Likewise, there have been no significant changes in development that have occurred in hazard prone areas that have increased Wilton's vulnerability to hazards. This is largely the result of a slowing economy and less new development coming into Wilton. Road infrastructure vulnerability has slightly decreased due to structural improvements in culverts, bridges, etc. Rural fire suppression has also been improved with new hydrants and additional cisterns. Because of these efforts, Wilton's overall vulnerability has slightly improved since 2021.

Section 2.2. Progress in Local Mitigation Efforts

The mitigation actions and implementation framework identified in the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026 have been revised to reflect progress in local mitigation efforts. Progress has been made on several local mitigation efforts identified in the 2021 Plan, including:

- Protect power lines by working with Eversource to harden electrical infrastructure, including trimming trees near power lines. Consider the costs and benefits of requiring overhead power lines to be buried in all new developments.
- Protect vulnerable populations from the impacts of extreme temperatures and severe winter storms by establishing shelters and cooling stations at designated municipal and school facilities.
- Incorporate GIS data for drainage, sewer, and water supply infrastructure into hazard mitigation planning.
- Install Generators at all critical Town facilities and schools that do not currently have them, including the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative High School, Wilton Town Hall, and Wilton Highway Garage.
- Inventory of town-wide special needs and at-risk populations for mitigation planning as well as town-wide questionnaire to identify privately maintained social and physical resources available to town officials during an emergency response.
- Improve public awareness of severe winter storms by educating homeowners of the importance of installing carbon monoxide monitors and alarms.

To assess progress on local mitigation efforts, the Hazard Mitigation Team reviewed the actions originally presented in the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021 and determined if they had been completed, deleted, or deferred. Progress on each action and its current priority level were also evaluated to determine if it should continue to be included in the mitigation actions identified in this Plan update.

Table 1 - Status of Previous Actions

2021 Mitigation Action	Status	Explanation
Review and update Building Codes, Floodplain Ordinance, and Zoning Regulations. Proactively enforce the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) to protect buildings and infrastructure from the impacts of earthquake, flooding, severe wind, severe winter weather, and tornadoes.	Deferred	This action was not completed over the span of the 2021 plan Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be moved to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.
Protect power lines by working with Eversource to harden electrical infrastructure, including trimming trees near power lines. Consider the costs and benefits of requiring overhead power lines to be buried in all new developments.	Completed/Deleted	This action has been completed and will not be tracked in future hazard mitigation plans.
Protect vulnerable populations from the impacts of extreme temperatures and severe winter storms by establishing shelters and cooling stations at designated municipal and school facilities.	Completed/Deleted	This action has been completed and will not be tracked in future hazard mitigation plans.
Protect critical facilities and equipment from lightning damage. Install and maintain lightning protection devices, such as surge protection, grounding, and lightning rods, on critical electronic equipment.	Deferred	This action was not completed over the span of the 2021 plan Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be moved to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.
Incorporate GIS data for drainage, sewer, and water supply infrastructure into hazard mitigation planning.	Completed/Deleted	This action has been completed and will not be tracked in future hazard mitigation plans.
Install Generators at all critical Town facilities and schools that do not currently have them, including the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative High School, Wilton Town Hall, and Wilton Highway Garage.	Completed/Deleted	This action has been completed and will not be tracked in future hazard mitigation plans.
Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets by updating with current best practices and floodplain information.	Deferred	This action was not completed over the span of the 2021 plan Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be moved to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.
Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community. Notify landowners of non-compliant structures.	Deferred	This action was not completed over the span of the 2021 plan Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be moved to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.
Encourage drought-tolerant landscape design by developing an ordinance	Deferred	This action was not completed over the span of the 2021 plan Hazard Mitigation

2021 Mitigation Action	Status	Explanation
that promotes the use of permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and support groundwater recharge.		Plan and will be moved to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.
Encourage utility companies to offer special arrangements for paying heating bills, if not already required by state law.	Deleted	There is no political will/interest in the action so it will be deleted and no longer tracked in future hazard mitigation plans.
Inventory of town-wide special needs and at-risk populations for mitigation planning as well as town-wide questionnaire to identify privately maintained social and physical resources available to town officials during an emergency response.	Completed/Deleted	This action has been completed and will not be tracked in future hazard mitigation plans.
Improve public awareness of severe winter storms by educating homeowners of the importance of installing carbon monoxide monitors and alarms.	Completed/Deleted	This action has been completed and will not be tracked in future hazard mitigation plans.
Tightly control burn permits and revoke when not properly and safely being utilized. Provide education on wildfire danger to residents when they apply for burn permits. Conduct education on campfire safety at schools. Post fire danger categories. Continue roadside mowing to reduce the likelihood of wildfire spreading and clear brush from around fire ponds.	Deferred	This action was not completed over the span of the 2021 plan Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be moved to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.
Implement a fuels management program to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels on public lands, near essential infrastructure, and on private lands by working with landowners. The program will explore strategies such as prescribed burning, cutting firebreaks into public wooded areas, and developing a vegetation management plan.	Deferred	This action was not completed over the span of the 2021 plan Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be moved to the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026.

Section 2.3. Changes in Priorities

Table 2 - Changes in Mitigation Priorities (below) shows all mitigation actions from the 2021 plan that were carried over to the 2026 Plan along with how they changed in priority.

The following mitigation actions dropped in priority level from the 2021 Plan to the 2026 Plan:

- Review and update Building Codes, Floodplain Ordinance, and Zoning Regulations. Proactively enforce the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) to protect buildings and infrastructure from the impacts of earthquake, flooding, severe wind, severe winter weather, and tornadoes.
- Encourage drought-tolerant landscape design by developing an ordinance that promotes the use of permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and support groundwater recharge.
- Protect critical facilities and equipment from lightning damage. Install and maintain lightning protection devices, such as surge protection, grounding, and lightning rods, on critical electronic equipment.
- Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets by updating with current best practices and floodplain information.
- Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community. Notify landowners of non-compliant structures.
- Tightly control burn permits and revoke when not properly and safely being utilized. Provide education on wildfire danger to residents when they apply for burn permits. Conduct education on campfire safety at schools. Post fire danger categories. Continue roadside mowing to reduce the likelihood of wildfire spreading and clear brush from around fire ponds.
- Implement a fuels management program to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels on public lands, near essential infrastructure, and on private lands by working with landowners. The program will explore strategies such as prescribed burning, cutting firebreaks into public wooded areas, and developing a vegetation management plan.

The following mitigation actions were completed and/or deleted and will no longer be included in the 2026 Plan:

- Protect power lines by working with Eversource to harden electrical infrastructure, including trimming trees near power lines. Consider the costs and benefits of requiring overhead power lines to be buried in all new developments.
- Protect vulnerable populations from the impacts of extreme temperatures and severe winter storms by establishing shelters and cooling stations at designated municipal and school facilities.
- Incorporate GIS data for drainage, sewer, and water supply infrastructure into hazard mitigation planning.
- Install Generators at all critical Town facilities and schools that do not currently have them, including the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative High School, Wilton Town Hall, and Wilton Highway Garage.
- Inventory of town-wide special needs and at-risk populations for mitigation planning as well as town-wide questionnaire to identify privately maintained social and physical resources available to town officials during an emergency response.

- Improve public awareness of severe winter storms by educating homeowners of the importance of installing carbon monoxide monitors and alarms.

Table 2 - Changes in Mitigation Priorities

2021 Mitigation Action	Current Status	Priority Level in 2021 Plan	Priority Level in 2026 Plan
Review and update Building Codes, Floodplain Ordinance, and Zoning Regulations. Proactively enforce the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) to protect buildings and infrastructure from the impacts of earthquake, flooding, severe wind, severe winter weather, and tornadoes.	Deferred	Priority Ranking = 2 STAPLEE Score = 16	Priority Ranking = 3 STAPLEE Score = 16
Protect critical facilities and equipment from lightning damage. Install and maintain lightning protection devices, such as surge protection, grounding, and lightning rods, on critical electronic equipment.	Deferred	Priority Ranking = 8 STAPLEE Score = 10	Priority Ranking = 10 STAPLEE Score = 9
Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets by updating with current best practices and floodplain information.	Deferred	Priority Ranking = 11 STAPLEE Score = 4	Priority Ranking = 14 STAPLEE Score = 4
Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community. Notify	Deferred	Priority Ranking = 10 STAPLEE Score = 6	Priority Ranking = 13 STAPLEE Score = 6

2021 Mitigation Action	Current Status	Priority Level in 2021 Plan	Priority Level in 2026 Plan
landowners of non-compliant structures.			
Encourage drought-tolerant landscape design by developing an ordinance that promotes the use of permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and support groundwater recharge.	Deferred	Priority Ranking = 6 STAPLEE Score = 12	Priority Ranking = 7 STAPLEE Score = 12
Tightly control burn permits and revoke when not properly and safely being utilized. Provide education on wildfire danger to residents when they apply for burn permits. Conduct education on campfire safety at schools. Post fire danger categories. Continue roadside mowing to reduce the likelihood of wildfire spreading and clear brush from around fire ponds.	Deferred	Priority Ranking = 3 STAPLEE Score = 15	Priority Ranking = 6 STAPLEE Score = 13
Implement a fuels management program to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels on public lands, near essential infrastructure, and on private lands by working with landowners. The program will explore strategies such as prescribed burning, cutting firebreaks into public wooded areas, and	Deferred	Priority Ranking = 7 STAPLEE Score = 11	Priority Ranking = 9 STAPLEE Score = 10

2021 Mitigation Action	Current Status	Priority Level in 2021 Plan	Priority Level in 2026 Plan
developing a vegetation management plan.			

CHAPTER 3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Section 3.1. Description of Natural Hazards

The Town of Wilton is susceptible to a variety of natural hazards, which are outlined in **Table 3**. For each hazard type, the hazard location within the Town, extent, and impact are also noted. Extent refers to how bad the hazard can be; it is different from location. Examples of extent include potential wind speed, depth of flooding, and existing scientific scales (ex. Enhanced Fujita Tornado Damage Scale). Impact refers to damages or consequences resulting from the hazard.

Hazards Not Included in this Plan

The State of New Hampshire identifies Avalanches, Landslides, Solar Storms & Space Weather, Ice Jams, and Erosion as hazards in the State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update of 2023.

Landslides and avalanches have not been included in the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026. A landslide is the downward or outward movement of earth materials on a slope that is reacting to a combination of the force of gravity and a predisposed weakness in the material that allows the sliding process to initiate.² An avalanche is a slope failure consisting of a mass of rapidly moving, fluidized snow that slides down a mountainside. The flow can be composed of snow, ice, water, soil, rocks, and trees. An avalanche can be comparable to a landslide; only with snow instead of earth.³ Wilton has relatively stable terrain and there have been no historic landslide or snow avalanche events in town. As such, the Hazard Mitigation Team did not feel it was necessary to include these hazards in this Plan.

The State of New Hampshire also identifies Solar Storms & Space Weather as hazards. As described by the State of NH Multi-Hazard Mitigation, the term space weather is relatively new and describes the dynamic conditions in the Earth's outer space environment, similar to how the terms "climate" and "weather" refer to the conditions in the Earth's lower atmosphere. Space weather includes any and all conditions and events on the sun, in the solar wind, in near-Earth space, and in our upper atmosphere that can affect space-borne and ground-based technological systems. Solar activity (solar storms) refers to solar flares, coronal mass ejections, high-speed solar wind, and energetic solar particles. Any of these events may occur for a few minutes to several hours, can affect Earth for days to weeks. All solar activity is driven by the solar magnetic field. A solar flare is an intense burst of radiation resulting from the release of sunspot magnetic energy, which can occur for minutes to hours. Solar prominence is a large, bright feature that extends outward from the sun's surfaces. A coronal mass ejection (CME) occurs when the outer solar atmosphere's magnetic field is closed, resulting in a confined atmosphere that suddenly explodes, releasing bubbles of gas and magnetic fields. The surface of the sun is hot electrified gas boiling up from the interior of the sun out into space- this is referred to as high-speed solar wind. Solar wind travels at 800,000 to 5 million miles per hour and carries mass the size of Utah's Great Salt Lake into space every second; however, solar wind is 1000 million times weaker than the winds that we experience on Earth.⁴ There have been no documented occurrences of Solar Storms & Space weather impacting the Town, and the Wilton Hazard Mitigation team did not have enough knowledge to

² [State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2023](#), page 236

³ [State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2023](#), page 114

⁴ [State of New Hampshire Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2023](#), page 255

determine if solar storms and space weather deserved to be recognized in this plan update as a hazard. The Town will re-evaluate the need to include additional hazards in this Plan during subsequent updates of the Plan.

Ice jams are described as “a backup of water into areas adjacent floodplain can occur when a river or stream is blocked by the build-up of ice. Ice in waterways forms naturally from the freezing of water during the winter months. Melt and/or storm water may then encounter these ice formations causing them to break up and move down the river. Ice may apply lateral and/or vertical force on structures and infrastructure. Moving ice and erosion may scour abutments and riverbanks, and ice may also create temporary dams. These dams may create flood hazard conditions where no flood hazard previously existed.⁵ Ice jams were not considered independently of flooding in this plan.

Erosion, as defined by FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program, is the process of the gradual wearing away of land masses. In Wilton, erosion is largely due to riverine flooding. In this plan, erosion was not considered independently of flooding.

The Town will re-evaluate the need to include additional hazards to this plan during subsequent updates of the Plan.

Table 3 - Natural Hazards in Jurisdiction

Hazard Type	Hazard Location within Jurisdiction	Hazard Extent	Impact
Climate Change	Entire jurisdiction.	See Hazard Extent descriptions for Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding	See Impact descriptions for Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding
Drought	Entire jurisdiction.	<u>NH DES Drought Management Plan</u> • Level 1—Alert • Level 2—Warning • Level 3—Emergency • Level 4—Disaster <u>US Drought Monitor</u> • D0—Abnormally Dry • D1—Moderate Drought • D2—Severe Drought • D3—Extreme Drought • D4—Exceptional Drought • S—Short term, typically less than 6 months • L—Long term, typically more than 6 months	<u>D0</u> • short term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops • some lingering water deficits • crops not fully recovered <u>D1</u> • some damage to crops • streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent • voluntary water-use restrictions requested <u>D2</u> • crop losses likely

⁵ State of NH Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2018, page 69

Hazard Type	Hazard Location within Jurisdiction	Hazard Extent	Impact
			• water shortages common • water restrictions imposed <u>D3</u> • major crop losses • widespread water shortages or restrictions <u>D4</u> • Exceptional & widespread crop loss • Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, & wells creating water emergencies <u>S</u> • impacts on agriculture <u>L</u> • impacts on hydrology & ecology
Earthquake	Entire jurisdiction.	<u>Richter Scale</u> • <3.4—detected only by seismometers • >8—total damage, surface waves seen, objects thrown in air For full definitions of Richter Scale, see Section 3.5 Vulnerability by Hazard	Structural damage or collapse of buildings. Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railroads, power and phone lines, municipal communications, 911 communications, radio system. Loss of water for fire protection. Increased risk of fire (gas break). Risk to life, medical surge.
Extreme Temperatures	Entire jurisdiction.	Extreme heat—period of 3 consecutive days when air temperature reaches 90°F or higher on each day. Extreme cold— period of 3 consecutive days of minimum temperatures at or below 0°F.	Overburdened power systems may experience failures due to extreme heat. Shortages of heating fuel in extreme cold due to high demand.

Hazard Type	Hazard Location within Jurisdiction	Hazard Extent	Impact
			Medical surge. Loss of municipal water supply for drinking water and fire protection due to freezing temperatures.
Flooding	Floodplains cover approximately 4.23% of Wilton—3.48% of Wilton is in 0.75% annual floodplain and 0.01% of Wilton is in the 0.2% annual floodplain. Floodplains primarily located around Souhegan River, Blood Brook, Stony Brook, Mill Brook, and dam impoundments. See Section 3.5 for additional information on flood-prone areas.	FEMA flood probabilities: • 1% possibility per year • 0.2% possibility per year State of NH Dam Hazard Potential Classification system (for flooding resulting from dam/levee failure): • Class S—significant hazard • Class H—high hazard • Class L—low hazard • Class NM—non-menace For full definitions of Dam Hazard Classes, see Section 3.5 Vulnerability by Hazard	Water damage to structures and their contents. Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railroads, power and phone lines, municipal communications, 911 communications, radio system. Environmental hazards resulting from damage. Isolation of neighborhoods resulting from flooding.
Lightning	Entire jurisdiction. Areas with large populations present outdoors and large open spaces are particularly vulnerable.	Lightning Activity Level: • Level 1 • Level 2 • Level 3 • Level 4 • Level 5 • Level 6 For full definitions of Lightning Activity Level, see Section 3.5 Vulnerability by Hazard	Smoke and fire damage to structures and property. Disruption to power lines, municipal communications, and 911 communications. Damage to critical electronic equipment. Injury or death to people involved in outdoor activity.
Severe Wind	Entire jurisdiction.	Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale: • Category 1—sustained winds 74-95 mph	Wind damage to structures and trees.

Hazard Type	Hazard Location within Jurisdiction	Hazard Extent	Impact
		- Category 2—sustained winds 96-110 mph - Category 3—sustained winds 111-129 mph - Category 4—sustained winds 130-156 mph - Category 5—sustained winds 157 mph or higher	Water damage to structures and their contents. Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railroads, power and phone lines, municipal communications, 911 communications, radio system. Environmental hazards resulting from damage. Isolation of neighborhoods resulting from flooding. Water pressure, quality, and capacity issues impacting fire protection. Loss of natural resources.
Severe Winter Weather	Entire jurisdiction.	Depth of snow in a given time frame (ex. 2 or more inches per hour over a 12-hour period). Blizzard—violent snowstorm with minimum winds of 35 mph and visibility less than ¼ mile for 3 hours. Ground snow load factor. Ice Storm—Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index: 0—little impact 5—catastrophic damage to exposed utility systems For full definitions of Sperry-Plitz Ice Accumulation Index, see Section 3.5 Vulnerability by Hazard	Disruption to road network. Damage to trees municipal communications, and 911 communications. Structural damage to roofs/collapse. Increase in CO, other hazards.
Tornado/Downburst	Entire jurisdiction.	Enhanced Fujita Tornado Damage Scale: EF0—winds 65-85 mph	Wind damage to structures and trees.

Hazard Type	Hazard Location within Jurisdiction	Hazard Extent	Impact
		- EF1—winds 86-110 mph - EF2—winds 111-135 mph - EF3—winds 136-165 mph - EF4—winds 166-200 mph - EF5—winds >200 mph	Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railroads, power and phone lines, municipal communications, 911 communications, radio system. Environmental hazards resulting from damage. Medical surge. Loss of natural resources.
Wildfire	Areas particularly prone to wildfire include forested areas near residential development.	NWCG Fire Size Classification: - A—greater than 0 but less than or equal to 0.25 acres - B—0.26 to 9.9 acres - C—10.0 to 99.9 acres - D—100-299 acres - E—300 to 999 acres - F—1,000 to 4,999 acres - G—5,000 to 9,999 acres - H—10,000 to 49,999 acres - I—50,000 to 99,999 acres - J—100,000 to 499,999 acres - K—500,000 to 999,999 acres - L—1,000,000+ acres	Smoke and fire damage to structures in wild land/urban interface. Damage to habitat. Impacts to air quality. Impact to roadways. Loss of natural resources.
Wildfire	Areas particularly prone to wildfire include forested areas near residential development.	NWCG Fire Size Classification: - A—greater than 0 but less than or equal to 0.25 acres - B—0.26 to 9.9 acres - C—10.0 to 99.9 acres - D—100-299 acres - E—300 to 999 acres - F—1,000 to 4,999 acres - G—5,000 to 9,999 acres - H—10,000 to 49,999 acres - I—50,000 to 99,999 acres - J—100,000 to 499,999 acres - K—500,000 to 999,999 acres - L—1,000,000+ acres	Smoke and fire damage to structures in wild land/urban interface. Damage to habitat. Impacts to air quality. Impacts to roadways. Loss of natural resources.
Infectious Diseases	Entire Jurisdiction. Vulnerable	Center for Disease Control Disease Occurrence:	Burden on healthcare facilities, medical surge.

Hazard Type	Hazard Location within Jurisdiction	Hazard Extent	Impact
	populations are especially at risk.	• Endemic – Constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infection agent in a population within a geographic area • Hyperendemic – The persistent, high levels of disease occurrence • Cluster – Aggregation of cases grouped in place and time that are suspected to be greater than the number expected even though the expected number may not be known. • Epidemic – An increase, usually sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected. • Outbreak – The same as epidemic, but over a much smaller geographical area. • Pandemic – Epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting many people.	Risk to life.

Section 3.2. Future Hazard Events and Climate Change

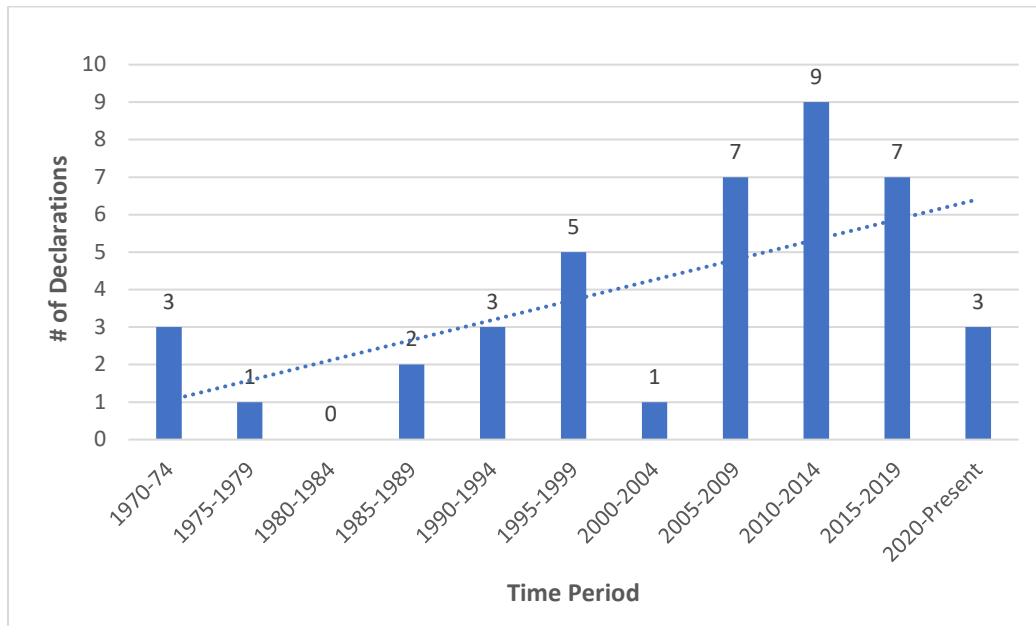
Hazard Probability and Climate Change

Climate change is not identified as a natural hazard in this plan; however, it does have an impact on weather patterns that influence hazards identified in this plan. FEMA acknowledges in the State Mitigation Plan Review Guide, that “the challenges posed by climate change, such as more intense storms, frequent heavy precipitation, heat waves, drought, extreme flooding, and higher sea levels, could significantly alter the types and magnitudes of hazards impacting states in the future⁶.”

The chart below shows an overall increase in the frequency of Major Disaster Declarations in the state of New Hampshire, potentially an impact of climate change. Communities in New Hampshire are becoming more aware of the impacts of climate change on the local hazards already experienced, especially increased flooding events. Wilton is anticipating an increase in natural hazard (Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Flooding, Lightning, Severe Wind, Severe Winter Weather, Tornado/Downburst, and Wildfire) probability and severity in the future.

⁶ State Mitigation Plan Review Guide, FEMA, Released March 2015, Effective March 2018, Section 3.2, page 13.

Figure 1 - Major Disaster Declarations in New Hampshire, 1970-Present



Source: New Hampshire Department of Safety, Declared Disaster Information as of 3/13/2024.

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/disaster/documents/NHDisasterInfo.pdf>

Municipal Impacts of Climate Change

Increased probability and severity of natural hazards can create a much larger impact on the critical facilities within a municipality, especially utility and transportation systems. Severe winter weather and severe wind events can result in long-term utility outages and create impediments for transportation. The general population would also experience additional impacts with the increase of natural hazard probability and severity. More damage to critical facilities and municipal systems can result in extended periods of time without water, heating/cooling, and lack of access to basic services, which can be devastating to vulnerable populations.

Section 3.3. Probability of Future Hazard Events

After documenting the occurrence of previous hazard events in the Town of Wilton and the surrounding region, the Hazard Mitigation Team used this information to calculate the annual probability of these events occurring in the future. The first step was to determine how many times a particular hazard occurred in a given number of years. The number of occurrences was then divided by the number of years to determine annual probability. For example, if history shows that a particular hazard typically occurs one time every four years, the annual probability is 25%. Annual probability was calculated twice for each hazard. First, annual probability was calculated since the first recorded historic occurrence of the event. Second, annual probability was calculated based on occurrences since 2000 to reflect potential recent changes in hazard event occurrence rates. The probability of future hazard events for each hazard type in the Town of Wilton is outlined in **Table 4** below. Low probability is defined as less than 30%, medium probability is defined as 30-70%, and high probability is defined as above 70%.

Table 4 - Probability of Future Hazard Events

Hazard Type	Probability of Future Event	Source
Drought	22 years of drought from 1960 through 2025. 22 events in 65 years = 0.34 events per year Annual Probability = 34% (high) 10 years of drought from 2015 through 2025. 10 events in 10 years = 1.0 Annual Probability = 100% (high)	NH DES Current Drought Conditions US Drought Monitor
Earthquake	History shows no known earthquakes centered in Wilton. However, this hazard is still possible. 2 magnitude 5.0 or greater earthquakes felt in NH from 1926 through 2025. 2 events in 99 years = 0.02 events per year Annual Probability = 2% (low) 0 magnitude 5.0 or greater earthquakes felt in NH from 2015 through 2025. 0 events in 20 years = 0 events per year Annual Probability = 0-25%	US Geological Survey
Extreme Temperatures	8 extreme cold events from 2015 through 2025. 8 events in 10 years = 0.8 events per year	NOAA National Climatic Data Center

Hazard Type	Probability of Future Event	Source
	Annual Probability = 80% (high) 34 extreme heat events from 2015 through 2025. 23 events in 10 years = 2.3 events per year Annual Probability = 100% (high)	
Flooding/Dam Failure	20 flooding events in Hillsborough County from 1927 through 2025. 20 events in 98 years = .20 events per year Annual Probability = 20% (low) 4 flooding events in Hillsborough County from 2015 through 2025. 4 events in 10 years = .40 events per year Annual Probability = 40% (medium) <u>Dam Failure</u> Because of limited data on previous dam failure events, probability cannot be calculated statistically. History shows no occurrences of dam failure causing damage in Wilton. However, this hazard is still possible and therefore the probability is low. Low probability is defined as a 0-25% chance of occurrence annually. Dam Failure Annual Probability – 0-25%	Local Knowledge/Public Input FEMA Presidential Disaster Declaration
Severe Wind	11 hurricanes/tropical storms from 1938 through 2025.	Local Knowledge/Public Input

Hazard Type	Probability of Future Event	Source
	11 events in 87 years = .13 events per year Annual Probability = 13% (low) 3 hurricanes/tropical storms from 2015 through 2025. 3 events in 20 years = .30 events per year Annual Probability = 30% (medium)	FEMA Presidential Disaster Declaration National Hurricane Center
Lightning & Hail	Because of limited data on previous lightning events, probability cannot be calculated statistically. History shows limited occurrences of lightning strikes causing damage in Wilton. However, this hazard is still possible and therefore the probability is low.	Local Knowledge/Public Input
Severe Winter Weather	23 severe winter weather events in Hillsborough County from 1888 through 2025. 23 events in 137 years = 0.17 events per year Annual Probability = 17% (low) 2 severe winter weather events in Hillsborough County from 2015 through 2025. 2 events in 10 years = 0.20 events per year Annual Probability = 20% (low)	Local Knowledge/Public Input FEMA Presidential Disaster Declaration
Tornado/Downburst	16 tornados and 2 downburst in Hillsborough Co. from 1961 through 2025.	Tornado History Project (Joshua Lietz, Storm Prediction Center, National Climatic Data Center)

Hazard Type	Probability of Future Event	Source
	18 events in 64 years = 0.28 events per year Annual Probability = 28% (low) 0 tornados and 1 downburst in Hillsborough Co. from 2015 through 2025. 1 event in 10 years = 0.1 events per year Annual Probability = 10% (low)	Local Knowledge/Public Input
Wildfire	Because of limited data on previous wildfire events, probability cannot be calculated statistically. History shows limited occurrences of wildfires causing damage in Wilton. However, this hazard is still possible and therefore the probability is low.	Local Knowledge/Public Input
Infectious Diseases	Like the rest of the state, the Town of Wilton experiences seasonal outbreaks that occur annually such as Influenza. There is a 100% (high) annual probability that Wilton will continue to experience some extent of infectious disease.	Local Knowledge/Public Input NH DHHS Infectious Disease Control

Section 3.4. Critical Facilities and their Vulnerability

The next step in determining Wilton's overall vulnerability was to inventory the Town's community assets and determine what assets would be affected by each type of hazard event. The Hazard Mitigation Team began by reviewing the Wilton Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan to provide information on where and how the Town builds and to identify the corridors where critical facilities would likely be located. The Team then identified the broad categories of important assets within Wilton, including critical facilities essential to health and welfare; vulnerable populations, such as children and the elderly; economic assets and major employers; areas of high-density residential and commercial development; and historic, cultural, and natural resources. The Team then further divided the Town's critical facilities into the following categories:

1. General Occupancy

- a. Residential
- b. Commercial
- c. Industrial
- d. Agriculture
- e. Religion
- f. Government
- g. Education

2. Essential Facilities

- a. Fire Station
- b. Police Station
- c. Department of Public Works
- d. Schools
- e. Emergency Operations Centers
- f. Medical Care Facilities

3. Transportation Systems

- a. Highway Systems—Roads
- b. Highway Systems—Bridges
- c. Railway Systems
- d. Bus Facilities
- e. Airport Systems

4. Utility Systems

- a. Drinking Water Systems
- b. Sewer Systems
- c. Oil/Propane Facilities
- d. Natural Gas Facilities
- e. Electric Power
- f. Communications

5. High Potential Hazard Facilities

- a. Dams/Levees

6. Hazardous Materials Facilities

- a. EPA Toxics Release Inventory facilities (<https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>)

The critical facilities within each category appear in **Table 5, Table 6, Table 7, Table 8, Table 9, and Table 10** below. Each table includes the critical facility's name, content vulnerability, and locational vulnerability to hazards. Note that Climate Change is not included as a hazard in this analysis because its effects on critical facilities are included under the hazards of Drought, Extreme Temperatures, and Flooding.

Table 5 - General Occupancy Critical Facilities

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Commercial – Tumbleweeds Daycare, 31 Prince Street	Potentially large population present		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Wilton Animal Hospital, 474 Isaac Frye Highway	Potentially large population present		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Wilton Falls Building, 6 Burns Hill Rd	Potentially large population present. Contents valuable to local economy		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Commercial Packaging Group, 1 Riverside Way	Contents valuable to local economy		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Monadnock Mountain Spring Water, 8 Mansur Rd	Contents valuable to local economy. Potential emergency water supply. Located in 1% Annual Floodplain.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Atlantic Prefab, 19 Stoney Brook Dr	Contents valuable to local economy		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Riverview Mills Complex, 33 Howard St	Potentially large population present. Contents valuable to local economy		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Summit Executive Offices, 1 Chalet Dr	Contents valuable to local economy		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Kimball Physics, 311 Kimball Hill Rd	Contents valuable to local economy		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – American Legion, 24 Maple St	Potentially large population present		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Andy’s Summer Playhouse, 582 Isaac Frye Hwy	Potentially large population present		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Commercial —Clinton Lodge No. 52, 4 Forest Rd	Potentially large population present. Located in 1% Annual Floodplain.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial —Wilton House of Pizza, 28 Forest Rd	Contents valuable to local economy. Located in 1% Annual Floodplain		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial —Stony Brook Self Storage, 353 Forest Rd	Contents valuable to local economy. Located in 1% Annual Floodplain		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Dollar General, 70 Wilton Rd	Potentially large population present. Contents valuable to local economy.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial—Brookside Mobile, 626 Gibbons Hwy	Contents valuable to local economy. Located in 1% Annual Floodplain		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial—Frye’s Measure Mill, 12 Frye Mill Rd	Historic Mill/Retail National Register of Historic Places #82001681		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial - Four Winds Community, 1172 Gibbons Hwy	Potentially large population present.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial – Fairway Electric, 1268 Turnpike Rd	Contents valuable to local economy.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial—Scribner Performance Vehicles, 99 Main St	Historic Structure. Contents valuable to local economy.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Industrial—Souhegan Wood Products, 10 Souhegan St	Contents valuable to local economy.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Government—Wilton Town Hall, 42 Main St	Official records and documents, potentially large population present		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Government—Wilton Recycling Center, 291 Gibbons Highway	Potentially large population present		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Government—US Post Office, 79 Main Street	Contents valuable to communication		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Historic—Hamblet Putnam Frye House, 293 Burton Highway	Historic Structure National Register of Historic Places #00000651		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Historic—County Farm Bridge	Historic Bridge National Register of Historic Places #81000070		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural Resources—Russell-Abbott State Forest	Contents valuable to Wilton's ecology		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Natural Resources—Sheldrick Forest	Contents valuable to Wilton's ecology		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Natural Resources—Society for Protection of NH Forest lands	Contents valuable to Wilton's ecology		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Natural Resources—Town Forest	Contents valuable to Wilton's ecology		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Natural Resources—Heald Conservation Tract	Contents valuable to Wilton's ecology		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Recreation—Carnival Hill Field, Whiting Hill Rd	Baseball field. Potentially large population present		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Recreation—Whiting Park, Whiting Hill Rd	Potentially large population present		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Recreation—Goss Park, 475 Forest Rd	Seasonal summer camp - Potentially large population of children present		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Religion—Good News Bible Church, 27 Hutchinson Rd	Potentially large population present		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Religion—Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 928 Gibbons Hwy	Potentially large population present		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Religion—Second Congregational Parish House	Potentially large population present		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Religion—Unitarian Congregational Church	Potentially large population present		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Religion – Country Baptist Church, 17 Main Street	Potentially large population present		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Residential—Edgewater Estates, 5 Howard Street	Potentially large population present, vulnerable population		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Residential—12 unit multifamily, 30 Forest Road	Potentially large population present. Located in 1% Annual Floodplain.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agriculture/Commercial – Earth and Sky Preschool/Community Farm, 291 Captain Clark Hwy	Potentially large population present. Contents valuable to agriculture and local economy.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agriculture – Orange Door Farm, 36 Curtis Farm Road	Contents valuable to agriculture and local economy.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agriculture – Groh Farm, 135 Temple Road	Contents valuable to agriculture and local economy.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agriculture – Temple-Wilton Community Farm, 195 Isaac Frye Highway	Historic Farm. Potentially large population present. Contents valuable to agriculture and local economy.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Agriculture – Ledge Top Farm, 427 Lyndeborough Rd	Contents valuable to agriculture and local economy.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 6 - Essential Critical Facilities

Facility Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Wilton Police Station	Contents and staff valuable to emergency management, located in the 1% Annual Floodplain.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilton Fire Station	Contents and staff valuable to emergency management, serves as emergency operations center.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilton Ambulance Station	Contents and staff valuable to emergency management, located in the 1% Annual Floodplain.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilton Highway Garage	Contents valuable to transportation network and public infrastructure.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Florence Rideout School	Potentially large population present, shelter.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative High School – 57 School Road	Potentially large population present, shelter.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pine Hill at High Mowing School – 77 Pine Hill Drive	Potentially large population present.		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 7 - Transportation Critical Facilities

Transportation infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to flooding hazards. Flooding events frequently causes culvert failures and undermine bridges and roads. Wilton has a total of 85.7 road miles, of which 2.38 miles or 2.8% are in the floodplain. The following table lists all the roadways and transportation infrastructure in Wilton that are in the floodplain, and critical to the transportation network.

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Highway – NH Route 101	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel; portions located in 1% annual floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Highway – NH Route 31	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel; portions located in 1% annual floodplain; portions located in 0.2% annual floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Highway – Abbott Hill Rd	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Highway – Burns Hill Rd	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Highway – Lyndeborough Center Rd	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Highway – Isaac Frye Hwy	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel; portions located in 1% annual floodplain; portions located in 0.2% annual floodplain		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Highway – Burton Hwy	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel; portions located in 1% annual floodplain; portions located in 0.2% annual floodplain.		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightening & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Temple Rd Bridge over Blood Brook	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel.		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Old County Farm Rd Bridge over Blood Brook	Infrastructure valuable to public mobility and vehicle travel; located in 1% annual floodplain.		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		

Table 8 - Utility System Critical Facilities

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightning & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Sewer Pump Station #1— Mill St	Structure valuable to public health and sanitation	✓	✓					✓			
Sewer Pump Station #2— Main St	Structure valuable to public health and sanitation, located in 1% Annual Floodplain	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Sewer Pump Station #3— Route 101 and Intervale Rd	Structure valuable to public health and sanitation, located in 1% Annual Floodplain	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Public Well #1 Abbott— Greenville Rd	Structure valuable to water supply, located in 1% Annual Floodplain	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Public Well #2 Everett— Greenville Rd	Structure valuable to water supply	✓	✓					✓			
Water Tank/Tower— Abbott Hill Rd	Structure valuable to water supply	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
Communications Tower – Curtis Farm Rd	Structure valuable to communications		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Communications Tower – 35 Industrial Dr	Structure valuable to communications		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Communications Tower – King Brook Rd	Structure valuable to communications		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fire Department Communications Antenna – 102 Main St	Structure valuable to emergency communications		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Police Department Communications Antenna – 7 Burns Hill Rd	Structure valuable to emergency communications		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
TDS Telecom – 146 Main St	Structure valuable to communications		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		

Table 9 - High Potential Hazard Critical Facilities

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightning & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Pine Valley Mill Dam (23') D254001 Hazard Class—L Water body—Souhegan River Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Wilton Hydro Dam (17') D254002 Hazard Class—L Water body—Souhegan River Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Souhegan River III Dam (19.3') #D25403 Hazard Class—NM Water body—Souhegan River Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Wilton Mill Worx Dam (15') #D254004 Hazard Class—H Water body—Souhegan River Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Stony Brook Dam (20') D254005 Hazard Class—NM Water body—Stony Brook Owner – Town of Wilton	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Stony Brook Dam (15') D254006 Hazard Class—NM Water body—Stony Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightning & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Old Wilton Reservoir Dam (17.5') #D254008 Hazard Class—NM Water body—Mill Brook Owner – Town of Wilton	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
New Wilton Reservoir Dam (24.5') D254009 Hazard Class—H Water body—Stockwell Brook Owner – Town of Wilton	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Fryes Measure Mill Dam (15') #D254010 Hazard Class—L Water body—Mill Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mill Brook Dam (12') D254011 Hazard Class—NM Water body—Mill Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mill Brook Dam (15') D254012 Hazard Class—NM Water body— Mill Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Mill Brook Dam (8') D254014 Hazard Class—NM Water body—Mill Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Blood Brook Dam (10') D254015 Hazard Class—NM Water body—TR Blood Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		

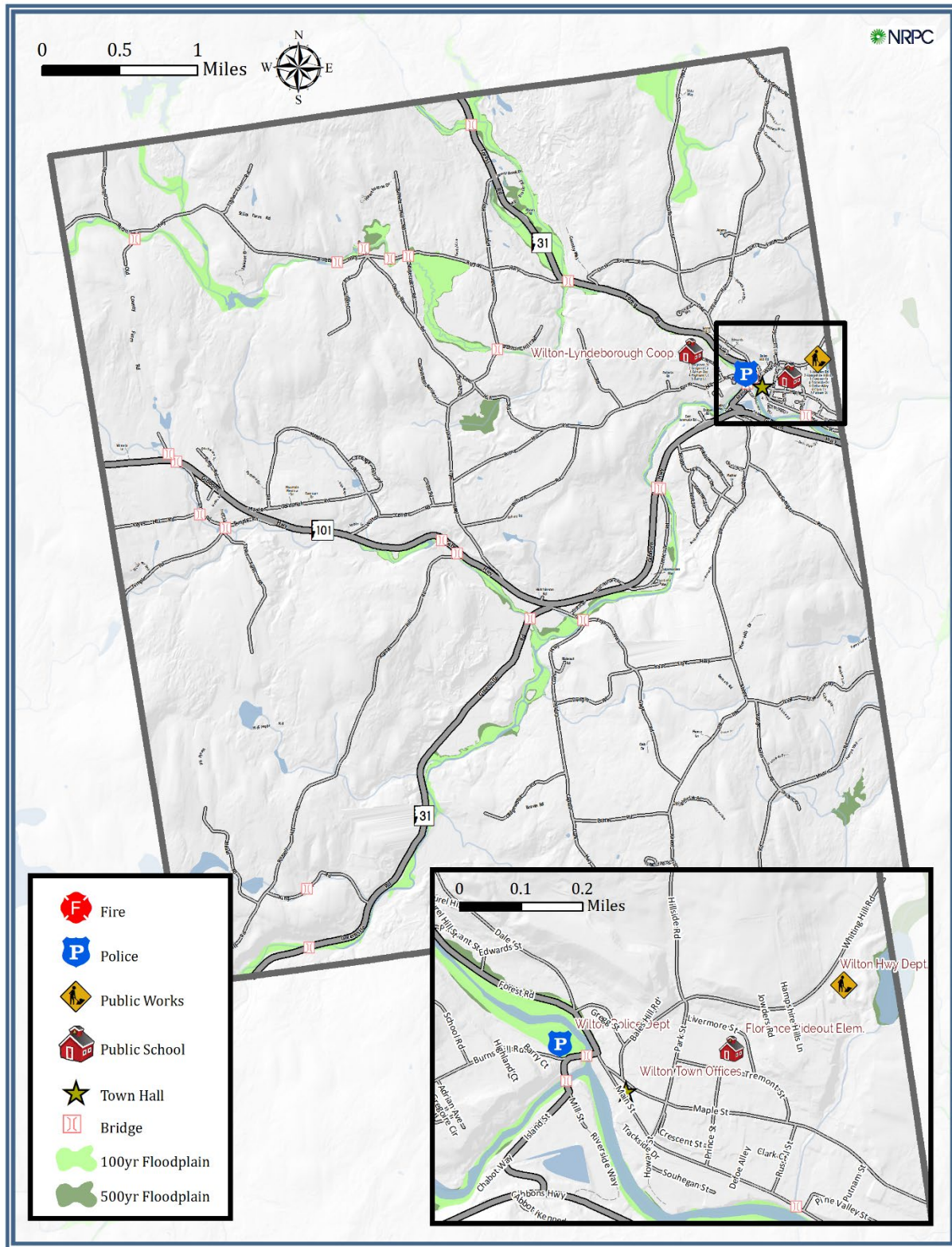
Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightning & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Blood Brook Dam (18') D254018 Hazard Class—L Water body—Blood Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Peters Farm Pond Dam (9') #D254019 Hazard Class—S Water body—TR Blood Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Batchelder Pond Dam (12') #D254020 Hazard Class—L Water Body – King Brook Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Frog Pond Dam (15') D254021 Hazard Class—S Water body—Tannery Brook Owner – Wilton Conservation Commission	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Souhegan River Site 15 Dam (13') #D254030 Hazard Class—S Water body—King Brook Owner – NH DES Water Division	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Hiller Wildlife Pond Dam (6') #D254031 Hazard Class—NM Water body—Unnamed Stream Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightning & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Legere Wildlife Pond Dam (20') #D254032 Hazard Class—L Water body—Unnamed Stream Owner –Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Name – Souhegan River Site 10A Dam (59') #D254033 Hazard Class—H Water body—Mill Brook Owner – NH DES Water Division	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Name –Souhegan Site 33 Dam (26') #D254034 Hazard Class—H Water body—King Brook Owner – NH DES Water Division	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Name – Wildlife Pond Dam (10') #D254035 Hazard Class—NM Water body— Unnamed Stream Owner –Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Fire Pond Dam (10') #D254036 Hazard Class—NM Water body— Unnamed Stream Owner – Privately Held	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		
Camp Pond Dam (11') D254043 Hazard Class—NM Water body—TR Souhegan River Owner – Society for Protection of NH Forests	Structure valuable to flood control, located in 1% floodplain		✓		✓			✓	✓		

Table 10 - Hazardous Materials Critical Facilities

Facility Type and Name	Content Vulnerability	Drought	Earthquake	Extreme Temperatures	Flooding	Severe Wind	Lightning & Hail	Severe Winter Weather	Tornado/Downburst	Wildfire	Infectious Diseases
Michaud Funeral Home & Crematorium – 343 Forest Rd	Chemical and hazardous materials release could have impacts on public health and environmental quality. To date, no chemicals have been released by this facility. Located in 1% floodplain.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blanchard's Auto Salvage, Inc. – 47 Greenville Rd	Chemical and hazardous materials release could have impacts on public health and environmental quality. To date, no chemicals have been released by this facility. Portions of this site are in the 1% floodplain.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Figure 2 - Map of Wilton Critical Facilities



Section 3.5. Vulnerability by Hazard

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change in southern New Hampshire will impact the environment, ecosystem services, economy, public health, and quality of life. According to a 2014 study by the Sustainability Institute at the University of NH, southern NH is expected to become warmer and wetter over the next century with more extreme precipitation events. This weather pattern puts significant stress on the region's already aging water infrastructure. Furthermore, climate change is likely to cause a number of public health impacts on NH's most vulnerable residents, including heat stress; flood related deaths and injuries; respiratory and cardiovascular illness, including asthma; allergies; vector, food, and water-borne disease; chronic disease; and mental health and stress-related disorders. Despite efforts taking place to slow the rate of climate change, some level of change is inevitable. Therefore, municipalities must make sound decisions to help their communities adapt to a new climate normal.

Temperatures in southern New Hampshire will continue to rise under a lower or higher future emissions scenario. In the short-term (2010-2039), average annual temperatures are predicted to increase by approximately 2°F. Under a higher emissions scenario, long-term (2070-2099) average annual temperatures are predicted to increase by 8 to 9°F. If a lower emissions scenario is achieved, long-term average annual temperatures are predicted to increase by 4°F (Wake et al., "Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire," pg. 23). The region is also predicted to experience more extreme heat events. From 1970-1999, southern New Hampshire had an average of seven days above 90°F each year. In the long-term under a higher emissions scenario, southern New Hampshire is predicted to have over 54 days per year above 90°F. Under a lower emissions scenario, the region is predicted to have 23 days per year above 90°F in the long-term (Wake et al., "Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire," pg. 25).

Annual average precipitation is predicted to increase 17-20% in southern New Hampshire by the end of the century under both the low and high emissions scenarios. Larger increases in precipitation are expected in the winter and spring, while summer and fall will only experience slight increases (Wake et al., "Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire," pg. 29). Southern New Hampshire can also expect more extreme precipitation events, defined as those where more than 1 inch of rain falls within 24 hours or more than 2-4 inches falls in 48 hours. Under both low and high emissions scenarios, the frequency of extreme precipitation events is predicted to more than double by the end of the century (Wake et al., "Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire," pg. 29).

The frequency of short-term drought (1-3 months) in New Hampshire is predicted to increase 2-3 times in the long term (2070-2099) under the higher emissions scenario. The state will experience a more significant increase in medium-term drought (3-6 months) during this period. Short and medium-term droughts are primarily caused by evapotranspiration as a result of hotter summers. The frequency of long-term drought (6 plus months) does not change significantly in the future under the low or high emissions scenario compared to past long-term drought events in New Hampshire (Wake et al., "Climate Change in Southern New Hampshire," pg. 30-31).

Climate Change Hazard Loss Estimate

Because the impacts of climate are wide ranging and have little historic data to draw from, it is beyond the scope of this Plan to estimate the dollar value of losses to the municipality resulting from climate change.

Some insights on the municipality's vulnerability to climate change may be gained by examining the results of the Nashua Region Water Vulnerability Assessment, conducted by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission in 2016. Based on the results of the vulnerability assessment, the Nashua Region is most vulnerable to threats related to warmer temperatures and threats that affect water supply.

Threats related to warmer temperatures are highly likely to occur, are broad ranging, have critical severity, and moderately effective mitigation options. In addition, while the region has experience with flooding (and drought to a smaller extent), the region has no experience with warming temperatures to provide historical guidance.

Threats that affect water supply are likely to occur, have moderate to critical severity, will likely affect between 10 and 50% of the region's population, and have moderately effective mitigation options. There are numerous threats in this category, and they have broad implications from public health and safety to agriculture and the economy.

It may also be helpful to review the Drought, Extreme Temperatures, and Flooding sections in this Plan for more insight into the municipality's vulnerability to climate change.

DROUGHT

Hydrological drought is evidenced by extended periods of negative departures from normal rainfall. New Hampshire has been under several drought warnings, including a drought emergency, since 1999. The most severe drought conditions occurred between 1960 and 1969; the event had a greater than 25-year recurrence interval. The southern New Hampshire region experienced a 100-year drought event from 1964 to 1965.

Southern New Hampshire also experienced a 50-year drought event beginning in May 2015 and lasting through April 2017. During that time, Wilton experienced drought levels from USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry) to USDA D3 (Extreme Drought).

Although drought is not likely to damage structures, low water levels can have a negative impact on existing and future home sites, especially those that depend on groundwater for water needs. Additionally, the dry conditions of a drought may lead to an increase wildfire risk. Drought can cause the most significant impact to agricultural land and assets.

Previous Occurrences of Drought

Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
1960-1969	Entire jurisdiction	Long term drought—9 years of less than normal precipitation	Longest recorded continuous period of below normal precipitation. Farms had minimal grass for grazing animals and poor crops. Wells went dry for 2 consecutive years in mid-1960s.
1999	Entire jurisdiction	Level 2—Warning. Drought warning issued on June 29, 1999.	Damage to crops. Low water levels in dug wells.
March 2002	Entire jurisdiction	Level 3—Emergency. First time Level 3 Drought Impact Level was declared.	Damage to crops. Low water levels in dug wells.
May 2015	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Damage to crops.
June 2015	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D1 (Moderate Drought)	Damage to crops.
August-September 2015	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Damage to crops.
October 2015-February 2016	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D1 (Moderate Drought)	Damage to crops.
March 2016-June 2016	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Damage to crops. Low water levels in wells.
July 2016-September 2016	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D2 (Severe Drought)	Low water levels in wells.
October 2016-December 2016	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D3 (Extreme Drought)	Low water levels in wells.
January 2017-March 2017	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D2 (Severe Drought)	Low water levels in wells.
April 2017	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D1 (Moderate Drought)	Low water levels in wells.
June-July 2018	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Damage to crops.
September-October 2019	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Damage to crops.
May 26 - June 22 2020	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Damage to crops.
June 23 - August, 2020	Entire jurisdiction	USDA D1 (Moderate Drought)	Low water levels in wells.
September - October 2020	Entire Jurisdiction	USDA D2 (Severe Drought)	Damage to crops. Low water levels in dug wells.

March 30 – April 12 2021	Entire Jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Low water levels in wells.
July 2022 – September 26, 2022	Entire Jurisdiction	USDA D1 (Moderate Drought). 90% of the county experienced D2 conditions throughout September. Some southern areas of the state experienced D3 (extreme drought) conditions from mid to late August.	Specialty crops are impacted both in yield and fruit size. Warnings are issued on water use and outdoor burns, and possible poor air quality
October 2022 – January 2023	Entire Jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Low water levels in wells.
April 18, 2023 – June 13, 2023	Entire Jurisdiction	USDA D0 (Abnormally Dry)	Damage to crops. Low water levels in dug wells.
June 18, 2024 – May 20, 2025	Entire Jurisdiction	Hillsborough County experienced D2 conditions (severe drought), with about 30% of the state experiencing D3 conditions (extreme drought) from November of 2024 through early January of 2025.	Damage to crops, dramatic increase in brush fires in November 2024.

Drought Hazard Loss Estimate

Because the impacts of drought are long lasting and wide ranging, it is beyond the scope of this Plan to estimate the dollar value of losses to Wilton resulting from drought. Instead, the Hazard Mitigation Team estimated the percentage of land in Wilton vulnerable to drought and the percentage of the population vulnerable to drought as a quantitative measure of this hazard's impact.

Total Acres of Land in Wilton	Total Acres of Agricultural Land in Wilton	% of Land in Wilton Vulnerable to Drought
16,384	1,161	7.1%

% of population with Public Drinking Water in Wilton	% of population with Private Well Water in Wilton	Water Utility	Primary Water Source	Secondary Water Source
45%	55%	N/A	Private Wells	Public drinking Water

Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Drought Hazard Area	Percentage of this type of Critical Facilities in Drought Hazard Area
General Occupancy	46	5	11%
Essential Facilities	7	1	14%
Transportation	9	0	0%
Utility System	12	6	50%
High Potential Hazard	25	0	0%
Hazardous Materials	2	0	0%

EARTHQUAKE

An earthquake is a sudden and violent shaking of the ground, sometimes causing great destruction, because of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action. The Richter magnitude scale was developed by Charles F. Richter in 1935 to compare the size of earthquakes. The magnitude of an earthquake is calculated from the logarithm of the amplitude of waves recorded by seismographs.

- Magnitude <2.0—micro-earthquakes. Recorded by seismographs but not felt or rarely felt by people. Several million occur annually worldwide on average.
- Magnitude 2.0-2.9—felt slightly by some people. No damage to buildings. Over 1 million occur annually worldwide on average.
- Magnitude 3.0-3.9—often felt by people but very rarely cause damage. Shaking of indoor objects can be noticeable. Over 100,000 occur annually worldwide on average.
- Magnitude 4.0-4.9—noticeable shaking of indoor objects and rattling noises. Felt by most people in affected area. Generally causes minimal to no damage. Moderate to significant damage is very unlikely. 10,000-15,000 occur annually worldwide on average.
- Magnitude 5.0-5.9—felt by everyone. Can cause damage of varying severity to poorly constructed buildings, slight to no damage to all other buildings. Few, if any, casualties. 1,000-1,500 occur annually worldwide on average.
- Magnitude 6.0-6.9—felt up to hundreds of miles from epicenter. Strong to violent shaking in epicenter. Damage to many buildings in populated areas. Poorly designed structures have moderate to severe damage. Earthquake-resistant structures have slight to moderate damage. Damage can be caused far from epicenter. Death toll up to 25,000. 100-150 occur annually worldwide on average.
- Magnitude 7.0-7.9—felt in very large area. Damage to most buildings, including partial or complete collapse. Death toll up to 250,000. 10-20 occur annually worldwide on average.

- Magnitude 8.0-8.9—felt in extremely large region. Major damage to buildings over large areas. Structures likely destroyed. Moderate to heavy damage to sturdy or earthquake-resistant buildings. Death toll up to 1 million. 1 occurs annually worldwide on average.
- Magnitude 9.0+ —damage and shaking extends to distant locations. Near or total destruction. Severe damage and collapse to all buildings. Permanent changes in ground topography. One occurs every 10-50 years worldwide on average.

Since 1940, there have been 12 earthquakes centered in NH with a magnitude of 3.0 or greater and only two earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater. There have been no recorded earthquakes to date centered in Wilton, however, one could occur.

Previous Occurrences of Earthquakes

Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
	There have been no earthquakes centered in Wilton to date. Earthquakes noted below were centered in NH.	Earthquakes noted below had a magnitude of 2.5 or greater.	
March 18, 1926	Manchester, NH	No historic data on extent	Intensity V effects observed in Amherst, Lyndeborough, Manchester, Mason, and Wilton.
December 20, 1940	Lake Ossipee, NH	Magnitude 5.5 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
December 24, 1940	Lake Ossipee, NH	Magnitude 5.5 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
December 4, 1963	Laconia, NH (43.6 latitude, -71.5 longitude)	Magnitude 3.7 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
June 28, 1981	Sanbornton, NH (43.56 latitude, -71.56 longitude)	Magnitude 3.0 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
January 19, 1982	Sanbornton, NH (43.5 latitude, -71.6 longitude)	Magnitude 4.7 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
October 25, 1986	Northfield, NH (43.399 latitude, -71.59 longitude)	Magnitude 3.9 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
October 20, 1988	Milan, NH (44.539 latitude, -71.158 longitude)	Magnitude 3.9 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
November 22, 1988	Milan, NH (44.557 latitude, -71.183 longitude)	Magnitude 3.2 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
April 6, 1989	Berlin, NH	Magnitude 3.5 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton

	(44.511 latitude, -71.144 longitude)		
October 6, 1992	Canterbury, NH (43.324 latitude, -71.578 longitude)	Magnitude 3.4 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
June 16, 1995	Lyman, NH (44.286 latitude, -71.915 longitude)	Magnitude 3.8 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
August 21, 1996	Bartlett, NH (44.184 latitude, -71.352 longitude)	Magnitude 3.8 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
January 27, 2000	Raymond, NH (43.00 latitude, -71.18 longitude)	Magnitude 3.0 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
September 26, 2010	Boscawen, NH (43.2915 latitude, -71.6568 longitude)	Magnitude 3.4 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
October 11, 2013	Contoocook, NH (43.255 latitude, -71.747 longitude)	Magnitude 2.6 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
March 21, 2016	Contoocook, NH (43.264 latitude, -71.767 longitude)	Magnitude 2.8 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
February 11, 2017	Bedford, NH (42.946°N latitude, 71.541°W longitude)	Magnitude 2.2 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
February 15, 2018	East Kingston, NH (42.921°N latitude, 71.011°W longitude)	Magnitude 2.7 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
February 4, 2022	Gorham, NH (44.386°N latitude, 71.175°W longitude)	Magnitude 2.9 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
April 25, 2023	Center Sandwich, NH (43.780°N 71.480°W)	Magnitude 2.9 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
December 23, 2023	Chichester, NH (43.217°N latitude 71.445°W longitude)	Magnitude 2.7 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
June 18, 2024	Haverhill, NH (44.016°N latitude 72.035°W longitude)	Magnitude 2.6 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
	Earthquakes noted below were centered outside of NH but were felt by NH municipalities.		
November 18, 1929	Grand Banks, Newfoundland	Magnitude 7.2 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton

November 1, 1935	Timiskaming, Canada	Magnitude 6.25 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
June 15, 1973	Near Canadian/NH border	Magnitude 4.8 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
June 23, 2010	Buckingham, Quebec, Canada	Magnitude 5.0 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
August 23, 2011	Washington, DC	Magnitude 5.8 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
October 16, 2012	Hollis Center, ME	Magnitude 4.0 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton
January 27, 2025	10 km SE of York Harbor, ME (43.062°N latitude 70.566°W longitude)	Magnitude 3.8 on Richter Scale	No damage in Wilton

Earthquake Hazard Loss Estimate

Step 1. Determine potential earthquake strength in Wilton

- US Seismic Hazard, 2% in 50 years PGA is 0.2 to 0.3(g) in Wilton
- Source: [USGS NH Seismic Map 2014](#)

Step 2. Determine percent building damage ratio to single family residence from PGA (g) 0.25 earthquake

- Wood Frame Construction with Low general seismic design level = 4.6% building damage
- Source: [FEMA Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses](#), pg. 4-17

Step 3. Determine percent of structures in Wilton that would be damaged by PGA (g) 0.25 earthquake

- 1-5% of structures estimated to be damaged by earthquake
- Source: *Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team (no historical data on earthquake damage in Wilton)*

Step 4. Determine total assessed value of structures in Wilton

- Total Assessed Value of all Structures in Wilton = \$434,184,100
- Source: *Wilton Assessing Department (2025)*

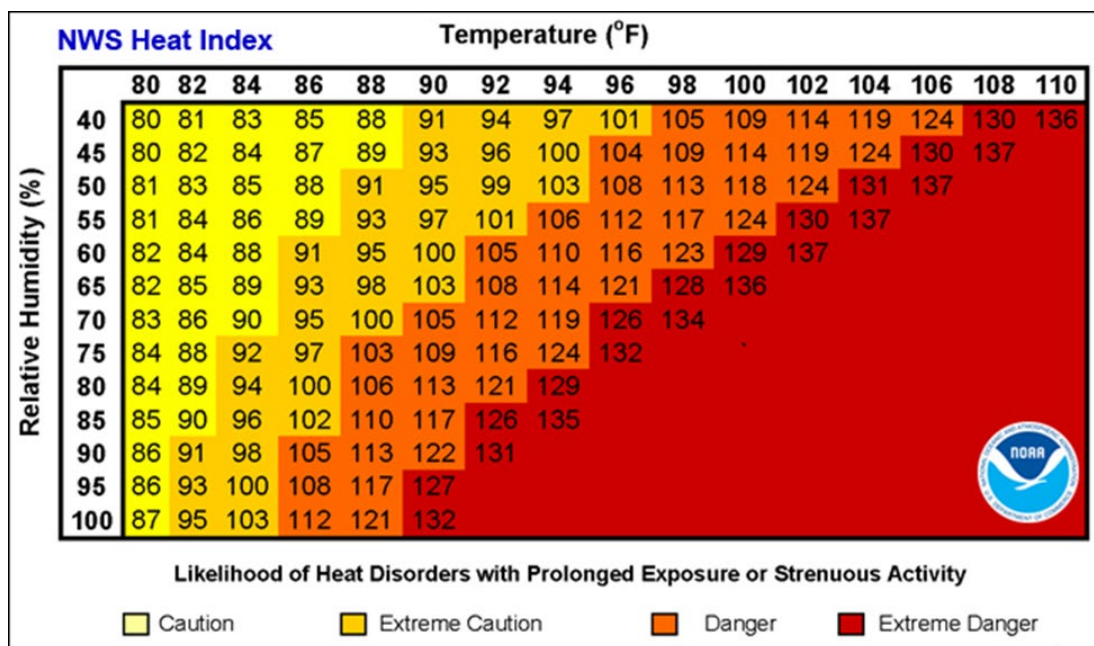
Step 5. Determine total loss from PGA (g) 0.25 Earthquake

- Total Loss from Earthquake = Total Assessed Value of all Structures * Percentage of Structures Estimated to be Damaged * Percent Building Damage Ratio
- Total Loss from Earthquake = \$434,184,100 * 0.01 * 0.046 = \$199,725
- Total Loss from Earthquake = \$434,184,100 * 0.05 * 0.046 = \$998,623
- **\$199,725 to \$998,623**

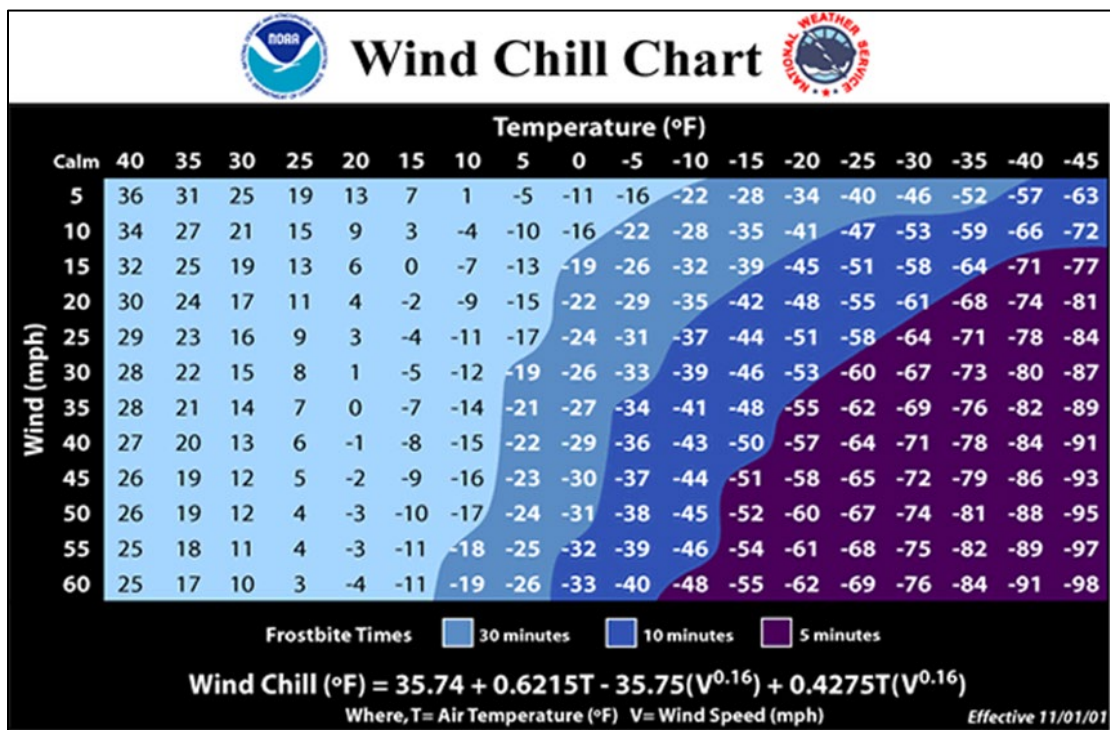
Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Earthquake Hazard Area	Percentage of this type of Critical Facilities in Earthquake Hazard Area
General Occupancy	46	46	100%
Essential Facilities	7	7	100%
Transportation	9	9	100%
Utility System	12	12	100%
High Potential Hazard	25	25	100%
Hazardous Materials	2	2	100%

EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Extreme temperatures can be broken into both extreme heat and extreme cold. Though the hazards are different, the effects would be like vulnerable populations in Wilton. A heat wave can be defined as a prolonged period of excessive heat, often combined with excessive humidity. Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. The risk of heat-related illness increases as temperature and humidity levels rise. Extreme heat events can be defined as periods with temperatures of 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Extreme heat should not be confused with a drought (extended periods of negative departures from normal rainfall). Overburdened power networks may experience failures due to the impacts of extreme heat. The National Weather Service (above) illustrates the probability of heat disorders with prolonged exposure or strenuous activity.



Extreme cold is defined as an extended period where temperatures are at or below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. With the rising costs of heating fuel and electric heat, many low-income or homeless citizens cannot adequately heat their homes, exposing themselves to cold related emergencies or death. Extremely cold winters can lead to shortages in heating fuels due to high demand. The National Weather Service Windchill Chart (right) depicts the dangers of freezing temperatures and winds.



Previous Occurrences of Extreme Temperatures

Hazard	Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	February 1-4, 2015	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of minimum temperatures at or below 0°F: • 2/1/15: 0°F • 2/2/15: 0°F • 2/3/15: -3°F • 2/4/15: -2	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	February 14-19, 2015	Entire Jurisdiction	6 consecutive days of minimum temperatures at or below 0°F: • 2/14/15: -7°F • 2/15/15: -4°F • 2/16/15: -5°F • 2/17/15: -2°F • 2/18/15: -3°F • 2/19/15: -4°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	February 14-16, 2016	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of minimum temperatures at or below 0°F: • 2/14/16: -11°F • 2/15/16: -9°F • 2/16/16: -9°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	December 28-31, 2017	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of minimum temperatures at or below 0°F: • 12/28/17: -7°F • 12/29/17: -9°F • 12/30/17: -6°F • 12/31/17: -11°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	January 1-3, 2018	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of minimum temperatures at or below 0°F: • 1/1/18: -5°F • 1/2/18: -14°F • 1/3/18: -13°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	January 31-February 3, 2019	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of minimum	No known impact in Wilton

			temperatures at or below 0°F: • 1/31/19: -2°F • 2/1/19: -5°F • 2/2/19: -5°F • 2/3/19: -1°F	
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	January 15-17, 2022	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of minimum temperatures at or below 0°F: • 1/15/22: -2°F • 1/16/22: -6°F • 1/17/22: 0°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Cold)	January 21-23, 2025	Entire Jurisdiction	• 1/21/25: -9°F • 1/22/25: -11°F • 1/23/25: -5°F	No known impact in Wilton.
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	July 29-31, 2015	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/29/15—93°F • 7/30/15—94°F • 7/31/15—90°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 16-20, 2015	Entire Jurisdiction	5 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 8/16/15—90°F • 8/17/15—90°F • 8/18/15—91°F • 8/19/15—93°F • 8/20/15—90°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	September 2-4, 2015	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 9/2/15—91°F • 9/3/15—92°F • 9/4/15—92°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	September 7-11, 2015	Entire Jurisdiction	5 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 9/7/15—90°F • 9/8/15—94°F • 9/9/15—94°F • 9/10/15—94°F • 9/11/15—93°F	No known impact in Wilton

Extreme Temperature (Heat)	July 22-29, 2016	Entire Jurisdiction	8 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/22/16—95°F • 7/23/16—93°F • 7/24/16—93°F • 7/25/16—92°F • 7/26/16—96°F • 7/27/16—96°F • 7/28/16—93°F • 7/29/16—93°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	June 12-14, 2017	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 6/12/17—94°F • 6/13/17—98°F • 6/14/17—96°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	July 20-22, 2017	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/20/17—93°F • 7/21/17—94°F • 7/22/17—92°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 1-4, 2017	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 8/1/17—90°F • 8/2/17—92°F • 8/3/17—91°F • 8/4/17—90°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	September 25-28, 2017	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 9/25/17—93°F • 9/26/17—91°F • 9/27/17—90°F • 9/28/17—91°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	July 1-7, 2018	Entire Jurisdiction	7 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/1/18—91°F	No known impact in Wilton

			• 7/2/18—95°F • 7/3/18—92°F • 7/4/18—95°F • 7/5/18—92°F • 7/6/18—92°F • 7/7/18—92°F	
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 29-31, 2018	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 8/29/18—92°F • 8/30/18—93°F • 8/31/18—93°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	July 20-22, 2019	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/20/19—91°F • 7/21/19—95°F • 7/22/19—93°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 10-13, 2020	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 8/10/20—91°F • 8/11/20—95°F • 8/12/20—93°F • 8/13/20—93°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	June 5-9, 2021	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 6/5/21—92°F • 6/6/21—93°F • 6/7/21—94°F • 6/9/21—95°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	June 27-30, 2021	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 6/27/21—91°F • 6/28/21—96°F • 6/29/21—97°F • 6/30/21—96°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 11-14, 2021	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/11/21—92°F • 7/12/21—94°F • 7/13/21—93°F	No known impact in Wilton

Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 24-27, 2021	Entire Jurisdiction	4 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/24/21—92°F • 7/25/21—92°F • 7/26/21—95°F • 7/27/21—91°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	July 19-24, 2022	Entire Jurisdiction	6 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/19/22—92°F • 7/20/22—96°F • 7/21/22—95°F • 7/22/22—92°F • 7/23/22—95°F • 7/24/22—97°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 3-10, 2022	Entire Jurisdiction	8 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 8/3/22—90°F • 8/4/22—92°F • 8/5/22—99°F • 8/6/22—92°F • 8/7/22—96°F • 8/8/22—97°F • 8/9/22—98°F • 8/10/22—93°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	August 20-22, 2022	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 8/20/22—91°F • 8/21/22—96°F • 8/22/22—91°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	June 19-21, 2024	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 6/19/24—98°F • 6/20/24—99°F • 6/21/24—99°F	No known impact in Wilton
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	July 6-18, 2024	Entire Jurisdiction	11 consecutive days of temperatures above 90°F: • 7/8/24—94°F • 7/9/24—94°F • 7/10/24—92°F • 7/11/24—93°F	No known impact in Wilton

			• 7/12/24—93°F • 7/13/24—91°F • 7/14/24—91°F • 7/15/24—93°F • 7/16/24—94°F • 7/17/24—95°F • 7/18/24—93°F	
Extreme Temperature (Heat)	June 23-25, 2025	Entire Jurisdiction	3 consecutive days of temperatures about 90°F: • 6/23/25—92°F • 6/24/25—102°F • 6/25/25—102°F	Record temperatures were recorded, and Extreme temperature warnings were issued due to high temperatures paired with high humidity levels.

**NOAA does not have a full history of temperature data for the Town of Wilton, NH. Extreme Temperature data is based on readings from NOAA weather stations in Milford, NH and in Nashua, NH.*

Extreme Temperatures Hazard Loss Estimate

Because the impacts of extreme temperatures can result in the loss of life, it is beyond the scope of this Plan to estimate the dollar value of losses to Wilton resulting from extreme temperatures. Though the entire Wilton population may experience a thermal emergency, populations without adequate climate control are most at risk. Extreme temperatures are not likely to cause damage to structures, although pipes can burst in extreme cold conditions.

FLOODING

Localized Flooding

Localized flooding can result from even minor storms. Runoff overloads the drainage ways and flows into the streets and low-lying areas. Homes and businesses can be inundated, especially basements and the lower part of first floors. Localized flooding poses most of the same problems caused by larger floods, but because it typically has an impact on fewer people and affects small areas, it tends to bring less State or Federal involvement such as funding, technical help, or disaster assistance. As a result, the community and the affected residents or business owners are left to cope with the problems on their own. Finally, flooding of this type tends to recur; small impacts accumulated over time can become major problems.

Riverine Flooding

Riverine flooding involves the overflowing of normal flood channels, rivers or streams, generally because of prolonged rainfall or rapid thawing of snow cover. The lateral spread of floodwater is largely a function of the terrain, becoming greater in wide, flat areas, and affecting narrower areas in steep terrain. In the latter cases, riparian hillsides in combination with steep declines in riverbed elevation often force waters downstream rapidly, sometimes resulting in flash floods.

Wilton has a diverse topography, which gives rise to several recognized watersheds, including:

- Stony Brook Watershed—5,043 acres in Wilton, 30.7% of Town
- Purgatory Brook Watershed—990 acres in Wilton, 6.0% of Town
- Beaver Brook Watershed—720 acres in Wilton, 4.4% of Town
- Temple Brook Watershed—8,733 acres in Wilton, 53.0% of Town
- Nissitissit River Watershed—964 acres in Wilton, 5.9% of Town

Floodplains cover approximately 4.23% of Wilton; 3.48% of Wilton is in 1% annual floodplain and 0.75% of Wilton is in the 0.2% annual floodplain. Floodplains in Wilton are primarily located around the Souhegan River, Blood Brook, Stony Brook, Mill Brook, and dam impoundments.

Dam Failure

The NH Department of Environmental Services indicates several failure modes for dams. Most typical include hydraulic failure or the uncontrolled overflowing of water, seepage, or leaking at the dam's foundation or gate; structural failure or rupture; general deterioration; and gate inoperability. These modes vary between dams depending on their construction type.

The State of New Hampshire uses a hazard potential classification to define the extent of a dam breach or failure. All class S (Significant) and H (High hazard) dams have the potential to cause damage if they breach or fail.

Class H—high hazard: dam that has a high hazard potential because it is in a location and of a size that failure or misoperation of the dam would result in probably loss of human life as a result of: water levels and velocities causing the structural failure of a foundation of a habitable residential structure or commercial or industrial structure that is occupied under normal conditions; water levels rising above 1st floor elevation of a habitable residential structure or a commercial or industrial structure that is occupied under normal conditions when the rise due to dam failure is greater than 1 foot; structural damage to an interstate highway, which could render the roadway impassible or otherwise interrupt public safety services; release of a quantity and concentration of material that qualify as “hazardous waste” under RSA 147-A:2 VII; any other circumstance that would more likely than not cause one or more deaths.

Class S—significant hazard: dam has a significant hazard potential because it is in a location and of a size that failure or misoperation of the dam would result in any of the following: no probably loss of lives; major economic loss to structures or property; structural damage to a Class I or Class II road that would render the road impassable or otherwise interrupt public safety services; major environmental or public health losses.

Class L—low hazard: dam has a low hazard potential because it is in a location and of a size that failure or misoperation of the dam would result in any of the following: no possible loss of life; low economic loss to structures or property; structural damage to a town or city road or private road accessing property other than the dam owner's that could render the road impassible or otherwise interrupt public safety service; the release of liquid industrial, agricultural, or commercial wastes, septage, or

contaminated sediment if the storage capacity is less than 2 acre-feet and is located more than 250 feet from a water body or water course; reversible environmental losses to environmentally-sensitive sites.

Class NM—non-menace: dam that is not a menace because it is in a location and of a size that failure or misoperation of the dam would not result in probable loss of life or loss to property, provided the dam is less than 6 feet in height if it has a storage capacity greater than 50 acre-feet; or less than 25 feet in height if it has a storage capacity of 15-50 acre-feet.

The NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) lists 25 active dams in Wilton. Out of those 25 dams, Wilton has 12 Class NM dams (Non-Menace), six (6) Class L dams (Low hazard potential), three (3) Class S dams (Significant hazard potential), and four (4) Class H dams (High hazard potential). The Wilton Emergency Management Director oversees and monitors dams within town.

Most of Wilton's Dams have either a non-menacing or low hazard classification, which means that they have a relatively low hazard potential because of their size and location. Failure or misoperation of any number of these dams would not result in an economic loss to structures and property and no probable loss of lives. It is also worth noting that to date there is no history of dam failure in Wilton, making it a rare occurrence and minimal risk.

However, four (4) of the dams in Wilton have a high hazard classification, which are the most likely to impact personal property and could potentially result in loss of life in the case of structural failure or misoperation. These dams include the Wilton Mill Worx Dam, New Wilton Reservoir Dam, Souhegan River Site 10A Dam, and Souhegan River Site 33 Dam. These dams are further described in **Table 11** below.

A Letter of Deficiency was issued by NH DES for the New Wilton Reservoir Dam in January of 2024. Failure of the New Reservoir Dam because of extreme precipitation or rapid snowmelt over-topping or damaging the dam, or a seismic event damaging the dam, would result in potential loss of life and significant flooding of roadways, homes, and businesses. One of Wilton's essential critical facilities, the Wilton Police Department, is also located within the New Reservoir Dam's floodplain. Wilton is currently working with NH DES and consulting with engineers for options to repair the dam and bring it back into compliance with NH DES Safety Standards. The water level has also been lowered six feet to reduce the risk of a breach, as suggested in the Letter of Deficiency. Wilton has included a hazard mitigation action (see **Table 15 - Mitigation Actions**) to address the deficiencies in the New Wilton Reservoir Dam later in this plan.

The Wilton Mill Worx Dam, Souhegan River Site 10A Dam, and Souhegan River Site 33 Dam are all structurally sound and in compliance with NH DES safety standards as of the writing of this plan. Failure because of extreme precipitation or rapid snowmelt over-topping or damaging any of these dams, or a seismic event damaging any of the dams would result in potential loss of life and significant flooding of roadways, homes, and businesses. The Wilton Mill Worx Dam and Souhegan River Site 10A Dams are also located in close proximity to Downtown Wilton where many municipal/public offices are located along with the most densely settled residential neighborhoods. These dams are inspected annually and no additional work on them is expected besides general ongoing maintenance. However, the Emergency

Action Plans (EAPs) are becoming outdated and need to be reviewed and/or updated along with updated inundation mapping. Wilton has included a hazard mitigation action (see **Table 15 - Mitigation Actions**) to address updating EAPs and inundation mapping for these three dams later in this plan.

In addition, the Frog Pond Dam (classified as having a Significant hazard potential) also received a Letter of Deficiency from NH DES. Failure of the Frog Pond Dam would result in significant flooding/damage to roadways, homes, and businesses, but no likely loss of life. Wilton has been working with NH DES and engineers to study the feasibility of repairing or removing the dam.

Since Receiving Letters of Deficiency from NH DES, Wilton has since established a Dam Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. At the 2025 Town meeting held in March, \$100,000 was approved to be added to this fund. Dams are also included in the Emergency Operations Plan. The ongoing studies and funding allotment highlight Wilton's actions to collect data, analyze risks associated with dam failure, mitigate hazards, and make improvements.

Table 11 – High Hazard Potential Dams in Wilton ⁷

Dam Name	Owner	Hazard Classification	Water Body	Height	Impoundment
Wilton Mill Worx Dam	Wilton Mill Worx LLC	H	Souhegan River	15.0 ft	2.0 acres
New Wilton Reservoir Dam	Town of Wilton	H	Stockwell Brook	24.5 ft	21.3 acres
Souhegan River Site 10A Dam	NH DES Water Division	H	Mill Brook	59.0 ft	7.6 acres
Souhegan River Site 33 Dam	NH DES Water Division	H	King Brook	26.0 ft	12.0 acres

⁷ March 2025 dam data obtained from NH DES

Previous Occurrences of Flood

Hazard	Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
Flooding—Dam Failure	There has been no significant damage from flooding due to dam failure in Wilton to-date.			
Flooding	1927	Hillsborough County	No data on extent available	Damage to road network.
Flooding	March 11-21, 1936	Hillsborough County	25–50-year recurrence interval	\$133,000,000 in property damage and 77,000 homeless throughout New England. Primary impact to structures, infrastructure, and road network. Flooding caused by heavy snowfall, heavy rain, and warm weather. Referred to as “the Great Flood of 1936,” high water levels and ice dams caused severe damages to homes and businesses and swept away lumber and farm equipment. Forest Road was completely washed out in some areas and impassible.
Flooding	July 11, 1973	Hillsborough County	No data on extent available	FEMA Disaster Declaration #399. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	July 29-August 10, 1986	Hillsborough County	No data on extent available	FEMA Disaster Declaration #771. Many roads impassable in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	March 30-April 11, 1987	Hillsborough County	25-50+ year recurrence interval	\$4,888,889 in damage in NH. FEMA Disaster Declaration #789. Primary impact to agricultural fields in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.

Flooding	August 7-11, 1990	Hillsborough County	No data on extent available	\$2,297,777 in damage in NH. FEMA Disaster Declaration #876. Primary impact to infrastructure in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	October 20-23, 1996	Hillsborough County	No data on extent available	\$2,341,273 in damage in NH. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1144. Primary impact to structures and infrastructure in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	July 2, 1998	Hillsborough County	No data on extent available	\$3,400,000 in damage in NH, 6 counties impacted including Hillsborough. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1231. Primary impact to structures and infrastructure in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	October 26, 2005	Hillsborough County	50–100-year recurrence interval	5 counties impacted in NH, including Hillsborough. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1610. Primary impact to structures and infrastructure in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	May 12-23, 2006	Hillsborough County	As much as 14 inches of rainfall in region. 100-500 year recurrence interval.	7 counties impacted in NH, including Hillsborough. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1643. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	April 15, 2007	Hillsborough County	100-500 year recurrence interval	\$27,000,000 in damages in NH; 2,005 home owners and renters applied for assistance in NH. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1695.

				Primary impact to structures and infrastructure in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	September 6-7, 2008	Hillsborough County	50-100 year recurrence interval	\$6.90 per capita in damages in Hillsborough County. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1799 Primary impact to structures and infrastructure in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	March 14, 2010	Hillsborough County	50-100 year recurrence interval	\$1,880,685 in FEMA public assistance in NH; \$1.80 per capita in Hillsborough County. Flooding near Johnson Corner due to undersized culvert. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1913 Primary impact to roads and bridges in Hillsborough County. Specific impacts to Wilton are unknown.
Flooding	May 26, 2011	Hazard was not experienced in jurisdiction.	N/A	Disaster Declaration #4006. No impact to Wilton.
Flooding	May 29, 2012	Hazard was not experienced in jurisdiction.	N/A	Disaster Declaration #4065. No impact to Wilton.
Flooding	June 26, 2013	Hazard was not experienced in jurisdiction.	N/A	Disaster Declaration #4139. No impact to Wilton.
Flooding	July 1, 2017	Hazard was not experienced in jurisdiction	N/A	Disaster Declaration #4329. No impacts to Wilton.
Flooding	October 29 – November 1, 2017	Hazard was not experienced in jurisdiction	N/A	Disaster Declaration #4355. No impacts to Wilton.
Flooding	March 2-8, 2018	Hazard was not experienced in jurisdiction	N/A	Disaster Declaration #4370. No impacts to Wilton.
Flooding	July 11-12, 2019	Hazard was not experienced in jurisdiction	N/A	Disaster Declaration #4357. No impacts to Wilton.

Flood Hazard Loss Estimate

Step 1. Determine percent building damage to a 1 or 2 story building with basement

- 1-foot flood depth = 15% building damage
- 2-foot flood depth = 20% building damage
- 3-foot flood depth = 23% building damage
- 4-foot flood depth = 28% building damage
- *Source: FEMA Identifying Hazards and Estimating Losses, pg. 4-13*

Step 2. Determine number of structures in Wilton located in the floodplain

- 60 structures located in 1% floodplain
- 12 structures located in 0.2% floodplain
- *Source: Nashua Regional Planning Commission http://data-nashuarpc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/98afc8bbe9a14c5494c87cc92480b4b1_0*

Step 3. Determine total value of structures in Wilton located in 1% floodplain

- Average assessed value of all structures in Wilton = \$273,071
- Total number of structures in Wilton located in 1% floodplain = 60
- Total assessed value of all structures in Wilton in 1% floodplain = $\$273,071 * 60 = \$60,384,260$
- Total assessed value of all structures in Wilton in 1% floodplain = \$60,384,260
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team calculations based on 2025 Wilton Assessing data & NRPC GIS data*

Step 4. Determine total loss from flooding in 1% floodplain

- Total Loss from Flooding = Total Assessed Value of all structures in 1% Floodplain * Percent Building Damage Ratio
- Total Loss from 1-foot flood depth = $\$60,384,260 * 0.15 = \mathbf{\$9,057,639}$
- Total Loss from 2-foot flood depth = $\$60,384,260 * 0.20 = \mathbf{\$12,076,852}$
- Total Loss from 3-foot flood depth = $\$60,384,260 * 0.23 = \mathbf{\$13,888,380}$
- Total Loss from 4-foot flood depth = $\$60,384,260 * 0.28 = \mathbf{\$16,907,593}$

Step 5. Determine total value of structures in Wilton located in 0.2% floodplain

- Average assessed value of all structures in Wilton = \$273,071
- Total number of structures in Wilton located in 0.2% floodplain = 12
- Total assessed value of all structures in Wilton in 0.2% floodplain = $\$273,071 * 12$
- Total assessed value of all structures in Wilton in 0.2% floodplain = \$3,276,852
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team calculations based on 2025 Wilton Assessing data & NRPC GIS data*

Step 6. Determine total loss from flooding in 0.2% floodplain

- Total Loss from Flooding = Total Assessed Value of all structures in 0.2% Floodplain * Percent Building Damage Ratio

- Total Loss from 1-foot flood depth = \$3,276,852* 0.15 = **\$491,528**
- Total Loss from 2-foot flood depth = \$3,276,852* 0.20 = **\$655,370**
- Total Loss from 3-foot flood depth = \$3,276,852* 0.23 = **\$753,676**
- Total Loss from 4-foot flood depth = \$3,276,852* 0.28 = **\$917,519**

Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facility in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facility vulnerable to flooding	Percentage of this type of Critical Facility vulnerable to flooding
General Occupancy	46	13	28%
Essential Facilities	7	2	29%
Transportation	9	6	67%
Utility System	12	3	25%
High Potential Hazard	25	25	100%
Hazardous Materials	2	2	100%

SEVERE WIND/TROPICAL STORM

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June 1 through November 30 and peaks in late August and September. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale categorizes hurricanes from 1 to 5 based on sustained wind speed. The National Weather Service National Hurricane Center provides the following estimates of potential property damage based on hurricane wind speed.⁸

Category 1—sustained winds 74-95 mph. Very dangerous winds will produce some damage. Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding, and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap, and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

Category 2—sustained winds 96-110 mph. Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

Category 3 (major)—sustained winds 111-129 mph. Devastating damage will occur. Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

Category 4 (major)—sustained winds 130-156 mph. Catastrophic damage will occur. Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with the loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

⁸ <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php>

Category 5 (major)—sustained winds 157 mph or higher. Catastrophic damage will occur. A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possible months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

FEMA declared disasters in Hillsborough County during Hurricane Bob (1991) and Hurricane Floyd (1999). Though these were the only formally declared incidents, Wilton has experienced strong remnants of numerous tropical cyclones including Hurricane Carol (1954), Donna (1960), Gloria (1985), Irene (2011), and Sandy (2012).

Previous Occurrences of Severe Wind/Tropical Storm

Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
Great Hurricane of 1938	Hillsborough County	No data on extent available	\$12,337,643 total damages (not adjusted for inflation), 13 deaths and 494 injuries in NH. Damage to road network and structures caused by flooding.
August 31, 1954 (Carol)	Hillsborough County	Saffir-Simpson Scale Category 3.	Extensive tree and crop damage.
September 12, 1960 (Donna)	Hillsborough County	Saffir-Simpson Scale Category 3	Water damage to structures due to flooding.
September 27, 1985 (Gloria)	Hillsborough County	Saffir-Simpson Scale Category 2	Damage to trees and power lines from high winds.
August 19, 1991 (Bob)	Hillsborough County	Saffir-Simpson Scale Category 1	FEMA Disaster Declaration #917. Damage to structures, trees, and power lines from high winds. Structural damage in Wilton from fallen trees.
September 16-18, 1999 (Floyd)	Hillsborough County	Tropical Storm (winds 39-73 mph)	FEMA Disaster Declaration #1305. Primary impact to trees, infrastructure, and road network.
August 28, 2011 (Irene)	Hillsborough County	Tropical Storm (winds 39-73 mph).	FEMA Disaster Declaration #4026. Damage to trees and power lines from high winds. Flash floods.
October 26, 2012 (Sandy)	Hillsborough County	Tropical Storm (winds 39-73 mph).	FEMA Disaster Declaration #4095. Minimal damage.
October 29-30, 2017	Hillsborough County	Tropical Storm (winds 39-73 mph).	FEMA Disaster Declaration #4355. A powerful storm fed by tropical moisture knocked out power to more than 270,000 homes and business across the

			state. Eversource reported around 190,000 customers were without power at its peak, ranking it as 1 of its top 5 largest outages in NH. The storm affected 330 roads in NH — 230 local and 100 state. In addition to the wind, 2.8 inches of rain fell in Nashua. There were more than 430 closings around the state. Nashua Fire Rescue responded to more than 100 calls in 12-hour period beginning at 8 p.m. Oct. 29. Falling trees severely damaged many homes and electrical infrastructure. On Nov. 28 Governor Sununu, requested assistance for Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan counties.
August 3-6, 2020 (Isaias)	Hillsborough County	Tropical Storm (winds 39-73 mph).	Tropical storm with extreme wind gusts, flash flooding, high rainfall, tree damage, and power outages.
August 19-27, 2021 (Henri)	Hillsborough County	Tropical Storm (winds 39-73 mph).	Strong tropical storm with flash flooding, high winds, power outages, tree damage, heavy rain between 2 and 4 inches.
There has been no significant damage from tropical-post tropical cyclones (severe wind) in Wilton since 2021.			

Severe Wind Hazard Loss Estimate

There are no standard loss estimation models or tables for wind damage (*Understanding Your Risks*, FEMA, pg. 4-30). As such, the Hazard Mitigation Team used data from previous hurricane events to determine damage estimates. Historically, the strongest hurricane seen in NH was a Category 3, so loss estimates were calculated based on a hurricane of that strength. Hurricanes have primarily damaged road networks and infrastructure in NH. It is beyond the scope of this project to estimate the costs of repairing or replacing transportation and utility infrastructure damaged by a hurricane. The Hazard

Mitigation Team used the following calculations to estimate loss to single family residential structures from a hurricane.

Step 1. Determine percent building damage ratio to single family residence from Category 3 hurricane

- Wood Frame Construction, Low general hurricane design level = 20% building damage
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team*

Step 2. Determine percent of structures in Wilton that would be damaged by Category 3 hurricane

- 5% of structures estimated to be damaged by Category 3 hurricane
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team (no historical data on hurricane damage in Wilton)*

Step 3. Determine total assessed value of structures in Wilton

- Total Assessed Value of all Structures in Wilton = \$434,184,100
- *Source: Wilton Assessing Department (2025)*

Step 4. Determine total loss from Category 3 hurricane

- Total Loss from Hurricane = Total Assessed Value of all Structures * Percentage of Structures Estimated to be Damaged * Percent Building Damage Ratio
- Total Loss from Hurricane = \$235,565,400.00 * 0.05 * 0.2 = **\$4,341,841**

Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Severe Wind Hazard Area	Percentage of this type of Critical Facilities in Severe Wind Hazard Area
General Occupancy	46	46	100%
Essential Facilities	7	7	100%
Transportation	9	9	100%
Utility System	12	7	58%
High Potential Hazard	25	0	0%
Hazardous Materials	2	2	100%

LIGHTNING & HAIL

Lightning

By definition, all thunderstorms contain lightning. Lightning is a giant spark of electricity that occurs within the atmosphere or between the atmosphere and the ground. As lightning passes through the air, it heats the air to a temperature of about 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, considerably hotter than the surface of the Sun. During a lightning discharge, the sudden heating of the air causes it to expand rapidly. After the discharge, the air contracts quickly as it cools back to ambient temperatures. This rapid expansion and contraction cause a shock wave that we hear as thunder.

Lightning is a major hazard to citizens involved in outdoor activities. A lightning strike at a densely attended special event has the potential to create a major mass casualty incident. Lightning also can create wildfires and structure fires and may cause power and/or communications outages.

The Lightning Activity Level (LAL) grid can be used to measure the extent of a lightning event⁹.

LAL	Cloud & Storm Development	Lightning Strikes/15 min
1	No thunderstorms	-
2	Cumulus clouds are common but only a few reach the towering cumulus stage. A single thunderstorm must be confirmed in the observation area. The clouds produce mainly virga, but light rain will occasionally reach the ground. Lightning is very infrequent.	1-8
3	Towering cumulus covers less than two-tenths of the sky. Thunderstorms are few, but two or three must occur within the observation area. Light to moderate rain will reach the ground, and lightning is infrequent.	9-15
4	Towering cumulus covers two to three-tenths of the sky. Thunderstorms are scattered and more than three must occur within the observation area. Moderate rain is common, and lightning is frequent.	16-25
5	Towering cumulus and thunderstorms are numerous. They cover more than three-tenths and occasionally obscure the sky. Rain is moderate to heavy and lightning is frequent and intense.	>25
6	Similar to LAL 3 except thunderstorms are dry.	9-15

Hail

Hailstones are balls of ice that grow as they are held up by winds, known as updrafts, which blow towards thunderstorms. The updrafts carry droplets of supercooled water, water at a below-freezing temperature that is not yet ice. The water droplets freeze into ice balls and grow to become hailstones. Most hailstones are smaller than a dime, but stones may grow to be as large as softballs.

Although it is not common in Wilton, hailstorm events resulting from significant thunderstorms can occur at any time. Summer storms especially may produce hail large enough to damage roofs, siding, and automobiles, or injure people who are outdoors. It was felt that a hailstorm event would be unlikely and would cause minimal damage. Since the previous hazard mitigation plan, no significant occurrences of lightning or hail events have occurred in Wilton.

⁹ <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/LAL.php>

Previous Occurrences of Lighting & Hail

Hazard	Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Hazard Extent	Impact
Lightning	2005	Entire jurisdiction	Severe thunderstorm with heavy rainfall, high winds, and lightning.	Lightning strike destroyed five businesses in the Holt Brothers Industrial Complex. It took 20 hours to put out fires from oil and petroleum-based chemicals.
There has been no significant damage from lightning or hail in Wilton since 2005.				

Lightning Hazard Loss Estimate

Losses from lightning would be on a small, localized scale. The Hazard Mitigation Team used the following calculations to estimate loss to single family residential structures from lightning.

Step 1. Determine percent building damage ratio to single family residence from lightning

- Wood Frame Construction = 5% building damage
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team*

Step 2. Determine percent of structures in Wilton that would be damaged by lightning

- 0.25% of structures estimated to be damaged by lightning
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team (no historical data on lightning damage in Wilton)*

Step 3. Determine total assessed value of structures in Wilton

- Total Assessed Value of all Structures in Wilton = \$434,184,100
- *Source: Wilton Assessing Department (2025)*

Step 4. Determine total loss from lightning

- Total Loss from Lightning = Total Assessed Value of all Structures * Percentage of Structures Estimated to be Damaged * Percent Building Damage Ratio
- Total Loss from Severe Thunderstorm = \$434,184,100 * 0.0025 * 0.05 = **\$54,273**

Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Lightning Hazard Area	Percentage of this type of Critical Facilities in Lightning Hazard Area
General Occupancy	46	46	100%
Essential Facilities	7	7	100%
Transportation	9	0	0%
Utility System	12	6	50%
High Potential Hazard	25	0	0%
Hazardous Materials	2	2	100%

SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

A heavy snowstorm is generally considered to be one that deposits two or more inches of snow per hour in a twelve-hour period. Heavy snow can immobilize a region, stranding commuters, closing businesses, and disrupting emergency services. Accumulating snow can collapse buildings and knock down trees and power lines. Snow removal from roadways, utility damage, and disruption to businesses can have a significant economic impact on municipalities and residents.

A blizzard is a violent snowstorm with winds blowing at a minimum speed of 35 miles per hour and visibility of less than one-quarter mile for three hours. A Nor'easter is a large weather system traveling from south to north, passing along the coast. As the storm's intensity increases, the resulting counterclockwise winds impact the coast and inland areas in a Northeasterly direction. Winds from a Nor'easter can meet or exceed hurricane force, knocking down trees, utility poles, and power lines.

Ice storms occur when a mass of warm, moist air collides with a mass of cold, arctic air. The less dense warm air rises and the moisture precipitates out in the form of rain. When this rain falls through the colder, more-dense air and meets cold surfaces, ice forms and can become several inches thick. Heavy accumulations of ice can knock down trees, power lines, and communications for extended periods of time. Ice Storm extent can be defined by the Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index:

- 0—minimal risk of damage to exposed utility systems; no alerts or advisories needed for crews, few outages
- 1—some isolated or localized utility interruptions are possible, typically lasting for a few hours. Roads and bridges may become slick and hazardous.
- 2—scattered utility interruptions expected, typically lasting 12-24 hours. Roads and travel conditions may be extremely hazardous due to ice accumulation.
- 3—numerous utility interruptions with some damage to main feeder lines and equipment expected. Tree limb damage is excessive. Outages lasting 1-5 days.
- 4—prolonged and widespread utility interruptions with extensive damage to main distribution feeder lines and some high voltage transmission lines/structures. Outages lasting 5-10 days.
- 5—catastrophic damage to entire exposed utility systems, including both distribution and transmission networks. Outages could last several weeks in some areas. Shelters needed.

In recent years, FEMA issued disaster declarations in Hillsborough County for severe winter weather in 1998, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2015. Among these storms was a rare Nor'easter in late October of 2011 that caused major destruction in Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties. Heavy wet snow fell on trees that had much of their foliage remaining. Many trees could not withstand the extra weight of the snow and collapsed under the stress. Damage was very focused in the southern part of New Hampshire and caused nearly three times the amount of debris that the 2008 ice storm produced.

Previous Occurrences of Severe Winter Weather

Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
March 11-14, 1888	Entire jurisdiction	30-50 inches of snow	No historic data on impact
1922	Entire jurisdiction	No historic data on extent	Extreme snow drifts paralyzed road network.
February 14-15, 1940	Entire jurisdiction	Over 30 inches of snow	Snow and high winds paralyzed road network.
February 14-17, 1958	Entire jurisdiction	20-33 inches of snow	Primary impact to road network.
March 18-21, 1958	Entire jurisdiction	22-24 inches of snow	Primary impact to road network.
March 2-5, 1960	Entire jurisdiction	Up to 25 inches of snow	Primary impact to road network.
January 18-20, 1961	Entire jurisdiction	Up to 25 inches of snow	Blizzard conditions paralyze road network.
February 22-28, 1969	Entire jurisdiction	24-98 inches of snow in Central NH	Primary impact to road network. Slow moving storm.
December 25-28, 1969	Entire jurisdiction	12-18 inches of snow	Primary impact to road network.
January 19-21, 1978	Entire jurisdiction	Up to 16 inches of snow	Primary impact to road network.
February 5-7, 1978 (Blizzard of '78)	Entire jurisdiction	25-33 inches of snow	Snow paralyzed road network, trapped commuters in cars, and forced closure of businesses.
April 5-7, 1982	Entire jurisdiction	18-22 inches of snow	Primary impact to road network.
March, 1983	Entire jurisdiction	Over 18 inches of snow, 30-40 mph winds	Snow paralyzed road network and forced closure of businesses.
December 1996	Entire jurisdiction	14 inches of snow	Damage to power lines forces closure of businesses. Heavy wet snow caused many trees

			to come down. Power outages.
January 7, 1998	Entire jurisdiction	Ice storm, no data on extent available	\$12,446,202 in total damages, 1 death and 6 injuries in NH. \$17,000,000 in damages to PSNH equipment. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1199. 20 major road closures; 67,586 without power; 2,310 without phone service; 1 communication tower failure.
January 24, 1998	Entire jurisdiction	No data on extent available	Power outages.
December 11, 2008	Entire jurisdiction	Ice storm, no data on extent available	\$10,383,602 in FEMA public assistance in NH; \$6.35 per capita in Hillsborough County. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1812 Damage to power and phone lines and trees.
February 23, 2010	Entire jurisdiction	Snow followed by rainfall between 2-6 inches. Winds over 70 mph.	\$6,268,179 in FEMA public assistance in NH; \$3.68 per capita in Hillsborough County. FEMA Disaster Declaration #1892 Damage to power and phone lines, trees, and road network. Over 330,000 customers without power state-wide.
October 29-30, 2011	Entire jurisdiction	15-20 inches of snow.	\$3,052,769 in FEMA public assistance in NH; \$5.11 per capita in Hillsborough County. FEMA Disaster Declaration #4049 Damage to power and phone lines, trees, and road network.

February 8-10, 2013	Entire jurisdiction	Snowfall totals of 12-18 inches across region, up to 30 inches in parts of NH. Winds 10-20 mph with gusts up to 40 mph. Visibility less than ¼ mile.	FEMA Disaster Declaration #4105
January 26-28, 2015	Entire jurisdiction.	Snowfall totals of 18-24 inches across region. Winds 35 mph. Visibility 0 miles.	\$3,293,059 in FEMA public assistance in NH; \$3.88 per capita in Hillsborough County. FEMA Disaster Declaration DR-4209.
March 13-15, 2023 (Unofficially named Winter Storm Sage)	Entire Jurisdiction	Heavy, wet snow and torrential rain spanning 3 days. Snowfall totals of 12-36 inches of snow across the region.	People were told to stay home, major roadways were shut down, impacted emergency response, downed trees and power lines created widespread power outages. Governor Sununu requested a major disaster declaration but was denied.

Severe Winter Weather Hazard Loss Estimate

Severe Winter Weather events have primarily damaged road networks and infrastructure in NH. It is beyond the scope of this project to estimate the costs of repairing or replacing transportation and utility infrastructure damaged by severe winter weather. The Hazard Mitigation Team used the following calculations to estimate loss to single family residential structures from severe winter weather.

Step 1. Determine percent building damage ratio to single family residence from severe winter weather

- Wood Frame Construction, no additional provisions for roof snow loads = 5% building damage
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team*

Step 2. Determine percent of structures in Wilton that would be damaged by severe winter weather

- 1% of structures estimated to be damaged by severe winter weather
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team*

Step 3. Determine total assessed value of structures in Wilton

- Total Assessed Value of all Structures in Wilton = \$434,184,100
- *Source: Wilton Assessing Department (2025)*

Step 4. Determine total loss from Severe Winter Weather

- Total Loss from Severe Winter Weather = Total Assessed Value of all Structures * Percentage of Structures Estimated to be Damaged * Percent Building Damage Ratio
- Total Loss from Severe Winter Weather = \$434,184,100 * 0.01 * 0.05 = **\$217,092**

Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Severe Winter Weather Hazard Area	Percentage of this type of Critical Facilities in Severe Winter Weather Hazard Area
General Occupancy	46	46	100%
Essential Facilities	7	7	100%
Transportation	9	9	100%
Utility System	12	12	100%
High Potential Hazard	25	25	100%
Hazardous Materials	2	2	100%

TORNADO/DOWNBURST

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more.

Damage paths can be more than one mile wide and 50 miles long. Tornadoes are created when cold air overrides warm air, causing the warm air to rise rapidly.

A downburst is a severe localized wind blasting down from a thunderstorm. These 'straight line' winds are distinguishable from tornadic activity by their pattern of destruction and debris. Depending on the size and location of these events, the destruction to property may be devastating. Downbursts fall into two categories. Microbursts cover an area less than 2.5 miles in diameter and macrobursts cover an area at least 2.5 miles in diameter.

Hillsborough County has a higher risk of tornado activity compared to the rest of the State. Between 1961 and 1998 there were 15 known tornadoes in Hillsborough County. The most recent downburst activity occurred on July 16, 2024, in the form of a microburst in Milford, NH. Homes and vehicles were damaged, there were widespread power outages, and approximately 150 downed trees along with downed utility poles and wires.

Previous Occurrences of Tornado/Downburst

Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
	There have been no tornados originating in Wilton to date. Tornados noted below originated in Hillsborough Co., NH		
July 2, 1961	Northern Hillsborough Co, originated near Weare, NH	Fujita Scale F2	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 21, 1961	Central Hillsborough Co, originated near New Boston, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
May 9, 1963	Northeastern, Hillsborough Co, originated near Goffstown, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
May 20, 1963	Western Hillsborough Co, originated near Peterborough, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
June 9, 1963	Northeastern Hillsborough Co, originated near Manchester, NH	Fujita Scale F2	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
August 28, 1965	Eastern Hillsborough Co, originated near Litchfield, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 19, 1966	Southern Hillsborough Co, originated near Amherst, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 17, 1968	Central Hillsborough Co, originated near Wilton, NH	Fujita Scale F2	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
August 20, 1968	Northeastern Hillsborough Co, originated near Manchester, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 19, 1972	Southeastern Hillsborough Co, originated near Hudson, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 5, 1984	Western Hillsborough Co, originated near Harrisville, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 5, 1984	Southeastern Hillsborough Co, originated near Pelham, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
June 16, 1986	Western Hillsborough Co, originated near Swanzey, NH	Fujita Scale F1	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 3, 1997	Central Hillsborough Co, originated near Greenfield, NH	Fujita Scale F2	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
May 31, 1998	Western Hillsborough Co, originated near Antrim, NH	Fujita Scale F2	0 fatalities, 0 injuries
July 6, 1999	Merrimack, Grafton, and Hillsborough Co.	Macrobust	2 fatalities, 2 lost roofs, damage to trees and utility infrastructure

July 24 th , 2008	Southern Hillsborough County (Candia & Deerfield, NH more effected than others)	Fujita Scale F2	1 fatality, damage to over 100 structures, some destroyed, causing over \$2 million in damage and injuring 2 people directly.
July 16, 2024	Milford, NH and surrounding towns	Microburst	95mph winds, 150 downed trees, 7 homes damaged, 2 vehicles destroyed, widespread power outages and road closures.

Tornado/Downburst Hazard Loss Estimate

There are no standard loss estimation models or tables for tornados (*Understanding Your Risks*, FEMA, pg. 4-27). As such, the Hazard Mitigation Team used data from previous tornado events to determine damage estimates. Historically, the strongest tornado seen in Hillsborough County was a F2, so loss estimates were calculated based on a tornado of that strength.

Step 1. Determine percent building damage ratio to single family residence from F2 tornado

- Wood Frame Construction, Low general tornado design level = 50% building damage
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team*

Step 2. Determine percent of structures in Wilton that would be damaged by F2 tornado

- 1% of structures estimated to be damaged by F2 tornado
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team (no historical data on tornado damage in Wilton)*

Step 3. Determine total assessed value of structures in Wilton

- Total Assessed Value of all Structures in Wilton = \$434,184,100
- *Source: Wilton Assessing Department (2025)*

Step 4. Determine total loss from F2 Tornado

- Total Loss from Tornado = Total Assessed Value of all Structures * Percentage of Structures Estimated to be Damaged * Percent Building Damage Ratio
- Total Loss from Tornado = \$434,184,100 * 0.01 * 0.5 = **\$2,170,921**

Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Tornado Hazard Area	Percentage of this type of Critical Facilities in Tornado Hazard Area
General Occupancy	46	46	100%
Essential Facilities	7	7	100%
Transportation	9	9	100%
Utility System	12	7	58%
High Potential Hazard	25	25	100%
Hazardous Materials	2	2	100%

WILDFIRE

Wildfires (sometimes referred to as brush fires) are fires ignited in grassy or wooded areas. They may be ignited intentionally by humans, naturally through lightning, or accidentally due to spark ignition from sources such as power lines or fireworks. The interface between forested lands and developed lands poses an ongoing threat to property from wildfires. Potential wildfire areas outside of the recommended response time radius from the fire station may pose a higher risk to structures and residents than those located closer to the fire station.

Previous Occurrences of Wildfire

Date	Location within Jurisdiction	Extent	Impact
July 6, 2011	Brown Road	Small brush fire	No damage to structures.
April 18, 2025	134 Burns Hill Road	2nd alarm brush fire with mutual aid.	1.5 acres burned.

Wildfire Hazard Loss Estimate

Step 1. Determine percent building damage ratio to single family residence from wildfire

- Wood Frame Construction, combustible siding and decking = 20% building damage
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team*

Step 2. Determine percent of structures in Wilton that would be damaged by wildfire

- 0.5% of structures estimated to be damaged by wildfire
- *Source: Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team*

Step 3. Determine total assessed value of structures in Wilton

- Total Assessed Value of all Structures in Wilton = \$434,184,100
- *Source: Wilton Assessing Department (2025)*

Step 4. Determine total loss from Wildfire

- Total Loss from Wildfire = Total Assessed Value of all Structures * Percentage of Structures Estimated to be Damaged * Percent Building Damage Ratio
- Total Loss from Wildfire = \$434,184,100 * 0.005 * 0.2 = **\$434,184**

Critical Facility Type	Total Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wilton	Number of this type of Critical Facilities in Wildfire Hazard Area	Percentage of this type of Critical Facilities in Wildfire Hazard Area
General Occupancy	46	46	100%
Essential Facilities	7	7	100%
Transportation	9	0	0%
Utility System	12	0	0%
High Potential Hazard	25	0	0%
Hazardous Materials	2	2	100%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases are illnesses caused by organisms—such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Many organisms live in and on our bodies. They're normally harmless or even helpful, but under certain conditions, some organisms may cause disease. Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person, some are transmitted by bites from insects or animals, and others are acquired by ingesting contaminated food or water or being exposed to organisms in the environment. Signs and symptoms vary depending on the organism causing the infection, but often include fever and fatigue. Mild infections get better on their own without treatment, while some life-threatening infections may require hospitalization.

The magnitude and severity of infectious diseases is described by its speed of onset (how quickly people become sick or cases are reported) and how widespread the infection is. Some infectious diseases are inherently more dangerous and deadly than others, but the best way to describe the extent of infectious diseases relates to the disease occurrence.¹⁰

- Endemic – Constant presence and/or usual prevalence of a disease or infection agent in a population within a geographic area
- Hyperendemic – The persistent, high levels of disease occurrence
- Cluster – Aggregation of cases grouped in place and time that are suspected to be greater than the number expected even though the expected number may not be known
- Epidemic – An increase, usually sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected
- Outbreak – The same as epidemic, but over a much smaller geographical area
- Pandemic – Epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting many people

Public health incidents and infectious diseases may occur suddenly or with a slow onset. Incidents that occur suddenly may have extraordinary and/or overwhelming medical resource needs. Incidents may occur with a slow onset and/or with advance warning will allow for a more coordinated response. During sudden onset incidents, many victims may reach healthcare facilities on their own without the use of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which means that victims may arrive to find unprepared or inadequate facilities.

Incidents may be insidious or obvious, and both have unique impacts. Insidious incidents (such as diseases that have a longer incubation/onset period where infection can be spread without knowing) can result in a much higher infection rate, eventually overwhelming existing medical resources and resulting in higher morbidity and mortality. Incidents that are more obvious are more recognizable and can result in a more accurate healthcare response, but this may also result in much higher social complications such as fear, anxiety, unnecessary social distancing. For example, the average person may be more afraid of Ebola than influenza; however, the latter is much more likely to occur in the US.

¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/opphss/csels/dsepd/ss1978/lesson1/section11.html>

Having proper surveillance systems to recognize public health and infectious disease incidents is critical to be able to limit impacts.

The duration of the incident can also cause unique impacts. In a short duration incident, there may be a medical surge at the beginning which tapers off as the incident goes on and may not result in significant disruption to everyday life. However, longer duration incidents may have significant impacts not only for the public health response, but also for business/industry and the economy.¹¹

Previous Occurrences of Infectious Disease

As does the rest of the state, Wilton experiences outbreaks annually. These include foodborne outbreaks, Influenza and other respiratory outbreaks, and Norovirus and other gastrointestinal virus outbreaks.

In 2020, the world experienced a major pandemic from the Coronavirus (Covid-19). New Hampshire Covid-19 Emergency Declaration EM-3445-NH spanned from January 20, 2020, through May 11, 2020. As of May 2023, Wilton had 998 Covid-19 cases in total since the start of the pandemic (NH DHHS).

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services conducts infectious disease surveillance, and provides [statistics and reports on their website](#).

Infectious Disease Hazard Loss Estimate

Because the impacts of infectious disease are wide ranging, it is beyond the scope of this Plan to estimate the dollar value of losses to the municipality resulting from infectious diseases. Vulnerable populations are most at risk for this type of hazard.

Section 3.6. Overall Summary of Vulnerability

This section summarizes the Town of Wilton's vulnerability by hazard and by facility type. The Town of Wilton acknowledges that they are equally at risk to and should address all hazards discussed throughout this chapter and listed below.

¹¹ State of NH Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2018 pg. 110-113

Table 12 - Overall Summary of Vulnerability by Hazard

Hazard	Types of Critical Facilities Impacted by Hazard	Impact of Hazard	% of Critical Facilities in Hazard Area	% of Structures Estimated to be Damaged	\$ Value of Loss
Climate Change	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Transportation - Utility Systems - High Potential Hazard - Hazardous Materials - Agricultural Land	See Impacts related to Drought, Extreme Temperatures, and Flooding below.	See Critical Facilities calculations for Drought, Extreme Temperatures, and Flooding below.	See damage estimates for Drought, Extreme Temperature, and Flooding below.	Calculating \$ value of losses is beyond the scope of this Plan (see Section 3.5 Climate Change for explanation)
Drought	Agricultural land. Not likely to have a significant impact on structures themselves, but can have significant impact on people's ability to utilize them.	Loss of crops. Inadequate quantity of drinking water—41% of Wilton population on public drinking water, 59% of Wilton population on private well water. Loss of water for fire protection. Increased risk of fire.	General Occupancy = 11% Essential Facilities = 14% Transportation = 0% Utility Systems = 50% High Potential Hazard = 0% Hazardous Materials = 0%	1,161 acres of agricultural land (7.1% of total land area)	Calculating \$ value of losses is beyond the scope of this Plan (see Section 3.5 Drought for explanation)
Earthquake	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Transportation - Utility Systems - High Potential Hazard	Structural damage or collapse of buildings. Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges,	General Occupancy = 100% Essential Facilities = 100%	1-5%	\$199,725 to \$998,623

Hazard	Types of Critical Facilities Impacted by Hazard	Impact of Hazard	% of Critical Facilities in Hazard Area	% of Structures Estimated to be Damaged	\$ Value of Loss
	Hazardous Materials	railroads, power and phone lines, municipal communications, radio system. Loss of water for fire protection. Risk to life, medical surge.	Transportation = 100% Utility Systems = 100% High Potential Hazard = 100% Hazardous Materials = 100%		
Extreme Temperatures	Not likely to have a significant impact on structures.	Overburdened power networks. Heating fuel shortages. Risk to life from prolonged exposure.	General Occupancy = 11% Essential Facilities = 14% Transportation = 0% Utility Systems = 50% High Potential Hazard = 0% Hazardous Materials = 0%	0%	\$0
Flooding	- General Occupancy - Transportation - High Potential Hazard - Hazardous Materials	Water damage to structures and their contents. Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railroads, power and phone lines,	General Occupancy = 28% in floodplain Essential Facilities = 29% in floodplain	60 structures in 1% annual floodplain 12 structures in 0.2% annual floodplain	Loss in 1% floodplain: 1-foot flood = \$9,057,639 2-foot flood = \$12,076,852

Hazard	Types of Critical Facilities Impacted by Hazard	Impact of Hazard	% of Critical Facilities in Hazard Area	% of Structures Estimated to be Damaged	\$ Value of Loss
		municipal communications, radio system. Environmental hazards resulting from damage. Isolation of neighborhoods resulting from flooding.	Transportation = 67% susceptible to flooding Utility Systems = 25% susceptible to flooding High Potential Hazard = 100% in floodplain Hazardous Materials = 100% in floodplain		3-foot flood = \$13,888,380 4-foot flood = \$16,907,593 Loss in 0.2% floodplain: 1-foot flood = \$491,528 2-foot flood = \$655,370 3-foot flood = \$753,676 4-foot flood = \$917,519
Severe Wind	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Transportation - Utility Systems - High Potential Hazard - Hazardous Materials	Wind damage to structures and trees. Water damage to structures and their contents. Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railroads, power and phone lines, municipal communications, radio system.	General Occupancy = 100% Essential Facilities = 100% Transportation = 100% Utility Systems = 58% High Potential Hazard = 0% Hazardous Materials = 100%	5%	\$4,341,841

Hazard	Types of Critical Facilities Impacted by Hazard	Impact of Hazard	% of Critical Facilities in Hazard Area	% of Structures Estimated to be Damaged	\$ Value of Loss
		Environmental hazards resulting from damage. Isolation of neighborhoods resulting from flooding.			
Lightning	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Transportation - Utility System - High Potential Hazard - Hazardous Materials	Smoke and fire damage to structures. Disruption to power lines and municipal communications. Damage to critical electronic equipment. Injury or death to people involved in outdoor activity.	General Occupancy = 100% Essential Facilities = 100% Transportation = 0% Utility Systems = 50% High Potential Hazard = 0% Hazardous Materials = 100%	0.5%	\$54,273
Severe Winter Weather	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Transportation - Utility - High Potential Hazard - Hazardous Materials	Disruption to road network. Damage to trees and power lines, communications. Structural damage to roofs/collapse. Increase in CO, other hazards.	General Occupancy = 100% Essential Facilities = 100% Transportation = 100% Utility Systems = 100%	1%	\$217,092

Hazard	Types of Critical Facilities Impacted by Hazard	Impact of Hazard	% of Critical Facilities in Hazard Area	% of Structures Estimated to be Damaged	\$ Value of Loss
			High Potential Hazard = 100% Hazardous Materials = 100%		
Tornado/Downburst	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Transportation - Utility System - High Potential Hazard - Hazardous Materials	Wind damage to structures and trees. Damage or loss of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, railroads, power and phone lines, municipal communications, radio system. Environmental hazards resulting from damage. Medical surge.	General Occupancy = 100% Essential Facilities = 100% Transportation = 100% Utility Systems = 58% High Potential Hazard = 100% Hazardous Materials = 100%	1%	\$2,170,921
Wildfire	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Utility System - High Potential Hazard - Hazardous Materials	Smoke and fire damage to structures in wild land/urban interface. Damage to habitat. Impacts to air quality. Loss of natural resources.	General Occupancy = 100% Essential Facilities = 100% Transportation = 0% Utility Systems = 0%	0.5%	\$434,184

Hazard	Types of Critical Facilities Impacted by Hazard	Impact of Hazard	% of Critical Facilities in Hazard Area	% of Structures Estimated to be Damaged	\$ Value of Loss
			High Potential Hazard = 0% Hazardous Materials = 100%		
Infectious Diseases	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Hazardous Materials	Risk to life, medical surge/ overburdened healthcare systems.	General Occupancy = 83% Essential Facilities = 100% Transportation = 0% Utility Systems = 0% High Potential Hazard = 0% Hazardous Materials = 100%	0%	Calculating \$ value of losses is beyond the scope of this Plan (see Section 3.5 Infectious Diseases for explanation)

Table 13 - Overall Summary of Vulnerability by Facility Type

Note that Climate Change is not included as a hazard in this analysis because its effects on critical facilities are included under the hazards of Drought, Extreme Temperatures, and Flooding.

Facility Type	Total # of facilities	# Susceptible to Drought	# Susceptible to Earthquake	# Susceptible to Extreme Temperatures	# Susceptible to Flooding	# susceptible to Severe Wind	# Susceptible to Lightning & Hail	# Susceptible to Severe Winter Weather	# Susceptible to Tornado/Downburst	# Susceptible to Wildfire	# Susceptible to Infectious Disease
General Occupancy	46	5	46	33	13	46	46	46	46	46	38
Essential Facilities	7	1	7	7	2	7	7	7	7	7	7
Transportation	9	0	9	0	6	9	0	9	9	0	0
Utility	12	6	12	0	3	7	6	12	7	0	0
High Hazard	25	0	25	0	25	0	0	25	25	0	0
Hazardous Materials	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Section 3.7. National Flood Insurance Program

The Town of Wilton participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This provides full insurance coverage based on risk as shown on detailed Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Wilton joined the NFIP on April 15, 1980. The Town's initial Flood Hazard Boundary Map was identified on April 5, 1974 and its initial Flood Insurance Rate Map was identified on April 15, 1980. The current effective map date is September 25, 2009.

Wilton has 23 NFIP policies in force and \$6,619,100 of insurance in force. There have been 4 paid losses totaling \$317,644. Wilton has 1 repetitive loss property, with repetitive loss payments of \$137,409. This is a commercial structure.

The Floodplain Administrator (Building Inspector) in Wilton is responsible for making determinations of substantial improvement and substantial damage. These determinations are made for all development in a special flood hazard area that proposes to improve an existing structure including alterations, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, additions, rehabilitations, renovations, repairs of damage from any origin (such as, but not limited to flood, fire, wind, or snow) and any other improvement of or work on such structure including within its existing footprint.

The Floodplain Administrator, in coordination with any other applicable community official(s), shall be responsible for the following:

- Determine if a substantial damage (SD) determination needs to be made and communicate SD and permit requirements to property owners.
- Verify the cost of repairs to the structure.
- Verify the market value of the structure.
- Make the SD determination and issue it to the property owner.
- Permit development/ensure compliance with community ordinance.
- Inspect development and maintain as-built compliance documentation post construction.

As a participant in the NFIP, communities must agree to adopt a floodplain management ordinance and enforce the regulations found in the ordinance. Wilton has adopted the "Floodplain Conservation District." The regulations of this District are considered part of the Zoning Ordinance for purposes of administration and appeals under state law. If any provision of this ordinance differs or appears to conflict with any provision of the Zoning Ordinance or other ordinance or regulation, the provision imposing the greater restriction or more stringent standard shall be controlling. The regulations in this ordinance apply only to lands designated as special flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its "Flood Insurance Study for the County of Hillsborough, N.H." dated September 25, 2009 or as amended, together with the associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps dated September 25, 2009 or as amended. The ordinance includes the following sections: Definitions (§10.1), Permit Required (§10.2), Location of the 100-Year Flood Elevation (§10.3), Construction Standards (§10.4), Alteration of Water Courses (§10.5), and Variances and Appeals (§10.6).

To demonstrate Wilton’s continued compliance with NFIP requirements, the Hazard Mitigation Team identified the follow mitigation actions as part of its comprehensive mitigation strategy. These actions also appear in Section 4.2, **Table 15 - Mitigation Actions**.

Table 14 - National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Mitigation Type	Hazard Addressed	Critical Facilities Addressed
Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets.	Public Information	Flooding	• General Occupancy • Essential Facilities
Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community.	Public Information	Flooding	• General Occupancy • Essential Facilities

CHAPTER 4. MITIGATION STRATEGY

Section 4.1. Mitigation Actions

After establishing goals and objectives to reduce vulnerabilities to each hazard type, the Hazard Mitigation Team identified mitigation actions to achieve these goals. The resulting mitigation actions appear in **Table 15** below.

Table 15 - Mitigation Actions

Mitigation Action	Mitigation Type	Hazard Addressed	Critical Facilities Addressed
MITIGATION ACTIONS FROM 2021 PLAN			
Review and update Building Codes, Floodplain Ordinance, and Zoning Regulations. Proactively enforce the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) to protect buildings and infrastructure from the impacts of earthquake, flooding, severe wind, severe winter weather, and tornado.	• Prevention • Property Protection	• Earthquake • Flooding • Severe Wind • Severe Winter Weather • Tornado	• General Occupancy • Essential Facilities
Protect critical facilities and equipment from lightning damage. Install and maintain lightning protection devices, such as surge protection, grounding, and lightning rods, on critical electronic equipment.	• Property Protection • Emergency Services Protection	• Lightning	• Essential Facilities • Utility System
Encourage drought-tolerant landscape design by developing an ordinance that promotes the use of permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and support groundwater recharge.	• Prevention • Public Information	• Drought	• General Occupancy
Tightly control burn permits and revoke when not properly and safely being utilized. Provide education on wildfire danger to residents when they apply for burn permits. Conduct education on campfire safety at schools. Post fire danger categories. Continue roadside mowing to reduce the likelihood of wildfires spreading and clear brush from around fire ponds.	• Natural Resource Protection • Property Protection	• Wildfire	• General Occupancy
Implement a fuels management program to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels on public lands, near essential infrastructure, and on private lands by working with landowners. The program will explore strategies such as prescribed burning, cutting firebreaks into	• Prevention • Property Protection • Natural Resource Protection	• Wildfire	• General Occupancy

Mitigation Action	Mitigation Type	Hazard Addressed	Critical Facilities Addressed
public wooded areas, and developing a vegetation management plan.			
NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM MITIGATION ACTIONS			
Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets by updating with current best practices and floodplain information.	Public Information	Flooding	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities
Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community. Notify landowners of non-compliant structures.	Public Information	Flooding	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities
ADDITIONAL MITIGATION ACTIONS			
Enforce RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities to restrict all residential lawn watering for properties on public water systems and those on private domestic wells within their political boundaries if the state or federal government declares a drought condition for that region of the state. The governing body can enforce the lawn watering restrictions by imposing fines in accordance with RSA 625:9. Notice shall be given at least 3 calendar days before the regulations are implemented and shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the municipality and shall be posted in at least 2 public places. Other outreach methods include the Town website and social media accounts.	- Natural Resource Protection - Prevention	Drought	General Occupancy
Monitor water supply and drought conditions. Utilize NH Division of Forest and Lands reports and consult the New Hampshire Drought Management Team (DMT) and the State Drought Management Plan to monitor drought indicators.	- Natural Resource Protection - Prevention - Public Information	- Drought - Wildfire	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities
Continue to work with Eversource to harden electrical infrastructure, including trimming trees near power lines. Establish a formal policy to monitor infrastructure inventory.	Prevention	- Severe Wind - Severe Winter Weather	- General Occupancy - Essential Facilities - Transportation Systems - Utility Systems

Mitigation Action	Mitigation Type	Hazard Addressed	Critical Facilities Addressed
Distribute Community Hazards Guides and conduct outreach and education programs to increase awareness of drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, lightning, severe wind, severe winter weather, tornado, wildfire, and carbon monoxide risks. Utilize Nixle, community access TV, town website, and social media.	• Public Education • Prevention	• All Hazards	• General Occupancy • Essential Facilities
Complete studies and address deficiencies for the New Reservoir Dam and Frog Pond Dam.	• Prevention	• Flooding	• High Potential Hazard
Review and update the Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and inundation mapping as necessary for the Wilton Mill Worx Dam, Souhegan River Site 10A Dam, and Souhegan River Site 33 Dam.	• Prevention	• Flooding	• High Potential Hazard
Update protocols for municipal staff regarding infectious disease to minimize the spread of illness.	• Prevention • Public Information	• Infectious Diseases	• General Occupancy • Essential Facilities • Human Lives

Section 4.2. Prioritizing Mitigation Actions

After identifying mitigation actions to address each hazard, the Team then began a two-step process to prioritize them. The first step was to conduct a benefit cost review. Benefit cost reviews provide a comprehensive overview of the monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits associated with each action. During this process, the Hazard Mitigation Team asked a variety of questions such as, “How beneficial is this action to the entire Town?” “How many people will benefit from this action?” “How large of an area is impacted by this project?” “How costly is this project?”

Table 16 - Cost vs. Benefit Review

Mitigation Action	Likely Benefits	Likely Costs
Review and update Building Codes, Floodplain Ordinance, and Zoning Regulations. Proactively enforce the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) to protect buildings and infrastructure from the impacts of earthquake, flooding, severe wind, severe winter weather, and tornado.	- This action would be effective at avoiding and reducing future losses. - This action is beneficial to all applicable buildings across the entire Town.	- This action may not benefit older structures, not subject to newer building codes. \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Code Enforcement budget
Protect critical facilities and equipment from lightning damage. Install and maintain lightning protection devices, such as surge protection, grounding, and lightning rods, on critical electronic equipment.	Reduced inconvenience and loss associated with a shutdown of critical facilities due to lightning damage.	\$1,000-\$5,000 per critical facility for lightning protection devices
Encourage drought-tolerant landscape design by developing an ordinance that promotes the use of permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and support groundwater recharge.	This action has environmental benefits if residents comply with the ordinance	\$0 additional costs, part of normal Planning Board operations
Tightly control burn permits and revoke when not properly and safely being utilized. Provide education on wildfire danger to residents when they apply for burn permits. Conduct education on campfire safety at schools. Post fire danger categories. Continue roadside mowing to reduce the likelihood of wildfires spreading and clear brush from around fire ponds.	- This action would result in reduced fire-fighting costs. - This action would be most beneficial to portions of Town near wooded areas. - Sound forestry practices can help reduce the risk of wildfire. - This action would also be beneficial to mitigate	- Large scale wildfires are relatively rare in Wilton and therefore the costs of implementing this action may outweigh the benefits of reduced property damage. - Opinions vary about wildfire management, so this action could cause social and political tension.

Mitigation Action	Likely Benefits	Likely Costs
	manmade fire related hazards.	- Enforcement of burn permits can be costly. \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Fire Dept. and Public Works budgets
Implement a fuels management program to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels on public lands, near essential infrastructure, and on private lands by working with landowners. The program will explore strategies such as prescribed burning, cutting firebreaks into public wooded areas, and developing a vegetation management plan.	- This action would result in reduced fire-fighting costs. - This action would be most beneficial to portions of Town near wooded areas. - Sound forestry practices can help reduce the risk of wildfire. - This action would also be beneficial to mitigate manmade fire related hazards.	- Large scale wildfires are relatively rare in Wilton and therefore the costs of implementing this action may outweigh the benefits of reduced property damage. - Opinions vary about wildfire management, so this action could cause social and political tension. \$50 per acre for prescribed burning, \$360 per fire break, \$0 additional costs for vegetation management plan development
Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets by updating with current best practices and floodplain information.	- Educate residents, builders, and other professionals about NFIP - Reduce property loss costs associated with flooding	- Minimal, part of normal town operations \$200 annually; part of existing Code Enforcement budget
Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community. Notify landowners of non-compliant structures.	This action would assist in avoiding future losses due to flooding	Minimal, part of normal town operations
Enforce RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities to restrict all residential lawn watering for properties on public water systems and those on private domestic wells within their political boundaries if the state or federal government declares a drought condition for that region of the state. The governing body can enforce the lawn watering restrictions by imposing fines in accordance with RSA 625:9. Notice shall be given at	If followed, it would help to reduce the impacts of drought.	- The effectiveness of this action depends on the ability of the Town to enforce it. - This action is costly to enforce 4,400 Advertising & Public Information; \$500 Public Education

Mitigation Action	Likely Benefits	Likely Costs
least 3 calendar days before the regulations are implemented and shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the municipality and shall be posted in at least 2 public places. Other outreach methods include the Town website and social media accounts.		
Monitor water supply and drought conditions. Utilize NH Division of Forest and Lands reports and consult the New Hampshire Drought Management Team (DMT) and the State Drought Management Plan to monitor drought indicators.	- This action has environmental benefits if residents comply with reduced water consumption measures. - Potential for reduction in fire suppression efforts.	- Part of normal town operations. \$0 in additional costs. Part of existing Fire Department budget
Continue to work with Eversource to harden electrical infrastructure, including trimming trees near power lines. Establish a formal policy to monitor infrastructure inventory.	- Trimming trees near power lines would reduce the risk of outages. - Fewer trees directly along road would also reduce root systems in roadways, allow more sunlight for better snowmelt, and improve overall road conditions.	- Removal of trees along designated scenic roads requires Planning Board approval - Eversource is responsible for updating poles and wires, though customer rates could increase. \$1,500-\$5,000 per large tree for removal
Distribute Community Hazards Guides and conduct outreach and education programs to increase awareness of drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, lightning, severe wind, severe winter weather, tornado, wildfire, and carbon monoxide risks. Utilize Nixle, community access TV, town website, and social media.	- The Town currently has the capacity to implement this action. - This action is beneficial to all residents in Town.	- This action may have limited impact because it can be difficult to get people to pay attention to outreach campaigns. \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Emergency Management budget.
Complete studies and address deficiencies for the New Reservoir Dam and Frog Pond Dam.	- Would address Letters of Deficiency from NH DES - Improve dam safety and lower risk of failure	Approximately \$1,000,000 per dam.
Review and update the Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and inundation mapping as necessary for the Wilton Mill Worx Dam, Souhegan River Site 10A Dam, and Souhegan River Site 33 Dam.	Improve dam safety and lower risk of failure	Up to \$20,000 per dam.

Mitigation Action	Likely Benefits	Likely Costs
Update protocols for municipal staff regarding infectious disease to minimize the spread of illness.	- This action would benefit the entire Town and particularly the most at-risk populations. - This action has broad social benefits for the community	\$0 additional costs, percentage of Emergency Management budget

After completing a Benefit Cost review for each action, the Hazard Mitigation Team then prioritized the actions by conducting a STAPLEE Analysis, which stands for Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental factors. For each mitigation action, the Team asked the following questions:

- Social— Will the action unfairly affect any one segment of the population? Will it disrupt established neighborhoods? Is it compatible with present and future community values? Will it adversely affect cultural resources?
- Technical—How effective is the action in avoiding or reducing future losses? Will it create more problems than it solves? What are some secondary impacts? Does it solve a problem or only a symptom?
- Administrative— Does the community have the capability to implement the action? Can the community provide the necessary maintenance? Can it be accomplished in a timely manner?
- Political— Is there public support both to implement and maintain the action? Is the political leadership willing to support it? Does it present a financial burden to stakeholders?
- Legal— Does the community have the authority to implement the action? Is enabling legislation necessary? What are the legal side effects? Will the community be liable for the actions, support of actions, or lack of actions?
- Economic— What are the costs of this action? How will the costs be borne? Are state/federal grant programs applicable? Does the action fit into existing capital improvements or economic development budgets?
- Environmental— How will this action affect the environment? Does it comply with local, state, and federal environmental regulations? Is it consistent with community environmental goals? Are endangered or threatened species likely to be affected?

The cost and benefit of each mitigation action were then evaluated and assigned a quantitative score based on the STAPLEE criteria.

Benefit Score Range: 0 = Not Beneficial, 1 = Somewhat Beneficial, 2 = Beneficial, 3 = Very Beneficial

Cost Score Range: 0 = Not Costly, -1 = Somewhat Costly, -2 = Costly, -3 = Very Costly

Next, the scores for each action were added to determine priority. Finally, the Hazard Mitigation Team reviewed the scores and resulting prioritization to make sure it was consistent with historical risks, anticipated future risks, current emergency management priorities, and the Town's goals and Master Plan. The STAPLEE analysis and prioritized mitigation actions appear in **Table 17** below.

Table 17 - STAPLEE Analysis

Mitigation Action: Review and update the Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and inundation mapping as necessary for the Wilton Mill Worx Dam, Souhegan River Site 10A Dam, and Souhegan River Site 33 Dam.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action would not unfairly affect any segment of the population, disrupt established neighborhoods, or adversely impact cultural resources.	0	3
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action solves the problem of dam failure and flooding.	0	3
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. The Emergency Management Director is the responsible party.	0	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public and political support to implement and maintain this action.	0	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the legal authority to implement this action and no enabling legislation is needed.	0	3
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	This action is costly to implement. Wilton will use funding already allocated in the Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund.	-2	3
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action is beneficial to the environment by reducing flooding and road/property washout.	0	3
Subtotal		-2	21
Total			19
Priority			1

Mitigation Action: Complete studies and address deficiencies for the New Reservoir Dam and Frog Pond Dam.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action would not unfairly affect any segment of the population, disrupt established neighborhoods, or adversely impact cultural resources.	0	3
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action solves the problem of dam failure and flooding.	0	3
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. The Emergency Management Director is the responsible party.	0	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public and political support to implement and maintain this action.	0	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the legal authority to implement this action and no enabling legislation is needed.	0	3
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	This action is very costly to implement, about \$1,000,000 per bridge. Wilton will seek EMPG funds and use funding already allocated in the Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund.	-3	3
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action is beneficial to the environment by reducing flooding and road/property washout.	0	3
Subtotal		-3	21
Total			18
Priority			2

Mitigation Action: Review and update Building Codes, Floodplain Ordinance, and Zoning Regulations. Proactively enforce the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) to protect buildings and infrastructure from the impacts of earthquake, flooding, severe wind, severe winter weather, and tornadoes.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	There are not social impacts associated with this action. Enforcement would apply evenly across all applicable buildings, including new construction, major renovations, and changes of use.	0	3
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action is effective at avoiding and reducing future losses and it mitigates the impacts of these hazards.	0	3
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. Responsibility would fall under the Wilton Building Inspector and Planning Board.	0	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public support for this action. Concerns may exist among some property owners who would be directly impacted.	-1	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has adopted these codes and has the legal authority to enforce them.	0	2
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	There would be no additional costs associated with enforcing building codes, as it falls under the existing Building Inspection budget. This action could have a positive economic impact by reducing the number of emergency response calls.	0	2
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action is environmentally beneficial if residents pay attention to and comply with reduced water consumption measures.	0	2
Subtotal		-1	17
Total			16
Priority			3

Mitigation Action: Distribute Community Hazards Guides and conduct outreach and education programs to increase awareness of drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, lightning, severe wind, severe winter weather, tornado, wildfire, and carbon monoxide risks. Utilize Nixle, community access TV, town website, and social media.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action does not unfairly affect any one segment of the population. It is available to all Wilton residents, provided that a variety of distribution methods are utilized.	0	2
T: is it Technically feasible?	There is a high likelihood that at least one of the hazards addressed through this action will occur. This action would help to decrease risk and avoid future loss, but only if residents take personal action as a result of this educational campaign.	-1	2
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. This action would be the responsibility of Emergency Management Director.	0	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public support to implement and maintain this action.	0	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has legal authority to implement this action.	0	2
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	There is \$0 in additional costs to implement this action. It is part of the existing Emergency Management budget.	0	3
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action has the potential to reduce property damage and subsequent environmental impacts.	0	1
Subtotal		-1	16
Total			15
Priority			4

Mitigation Action: Continue to work with Eversource to harden electrical infrastructure, including trimming trees near power lines. Establish a formal policy to monitor infrastructure inventory.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action would not unfairly affect any segment of the population or disrupt established neighborhoods. It is compatible with community values that understand trees need to be trimmed for road maintenance and public safety.	0	3
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action would be effective in avoiding or reducing future losses. It is very likely that a severe winter storm or severe wind event will occur and impact power lines. It would not create more problems than it solves, and it solves the problem rather than only symptoms.	0	3
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capacity to implement this action. The Wilton Public Works Department and Eversource would be the responsible parties.	0	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is political support for this action.	0	3
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	The town does not have authority to perform work on powerline infrastructure, much of this action will fall under the responsibility of Eversource.	0	1
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	Some costs associated with this action would be borne by Eversource. The remaining costs would be borne by the town through increased supply. The benefits of a more resilient electrical infrastructure far outweigh the costs of this action.	-2	3
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action would not have an impact on the environment.	0	0
Subtotal		-2	16
Total			14
Priority			5

Mitigation Action: Tightly control burn permits and revoke when not properly and safely being utilized. Provide education on wildfire danger to residents when they apply for burn permits. Conduct education on campfire safety at schools. Post fire danger categories. Continue roadside mowing to reduce the likelihood of wildfire spreading and clear brush from around fire ponds.

Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action does not unfairly impact any segment of the population, and it is compatible with present and future community values.	0	2
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action helps to avoid or reduce future losses. Wildfire poses danger during dry periods, which Wilton has been experiencing in recent years. It has the potential to solve the underlying problem of wildfires by removing the fuel source. It will not create additional problems or cause secondary impacts.	0	3
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action, although it poses an additional burden on the Fire Dept., particularly for enforcement of burn permits. Eversource is responsible for removing underbrush and standing deadwood under power lines.	-2	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public and political support for this action.	0	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the legal authority to implement this action.	0	2
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	The benefits of reduced fire-fighting costs and potential decrease in property damage could exceed the costs of implementing this action. At the same time, large scale wildfires are relatively rare in Wilton and therefore the costs of implementing this action may outweigh the benefits. Eversource would be responsible for the direct costs of brush removal under power lines.	-2	3
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and suppressing it may have negative consequences. On the other hand, large-scale, man-made fires can have a detrimental impact on the environment.	-1	2
Subtotal		-5	18
Total			13
Priority			6

Timeframe: short term/ongoing

Mitigation Action: Encourage drought-tolerant landscape design by developing an ordinance that promotes the use of permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and support groundwater recharge.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action does not unfairly impact any segment of the population, and it is compatible with present and future community values.	0	3
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action helps to solve symptoms of drought	0	1
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	The Wilton Planning Board is responsible for drafting new ordinances.	0	2
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There may be some opposition to additional regulations.	-1	1
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	The Town has the authority to implement this action.	0	2
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	There are minimal costs associated with this action, it is consistent with normal Planning Board operation.	0	2
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action has a positive impact on the environment by promoting water conservation and supporting groundwater recharge	0	2
Subtotal		-1	13
Total			12
Priority			7

Mitigation Action: Monitor water supply and drought conditions. Utilize NH Division of Forest and Lands reports and consult the New Hampshire Drought Management Team (DMT) and the State Drought Management Plan to monitor drought indicators.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action has the potential to reduce property damage and subsequent environmental impacts.	0	2
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action helps to solve symptoms of drought by making emergency response personnel and residents aware of current conditions. Monitoring alone has limited ability to reduce future loss—additional action is needed.	-2	2
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	The Wilton Fire Department is responsible for monitoring water supply and drought conditions.	0	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public and political support for this action.	0	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the legal authority to implement this action.	0	2
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	Monitoring costs are covered under the existing Fire Department budget.	-1	2
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action has a positive impact on the environment by providing the data needed to promote water conservation.	0	1
Subtotal		-3	14
Total			11
Priority			8

Mitigation Action: Implement a fuels management program to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels on public lands, near essential infrastructure, and on private lands by working with landowners. The program will explore strategies such as prescribed burning, cutting firebreaks into public wooded areas, and developing a vegetation management plan.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action does not unfairly impact any segment of the population and it is compatible with present and future community values.	0	3
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action helps to avoid or reduce future losses. Wildfire poses danger during dry periods, which Wilton has been experiencing in recent years. It has the potential to solve the underlying problem of wildfires by removing the fuel source. It will not create additional problems or cause secondary impacts.	0	2
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. The Fire Department and Highway Department would be responsible.	0	1
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public and political support for this action.	0	1
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the legal authority to implement this action.	0	3
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	The benefits of reduced fire-fighting costs and potential decrease in property damage could exceed the costs of implementing this action. At the same time, large scale wildfires are relatively rare in Wilton and therefore the costs of implementing this action may outweigh the benefits. Eversource would be responsible for the direct costs of brush removal under power lines.	-3	3
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and suppressing it may have negative consequences. On the other hand, large-scale, man-made fires can have a detrimental impact on the environment.	-1	2
Subtotal		-4	14
Total			10
Priority			9

Mitigation Action: Protect critical facilities and equipment from lightning damage. Install and maintain surge protection on critical electronic equipment in all departments. Develop a policy to ensure maintenance.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action would not unfairly affect any segment of the population, disrupt established neighborhoods, or adversely affect cultural resources.	0	2
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action is effective in avoiding or reducing future losses. It would not create more problems than it solves. It would reduce the inconvenience from a shutdown of critical facilities resulting from power outages. However, incidents related to lightning are very rare in Wilton.	0	1
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capacity to implement this action. Each critical facility department head is responsible for implementing the installation and maintenance of lightning protection devices.	0	2
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is political support to implement and maintain this action.	0	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the authority to implement this action.	0	3
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	The cost of \$1,000-\$5,000 per critical facility for lightning protection devices would come out of the Wilton Town Buildings and Grounds appropriation. Given the infrequent occurrence of lightning strikes the costs of this action seem to outweigh the benefits.	-2	1
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action would not impact the environment.	0	0
Subtotal		-2	11
Total			9
Priority			10

Mitigation Action: Update protocols for municipal staff regarding infectious disease to minimize the spread of illness.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action would not unfairly affect any segment of the population, disrupt established neighborhoods, or adversely affect cultural resources.	0	1
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action would help to avoid or reduce future losses. It has more potential to solve symptoms related to infectious disease than the underlying problem itself. It would not create additional problems or cause secondary impacts.	0	1
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. The Emergency Management Director would be responsible for it.	0	1
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public support to implement and maintain this action, especially since the recent Covid-19 pandemic. The political leadership is also willing to support it.	0	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the legal authority to implement this action.	0	2
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	This action is consistent with normal town operations and does not impose additional economic costs.	0	1
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action will not impact the environment.	0	0
Subtotal		0	8
Total			8
Priority			11

Mitigation Action: Enforce RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities to restrict all residential lawn watering for properties on public water systems and those on private domestic wells within their political boundaries if the state or federal government declares a drought condition for that region of the state. The governing body can enforce the lawn watering restrictions by imposing fines in accordance with RSA 625:9. Notice shall be given at least 3 calendar days before the regulations are implemented and shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the municipality and shall be posted in at least 2 public places. Other outreach methods include the Town website and social media accounts.

Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action does not unfairly affect any one segment of the population because it is applied evenly to all residents and businesses. It is compatible with present and future community values.	0	0
T: is it Technically feasible?	The effectiveness of this action depends on the ability of the Town to enforce it. If followed, it would help to reduce the impacts of drought.	-1	3
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. Wilton Water Commission is the responsible party.	0	3
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	The Select Board supports this action. There is public support for this action, although some residents are unsatisfied with it.	-1	2
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	There are no legal issues associated with this action.	0	0
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	Implementation of this action falls under the Water Commission budget. It can be costly to enforce.	-1	0
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action has a positive impact on the environment by promoting water conservation.	0	2
Subtotal		-3	10
Total			7
Priority			12

Mitigation Action: Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community. Notify landowners of noncompliant structures.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action impacts people with structures in the floodplain.	0	1
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action would assist in avoiding future losses due to flooding.	0	2
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton does have the capability to implement this action. The Wilton Emergency Management Director and Building Inspector would be responsible for this action.	0	1
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	It is unclear whether there is public and political support for this action.	-1	1
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	There are no legal issues associated with this action.	0	0
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	There are minimal costs to accomplish this action.	0	1
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action would help reduce property damage and subsequent environmental impacts.	0	1
Subtotal		-1	7
Total			6
Priority			13

Mitigation Action: Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets by updating with current best practices and floodplain information.			
Criteria	Evaluation	Cost	Benefit
S: is it Socially acceptable?	This action would not unfairly affect any segment of the population, disrupt established neighborhoods, or adversely affect cultural resources.	0	0
T: is it Technically feasible?	This action would help to avoid or reduce future losses. It has more potential to solve symptoms related to flooding than the underlying problem itself. It would not create additional problems or cause secondary impacts. Given that flooding is relatively rare in Wilton, this action would likely have minimal impact.	0	1
A: is it Administratively possible (including responsible party)?	Wilton has the capability to implement this action. The Wilton Building Inspector would be responsible for it. It can be accomplished in a timely manner.	0	1
P: Is it Politically acceptable/supported?	There is public support to implement and maintain this action.	0	1
L: Is there Legal authority to implement?	Wilton has the legal authority to implement this action. The Town's role is only to provide and distribute the materials, not to make actual insurance determinations.	0	0
E: Is it Economically feasible and beneficial? (including direct cost)	This action is consistent with normal town operations and does not impose additional economic costs. It would cost \$500 per year to implement and would come out of the Building Inspection budget.	0	0
E: Are there any Environmental impacts?	This action has the potential to reduce property damage and subsequent environmental impacts only if the recommendations in the literature are implemented.	0	1
Subtotal		0	4
Total			4
Priority			14

Section 4.3. Implementing and Administering Mitigation Actions

The Town of Wilton has integrated its 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan into a variety of other planning mechanisms, including the Wilton Emergency Response Plan and Capital Improvements Plan. Updates to Wilton's Capital Improvement Plan will include any applicable mitigation projects identified in the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, the Town of Wilton has incorporated and will continue to integrate requirements of the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026 into other planning mechanisms. For example, the next update to the Town's Master Plan will incorporate elements of the Hazard Mitigation Plan where applicable.

The Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team will be responsible for helping Town boards and departments to integrate the Hazard Mitigation Plan into their own planning mechanisms. The Hazard Mitigation Team developed **Table 18 - Implementation and Administration**, which is an action plan that outlines who is responsible for implementing the prioritized mitigation actions, how they will be funded, and when they will be completed.

Timeframe	
Short Term	1 year or less, or ongoing*
Medium Term	2 -3 years
Long Term	4-5 years

Table 18 - Implementation and Administration

Priority	Mitigation Action	Responsible Party	Cost & Funding	Timeframe
1	Review and update the Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and inundation mapping as necessary for the Wilton Mill Worx Dam, Souhegan River Site 10A Dam, and Souhegan River Site 33 Dam.	Emergency Management Director	Cost = up to \$20,000 per dam Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget/Capital Reserve Funds	Long Term
2	Complete studies and address deficiencies for the New Reservoir Dam and Frog Pond Dam.	Emergency Management Director	Cost = approximately \$2,000,000 Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget, HHPD grants	Short Term
3	Review and update Building Codes, Floodplain Ordinance, and Zoning Regulations. Proactively enforce the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC) to	Building Inspector, Planning Board	Cost = \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Building Department and	Short Term

Priority	Mitigation Action	Responsible Party	Cost & Funding	Timeframe
	protect buildings and infrastructure from the impacts of earthquake, flooding, severe wind, severe winter weather, and tornadoes.		Planning & Zoning budget Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	
4	Distribute Community Hazards Guides and conduct outreach and education programs to increase awareness of drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, lightning, severe wind, severe winter weather, tornado, wildfire, and carbon monoxide risks. Utilize Nixle, community access TV, town website, and social media.	Emergency Management Director	Cost = \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Emergency Management budget Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Long Term
5	Continue to work with Eversource to harden electrical infrastructure, including trimming trees near power lines. Establish a formal policy to monitor infrastructure inventory.	Public Works Department	Cost = \$1,500-\$5,000 per large tree for removal Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget, Eversource	Long Term
6	Tightly control burn permits and revoke when not properly and safely being utilized. Provide education on wildfire danger to residents when they apply for burn permits. Conduct education on campfire safety at schools. Post fire danger categories. Continue roadside mowing to reduce the likelihood of wildfire spreading and clear brush from around fire ponds.	Fire Department	Cost = \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Fire Department budget Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Short Term
7	Encourage drought-tolerant landscape design by developing an ordinance that promotes the use of permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and support groundwater recharge.	Planning Board	Cost = \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Planning & Zoning budget Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Short Term
8	Monitor water supply and drought conditions. Utilize NH Division of Forest and Lands reports and consult the New Hampshire Drought Management Team	Fire Department	Cost = \$ additional costs, percentage of existing Fire Department Budget	Short Term

Priority	Mitigation Action	Responsible Party	Cost & Funding	Timeframe
	(DMT) and the State Drought Management Plan to monitor drought indicators.		Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	
9	Implement a fuels management program to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels on public lands, near essential infrastructure, and on private lands by working with landowners. The program will explore strategies such as prescribed burning, cutting firebreaks into public wooded areas, and developing a vegetation management plan.	Fire Department, Public Works Department	Cost = \$50 per acre for prescribed burning, \$360 per fire break, \$0 additional costs for vegetation management plan development Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Short Term
10	Protect critical facilities and equipment from lightning damage. Install and maintain surge protection on critical electronic equipment in all departments. Develop a policy to ensure maintenance.	Department Heads	Cost = \$1,000-\$5,000 per critical facility for lightning protection devices Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Short Term
11	Update protocols for municipal staff regarding infectious disease to minimize the spread of illness.	Emergency Management Director	Cost = \$0 additional costs, percentage of existing Emergency Management budget Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Short Term
12	Enforce RSA 41:11-d, which allows municipalities to restrict all residential lawn watering for properties on public water systems and those on private domestic wells within their political boundaries if the state or federal government declares a drought condition for that region of the state. The governing body can enforce the lawn watering restrictions by imposing fines in accordance with RSA 625:9. Notice shall be given at least 3 calendar days before the regulations are implemented and shall be	Select Board	Cost = \$4,400 advertising & public information; \$500 public education Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Medium Term

Priority	Mitigation Action	Responsible Party	Cost & Funding	Timeframe
	published in a paper of general circulation in the municipality and shall be posted in at least 2 public places. Other outreach methods include the Town website and social media accounts.			
13	Identify and become knowledgeable of non-compliant structures in the community. Notify landowners of noncompliant structures.	Building Inspector	Cost = \$0 additional costs, percentage of the existing Building Department budget Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Short Term
14	Prepare, distribute, and make available NFIP, insurance, and building codes explanatory pamphlets or booklets by updating with current best practices and floodplain information.	Building Inspector	Cost = \$200 annually Funding Source = Wilton Operating Budget	Short Term

CHAPTER 5. PLAN ADOPTION

Section 5.1. Formal Adoption by Governing Body

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION TOWN OF WILTON, NH SELECT BOARD

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF WILTON, NH HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilton has historically experienced damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of climate change, drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, severe wind, lightning, severe winter weather, tornado, and wildfire, resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilton has developed and received conditional approval from NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) for its Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2021 under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, public and committee meetings were held between May 2, 2025 and August 6, 2025 regarding the development and review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of Wilton; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of Wilton, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Wilton eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Wilton Select Board:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Wilton.
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them.
3. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Select Board by the Wilton Hazard Mitigation Team.

Adopted this day, the 15th of June, 2026.

Thomas C Schultz

Thomas C. Schultz, Chair, Wilton Select Board

(resigned - seat vacant)

Gareth N. Krausser, Wilton Select Board

K R Williams

Kermit R. Williams, Wilton Select Board

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the corporate seal of the Town of Wilton the 15th of June, 2026.

Jamie Pack

Witness



Section 5.2. FEMA Approval Letter



FEMA

July 23, 2026

Robert M. Buxton, Director
New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management
33 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03305

Director Buxton:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 1 Mitigation Division has approved the *Town of Wilton, NH Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2026* effective **July 23, 2026** through **July 22, 2031** in accordance with the planning requirements of the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.

Mitigation plans may include additional content to meet Element H: Additional State Requirements or content the local government included beyond applicable FEMA mitigation planning requirements. FEMA approval does not include the review or approval of content that exceeds these applicable FEMA mitigation planning requirements.

With this plan approval, the Town of Wilton, NH is eligible to apply to New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management for mitigation grants administered by FEMA. Requests for funding will be evaluated according to the eligibility requirements identified for each of these programs. A specific mitigation activity or project identified in this community's plan may not meet eligibility requirements for FEMA funding; even eligible mitigation activities or projects are not automatically approved.

The plan must be updated and resubmitted to the FEMA Region 1 Mitigation Division for approval every five years to remain eligible for FEMA mitigation grant funding.

Robert M. Buxton, Director
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Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to risk reduction demonstrated by preparing and adopting a strategy for reducing disaster losses. Should you have any questions, please contact Jay Neiderbach at (202) 285-7769 or josiah.neiderbach@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Christopher Markesich
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief
Mitigation Division | DHS, FEMA Region 1

cc: Austin Brown, Mitigation & Recovery Section Chief, NH HSEM
Lynne Ryan, State Planner, NH HSEM
Richard Verville, Mitigation Division Director, DHS, FEMA Region 1
Josiah (Jay) Neiderbach, Hazard Mitigation Community Planner, DHS, FEMA Region 1