

## APPENDIX B. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section describes the overall capability of the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls to implement hazard mitigation activities. It consists of the following five subsections:

- B1. Overview
- B2. Methodology
- B3. Review of Existing Capabilities
- B4. Previously Implemented Mitigation Measures
- B5. Summary of Findings and Conclusions

### B.1. OVERVIEW

The purpose of conducting a capability assessment is to determine the ability of a local jurisdiction to implement a comprehensive mitigation strategy, and to identify potential opportunities for establishing or enhancing specific mitigation policies, programs, or projects. As in any planning process, it is important to try to establish which goals and actions are feasible, based on an understanding of the organizational capacity of those agencies or departments tasked with their implementation. A capability assessment helps to determine which types of mitigation actions are practical and likely to be implemented over time based on a local government's existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources available to support such implementation.

A capability assessment has two primary components: an inventory of a local jurisdiction's relevant plans, ordinances, programs, or activities already in place; and an analysis of its current capacity and resources to carry them out. A careful examination of local capabilities will detect any existing gaps, shortfalls, or weaknesses associated with ongoing government activities that could hinder proposed mitigation activities and possibly even exacerbate hazard vulnerability. A capability assessment also highlights the positive mitigation measures already in place or being implemented at the local government level, which should be leveraged and continue to be supported and enhanced if possible through future mitigation efforts.

The capability assessment serves as a critical part of the planning process, including the development of an effective hazard mitigation strategy. Coupled with the Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment (Appendix A), the Capability Assessment helps identify and target meaningful mitigation actions for incorporation into the Mitigation Strategy. It not only helps establish the goals for the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls to pursue under this Plan, but also ensures that those goals and the mitigation actions that follow are realistically achievable given current local conditions.

### B.2. METHODOLOGY

To facilitate the inventory and analysis of local government capabilities for the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls, several survey instruments were first distributed and discussed with local community staff. These included a Capability Assessment Survey, Safe Growth Survey, and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Survey as further described below.

#### ***Capability Assessment Survey***

The Capability Assessment Survey requested information on a variety of "capability indicators" such as existing local plans, policies, programs, or ordinances that may reduce, or in some circumstances, increase the community's hazard vulnerability. Other indicators included information related to each jurisdiction's fiscal, administrative, and technical capabilities such as access to local budgetary and personnel resources necessary to implement mitigation measures.

Survey respondents were also asked to comment on existing activities or capabilities to conduct public education and outreach, as well as the current political climate in their jurisdiction to implement mitigation actions, an important consideration for any local planning or decision-making process.

At a minimum, survey results provide an extensive inventory of existing local plans, ordinances, programs, and resources in place or under development in addition to their overall effect on hazard loss reduction as perceived by local government staff. The survey instrument thereby not only helps to accurately assess each City's current local capabilities, but also serves as a self-assessment for those local departments of staff wishing to improve their capability as identified gaps, weaknesses, or conflicts can be recast as opportunities to be addressed in the development of new mitigation actions.

### ***Safe Growth Survey***

As part of the planning process, representatives from each City's Planning Departments were asked to complete a Safe Growth Survey. This unique survey instrument was drawn from a technique recommended by David Godschalk, FAICP and professor emeritus of city and regional planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to help better evaluate the extent to which the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls are positioned to grow safely relative to their natural hazards. The survey covered six distinct topic areas including the following:

1. Land Use
2. Transportation
3. Environmental Management
4. Public Safety, Zoning Ordinance
5. Subdivision Regulations
6. Capital Improvement Program and Infrastructure Policies

While somewhat of a subjective exercise, the Safe Growth Survey was used to provide some measure of how adequately existing planning mechanisms and tools for the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls were being used to address the notion of safe growth as currently advocated by organizations such as FEMA and the American Planning Association (APA). In addition, the survey instrument was aimed at further integrating the subject of hazard risk management into the dialogue of local community planning and to possibly consider and identify new actions as it relates to those local planning policies or programs already in place or under development.

It is anticipated that the Safe Growth Survey will be used again during plan updates to help measure progress over time and to continue identifying possible mitigation actions as it relates to future growth and community development practices, and how such actions may better be incorporated into local planning mechanisms.

### ***National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Survey***

The NFIP Survey was designed to help gather information from the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls designated floodplain administrators to describe the status of their participation in the NFIP, including existing floodplain management programs and continued compliance with federal requirements and standards. The NFIP contains specific regulatory measures that enable government officials to determine where and how growth occurs relative to identified flood hazards. In return for meeting minimum regulatory standards, communities make the purchase of flood insurance through the NFIP available to its property owners. Participation in the NFIP is voluntary but is promoted by FEMA as a critical means to not only make flood insurance available to community residents, but also to implement and sustain an effective, long-term hazard mitigation program aimed at reducing future flood losses.

Following the completion and discussion of these surveys with local staff, the planning team conducted a more detailed review of all the relevant plans, policies, and other related documents to gain a clear understanding on their existing or potential effects on hazard risk reduction. These included but were not limited to the following list of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information:

- Rhode Island 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- State of Rhode Island Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, January 2017

#### ***Pawtucket***

- City of Pawtucket Capital Improvement Program Ordinance, 2017-2021
- City of Pawtucket Comprehensive Plan, December 2016
- City of Pawtucket, Emergency Operations Plan, January 2011
- Pawtucket & Central Falls Station District Vision Plan, 2017
- River Corridor Development Plan, November 2013
- Riverfront Corridor Market Analysis, Pawtucket-Central Falls, September 2012
- Technical Assistance Report, Strengthening Downtown, September 2015
- Tidewater Site Master Plan, January 2016

#### ***Central Falls***

- Attachment C: Mutual Aid in Rhode Island (excerpted from the Southern New England Fire Emergency Assistance Plan, Mutual Aid Agreement, and Operating Guide, 2004)
- Central Falls Zoning Ordinance
- City of Central Falls Capital Improvement Plans, November 2015
- Comprehensive Community Plan, November 2007
- Land Development and Subdivision Review Regulations, Planning Commission, March 2009
- Reducing Risk from Natural Hazards, 2012

### **B.3. REVIEW OF EXISTING CAPABILITIES**

**Tables B-1 through B-4** provide a narrative summary of the plans, reports, and other information collected and reviewed as part of the Capability Assessment Survey and as discussed with the Local Planning Team during the assessment of the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls existing hazard mitigation capabilities. The summary provides a better understanding of the relevant programs, regulations, resources, and practices in place as well as their general effectiveness for hazard risk reduction. They also provide insight into any identified opportunities to improve, expand, or enhance these capabilities for hazard risk reduction purposes.

The tables are organized according to the following four types of capabilities as defined by FEMA:

- *Table B.1: Planning and Regulatory Capabilities.* Includes capabilities based on the jurisdiction's implementation of ordinances, policies, local laws and State statutes, and plans and programs that relate to guiding and managing growth and development.
- *Table B.2: Administrative and Technical Capabilities.* Includes capabilities associated with the jurisdiction's staff and their skills and tools that can be used for mitigation planning and to implement specific mitigation actions.
- *Table B.3: Financial Capabilities* – Refers to the fiscal resources that a jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use to fund mitigation actions.

- *Table B.4: Education and Outreach* – Refers to education and outreach programs and methods already in place that could be used to implement mitigation activities and communicate hazard- related information.

**Table B-1: Planning and Regulatory Capabilities**

Planning/Regulatory Tool	Responsible Authority Pawtucket	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Responsible Authority Central Falls	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
<i>Plans</i>	<i>Does the plan address hazards? Does the plan identify projects to include in the mitigation strategy? Can the plan be used to implement mitigation actions?</i>			
Comprehensive/Master Plan	Planning Commission  City Council  RI Division of Planning	Yes – Land Use and Natural Resources chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform future land use priorities with emphasis on low impact development in proximity to flood plains</li> <li>• Encourage remediation/restoration of existing wetlands to serve as a natural flood mitigation</li> </ul> Document can be used during review of development proposals and grant funding	Planning & Economic Development Department	The Plan is in the process of being updated and will include a section on Hazard Mitigation
Open Space and Recreation Plan	Planning Department  Parks and Recreation	Included in Comprehensive Plan but limited direct inclusion of hazards	Planning & Economic Development Department	An element of the Comprehensive Plan under Recreation
Hurricane/Emergency Plan		N/A		N/A
Economic Development Plan	Economic Development Planning Department	Focus on Downtown revitalization and does highlight major storm impact on infrastructure and business operations – not a binding document to implement mitigation actions.	Planning & Economic Development Department	An element of the Comprehensive Plan under Economic Development.
Capital Improvements Plan	Planning Commission  City Council  Planning Department	Does not specifically address hazards primary focus on street conditions, sewer/sanitation, bridges, public building.	Planning & Economic Development Department	None currently. Will be completed once Comprehensive Plan is completed.

<b>Planning/Regulatory Tool</b>	<b>Responsible Authority Pawtucket</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b>	<b>Responsible Authority Central Falls</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b>
Emergency Operations Plan	Emergency Management  Department of Public Works	Includes specific hazards, capability & resources, infrastructure & services, emergency management procedures, resources (local, state, federal), dissemination of informational materials.	Emergency Management Agency	Includes specific hazards, capability & resources, infrastructure & services, emergency management procedures, resources (local, state, federal), dissemination of informational materials.
Continuity of Operations Plan	Emergency Management Department of Public Works	Included within Emergency Operations Plan – specific to 12 identified support functions (transportation, communication, public works, fire, housing and human services, medical services, search and rescue, utilities, security).		Included in the Emergency Operations Plan.
Transportation Plan	Department of Public Works-Traffic Engineering  Planning Department	Included in Comprehensive Plan and does not specifically address hazards.	Planning & Economic Development Department	An element of the Comprehensive Plan under Transportation.
Stormwater Management Plan	Department of Public Works	Anticipated completion in Fall 2017. Specific recommendations for green infrastructure and sewer/water capacity improvements.	Planning & Economic Development Department	An element of the Comprehensive Plan.
Wastewater Management Plan	RI Coastal Resources Management Program	State standards for impact and development to mitigate coastal hazards.		
Historic Preservation Plan	Pawtucket Historic District Commission	Does not specifically address hazards – more standards and goals for historic preservation.	Planning & Economic Development Department	An element of the Comprehensive Plan under Historic and Cultural Resources.

Planning/Regulatory Tool	Responsible Authority Pawtucket	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Responsible Authority Central Falls	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
Community Wildfire Protection Plan		N/A		N/A
Other special plans? (e.g., brownfields redevelopment, disaster recovery, coastal zone management, climate change adaptation)	Planning Department  Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Pawtucket Foundation	<p><b>Transit Oriented Development Vision</b> – Investment in transit and water infrastructure, encourage dense mixed-use development through historic mill rehabilitation.</p> <p><b>Broad Street Regeneration</b> – Investment in infrastructure and stormwater management along primary commercial thoroughfare from Cumberland to Pawtucket.</p> <p><b>River Corridor Development Plan</b> – Targeted brownfields remediation, adaptive reuse of existing structures, infrastructure improvement, and preservation of open space along the Blackstone River.</p>	Planning & Economic Development Department	<p><b>Train Station District plan</b> - will contain some relevant elements.</p> <p><b>Transit Oriented Development Vision</b> – Investment in transit and water infrastructure, encourage dense mixed-use development through historic mill rehabilitation.</p> <p><b>Broad Street Regeneration</b> – Investment in infrastructure and stormwater management along primary commercial thoroughfare from Cumberland to Pawtucket.</p> <p><b>River Corridor Development Plan</b> – Targeted brownfields remediation, adaptive reuse of existing structures, infrastructure improvement, and preservation of open space along the Blackstone River.</p>
<i>Building Code, Permitting, and Inspections</i>	<i>Are the codes adequately enforced?</i>			
Building Code	Zoning Department	Managed by state and federal regulations.	Department of Public Works & Code Enforcement	Effective
ISO Mitigation Ratings	Zoning Department  Planning Department	Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS): 3 Public Protection Classification (PPC): 3 Community Rating System (CRS): 8	Department of Public Works & Code Enforcement	Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS): 3 Public Protection Classification (PPC): 2 Community Rating System (CRS): N/A

Planning/Regulatory Tool	Responsible Authority Pawtucket	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Responsible Authority Central Falls	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
Site Plan Review Requirements	Planning Department  Planning Commission	Site Plan (engineer/land surveyor).  Consistency with goals of Comprehensive Plan.  State approvals as needed (RIDEM, CRMC, RIHPHC, NBC).  Staff Technical Review (zoning, fire, traffic, engineering, water supply board).  Pre-soil erosion and sediment control.  Post stormwater control.	Planning & Economic Development Department	Limited
<i>Zoning and Development Regulations</i>	<i>Is the regulation an effective measure for reducing hazard impacts? Is the regulation adequately administered and enforced?</i>			
Zoning Bylaws/Ordinances	Zoning Department  Zoning Board of Appeals	Regulate various uses of property and dimensional requirements. Maintains compatible uses and limits density. Floodplain regulations articulated and stormwater/erosion controls included for new construction.	Department of Public Works & Code Enforcement	Yes, Yes
Subdivision Regulations	Planning Department  Planning Commission	Minor and major subdivision regulations to maintain minimum lot sizes, adequate site access, safe construction, utilities, and floodway impact	Planning & Economic Development Department	Yes, Yes

Planning/Regulatory Tool	Responsible Authority Pawtucket	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Responsible Authority Central Falls	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
Floodplain Regulations	Planning Department  RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)	All city floodplains and wetlands are designated as flood hazard districts, requiring additional review from state departments (environmental management, coastal management,), notification of watercourse alteration, and base flood elevation building code requirements as needed.	Department of Public Works & Code Enforcement	Yes, Yes
Stormwater Management Regulations	Department of Public Works  Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC)  RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)  Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)	In general, City regulations require that new construction cannot generate more water runoff than the previous condition. The Narragansett Bay Commission reviews and approves all application for sewer connection. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council review all proposed development impacting rivers, wetlands, and coastal areas.	Department of Public Works & Code Enforcement	No, No

<b>Planning/Regulatory Tool</b>	<b>Responsible Authority Pawtucket</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b>	<b>Responsible Authority Central Falls</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b>
<p>How can these capabilities be expanded and improved to reduce risk?</p>		<p>Improved coordination between local and state entities when reviewing development and subdivision proposals as they relate to floodplain and stormwater management regulations.</p> <p>Expanded assessment of existing sewer/water infrastructure capacity. Increased promotion of “Code Red” automatic emergency alert program.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for continued brownfield remediation and open space designation along rivers.</p>		<p>Investigate building material use, energy distribution, stormwater management within RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) purview.</p>
<p>Have you adopted new policies, plans, regulations, or reports, since the original plan, that could be incorporated into this plan? What has changed since the original plan?</p>		<p>The Department of Public Works intends to complete and adopt a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan in late 2017.</p>		<p>Green and Complete Streets Ordinance – allows for a transportation system that minimizes environmental impact and creates streets that are safe for everyone, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportations.</p>

**Table B-2: Administrative and Technical Capabilities**

Administrative/Technical Resource	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
<i>Administration</i>	<i>Describe capability. Is coordination effective?</i>			
Planning Board/Commission	5 Volunteers	Significant coordination with Planning Department, Emergency Management, Zoning Officials, and Department of Public Works	Volunteer	Full-time Administrative Officer is Department Director of 5.5 staff
Local Planning Team (for Mitigation Planning)	Comprised of 4-10 FT employees	Ad-Hoc, most active when updating hazard mitigation plan	N/A	
Conservation Commission	As needed and comprised of FT Department of Public Works employees	Managed by the Department of Public Works – limited by funding availability	1 FT	Department of Public Works is understaffed.
Maintenance Programs to Reduce Risk	1 PT	Agreements with adjacent fire and police departments	1 FT	Excellent for emergencies.

Administrative/Technical Resource	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
Mutual Aid Agreements		Both Pawtucket and Central Falls are part of the state-wide mutual aid response system created by the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chief's. This agreement acts as a "common entity for exploring and improving other areas of management, operation and effectiveness of the Fire Service." The plan reduces unnecessary calls for required mutual aid. Each city is part of the Metro Control district. The Southern New England Fire Emergency Response Plan includes a list of these MOU's. They are Rotation System, Communications and Control, Regional Control Centers, Inter-city Fire Radio Network, HAZMAT Teams, Mass Victim Decontamination Teams, and Mass Casualty Incident Supply.		<p>Both Pawtucket and Central Falls are part of the state-wide mutual aid response system created by the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chief's. This agreement acts as a "common entity for exploring and improving other areas of management, operation and effectiveness of the Fire Service." The plan reduces unnecessary calls for required mutual aid. Each city is part of the Metro Control district. The Southern New England Fire Emergency Response Plan includes a list of these MOU's. They are Rotation System, Communications and Control, Regional Control Centers, Inter-city Fire Radio Network, HAZMAT Teams, Mass Victim Decontamination Teams, and Mass Casualty Incident Supply.</p> <p>The Central Falls Police Department has mutual aid agreements with Pawtucket, Cumberland and Lincoln police departments and with the Rhode Island State Police.</p>
Staff	<i>Is staffing adequate to administer programs/enforce regulations? Is staff trained on hazards and mitigation? Is coordination between agencies and staff effective?</i>			

Administrative/Technical Resource	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
Chief Building Official	1 FT	Frequent training and certification benchmarks – Serves for both Pawtucket and Central Falls. Challenge does arise for enforcement due to volume of development/permit applications. Effective coordination between agencies.	1 PT	Shared with Pawtucket
Floodplain Administrator	1 PT	Director of Planning and Redevelopment serves as floodplain manager with assistance from staff, building official, and Emergency management. Manages review of all development proposals that may be impacted by hazards and oversees annual NFIP recertification.	N/A	Shared with Pawtucket
Emergency Manager	1 FT	Frequent training and certification benchmarks – Manager for both Pawtucket and Central Falls	1 FT	Shared with Pawtucket
Community Planner	1 FT	Effective up-front review of development proposals and zoning amendments but limited capacity for long-term enforcement if conditions are established. Frequent coordination with local and state agencies	1 FT	See Planning Board
Civil Engineer	1 FT	Division of the Department of Public Works, manages many infrastructure projects so evaluation/enforcement of hazard risk reduction can be challenging. Effective coordination but can be improved between Planning Department and DPW	N/A	N/A. Potential exists to retain consulting engineer

Administrative/Technical Resource	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
GIS Coordinator	1 FT	Hired in the fall of 2016. Cleaning and assessing existing data and municipal requests. Adequate staffing but coordination can be improved. Initial focus on improve existing data with future evaluation of hazard risks/mitigation	1 FT	See Planning Board
Resource Development Staff or Grant Writers	PT	1 FT HUD funding staff person. All other grants are applied for and managed by existing FT employees. No staff person exclusively dedicated. Limited coordinated effort or long-term funding strategy. Strong relationship with state agencies	1 PT	Yes, Yes, Works closely with city departments
Public Information Officer	1 FT	Housed in Mayor’s office and primarily focuses on public relations and dissemination of information – no specific focus on hazard mitigation. City intends to hire Public Safety Director in 2018 to coordinate Emergency Management, Police, Fire, and DPW efforts. CodeRED automatic emergency information system available to residents who sign up. EMA Director also distributes flyer information at public events.	1 FT	See Planning Board
<i>Technical</i>	<i>Describe capability. Has capability been used to assess/mitigate risk in the past?</i>			

<b>Administrative/Technical Resource</b>	<b>Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b>	<b>Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b>
Staff with knowledge of land development and land management practices	4 FT	Housed in Planning Department and Department of Public works. Primarily focused on zoning/building compliance (including Flood Hazard Districts), sediment control, and stormwater management. Limited capacity for assessment of risks but ongoing efforts to implement mitigation including green stormwater infrastructure, brownfield remediation, restoration/maintenance of open space and wetlands.	1 FT	Planning Director has development and construction experience. Experienced DPW. Housing Code Enforcement officer is a contractor.
Staff trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	1 FT	Building official reviews and approves all building permits. Specific enforcement of freeboard requirements in coordination with Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) when development is proposed within flood area. Coordination with fire safety officials for all portions of the city.	1 FT	Planning Director has development and construction experience. Experienced DPW. Housing Code Enforcement officer is a contractor.
Staff with an understanding of natural hazards and risk mitigation	2 FT	Emergency Management staff maintains the strongest understanding of natural hazards and risk mitigation. Emphasis on mitigating flooding and flood related damage has been incorporated in the updated City Comprehensive Plan and efforts to improve sewer/water infrastructure capacity in coordination with the Narragansett Bay Commission.	1 FT	EMA Director and Building Official shared with Pawtucket. Experienced Public Safety Department.

Administrative/Technical Resource	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
Hazards data and information	2 FT	Hazard related data is largely maintained at the state level with RIEMA and Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). Pawtucket Emergency management does maintain local data that is used to inform emergency response procedures. Visual representation of hazard related data is also expected to improve with the newly hired GIS manager. Data is primarily used for assessment and response rather than mitigation.	1 FT	New staff with GIS experience
Warning systems/services (e.g., Reverse 911, outdoor warning signals, etc.)	N/A	CodeRed emergency notification program to registered phones and emails. Reverse 911	1 FT	The EMA, Fire Department, Police Department have an Emergency Contact System called Code Red.
<b>Opportunities to Improve, Expand, or Enhance for Hazard Risk Reduction Purposes</b>				
		Expand and regularly update relevant data to improve mitigation efforts Improved coordination between Planning Department, Department of Public Works, and Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for land disturbance projects that do not require building permits but do trigger sediment control and stormwater management requirements Coordinated funding effort to improve dam and bridge infrastructure.		More training/continuing education opportunities

Administrative/Technical Resource	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket	Full-time (FT)/Part-time (PT)/Volunteer (V)	General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls
Are there different or additional administrative, human, technical, and financial resources available for mitigation planning since the original plan was developed?		Full-Time GIS staff person, increased coordination with Central Falls regarding risk assessment and emergency response, Department of Public Works push for small-scale stormwater runoff reduction – particularly in proximity to the Blackstone River, Narragansett Bay Commission planning to expand interceptor infrastructure to reduce combined sewer/water overflow in Pawtucket and Central Falls.		GIS

**Table B-3: Financial Capabilities**

<b>Financial Tool/Source</b>	<b>Accessible for Hazard Mitigation (Yes/No)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b> <i>Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?</i>	<b>Accessible for Hazard Mitigation (Yes/No)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b> <i>Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?</i>
General funds	Yes	Not used in the past and unlikely to be used in the future	Yes	Staff, equipment
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding	Yes	Specifically, for infrastructure and critical facilities improvements (sewer, roadways, schools, etc.)	Yes	Equipment, capital projects
Special purpose taxes	No	Discussion of tax increment financing (TIF) around future commuter rail station specifically for utility and stormwater improvements associated with anticipated development	No	No
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	Water Only	Sewer fees: Narragansett Bay Commission Gas and electric fees: National Grid Water fees: Pawtucket Water Supply Board – \$4-\$4.25 per hundred cubic foot (HCF)	No	No
Stormwater utility fee	No	Required sediment control and post construction stormwater mitigation required for all new construction – fees issued for non-compliance	No	Not been used in the past. Exploring for future.
Development impact fees	No		No	Unlikely, given funding gap for development in the area
Incur debt through general obligation bonds and/or special tax bonds	Yes	Utilized for larger-scale infrastructure improvements	Yes	Capital projects

<b>Financial Tool/Source</b>	<b>Accessible for Hazard Mitigation (Yes/No)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b> <i>Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?</i>	<b>Accessible for Hazard Mitigation (Yes/No)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b> <i>Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?</i>
Incur debt through private activities	No		No	
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)	Yes	Grant funds for hazard mitigation planning activities	Yes	No, Yes
HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Yes	Not typically utilized but has been used in the past for planning related activities and infrastructure improvements (river wall following a flooding event)	Yes	No, Yes
Other federal funding programs	EPA	Brownfields Revolving Loan funds to control and/or remediate contaminated sites		
State funding programs	RIEMA Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund	Funding for hazard mitigation planning activities Funding for stormwater improvements and planned infrastructure improvements	Yes	No, Yes

<b>Financial Tool/Source</b>	<b>Accessible for Hazard Mitigation (Yes/No)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b> <i>Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?</i>	<b>Accessible for Hazard Mitigation (Yes/No)</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b> <i>Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation actions?</i>
Opportunities to Improve, Expand, or Enhance for Hazard Risk Reduction Purposes		Dedicated funding to assess sewer/water infrastructure capacity and need areas to minimize flooding Identify funding for fire code compliance upgrades, particularly for underutilized/vacant former industrial properties Ongoing restoration of Moshassuck River wetlands to mitigate impact of flooding Align Capital Improvements Program (CIP) priorities with hazard mitigation goals including: major transportation/roadway improvements, consolidated and improved public safety complex, sewer and stormwater infrastructure improvements, and emergency shelter facilities Coordinate with RIEMA to advocate for level federal funding (EMPG)		Dedicated funding to assess sewer/water infrastructure capacity and need areas to minimize flooding Identify funding for fire code compliance upgrades, particularly for underutilized/vacant former industrial properties Ongoing restoration of Moshassuck River wetlands to mitigate impact of flooding
Are there new funding sources to consider since the original plan was developed?		EPA – Brownfields Revolving Loan, Broad Street Green Infrastructure planning Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration Fund – “Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Pollution Control Flood Prevention and Mitigation” RI Green Infrastructure Coalition – Tree Planting and Rain barrels: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnxXHefcRQM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnxXHefcRQM</a>		EPA – Brownfields Revolving Loan, Broad Street Green Infrastructure planning Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration Fund – “Nonpoint Source & Stormwater Pollution Control Flood Prevention and Mitigation” RI Green Infrastructure Coalition – Tree Planting and Rain barrels: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnxXHefcRQM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnxXHefcRQM</a>

**Table B-4: Education and Outreach Capabilities**

<b>Program/Organization</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b> <i>Describe program/organization and how relates to disaster resilience and mitigation. Could the program/organization help implement future mitigation activities?</i>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b> <i>Describe program/organization and how relates to disaster resilience and mitigation. Could the program/organization help implement future mitigation activities?</i>
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations, etc.	Yes	The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council manages a river explorer boat that exposes local students to the importance of river ecosystems and the impact of sea level rise Blackstone River Watershed Council and Pawtucket Neighborhood Associations also serve to disseminate various information including weather, safety, and hazard related resources	Yes	Grow Smart RI (planning), Friends of the Blackstone/Blackstone River Watershed Council (advocacy, capital projects), Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (advocacy), Ground Work Rhode Island (implementation), Clean Water Action (advocacy), The Nature Conservancy (advocacy, funding), Trust for Public Land (advocacy, funding)
Ongoing public education or information program (e.g., responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Yes	Pawtucket EMA distribution of flood and weather hazard preparedness documentation as required for CRS certification DPW promotion of free stormwater management programs for residents (street tree planting and rain barrels) Public Meeting with EPA to discuss green infrastructure improvements along Broad Street (primary commercial corridor)	Yes	The Fire Department, EMA, Police Department, and Public Works educate the population with various workshops and flyers
Natural disaster or safety-related school programs	Yes	Partnership with Jacqueline Walsh School to complete stormwater management art project (rain barrels)	N/A	
<i>StormReady</i> certification	No		Yes	

<b>Program/Organization</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Pawtucket</b> <i>Describe program/organization and how relates to disaster resilience and mitigation. Could the program/organization help implement future mitigation activities?</i>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>General Description and Effectiveness for Hazard Risk Reduction Central Falls</b> <i>Describe program/organization and how relates to disaster resilience and mitigation. Could the program/organization help implement future mitigation activities?</i>
<i>Firewise Communities certification</i>	No		Yes	
Public-private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laidlaw Bus Company – emergency transportation</li> <li>• Verizon and Cox – emergency communications</li> <li>• National Grid – utilities</li> <li>• Salvation Army – volunteer emergency support</li> <li>• Marriott &amp; Aramark – emergency food and shelter</li> <li>• American Red Cross of RI – emergency resources support</li> <li>• RI Blood Center – public health and medical services</li> <li>• Pawtucket Foundation – long-term community recovery</li> </ul>	Yes	
<b>Opportunities to Improve, Expand, or Enhance for Hazard Risk Reduction Purposes</b>				
Are there different or new education and outreach programs and resources available for mitigation activities since the original plan was written?				

**Safe Growth Survey Results**

The results of the Safe Growth Survey are summarized in Table B-5. In completing the survey each respondent was asked to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree with the “Safe Growth Statements” as they relate to their own City’s current plans, policies and programs for guiding future community growth and development, according to the following scale:

**1 = Strongly Disagree    2 = Somewhat Disagree    3 = Neutral    4 = Somewhat Agree    5 = Strongly Agree**

**Table B-5: Safe Growth Survey Results**

<b>MASTER PLAN</b>	<b>Pawtucket</b>	<b>Central Falls</b>
<b>Land Use</b>		
1. The master plan includes a future land use map that clearly identifies natural hazard areas.	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5	<b>1</b> 2   3   4   5
2. Current land use policies discourage development and/or redevelopment within natural hazard areas.	1   2   3   4 <b>5</b>	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5
3. The master plan provides adequate space for expected future growth in areas located outside of natural hazard areas.	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5
<b>Transportation</b>		
4. The transportation element limits access to natural hazard areas.	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5	<b>1</b> 2   3   4   5
5. Transportation policy is used to guide future growth and development to safe locations.	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5
6. Transportation systems are designed to function under disaster conditions (e.g., evacuation, mobility for fire/rescue apparatus, etc.).	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5	<b>1</b> 2   3   4   5
<b>Environmental Management</b>		
7. Environmental features that serve to protect development from hazards (e.g., wetlands, riparian buffers, etc.) are identified and mapped.	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5
8. Environmental policies encourage the preservation and restoration of protective ecosystems.	1   2   3   4 <b>5</b>	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5
9. Environmental policies provide incentives to development that is located outside of protective ecosystems.	1 <b>2</b> 3   4   5	<b>1</b> 2   3   4   5

<b>Public Safety</b>	
10. The goals and policies of the master plan are related to and consistent with those in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5 <b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
11. Public safety is explicitly included in the plan's growth and development policies.	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5 <b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
12. The monitoring and implementation section of the plan covers safe growth objectives.	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5 <b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
<b>ZONING ORDINANCE</b>	
13. The zoning ordinance conforms to the master plan in terms of discouraging development and/or redevelopment within natural hazard areas.	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b> 1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5
14. The ordinance contains natural hazard overlay zones that set conditions for land use within such zones.	1 2 3 4 <b>5</b> <b>1</b> 2 3 4 5
15. Rezoning procedures recognize natural hazard areas as limits on zoning changes that allow greater intensity or density of use.	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5      1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5
16. The ordinance prohibits development within, or filling of, wetlands, floodways, and floodplains.	1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5      1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5
<b>SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS</b>	
17. The subdivision regulations restrict the subdivision of land within or adjacent to natural hazard areas.	1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5      1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5
18. The regulations provide for conservation subdivisions or cluster subdivisions in order to conserve environmental resources.	1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5      1 2 3 <b>4</b> 5
19. The regulations allow density transfers where hazard areas exist.	1 <b>2</b> 3 4 5      1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND INFRASTRUCTURE POLICIES</b>	
20. The capital improvement program limits expenditures on projects that would encourage development and/or redevelopment in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.	1 2 <b>3</b> 4 5 <b>1</b> 2 3 4 5

21. Infrastructure policies limit the extension of existing facilities and services that would encourage development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5	<b>1</b> 2   3   4   5
22. The capital improvements program provides funding for hazard mitigation projects identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5	<b>1</b> 2   3   4   5
<b>OTHER</b>		
23. Small area or corridor plans recognize the need to avoid or mitigate natural hazards.	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5
24. The building code contains provisions to strengthen or elevate new or substantially improved construction to withstand hazard forces.	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5	1   2 <b>3</b> 4   5
25. Economic development and/or redevelopment strategies include provisions for mitigating natural hazards or otherwise enhancing social and economic resiliency to hazards.	1   2   3 <b>4</b> 5	1 <b>2</b> 3   4   5

Averages were calculated for each city. Pawtucket has an average response of 3.57, somewhere between Neutral and Somewhat Agree. While Central Falls has an average of 2.19, which translates to Somewhat Disagree. The survey reflects current conditions in each city. Central Falls is growing in terms of its capabilities to mitigate risk with planning and policy development. The biggest difference between the two cities relates to Public Safety. Pawtucket responded with Somewhat Agree to all questions, while Central Falls responded with Strongly Disagree to all questions.

**National Flood Insurance Program**

Table B-6 is based on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) survey completed by each city. The survey distributed closely resembles the one in FEMA’s *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook*. Both cities currently comply with the NFIP. Pawtucket also participates in the NFIP’s Community Rating System (CRS) at a Level 8. The two cities have approximately the same number of structures at risk to flooding.

**Table B-6: National Flood Insurance Program Survey Results**

NFIP Topic	Source of Information	Comments Pawtucket	Comments Central Falls
<b>Insurance Summary</b>			
How many NFIP policies are in the community? What is the total premium and coverage?	State NFIP Coordinator or FEMA NFIP Specialist	86 (7 in A Zone, 79 in X Zone)	57 (50 in A Zone, 7 in X Zone)
How many claims have been paid in the community? What is the total number of paid claims? How many of the claims were for substantial damage?	FEMA NFIP or Insurance Specialist	29 totaling \$1,622,558	23 totaling \$438,404
How many structures are exposed to flood risk within the community?	Community Floodplain Administrator (FPA)	14	12
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage	Community FPA and FEMA Insurance Specialist		
<b>Staff Resources</b>			
Is the Community FPA or NFIP Coordinator Certified?	Community FPA	Susan Mara Director of Planning and Redevelopment City of Pawtucket 137 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860 <a href="mailto:smara@pawtucketri.com">smara@pawtucketri.com</a> (410) 728-0500 x.440	John Hanley Building Official Central Falls Department of Public Works City of Central Falls <a href="mailto:jhanley@centralfallsri.us">jhanley@centralfallsri.us</a> (401) 727-7400
Is floodplain management an auxiliary function?	Community FPA		
<b>Compliance History</b>			
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?	State NFIP Coordinator, FEMA NFIP	Yes	Yes

	Specialist, community records		
Are there any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations)?		N/A	N/A
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?		10/18/16	10/5/15
<b>Regulation</b>			
When did the community enter the NFIP?	Community Status Book	7/16/71	5/27/71
Are the FIRMs digital or paper?	Community FPA	Digital	Digital
Please list the regulations that were adopted to meet federal NFIP requirements, including the date and section number. These may include a flood damage prevention ordinance, building codes, subdivision regulations, etc.		Zoning Ordinance Flood Hazard Districts (§ 410-16) applicable to the following zones (A, AE, AH, AO, A99, V, and VE on FIRM maps). Require approval from RIDEM and CRMC as needed and compliance with R.I.G.L. § 23-27.3-108.1	2015 Ordinance: Section One: Article III “Flood Damage Prevention,” of Chapter 10 “Buildings and Building Regulations”
Describe any local "higher standards" that exceed NFIP minimum requirements. These may include higher finished floor elevation requirements (“freeboard”), foundation protection, more stringent building improvement rules, protection of critical facilities, low density zoning for floodplain development, preservation of floodplain storage, higher mapping and regulatory standards, etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freeboard: 1 foot above 100-year flood line</li> <li>• Non-construction related permits required for (filling, grading, excavation, mining, drilling, storage of materials, and temporary stream crossings</li> <li>• Notification of any watercourse alteration to adjacent communities, bordering states, NFIP state coordinator, FEMA risk analysis branch</li> <li>• Drainage paths for development within Zones AH, AO</li> <li>• Subdivision drainage and utility requirements</li> </ul>	N/A

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No conversion from business/commercial to residential within Flood Hazard Districts</li> <li>Free of obstruction requirements for structural development</li> </ul>	
Describe any additional floodplain management provisions that are integrated into other plans or processes that the community uses to guide development. These may include those integrated with the general plan, small area plans, capital improvements plans, etc.		<p>Comprehensive Plan Natural Resources Chapter Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the maximum extent feasible, retain and restore the quality of remaining wetlands within the City.</li> <li>Using the MetroBay SAMP mapping as guidance, restore one acre of riverfront area in 10 years.</li> <li>Consider the acquisition of undeveloped properties along the City’s waterways as potential areas of natural resource protection.</li> <li>Work cooperatively with state agencies and regional authorities to correct the problem of combined sewer overflows.</li> </ul> <p>Capital Improvements Program 2017-2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanitary, Storm Drain and Catch basin repair: \$1,600,000</li> <li>Critical public facilities, school repair: \$24,000,000</li> </ul> <p>Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Transit Oriented Development (TOD) District: Nonpoint Source &amp; Stormwater Pollution Control Flood Prevention &amp; Mitigation Plan (Draft)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City led effort for infrastructure improvement within district that is anticipated to experience significant development over the next decade and also includes recommendations for stormwater management for private development projects</li> </ul>	Comprehensive Plan identifies conversion of residential areas in flood plains for the expansion of the City’s recreation, conservation and open space system.
Do floodplain development regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum	Community FPA	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drain System Maintenance</li> <li>CodeRED Emergency Management System CodeRED Weather Warning</li> </ul>

<p>requirements? If so, in what ways?</p>			<p>delivers automated advanced warning of severe weather as soon as a bulletin is issued by the National Weather Service. The system delivers voice calls, text messages and emails to subscribed users within the direct path of the storm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch Basin Maintenance + Overflow System (CSO to handle higher stormwater runoff volumes)</li> </ul>
<p>Please describe any existing impediments to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any.</p>		<p>Various floodplain management practices typically fall under the jurisdiction of the Pawtucket Zoning Department, Planning Department, or the Department of public works. This overlapping responsibility can result in redundancy of efforts or inconsistency in terms of point responsibility.</p> <p>On an annual basis, limited development occurs within floodplains but renovation and or repair of existing infrastructure does occur more regularly</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Please identify some specific actions that your jurisdiction can take related to continued compliance with the NFIP. This may include a description of key elements that already contribute to an effective program such as building permit procedures, site plan reviews, field inspections and permanent retention of records. This may also include new actions to improve existing programs, such as those listed on the following page (<i>please check any that your jurisdiction may be interested in pursuing</i>).</p>		<p>Pawtucket experiences minimal development within floodplains. Improvement can certainly be made in terms of coordination between municipal departments (Planning, Zoning, DPW, Engineering) and state/federal agencies (RIDEM, CRMC, FEMA) if proposals for development are received. The City has identified stormwater management as a major priority moving forward and intends to work with the Narragansett Bay Commission to improved strain on combined sewer/water infrastructure to mitigate flooding and maintain riverine quality.</p>	<p>City is interested in including these as possible new mitigation actions in updated plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate current floodplain management activities and coordinate with Insurance Services Office, Inc. to apply for participation in FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS).</li> <li>• Maintain a map of areas that flood frequently (e.g., areas where repetitive loss properties are located) and prioritize those areas for inspection immediately after the next flood. If outside FEMA special flood hazard areas, consider requiring existing NFIP regulatory standards (compliance with existing ordinance) through overlay zoning, etc.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a review of other regulatory programs and planning tools, such as the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, and report on opportunities to improve consistency with the objectives of floodplain management.</li> <li>• Maintain supplies of FEMA/NFIP materials to help property owners evaluate measures to reduce potential hazard damage. Make available in public buildings, local library, website, etc. and inform people who they can call to learn more information.</li> <li>• Develop handouts for permit applications on specific issues such as installation of manufactured homes in flood hazard areas according to HUD's installation standards (examples available), or guidance on improving/repairing existing buildings to better withstand potential hazards.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Rating System (CRS)</b>			
Does the community participate in CRS?	Community FPA, State, FEMA NFIP	Yes	No
What is the community's CRS Class Ranking?	Flood Insurance Manual <a href="http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-manual">http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-manual</a>	8	
Does the plan include CRS planning requirements	Community FPA, FEMA CRS Coordinator,	Yes	Yes

	ISO representative CRS manual <a href="http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2434">http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2434</a>		
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The survey included a list of possible mitigations actions a community can take that relates to NFIP compliance. The table below lists the actions identified by each City. Of note, each City chose “Conduct a review of other regulatory programs and planning tools, such as the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, and report on opportunities to improve consistency with the objectives of floodplain management.”

**Table B-7: Possible New Mitigation Actions Related to NFIP Compliance**

<b>POSSIBLE NEW MITIGATION ACTIONS RELATED TO NFIP COMPLIANCE</b>	
<b>Pawtucket</b>	<b>Central Falls</b>
Evaluate permit application forms to determine possible modifications focused on flood hazard prevention.	Evaluate current floodplain management activities and coordinate with Insurance Services Office, Inc. to apply for participation in FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS).
Develop a checklist for review of building/development permit plans and for inspection of development in floodplains (a model is available).	Maintain a map of areas that flood frequently (e.g., areas where repetitive loss properties are located) and prioritize those areas for inspection immediately after the next flood. If outside FEMA special flood hazard areas, consider requiring existing NFIP regulatory standards (compliance with existing ordinance) through overlay zoning, etc.
Establish a goal to have each plan reviewer and building inspector attend a related training periodically (for example, ASFPM’s Annual National Conference, chapter conferences, webinars, etc.).	Conduct a review of other regulatory programs and planning tools, such as the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, and report on opportunities to improve consistency with the objectives of floodplain management.
Encourage or require certain local staff positions to obtain and maintain Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification.	Maintain supplies of FEMA/NFIP materials to help property owners evaluate measures to reduce potential hazard damage. Make available in public buildings, local library, website, etc. and inform people who they can call to learn more information.
Hold informative work sessions for newly elected officials and new appointees to planning commissions and appeals/variance boards, to provide an overview of floodplain management, the importance of participating in the NFIP, and the implications of failing to enforce the requirements of the program or failing to properly handle variance requests.	Develop handouts for permit applications on specific issues such as installation of manufactured homes in flood hazard areas according to HUD’s installation standards (examples available), or guidance on improving/repairing existing buildings to better withstand potential hazards.
Conduct a review of other regulatory programs and planning tools, such as the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, and report on opportunities to improve consistency with the objectives of floodplain management.	

The table below indicates how the planning process to develop this 2017 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan meets many of the requirements to receive CRS credit.

**Table B-8: CRS Requirements Met in this Mitigation Plan**

Mitigation Planning Process Tasks	Actions Taken in Planning Process	CRS Credit Requirements
Adopt Mitigation Plan	Plan formally adopted by each city.	Documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan. The adoption must be either a resolution or ordinance.
Planning Process - Organize	Chapter 2 describes the mitigation planning process.	Credit is based on how the community organizes to prepare its floodplain management plan.
Planning Process - Public Comment	Two public meetings were held to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback on the mitigation plan. They could review and provide feedback on the entire draft plan, which was posted to the project’s web page.	<p>The planning process must include an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and before plan approval.</p> <p>The term “public” includes residences, businesses, property owners, and tenants, as well as stakeholders in the community such as business leaders, civic groups, academia, nonprofit organizations, and major employers.</p>
Planning Process - Public Involvement	<p>The public had an opportunity to participate in the planning process through the Public Opinion Survey and two public meetings.</p> <p>Representatives from neighboring towns were invited to the public meetings and to review the draft plan. Representatives from large corporations in each City were also invited to participate in the public meetings.</p>	<p>Other agencies and organizations must be contacted to see if they are doing anything that may affect the community’s program and to see if they could support the community’s efforts.</p> <p>Coordination with neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as businesses, academia, and other nonprofit interests.</p>

Mitigation Planning Process Tasks	Actions Taken in Planning Process	CRS Credit Requirements
Existing Plans and studies	This chapter includes a review of existing studies.	CRS requires that a plan include a review of existing studies, reports, and technical information and of the community's needs, goals, and plans for the area.
Risk Assessment - Hazard Assessment	<p>Appendix A describes all natural hazards studied including their location, previous occurrences and the probability of future events.</p> <p>Participation in the NFIP is reviewed in this chapter.</p>	<p>Credit is based on what the community includes in its assessment of the hazard. The minimum requirement is for the flood hazard only. However, additional credit can be earned by identifying and including a description of all other natural hazards.</p> <p>Credit is based on what is included in the assessment of vulnerability to the hazards identified. At a minimum the plan must include an overall summary of each hazard and its impact on the community.</p> <p>CRS credits is given for an assessment that includes a review of all properties that received flood insurance claims (in addition to repetitive loss properties) or an estimate of the potential dollar losses to vulnerable structures.</p>
Risk Assessment - Assess the Problem	Critical facilities are identified in Appendix A and they are mapped according to hazard risk. Vulnerability of each critical facility is described.	<p>CRS credits the identification of the number and types of buildings subject to the hazards as well as the identification of critical facilities and infrastructure located in the hazard areas.</p> <p>CRS gives credit for a description of the development, redevelopment, and population trends and a discussion of what the future brings for development in the community.</p>
Mitigation Strategy - Set Goals	Hazard mitigation goals are identified in Chapter 4.	Credit is based on a statement of goals of the community's floodplain management or

Mitigation Planning Process Tasks	Actions Taken in Planning Process	CRS Credit Requirements
		hazard mitigation program.
Mitigation Strategy - Review Possible Activities	Chapter 4 includes justification for past mitigation actions were or were not implemented. It also provides rationale for each of the newly identified mitigation actions.	Credit is based on a comprehensive review of floodplain management or hazard mitigation activities are reviewed in the plan. The review must include a description of why certain activities were recommended and why others were not.
Mitigation Strategy - Draft an Action Plan	<p>The Mitigation Tracker, shown in Chapter 4 identify for each mitigation action who is responsible for implementation, when the action is to be implemented and a potential funding source.</p> <p>Chapter 4 shows the priority order of mitigation actions and their associated cost.</p>	Credit is based on an action plan that identifies who does what, when it will be done, and how it will be financed. The actions must be prioritized and include a review of the benefits of the proposed projects and their associated costs.
Plan Maintenance – Implement, Evaluate, and Revise	Chapter 5 indicates how the plan will be implemented and calls for updating the plan on a five-year cycle.	Credit is based on how a community monitors and evaluates its plan on annual bases and updates it on a five-year cycle.

**B.4. PREVIOUSLY IMPLEMENTED MITIGATION MEASURES**

Each City had a previously adopted hazard mitigation plan and has made progress on implementing mitigation measures named in that plan (and indicated in Chapter 4 of this plan), and in ways that indicate local government’s commitment to hazard mitigation. At each Local Planning Team Meeting the staff present demonstrated their commitment to hazard mitigation, as well as their commitment to mitigating risks in tandem.

The Pawtucket Comprehensive Plan<sup>1</sup> lists numerous projects that have been done to increase the safety of residents and protect property:

- Rebates to residents for installing backflow prevention valves.
- Installation of an emergency generator connection at the Senior Center.
- Installation of backflow prevention valves at City Hall, the Roosevelt Avenue Fire Station and Police Headquarters.
- Designing and printing of Disaster Preparedness Coloring Book to educate young children about disaster preparedness.

<sup>1</sup> Pawtucket Comprehensive Plan, p.101.

- Training sessions for a variety of special interest groups including Post Disaster Recovery for municipal and private industry and general training for boards and commissions.
- A complete catch basin cleaning of the Darlington area of Pawtucket where major street flooding has occurred.

The Pawtucket Capital Improvements Program 2017-2021 also demonstrates a commitment to hazard mitigation with a commitment to fund the following programs:

- Reconstruction of Streets
- Sanitary and Storm Drains Improvements
- Road and Traffic Controls
- Public Building Repairs
- Bridge Repairs

According to the Capability Assessment in the Brown University 2012 Reducing Risks from Natural Hazards in Central Falls, Rhode Island, Central Falls “has the capacity and sufficient resources to prevent or limit damage in the event of a major disaster.” Central Falls has received funding for the following activities:

- Cosgswell Tower Renovations (restoring historic clock tower, a national historic site)
- Economic Development Initiative (for the development of strategies to assist struggling community members)
- Small Cities Program (community development initiatives)
- Local Equities Program (road re-paving)

## **B.5. SUMMARY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls have proven their effectiveness at mitigating risk independently as well as jointly. Pawtucket has more resources than Central Falls in terms of administrative staff and technical capability and the cities share a Chief Building Official, Floodplain Administrator and Emergency Manager. The cities also share a vision for future development and participated in the Transit Oriented Development Vision which includes an investment in transit and water infrastructure and encourages mixed-use development through historic mill rehabilitation. They share in the Broad Street Regeneration plan which details an investment in infrastructure and stormwater management along the main commercial street from Cumberland to Pawtucket. The cities are unique, with Central Falls relying on Pawtucket to fill gaps in their administrative capacity. Pawtucket has a more robust economy and a well-staffed government which makes it easier for them to mitigate risk.

In conclusion, the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls are positioned to implement their identified mitigation actions. They are ready to expand and improve upon their existing policies and programs and they are each positioned to maintain compliance with the NFIP. They recognize their priorities to protect lives and properties by way of the four types of mitigation actions. Each City is poised for long-term growth and hazard resilience. This plan will be reviewed annually which provides an opportunity for the planning team to review socio-economic conditions, environmental conditions, demographic changes, and changes to the built environment which may impact each City’s ability to mitigate risk.