

**Community Rating System
Activity 510 (Floodplain Management Planning)**

Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Date this Report was Prepared: [January 24, 2024](#)

Name of Community: [Town of Westport](#)

Name of Plan: [Western Connecticut Council of Governments Multi-Jurisdiction
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2021-2026 & Annex for Westport](#)

Date of Adoption of Plan: [August 12, 2021](#)

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: [October 1, 2025](#)

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:

The original regional plan can be accessed via the Western Connecticut Council of Governments website under their Hazard Mitigation section, <https://westcog.org/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation/>

2. Describe how this progress report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

This Annual Progress Report was prepared by the Westport CRS Coordinator with assistance from the Engineering Department, Conservation Department and Fire Department. It will be uploaded to the Town's website for public/press viewing and will also be distributed to the Board of Selectwomen electronically for review.

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

See attached Westport Annex, Section 4.2. which outlines the previous strategies and actions, their status, and more detail on specific challenges.

- A. **In progress: Funding has been requested by the Board of Finance for a Comprehensive Beach Resiliency Planning Study for Compo Beach, Old Mill Beach and Burying Hill Beach:**

WPT-22: Conduct a detailed flood/coastal risk assessment to improve resiliency efforts to key assets and vulnerable properties

- A. **Completed: Dam removal completed in July 2022 and restoration plantings and signage was installed.**

WPT-12: The privately-owned Bulkley Pond Dam on Sasco Brook was removed and the pond is now a wet meadow.

- B. **In progress: The Conservation Department is planning on utilizing high school intern this spring to research the dams in town and do informal survey of status ownership, state classification, etc.**

WPT-13: Identify a department, board, or individual to be responsible for ongoing implementation of dam safety practices, such as keeping EAPs up-to-date and on file, ensuring inspection and maintenance work is completed and documented, and performing dam failure exercises.

- C. **In progress: Scheduled for week of June 3, 2024:**

WPT-14: Incorporate a Natural Hazards Awareness Week and conduct corresponding outreach the community and all

interested parties. Activities will focus on flooding and other natural hazards, including associated hazard functions, governing laws/regulations, mitigation strategies and precautions. Outreach will also be conducted throughout the year, wherever possible.

- D. **In progress. The FECB newly revised priority to identify watercourses in town for stream management applications at know flood prone areas. The FECB will be utilizing info from Public Outreach meetings by ENG Dept. and subsequent report.** WPT-18: Adopt an ordinance that would place responsibility for stream channel maintenance on the property owner and give Westport enforcement power. Such ordinances would include stream dumping, channel maintenance, and land clearing disturbances. These ordinances would reduce the likelihood of localized flooding and could lead to additional points toward CRS reclassification.
- E. **In progress. Updated flood maps will be adopted in 2024-2025 at which time the state NFIP coordinator will recommend updates to the zoning regulations.** WPT-26: Compare local floodplain regulations with Revised State Model Flood Regulations to identify any remaining opportunities for improvement.
- F. **Completed by WESTCOG consultants in 2022:** WPT-27: Contact the owners of Repetitive Loss Properties and nearby properties at risk to inquire about mitigation undertaken and suggest options for mitigating flooding in those areas. This should be accomplished with a letter directly mailed to each property owner.
- G. **In progress: The Conservation Director has requested that the Selectman's Real Property Committee should be revitalized whereby a list of possible acquisitions be compiled. This list could be filled by Repetitive Loss Properties to satisfy this condition and expand passive open space. This request has not been granted yet.** WPT-27: Contact the owners of Repetitive Loss Properties and nearby properties at risk to inquire about mitigation undertaken and suggest options for mitigating flooding in those areas. This should be accomplished with a letter directly mailed to each property owner.
- H. **In progress: P&Z staff have been communicating with the FEMA to obtain a updated list of Repetitive Loss** information which is reflective of elevations and substantial improvements. WPT-29: Work with CT DEEP to validate and/or correct the RL list and update the mitigation status of each listed property.
- I. **In progress: Conservation has ~80% of preliminary stream crossing survey of culverts in public ROWs. Work was done to note stream connectivity for fish passage but also is simple visual inspections and measurements for culverts. When completed will be added to GIS and can be used for prioritization of replace/improve projects.** WPT-32: Pursue funding for other culvert replacements and upgrades and WPT- 33: Upgrade undersized culverts on Muddy Brook.

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

Those actions that have not been completed or achieved can be attributed to, ongoing stakeholder coordination, or funding challenges. A majority of those not achieved have been revised to capture these reasons to continue to pursue with more focus and specificity.

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

The Town of Westport has identified 39 new strategies and actions spanning

outreach, structural projects, and emergency response. These can all be found in the Westport Annex Section 4.4.

Attached: Sections 4.2 and 4.4 of the WestCOG Annex for Westport