

# Discovery Report

## Lake Ontario – Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed

### HUC 04140101

Cayuga, Monroe, Ontario, Oswego, and Wayne Counties, New York\*

*\*These counties span more than one watershed; please see following page for a list of communities fully or partially located in the watershed. This report covers only the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed in the State of New York.*

*Report Number 01  
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# FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY

## Project Area Community List

This list includes all communities located fully or partially within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. While all communities may be under consideration for a revised Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and/or Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), it is important to note that not all communities will receive new/updated FEMA FISs or FIRMs as a result of the watershed discovery project.

### Cayuga County

*Cato, Town of\*\**  
*Conquest, Town of\*\**  
Fair Haven, Village of\*  
Ira, Town of\*  
Sterling, Town of  
Victory, Town of\*

### Oswego County

*Granby, Town of\*\**  
Hannibal, Town of\*  
Hannibal, Village of  
*Minetto, Town of\*\**  
*Oswego, City of\*\**  
Oswego, Town of\*

### Monroe County

Brighton, Town of\*  
East Rochester, Town of\*  
Fairport, Village of\*\*  
*Henrietta, Town of\*\**  
Irondequoit, Town of\*  
Mendon, Town of\*  
Penfield, Town of\*  
Perinton, Town of\*  
Pittsford, Town of\*  
Pittsford, Village of  
*Rochester, City of\*\**  
Webster, Town of  
Webster, Village of

### Wayne County

*Arcadia, Town of\*\**  
Butler, Town of\*  
*Galen, Town of\*\**  
Huron, Town of  
*Lyons, Town of\*\**  
*Macedon, Town of\*\**  
*Marion, Town of\*\**  
Ontario, Town of\*  
Red Creek, Village of  
Rose, Town of\*  
Sodus, Town of  
Sodus, Village of\*  
Sodus Point, Village of\*  
Walworth, Town of\*\*  
Williamson, Town of\*  
Wolcott, Town of\*  
Wolcott, Village of

### Ontario County

Victor, Town of\*  
*West Bloomfield, Town of\*\**

\*Partially within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed

\*\**Partially within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, but not included in this Discovery Report due to inclusion within other Discovery processes, lack of flooding sources, and/or unpopulated area or development.*

## Study Date

It should be noted that the information and data presented in this report are static and were current as June 2014.

For the Irondequoit-Ninemile watershed, the Discovery process began in the summer of 2013. Data collection, as detailed in Table 8, was completed in August 2013. The in-person meetings were held in November 2013. Additional details on meetings and stakeholder involvement can be found in Section IV of this report. Data collected in this report were available prior to August 2013. As applicable, dates of data creation are noted throughout the report.

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAL	Average Annualized Loss
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
CAC	Community Assistance Contact
CAV	Community Assistance Visit
CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resources System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFS	Cubic Feet per Second
CID	Community Identification Number
CIS	Community Information System
CNMS	Coordinated Needs Management Strategy
CRS	Community Rating System
DMA2K	Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHBM	Flood Hazard Boundary Map
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLCFS	Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study
Hazus-MH	Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment and Loss Estimation Software Program
HMA	Hazard Mitigation Assistance
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan
HWM	High Water Mark
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LiMWA	Limit of Moderate Wave Action
LOMA	Letter of Map Amendment
LOMC	Letter of Map Change
LOMR	Letter of Map Revision
LOMR-F	Letter of Map Revision based on Fill
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

NAVD88	North American Vertical Datum of 1988
NDBC	National Data Buoy Center
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NGVD29	National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
NWS	National Weather Service
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDHSES	New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
NYSOEM	New York State Office of Emergency Management (*as part of NYSDHSES)
PDM	Pre-Disaster Mitigation
RAMPP	Risk Assessment, Mapping, and Planning Partners
Risk MAP	Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning
RL	Repetitive Loss
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SPDES	State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SRL	Severe Repetitive Loss
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey

## Glossary of Terms

**1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood:** The flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. This is the regulatory standard also referred to as the “100-year flood” or “base flood”. The base flood is the national standard used by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and all Federal agencies for the purposes of requiring the purchase of flood insurance and regulating new development. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are typically shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). ([FEMA](#))

**0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood:** A flood that has a 0.2-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also known as a 500-year flood). ([FEMA](#))

**Approximate Study:** Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event generally determined using approximate methodologies. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or flood depths are shown. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements and floodplain management standards apply. An approximate study is represented on a FIRM by a [Zone A](#). ([FEMA](#))

**Average Annualized Loss (AAL):** AAL is the estimated long-term value of losses to the general building stock averaged on an annual basis for a specific hazard type. Annualized loss considers all future losses for a specific hazard type resulting from possible hazard events with different magnitudes and return periods averaged on a “per year” basis. Like other loss estimates, AAL is an estimate based on available data and models. Therefore, the actual loss in any given year can be substantially higher or lower than the estimated annualized loss. ([FEMA](#))

**Base Flood Elevation:** The computed elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during the base flood. BFEs are shown on FIRMs and on the flood profiles. The BFE is the regulatory requirement for the elevation or floodproofing of structures. The relationship between the BFE and a structure’s elevation determines the flood insurance premium. ([FEMA](#))

**Bathymetry:** The underwater equivalent to topography. The data used to make bathymetric maps today typically comes from an echosounder ([sonar](#)) mounted beneath or over the side of a boat, “pinging” a beam of sound downward at the underwater surface, or from remote sensing systems. The bathymetry is combined into a seamless digital elevation model/terrain and is used to determine the offshore component for the overland wave analysis/coastal hazard analysis.

**Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS):** A FEMA Geographic Information System (GIS) tool that identifies and tracks the lifecycle of mapping requests and needs for the flood hazard mapping program. ([FEMA](#))

**Dam:** An artificial barrier that has the ability to impound water, wastewater, or any liquid-borne material, for the purpose of storage or control of water. ([FERC](#))

**Declared Disaster:** Local and State governments share the responsibility for protecting their citizens and for helping them recover after a disaster strikes. In some cases, disasters are beyond

the capabilities of local, State, and tribal government. In 1988, the Stafford Act was enacted to support local, State and tribal governments and their citizens when disasters overwhelm and exhaust their resources. This law, as amended, established the process for requesting and obtaining a Presidential Emergency or Disaster Declaration, defined the type and scope of assistance available from the Federal Government, and set the conditions for obtaining assistance. Steps for a Disaster Declaration include: (1) Local government responds, supplemented by neighboring communities and volunteer agencies. If the local government is overwhelmed the (2) State responds, (3) damage assessments are completed to determine total losses and recovery needs, (4) Disaster Declaration is requested by the governor of the state or by a tribal CEO, based on damage assessments, (5) FEMA evaluates the request, and then the (6) President approves or denies the request. ([FEMA](#))

**Detailed Study:** A flood hazard mapping study done using hydrologic and hydraulic methods that produce Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), floodways, and other pertinent flood data. Detailed study areas are shown on the FIRM as [Zones AE, AH, AO, AR, A99, A1-A30, and in coastal areas Zones V, VE, and V1-30](#). ([FEMA](#))

**FIRM panel:** The FIRM may include one or more individual maps. Each map is called a panel. The number of panels depends on the community size and the scale(s) of the panels. The index is used to determine which panel should be utilized to obtain flood hazard information for a specific location. ([FEMA](#))

**Flood Insurance Study (FIS):** A compilation and presentation of flood risk data for specific watercourses, lakes, and coastal flood hazard areas within a community. When a flood study is completed for the NFIP, the information and maps are assembled into an FIS. The FIS report contains detailed flood elevation data in flood profiles and data tables. ([FEMA](#))

**Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA):** The FMA program provides funds for projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the NFIP on an annual basis. There are three types of FMA grants available and include (1) planning grants, (2) project grants, and (3) management cost grants. ([FEMA](#))

**Geocode:** Geocoding is the process of transforming a description of a location—such as a pair of coordinates, an address, or a name of a place—to a location on the earth’s surface. You can geocode by entering one location description at a time or by providing many of them at once in a table. The resulting locations are output as geographic features with attributes, which can be used for mapping or spatial analysis. ([ArcGIS Resource Center](#))

**Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment and Loss Estimation Program (Hazus-MH):** Hazus-MH is a nationally applicable standardized methodology that estimates potential losses from earthquakes, hurricane winds and floods. FEMA developed Hazus-MH under contract with the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS). Hazus-MH uses state-of-the-art Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software to map and display hazard data and the results of damage and economic loss estimates for buildings and infrastructure. It also allows users to estimate the impacts of earthquakes, hurricane winds and floods on populations. ([FEMA](#))

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**Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA):** FEMA’s HMA grant programs provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). ([FEMA](#))

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):** The HMGP provides grants to States or tribes and local governments (as sub-grantees) to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. Each State or tribe (if applicable) administers the HMGP in their jurisdiction. The purpose of the HMGP 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. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Individual homeowners and businesses may not apply directly to the program; however, an eligible applicant or sub-applicant may apply on their behalf. ([FEMA](#))

**HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code):** The United States Geological Survey (USGS) divides and subdivides the area of the United States into successively smaller hydrologic units which are classified into four levels: regions, sub-regions, accounting units, and cataloging units. The hydrologic units are arranged or nested within each other, from the largest geographic area (regions) to the smallest geographic area (cataloging units). Each hydrologic unit is identified by a unique hydrologic unit code (HUC) consisting of two to eight digits based on the four levels of classification in the hydrologic unit system. ([USGS](#))

**Hydraulics:** The branch of science and technology concerned with the conveyance or control of liquid flow through pipes and channels, especially as a source of mechanical force.

**Hydrology:** The science that encompasses the occurrence, distribution, movement, and properties of the waters of the earth and their relationship to the environment within each phase of the hydrologic cycle. The [water cycle](#), or hydrologic cycle, is a continuous process by which water is purified by evaporation and transported from the earth’s surface (including the oceans) to the atmosphere and back to the land and oceans. ([USGS](#))

**Large Culvert:** A culvert with a span between 5 feet and 20 feet which carries a state highway. ([New York State Department of Transportation](#))

**Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR):** LiDAR is an active remote sensing technique similar to radar, but uses light pulses instead of radio waves. LiDAR is typically “flown” or collected from planes and produces a rapid collection of points (more than 70,000 per second) over a large collection area. Collection of elevation data using LiDAR has several advantages over most other techniques. Chief among them are higher resolutions, centimeter accuracies, and penetration in forested terrain. ([NOAA](#))

**Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA):** A LOMA is an official amendment, by letter, to an effective National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) map. A LOMA establishes a property’s

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location in relation to the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). LOMAs are usually issued because a property has been inadvertently identified as being in the floodplain, but is actually on natural high ground above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or out as shown on the FIRM. Because a LOMA officially amends the effective National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) map, it is a public record that the community must maintain. Any LOMA should be noted on the community's master flood map and filed by panel number in an accessible location. ([FEMA](#))

**Letter of Map Change (LOMC):** LOMC is a general term used to refer to the several types of revisions and amendments to FEMA maps that can be accomplished by letter. They include Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), and Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F). ([FEMA](#))

**Letter of Map Revision (LOMR):** is FEMA's modification to an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), or Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM), or both. LOMRs are generally based on the implementation of physical measures that affect the hydrologic or hydraulic characteristics of a flooding source and thus result in the modification of the existing regulatory floodway, the effective Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), or the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The LOMR officially revises the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) or Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM), and sometimes the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, and when appropriate, includes a description of the modifications. The LOMR is generally accompanied by an annotated copy of the affected portions of the FIRM, FBFM, or FIS report. ([FEMA](#))

**Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F):** A LOMR-F is FEMA's modification of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) based on the placement of fill outside the existing regulatory floodway. ([FEMA](#))

**Levee/Floodwall:** A man-made structure designed to contain or control the flow of water. Levees and floodwalls are constructed from earth, compacted soil, or artificial materials, such as concrete or steel. To protect against erosion and scouring, earthen levees can be covered with grass and gravel or hard surfaces like stone, asphalt, or concrete. ([FEMA](#))

**Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA):** The inland limit of the area expected to receive 1.5- to less than 3 foot breaking waves during the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event. The area between this inland limit and the V zone boundary is known as the Coastal A zone. ([FEMA](#))

**Map Modernization:** A multi-year Presidential initiative funded by Congress from fiscal year (FY) 2003 to FY2008, improved and updated the nation's flood maps and provided 92 percent of the nation's population with digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps. ([FEMA](#))

**Mitigation:** Any cost-effective action taken to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural and technological hazards, including, but not limited to, flooding. Acceptable flood mitigation measures include: elevation, floodproofing, relocation, demolition, or any combination thereof. ([FEMA](#))

**Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM):** The PDM grant program provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and projects on an annual basis. The PDM program was put in place to reduce overall risk to people and structures, while at the same time reducing reliance on Federal funding if an actual disaster were to occur. ([FEMA](#))

**Repetitive Loss (RL) property:** A RL property is any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling 10-year period since 1978. A RL property may or may not be currently insured by the NFIP. ([FEMA](#))

**Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program:** The FEMA program that provides communities with flood risk information and tools to support mitigation planning and risk reduction actions. ([FEMA](#))

**Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) grant program:** The Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) grant program was authorized by the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, which amended the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to provide funding to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. ([FEMA](#))

**Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property:** A SRL property is a single family property (consisting of 1 to 4 residences) covered by flood insurance underwritten by the NFIP and has incurred flood-related damage for which four or more separate claim payments have been paid with the amount of each claim payment exceeding \$5,000 and with cumulative amount of such claim payments exceeding \$20,000; or for which at least two separate claim payments have been made with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the property. ([FEMA](#))

**Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA):** SFHAs are high-risk areas subject to inundation by the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood; they are also referred to as 1-percent-annual-chance floodplains, base floodplains, or 100-year floodplains. ([FEMA](#))

**Stakeholder:** An individual or group that has an interest in a decision or proposed action. A stakeholder may have none, one, or more of the following roles: has authority or decision-making power over some aspect of the project, is affected by the outcome of the project, will be a part of implementing the project, and/or can stop or delay the project (through litigation or other means). A project may have multiple stakeholders, and these stakeholders often have conflicting interests and want competing outcomes. ([FEMA](#))

**Vertical Datum:** A vertical datum is a base measurement point (or set of points) from which all elevations of points on the Earth's surface are determined. Without a common datum, surveyors would calculate different elevation values for the same location. Vertical datums are either tidal, that is, based on [sea levels](#), or geodetic, based on the same ellipsoid models of the earth used for computing horizontal datums. Common vertical datums used on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are NGVD29 (tidal) and NAVD88 (geodetic). ([FEMA](#)).

**Watershed:** A watershed is a basin-like landform defined by highpoints and ridgelines that descend into lower elevations and stream valleys. A watershed carries water from the land after rain falls and snow melts. Drop by drop, water is channeled into soils, aquifers, creeks, and streams, making its way to larger rivers and eventually the sea. ([Watershed Atlas](#))

**Water Year:** The 12-month period beginning on October 1 for any given year and ending on September 30 of the following year. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends and which includes 9 of the 12 months. Thus, the year ending September 30, 2013, is called the “2013” water year. ([USGS](#))

## Executive Summary

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Lake Ontario Discovery Reports provide users with a comprehensive understanding of historical flood risk, existing riverine and coastal data, and current flood mitigation activities within the Lake Ontario basin in New York. This includes the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed highlighted in this report. The report also summarizes FEMA's ongoing coastal flood hazard study under FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program and the Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study (GLCFS) project.

FEMA, in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), carried out Discovery in the Lake Ontario watersheds. The Discovery process for the Lake Ontario basin involved significant basin-wide data collection and outreach efforts with Lake Ontario basin stakeholders using several methods, including individual phone calls, webinars, and in-person meetings. During the outreach process, the emphasis was placed on opportunities for stakeholders to provide their comments and concerns and have input into future mapping projects. Conversations during the meetings were focused on the types of existing data sources that could be used as part of a Risk MAP project, community mapping needs, locations of development pressure, and mitigation assistance requirements. Data collected from stakeholders within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed during the Discovery phase can be found in Section III: *Summary of Data Analysis*.

In addition to collecting information about mapping needs and existing data sources, the Discovery project also discussed mitigation activities within each watershed. Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) were reviewed to better understand existing flood risks within Lake Ontario basin communities. These plans are developed as part of the local planning process and are primarily multi-jurisdictional. Stakeholders provided limited information about ongoing mitigation activities in the watershed, and several communities requested specific training focused on hazard mitigation planning and future projects. More information on flood hazard mitigation projects and actions identified during the Discovery process can be found in Section III: *Summary of Data Analysis* in this report.

Using community mapping needs and information about existing data collected through the stakeholder engagement process, a recommended scope of work for the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Discovery project was developed. The Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed consists of portions of five counties, three of which have digital maps, and 31 communities. Many communities in the two counties still have the older paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that were developed during the 1970s and 1980s. Community officials find these older FIRMs difficult to use and their primary request is for updated digital mapping. Monroe, Oswego, and Cayuga Counties have FIRMs in a digital format with updated approximate studies. A select few detailed stream segments were updated during the 2008 Monroe County map revision as well as the 2007 Cayuga County map revision. Oswego County's FIRMs are in a digital format with updated approximate studies; however, no detailed stream segments were updated during the 2013 map revision. A number of communities in all three counties with modernized maps

requested updated studies due to hydraulic changes throughout the watershed. In Oswego, Cayuga, Wayne, and Monroe Counties there is development pressure along the Lake Ontario shoreline and the larger Lake Ontario bays. There are also frequent flooding events along some of the major tributaries to the bays such as Irondequoit Creek and Sodus Creek. These stream reaches would benefit from updated mapping and the development of revised Base Flood Elevations (BFEs). The new detailed studies along key stream segments, combined with updated approximate studies in a new digital format, would be sufficient to assist with enforcement and ensure safe development. The resulting scope of work addresses 34 stream study requests for a total of 115.23 miles of new detailed study of which 81.44 miles are high priority, 12.2 miles are medium priority, and 21.59 miles are lower priority. There are many approximate study requests for a total of 57.75 miles, plus a request for a detailed restudy of the Lake Ontario shoreline, Irondequoit Bay, and Sodus Bay. More specific information on stream study requests and other community needs collected through the Discovery process can be found in Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs* of this report. A copy of the recommended scope of work can be found in Appendix O: *Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Recommended Scope of Work*.

## Introduction

FEMA is currently implementing the Risk MAP program, across the nation. As part of the Risk MAP process, FEMA, in partnership with NYSDEC, carried out the Discovery phase in the Lake Ontario watersheds, including the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, as described in Section II: *Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Overview* of this report. The Discovery phase of Risk MAP gathers local information and readily available data to assess the need for new or updated Risk MAP products within the watershed. The effort includes coordination with multiple stakeholders throughout the watershed to gather flood risk information, including mapping needs, and assists communities by both identifying areas of risk and promoting sustainable development methods.

The Lake Ontario Discovery Reports, including this report on the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, provide users with an in-depth understanding of historical flood risk, existing riverine and coastal data, and current flood mitigation activities within the Lake Ontario basin. The report also summarizes FEMA's ongoing GLCFS. The GLCFS is a comprehensive study of coastal flood hazards for all U.S. shoreline within the Great Lakes Basin, including Lake Ontario. FEMA is conducting the study in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), and other partners. One benefit of the GLCFS project is that it provides a wide range of data to communities along the Great Lakes, which can be used to promote long-term reduction in flood risk and enhance public safety and community sustainability.

The Discovery process for the Lake Ontario watersheds involved extensive basin-wide data collection and outreach efforts with stakeholders in the project area. The stakeholder group included representatives from FEMA, other Federal agencies, state agencies, county and local governments, as well as watershed-based groups. A full list of stakeholders invited to participate in the Discovery process is available in Appendix A: *Pre-Discovery Mailing List and Invitation Letter*. Discovery stakeholder coordination in this watershed was achieved by several methods, including individual phone calls with local stakeholders, as well as pre-Discovery webinars. The pre-Discovery webinars held in August and September 2013 provided information about the Discovery process and discussed the flood mapping, mitigation, and planning needs of communities within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. A record of meeting participants can be found in Appendix B: *Pre-Discovery Stakeholder Meetings* and a summary of the information collected can be found in Appendix C: *Kickoff Meeting Notes*.

Stakeholders were encouraged to attend the in-person Discovery meetings held over two days during November 2013. The main goals of the Discovery meetings were to review and validate the gathered flood risk data and discuss each community's flooding history, development plans, flood mapping needs, and flood risk concerns. These meetings also provided a forum to discuss the importance of mitigation planning and community outreach. Community mapping needs and other comments were documented and are available for further review in Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs*, as well as in Appendix N: *Watershed Summary Memorandums*. A summary of the stream study priorities, both high and moderate priority, provided by the communities participating in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Discovery project are shown in Table 1: *Summary of Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Community Mapping*

*Priorities.* One of the most pressing issue for communities in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed is the age of the existing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). While Monroe, Oswego, and Cayuga Counties have digital mapping, communities in Wayne and Ontario Counties still regulate their floodplains using the old flat style paper maps that were issued in the late 1970s and early 1980s. A significant number of communities in the Irondequoit-Ninemile watershed are experiencing growth along the Lake Ontario shoreline or have had significant changes in the hydrology and/or hydraulics of streams that were studied in the 1970s and 1980s. Updated digital products are needed to effectively manage this growth along Lake Ontario and other smaller developments in the floodplains. In addition to the study requests listed in the Table 1 below, several communities requested updating mapping in areas outside of the watershed. The requests for other watersheds were noted and were incorporated into the appropriate watershed reports and proposed scopes of work. Stream study requests outside of the Lake Ontario contributing watersheds were entered into CNMS.

**Table 1: Summary of Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Community Mapping Priorities**

County	Communities	Priorities
Wayne, Monroe, Cayuga, Oswego	All communities with shoreline along Lake Ontario	The Lake Ontario shoreline, including all bays and harbors such as Maxwell Bay, Port Bay, East Bay and Pultneyville Harbor, should be studied by detailed methods for its entire length within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. The counties and communities have expressed various needs for new detailed mapping along the shoreline. Monroe County has expressed a need for new base flood elevations due to growth and development along Lake Ontario. Communities within Cayuga and Wayne Counties have expressed a need for detailed base flood elevations along the lake due to high erosion rates and low lying topography that needs more detailed mapping. Wayne County indicated the bays and harbors along the Lake Ontario shoreline should be included in the study. Several counties and communities have also expressed concerns about impacts that may occur due to changes in lake level regulation due to proposals by the International Joint Commission (IJC).
Monroe	Town of Irondequoit, Town of Penfield, City of Rochester, Town of Webster	Irondequoit Bay should be studied by detailed methods due to conflicting base flood elevations between neighboring communities along the bay. The Towns of Irondequoit and Penfield and the City of Rochester have a base flood elevation of 251 feet while the Town of Webster has a base flood elevation of 249 feet.
Monroe, Ontario	Town of Penfield, Town of Brighton, Village of East Rochester, Town of Perinton, Town of Pittsford, Town of Victor, Town of Mendon	Irondequoit Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 35.59 miles due to the age of the current study and the frequency of flooding events along the creek.

**Table 1: Summary of Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Community Mapping Priorities (cont'd)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Communities</b>	<b>Priorities</b>
Wayne	Town of Huron, Village of Sodus Point	Sodus Bay should be studied by detailed methods due to development along the bay and the age of the current study.
Wayne	Town of Huron	Sodus Creek needs a new detailed study from its confluence with Sodus Bay to the upstream Town of Huron corporate limits for a distance of 2.23 miles due to flooding caused by the bridge on State Route 104. Route 104 will be widened from 104A to the City by the NYSDOT within the next five years.
Monroe	Town of Pittsford	East Branch Allen Creek needs an updated detailed study for 7.7 miles between the northwest corporate limits of the Town of Pittsford and Calkins Road due to recent construction of upland stormwater management facilities that have the potential to lower base flood elevations. The study should also be updated to reflect the culvert that was replaced on Calkins Road. The replacement culvert is larger than the culvert existing at the time of the current study. The floodplain boundary between Stone Road and Calkins Road also does not match the topography of the area.
Cayuga	Town of Sterling	Ninemile Creek should be studied by detailed methods from its confluence with Lake Ontario to the upstream Town of Sterling corporate limits for a distance of 2.74 miles due to proposed development in the area. The current study is an approximate study.
Wayne	Village of Sodus Point, Town of Sodus	First Creek should have a new detailed study 0.9 miles within the Village of Sodus Point and the Town of Sodus. The area at the mouth of the creek is the first to flood and the Village may have bathymetry data for this area. This study was requested by the Village of Sodus Point in Wayne County.
Wayne	Town of Williamson	Salmon Creek (west) in the Town of Williamson should be studied by detailed methods from its confluence with Lake Ontario to Ridge Chapel Road for a distance of 7.1 miles due to the low lying topography, current age of the study, and possible inaccuracies in the current mapping.
Wayne	Town of Ontario	Dennison Creek should be studied by detailed methods from its confluence with Lake Ontario to Whitney Road in the Town of Ontario for a distance of 7.25 miles due to the low lying topography, current age of the study, and possible inaccuracies in the current mapping.
Monroe	Town of Brighton, Town of Pittsford	Allen Creek should be a detailed study from its confluence with Irondequoit Creek to Route 252 for a distance of 4.94 miles due to development pressures along the stream in the Towns of Brighton and Pittsford. There is a plan for 137 acres of mixed commercial and residential development within the Town of Brighton along this study reach.

**Table 1: Summary of Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Community Mapping Priorities (cont'd)**

County	Communities	Priorities
Monroe	Town of Webster, Town of Penfield	Shipbuilders Creek should be a new detailed study for 3.79 miles within the Towns of Webster and Penfield. The Town of Webster would like the current study to be updated from the southern corporate limits of the Town of Webster to Kelm Road for 2.93 miles due to the development of Empire Park and the residential development of Brookville Drive that occurred in the 1990s. The Town of Penfield would like the detailed study to extend into the Town of Penfield to its upstream limits since the effective study ends at the town line between the Town of Webster and the Town of Penfield.
Monroe	Town of Webster	Fourmile Creek should be an updated detailed study for 9.1 miles, the entire length of the stream through the Town of Webster, due to bridge replacements at two locations over the creek on County Route 4 and bridge replacements on State Road and Salt Road. There have also been developments of coastal and creek edge homes and town houses along the creek.
Monroe	Town of Penfield	Thousand Acre Brook should be a new detailed study from its confluence with Irondequoit Creek to its upstream limits in Thousand Acre Swamp for a distance of 3.6 miles. There has been development near the intersection of Whalen Road and Five Mile Line and many homes experience flooding in the yards.
Monroe	Town of Brighton	Buckland Creek should be an updated detailed study from its confluence with Allen Creek to a point upstream of Elmwood for a distance of 4.07 miles due to stream restoration and culvert replacement by the County Department of Transportation.
Monroe	Town of Perinton, Village of Fairport	The New York State Barge Canal should be a new detailed study for approximately 8.67 miles through the Town of Perinton, including the Village of Fairport, due to development in the areas near the canal.
Monroe	Village of Fairport	Thomas Creek should be restudied by detailed methods for 1.55 miles within the Village of Fairport due to the canal spillway that flows into Thomas Creek near Water Street. The canal floods when the creek is high.
Monroe	Town of Pittsford	West Brook needs an updated detailed study for a distance of 1.94 miles from south of the Barge Canal to Kerrygold Way due to improved stormwater management facilities located near Tobey Road that serve to reduce flooding in the area. There is a portion of West Brook that is currently an approximate study from the canal north to the confluence with East Branch.
Monroe	Town of Brighton	Allen Creek Tributary should be studied by detailed methods from its confluence with Allen Creek to Clinton Avenue for a distance of 1.44 miles. The stream request was made due to the development of 327 acres for mixed use residential and office space.

**Table 1: Summary of Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Community Mapping Priorities (cont'd)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Communities</b>	<b>Priorities</b>
Wayne	Town of Ontario	Bear Creek should be a detailed study from its confluence with Lake Ontario upstream to Paddy Lane for a distance of 7.21 miles in the Town of Ontario.
Wayne	Village of Sodus Point	Maxwell Creek should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Maxwell Bay to its upstream limits near North Geneva Road in the Village of Sodus Point for a distance of 1.25 miles.
Monroe	Town of Penfield	The unnamed tributary to Thomas Creek should be a detailed study from its confluence with Thomas Creek to its upstream limits for a distance of 3.35 miles in the Town of Penfield. The Town has additional GIS data for this area and it is a wide floodplain that needs base flood elevations.
Monroe	Town of Webster	Mill Creek should be an updated detailed study for 1.94 miles from the confluence with 2nd Unnamed Tributary to Mill Creek to Orchard Road in the Town of Webster due to a culvert replacement on Imperial Drive.
Monroe	Town of Perinton	There is an unnamed tributary to Irondequoit Creek in an area of high development along Golf Stream Drive in the Town of Perinton that is not mapped. There should be a new detailed study for this stream from its confluence with Irondequoit Creek to its upstream limits in the Town of Penfield for a distance of 2.04 miles.
Monroe	Town of Perinton	The unnamed tributary to Thomas Creek that crosses Furman Road in the northeast corner of the Town of Perinton should be a new detailed study from its confluence with Thomas Creek to its upstream limits near Watson Hill Road for a distance of 1.7 miles due to flooding in the area.
Monroe	Town of Perinton	The unnamed tributary to White Brook should be a detailed study for 2.12 miles from its confluence with White Brook to just past Mason Road in the Town of Perinton. This is an area that is highly developed that is not currently mapped.
Monroe	Town of Perinton	The unnamed stream near the intersection of Ayrault Road and Turk Hill in the Town of Perinton should be a new detailed study from its confluence with the Erie Canal to Route 250 for a distance of 2.26 miles due to the high level of development.
Monroe	Town of Pittsford	Tributary Number 1 to East Branch Allen Creek should have an updated detailed study from its confluence with the East Branch Allen Creek to Stone Road for a distance of 0.52 miles in the Town of Pittsford due to new stormwater management facilities and newly constructed stormwater sewer improvements.
Monroe	Town of Pittsford	Mill Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 0.96 miles from south of VanVoorhis Road to the southern corporate limits of the Town of Pittsford. This stream currently is an unstudied area and has the potential to be a flood hazard.
Monroe	Town of Webster	The unnamed tributaries in the area of Schlegel Road should be a new detailed study for a total of 6.7 miles due to development in the area. These streams are currently not studied.

**Table 1: Summary of Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Community Mapping Priorities (cont'd)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Communities</b>	<b>Priorities</b>
Wayne	Town of Rose	Sodus Creek should be a new approximate study for 9.18 miles in the Town of Rose due to seasonal flooding and a large flooding event that caused damages in the late 1990s.
Wayne	Town of Butler, Village of Wolcott, Town of Wolcott	Wolcott Creek should be an updated digital approximate study for 15.73 miles including Mill Pond in the Towns of Wolcott and Butler and the Village of Wolcott due to the age and scale of the current study. The community officials find the current maps to be unusable for determinations.
Wayne	Town of Williamson	There should be a new approximate study of the Unnamed Tributary to Salmon Creek for 1.25 miles in the southeastern corner of the Town of Williamson from Tripp Road slightly beyond Townline Road due to flooding in this area. This stream is currently unstudied in Williamson, but is studied in the Town of Sodus.
Cayuga	Town of Sterling	There should be an updated approximate study of Sterling Creek for 10.4 miles due to the flooding of a campground in 2005/2006. The owner of the campground claims it is not in the floodplain. There have also been changes to the stream's hydraulics due to bridge and culvert replacements along the stream.
Cayuga	Village of Fair Haven	There should be a new approximate study for the unnamed tributary to Little Sodus Bay for approximately 0.65 miles in the Village of Fair Haven. There is a section of the stream that is piped near Fair Haven Road and the Main Street culvert was replaced in 2006 or 2007.
Oswego	Town of Oswego	Ninemile Creek Tributary No. 1 should be an updated approximate study for 1.5 miles from the confluence with Ninemile Creek in the Town of Oswego. The current floodplain boundary is inaccurate.
Wayne	Town of Sodus	Wayne County requested Second Creek in the Town of Sodus be studied as an approximate study for its entire distance of 7.10 miles within the Town.
Wayne	Town of Huron, Town of Sodus	Wayne County requested Third Creek in the Towns of Sodus and Huron be studied as an approximate study for its entire distance of 6.6 miles.
Wayne	Town of Huron	Beaver Creek was requested by Wayne County as an approximate study in the Town of Huron from its confluence with Port Bay to Richardson Road for a distance of 2.85 miles.
Wayne	Town of Williamson	Jack Creek was requested by Wayne County as an approximate study in the Town of Williamson from its confluence with Lake Ontario to its upstream limits for a distance of 6.05 miles.
Wayne	Town of Williamson	Mink Creek was requested by Wayne County as an approximate study in the Town of Williamson. This study segment should start at its confluence with Lake Ontario and extend to its upstream limits for a distance of 7.40 miles.
Wayne	Town of Wolcott	A new approximate study of Little Creek was requested by Wayne County in the Town of Wolcott. This stream should be studied from its confluence with Red Creek to its upstream limits for a distance of 5.27 miles.

**Table 1: Summary of Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Community Mapping Priorities (cont'd)**

County	Communities	Priorities
Wayne	Town of Wolcott	Black Creek was requested by Wayne County as an approximate study in the Town of Wolcott for a distance of 4.25 miles. The existing approximate study is only a small stream segment and should be expanded to include its entire length.
Wayne	Town of Walworth, Village of Wolcott	The Town of Walworth and the Village of Wolcott both requested that all approximate studies within the communities be updated to a new digital format due to the age and lack of usability of the current effective maps.

To ensure that any Risk MAP project moving forward takes into account existing data, as well as community mapping needs, the Discovery process also requests stakeholders provide detailed information that may be useful to the mapping process. Questions about existing data sources were discussed during both the pre-Discovery webinars and in-person meetings to determine what information is available and who developed or owns that information. The detailed information about existing data is helpful in determining a proposed scope of work for the project area, especially where there is existing topographic or hydraulic information available locally. The savings to the project, due to the availability of existing data, may allow for additional stream studies to be included. A summary of existing data that potentially could be used as part of a Risk MAP project is included in Table 2: *Summary of Potential Data Sources*. In addition to the sources listed below, the New York State Standard Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan provides valuable information at a statewide level in support of risk identification and mitigation planning.

**Table 2: Summary of Potential Data Sources**

County	Community	Potential Data	Source
Cayuga	Cayuga County	Political Boundaries, Parcel and Zoning Boundaries, Transportation, Essential/Critical Facilities, Land Use and Soil Data, Areas of Bluff/Beach Erosion, Piped Streams	Cayuga County Planning Department
		Flood Gage Data	USACE and Canal Corps
		Location of Flood Control Structures, Location of Dams	NYSDEC and USACE
	Village of Fair Haven	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Land Use and Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning, Building Footprints, Bathymetry, Bluff Recession Rates, Piped Streams, Historical Shoreline Change	Village of Fair Haven
	Town of Sterling	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Land Use and Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning, Bathymetry, Bluff Recession Rates, Historical Shoreline Change	Town of Sterling

**Table 2: Summary of Potential Data Sources (cont'd)**

County	Community	Potential Data	Source
Monroe	Monroe County	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Parcel and Zoning Data, Land Use and Soil Data, Essential/ Critical Facility Data, NOAA Coastal Bathymetry from 2011 LiDAR, Wave Gage Data, Shoreline Change Photos, 2006 County LiDAR, Piped Stream Data	Monroe County GIS Department
	Village of East Rochester	Parcel and Zoning Data, Building Footprints	Village of East Rochester Building Department
	Town of Irondequoit	Transportation Layers	Town of Irondequoit
	Town of Mendon	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Land Use and Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning Data, Building Footprints, Historical Flood Inundation Areas	Town of Mendon
	Town of Perinton	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Land Use and Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning Data, Building Footprints, Essential/Critical Facilities	Town of Perinton
	Town of Pittsford	Zoning Data, Piped Streams	Town of Pittsford
	Town of Webster	Parcel and Zoning Data, Essential/Critical Facilities, Shoreline Change	Town of Webster
	Village of Webster	Political Boundaries, Parcel and Zoning Data	Village of Webster
Ontario	Ontario County	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Land Use and Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning data, Building Footprint Data (2009), Historical Flood Inundation Data, LiDAR	Ontario County Information Services
		Essential/Critical Facilities	Ontario County Emergency Management
	Town of Victor	Transportation Layers, Land Use and Soil Data	Town of Victor Town Engineer
Oswego	Oswego County	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning Data, Essential/Critical Facilities, Bathymetry Data, Coastal Structures	Oswego County Planning Department
	Town of Hannibal	Piped Streams	Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District
	Town of Oswego	Political Boundaries, Transportation Data, Building Footprints	Town of Oswego
Wayne	Wayne County	Political Boundaries, Land Use and Soil Data	Wayne County Department of Planning
		Transportation Layers	Wayne County Department of Public Works
		Parcel Data	Wayne County Real Property

**Table 2: Summary of Potential Data Sources (cont'd)**

County	Community	Potential Data	Source
Wayne (cont'd)	Town of Butler	Essential/Critical Facilities	Town of Butler
	Town of Sodus	Transportation Layers, Land use and Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning Data, Bluff Recession Rate	Town of Sodus
	Town of Walworth	Parcel and Zoning Data, Essential/Critical Facilities	Town of Walworth
	Town of Williamson	Political Boundaries, Transportation Layers, Land Use and Soil Data, Parcel and Zoning Data, Building Footprints, Historical Flood Inundation Areas	Town of Williamson

Since mitigation is a critical process for reducing loss of life and property due to natural hazards, it is the third major component to the Discovery Project. As part of the Discovery process, the State’s Standard Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and local HMPs were reviewed to better understand existing flood risk within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed communities. These plans contain risk mitigation strategies and actions already developed as part of local planning processes. By obtaining a better understanding of existing local risk and mitigation actions during this Discovery phase, FEMA is able to work with communities to identify new mitigation actions and strengthen existing actions. In addition, FEMA continues to identify communities that can benefit from mitigation assistance, including training needs. During the Discovery process, many stakeholders noted the need for assistance and requested additional training related to floodplain management and hazard mitigation.

Table 33: *Community Training Requests* summarizes the training needs as noted by communities during the in-person Discovery meetings.

**Table 3: Community Training Requests**

County	Community	Training Needs
Cayuga	Cayuga County	Floodplain Management Hazard Mitigation Building and Enforcement Guidance
Monroe	Monroe County	Other: SLOSH or other wave modeling software
	Town of Brighton	Floodplain Management Hazard Mitigation Building and Enforcement Guidance
	Town of Perinton	Floodplain Management Hazard Mitigation
	Town of Pittsford	Floodplain Management Building and Enforcement Guidance
	Village of Webster	Floodplain Management Hazard Mitigation Building and Enforcement Guidance
Ontario	Town of Victor	Floodplain Management Hazard Mitigation Building and Enforcement Guidance

County	Community	Training Needs
Oswego	Town of Oswego	Floodplain Management Hazard Mitigation Building and Enforcement Guidance

**Table 3: Community Training Requests (cont'd)**

County	Community	Training Needs
Wayne	Town of Arcadia	Hazard Mitigation
	Wayne County	Floodplain Management Hazard Mitigation Building and Enforcement Guidance

Overall, the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Discovery process was successful in gathering and documenting information about flood risk, flood hazards, mitigation plans, mitigation activities, flooding history, development plans, and floodplain management activities to help FEMA and the communities identify areas that may be funded for further flood risk identification and assessment. Using the information collected during the Risk MAP Discovery process, a proposed scope of work was developed by NYSDEC. Community officials in Wayne and Ontario Counties find the existing maps very difficult to work with and are requesting digital updates. A wholesale restudy of each county may not be warranted, but there are several key stream segments which are identified for new detailed studies. The new detailed studies combined with updated approximate studies in a new digital format would assist both the communities and the county in enforcing floodplain regulations and managing development. More detailed information on the proposed scope of work can be found in *Appendix O: Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Recommended Scope of Work*.

# I. Discovery Overview

FEMA’s Risk MAP program helps communities identify, assess, and reduce their flood risk. Through Risk MAP, FEMA provides information to enhance local HMPs, improve community outreach, and increase local resilience to floods.

The Lake Ontario Watershed Discovery project is the beginning of an interactive process that will result in a watershed-wide assessment of existing flood hazard mapping needs, existing information useful in updating FISs, and ultimately recommendations for the development of updated Risk MAP and FIS products, such as updated FIRMs.

Discovery occurs after FEMA’s planning and budgeting cycle, when watersheds of interest have been selected for further examination in coordination with Federal and State-level stakeholders. Watersheds are selected based on risk, need, available topographic data, and other factors. The data that FEMA has readily available is gathered and prepared at the national and regional level and augmented by community supplied flood risk information and data collected during the Discovery process. Community participation is necessary to assure that FEMA has the most up-to-date understanding of a community’s flood risk.

Throughout the Risk MAP process, FEMA engages and partners with States, local communities, and stakeholders to communicate risk. One of the goals of Risk MAP is to build awareness and understanding of risk to empower communities to take action to reduce that risk.

During Discovery, FEMA, NYSDEC, and partners:

- Gather information about local flood risk and flood hazards;
- Review mitigation plans to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments, and current or future mitigation activities;
- Support communities within the watershed to develop a vision for the watershed’s future;
- Collect information from communities about their flooding history, effective FIRM usability, development plans, daily operations, and stormwater and floodplain management activities;
- Use all information gathered to determine which areas of the watershed require revised mapping, risk assessment, or mitigation planning assistance through a Risk MAP project; and
- Develop a Discovery Map and Report that summarize and display the Discovery findings.

## Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study

The GLCFS includes a system-wide solution that provides a comprehensive analysis of past storm events that have occurred within Lake Ontario. The program is funded through the FEMA Risk MAP program. FEMA, ASFPM, State partners, and FEMA contractors will collaborate in updating the coastal methodology and flood maps as needed. FEMA manages the NFIP, which is the cornerstone of the national strategy for preparing communities for flood-related disasters.

As part of the Coastal Studies, VE zones designate areas that are at higher risk from high velocity wave action and/or wave runup/overtopping. In such areas significant damage to structures along

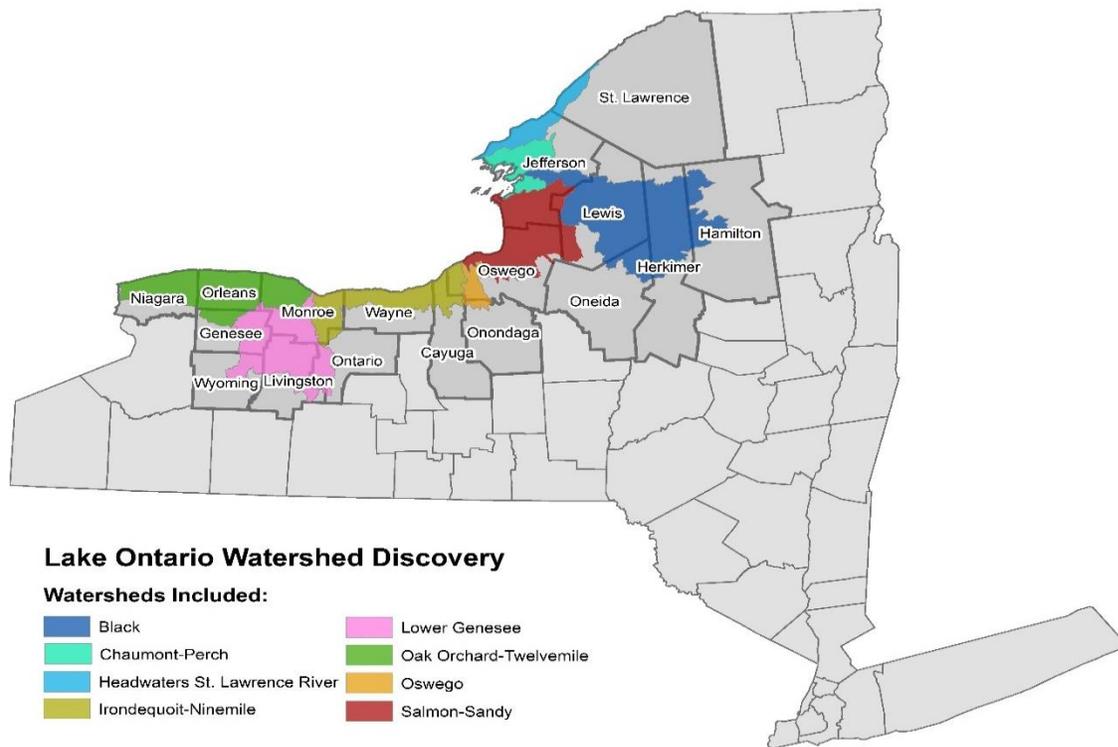
*Discovery Report:  
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the coastline can occur. These zones have been mapped nationwide in coastal regions bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, however very few communities along the Great Lakes shorelines have VE Zones presently identified. Because very few VE Zone have been identified and mapped in the past and because the types of major storm events that impact the Great Lakes region are different when compared to the storms on the open ocean of the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, or Gulf of Mexico, an independent body was convened to evaluate whether VE Zones are appropriate in the Great Lakes. This study was completed in early 2015. The study concluded that VE Zones are appropriate along the Great Lakes shorelines. The area of moderate wave action, referred to as the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA), will be depicted on the FIRMs. The LiMWA is a non-regulatory product for the NFIP.

FEMA initiated a coastal analysis restudy for Lake Ontario as part of a system-wide Great Lakes study. The Great Lakes is a hydraulic system best studied as an integrated system to ensure that interactions among the various lakes are viewed as a whole. The results of the restudy, along with the needs of the communities as identified during the Discovery process, will determine whether updated FIRMs are produced. The new coastal flood study will update the 1-percent-annual-chance stillwater elevations developed from the comprehensive storm surge study and overland wave analysis of Lake Ontario.

An updated coastal flood study is needed to obtain a better estimate of Lake Ontario's unique coastal flood hazards. The current, effective FIRMs for the surrounding communities are outdated in terms of age and the methodologies used in the coastal analysis to produce them. There have been major changes in NFIP policies and updates to the guidelines and specifications used to complete coastal flood studies since the effective date of many of the area's Flood Insurance Studies (FISs). Therefore, an update that will reflect a more detailed and complete hazard determination is needed.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the watersheds that have been included within the Lake Ontario Discovery project. Eight individual watershed Discovery reports have been concurrently developed and include 17 counties and 246 individual communities. The Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed is shown in olive green in Figure 1 and includes portions of Cayuga, Monroe, Ontario, Oswego, and Wayne counties.



**Figure 1: Watersheds Included Within the Lake Ontario Discovery Project**

## Coastal Barrier Resources System

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 and (subsequent amendments) established the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). The CBRS consists of undeveloped coastal barriers located along the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes coasts. CBRS areas are generally depositional geologic features that are subject to wave, tidal, and wind energies; protect landward aquatic habitats from direct wave attack; and contain associated aquatic habitats, including adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters. The law encourages the conservation of vulnerable, biologically rich coastal barriers by restricting Federal expenditures that encourage development, such as Federal flood insurance. CBRS areas are identified and depicted on a series of official maps entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System.” These maps are controlling and form the basis of CBRS boundaries shown on FEMA FIRMs. The CBRS maps are maintained by the Department of the Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Aside from three minor exceptions, only Congress has the authority to add or delete land from the CBRS and create new units. These exceptions include: (1) voluntary additions to the CBRS by property owners; (2) additions of excess Federal property to the CBRS; and (3) the CBRA 5-year review requirement that solely considers changes that have occurred to System units by natural forces such as erosion and accretion. <http://www.fws.gov/cbra/index.html>

The CBRS contain two types of units, System units (e.g. NY-11) and Otherwise Protected Areas (OPAs). OPAs are denoted with a “P” at the end of the unit number (e.g. NY-11P). An interactive CBRS Mapper is available to the public to help property owners and local, State, and Federal stakeholders to determine sites affected by the CBRA at [CBRS Mapper](#).

There are 157 miles of CBRS boundaries around Lake Ontario. There are five locations within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, including locations within Cayuga County, specifically in the Town of Sterling; Monroe County in the Town of Parma; and Wayne County. Figure 2 shows the location of the CBRS units around Lake Ontario in the vicinity of the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed.

## Coastal Zone Protection Structures

The USACE Enterprise Coastal Inventory Database houses information on more than 900 coastal structures as well as associated inlet data across the United States. The coastal structures protect harbors and shore-based infrastructure; provide shoreline stability control; provide flood protection; and protect coastal communities, roadways, and bridges. Coastal structures include seawalls, groins, bulkheads, revetments, dikes, levees, breakwaters, jetties, and piers. Due to the variability of long-term lake water levels from year to year, coastal structures designed and constructed during one particular lake level may not afford the same level of risk protection when lake levels either increase or decrease. Coastal structures should be evaluated for a range of lake water levels. The coastal structure data were provided by USACE, Buffalo District. These data are shown on the Discovery Maps.



Figure 2: CBRS Units

## Stakeholder Coordination

### Pre-Discovery Meetings (via WebEx)

To begin this effort, [NYSDEC](#)'s Floodplain Management Section along with Risk Assessment, Mapping, and Planning Partners (RAMPP)—a joint venture between Dewberry, AECOM (formerly URS), and ESP—compiled an extensive list of contact information for community officials within the watershed. In an effort to gather as much feedback from as many public officials and jurisdictions as possible, local officials from individual communities and the counties were invited to the proposed meetings. A list of the community leaders invited to the

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WebEx sessions is available in Appendix A: *Pre-Discovery Mailing List*. A sample invitation letter is also shown.

NYSDEC conducted pre-Discovery WebEx sessions with public officials from Cayuga, Monroe, Ontario and Wayne Counties in the summer of 2013 for the purpose of examining the flood mapping, mitigation, planning, and other community needs within the counties comprising the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. These meetings were designed as focus groups for community officials engaged in the administration, planning, emergency, and public works duties of local jurisdictions. A record of the participants of these meetings can be found in Appendix B: *Pre-Discovery Stakeholder Meetings*. While not expressly excluded, the public does not generally attend these meetings.

The meeting notes are shown in Appendix C: *Kickoff Meeting Notes*. These notes contain comments from those interviewed by NYSDEC and other staff to determine each attending community's flood mapping priorities. The results of these meetings were summarized and forwarded to the FEMA Region II office.

## Other Stakeholders

In addition to municipal officials, planning and emergency agencies, and local residents, there are other stakeholders with an interest in floodplain mapping and management. Major landowners, large employers, academic institutions, and environmental and sporting organizations all have a role to play, and often have valuable information to provide that can assist development of both pre-mapping data and final mapping products.

Who should be included in any compilation of watershed stakeholders is both a debatable and incomplete list. However, an attempt to identify several relevant stakeholders in the watershed is shown in Appendix D: *Other Stakeholders in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed*. This appendix will be added to and amended as needed, if or when further outreach is conducted with the communities during this project and any subsequent mapping efforts within the watershed.

## II. Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Overview

### Geography

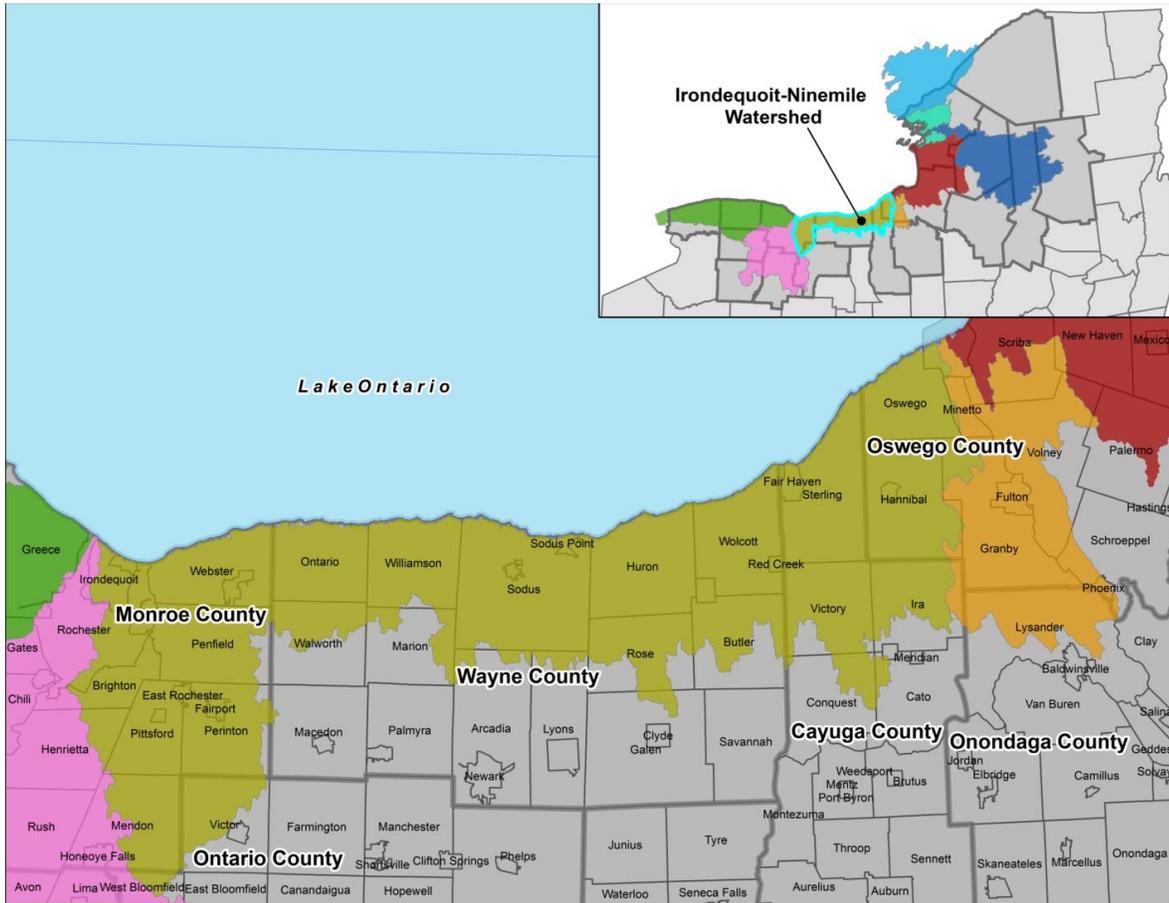
The Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed (Figure 3) is located along the southern shoreline of Lake Ontario and north of the Finger Lakes Region between Rochester and Oswego in New York State. Portions of Cayuga, Monroe, Ontario, Oswego, and Wayne Counties lie within the watershed. The watershed occupies 449,088 acres and ranges in elevation from 243 to 1,102 feet above sea level. The highest elevations are in the southern end of the western branch.

[\(NRCS\)](#)

Urban areas make up 20.4 percent of the watershed. The areas considered to be urban in the watershed are the Cities of Oswego and Rochester, and the Town of Sodus. Agriculture tends to be spread out fairly evenly across the watershed except in the urban areas previously identified. There are approximately 850 farms in the watershed and most of the operations are small to medium sized. Farm operations in the watershed are dominated by horse farms and orchards, with beef farms rounding out the top three. Corn for grain is the predominant crop followed by haylage

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then soybeans. Orchards are also much more prevalent in this watershed compared to the other watersheds in the State (USDA).



**Figure 3: Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Communities**

## Property Ownership

Land ownership in the watershed is diverse. The Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed lies within Cayuga, Monroe, Ontario, Oswego, and Wayne Counties, New York.

Cayuga County is located in the west central part of the State, in the Finger Lakes region. Owasco Lake is in the center of the county, and Cayuga Lake forms part of the western boundary. Lake Ontario is on the northern border, and Skaneateles Lake and Cross Lake form part of the eastern border. Cayuga County has more waterfront land than any other county in the State not adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean.

Oswego County is in northwestern New York State, just north of Syracuse and northwest of Utica, on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. Oswego County is located just inland of the southeastern shore of Lake Ontario slightly west of Interstate 81 and north of Interstate 90. Part of the Tug Hill Plateau is in the eastern part of the county and rise at 1,550 feet' at its highest point. There are two harbors in the county, Oswego Harbor at the mouth of the Oswego River and Port Ontario

on the Salmon River. The first major port of call on the Great Lakes is the Port of Oswego Authority dock.

Monroe County is in the northern tier of western New York State, northeast of Buffalo and northwest of Syracuse. The northern county line is also the State line and the border of the United States, marked by Lake Ontario. Monroe County is north of the Finger Lakes.

Wayne County is in the western part of New York State, east of Rochester and northwest of Syracuse, on the south shore of Lake Ontario. Sodus Bay is located on the north shoreline of the county.

Ontario County is in western New York State, east of Buffalo, southeast of Rochester, and northwest of Ithaca. The county is within the Finger Lakes Region of the State.

Major water bodies within the watershed include Irondequoit Bay, East Bay, Port Bay and Sodus Bay. Some major streams located within the watershed include Irondequoit Creek, Ninemile Creek, Sodus Creek and Wolcott Creek.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Cayuga County has a total area of 692 square miles, (1,792 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 109 square miles (282 km<sup>2</sup>) (16 percent) is within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Monroe County has a total area of 657 square miles, (1,702 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 197 square miles (510 km<sup>2</sup>) (30%) is within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Ontario County has a total area of 644 square miles, (1,668 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 22 square miles (57 km<sup>2</sup>) (3%) is within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Oswego County has a total area of 952 square miles, (2,466 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 79 square miles (205 km<sup>2</sup>) (8%) is within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Wayne County has a total area of 604 square miles (1,564 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 294 square miles (761 km<sup>2</sup>) (49%) is within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed.

According to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture, there are approximately 843 farms throughout the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, consisting of 172,183 acres of farmland. Of the 843 farms, 140 of the farms are located within Cayuga County, consisting of 59 square miles (153 km<sup>2</sup>) of farmland, 176 farms are located within Monroe County, consisting of 62 square miles (161 km<sup>2</sup>) of farmland, 26 farms are located within Ontario County, consisting of 9 square miles (23 km<sup>2</sup>) of farmland, 51 farms are located within Oswego County, consisting of 13 square miles (32 km<sup>2</sup>) of farmland, and 450 farms are located within Wayne County, consisting of 126 square miles (326 km<sup>2</sup>) of farmland.

More information on property ownership can be found on each county's Real Property webpage as noted in Table 44.

**Table 4: Links to County Real Property Webpages**

County	Hyperlink to Real Property Webpage
Cayuga	<a href="http://www.cayugacounty.us/CountyGovernment/RealProperty.aspx">http://www.cayugacounty.us/CountyGovernment/RealProperty.aspx</a>
Monroe	<a href="http://www2.monroecounty.gov/property-index.php">http://www2.monroecounty.gov/property-index.php</a>
Ontario	<a href="http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/index.aspx?nid=96">http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/index.aspx?nid=96</a>
Oswego	<a href="http://oswegocounty.com/rpts.shtml">http://oswegocounty.com/rpts.shtml</a>
Wayne	<a href="http://web.co.wayne.ny.us/wayne-county-real-property-tax-service/real-property-assessment-data/">http://web.co.wayne.ny.us/wayne-county-real-property-tax-service/real-property-assessment-data/</a>

## Demographics

The Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed covers parts of 9 cities, towns, and villages. Cayuga County is part of the Auburn Metropolitan Statistical Area. Onondaga and Oswego Counties are part of the Syracuse Metropolitan Statistical Area. The distribution of population by county in the watershed can be seen in Table 55: *Approximate 2010 Population in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed*.

During the in-person meetings several communities noted current and future development pressures near flooding sources, which have been included in Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs*. Areas of development and redevelopment include the extent of the Lake Ontario shoreline within the Towns of Fairhaven and Sterling in Cayuga County, the Village of Fairport, the Towns of Brighton, Irondequoit, Perinton, Penfield, Pittsford, and Webster (Village and Town of) within Monroe County, the Town of Victor within Ontario County, and the Town of Rose within Wayne County.

**Table 5: Approximate 2010 Population in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed**

County	Total County Population (2010 data)	Percent of County Population in Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed	2010 Estimated Population in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed (Based on % in watershed * Total Population)	Square Miles in Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed
Cayuga	80,026	9%	7,033	108
Monroe	744,344	42%	312,447	197
Ontario	107,931	6%	6,851	22
Oswego	122,109	16%	19,165	79
Wayne	93,772	45%	41,894	295
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,148,182</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>387,390</b>	<b>701</b>

## Land Use

A comprehensive plan is a land-use document providing framework and policy direction for land-use decisions. Comprehensive plans usually include chapters detailing policy direction affecting land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities, utilities, and rural areas. Comprehensive plans identify where and how growth needs will be met. For the sake of floodplain management and hazard mitigation, a land-use management plan can be a powerful tool to guide the community to increased resilience.

Based on the National Land Cover Database (NLCD) land cover classes, forest accounts for the majority (30.5%) of the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, followed by grasslands (25.6%), developed (17.4), cultivated crops (10.7%), shrub (4.1%), wetland (9.3%), open water (1.9 %), and barren land (0.3%). ([NRCS](#))

While many of the communities in the watershed do not have land-use management plans, links to those counties that have developed plans have been compiled in Table 66: *Links to County Land Use*.

**Table 6: Links to County Land Use**

County	Hyperlink to Real Property Webpage
Cayuga	<a href="http://www.cayugacounty.us/portals/0/planning/agfarmlandprotection.htm">http://www.cayugacounty.us/portals/0/planning/agfarmlandprotection.htm</a>
Monroe	<a href="http://www2.monroecounty.gov/planning-index.php">http://www2.monroecounty.gov/planning-index.php</a>
Ontario	<a href="http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/index.aspx?nid=97">http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/index.aspx?nid=97</a>
Oswego	<a href="http://oswegocounty.com/planning.shtml">http://oswegocounty.com/planning.shtml</a>
Wayne	<a href="http://web.co.wayne.ny.us/wayne-county-planning-department/">http://web.co.wayne.ny.us/wayne-county-planning-department/</a>

Table 77: *U.S. Census 2010 and USDA Census of Agriculture 2007* summarizes the total population and land area from the 2010 U.S. Census and the number of farms and acres of farmland from the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture.

**Table 7: U.S. Census 2010 and USDA Census of Agriculture 2007**

County	Land Area (Square Miles)	Farm Land (Acres)	Farm Land (Acres) Within Watershed	Total Farms Within Watershed
Cayuga	691.58	249,476	37,421	140
Monroe	657.21	133,041	39,912	176
Ontario	644.07	198,937	5,968	26
Oswego	951.65	100,195	8,016	51
Wayne	603.83	168,471	80,866	450

As was noted during the in-person meetings, several communities in the watershed are experiencing development pressure in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Community officials should become well versed in the NFIP and State regulations to ensure that as development occurs it is in full compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. Community specific information concerning those communities experiencing development pressure and flood study needs has been summarized in Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs*.

It is important when issuing building permits for upgrades to homes located in the SFHA that local building and code officers know the NFIP’s requirements concerning the “substantial improvement” clause. “Substantial improvement” means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction.” Comprehensive guidance on building or rebuilding in an SFHA can be found in FEMA’s *Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference*. A summary of this publication and a link to where the publication can be found online is provided as Attachment 1 of this report.

The prevalence of smaller developments (often as small as two building sites) planned across the watershed may be a challenge to effective floodplain management, as these micro-developments can easily slip through regulatory cracks. Local officials need to be aware that minimum NYS building codes and NFIP/local building standards must be met for construction in the SFHA. The NFIP also has additional regulations for projects within the approximate Zone A that involve 50 lots or five acres, whichever is smaller (44 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 60.3(b)(3)). Information on the NFIP’s building requirements in the SFHA can be found in NYSDEC’s report *Floodplain Construction Requirements in New York State*. A copy of this brochure can be found [online](#) or as Attachment 2 in the digital version of this report.

### III. Summary of Data Analysis

A large collection of tabular and spatial data was compiled for all communities from Federal, State, and local sources. Community specific information was collected through interactive mapping webinars with stakeholders at the in-person Discovery meetings.

Table 88: *Data Collected for the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed* lists the deliverable or product in which the data were included and the respective sources. In addition, the discussion in this section is divided into two parts covering the data that can be used for Risk MAP products and the information that helped the study team to better understand the study area.

**Table 8: Data Collected for the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed**

Data Types	Source
Average Annualized Loss Data	Census 2010 and Hazus-MH
Boundaries: Community	FEMA, NYSDEC
Boundaries: County and State	FEMA, NYSDEC
Boundaries: Watersheds	USGS, NYSDEC
Census Blocks	U.S. Census Bureau
Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas (CEHA)	NYSDEC
CBRS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Contacts	Local websites, State/FEMA updates, NYSDEC
Community Assistance Visits	Community Information System (CIS)
Community Rating System	FEMA’s “Community Rating System Communities and Their Classes”
Coordinated Needs Management Strategy	FEMA

**Table 8: Data Collected for the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed (cont'd)**

<b>Data Types</b>	<b>Source</b>
Critical Facilities Vulnerable to Flooding	Local Mitigation Plans
Dams and/or Levees	USACE National Levee Database (NLD), USACE National Inventory of Dams (NID), FEMA Mid-Term Levee Inventory (MLI), NYSDEC
Declared Disasters	FEMA’s “Disaster Declarations Summary”
Demographics, Industry	U.S. Census Bureau, HMPs
Effective Floodplains: Modernized SFHAs	FEMA’s Mapping Service Center and Mapping Information Platform
Coastal Gage Data	USGS, NOAA CO-OPS
Hazard Mitigation Plans and Status	New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES)
Structural Improvements	Local stakeholders

## Data That Can Be Used for Flood Risk Products

During the Discovery process, a database of available flood hazard and flood risk assessment data was created. This database is an inventory of available data and helps identify flood hazard data gaps. State, county, and other government Geographic Information System (GIS) websites are a good place to start the data search, but local knowledge of flooding and mitigation projects is critical to help accurately determine flood risks and mapping needs. Therefore, locally and regionally developed data are used where available.

### Average Annualized Loss (AAL) Data

The AAL data provide a general understanding of the dollar losses associated with a certain flood event frequency within a county and are used to get a relative comparison of flood risk. It is determined by using FEMA’s Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment and Loss Estimation Program, otherwise known as Hazus-MH. The current Hazus-MH analysis is based on approximate flood boundaries and national datasets.

The Hazus Flood Model analyzes both riverine and coastal flood hazards. Flood hazard is defined by a relationship between depth of flooding and the annual chance of inundation to that depth. Probabilistic events are modeled by looking at the damage caused by an event that is likely to occur over a given period of time, known as a return period or recurrence interval (10-, 25-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year). Annualized losses are the summation of losses over all return periods multiplied by the probability of occurrence. Loss estimation for this Hazus module is based on specific input data. The first type of data includes square footage of buildings for specified types or population. The second type of data includes information on the local economy that is used in estimating losses.

The countywide results for the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed were obtained from the 2010 report called FEMA Hazus AAL Usability Analysis and are shown in Table 9: *Hazus-MH AAL Data for Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed*. AAL data summarized at the census block level are shown on Discovery Maps. AAL data are also available in Appendix K: *FEMA Hazus-MH Average Annualized Loss (AAL)*.

Most of the losses in Monroe County are located along the extents of Irondequoit Bay and Irondequoit Creek in the Towns of Irondequoit, Penfield, Brighton, Webster, Mendon, and East Rochester. Allens Creek, West Brook, and Mill Creek in the Town of Pittsford also have significant estimated losses. AAL damages along Thomas Creek and White Brook in the Village of Fairport and Town of Perinton are estimated to be around \$444 million

Losses in Wayne County are scattered throughout the towns and villages with a concentration along the Lake Ontario shoreline. The Towns of Williamson and Sodus also have significant AAL damages that continue upstream along Salmon Creek. Additional streams with significant losses in Wayne County include Sodus Creek, Mudge Creek, Wolcott Creek, and Red Creek.

Irondequoit Creek in the Town of Victor accounts for \$65 million in total AAL damages for Ontario County. Losses in Cayuga County are constrained to the Lake Ontario shoreline and along Wheeler Road Creek and Ninemile Creek in the Town of Sterling, and to Little Sodus Bay in the Village of Fair Haven. Oswego County AAL estimated damages are also along the Lake Ontario shoreline in the Town and City of Oswego and upstream along Camp Creek and the Oswego River.

**Table 9: 2010 Hazus-MH AAL Data (in Thousands of Dollars)**

County	Community	Building Loss (in thousands of dollars)	Contents Loss (in thousands of dollars)	Total Loss (in thousands of dollars)*
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	\$18,000	\$12,000	\$30,000
	Ira, Town of	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Sterling, Town of	\$16,000	\$14,000	\$30,000
	Victory, Town of	\$0	\$0	\$0
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	\$154,000	\$141,000	\$295,000
	East Rochester, Village of	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$27,000
	Fairport, Village of	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$7,000
	Irondequoit, Town of	\$1,014,000	\$901,000	\$1,934,000
	Mendon, Town of	\$76,000	\$110,000	\$188,000
	Penfield, Town of	\$367,000	\$671,000	\$1,059,000
	Perinton, Town of	\$170,000	\$349,000	\$560,000
	Pittsford, Town of	\$134,000	\$211,000	\$362,000
	Pittsford, Village of			
	Webster, Town of			
Webster, Village of	\$279,000	\$262,000	\$541,000	
Ontario	Victor, Town of	\$43,000	\$29,000	\$72,000
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Hannibal, Village of	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Oswego, Town of	\$39,000	\$75,000	\$119,000
Wayne	Butler, Town of	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
	Huron, Town of	\$49,000	\$30,000	\$79,000
	Ontario, Town of	\$25,000	\$19,000	\$44,000
	Red Creek, Village of	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$47,000
	Rose, Town of	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000

**Table 9: 2010 Hazus-MH AAL Data (in Thousands of Dollars) (cont'd)**

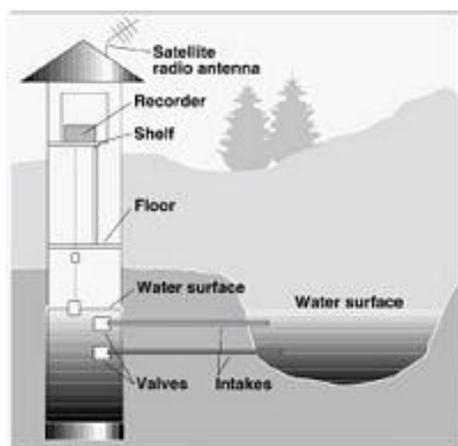
County	Community	Building Loss (in thousands of dollars)	Contents Loss (in thousands of dollars)	Total Loss (in thousands of dollars)*
Wayne (Cont'd)	Sodus, Town of	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$27,000
	Sodus, Village of	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Sodus Point, Village of	\$453,000	\$459,000	\$924,000
	Walworth, Town of	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Williamson, Town of	\$75,000	\$71,000	\$147,000
	Wolcott, Town of	\$35,000	\$59,000	\$97,000
	Wolcott, Village of			

Source: FEMA HAZUS AAL Usability Analysis 2012

\*Total Losses include business disruption losses where applicable

## Gage Data

### Stream Gages



**Figure 4: Typical Modern USGS Stream Gage**

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), most USGS stream gages operate by measuring the elevation of the water in the river or stream and then converting the water elevation (called “stage”) to a stream flow (“discharge”) by using a curve that relates the elevation to a set of actual discharge measurements.

The USGS standard is to measure river stage to 0.01 inches. This is accomplished by the use of floats inside a stilling well, by the use of pressure transducers that measure how much pressure is required to push a gas bubble through a tube (related to the depth of water), or with radar. Figure 4: *Typical Modern USGS Stream Gage* illustrates the design of a river gaging station.

At most USGS stream gages, the stage is measured every 15 minutes and the data are stored in an electronic data recorder. At set intervals, usually between every 1 to 4 hours, the data are transmitted to USGS using satellite, phone, or radio. At the USGS offices, the curves relating stage to stream flow are applied to determine stream flow estimates and both the stage and stream flow data are then displayed on the USGS website. For more information on how stream gages work, please see the USGS’s factsheet on stream gaging at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2005/3131>.

There are 12 known current and past gages in the watershed and four are currently active and being monitored by USGS and NYSDEC (Figure 5: *Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Stream Gages*).

Table 10, *Stream Gage Stations*, shows the gage identification number, location, drainage area, status, and county for all USGS gages identified in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Historical stream flow information from the USGS gages listed in Table 10 will be employed for

use in hydrological analysis where applicable. Additional information on gages in the watershed may be found by visiting USGS’s website at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/nwisman>

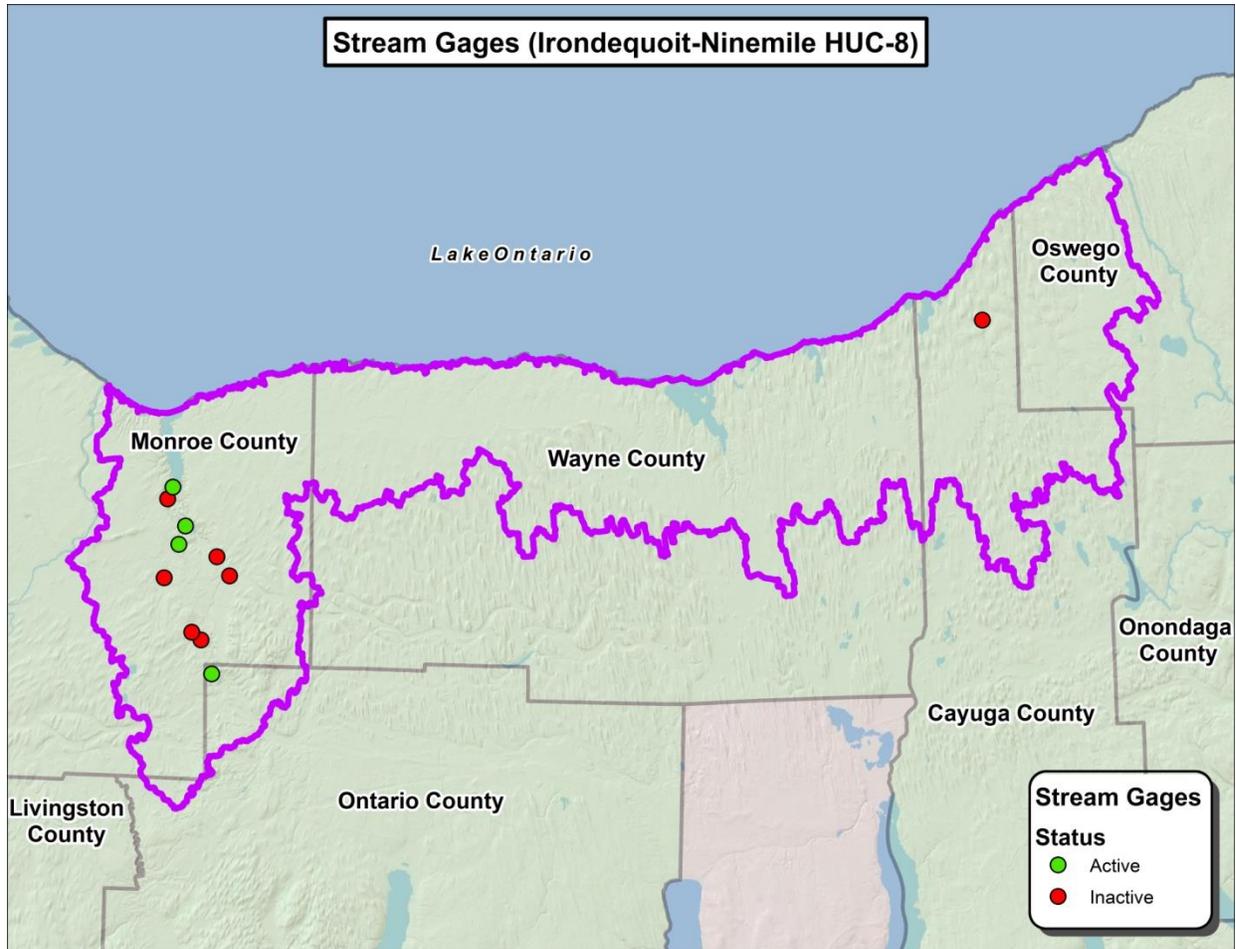


Figure 5: Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Stream Gages

Table 10: Stream Gage Stations

Gage ID	Gage Location	Drainage Area (sq. miles)	Gage Status	County
04232034	Irondequoit Creek at Railroad Mills, Near Fishers, NY	39.2	Active	Ontario
04232040	Irondequoit Creek near Pittsford, NY	44.4	Inactive	Monroe
0423204140	Mill Creek Tributary Site A at Mill Road near Bushnell Basin, NY	N/A	Inactive	Monroe
0423204141	Mill Creek Tributary Site B at Mill Road near Bushnell Basin, NY	N/A	Inactive	Monroe
04232046	Thomas Creek at Fairport, NY	28.5	Inactive	Monroe
04232047	Irondequoit Creek at Linden Avenue in East Rochester, NY	101	Inactive	Monroe

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**Table 10: Stream Gage Stations (cont'd)**

Gage ID	Gage Location	Drainage Area (sq. miles)	Gage Status	County
0423204920	East Branch Allen Creek at Pittsford, NY	9.5	Inactive	Monroe
04232050	Allen Creek near Rochester, NY	30.1	Active	Monroe
0423205010	Irondequoit Creek above Blossom Road near Rochester, NY	142	Active	Monroe
0423205023	Irondequoit Creek at landfill at Rochester, NY	144	Inactive	Monroe
0423205025	Irondequoit Creek at Empire Boulevard in Rochester, NY	151	Active	Monroe
04232100	Sterling Creek at Sterling, NY	44.4	Inactive	Cayuga

N/A - No information available

### **Rain Gages**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) [Cooperative Observer Program](#) is a weather and climate observing network of more than 11,000 volunteers who take observations nationwide on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. Within the five counties of the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, two locations are currently active. When appropriate, FEMA will utilize the NOAA information from these gages in developing meteorological models for the watershed that will employ rainfall runoff models and calibration.

Additional information on rainfall in New York can be found in NOAA [Technical Paper No. 49](#) and in the Technical Memorandum [NWS HYDRO-35](#), both on NOAA’s website. It should be noted that data have been updated through a joint collaboration between the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) and is available at [Extreme Precipitation in New York and New England webpage](#).

### **Water Level Observations Network**

The NOAA National Ocean Service is responsible for recording and disseminating water level data. The National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) is part of the NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) <http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov>. NDBC designs, develops, operates, and maintains a U.S. network of data collecting buoys and coastal stations. Table 11: *Tidal Gage Stations* shows the water level station identification number and location for the gage in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. It should be noted that no stations within the Great Lakes provide tidal information, as the tidal range is minimal.

**Table 11: Tidal Gage Stations**

County	Begin Date	End Date	Gage Location
Monroe	January 1, 1860	Present	City of Rochester

### Levees

A review of current and preliminary FIRMs indicates that there are no identified levees in the study area.

### Dams

According to the [NYSDEC Dam Safety Section](#)'s dam inventory, the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed contains 98 dam structures. NYSDEC uses a classification scale of A to D to assign hazard potential to each of the dam structures contained within the inventory. The locations of dams in the watershed are shown in Figure 6: *Dams in Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed*.

NYSDEC classifies dams in the State using the following criteria:

**Class A-Low Hazard Potential:** Resulting damages from a dam failure would likely be minimal and not interfere with any critical infrastructure; personal injury and substantial economic loss is unlikely to occur.

**Class B-Intermediate Hazard Potential:** A dam failure may result in damage to isolated homes, roads, and railways; critical facilities may experience disruption; personal injury or substantial economic loss is likely, but loss of human life is not expected.

**Class C-High Hazard Potential:** Dam failure may result in widespread or serious damage to homes; damage to roads, railroads, commercial buildings, and critical infrastructure is expected; loss of human life and substantial economic loss is expected.

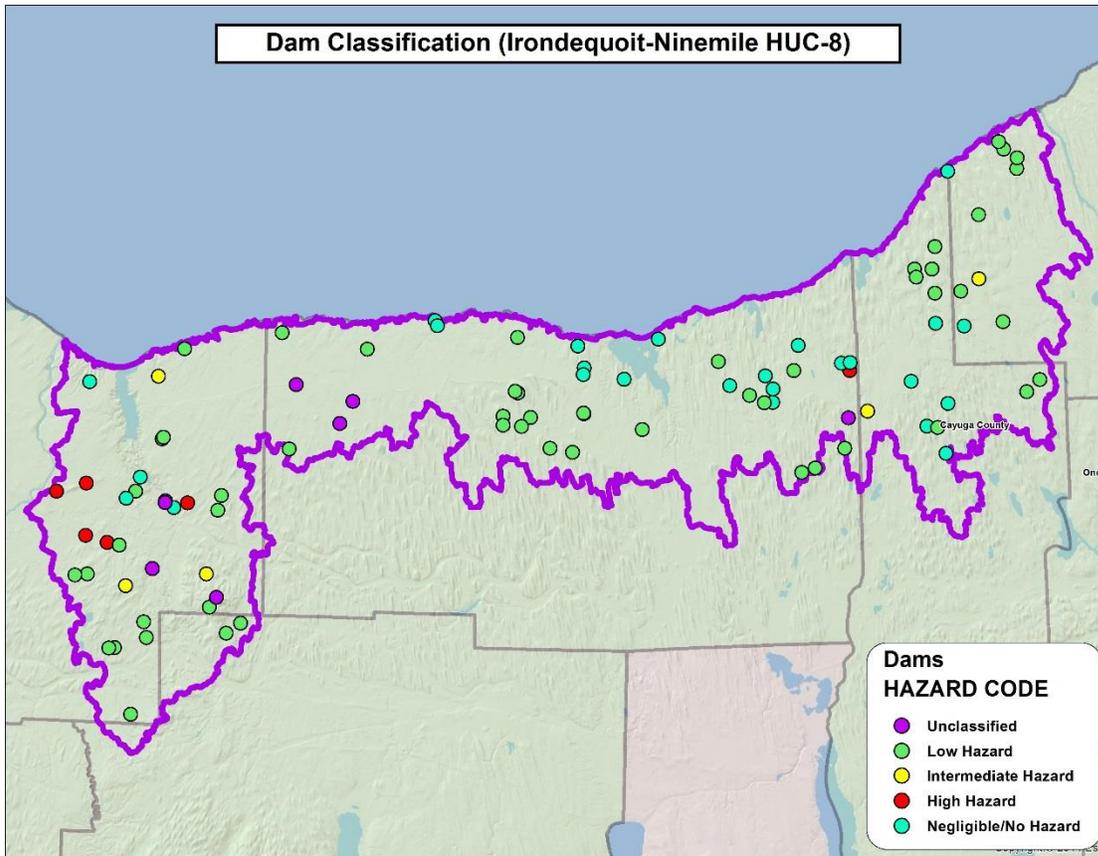
**Class D-Negligible or No Hazard Potential:** Dam has been breached, removed, or otherwise has failed or no longer materially impounds waters, or the dam was planned, but never constructed at this location. Class D dams are considered to be defunct dams posing negligible or no hazard.

**Class 0-Unclassified Hazard Potential:** Hazard code has not yet been assigned.

Table 12: *Dams in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed* shows the classification of dams located in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. According to the NYSDEC Dam Safety Section's dam files, many of the Class B and C dams have reports and studies available. A summary of this information is available in Appendix L: *Dams and Floodplain Structures*. Information includes inspection and certification dates, site plans, analysis (Hydrologic and Hydraulic), As-Built drawings, Emergency Action Plans, inundation mapping, applications and permits for maintenance, and correspondence related to each dam.

**Table 12: Dams in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed**

County	Low Hazard Class A	Intermediate Hazard Class B	High Hazard Class C	Negligible Class D	Unclassified Class 0	Total
Cayuga	8	1	0	5	0	14
Monroe	15	3	5	5	3	31
Ontario	2	0	0	0	0	2
Oswego	7	1	0	2	0	10
Wayne	22	0	1	14	4	41
Total	54	5	6	26	7	98



**Figure 6: Dams in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed**

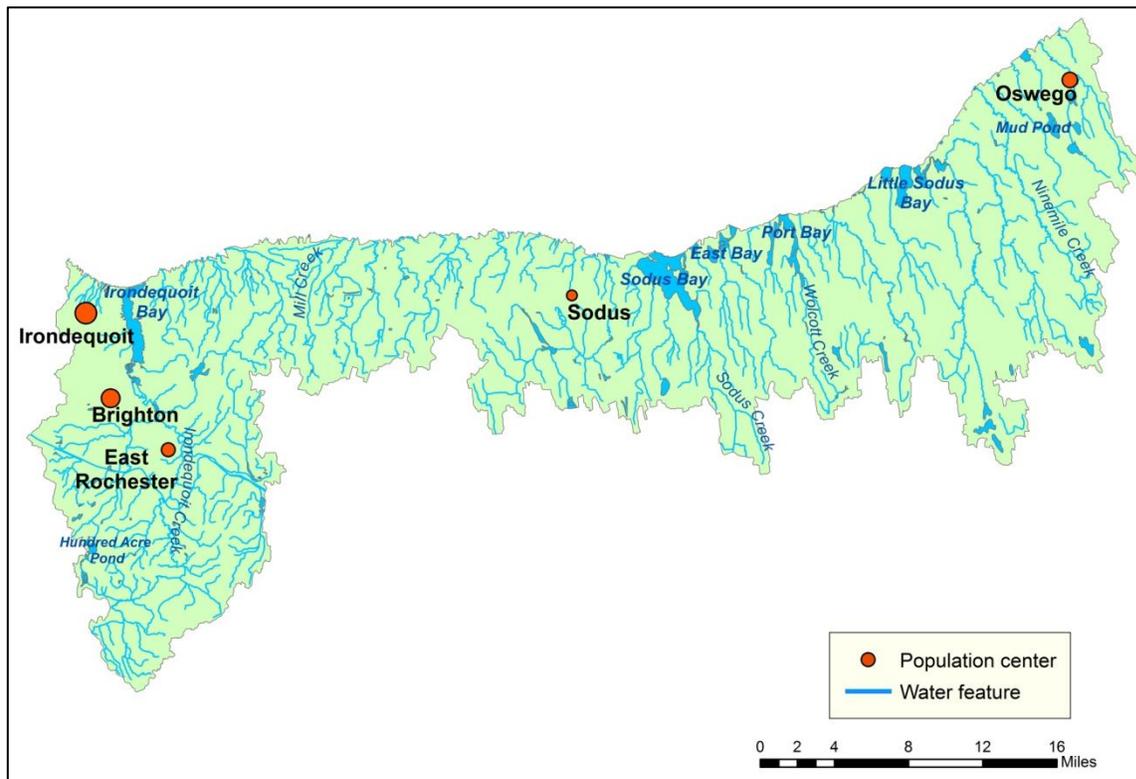
## Watershed Boundaries

The Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed is a HUC-8 watershed. Figure 7 shows the boundaries of the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Each watershed in decreasing area (increasing number of digits in the HUC) is made up of several contiguous watersheds of smaller hierarchy. The first two digits of the HUC are the code for the Regional Boundary (e.g. 04, for the Great Lakes Region. The next two digits of the HUC are the code for the Subregional Boundary (e.g. 0414, Southeastern Lake Ontario). The next two digits are the code for the Accounting Unit (e.g. 041401, Southeastern Lake Ontario, New York). The next two digits of the HUC are the Cataloging Unit

(e.g. 04140101 Irondequoit-Ninemile). Table 1313: *Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed* lists the HUC-8 code for the watershed.

**Table 13: Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed**

HUC 8 Code	Name
04140101	Irondequoit-Ninemile



**Figure 7: Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed**

## Bathymetry

FEMA will use data from the following bathymetric and topographic sources: For the topography, FEMA will use data flown by the USACE on June 6 – Sept 23, 2011. The dataset has a 500-meter inland buffer from the shoreline along the lake, and also has bathymetric data in the collection. The dataset has a 2-meter point spacing with a 0.75-meter horizontal accuracy and a 20-centimeter root-mean-square error. These topographic datasets will be supplemented with topographic-bathymetric LiDAR data that USACE collected in 2011 and 2012 for use in the coastal study. The USACE LiDAR dataset has a 500-meter inland buffer from the shoreline along the lake and also has bathymetric data in the collection. Data gaps and insufficient coverages that may exist in the above mentioned datasets will be addressed by supplementing with older countywide datasets where available.

## Jurisdictional Boundaries

Jurisdictional boundaries were obtained from NYSDEC and are also available through the [New York State GIS Clearinghouse](#). During the Discovery Meetings, the Village of Pittsford in Monroe County noted changes to their jurisdictional boundary that have been captured in FEMA's CNMS.

## Shoreline Change Information

The Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed study area has approximately 115 miles of shoreline along Lake Ontario, contained within Monroe, Wayne, Cayuga, and Oswego Counties. Portions of the shoreline may be vulnerable to coastal erosion through natural actions (runoff of surface water or groundwater seepage) and human intervention. Erosion is the loss of land near the coastline from exposure to water movement from wave action, currents, tides, wind driven water, ice, or other storm impacts. The coastline of Lake Ontario is at risk to coastal erosion from natural and human activities and is regulated. These areas are currently mapped as [coastal erosion hazard areas](#) (CEHAs) and require a NYSDEC CEHA permit (Article 34 Part 505) for any regulated activity.

Glacial isostatic adjustment (GIA), also known as post-glacial rebound, is the process whereby the earth's crust is slowly adjusting to the lack of the weight of the glaciers from the last ice age. Due to variations in the thickness of the glaciers, the timing of the glaciers receding, the geology of the region and other differences, the rate at which the earth's crust is adjusting varies throughout the Great Lakes region, with some areas rising faster than others and some areas even falling relative to other locations. This is reflected in the water levels of the Great Lakes. In general, the south shore of Lake Ontario is sinking relative to the lake's outlet, while the northeast shore of Lake Ontario is rising relative to the outlet. As a result, for the same-lake-wide average water level, over an extended period of decades or more, GIA means that, relative to the shoreline, water will appear deeper at certain locations, such as Rochester (+11 cm/century) and Oswego (+4.5 cm/century). ([International Joint Commission](#)) ([USACE](#))

In addition, runoff of surface water or groundwater seepage can cause erosion. During the Discovery Meetings, Monroe County described erosion related to Hurricane Sandy along the Lake Ontario shoreline. The county also noted a need for information and training related to SLOSH or other wave modeling tools for storm impacts along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

## Streamlines/Hydrograph

Streamlines, when available, were obtained from the effective FIRM Databases issued for the communities. Streamlines are representations of the most efficient flow of any river or stream. Natural channels flow along the path of least resistance and the streamline is a way to understand that flow system for modeling purposes. By definition, a hydrograph is a plot of the rate of flow (discharge) versus time past a specific point in a river or channel. Discharge is the volume of water flowing past a location per unit time (usually in cubic feet per second [cfs]). These two components are important for location of floods, forecasting floods, and severity of floods, and enable communities to be able to plan, mitigate, and prevent loss of life and property. For more information please visit the [National Weather Service](#).

## Topography

Topography is the description of surface shapes and features. The topographic data will be generated from LiDAR that has been collected to obtain elevation information. More information on LiDAR is available on [NOAA's website](#). LiDAR elevation data were only available for some portions of the project area at this time (there is currently an ongoing project to obtain the remainder of the data). Information about the coverage of LiDAR data in New York State is available at the [NYS GIS Clearinghouse](#).

## Transportation

Transportation is the movement of people and goods from location to location. These features include roads, rail, and air. Planning for these features allows for utilization and function within communities and interaction with other communities. They are the backbone of economies and diversity. These features are critical for community planning related to risk assessments for evacuation routes and potential flooding issues that could occur. Transportation features were obtained from the applicable FIRM Databases and supplemented with data from communities and the New York State GIS Clearinghouse.

## Other Data and Information

### Biennial Report

FEMA collects data from communities participating in the NFIP through the Biennial Report process. This provides communities an opportunity to identify floodplain mapping needs and request assistance in implementing a floodplain management program. The Biennial Report provides FEMA with information on a community's floodplain management program and any changes in its SFHAs, which assists FEMA with evaluating the effectiveness of a community's floodplain management activities. The Biennial Report shows FEMA nationwide trends and patterns, which FEMA uses to help guide improvements to the NFIP. A FEMA fact sheet explaining the Biennial Report can be found on [FEMA's website](#).

### Regulatory Mapping

As noted above, the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed in New York covers portions of five counties. The mapping in place is a mix of recently revised and older FIRMs.

A countywide digital FIRM was released in Cayuga County on August 2, 2007, and includes the communities in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed.

A countywide digital FIRM was released in Monroe County on August 28, 2008, and includes the communities in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed.

Ontario County communities do not have a countywide FIRM. The Town of Victory has a paper FIRM dated September 30, 1983.

A countywide digital FIRM was released in Oswego County on June 18, 2013, and includes the communities in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed.

Wayne County communities do not have a countywide FIRM. All communities in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed portion of the county have community-based paper FIRMs, with map dates ranging from 1978 to 1996.

The effective FIRM for each of the participating communities is shown in Table 1414: *FIRM/FIS Effective Dates*.

**Table 14: FIRM/FIS Effective Dates (as of August 2013)**

County	Coastal	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Notes
Cayuga	Yes	Fair Haven, Village of	8/2/2007	Effective countywide 8/2/2007
	No	Ira, Town of		
	Yes	Sterling, Town of		
	No	Victory, Town of		
Monroe	No	Brighton, Town of	8/28/2008	Effective countywide 8/28/2008
	No	East Rochester, Village of		
	No	Fairport, Village of		
	Yes	Irondequoit, Town of		
	No	Mendon, Town of		
	No	Penfield, Town of		
	No	Perinton, Town of		
	No	Pittsford, Town of		
	No	Pittsford, Village of		
	Yes	Webster, Town of		
	No	Webster, Village of		
Ontario	No	Victor, Town of	9/30/1983 3/30/1983	No countywide study; Effective community Flood Insurance Study dates range from 1977-1983
Oswego	No	Hannibal, Town of	6/18/2013	Effective countywide 6/18/2013
	No	Hannibal, Village of		
	Yes	Oswego, Town of		
Wayne	No	Butler, Town of	7/9/1982 None	No countywide study; Effective community Flood Insurance Study dates range from 1977-1996
	Yes	Huron, Town of	1/19/1996	
	Yes	Ontario, Town of	6/1/1978 12/1/1977	
	No	Red Creek, Village of	4/8/1983 None	

**Table 14: FIRM/FIS Effective Dates (as of August 2013) (cont'd)**

County	Coastal	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Notes
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Wayne (cont'd)	No	Rose, Town of	3/9/1984 None	No countywide study; Effective community Flood Insurance Study dates range from 1977-1996
	Yes	Sodus, Town of	6/2/1992 8/1/1977	
	Yes	Sodus, Village of	None*	
	Yes	Sodus Point, Village of	11/2/1977	
	No	Walworth, Town of	3/16/1983 9/16/1982	
	Yes	Williamson, Town of	10/17/1978 4/17/1978	
	Yes	Wolcott, Town of	6/2/1992 None	
	No	Wolcott, Village of	7/6/1984 None	

\*Unmapped Community

## Ordinances

The project area's local jurisdictions have a patchwork of regulations regarding development within known SFHAs, ranging from ordinances with minimum NFIP requirements to strong, proactive ordinances that not only regulate and protect new and improved development in existing SFHAs, but seek to mitigate the growth of SFHAs caused by increased runoff from developed areas and the degradation of natural flood control areas, such as wetlands and forests. The NFIP uses six different ordinance levels (60.3 land-use classification levels).

The following summarizes the three different ordinance levels New York State uses, and which will be located in the local law for the community.

1. The "A" type should be used when 1-percent-annual-chance floodplains have not yet been identified.
2. The "D" type should be used when 1-percent-annual-chance floodplains without Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) have been identified; 1-percent-annual-chance floodplains with BFEs, but without floodways have been identified; and 1-percent-annual-chance floodplains with BFEs and a floodway have been identified. If the community also has coastal flooding, but does not have coastal high-hazard areas (V Zones), it is a "D" type.
3. The "E" type should be used when coastal high-hazard areas (V Zones) have been identified.

Table 1515: *Program Status and Ordinance Level* lists the Program Status and Ordinance Level for each community.

**Table 15: Program Status and Ordinance Level (as of August 2013)**

County	Community	Program Status	Ordinance Level
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	Regular	D
	Ira, Town of	Regular	D
	Sterling, Town of	Regular	D
	Victory, Town of	Regular	D
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	Regular	D
	East Rochester, Village of	Regular	D
	Fairport, Village of	Regular	D
	Irondequoit, Town of	Regular	D
	Mendon, Town of	Regular	D
	Penfield, Town of	Regular	D
	Perinton, Town of	Regular	D
	Pittsford, Town of	Regular	D
	Pittsford, Village of	Regular	D
	Webster, Town of	Regular	D
	Webster, Village of	Regular	D
Ontario	Victor, Town of	Regular	D
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	Regular	D
	Hannibal, Village of	Regular	D
	Oswego, Town of	Regular	D
Wayne	Butler, Town of	Regular	D
	Huron, Town of	Regular	D
	Ontario, Town of	Regular	D
	Red Creek, Village of	Regular	D
	Rose, Town of	Regular	D
	Sodus, Town of	Regular	D
	Sodus, Village of	Not Participating	-
	Sodus Point, Village of	Regular	D
	Walworth, Town of	Regular	D
	Williamson, Town of	Regular	D
	Wolcott, Town of	Regular	D
Wolcott, Village of	Regular	D	

The NFIP-participating communities within the Project Area have floodplain management regulations in place and have a mechanism for updating their ordinances. Local ordinances are available in Appendix J: *Community Ordinances*.

## Flood Insurance Policies

A community's agreement to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances as part of the NFIP, particularly with respect to new construction, is an important element in making federally backed flood insurance available to home and business owners.

This Discovery project also gathered data regarding the NFIP flood insurance policies in the watershed. As of August 31, 2013, in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed 918 policies were in-force accounting for \$168 million in Insurance Coverage and \$1.4 million in written premiums. The number of policies, total coverage, and total premium cost are listed in Table 16: *Flood Insurance Policy and Claims Data*.

Monroe County represents 81.3 percent of the insurance policies (746) and insurance coverage (\$134 million). In Monroe County, the Town of Irondequoit has 275 policies and over \$34 million in coverage. This community has the most policies within the watershed.

The Village of Sodus Point in Wayne County has 74 policies with \$14 million in insurance coverage and \$73,107 written premiums in-force.

**Table 16: Flood Insurance Policy and Claims Data (as of August 2013)**

County	Community Name	Number of Policies	Insurance In-force whole \$	Written Premium In-force	Number of Claims	Totals Claims Paid
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	11	\$2,512,000	\$10,120	0	\$ 0
	Ira, Town of	2	\$700,000	\$916	0	\$ 0
	Sterling, Town of	1	\$21,300	\$1,030	0	\$ 0
	Victory, Town of	0	\$0	\$0	2	\$ 2,678
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	111	\$21,793,400	\$96,611	23	\$ 47,591
	East Rochester, Village of	0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0
	Fairport, Village of	9	\$2,436,300	\$12,994	1	\$ 500
	Irondequoit, Town of	275	\$34,632,000	\$139,567	30	\$ 26,163
	Mendon, Town of	22	\$4,030,100	\$24,456	6	\$ 20,426
	Penfield, Town of	99	\$18,149,500	\$139,443	37	\$ 415,085
	Perinton, Town of	63	\$14,221,700	\$64,135	26	\$ 225,835
	Pittsford, Town of	83	\$20,602,900	\$82,276	32	\$ 116,035
	Pittsford, Village of	4	\$1,160,000	\$2,699	0	\$ 0
	Webster, Town of	76	\$17,269,300	\$76,086	35	\$ 87,743
	Webster, Village of	4	\$4,702	\$710,000	2	\$ 97,503
Ontario	Victor, Town of	25	\$7,445,700	\$22,508	2	\$ 28,889
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	2	\$257,000	\$820	0	\$ 0
	Hannibal, Village of	0	\$0	\$0	0	\$ 0
	Oswego, Town of	4	\$520,100	\$3,349	5	\$ 1,924
Wayne	Butler, Town of	1	\$105,000	\$313	15	\$ 142,341
	Huron, Town of	26	\$3,862,600	\$12,601	8	\$ 12,470
	Ontario, Town of	0	\$0	\$0	5	\$ 10,970
	Red Creek, Village of	1	\$36,900	\$390	1	\$ 4,494
	Rose, Town of	2	\$268,000	\$1,005	15	\$ 142,341
	Sodus, Town of	0	\$0	\$0	11	\$ 224,416
	Sodus, Village of	0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0
	Sodus Point, Village of	74	\$14,079,800	\$73,107	21	\$ 80,101
	Walworth, Town of	0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0
	Williamson, Town of	14	\$2,620,700	\$10,203	2	\$ 5,209
	Wolcott, Town of	8	\$1,288,600	\$4,453	3	\$ 1,560
Wolcott, Village of	1	\$70,000	\$243	3	\$ 8,123	
Total		918	\$168,087,602	\$1,489,325	285	\$1,702,397

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## Letters of Map Change (LOMCs)

Due to limitations in the scale or topographic detail of the source maps used to prepare a FIRM, on occasion, small areas of elevated land may be included in an SFHA. When property owners feel that this has occurred, they may request a LOMC for their property or structure.

A LOMC is the general term for a suite of methods FEMA uses to make an official flood hazard determination for a structure or property. The Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) process, for properties on natural high ground, and the Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F) process, for properties elevated by the placement of fill, are the most common ways used by property owners to amend the FIRM. It is important to note that these methods do not physically change the FIRM for a community; rather they amend, *by letter*, the FIRM for the benefit of accurate site information without the cost of publishing a revised FIRM panel. By comparison, a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) is commonly used by community officials to request FIRM changes stemming from completed development, flood-control projects, or other larger-scale changes.

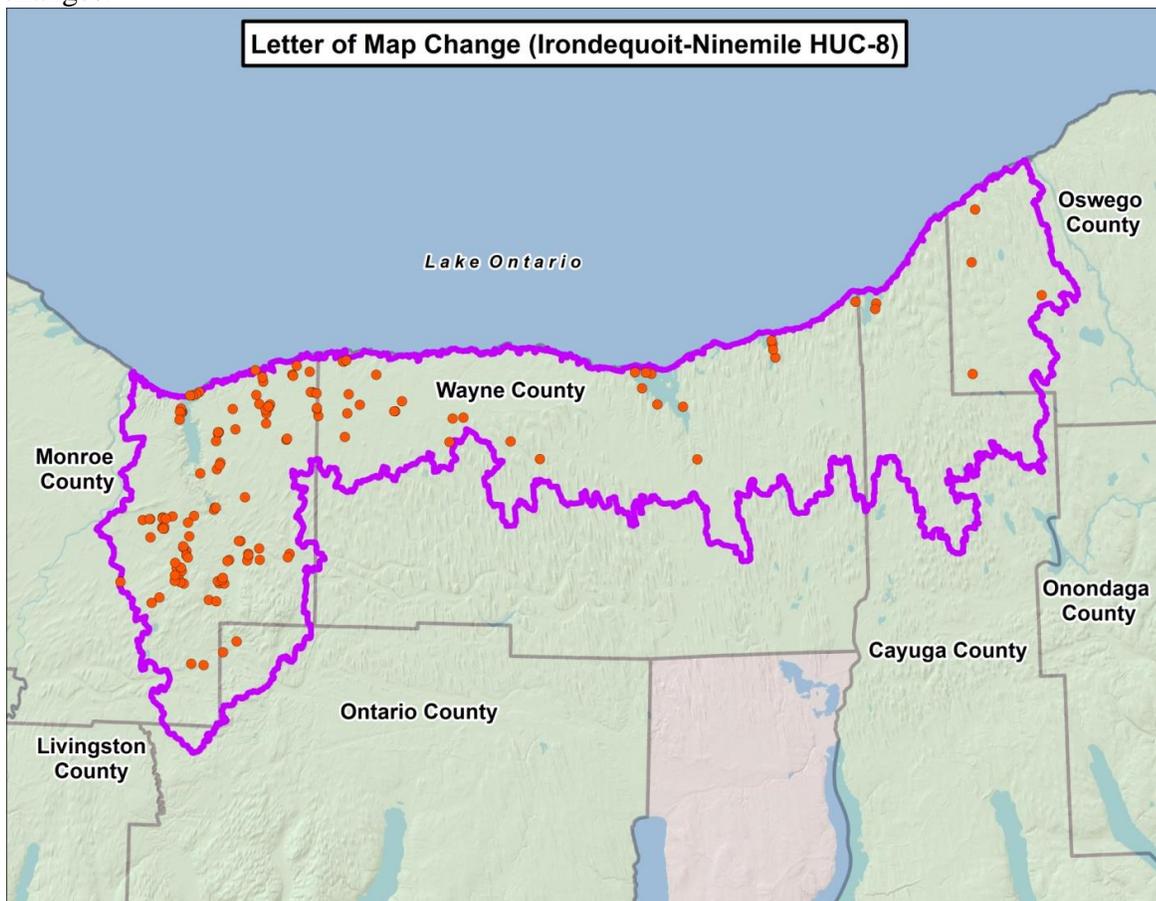


Table 17: *LOMCs in the Project Area* and Figure 8 highlight the areas within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed that have LOMCs. There are 160 LOMAs/LOMR-F and no LOMRs located in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Cayuga County has two of the LOMCs, both of which are within the Village of Fair Haven. Monroe County has 122 LOMAs/LOMR-F, of which 37

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are within the Town of Webster. Ontario County has two LOMCs, both of which are within the Town of Victor. Oswego County has four LOMAs, of which the Town of Oswego has two. Wayne County has 30 LOMAs/LOMR-Fs, of which 12 are within the Town of Ontario.

More information on the LOMA and LOMR-F processes can be found on FEMA's LOMC website at <http://www.fema.gov/letter-map-amendment-letter-map-revision-based-fill-process> or in hard copy by reviewing Attachment 4: *LOMA-LOMR-F Fact Sheet*, included with the digital copy of this Discovery Report.

**Table 17: LOMCs in the Project Area (as of August 2013)**

County	Community	Number of LOMA/ LOMR-Fs	Number of LOMRs	FIRM Effective Date
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	2	0	8/2/2007
	Ira, Town of	0	0	8/2/2007
	Sterling, Town of	0	0	8/2/2007
	Victory, Town of	0	0	8/2/2007
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	15	0	8/28/2008
	East Rochester, Village of	0	0	8/28/2008
	Fairport, Village of	9	0	8/28/2008
	Irondequoit, Town of	12	0	8/28/2008
	Mendon, Town of	2	0	8/28/2008
	Penfield, Town of	10	0	8/28/2008
	Perinton, Town of	10	0	8/28/2008
	Pittsford, Town of	26	0	8/28/2008
	Pittsford, Village of	0	0	8/28/2008
	Webster, Town of	37	0	8/28/2008
Webster, Village of	1	0	8/28/2008	
Ontario	Victor, Town of	2	0	9/30/1983
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	1	0	6/18/2013
	Hannibal, Village of	1	0	6/18/2013
	Oswego, Town of	2	0	6/18/2013
Wayne	Butler, Town of	0	0	7/9/1982
	Huron, Town of	2	0	1/19/1996
	Ontario, Town of	12	0	6/1/1978
	Red Creek, Village of	0	0	4/8/1983
	Rose, Town of	1	0	3/9/1984
	Sodus, Town of	2	0	6/2/1992
	Sodus, Village	0	0	-
	Sodus Point, Village of	4	0	11/2/1977
	Walworth, Town of	0	0	3/16/1983
	Williamson, Town of	4	0	10/17/1978
	Wolcott, Town of	5	0	6/2/1992
Wolcott, Village of	0	0	7/6/1984	
Total		160	0	

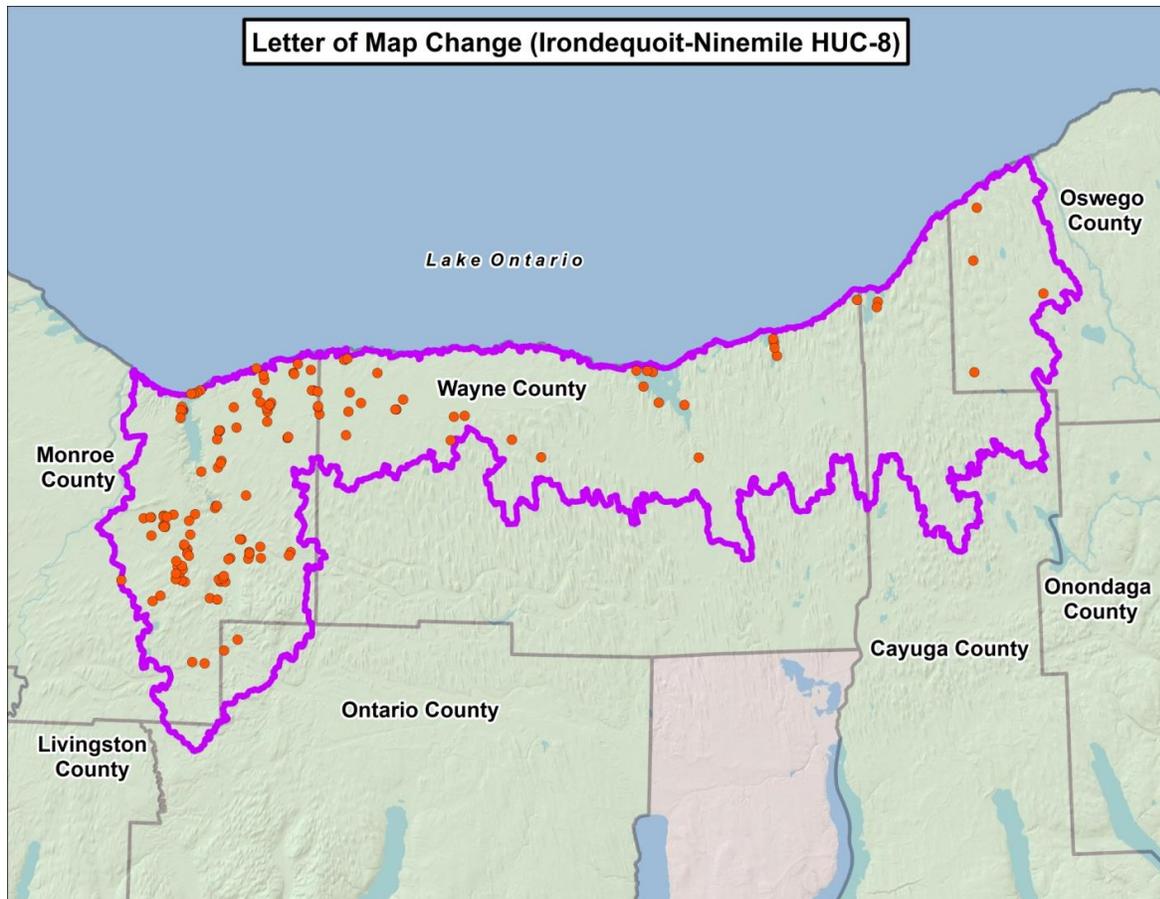


Figure 8: Location of LOMCs in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed

## Community Assistance Visits (CAVs)

Statewide CAVs are part of the evaluation and review process used by FEMA, NYSDEC Floodplain Management staff, and local officials to ensure that each community adequately enforces local floodplain management regulations to remain in compliance with NFIP requirements. Generally, a CAV consists of a tour of the floodplain, an inspection of community permit files, and meetings with local appointed and elected officials. During a CAV, observations and investigations will focus on identifying issues in various areas, such as community floodplain management regulations/ordinances, community administration and enforcement procedures, engineering or other issues related to FIRMs, other problems in community floodplain management, and problems with the Biennial Report data. CAVs are also a way to provide technical assistance to communities.

Any administrative problems or potential violations identified during a CAV will be documented in the CAV findings report. The community will be notified and given the opportunity to correct administrative procedures and remedy any violations to the maximum extent possible within established deadlines.

FEMA or the State will work with the community to help bring the program into compliance with NFIP requirements. In extreme cases where the community does not take action to bring itself

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into compliance, FEMA may initiate an enforcement action against the community. A program deficiency is a defect in a community’s floodplain management regulations or administrative procedures that impacts effective implementation of floodplain management regulations of the standard in 44 CFR sections 60.3, 60.4, or 60.6. “Open” CAVs can be indicative of unresolved violations.

Table 1818: *CAVs and CACs Performed Within the Project Area* lists the CAVs performed within the project area. No open CAVs were found for the communities in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. Engineering violations made up the majority of issues noted for the CAVs. None of the communities needed remedial actions to close the CAV.

### Community Assistance Contacts (CACs)

CACs in the watershed have been more sporadic during the last 20 years. CACs are a tool employed by the State of New York and the NFIP to periodically contact a community to see if they are having any difficulties in administering the local floodplain management ordinance or program. A CAC is an additional way of determining if a CAV should be scheduled. CACs are also a means of encouraging Code Enforcement Officers to attend annual floodplain management workshops. CACs can serve to support local officials when they need help effectively administering the NFIP in their community. Table 1818: *CAVs and CACs Performed Within the Project Area* lists the CACs performed within the project area.

**Table 18: CAVs and CACs Performed Within the Project Area (as of September 2013)**

County	Community	CAV Date	CAC DATE
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	N/A	N/A
	Ira, Town of	N/A	N/A
	Sterling, Town of	N/A	05/13/1994
	Victory, Town of	3/5/1992	N/A
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	7/24/2004	N/A
	East Rochester, Village of	N/A	N/A
	Fairport, Village of	9/13/2007	N/A
	Irondequoit, Town of	3/26/2008	N/A
	Mendon, Town of	9/13/2007	N/A
	Penfield, Town of	11/18/2010	05/12/2003
	Perinton, Town of	9/30/2005	N/A
	Pittsford, Town of	7/23/2003	N/A
	Pittsford, Village of	N/A	N/A
	Webster, Town of	7/23/2003	10/11/2005
Ontario	Victor, Town of	9/8/2006	N/A
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	N/A	N/A
	Hannibal, Village of	N/A	N/A
	Oswego, Town of	8/24/1992	N/A

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**Table 18: CAVs and CACs Performed Within the Project Area (as of September 2013) (cont'd)**

County	Community	CAV Date	CAC DATE
Wayne	Butler, Town of	6/18/1992	06/18/1992
	Huron, Town of	9/17/2007	N/A
	Ontario, Town of	8/23/2011	N/A
	Red Creek, Village of	N/A	N/A
	Rose, Town of	N/A	N/A
	Sodus, Town of	9/14/2006	N/A
	Sodus, Village of	N/A	N/A
	Sodus Point, Village of	9/14/2006	N/A
	Walworth, Town of	N/A	N/A
	Williamson, Town of	8/4/2011	N/A
	Wolcott, Town of	8/31/1995	N/A
	Wolcott, Village of	N/A	N/A

N/A - No information available

## Community Rating System (CRS)

The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that provides flood insurance premium discounts to NFIP-participating communities that take extra measures to manage floodplains above the minimum requirements. A point system is used to determine a CRS rating. The more measures a community takes to minimize or eliminate exposure to floods, the more CRS points are awarded and the higher the discount on flood insurance premiums. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted from 5 to 45 percent to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from a community's actions to successfully meet the three CRS goals:

1. Reduce flood damage to insurable property;
2. Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and
3. Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

No communities within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed are participating in the CRS. For more information on CRS, please see Attachment 5: *Joining the CRS Program*, or visit FEMA's [CRS website](#).

A particular emphasis on joining the NFIP's CRS program would be of benefit to all watershed communities. There seems to be a great deal of misinformation and lack of communication as to what the CRS is, if a community is eligible for membership, and what level of effort is required to make CRS participation beneficial for a community. Local communities may wish to consider pooling resources and efforts or work on a countywide basis to ease the effort of complying with the requirements of joining the CRS program.

## Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

A Repetitive Loss (RL) is a property that has received two or more claim payments of more than \$1,000 from the NFIP within any rolling 10-year period. In the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed

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there were 43 RLs within the study area as of April 2015, accounting for \$699,731 in claims paid. These RL properties fall within only seven of the communities within the study area. At this time, no RL properties have been verified in the remaining communities of the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed. The data are shown in Table 1919: *Repetitive Losses in Study Area*.

A Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property is defined as a residential property that is covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and (a) has at least four NFIP claim payments (including building and contents) over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000; and (b) for which at least two separate claims payments (building payments only) have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building. For both (a) and (b), at least two of the referenced claims must have occurred within any 10-year period, and must be greater than 10 days apart. There are no SRL properties within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed.

**Table 19: Repetitive Losses in Study Area (as of April 2015)**

County	Community	Number of Losses	Total Claims Paid
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	0	0
	Ira, Town of	0	0
	Sterling, Town of	0	0
	Victory, Town of	0	0
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	2	\$9,896
	East Rochester, Village of	0	0
	Fairport, Village of	0	0
	Irondequoit, Town of	2	\$17,810
	Mendon, Town of	0	0
	Penfield, Town of	14	\$314,815
	Perinton, Town of	11	\$180,321
	Pittsford, Town of	7	\$103,127
	Pittsford, Village of	0	0
	Webster, Town of	2	\$8,231
Ontario	Victor, Town of	0	0
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	0	0
	Hannibal, Village of	0	0
	Oswego, Town of	0	0
Wayne	Butler, Town of	0	0
	Huron, Town of	5	\$65,531
	Ontario, Town of	0	0
	Red Creek, Village of	0	0
	Rose, Town of	0	0
	Sodus, Town of	0	0
	Sodus, Village of	0	0

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**Table 19: Repetitive Losses in Study Area (as of April 2015) (cont'd)**

County	Community	Number of Losses	Total Claims Paid
	Sodus Point, Village of	0	0
Wayne (cont'd)	Walworth, Town of	0	0
	Williamson, Town of	0	0
	Wolcott, Town of	0	0
	Wolcott, Village of	0	0
	Total	43	\$699,731

Structures that flood frequently strain the NFIP Fund. In fact, RL properties are the biggest draw on the fund. FEMA has paid almost \$3.5 billion in claims for RL properties. RL properties not only increase the NFIP’s annual losses and the need for borrowing funds from Congress, but also drain funds needed to prepare for future catastrophic events.

Clusters of RL and previous NFIP assistance are used to identify “hot spot” areas within communities. This information can be used to identify areas of mitigation interest and updated mapping needs and products for individual communities. Areas of Mitigation Interest (AoMI) is a non-regulatory flood risk dataset that shows the items that have an impact (positive or negative) on the identified flood hazards or flood risks. This dataset is an enhanced Risk MAP product.

## Historical Flooding

Throughout the recorded history of the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, flooding has been a constant threat. The watershed is on the Ontario Lake plain, located along the southern shoreline of Lake Ontario and north of the Finger Lakes Region between Rochester and Oswego. Flooding can occur during any season of the year, but occurs most frequently in the late winter-early spring months when the melting snow may combine with intense rainfall to produce increased runoff. Ice jams and debris have often increased flood heights by impeding water flow at bridges and culverts. Shoreline flooding and erosion caused by Lake Ontario flood levels and wind-generated waves occurs along the sandbars and at various locations within the bays. Table 20: *FIS Historical Flooding Areas* summarizes the historical flooding noted in each community’s FIS report.

**Table 20: FIS Historical Flooding Areas**

County	Community	Event Date	Areas of Concern
Cayuga	Sterling, Town of	Various	The only area of notable flooding is the Moon Beach area along the Lake Ontario shoreline, where the main problem consists of beach erosion caused by wave effects from Lake Ontario.
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	March 1865	Flooding problems along the Genesee River are most apparent in the low-lying areas close to the river, where high water periodically inundates residences and summer cabins. Most major floods have occurred in late winter or early spring as a result of snowmelt and/or rainfall. The largest known flood occurred in March 1865, and had an estimated discharge of 54,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).
	Fairport, Village of	June 1972	Tropical Storm Agnes produced basement flooding in the vicinity of State Street, Water Street, and Railroad Street. Flooding from the New York State Barge Canal was also reported at the spillway structure near the Conrail tracks.
	Irondequoit, Town of Webster, Town of	Various back to 1864	Major floods on Irondequoit Creek can occur during any season of the year. Several serious floods have occurred involving Irondequoit Creek dating back to 1864 when the largest, most extensive flood to date caused considerable damage. The most damaging floods of Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay occur during high water levels caused by major changes in the cycle of precipitation.
	Mendon, Town of	June 21-23, 1972	The principal flooding sources in the Town of Mendon are Honeoye Creek and Irondequoit Creek and the primary tributaries into these two creeks. Heavy rains, especially those in the spring, combined with snowmelt, have frequently resulted in high water and flooding. Tropical Storm Agnes rained approximately 4.5 inches in a three day period. On Honeoye Creek the maximum recorded discharge was 4,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) with a recurrence interval of approximately 30-years.
	Penfield, Town of	Various	Flooding can occur in the community during any season of the year, but it most likely occurs in the late winter-early spring months when the melting snow may combine with intense rain fall to produce increased runoff. Ice jams and debris have often increased flood heights by impeding water flow at bridges and culverts. Areas along Thomas Creek, White Brook, and their tributaries are also highly susceptible to flooding and ponding. This is due to the flatness of the land in those areas.
	Perinton, Town of	Various	Major floods have occurred in Penfield during all seasons. Generally these floods are caused by such factors as localized thunderstorms, spring rains combined with snow melt, and tropical depressions or hurricanes. Large magnitude floods have occurred in 1864, 1912, 1934, 1960, and 1974. The 1960 flood on Irondequoit Creek was estimated to be a 25-year event.

**Table 20: FIS Historical Flooding Areas (cont'd)**

County	Community	Event Date	Areas of Concern
Oswego	Oswego, Town of	Various	The only major flood-related problem in the Town of Oswego is shore erosion along Lake Ontario. Minor flooding also occurs infrequently along the Rice Creek mucklands.
Wayne	Huron, Town of	Various	Shoreline flooding and erosion caused by Lake Ontario flood levels and wind-generated waves occurs along the sandbars and at various locations within the bays. High lake levels occur in the spring when runoff increases because of snowmelt and of low rates of evaporations from the lake and evapotranspiration from the land surface.
	Ontario, Town of	March 1973 and various	Stream flooding problems in the Town of Ontario occur mostly in the upper reaches of the detailed study creeks. These reaches fall within the Glacial Outwash and Glacial Lake regions, where poor drainage and shallow channels are prevalent. Most flooding is the result of short, severe rainstorms, occurring during the summer months. The Lake Ontario shoreline in Ontario is subject to significant damage due to flooding and erosion caused by inundation and wind generated waves. In March 1973, storms caused \$2.5 million worth of damage in Wayne County along the shoreline. Portions of the lake front are subject to inundation, but erosion is the major hazard to land and housing in Ontario.
	Sodus, Town of		Stream flood problems in the Town of Sodus exist due to the low banks and flat terrain abutting Salmon Creek and Second Creek.
	Sodus, Village of		Coastline flooding is significant in the Village of Sodus Point and the Town of Williamson because there are no bluffs to protect property from inundation as exist along much of the Lake Ontario shoreline.
	Sodus Point, Village of		
	Williamson, Town of		Stream flood problems in the Town of Williamson exist due to the low banks and flat terrain abutting Salmon Creek and its tributaries.

Historical flooding events were also included in several of the HMPs. Significant events from these plans are summarized in Table 21: *Hazard Mitigation Plan Significant Flood Events*. All of the HMPs included a brief countywide description for flood events and did not include specific community impacts. Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972 caused significant damage to the study area; Cayuga County estimated damages over \$8.2 million due to this event. Flooding events resulting in significant erosion were included in Monroe County’s mitigation plan.

See the Hazard Mitigation subsection that follows for additional information on HMPs.

**Table 21: Hazard Mitigation Plan Significant Flood Events**

County	Community Name	Flood Events of Significance
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	County level events included: June 1972: Rain and flooding caused residential, commercial, and public property damage as well as crop damage. Two major dams also were damaged resulting in \$8.2 million in damages.
	Ira, Town of	September 1975: Heavy rains, landslides, and flooding caused property damage estimated at \$6.3 million. October 1981: More than 6 inches of rain fell over two days, which flooded multiple businesses, and forced some evacuations and road closures, and forced sewer system closures. Damages estimated at \$1 million.
	Sterling, Town of	January 1996: Flash flooding from rain and snowmelt caused property damages over \$1.4 million and one fatality.
	Victory, Town of	July 2006: Heavy rains caused flash flooding, road closures and overflowing streams. Damages estimated at \$363,000.
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	County level events included:
	East Rochester, Village of	October 1974: Sewer tunnel cracked and caused flooding, which damaged homes, destroyed roads, and displaced residents. Event resulted in millions in damages.
	Fairport, Village of	
	Irondequoit, Town of	May 2000: Heavy rains and hail caused substantial erosion of roadway. Damages estimated at \$180,000.
	Mendon, Town of	
	Penfield, Town of	September 2004: Hurricane Frances caused widespread and significant flooding, causing multiple States of Emergency declarations, evacuations, and road closures. Damages estimated over \$2.5 million.
	Perinton, Town of	
	Pittsford, Town of	
	Pittsford, Village of	July 2006: Rains overflowed creeks, flooded basements, and created sinkholes - including one very large crater from a drainage system implosion.
	Webster, Town of	
Ontario	Victor, Town of	No event descriptions provided.

**Table 21: Hazard Mitigation Plan Significant Flood Events (cont'd)**

County	Community Name	Flood Events of Significance
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	November 1996: Three to four inches of rain fell over 12 hours causing flash flooding, road closures, and power outages. Damages estimated at \$18,000.
	Hannibal, Village of	January 1998: Heavy rain fell over 36-hour period leading to road flooding and closures, flooding of residential basements, and water emergencies because of several overwhelmed wastewater treatment plants. Damages estimated at \$12,000.
	Oswego, Town of	July 2006: Heavy rains in the Northern Finger Lakes region caused inundation of roads and residential basements. Damages estimated at \$100,000.
Wayne	Butler, Town of	<p>County level events included:</p> <p>April 1993: Rain and snowmelt caused Black River to rise above flood stage, which led to the relocation of hundreds of head of livestock, home evacuations, and road closures Damages estimated at \$500,000.</p> <p>August 2004: Rains from Hurricane Frances caused Ellicott Creek to rise 8 feet above flood stage. Countywide damages exceeded \$3.7 million.</p> <p>February 2005: Two to three inches of rain and snowmelt caused 6 area creeks to reach flood stage, forcing road closures, evacuations, automobile accidents, and basement flooding Damages estimated at \$600,000.</p>
	Huron, Town of	
	Ontario, Town of	
	Red Creek, Village of	
	Rose, Town of	
	Sodus, Town of	
	Sodus, Village of	
	Sodus Point, Village of	
	Williamson, Town of	
	Wolcott, Town of	
Wolcott, Village of		

**Declared Disasters**

Like much of the eastern United States, one of the most frequent, widespread, and damaging natural disasters affecting the watershed is flooding from rainfall events, especially tropical systems tracking inland from the Atlantic Seaboard. With full records beginning in the 1950s, the watershed has repeatedly been subject to flooding from tropical storms, hurricanes, and other non-cyclonic events, most recently Hurricane Irene and remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, which struck the area in August and September 2011.

Often in the aftermath of a major flooding event, the Federal Government will make funding available for homeowners, businesses, and local communities to aid in disaster relief and recovery. The major flood-related disaster declarations for the study area are listed in

Table 2222: *Disaster Declarations*. Since 1972 there have been 12 flood-related declared disasters within the study area. FEMA’s disaster and emergency declarations history can be viewed at [FEMA’s website](#).

**Table 22: Disaster Declarations (as of August 2013)**

Date	Title of Event	Number of Counties Declared within Study Area
June 1972	New York Tropical Storm Agnes	5
March 1973	New York High Winds, Wave Action, Flooding	4
July 1974	New York Severe Storms, Flooding	1
October 1975	New York Severe Storms, Heavy Rain, Landslides, Flooding	2
March 1985	New York Flooding	1
January 1996	New York Severe Storms/Flooding	2
September 1998	New York Severe Storms	4
July & August 2003	New York Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding	1
May & June 2004	New York Severe Storms and Flooding	5
August & September 2004	New York Severe Storms and Flooding	2
April 2005	New York Severe Storms and Flooding	1
April & May 2011	New York Severe Storms, Flooding, Tornadoes, and Straight Line Winds	1

During the Discovery Meetings, several community officials noted significant flood events that caused significant flooding in their communities. The events provided by the officials did not include specific locations of damages. The Towns of Rose and Huron in Wayne County experienced significant flooding in the late 1990s and 2005 along Sodus Creek.

Monroe County and the Town of Irondequoit in Monroe County noted erosion related to Hurricane Sandy along the Lake Ontario Shoreline.

The Village of Fairport in Monroe County experienced flooding from Thomas Creek and the connecting spillway from the New York State Canal along Railroad Street, Liftbridge Lane East, North Water Street, and South Water Street during the severe storms in 2004 (hurricane). Flooding on Muir Creek was also noted for the Village of Fairport due to high water in the canal.

The information provided by the communities did not include specific dates of events and/or damages.

### **High Water Marks**

A limited number of verified High Water Mark (HWM) data were available from USGS or USACE prior to the Discovery Meeting. During the pre-Discovery and Discovery Meetings, communities were asked about additional known HWMs. Information obtained from the meetings included Grass Creek in the Town of Brighton (Monroe County). No specific details were provided for the HWMs noted by the communities.

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## Ice Jams

As explained by NWS, “ice jams cause localized flooding and can quickly cause serious problems. Rapid rises behind the jams can lead to temporary lakes and flooding of homes and roads along rivers. A sudden release of a jam can lead to flash flooding below with the addition of large pieces of ice in the wall of water which will damage or destroy most things in its path.”

There are two types of ice jams: freeze up and break up. Freeze up jams usually occur in early to mid-winter during extremely cold weather. Break up jams usually occur in mid to late winter with thaws. NWS notes the conditions of both below:

### Freeze Up Jam Criteria:

Three Consecutive Days with daily average temperatures of less than 0°F. Early to mid-winter formation, fairly steady discharge, frazil and broken border ice, unlikely to release suddenly, smooth to moderate surface roughness.

### Break Up Jam Criteria:

Ice around 1 foot thick or more (presumed) and Daily Average Temperature forecast to be greater than 42°F or more. Direct sunlight plays a large role as open water areas absorb sunlight. A break up jam can occur at any time after ice cover formation, but generally takes place in mid to late winter. Break up jams are highly unstable with sudden failures.

The daily average temperature is determined by the following equation:

$$(T_{\max} (\text{maximum temperature}) + T_{\min} (\text{minimum temperature}))/2.$$

Rainfall or snowmelt with a thaw will enhance the potential for break up jams as rising water helps to lift and break up the ice. A very short thaw with little or no rain or snowmelt may not be enough to break up thick ice.

It is critically important to note that flooding caused by ice jams is not calculated nor shown on FEMA’s FIRMs. Furthermore, NWS’s statement on ice jams also explains that river forecasts found on its website do not take into account the effect of ice on river levels.

Known “trouble spots” of ice jamming in the watershed include areas along Allen Creek in the City of Rochester in Monroe County, Genesee River in the Town of Brighton and City of Rochester in Monroe County, Oswego River in the Town of Oswego in Oswego County, and Sterling Creek in the Town of Sterling in Cayuga County. The complete list with full descriptions of the circumstances of jamming at each location can be found on the USACE website: <http://icejams.crrel.usace.army.mil/>

### Ice Jam Preparedness

1. Monitoring areas to identify problem areas early
2. Alert system for evacuation
3. Mitigation
  - a. Ice weakening/thinning/removal
  - b. Equipment placement
  - c. Supplies including sandbags and jersey barriers
4. Permanent Measures

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- a. Freeze up Jam Control
  1. Displace jam location
  2. Control production and transport of frazil ice (ice crystals formed in swift streams or rough seas)
- b. Break up Jam Control
  1. Control timing of breakup
  2. Displace jam location

## Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs)

A local HMP is a long-term strategic/guidance document used by an entity to reduce future risk to life, property, and the economy in a community. The purpose of the HMP is to:

- Identify vulnerabilities to natural hazards and provide for potential projects to reduce those vulnerabilities in the future;
- Protect life, safety, and property by reducing the potential for future damages and economic losses that result from natural hazards;
- Qualify for additional grant funding, in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environment;
- Speed recovery and redevelopment following future disaster events;
- Demonstrate a firm local commitment to hazard mitigation principles; and
- Comply with both State and Federal legislative requirements for local HMPs.

The county and local HMPs outline mitigation actions that officials believe are attainable and can be implemented. Some of these activities include:

- Reduce the number or vulnerability of critical facilities in hazard-prone areas.
- Reduce the future development of facilities in flood inundation zones.
- Map all critical facilities in SFHAs.
- Raise structures located in flood-prone areas.
- Require flood resistant building construction methods.
- Develop plan to relocate critical facilities to safer areas.

### *Status of Approved Mitigation Plans*

As of June 30, 2013, 175 communities within the Lake Ontario Watershed had approved HMPs; 46 of the HMPs expired in fall 2013. NYSDHSES reviews the local HMPs prior to FEMA review and approval. These plans identify potential hazards and threats that face the community. Subsequent to approval and adoption of the HMPs, the communities are eligible to receive grants for future mitigation projects through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). There are numerous advantages to mitigation planning. The creation of a mitigation plan helps local officials identify potential future hazards. Once the threats are identified, the communities can identify mitigation actions, projects, and strategies to eliminate or minimize the impact a potential hazard would cause. Preventative measures are also cost effective; preventing the impact of a hazard will cost less than cleaning up after a disaster occurs. Mitigation can prevent the loss of lives as well as property damage. These plans focus on the exposure of critical facilities and community-owned assets to potential hazards and address ways to reduce their vulnerability to

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these threats. Some of these actions, projects, and strategies may take little time to employ while others may take years to implement.

HMPs are often completed at the county or regional level. At the local level, each municipal government also adopts the HMP as an individual plan or regional plan. Each municipality that adopts the HMP must develop specific mitigation actions to address vulnerabilities. Each municipal HMP was reviewed for initiatives, critical facilities, and mitigation actions. The status of approved HMPs is shown in Table 2323: *Approved Hazard Mitigation Plans*. Communities without an HMP may be in the process of developing a plan. Local HMPs are required to be updated every 5 years and revised to include recent events, new analysis, and best available data.

**Table 23: Approved Hazard Mitigation Plans (as of June 2013)**

County	Jurisdiction Name	Approval Date	Plan Expiration
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	Pending Approval	
	Ira, Town of		
	Sterling, Town of		
	Victory, Town of		
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	8/15/2011	8/15/2016
	East Rochester, Village of		
	Fairport, Village of		
	Irondequoit, Town of		
	Mendon, Town of		
	Penfield, Town of		
	Perinton, Town of		
	Pittsford, Town of		
	Pittsford, Village of		
	Webster, Town of		
Webster, Village of			
Ontario	Victor, Town of	1/28/2010	1/12/2015
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	4/12/2013	4/12/2018
	Hannibal, Village of		
	Oswego, Town of		
Wayne	Butler, Town of	Draft Plan	
	Huron, Town of		
	Ontario, Town of		
	Red Creek, Village of		
	Rose, Town of		
	Sodus, Town of		
	Sodus, Village of		
	Sodus Point, Village of		
	Walworth, Town of		
	Williamson, Town of		
	Wolcott, Town of		
	Wolcott, Village of		

### Critical Facilities and Infrastructures

Critical facilities are those entities essential to the community’s health and welfare. Critical facilities included in the HMPs vary based on how the locality defines a critical facility/infrastructure and the types of data available. Typically, critical facilities are defined as community assets whose presence is vital to that jurisdiction’s continued ability to operate. Critical facilities often include 911 and emergency services facilities, airports, colleges and universities, schools, fire departments, police departments, sewage treatment plants, hospitals and nursing homes.

Table 2424: *Critical Facilities and Infrastructure at risk of Flooding* summarizes the critical facilities that were noted in the HMPs as being at risk to flood-related events. Updates to these plans will need to include the critical structure vulnerability.

**Table 24: Critical Facilities and Infrastructure at risk of Flooding (as of June 2013)**

County	Community	Facilities Located within SFHA
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	One senior living complex within flood zone, but not vulnerable to flooding
	Ira, Town of	None Listed
	Sterling, Town of	None Listed
	Victory, Town of	None Listed
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	None Listed
	East Rochester, Village of	None Listed
	Fairport, Village of	None Listed
	Irondequoit, Town of	None Listed
	Mendon, Town of	None Listed
	Penfield, Town of	None Listed
	Perinton, Town of	None Listed
	Pittsford, Town of	None Listed
	Pittsford, Village of	None Listed
	Webster, Town of	None Listed
Webster, Village of	None Listed	
Ontario	Victor, Town of	Four facilities located within SFHA. Type not defined.
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	None Listed
	Hannibal, Village of	None Listed
	Oswego, Town of	None Listed
Wayne	Butler, Town of	None Listed
	Huron, Town of	None Listed
	Ontario, Town of	None Listed

**Table 24: Critical Facilities and Infrastructure at risk of Flooding (as of June 2013) (cont'd)**

County	Community	Facilities Located within SFHA
Wayne (cont'd)	Red Creek, Village of	None Listed
	Rose, Town of	None Listed
	Sodus, Town of	Three facilities located within SFHA. Type not defined
	Sodus, Village of	None Listed
	Sodus Point, Village of	None Listed
	Williamson, Town of	None Listed
	Wolcott, Town of	None Listed
	Wolcott, Village of	None Listed

### Mitigation Projects

FEMA has five programs that fund hazard mitigation projects. These programs may be beneficial to water and wastewater utilities. Some may be implemented before a disaster strikes (referred to as pre-disaster mitigation) and others after a disaster is declared (referred to as post-disaster mitigation). FEMA’s disaster mitigation funding programs include:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM);
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP);
- Public Assistance Grant Program (PAGP);
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA); and
- Repetitive Flood Claims Program (RFC).

The community HMPs identified mitigation projects, actions, and strategies to reduce long-term vulnerability to hazards. Each county listed several mitigation projects related to reducing flood vulnerability.

Communities within Cayuga County focused their mitigation strategy on development of animal management plans, elevation certificate acquisition and archiving, participation of floodplain administrators in the HMP process, stream bank stabilization, mitigation of floodprone properties (buyouts, elevations, acquisitions), and compliance with the NFIP.

Monroe County communities included a diverse mitigation strategy for drainage improvements, GIS capabilities for modeling inundation, joining the CRS, and buyouts of repeat flooding areas. The Town of Pittsford included mitigation actions for conducting floodplain analysis to support construction of a bridge over Allens Creek. The Town of Brighton in Monroe County has completed several mitigation activities including removing structures from the Dugway/Blossom Road area in the northeast part of the town.

The Town of Victor, included in the Ontario County mitigation strategy, included review and updates to planning and zoning regulations, administration of a town-wide easement program, support of wetland regulation and activities, and continuation of a stormwater management system.

The Oswego County mitigation strategy included many county level programs. Each community included actions for revisions to building and zoning codes, training, maintenance of stormwater systems, mitigation of floodprone properties (buyouts, elevations, acquisitions), and joining the CRS.

Several communities in Wayne County included mitigation actions for joining the CRS. A range of additional activities were provided for each community, including continued participation in the NFIP, stormwater management, modifying the residential elevation requirement in floodprone areas, and facility flood analysis to determine structures at risk.

Many of these activities would qualify for CRS credits.

## **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)**

Two pieces of legislation in the early 1970s—the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act—have contributed mightily to the quality of the water we drink, fish, and swim in today. Prior to enactment of these landmark laws, as much as two-thirds of the surface water in the United States was considered polluted. The Nation’s waters are noticeably cleaner and less polluted, and today, we can fish and swim in virtually all our streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Water resources are central to the region’s aesthetics, economics, and health. There are some 60,000 miles of rivers and streams in FEMA Region II, including the waterways of the St. Lawrence Seaway. We all live in a watershed. Many water quality and ecosystem problems are best solved at the watershed level rather than at the individual water body or discharger level. Due to our geographic diversity, New York has a wide variety of water bodies and a number of programs to protect its estuaries, lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, and oceans more efficiently and effectively.

As noted on NYSDEC’s website, Federal Stormwater Phase II regulations require permits for stormwater discharges from MS4s in urban areas and for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. To implement the law, NYSDEC has developed two general permits, one for MS4s in urbanized areas and one for construction activities. The permits are part of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES). Operators of regulated MS4s and operators of construction activities must obtain permit coverage under either an individual SPDES permit or one of the general permits prior to commencement of construction.

Guidance for local officials on complying with State and Federal stormwater management requirements, Minimum Measures 4 and 5, can be found on [NYSDEC’s website](#).

Twelve MS4 permits have been issued in the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed.

Detailed maps that depict where the regulated MS4 boundaries lie can be found on [NYSDEC’s website](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/92258.html)<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/92258.html>.

## **CNMS and NFIP Mapping Needs**

During FEMA’s Flood Map Modernization program from 2003 to 2008, FEMA adhered to Procedure Memorandum No. 56, which states that, “Section 575 of the National Flood Insurance Program Reform Act of 1994 mandates that at least once every five years FEMA assess the need to review and update all floodplain areas and flood risk zones identified, delineated, or established

under Section 1360 of the National Flood Insurance Act, as amended.” This requirement was fulfilled prior to this Discovery process through the Mapping Needs Assessment process. Other mechanisms such as the Mapping Needs Update Support System and scoping reports were used to capture information describing conditions on the FIRMs and the potential for a map update. FEMA’s CNMS was initiated through FEMA’s Risk MAP program in 2009.

CNMS is a FEMA initiative to update the way FEMA organizes, stores, and analyzes flood hazard mapping needs information for communities. CNMS defines an approach and structure for the identification and management of flood hazard mapping needs that supports data-driven planning and the flood map update investment process in a geospatial (or GIS) environment. The goal is to identify areas where existing flood maps are not up to FEMA’s mapping standards.

There are three classifications within the CNMS: “Valid,” “Unverified,” and “Unknown.” New and updated studies (those with new hydrologic and hydraulic models) performed during the Map Modernization program were automatically determined to be “Valid” and the remaining studies went through a 17 element validation process with 7 critical and 10 secondary elements. Validation elements apply physical, climatological, and environmental factors to stream studies to determine validity. A stream study has to pass all of the critical elements and at least seven secondary elements in order to be classified as “Valid.” The remainder of the streams are classified as “Unverified.”

The following seven Critical Elements or “checks” must be answered satisfactorily in order for a stream reach to be determined “valid”:

- Change in the Gage Record: Has a major flood event caused a major change in gage record since effective analysis?
- Change in Discharge: Do the updated and effective peak discharges differ significantly based on confidence limit criteria in *FEMA’s Guidelines and Specifications (G&S)*?
- Model Methodology: Is the model methodology no longer appropriate based on FEMA’s G&S?
- Hydraulic Change: Has a major flood-control structure (dam/levee/floodwall/other change) been added or removed from the reach?
- Channel Reconfiguration: Is the current channel reconfiguration outside the effective SFHA? (Has the stream moved?)
- Other Hydraulic Changes: Have more than five hydraulic structures (bridge/culvert) been added or removed that impact BFEs on the reach?
- Channel Area Change: Has there been significant channel fill or scour?

If one or more of the above noted elements are true, then the flood hazard information for the reach is “Invalid.” Not all elements may be applicable for all flooding sources.

In addition to the seven Critical Elements, if four or more of the following Secondary Elements are true then the Flood Hazard Information must be recorded as “Invalid.”

- Regression Equation: Has a rural regression equation been used in a now urbanized area?
- Repetitive Loss: Are there repetitive losses outside the SFHA?
- Impervious Area: Has there been an increase in impervious area in the sub-basin of equal to or greater than 50 percent (e.g., 10 percent to 15 percent, 20 percent to 30 percent)?

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- Hydraulic Structure: Have more than one, but less than five, hydraulic structures (bridge/culvert) been added or removed that impact BFEs on the reach?
- Channel Improvements: Have there been channel improvements or shoreline changes?
- Topography Data: Is better topography and/or bathymetry available?
- Vegetation or Land Use: Have significant changes to vegetation or land use occurred in the area?
- Coastal Dune: Is there a failure to identify primary frontal dune in coastal areas?
- High Water Mark: Have significant storms occurred with recorded HWMs?
- Regression Equation: Are new regression equations available?

CNMS is a living database that is continuously updated whenever new or revised studies become available. As part of that update, valid stream reaches will be reassessed every 5 years and invalid streams will be prioritized for potential funding. Watershed Discovery meetings provide input for CNMS community requests and help prioritize studies in the watershed. It is projected that the CNMS geodatabase will eventually be available to the public online. Table 2525: *Current Status of CNMS* shows the status of the counties in this project area prior to the Discovery process.

An informational flyer regarding CNMS can be found [online](#) or by reviewing Attachment 6: *Coordinated Needs Management Strategy* in the digital version of this Discovery Report. More information about CNMS can also be found on [FEMA’s CNMS webpage](#) or by viewing an informative PowerPoint presentation on the CNMS process created by the [Illinois State Water Survey](#).

**Table 25: Current Status of CNMS (as of August 2013)**

County	County Total Stream Mileage				Stream Mileage within Watershed			
	Valid	Unverified	Unknown	Total	Valid	Unverified	Unknown	Total
Cayuga	76.55	0	0	<b>76.55</b>	76.55	0	0	<b>76.55</b>
Monroe	230.32	172.64	147.42	<b>550.38</b>	62.30	73.15	43.92	<b>179.37</b>
Ontario	0	0	108.17	<b>108.17</b>	0	0	7.33	<b>7.33</b>
Oswego	626.33	0	137.33	<b>763.66</b>	90.77	0	10.61	<b>101.38</b>
Wayne	0	0	164.45	<b>164.45</b>	0	0	164.45	<b>164.45</b>

### **Discovery Meetings - Community Discussion of Needs**

During the WebEx No. 2 sessions held in September 2013, and during the series of in-person meetings held in November 2013, mapping needs were catalogued for each of the participating communities. Each represented community met with facilitators to document areas of recurrent flooding, changes to hydraulic structures, areas of growth, and inaccuracies with the effective FIRMs.

The types of needs can be classified as:

- Unstudied streams in areas of growth and development;
- Maps are old and impossible to read due to scale (several communities have flat fold maps); and

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- Need to have established BFEs on large bodies of water.

Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs* captures the ongoing discussion of needs that took place during the Discovery Process. This table highlights the communities that participated in the planning, provided information on the Data Worksheets, and noted specific needs related to their effective FIRMs. Data worksheets were collected following the meeting discussions. Approximately 60 percent of the communities within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed provided needs that have been captured in CNMS. Appendix H of this document includes a summary of the discussions in each of the communities that participated in the Discovery meetings and/or submitted Data Worksheets. The CNMS database entries also include larger construction projects that were noted during the meetings with the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed communities during 2013.

These findings will be included in the main CNMS database.

## IV. Discovery Meetings

A series of conference calls with virtual meeting capabilities was held in August and September 2013 and was followed up with 10 in-person meetings held in November 2013 throughout the Lake Ontario Watershed.

The Lake Ontario Watershed Discovery project is the beginning of an interactive process that will result in a watershed-wide assessment of existing flood hazard mapping needs, existing information useful in updating the FIRMs, and ultimately recommendations for the development of updated Risk MAP and FIRM products.

The purpose of the Discovery meeting is to review any information previously provided by communities, State and regional agencies, and local stakeholders; discuss each community's floodplains and floodplain management activities, mitigation plans and projects, and flood risk concerns; and gather additional feedback for FEMA to consider when developing Risk MAP products, including the development of new FIRMs where needed.

Appendices E through H include the Discovery meeting preparation and meeting materials:

- Meeting Agenda/Minutes (Appendix E: *Discovery Meeting Agenda*)
- Meeting Sign-In sheet (Appendix F: *Discovery Meeting Sign-In Sheet*)
- Meeting Presentations (Appendix G: *Discovery Presentation*)
- Discovery Maps and Stream Matrices (Appendix H: *Discovery Meeting Data Worksheets and Stream Matrices*)

## Webinars

WebEx No. 1 sessions were held August 13–15, 2013. These meetings were held via WebEx/conference call. This first WebEx was to introduce the planning team; request feedback from the municipalities, counties, and regional groups within the project area; and to determine what additional local floodplain and hazard risk data were available and who should be included in the process. Representatives from Cayuga, Genesee, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Monroe,

Niagara, Onondaga, Ontario, Oswego, St. Lawrence, and Wayne Counties; USACE; the Nature Conservancy; and Regional Planning Commissions attended.

The participants were asked if there were additional stakeholders that should be added to the list. Several participants suggested the Cooperative Extensions and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in each county be invited. It was also suggested the following stakeholders be added to the distribution lists:

- Onondaga Planning and Environmental Health
- Finger Lakes Protection Alliance
- Northern Oneida County Council of Governments
- Black Creek Watershed Coalition
- Cayuga Creek Watershed Coalition

Meeting presentation materials are available at [https://www.rampp-team.com/documents/newyork/Discovery\\_Kickoff\\_Meeting\\_Lake\\_OntarioWatershed\\_2013.pdf](https://www.rampp-team.com/documents/newyork/Discovery_Kickoff_Meeting_Lake_OntarioWatershed_2013.pdf)

*WebEx No. 2 sessions* were held September 17–20, 2013. These seven meetings were held via WebEx/conference call. This second WebEx was to request feedback from the municipalities, counties, and regional groups within the project area, and to determine what additional local floodplain and hazard risk data were available and should be included in the process.

The second half of the meeting was interactive, with community maps shown on the meeting screen and participants discussing floodplain mapping needs within their communities. Floodplain mapping needs and areas of concern included: areas that experience flooding, locations of bridge/culvert replacements, areas where FEMA maps are inaccurate or do not exist. To further expand on this discussion, participants were asked to complete and return the data worksheets to supplement the interactive discussion.

Attendees included representatives from Cayuga, Genesee, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties; USACE; the Nature Conservancy; SWCDs; and Regional Planning Commissions.

## **In-Person Meetings**

*In-person meetings* are to facilitate discussion about study needs, mitigation project needs, desired compliance support, and local flood risk awareness efforts. Attendees, including all affected communities and other selected stakeholders, were asked to cooperatively identify areas of concern within their watershed. Table 2626: *Community Meeting Information* includes meeting dates and locations for the 10 in-person meetings held during Discovery.

**Table 26: Community Meeting Information**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Communities</b>	<b>Meeting Location</b>
Tuesday November 12, 2013 2:00 PM	Wayne and Cayuga Counties	Wayne County Public Safety Building Operations Room 7376 Route 31 Lyons, NY
Wednesday November 13, 2013 9:00 AM	Oswego and Onondaga Counties	County Office Building Legislative Chamber 46 East Bridge Street Oswego, NY
Wednesday November 13, 2013 2:30 PM	Lewis, Hamilton, Herkimer, and Oneida Counties	Cornell Cooperative Extension 5274 Outer Stowe Street Lowville, NY
Thursday November 14, 2013 9:30 AM	Jefferson County Coastal Communities and St. Lawrence County	Cornell Cooperative Extension West Room 203 North Hamilton Street Watertown, NY
Thursday November 14, 2013 2:00 PM	Jefferson County Inland Communities	Cornell Cooperative Extension West Room 203 North Hamilton Street Watertown, NY
Tuesday November 19, 2013 9:30 AM	Monroe County	Monroe County Emergency Management Building Rooms 117A and 117B 1190 Scottsville Road Rochester, NY
Tuesday November 19, 2013 2:00 PM	Orleans County	Cornell Cooperative Extension 12690 Route 31 Albion, NY
Wednesday November 20, 2013 9:30 AM	Niagara County	Cornell Cooperative Extension 4487 Lake Avenue Lockport, NY
Wednesday November 20, 2013 2:30 PM	Genesee and Wyoming Counties	Batavia Town Hall 3833 West Main Street Road Batavia, NY
Thursday November 21, 2013 9:30 AM	Livingston and Ontario Counties	Emergency Operations Center 3360 Gypsy Lane Mount Morris, NY

For the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, the in-person meeting(s) were held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 2:00 PM for Wayne and Cayuga Counties; Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at 2:30 PM for Oswego County; Tuesday November 19, 2013, at 9:30 AM for Monroe County; and Thursday November 21, 2013, at 9:30 AM for Ontario County. In addition, representatives of FEMA, various State agencies, county officials, and several non-governmental organizations attended these sessions. Communities represented at the in-person meetings included:

- Cayuga County
- Village of Fair Haven
- Town of Ira
- Town of Sterling
- Town of Victory
- Monroe County
- Town of Brighton
- Village of East Rochester
- Village of Fairport
- Town of Irondequoit
- Town of Penfield
- Town of Perinton
- Town of Pittsford
- Town of Webster
- Ontario County
- Town of Victor
- Oswego County
- Town of Oswego
- Wayne County
- Town of Huron
- Town of Ontario
- Town of Rose
- Town of Sodus
- Village of Sodus Point
- Town of Walworth
- Town of Williamson
- Town of Wolcott
- Village of Wolcott

A copy of the sign-in sheets for these meetings is available along with the agenda in the appendices.

A PowerPoint presentation was delivered at the start of the meetings. The presentation is located in Appendix G: *Discovery Presentation*. The second half of the meeting was interactive and included breakout sessions during which community officials and stakeholders met with representatives from FEMA, NYSDEC, and RAMPP to discuss the following:

- What are areas of recent or planned development or high growth or other significant land changes?
- What other flood risks are there?
- What other mitigation plans and projects are there?
- What are your community's concerns?
- How can we (both FEMA and you) communicate risk within your community and increase resilience from floods?

## Discovery Process Outcomes

Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs* captures the ongoing discussion of needs that took place during the Discovery process via Data Worksheets, virtual meetings, community contacts, and the in-person meetings. This table highlights the communities that participated in the planning, provided information on the Data Worksheets, and noted specific needs related to their effective FIRMs. Appendix H of this document includes a summary of the discussions in each of the communities that participated in the Discovery meetings and/or submitted Data Worksheets.

Many but not all communities within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed have countywide effective studies. Approximately 60 percent of the communities within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed provided needs that have been captured in CNMS.

Wayne and Ontario Counties do not have digital floodplain products. The current paper FIRMs (or a lack of FIRMs altogether) make interpretation and determinations of flood risk difficult. At a minimum, digital products would assist the communities with their floodplain management. The Town of Victor in Ontario County and the Towns of Huron, Rose, Sodus, and the Village of Sodus Point in Wayne County provided details for several flooding sources that need to be restudied.

Cayuga County is currently experiencing increased development and the current maps do not reflect hydraulic conditions for bridges, culverts, and piped streams. Detailed studies have been requested in the Town of Sterling.

Digital FIRMs in the Town of Oswego contain floodplain mapping errors, specifically along Ninemile Creek Tributary No.1.

Monroe County has effective digital FIRMs from August 2008. Most communities within the County have noted errors with the current maps and have requested stream reaches to be restudied and updated to include BFEs. These needs have been captured in the CNMS database. All communities have noted hydraulic changes due to bridge and culvert replacements since the effective maps. The Towns of Brighton, Penfield, Pittsford, and Webster are experiencing significant growth and development.

In addition to the items included in Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs*, the Town of Henrietta and the City of Rochester in Monroe County have portions of their community located within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed, but have been included in the Lower Genesee Watershed Discovery Report. Several areas that are relevant for the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed were noted during the meetings and captured in the CNMS database. These include:

- Town of Henrietta (Monroe County): Floodway along the Genesee River does not represent current conditions; and
- Town of West Bloomfield (Ontario County): Needs BFEs for flooding experienced along Routes 20 and 64.

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Cayuga	Fair Haven, Village of	8/2/2007	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There should be a new approximate study for the unnamed tributary to Little Sodus Bay. There is a section of the stream that is piped near Fair Haven Road and the Main Street culvert was replaced in 2006 or 2007.</li> <li>- A ravine filled in and washed a house foundation out on 7th Street along Little Sodus Bay.</li> </ul>
	Ira, Town of	8/2/2007	No	Digital	N/A	Yes	No	No	Yes	None submitted
	Sterling, Town of	8/2/2007	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lake Ontario should have an updated detailed study due to the high rate of erosion along Moon Beach. Some areas of the beach are eroding at a rate of 3 to 10 feet per year.</li> <li>- A detailed study is needed along Ninemile Creek due to proposed development in the area.</li> <li>- An updated approximate study is needed of Sterling Creek due to the flooding of a campground in 2005-2006. The owner of the campground claims the flooded area is not in the mapped floodplain. There have also been changes to the stream's hydraulics due to bridge and culvert replacements along this stream.</li> <li>- Finch Corners Road is sometimes overtopped by the adjacent marsh due to snowmelt and ice dams.</li> </ul>
	Victory, Town of	8/2/2007	No	Digital	N/A	Yes	No	No	Yes	None submitted

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**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Monroe	Brighton, Town of	8/28/2008	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buckland Creek needs a detailed study due to stream restoration and culvert replacement by the County Department of Transportation.</li> <li>- A detailed study is needed of Allen Creek Tributary due to development of 327 acres for mixed use residential and office space.</li> <li>- Allen Creek needs a detailed study due to development of 137 acres for mixed use commercial and residential. There has also been a bridge replacement on Edgewood Avenue over the creek.</li> <li>- The West Branch of Allen Creek was affected during construction of NYSDOT Genesee Expressway in the 1980s and not included on FIRM. There are retention ponds at the I-390/I-590 split.</li> <li>- There is planned residential and commercial development for the University of Rochester South Campus.</li> <li>- There are areas of repeated flooding along the New York State Barge Canal and at Fieldston Terrace, Blossom Road, and Edgevale Road.</li> </ul>
	East Rochester, Village of	8/28/2008	No	Digital	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None submitted

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Monroe (cont'd)	Fairport, Village of	8/28/2008	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There should be a new detailed study of Thomas Creek due to the canal spillway that flows into Thomas Creek near Water Street. The canal floods when the water levels are high in the creek.</li> <li>- There should be a new study of the stream that is piped under Winding Brook Drive. The culvert is not reflected on the current FIRM.</li> <li>- There should be a new detailed study of the New York State Barge Canal due to development in areas near the canal.</li> </ul>
	Irondequoit, Town of	8/28/2008	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There should be an updated detailed study of Lake Ontario due to changes in the shoreline from erosion along Windsor Beach.</li> <li>- There should be an updated detailed study of Irondequoit Bay. There is a 1.5 to 2-foot BFE difference from one side of the bay to the other. There is also a need for sand bagging near the Route 104 bridge to prevent flooding during higher lake levels.</li> <li>- Several culverts have been added or replaced, to include Densmore Creek.</li> </ul>
	Mendon, Town of	8/28/2008	No	Digital	N/A	Yes	No	No	No	None submitted

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Monroe (cont'd)	Penfield, Town of	8/28/2008	No	Digital	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new detailed study is needed for Thousand Acre Brook near the intersection of Whalen Road and Five Mile Lane. There has been development in this area and many homes experience flooding in the yards.</li> <li>- A detailed study is needed for the unnamed tributary to Thomas Creek. The Town has GIS data for this area. The tributary has a wide floodplain that needs BFEs.</li> <li>- An updated detailed study is needed for Irondequoit Bay due to bluff erosion.</li> <li>- There is a detailed study for Shipbuilders Creek in the Town of Webster, but the study ends at the municipal boundary. The detailed study should be continued into the Town of Penfield due to the level of development and flooding that occurs in this area.</li> <li>- A restudy is needed for Commission Ditch.</li> <li>- There have been several culvert and bridge replacements in the Town.</li> <li>- A USACE study along Irondequoit Creek was completed in the mid-90s but not included in the last map update.</li> <li>- There are several areas of new development throughout the Town.</li> </ul>

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Monroe (cont'd)	Perinton, Town of	8/28/2008	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The New York State Barge Canal needs a new detailed study due to development near the canal.</li> <li>- An unnamed tributary to Irondequoit Creek that is not mapped needs a new detailed study in the area along Golf Stream Drive due to significant development.</li> <li>- The unnamed stream that crosses Furman Road in the northeast corner of town needs a new detailed study due to flooding in the area.</li> <li>- The unnamed tributary to White Brook that is currently unmapped needs a new detailed study from Aldrich Road to Mason Road due to the high level of development in the area.</li> <li>- The unnamed stream near the intersection of Ayrault Road and Turk Hill needs a new detailed study due to the high level of development in the area.</li> <li>- Irondequoit Creek and the unnamed tributary to Irondequoit Creek in Mill County Park needs a new detailed study due to flooding in the area.</li> <li>- A restudy is needed on White Brook near Pannell Road and Wilkinson Road.</li> <li>- Mill Creek 2 is not mapped but is susceptible to flooding. It is mapped in two neighboring communities, but the study stops at the municipal boundary.</li> <li>- There are several areas of high development with unmapped streams: (1) West of Aldrich Road and East of Manson Road and (2) Baird Road and Hilltop Drive area.</li> </ul>

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Monroe (cont'd)	Pittsford, Town of	8/28/2008	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- East Branch Allen Creek needs an updated detailed study between the northwest corporate limits and Calkins Road due to recent construction of upland stormwater management facilities that may lower base flood elevations and a new larger culvert on Calkins Road. The floodplain boundary between Stone Road and Calkins Road does not match the topography of the area.</li> <li>- West Brook needs an updated detailed study from south of the canal to Kerrygold Way due to stormwater management facility improvement projects located near Tobey Road. These improvements serve to reduce flooding in the area. There is a portion of West Brook that is currently an approximate study from the canal north to the confluence with East Branch Allen Creek that should be updated to a detailed study due to development pressures in this area.</li> <li>- Tributary Number 1 to East Branch Allen Creek should have an updated detailed study due to new stormwater management facilities and newly constructed stormwater sewer improvements.</li> <li>- Mill Creek in the southeast corner of the town south of Van Voorhis Road remains an unstudied area and has the potential to be a flood hazard.</li> </ul>
	Pittsford, Village of	8/28/2008	No	Digital	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Village reported a change to the municipal boundary.</li> </ul>

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Monroe (cont'd)	Webster, Town of	8/28/2008	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mill Creek 1 needs an updated detailed study from the confluence with 2<sup>nd</sup> Unnamed Tributary to Mill Creek 1 to Orchard Road due to a culvert replacement on Imperial Drive.</li> <li>- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Unnamed Tributary to Mill Creek 1 needs an updated detailed study for its entire length due to the development of the Town Center Plaza on the upstream side of Route 104.</li> <li>- Shipbuilders Creek needs an updated detailed study from the southern corporate limits to Kelm Road due to the development of Empire Park and the residential development of Brookville Drive that occurred in the 1990s.</li> <li>- Fourmile Creek needs an updated detailed study for the entire length of the stream through the Town due to bridge replacements at two locations over the creek on County Route 4 and bridge replacements on State Road and Salt Road. There have also been developments of coastal and creek edge home and town houses along the creek.</li> <li>- The unnamed tributary in the area of Schlegel Road needs a new detailed study due to development in the area.</li> <li>- BFEs on Irondequoit Bay are 2 feet higher in the Town of Irondequoit than in the Town of Webster on the current FIRM.</li> <li>- A USACE study is available for Irondequoit Bay Outlet.</li> </ul>

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**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Monroe (cont'd)	Webster, Village of	8/28/2008	Yes	Digital	N/A	Yes	Yes	No	No	None submitted
Ontario	Victor, Town of	9/30/1983 3/30/1983	Yes	Paper	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	<p>- Ganaragua Creek needs an updated detailed study for its entire length within the Town due to the development of manufactured homes along the creek and frequent flooding.</p> <p>Mud Creek needs an updated detailed study from the confluence with Ganaragua Creek to the corporate limits of the Town due to commercial development near the creek.</p> <p>- There have been bridge and culvert replacements on Wagnum Road over Irondequoit Creek, along Route 251, and between I-490 and High Street.- Two portions of Town land have been annexed by the Village of Victor.</p> <p>- There is a dam along the unmapped reach of Great Brook just outside the Village limits.</p>
Oswego	Hannibal, Town of	6/18/2013	Yes	Digital	N/A	Yes	No	No	No	None submitted
	Hannibal, Village of	6/18/2013	No	Digital	N/A	Yes	No	No	No	None submitted
	Oswego, Town of	6/18/2013	Yes	Digital	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	<p>- Ninemile Creek Tributary No 1 needs an updated approximate study due to inaccuracies in the FIRM.</p> <p>- There is seasonal flooding along Rice and Snake Creeks.</p>
Wayne	Butler, Town of	7/9/1983 None	Yes	Paper		No	No	No	No	<p>- Wolcott Creek and Butler Creek need updated digital approximate studies due to the age and scale of the current study. The community officials find the current maps unusable for determinations.</p>

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Wayne (cont'd)	Huron, Town of	1/19/1996	No	Paper	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sodus Creek needs a new detailed study due to flooding and choke point along State Route 104. Route 104 will be widened by NYSDOT within the next five years.</li> <li>- Sodus Bay needs a new detailed study due to new development along the bay and conversion of summer cottages to year-round residences.</li> <li>- The county requested new approximate studies for Third Creek and Beaver Creek within the Town.</li> </ul>
	Ontario, Town of	6/1/1978 12/1/1977	No	Paper	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lake Ontario/Bear Creek Harbor needs an updated detailed study due to shoreline protection measures implemented in 2000.</li> <li>- The county requested new detailed studies for Bear Creek and Dennison Creek within the Town.</li> </ul>
	Red Creek, Village of	4/8/1983 None	No	Paper	N/A	Yes	No	No	No	None submitted
	Rose, Town of	3/9/1984 None	No	Paper	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sodus Creek needs a new approximate study due to seasonal flooding and a large flood event in the 1990s that caused damages. The Soil and Water Conservation District is also doing work along the creek.</li> <li>- There have been culvert replacements on Glenmark Road where Sodus Creek crosses it, along State Route 414, and Salter Road where an unnamed stream crosses it near North Rose Elementary School. A large portion of Salter Road has also been rebuilt.</li> <li>- There is a stream in the Winchell Street area north of Sodus Creek that will be re-trenched. Portions are under and above ground.</li> </ul>

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Lake Ontario (Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed) Study Area, New York*

**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Wayne (cont'd)	Sodus, Town of	6/2/1992 8/1/1977	Yes	Paper	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lake Ontario needs an updated detailed study due to inaccuracies depicted on the map. Houses east of Boller Point at the mouth of Sill Creek are shown as in the floodplain, but are 32 feet above the water. There is also coastal erosion of about 40 feet along Maxwell Bay where trees are down along the buff.</li> <li>- The county requested new approximate studies for Second Creek and Third Creek within the Town.</li> </ul>
	Sodus, Village of	None	No	None	N/A	N/A	No	Yes	No	None submitted. The Village has no floodplain maps and is not participating in the NFIP.
	Sodus Point, Village of	11/2/1977	Yes	Paper	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lake Ontario needs an updated detailed study due to shoreline changes from erosion of rates of up to 1ft/year in various locations along the shoreline.</li> <li>- First Creek needs a new detailed study for its length with in the community. The area at the mouth of the creek is the first to flood and the Village may have bathymetry data for this area.</li> <li>- The county requested a new detailed study for Maxwell Bay and Maxwell Creek within the Village.</li> <li>- Bathymetry data may be available along Lake Ontario.</li> <li>- The U.S. Coast Guard conducted a Sodus Bay dredging project two years ago.</li> <li>- Several houses are well above water and the BFEs are inaccurate on Shore Road.</li> </ul>
	Walworth, Town of	3/16/1983 9/16/1982	Yes	Paper	Nn	No	No	No	Yes	The Town needs updated studies for all of the streams due to the age of the studies and difficulty making determinations using the current effective maps.

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**Table 27: Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs (cont'd)**

County	Community	FIRM/FIS Effective Date	Submitted Data Worksheet and Mapping Needs	Current FIRMs Format (Paper or Digital)	Needs Captured in CNMS Database	Current Maps Accurate for Needs	Request for Training	Attended WebEx	Attended In-Person Meeting	Summary of Needs/ Map Update Justification
Wayne (cont'd)	Williamson, Town of	10/17/1978 4/17/1978	Yes	Paper	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lake Ontario needs an updated detailed study due to erosion along the shoreline. There has also been a shoreline revetment project at B. Forman Park with Wayne County.</li> <li>- A new approximate study is needed for the unnamed stream in the southeastern corner of the Town from Tripp Road slightly beyond Townline Road due to flooding in the area.</li> <li>- The county requested new approximate studies for Jack Creek and Mink Creek within the Town.</li> <li>- There is repeated flooding along the boundary with Sodus from unnamed tributaries of Salmon Creek, at Mason Farms, and in the southwest quadrant of town south of Ridge Road.</li> </ul>
	Wolcott, Town of	6/2/1992 None	No	Paper	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	- The county requested new approximate studies for Little Creek and Black Creek within the Town.
	Wolcott, Village of	7/6/1984 None	Yes	Paper	No	No	No	No	Yes	The Town needs updated studies for all of the streams due to the age of the studies and difficulty making determinations using the current effective maps.

N/A – Not applicable

## V. Risk MAP Projects and Needs

FEMA's Risk MAP allows communities to make informed mitigation decisions by providing products and technologies that communicate and visualize risks. Risk MAP also equips communities with the information and tools they need to develop effective mitigation.

### Coastal Studies

Coastal flood hazard analyses and mapping will be performed for some communities along the shoreline of Lake Ontario (Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Cayuga, Oswego, and Jefferson Counties). As part of the coastal analysis, engineering/work map mapping will be produced. This will include flood hazard analysis and work maps. Currently there is no scope of work for FIRM production.

Below is a summary of data that will be collected and analysis that will be performed:

#### 1) Creation of Bathymetric and Topographic Map Data Inventory

Topographic data for the coastal areas to be studied will be used for coastal analysis, floodplain boundary delineation, and/or testing of floodplain boundary standard compliance. The topographic data used will be based on the data collected as part of this Discovery process, and will depend on the date and accuracy of existing topographic data. Only topographic data that meet FEMA's standards and are of better quality than that of the original study or effective studies will be used. New topographic and bathymetric LiDAR, orthoimagery, and hyperspectral imagery will be used for the coastal study areas and will replace the existing datasets.

#### 2) Base Map Acquisition

Base map data for all counties, including data collected during this Discovery process as an initial inventory, will be assembled and organized. The necessary permissions from the map sources will be obtained to allow FEMA to use and distribute hard-copy and digital map products using the digital base map. Base map data must comply with FEMA's G&S.

#### 3) Coastal Flood Hazard Analysis

Response-based computational approaches outlined in FEMA G&S Appendix D.3, dated May 2012 (FEMA, 2012) will be used to perform coastal flood hazard analysis for the Lake Ontario shoreline and areas subject to coastal flooding. Coastal flood hazard analyses include some but not all of the following components:

- Wave setup;
- Erosion;
- Wave runup;
- Wave overtopping;
- Overland wave propagation; and
- Primary frontal dune identification (where applicable).

A transect-based approach for assessing coastal flood risks along Lake Ontario will be used.

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The 1.5-foot breaking wave height will be selected from the Wave Height Analysis for Flood Insurance Studies results and used to define the LiMWA as described in FEMA Procedure Memorandum No. 50, updated in 2012.

Coastal flood hazards will be mapped as outlined in FEMA's G&S Appendix D.3, dated May 2012 (FEMA, 2012). Flood hazard mapping will extend to the landward limit of coastal flooding as a result of waves and storm surge, whichever is more restrictive.

Coastal flood maps (or work maps) will be produced for the study area. The work maps will include the 1- and 0.2-percent-annual-chance SFHA, Coastal High Hazard (Zone VE) and Coastal A Zone (Zone AE), BFEs, and LiMWA. Communities will be provided with an opportunity to review the work maps after the coastal modeling is complete and prior to the official preliminary map release and the start of the regulatory review process.

## Mitigation Projects

During the Discovery process, FEMA, NYSDEC, and RAMPP met with the communities and discussed their recent and current mitigation projects. Based on the results of the Lake Ontario coastal study, the communities can determine if their existing projects and programs are adequate or if they would benefit from additional mitigation measures.

Technical assistance is available through Risk MAP to help communities identify, select, and implement activities to support mitigation planning and risk reduction. Activities could include (but are not limited to):

- Advising in the creation of initial HMPs;
- Advising in the update of existing HMPs;
- Training to improve a community's capabilities for reducing risk;
- Assisting in incorporating flood risk datasets and products into potential and effective community legislation, guidance, regulations, procedures, etc.;
- Assisting with creating, acquiring, and incorporating GIS data into potential and effective maps, planning mechanisms, emergency management procedures, etc.; and
- Facilitating the identification of data gaps and interpreting technical data to identify risk reduction deficiencies that should be corrected.

## Compliance

FEMA uses a number of tools to determine a community's compliance with the minimum regulations of the NFIP. Among them are CACs and CAVs. These tools help assess a community's implementation of its floodplain management regulations and identify any deficiencies and/or violations.

## Coastal Special Flood Hazard Areas

The Lake Ontario Coastal Flood Hazard study analysis may result in new SFHAs, which are defined as areas that will be inundated by a flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The 1-percent-annual-chance flood is also referred to as the base flood or 100-year flood. SFHAs labeled as Zone AE have been studied by detailed methods and show BFEs. SFHAs labeled as Zone VE are along coasts and are subject to

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additional hazards from storm-induced velocity wave action. BFEs derived from detailed hydraulic analyses are shown within these zones.

The NFIP shows coastal flood hazards in two different zones on its FIRMs:

- Zone VE, where the delineated flood hazard includes wave heights equal to or greater than 3 feet; and
- Zone AE, where the delineated flood hazard includes wave heights less than 3 feet.

These zones were discussed in greater detail during the Discovery meetings, as the updated coastal analysis results may show that these flood risks exist along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

During the Discovery process of this study, stakeholders were provided with information regarding NFIP requirements that are associated with coastal hazard zones, as well as information about new FEMA guidance related to moderate wave action. These topics, including coastal SFHAs, building requirements in VE Zones, and LiMWA are compiled in the following sections and discussed in greater detail.

## **Building Requirements in VE Zones**

The zone designation and the BFE are critical factors in determining which requirements apply to a building and, as a result, how the structure must be built. The minimum requirements for buildings constructed in Zone VE (Coastal High Hazard Areas), as set by FEMA regulations and New York State Building Codes are as follows:

1. The building must be elevated on pile, post, pier, or column foundations;
2. The building must be adequately anchored to the foundation;
3. The building must have the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member 2 feet above the BFE (New York State higher standard);
4. The building design and method of construction must be certified by a design professional;
5. The area below the BFE must be free of obstructions; and
6. Enclosures must be made of lightweight wood lattice, insect screening, or breakaway walls.

Communities participating in the NFIP that have mapped VE Zones must adopt floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed the minimum NFIP requirements described above.

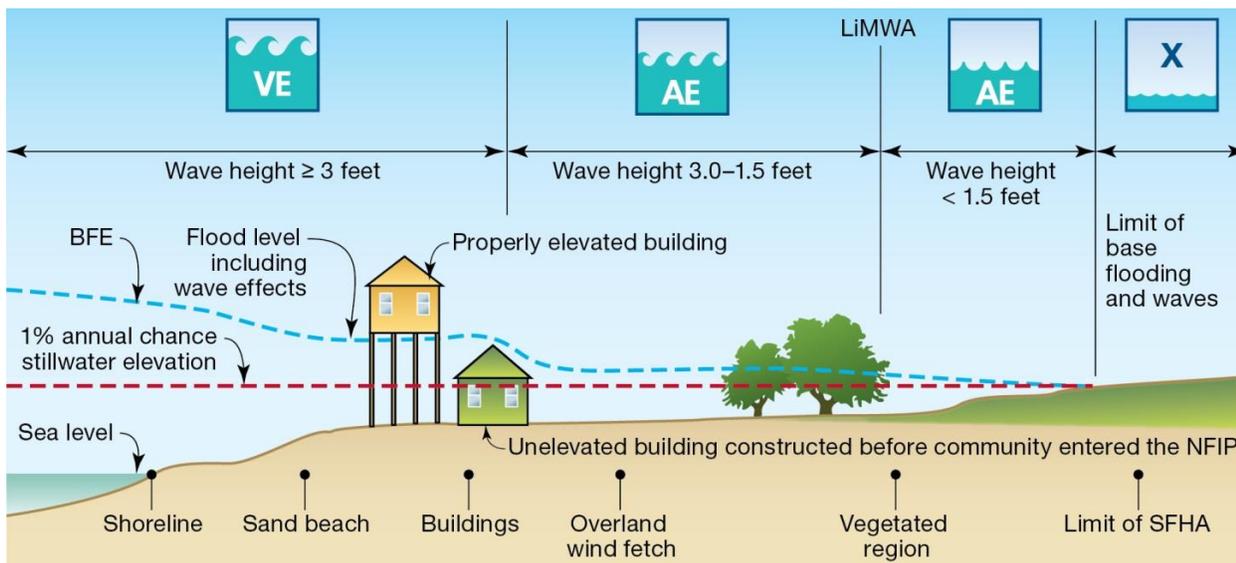
## **Limit of Moderate Wave Action**

Post-storm field investigations and laboratory tests have confirmed that waves as small as 1.5 feet can cause significant damage to structures that are constructed without consideration of coastal hazards. Additional flood hazards associated with coastal waves include floating debris, high velocity flow, erosion, and scour, which can cause damage to Zone AE-type construction in these coastal areas.

To help community officials and property owners recognize this increased potential for damage due to wave action in the AE Zone, FEMA issued Procedure Memorandum 50 in December 2008,

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as modified by Operating Guidance No. 13-13 Oct. 30, 2013, which provides guidance on identifying and mapping the 1.5-foot wave height line, referred to as the LiMWA. The LiMWA alerts property owners on the lakeward side of this line that although their property is in a Zone AE area, it may also be affected by waves 1.5 feet or higher. Consequently, it is important to be aware of the area between this waterward limit and the Zone VE boundary, as the area may face a high risk—though not as high as Zone VE. Figure 9 explains the LiMWA zone location.



**Figure 9: Limit of Moderate Wave Action**

A new line layer will be added to the FIRM Database to accommodate the LiMWA features. The new layer will be depicted on updated FIRMs as a black line with triangles that point toward the ocean side of the line. The LiMWA will be identified in the FIRM legend as “Limit of Moderate Wave Action,” and a note will be included in the “Notes to Users” section on the map panel to explain the LiMWA boundary.

Figure 10 is an example FIRM showing the delineated LiMWA. The area in Map A shows the delineation of the LiMWA in an area where the predominant coastal flood hazard is overland wave propagation. Map B shows delineation of the LiMWA in a region where the major coastal flood hazard is wave breaking and runup.

While FEMA does not impose floodplain management requirements based on the LiMWA, the LiMWA is provided to help communicate the higher risk that exists in that area. Because the 1.5-foot breaking wave in the LiMWA zone can potentially cause foundation failure, communities are encouraged to adopt building construction standards similar to those in Zone VE in those areas. For communities that do adopt Zone VE building standards in the area defined by the LiMWA, additional CRS credits are available. CRS credits can lower insurance premiums for residents and business owners. Additional information on CRS can be found online on FEMA’s [CRS webpage](#). Identification of the LiMWA does impact building code requirements. The Building Code of the State of New York references ASCE 24-05 for construction in a coastal high hazard zone.

Mapping the LiMWA provides community officials and other stakeholders with additional important flood risk details to consider when buying/developing, mitigating, or enforcing floodplain management regulations in coastal flood hazard areas.

Residents and business owners living or working in the LiMWA zone should be aware of the potential wave action along with floating debris, erosion, and scour that could cause significant damage to their property. They are encouraged to build safer and higher than the minimum local requirements in order to reduce the risk to life and property.

While the risk of damage is higher between the LiMWA line and the Zone VE line than it is in other parts of the coastal AE Zone, NFIP flood insurance rates currently do not differ from other AE Zone rates.

The Federal mandatory purchase requirement does apply in these zones, and property owners are encouraged to carry coverage equivalent to the replacement cost of their building and to include contents coverage.

For additional background information on the LiMWA, please refer to FEMA’s [Procedure Memorandum No. 50](#) and [Operating Guidance No. 13-13](#).

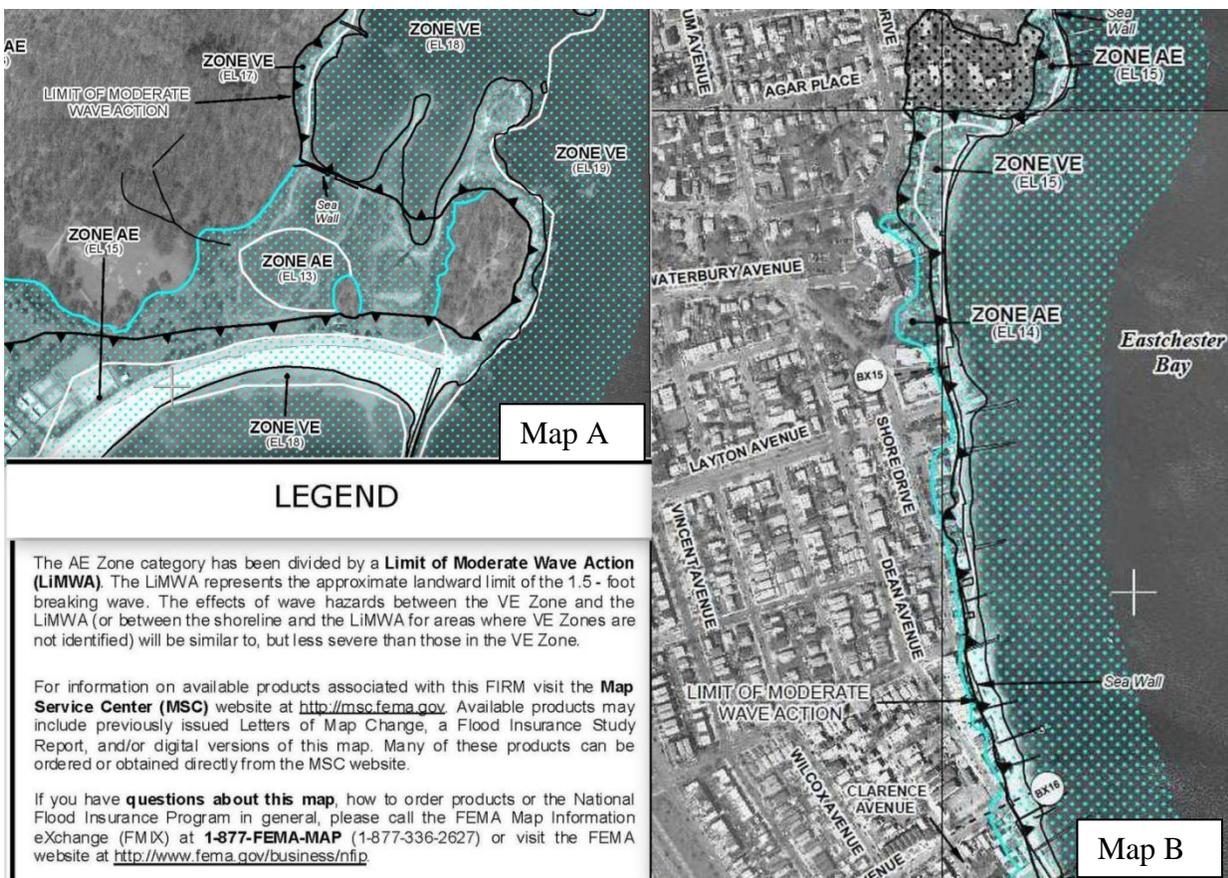


Figure 10: Example FIRM showing LiMWA

## Communication

Throughout this Discovery process, community representatives and local stakeholders indicated the need to be kept informed about the results of Discovery, the upcoming coastal flood study, and opportunities for public input throughout the study process. As a result of communication to date, several new stakeholders have been identified and added to the master contact database for this study.

## Unmet Needs

The Lake Ontario Discovery process did identify unmet needs. During many discussions with community officials, the need or want of a digital mapping product was raised. Several communities within Wayne County do not have digital maps and the information depicted on the maps is not current (location of flooding and roads). This makes mitigation actions and floodplain management difficult for those community officials. Monroe County noted a need for information and training related to SLOSH or other wave modeling programs to depict storm impacts along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

As noted in Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs*, municipalities have noted that their current flood maps are not accurate. The types of needs catalogued are further summarized in Section III: *Summary of Data Analysis*, subsection *Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) and NFIP Mapping Needs*. At this time, all identified needs have been included in CNMS and this Discovery Report.

## VI. Conclusion

Many but not all communities within the Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed have countywide effective studies, with the exception of communities in Wayne and Ontario Counties. The current FIRMs (or a lack of FIRMs altogether) makes floodplain management and mitigation difficult. At a minimum, digital products would assist the communities with their floodplain management. Communities have expressed concern with current mapping accuracy, paper and digital products, and lack of information to make accurate floodplain management determinations.

Monroe County provided the most CNMS requests for the watershed, followed by Wayne County. The majority of the requests are for updated detailed studies based on changes to the hydraulic condition and population changes or growth in the floodplain. Over 42 different stream extents have been included in the CNMS database.

Stream extents that have consistently been discussed as priority needs (as shown in Table 27: *Summary of Community Floodplain Mapping Needs*) and warrant updated studies include Allen Creek, Allen Creek Tributary, Bear Creek, Beaver Creek, Black Creek, Buckland Creek, Butler Creek, Commission Ditch, Densmere Creek, Dennison Creek, East Branch Allen Creek and a tributary, First Creek, Fourmile Creek, Irondequoit Bay, Irondequoit Creek, Jack Creek, Lake Ontario, Little Creek, Maxwell Creek, Mill Creek, Mill Creek 2, Mink Creek, New York State Barge Canal, Ninemile Creek and a tributary, Salmon Creek and a tributary, Second Creek, Shipbuilders Creek, Sodus Bay, Sodus Creek, Sterling Creek, Third Creek, Thomas Creek and tributaries, Thousand Acre Brook, West Branch Allen Creek, West Brook, White Book and a tributary, Wolcott Creek, and several other unnamed streams and tributaries. See Appendix O:

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*Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed Recommended Scope of Work* for a copy of this document. Summary notes of the information provided from the Risk MAP Worksheets and the in person Discovery meetings for each watershed can be found in Appendix N: *Watershed Summary Memorandums*.

In general, a particular emphasis on joining the NFIP's CRS program would benefit all watershed communities. There seems to be a great deal of misinformation and lack of communication as to what the CRS is, if a community is eligible for membership, and what level of effort is required to make the CRS beneficial for a community. Local communities may wish to consider pooling resources and efforts or working on a countywide-basis to ease the effort of complying with the requirements of joining the CRS program (e.g. Jefferson County).

The prevalence of new development planned across the watershed may be a challenge to effective floodplain management. Local officials need to be aware of the NFIP minimum building standards, and the more restrictive State Building Codes that apply to all construction in the SFHA. Information on the NFIP's building requirements in the SFHA can be found in NYSDEC's [\*Floodplain Construction Requirements in New York State\*](#).

## VII. Deliverables

### Communications

*Contacts*

*Stakeholders*

*Notifications/Invitations*

A. *Discovery Meeting Notification via emails (WebEx) and paper copies (in person meetings)*

B. *Meeting Notes distributed via email and through RAMPP website*

### Information Exchange

*Data Questionnaires*

### Discovery Meeting

*Agenda*

*Presentation*

*Sign-In Sheet*

*Discovery Meeting Map and other related Maps\**

*Meeting Minutes*

*Evaluations*

### Discovery Deliverables

*Report*

*Project Area Map*

*Final Discovery Map*

*Tabular Data, including Data Sources and Mapping Needs*

*Geodatabase\**

*CNMS Database Updates*

\*Due to file size, the Discovery meeting maps and CNMS database have not been included in the Discovery report. Maps and data are available through NYSDEC for review upon request.

## VIII. References

Federal Emergency Management Agency. <http://www.fema.gov>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Map Service Center. <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, HAZUS flood loss estimation. <http://www.fema.gov/HAZUS>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disasters, <http://www.fema.gov/disasters>.

FloodSmart, the official site of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). <http://www.FloodSmart.gov>.

National Committee on Levee Safety: <http://www.leveesafety.org/>.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: <http://www.dec.ny.gov>.

NFIP Reform: <http://www.fema.gov/bw12>.

Risk Assessment, Mapping and Planning Partners: <http://www.RAMPP-team.com/ny.htm>.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, State and County Quick Facts, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>, accessed November 2013.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Barrier Resources System. <https://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/habitat-conservation/coastal.html>

USGS National Water Information System: <http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/peak>.

## IX. Appendices

Due to file size, all appendices have been published as separate accompanying attachment to this report.

- Appendix A: Pre-Discovery Mailing List and Invitation Letter
- Appendix B: Pre-Discovery Stakeholder Meetings
- Appendix C: Kickoff Meeting Notes
- Appendix D: Other Stakeholders in the Watershed
- Appendix E: Discovery Meeting Agenda
- Appendix F: Discovery Meeting Sign-In sheets
- Appendix G: Discovery Meeting Presentation
- Appendix H: Discovery Meeting Data Worksheets and Stream Matrices
- Appendix I: Community Acknowledgement Letters
- Appendix J: Community Ordinances
- Appendix K: FEMA Hazus-MH Average Annualized Loss (AAL)
- Appendix L: Dams and Floodplain Structures
- Appendix M: FEMA Public Assistance Funding
- Appendix N: Watershed Summary Memorandums
- Appendix O: Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

## X. Attachments

### Attachment 1: Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference, FEMA Publication

When buildings undergo repair or improvement, it is an opportunity for local floodplain management programs to reduce flood damage to existing structures. More than 21,000 communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). To participate in the NFIP, communities must adopt and enforce regulations and codes that apply to new development in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). Local floodplain management regulations and codes contain minimum NFIP requirements that apply not only to new structures, but also to existing structures which are “substantially improved (SI)” or “substantially damaged (SD).”

Enforcing the SI/SD requirements is a very important part of a community’s floodplain management responsibilities. There are many factors that local officials will need to consider and several scenarios they may encounter while implementing the SI/SD requirements. This Desk Reference provides practical guidance and suggested procedures to implement the NFIP requirements for SI/SD.

The Desk Reference provides guidance on the minimum requirements of the NFIP regulations. State or locally-adopted requirements that are more restrictive take precedence (often referred to as “exceeding the NFIP minimums” or “higher standards”).

The [Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference](#) can be found online on FEMA’s website.

## Attachment 2: Floodplain Construction Requirements in New York State, NYSDEC Information Sheet



# Floodplain Construction Requirements in New York State



*Second in a series of two brochures about the National Flood Insurance Program. The first is entitled Common Questions and Answers about Flood Insurance in New York State.*

## New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Water  
Bureau of Flood  
Protection and  
Dam Safety

625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-3504  
Phone: (518) 402-8185  
Fax: (518) 402-8082  
dowinfo@gw.dec.state.ny.us

*This brochure discusses basic standards governing construction in floodplains mapped under the National Flood Insurance Program in New York State.*

### Introduction

Floods occur when runoff from rain or snowmelt exceeds the capacity of rivers, stream channels or lakes and overflows onto adjacent land. Floods can also be caused by storm surges and waves that inundate areas along tidal or Great Lakes coastlines. Throughout history, floods have claimed uncounted human lives and devastated property, even destroying cities. Yet people continue to settle and build in floodplains, increasing the risk of property damage and loss of life.

### What is a floodplain?

Floodplains are low-lying lands next to rivers and streams. When left in a natural state, floodplain systems store and dissipate floods without adverse impacts on humans, buildings, roads and other infrastructure. Natural floodplains add to our quality of life by providing open space, habitat for wildlife, fertile land for agriculture, and opportunities for fishing, hiking and biking.

Floodplains can be viewed as a type of natural infrastructure that can provide a safety zone between people and the damaging waters of a flood. But more and more buildings, roads, and parking lots are being built where forests and meadows used to be, which decreases the land's natural ability to store and absorb water. Coupled with changing weather patterns, this construction can make floods more severe and increase everyone's chance of being flooded.

### What is the National Flood Insurance Program?

The National Flood Insurance Program is a federal program created in 1968 to provide flood insurance to people who live in areas with the greatest risk of flooding, called Special Flood Hazard Areas. The program provides an alternative to disaster assistance and reduces the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. The program provides flood insurance, while at the same time encouraging the sensible management and use of floodplains to reduce flood damage.

The National Flood Insurance Program offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters and business owners, provided their communities use the program's strategies for reducing flood risk, including adopting and enforcing floodplain

Page 1

management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. Community participation in the National Flood Insurance Program is voluntary. However, flood insurance and many kinds of federal disaster assistance are not available in communities that do not participate in the program. Fortunately, in New York, 1,466 communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Each participating community has a local law for flood damage prevention that contains specific standards for any development in federally mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas. These areas have a one percent or greater chance of experiencing a flood in any year and are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

### ***Construction Questions***

All communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program have a local law or ordinance that regulates development within mapped floodplains. The basic standards are contained below. However, anybody who wishes to develop any area within a floodplain should consult with their local floodplain manager, often a building inspector or zoning officer, for specific requirements.

**Q. What areas are subject to construction regulations?**

- A.** All development within Special Flood Hazard Areas is subject to floodplain development regulations. The Special Flood Hazard Area is the area that would be inundated by the 100-year flood, better thought of as an area that has a one percent *or greater* chance of experiencing a flood in any single year. Special Flood Hazard Areas are shown on federal flood maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps, as shaded areas labeled with the letter "A" or "V" sometimes followed by a number or letter.
- "V" zones are coastal flood hazard zones subject to wave runup in addition to storm surge.
  - "A" zones include all other special flood hazard areas.
  - "VE" zones, "AE" zones, "V" zones, or "A" zones followed by a number are areas with specific flood elevations, known as Base Flood Elevations.
  - A zone with the letter "A" or "V" by itself is an approximately studied flood hazard area without a specific flood elevation.
  - Within an "AE" zone or a numbered "A" zone, there may be an area known as the "regulatory floodway," which is the channel of a river and adjacent land areas which must be reserved to discharge the 100-year flood without causing a rise in flood elevations.

The floodway is shown either on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map or on a separate "Flood Boundary and Floodway" map for maps published before about 1988. Within regulatory floodways, more stringent development controls exist than elsewhere in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Q. What is the "base flood elevation?"**

- A.** It is the elevation that the one hundred-year flood, better thought of as the flood that has a one percent or greater chance of occurring in any given year, rises to. It is the basic standard for floodplain development, used to determine the required elevation of the lowest floor of any new or substantially improved structure.

**Q. What type of development is subject to construction regulations?**

- A.** All development, including buildings and other structures, mining, dredging, filling, paving, excavation, drilling, or storage of equipment or materials is subject to construction regulations if it occurs within a Special Flood Hazard Area.

- Q. Who regulates development in a Special Flood Hazard Area?**  
**A.** In New York State, local communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program regulate development in Special Flood Hazard Areas. An exception is development funded and undertaken by the state or federal government, which is regulated by the responsible agency, subject to technical assistance by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Nearly all New York communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. A community is defined as a town, city or village. Each participating community in the state has a designated floodplain administrator. This is usually the building inspector or code enforcement official.
- Q. Who must get local floodplain development permits?**  
**A.** Private development is subject to local floodplain development permits. In addition, New York State Environmental Conservation Law states that local laws or ordinances passed to qualify for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program shall apply to any development undertaken within the community by any *county, city, town, village, school district or public improvement district*.
- Q. When is a structure covered by floodplain development regulations?**  
**A.** Any new structure or structure that is substantially improved or substantially damaged by any cause is subject to floodplain development regulations. Substantial improvement or damage occurs when the improvement or the value of the damage exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure.
- Q. What are the standard development requirements within a coastal “V” zone?**  
**A.** New construction and substantial improvement or substantially damaged structures must be elevated on pilings, columns or sheer walls such that the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member supporting the lowest elevated floor is elevated to or above the base flood elevation (plus two feet beginning in 2007). Detailed standards exist regarding how to elevate the structure.
- Q. What are the standard development requirements within an “A” zone?**  
**A.** When there is a base flood elevation available, the lowest floor *including any basement*, must be at or above the base flood elevation (plus two feet beginning in 2007). Elevation may be by means of properly compacted fill, a solid slab foundation, or a “crawl space” foundation which contains permanent openings to let flood waters in and out. Non-residential structures may be flood proofed in lieu of elevation.
- Q. What if there is no base flood elevation?**  
**A.** In most New York communities, new structures must have the lowest floor three feet or more above the highest adjacent grade. Where a local floodplain administrator has information to estimate a base flood elevation, such as historic flood records or a hydraulic study, that elevation must be used. If the development consists of more than 5 acres or more than 50 lots, the permit applicant must develop a base flood elevation and build accordingly.
- Q. What about a building’s utilities?**  
**A.** Machinery and equipment servicing a building must be elevated to or above the base flood elevation.
- Q. What are the requirements within a regulatory floodway?**  
**A.** No development is allowed unless the developer has first proven that the development will not increase flood elevations at any location during the 100-year flood.

**Q. May a local community pass more restrictive standards?**

**A.** Yes. In fact, local communities are encouraged to provide an extra margin of safety by requiring structures to be elevated above the base flood elevation. Always check with your local community to find out what their standards are.

**Q. How does building elevation effect flood insurance?**

**A.** Flood insurance for a house built two or more feet above the base flood elevation will cost about half as much as for a house built to the base flood elevation. Flood insurance for a house built just one foot below the base flood elevation will cost about four times more than for a house built to the base flood elevation. This additional cost could mean tens of thousands of dollars over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

**Q. Where can I get more information?**

**A.** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is the state's National Flood Insurance Program coordinating agency. Local officials, developers, and the public may contact the DEC for technical assistance and guidance in all matters associated with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Contact the DEC at the following numbers:

**Central Office:** 518-402-8285  
**Region 1:** 631-444-0423  
**Region 2:** 718-482-4946  
**Region 3:** 845-256-3020  
**Region 4:** 518-357-2379  
**Region 5 North:** 518-897-1243  
**Region 5 South:** 518-623-1221  
**Region 6:** 315-793-2358  
**Region 7 North:** 315-426-7501  
**Region 7 South:** 607-775-2545 x121  
**Region 8 North:** 585-226-5446  
**Region 8 South:** 607-739-0809  
**Region 9:** 716-851-7070



Attachment 3: *Levee Certification vs. Accreditation,*  
FEMA Fact Sheet



# Levee Certification vs. Accreditation

## What is Levee Certification?

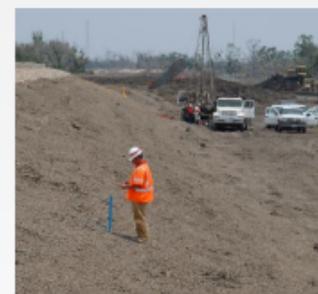
Levee certification is the process that deals specifically with the design and physical condition of the levee, and is the responsibility of the levee owner or community in charge of the levee's operations and maintenance. Certification must be completed for the levee to be eligible for accreditation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Certification consists of documentation, signed and sealed by a registered Professional Engineer, as defined in Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR), Section 65.2. This documentation must state the following:

- The levee meets the requirements of 44 CFR, Section 65.10
- The data is accurate to the best of the certifier's knowledge
- The analyses are performed correctly and in accordance with sound engineering practices

This documentation is provided to FEMA to demonstrate that a registered Professional Engineer certified the levee, and meets the specific criteria and standards to provide risk reduction from at least the one-percent-annual-chance flood. Once the levee meets the other requirements of 44 CFR 65.10, FEMA can accredit the levee and show the area behind it as being a moderate-risk area on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). If a community or levee owner wants the area behind a levee to be shown as reducing risk from the one-percent-annual-chance flood, they must first complete the process for having the levee certified.

## How is a Levee Certified?

To certify a levee, the community or levee owner must work with a licensed engineer or a Federal agency responsible for levee design to develop and certify documentation that the levee meets design construction standards for at least the one-percent-annual-chance flood. *Levee certification does not warrant or guarantee performance*, and it is the responsibility of the levee owner to ensure the levee is being maintained and operated properly.



### Levees

FEMA defines a levee as a "man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide a level of protection from temporary flooding."

Levees reduce the risk of flooding, but do not eliminate all flood risk. As levees age, their ability to reduce this risk can change and regular maintenance is required to retain this critical ability. In serious flood events, levees can fail or be overtopped and, when this happens, the flooding that follows can be catastrophic.

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## What is Accreditation?

A levee cannot be accredited until the certification process is completed. FEMA accredits a levee as providing adequate risk reduction on the FIRM if the certification and adopted operation and maintenance plan provided by the levee owner are confirmed to be adequate. An operations and maintenance plan specifies key operating parameters and limits, maintenance procedures and schedules, and documentation methods. FEMA's accreditation is not a health and safety standard – it only affects insurance and building requirements.

An area impacted by an accredited levee is shown as a moderate-risk area, and is labeled Zone X (shaded) on a FIRM. In this case, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplain management regulations do not have a mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement. However, FEMA recommends the purchase of flood insurance due to the risk of flooding from potential levee failure or overtopping.

If the levee is not accredited, the area will be mapped as a high-risk area, known as a Special Flood Hazard Area, or SFHA. In this case, the NFIP floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the federal mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies.

## FEMA's Role

FEMA does not own, operate, maintain, inspect, or certify levees. FEMA's role is limited to identifying and mapping the level of flood risk associated with levees and only accredits them where data showing compliance with 44 CFR 65.10 is provided by the community, levee owner, or other interested parties. FEMA has a responsibility to the public to identify the risks associated with levees that are either not certified or no longer compliant with 44 CFR 65.10. Areas behind non-accredited levees will be shown on FIRMs as a high-risk floodplain.

## What is a Provisionally Accredited Levee or PAL?

FEMA created the PAL designation to facilitate the certification and accreditation process for communities unable to readily provide certification documents, but who reasonably expect levees in the community to provide one-percent-annual-chance flood risk reduction. A PAL is a designation for a levee that FEMA previously accredited on an effective FIRM, and is now awaiting certified data and/or documentation to show the levee remains compliant with NFIP regulations. Levees with structural deficiencies are not eligible for the PAL designation. However, a PAL may include a 12-month period for the correction of maintenance deficiencies.

A community or levee owner's failure to provide full documentation of the status of a levee does not mean the levee doesn't provide the designated level of risk reduction. However, it does impact how the levee will be mapped on a FIRM because it will be de-accredited, and the impacted area will be mapped as an SFHA.

Before FEMA will apply the PAL designation to a levee, the community or levee owner must sign and return an agreement that indicates the data and documentation required for accreditation will be provided within 24 months or less. The procedures for PALs are clarified and documented in



FEMA Procedure Memorandum No. 43, *Guidelines for Identifying Provisionally Accredited Levees*.

## For More Information

Living with levees is a shared responsibility. It is important for both levee owners and those who live and work near levees to understand the risk associated with levees. FEMA has a number of resources available for further information about levees, including the certification and accreditation process. Below are links to additional information:

- A levee-specific webpage has been set up on the FEMA.gov Web site. Please visit <http://www.fema.gov/levees> for additional information on levees.
- For additional information on levees, please visit: [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv\\_intro.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv_intro.shtm).
- For additional information on NFIP criteria for accrediting levees, visit: [www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2517](http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2517).
- For more background on Provisionally Accredited Levees, download the fact sheet at: [www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1987](http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1987).
- For more specific information regarding levee construction and restoration, visit: [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv\\_conres.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv_conres.shtm).
- For additional information on Procedure Memorandums visit: [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/gs\\_memos.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/gs_memos.shtm).

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## Attachment 4: *LOMA-LOMR-F*, FEMA Fact Sheet



## How to Request a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

For general information, interested parties can contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange at, either by telephone, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627), or by e-mail via the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fmc\\_main.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fmc_main.shtm).

The forms and other documents referenced in this flier are also available from the "Forms, Documents, and Software" portion of the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fmc\\_main.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fmc_main.shtm).

For copies of effective National Flood Insurance Program maps and reports, interested parties can contact the FEMA Map Service Center, either by telephone, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP, or via the FEMA website at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov).

- FLOOD
- INSURANCE
- HAZUS
- HURRICANE
- DAMS/LEVEES
- PLANNING

### WHAT IS A LOMA OR A LOMR-F?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) applies rigorous standards to develop Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and uses the most accurate hazard information available. However, limitations in the scale or topographic detail of the source maps used to prepare a FIRM may cause small elevated areas to be included in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). SFHAs are high-risk areas subject to inundation by the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood; they are also referred to as 1-percent-annual-chance floodplains, base floodplains, or 100-year floodplains.

To change the flood hazard designation for properties in these areas, FEMA has established the LOMA process for properties on natural high ground and the LOMR-F process for properties elevated by the placement of fill. LOMAs and LOMR-Fs are letter determinations that officially amend an effective FIRM. They can establish that a property is not in an SFHA and, by doing so, remove the Federal flood insurance requirement.

### OBTAINING A LOMA OR LOMR-F

A LOMA application form can be downloaded from the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl\\_mt-ez.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl_mt-ez.shtm). FEMA does not charge a fee to review a LOMA request, but requesters are responsible for providing the required mapping and survey information specific to their property. For FEMA to remove a structure from the SFHA through the LOMA process, Federal regulations require the Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) elevation, the lowest ground touching the structure, to be at or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). The exception to this requirement is when the submitted property information shows that the structure is outside the SFHA; in this case, the property is referred to as "out as shown." If elevation information is required for the LOMA request, an Elevation Certificate may be available from the community, or one can be prepared for the requester by a licensed Land Surveyor or registered Professional Engineer.

If the property has been elevated by fill, the requester will need to use the LOMR-F process. For a LOMR-F to be issued, the LAG must be at or above the BFE, and community floodplain officials must determine that the land and any existing or proposed structures to be removed from the SFHA are "reasonably safe from flooding." FEMA charges a fee for the engineering review of LOMR-Fs. Fee information is located at [http://www.fema.gov/fhm/fm\\_fees.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fhm/fm_fees.shtm). In addition, the requester is responsible for providing all supporting information. The application forms for a LOMR-F request or for LOMA requests involving multiple residential lots or structures are available on the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl\\_mt-1.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl_mt-1.shtm).

Please send completed application forms to the attention of the LOMA Manager at the LOMC Clearinghouse, 6730 Santa Barbara Court, Elkridge, MD 21075.

## How to Request a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F)

### WHAT IF NO BFES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED?

In some instances, BFEs for a certain SFHA have not yet been determined. FEMA will attempt to calculate the BFE when a LOMA application is submitted for properties of less than 50 lots or 5 acres. Sometimes, a BFE can be developed from sources such as U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle maps. If that information is not available, the property owner will be asked to supply a survey for the property with the information necessary to allow FEMA to develop a site-specific BFE. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations require that the requester determine the BFEs for properties larger than 50 lots or 5 acres. A variety of computational methods can be employed to determine BFEs, but these methods can be expensive. Before computational methods are used, every attempt should be made to obtain information, in the form of floodplain studies or previous computations, from Federal, State, or local agencies. Data obtained from these agencies may be adequate to determine BFEs with little or no additional research, calculation, or cost.

The FEMA document *Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas, A Guide for Obtaining and Developing Base (100-Year) Flood Elevations* provides guidance on computing BFEs. This document, which can be viewed on the FEMA website ([www.fema.gov/pdf/fhm/frm\\_zna.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/fhm/frm_zna.pdf)), provides methods for developing BFEs, as well as a list of agencies that can be contacted to determine whether BFE data are already available.

### HOW WILL A LOMA OR LOMR-F AFFECT MY FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENT?

The Federal flood insurance requirement applies to structures in SFHAs that carry a mortgage backed by a federally regulated lender or servicer. If you have a LOMA or LOMR-F proving that your property is not in the SFHA, the mandatory Federal flood insurance requirement no longer applies. However, your lender still has the prerogative to require flood insurance as a condition of the loan. Even if your lender requires flood insurance, however, premiums are lower for structures outside the SFHA.

If FEMA issues a LOMA or LOMR-F and your lender agrees to waive the flood insurance requirement, you may be entitled to a refund of the premium paid for the current policy year. To cancel your policy, you can submit a copy of the LOMA or LOMR-F and the lender's waiver to your flood insurance agent or broker. The agent will send these documents and a completed cancellation form to the appropriate insurance provider.

It is important to note that approximately 30 percent of all flood insurance claims occur in areas designated as moderate or minimal flood risk. Therefore, not having a flood insurance policy could have disastrous consequences, leaving you with no financial protection from future flood losses. FEMA recommends flood insurance coverage, even if it is not required by law or a lender. The good news is that you may be eligible to pay much less for flood insurance coverage if your property is removed from the SFHA.

### Quick Facts

**LOMA requests involving one or more structures:** the LAG must be at or above the BFE.

**LOMR-F requests:** the LAG must be at or above the BFE, and community floodplain officials must determine that the land and any existing or proposed structures to be removed from the SFHA are "reasonably safe from flooding."

**LOMA requests involving one or more lots:** the lowest point on each lot must be at or above the BFE.

**Review and processing fee:** FEMA does not charge a fee to review a LOMA request, but there is a fee for the engineering review of LOMR-Fs.

**Required information:** the requester is responsible for providing all the information needed for the review, including (if necessary) elevation information certified by a licensed Land Surveyor or registered Professional Engineer.

## Attachment 5: *Joining the CRS Program, FEMA Fact Sheet*

## Joining the Community Rating System

**What it is:** The Community Rating System (CRS) is a program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It provides lower insurance premiums under the National Flood Insurance Program. The premium reduction is in the form of a CRS Class, similar to the classifications used for fire insurance. A Class 1 provides a 45% premium reduction. A Class 10 provides no reduction.

The CRS Class is based on the floodplain management activities a community implements. In many cases, these are activities already implemented by the community, the state, or a regional agency. The more activities implemented, the better the CRS class.

### Benefits:

- Money stays in your community instead of being spent on insurance premiums.
- Every time residents pay their insurance premiums, they are reminded that the community is working to protect them from flood losses, even during dry years.
- The activities credited by the CRS provide direct benefits to the community, including:
  - Enhanced public safety,
  - Reduction in damage to property and public infrastructure,
  - Avoidance of economic disruption and losses,
  - Reduction of human suffering, and
  - Protection of the environment.
- Local flood programs will be better organized and more formal.
- The community can evaluate the effectiveness of its flood program against a nationally recognized benchmark.
- Technical assistance in designing and implementing some activities is available at no charge.
- The community will have an added incentive to maintain its flood programs over the years.
- The public information activities will build a knowledgeable constituency interested in supporting and improving flood protection measures.

### Cost to the local government:

- The community must have a successful Community Assistance Visit.
- The community must designate a CRS Coordinator who prepares the application papers and works with FEMA and the Insurance Services Office (ISO) during the verification visit.
- Each year the community must recertify that it is continuing to implement its activities. It must provide copies of relevant materials (e.g., permit records).
- The community must maintain elevation certificates, permit records, and old Flood Insurance Rate Maps forever.
- The community must maintain other records of its activities for five years, or until the next ISO verification visit, whichever comes sooner.

May 2008

Attachment 6: *Coordinated Needs Managements Strategy (CNMS)*, FEMA Fact Sheet



FEMA



# Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS)

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program and provides reliable flood hazard data and maps for the United States. Floodplains are constantly changing, a characteristic that makes managing and mapping them a challenge. Updates to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) will always be needed because the physical environment, climate patterns, and engineering methods (PCE) may change. FEMA recognizes that mapping needs include areas where mapping has not occurred or where previously performed flood studies have been questioned because of one or more factors related to changes in PCE. An important step in maintaining FIRMs is assessing FEMA's inventory of floodplain studies to determine whether the conditions on the ground are still satisfactorily represented on a FIRM. Whenever the information on a FIRM is not representative of actual conditions, it is considered a mapping need and will be considered by FEMA for a new study. FEMA is mandated by the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 to assess all FIRMs once every five years to determine which ones need to be revised.

FEMA uses modern geospatial technologies and current FEMA policies, requirements, and procedures to coordinate the management of mapping needs in a comprehensive approach. This is referred to as the Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS). CNMS uses existing digital map data to inventory and manage flood map update issues and support FIRM revision and production planning activities.

The vision for Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) is to analyze and depict risk so that communities and the public can understand their risk and make informed decisions to safeguard their lives and property. The CNMS inventory contributes to the identification of risk in two important ways. The first is by indicating where the depiction of flood hazards on FIRMs has been validated through detailed assessment. The second is by showing which previously studied or unstudied floodplains inadequately represent flood hazards. In this way, CNMS leads to the improvement of flood hazard data.

## Additional Information

- CNMS is FEMA's strategy for coordinating the management of mapping needs using modern geospatial technologies and current policies, requirements, and procedures.
- CNMS makes information related to mapping needs readily accessible and more usable because the needs information is stored in a predictable, standardized, and digital format. CNMS reference materials are available through the FEMA Regional offices.
- For more information about CNMS please reference "Procedure Memorandum No. 56: Guidelines for Implementation of Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS):" <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4542>

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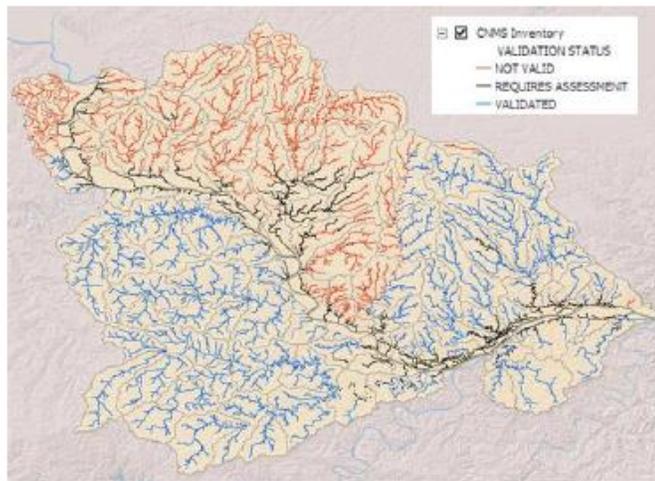
March 2011

[www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm\\_main.shtml](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm_main.shtml) • 1-877-FEMA MAP

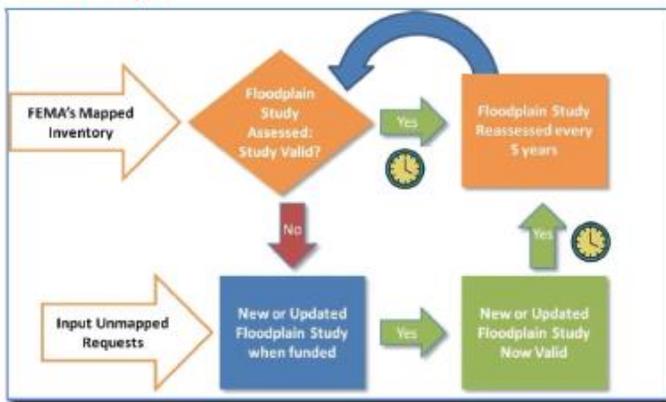
*Discovery Report:  
Lake Ontario (Irondequoit-Ninemile Watershed) Study Area, New York*

### Tracking of Engineering Analyses

One of the goals of CNMS is to assess the validity of engineering study data through a series of triage checks. The engineering study validation process evaluates whether or not there is an adequate level of flood hazard risk identified on a community's FIRM. The process evaluates the existing floodplain study against 17 possible change indicators that may have occurred since the date of the effective analysis, not the map date. These elements include changes in land use, new/removed bridges and culverts, and accounting for recent flood events captured by gage data. When a floodplain study is found to be deficient as a result of this validation process, it is labeled as "Invalid" in the CNMS database. FEMA utilizes CNMS to report New, Valid, or Updated Engineering (NVUE). NVUE metrics distinguish between engineering studies that adequately identify the level of flood hazard risk from those that are in need of restudy.



### CNMS Lifecycle



FEMA's mapped inventory will be managed by changing the validation status of existing floodplain studies, adding new study needs to the inventory, updating the status associated with studies in progress, and including new input and requests from communities. The changing validation status of existing floodplain studies is affected by PCE. The assessment of each floodplain study also has a limited shelf life. FEMA will be assessing the inventory of each community's floodplain studies every 5 years for as each floodplain study is to be re-evaluated or validated this frequency.

FEMA may choose to assess, restudy, or defer portions of their inventory dependant on available resources. Floodplain studies in CNMS that are determined to be 'Invalid' are eligible to receive resources for restudy based on annual production planning criteria and can identify that a study is planned or underway. For studies to go from 'Invalid' to 'Valid' status, they must be restudied. Requests for mapping of previously unmapped areas can be added to the inventory of studies and will, when completed, join the study reassessment schedule.

