9.3 TOWN OF ATHENS

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Athens.

A.) HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN POINT OF CONTACT

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Albert Salvino, Supervisor 2 First St Athens, NY 12015 (518) 945-1052 Email: toathensclk@mhcable.com	George Holsopple, Code Enforcement Officer Athens Town Hall 2 First Street Athens, NY 12015 (518) 945-1052 Email: toathensclk@mhcable.com

B.) TOWN PROFILE

Population

4,167 (estimated 2007 U.S. Census)

Location

The Town of Athens is located at the eastern end of Greene County. It has a total area of 28.8 square miles, of which 26.2 square miles is land and 2.6 square miles is water.

Climate

Greene County, with all its municipalities, generally experiences seasonable weather patterns characteristic of the northeastern U.S. Warm summers are typically experienced, with occasional high temperatures and humidity. Midsummer temperatures typically range from about 68°F to 80°F (Fahrenheit). The winters of Greene County are long and cold. Winter high temperatures are usually in the middle to upper 20s°F, with minimum temperatures of 15°F expected. During the winter, temperatures are cooler than the temperatures in areas located near large bodies of water. Snow accumulates to an average depth of 68 inches each year.

Brief History

The Town of Athens was founded in 1815. Portions of the Towns of Catskill and Coxsackie were used to form the Town of Athens.

Governing Body Format

Five person elected Town Board, including Town Supervisor

Growth/Development Trends

No residential plans. NYS Empire Development Zone expansion underway, including rail yard expansion.

Per the Greene County Comprehensive Economic Development Plan 2007.

Potential Growth Areas	**Town and Village of Athens**
	Commercial /Office • Intersection of Route 9W and Schoharie Turnpike
	Commercial/Retail • Main Street, from Water Street to Warren Street: Encourage storefront commercial use and re-use historic structures. • State Route385 through the Village of Athens: Encourage the reuse of historic structures with retail and commercial use
	Light Industrial • The area designated as an Empire Zone in the vicinity of the Travco Industrial Park is targeted for light industrial uses.
	Waterfront District • The land abutting the Hudson River has been identified as a focus for waterfront development that includes parks and recreation, water-related businesses and activities such as marinas and restaurants.

C.) NATURAL HAZARD EVENT HISTORY SPECIFIC TO THE TOWN

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
Flood (Hurricane Diane)	DR-45	August, 1955	Not available
Flood (Hurricane Katie)	DR-52	October, 1955	Not available
Snowstorm / Extreme Cold	Not applicable	January, 1961	Not available
Extreme Cold	Not applicable	January, 1963	Not available
Extreme Cold	Not applicable	January, 1971	Not available
Flood (Tropical Storm Agnes)	Not applicable	June, 1972	$806,000 (countywide)
Tornado (F3)	Not applicable	June, 1974	$2,500,000 (countywide)
Extreme Cold	Not applicable	February, 1980	Not available
Flood	DR-792	April, 1987	$2,000,000 (countywide)
Severe Winter Storm	DR-801	October, 1987	Not available
Ice Storm	Not applicable	December, 1991	$385,000 (countywide)
Blizzard / Extreme Cold	EM-3107	March, 1993	Not available
Extreme Cold	Not applicable	January, 1994	Not available
Lightning	Not applicable	May, 1995	$20,000
Flood	Not applicable	October, 1995	$3,000,000 (countywide)
Blizzard	DR-1083	January, 1996	$160,000
Severe Storm and Flooding	DR-1095	January, 1996	$10,000,000 (countywide)
Snowstorm	Not applicable	March / April, 1997	$709,000
Severe Storm/Flooding (Hurricane Floyd)	DR-1295	September, 1999	$3,000,000 (countywide)

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
Severe Storms	DR-1335	May/September, 2000	$115,000
TSTM / Hail / Lightning	Not applicable	June, 2001	Between $370,000 and $400,000. Two houses caught fire. (countywide)
Snowstorm	EM-3173	December 2002 / January 2003	$29,000
Landslide	Not applicable	March, 2003	Not available
Snowstorm	EM-3184	February, 2003	Not available
Severe Storms, Tornado, and Flooding	DR-1486	July/August, 2003	Between $75,000 and $1,100,000 (countywide)
Flood (Hurricane Ivan)	Not applicable	September, 2004	Not available
Severe storms and Flooding	DR-1589	April, 2005	$1,300,000 (countywide)
Severe storms and Flooding	DR-1650	June/July, 2006	Not available
Snowstorm (Valentine's Day Storm)	Not applicable	February, 2007	Not available
Snowstorm (St. Patrick's Day Storm)	Not applicable	March, 2007	Not available
Severe Storms and Inland and Coastal Flooding (Nor'Easter)	DR-1692	April, 2007	Between $1,300,000 and $111,000,000 (may be inaccurate) (countywide)
Severe Ice Storm	DR-1827	12-13 to 12-31-08	Approximately $1,200,000 county-wide

Number of FEMA Identified Repetitive Flood Loss Properties: 0 [a]
Number of FEMA Identified Severe Repetitive Flood Loss Properties: 0 [a]

[a] Source: FEMA Region II, 2008.

D.) NATURAL HAZARD RISK/VULNERABILITY RISK RANKING

Rank #	Hazard type	Estimate of Potential Dollar Losses to Structures Vulnerable to the Hazard [a, c]	Probability of Occurrence	Risk Ranking Score (Probability x Impact)	Hazard Ranking [b]
4	Earthquake	$2,892,642 [e, f]	Low	10	Low
1	Flood	$4,051,000 [e]	High	54	High
3	Ground Failure	Not available [g]	Medium	24	Medium
1	Severe Storm	$636,946 [d]	High	54	High
2	Severe Winter Storm	$17,700,200 [d]	High	48	High

a. Building damage ratio estimates based on FEMA 386-2 (August 2001)
b. High = Total hazard priority risk ranking score of 40 and above
Medium = Total hazard priority risk ranking of 20-39
Low = Total hazard risk ranking below 20
c. The valuation of general building stock and loss estimates determined in Greene County were based on the default general building stock database provided in HAZUS-MH MR3 (R.S. Means 2006).
d. 500-year MRP structural value loss estimate only; does not include the value of contents. For severe winter storm, the loss estimate is 10% of total general building stock value.
e. Loss estimates for both structure and contents (500-year MRP for the flood hazard and 2,500-year MRP for the earthquake hazard).
f. Combined estimated losses for Town of Athens and Village of Athens.
g. 55.4% of the general building stock in the Town of Athens is exposed or located within the approximate landslide hazard area.

E.) CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section identifies the following capabilities of the local jurisdiction:

- Legal and regulatory capability
- Administrative and technical capability
- Fiscal capability
- Community classification.

E.1) Legal and Regulatory Capability

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances., Plans)	Local Authority (Y or N)	Prohibitions (State or Federal) (Y or N)	Higher Jurisdictional Authority (Y or N)	State Mandated (Y or N)	Code Citation (Section, Paragraph, Page Number, date of adoption)
1) Building Code	Y	N	Y	Y	1986
2) Zoning Ordinance	Y	N	N	Y	1986
3) Subdivision Ordinance	Y	N	N	Y	
4) NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (if you are in the NFIP, you **must** have this.)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Effective Date: 2/8/2008
5) Growth Management	Y	N	N	N	Planning
6) Floodplain Management / Basin Plan	N	Y	Y	N	
7) Stormwater Management Plan/Ordinance	Y	N	Y	Y	Highway Department
8) Comprehensive Plan / Master Plan/ General Plan	Y	N	N	N	1972, updated mid '80's and 2008
9) Capital Improvements Plan	N	N	N	N	
10) Site Plan Review Requirements	Y	Y	Y	N	1986 w/ Zoning Law
11) Open Space Plan	N	Y	Y	Y	As part of Comprehensive Plan
12) Economic Development Plan	N	N	N	N	
13) Emergency Response Plan	Y	N	Y	Y	Athens Town Board
14) Post Disaster Recovery Plan	N	N	N	N	
15) Post Disaster Recovery Ordinance	N	N	N	N	
16) Real Estate Disclosure req.	N	N	N	N	
17) Other [Special Purpose Ordinances (i.e., critical or sensitive areas)]	N	N	N	N	

E.2) Administrative and Technical Capability

Staff/ Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	Department/ Agency/Position
1) Planner(s) or Engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Y	Town of Athens Planning Board Volunteer Members--Not contracted
2) Engineer(s) or Professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Y	Code Enforcement Officer George Holsopple Town of Athens Employee, not contracted
3) Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	N	
4) NFIP Floodplain Administrator (if you are in the NFIP, you **must** have one.)	Y	George Holsopple, Code Enforcement Officer
5) Surveyor(s)	N	
6) Personnel skilled or trained in "GIS" applications	N	
7) Scientist familiar with natural hazards in the Town of Athens.	N	
8) Emergency Manager	Y	Town Supervisor Albert Salvino
9) Grant Writer(s)	N	
10) Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	N	

E.3) Fiscal Capability

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to use (Yes/No/Don't know)
1) Community development Block Grants (CDBG)	No
2) Capital Improvements Project Funding	Yes
3) Authority to Levy Taxes for specific purposes	Don't Know
4) User fees for water, sewer, gas or electric service	No
5) Impact Fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	Yes
6) Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Upon Referendum
7) Incur debt through special tax bonds	No
8) Incur debt through private activity bonds	No
9) Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No
10) State mitigation grant programs (e.g. NYSDEC, NYCDEP)	Yes
11) Other	

E.4) Community Classifications

Program	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS)	N/A	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	N/A	-
Public Protection	N/A	-
Storm Ready	N/A	-
Firewise	N/A	-

- N/A = Not applicable. - = Unavailable.

The classifications listed above relate to the community's effectiveness in providing services that may impact it's vulnerability to the natural hazards identified. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community's capabilities in all phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) and are used as an underwriting parameter for determining the costs of various forms of insurance. The CRS class applies to flood insurance while the BCEGS and Public Protection classifications apply to standard property insurance. CRS classifications range on a scale of 1 to 10 with class one (1) being the best possible classification, and class 10 representing no classification benefit. Firewise classifications include a higher classification when the subject property is located beyond 1000 feet of a creditable fire hydrant and is within 5 road miles of a recognized Fire Station.

Criteria for classification credits are outlined in the following documents:

- The Community Rating System Coordinators Manual
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
- The ISO Mitigation online ISO's Public Protection website at http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html
- The National Weather Service Storm Ready website at http://www.weather.gov/stormready/howto.htm
- The National Firewise Communities website at http://firewise.org/

F.) PROPOSED HAZARD MITIGATION INITIATIVES

Initiative	Mitigation Initiative	Applies to new or existing structures	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead Agency	Support agencies	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline
TAT-1A	Where appropriate, support retrofitting of structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Identify facilities that are viable candidates for retrofitting based on cost-effectiveness versus relocation. Where retrofitting is determined to be a viable option, consider implementation of that action based on available funding.	Existing	Flood, Severe Storm	2, 4, 11	Municipality (likely through NFIP Floodplain Administrator)	SEMO, FEMA	High	FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs and local budget (or property owner) for cost share	Long-term DOF
TAT-1B	Where appropriate, support purchase, or relocation of structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Identify facilities that are viable candidates for relocation based on cost-effectiveness versus retrofitting. Where relocation is determined to be a viable option, consider implementation of that action based on available funding.	Existing	Flood, Severe Storm	2, 4, 11	Municipality (likely through NFIP Floodplain Administrator)	SEMO, FEMA	High	FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs and local budget (or property owner) for cost share	Long-term DOF
TAT-2	As appropriate, support participation in incentive-based programs such as CRS.	New & Existing	Flood	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	Municipality (likely through NFIP Floodplain Administrator)	SEMO, ISO, FEMA	Low - Medium	Local Budget	Short

Initiative	Mitigation Initiative	Applies to new or existing structures	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead Agency	Support agencies	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline
TAT-3	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 7.0	New & Existing	All Hazards	All Objectives	Municipality (through mitigation planning point of contacts)	County (through Mitigation Planning Coordinator), SEMO	Low – High (for 5-year update)	Local Budget, possibly FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding for 5-year update	Ongoing
TAT-4	Strive to maintain compliance with, and good-standing in the National Flood Insurance program.	New & Existing	Flood	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	Municipality (likely through NFIP Floodplain Administrator)	SEMO, ISO, FEMA	Low - Medium	Local Budget	Ongoing
TAT-5	Continue to develop, enhance, and implement existing emergency plans.	New & Existing	All Hazards	1, 7, 8, 9	Municipal Emergency Manager with support from County OEM and SEMO	County Emergency Management, SEMO	Low - Medium	Local Budget	Ongoing
TAT-6	Create/enhance/ maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	New & Existing	All Hazards	1,7,8, 9	Local Emergency Management, DPW and Roads	Surrounding municipalities and County	Low - Medium	Local Budget	Ongoing
TAT-7	Support County-wide initiatives identified in Section 9.1 of the County Annex.	New & Existing	All Hazards	All objectives	Local departments (as applicable for specific initiative)	County and Regional agencies (as appropriate for initiative)	Low - High	Existing programs and grant funding where applicable	Ongoing – Long-term depending on initiative
TAT-8	Consider/Implement Leeds-Athens Road Project . This project involves directing flood runoff created by an outflow from	Existing	Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm,	2, 3, 6, 7, 10,11	Town Highway Department	FEMA	$6231 Low	FEMA PDM or HMGP grant with	Short

Initiative	Mitigation Initiative	Applies to new or existing structures	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead Agency	Support agencies	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline
	drainage of the NYS Thruway, and diverting the runoff away from 8 residences and then into the Vosenkill Creek. This site has been an area of erosion and partial washout of the road, as well as driveways from clogged smaller culverts. Basements have also been compromised by the backed up flood water.		Ground Failure					local match from budget reserve	
TAT-9	Consider/Schoharie Turnpike Road Project .This project involves increasing the capacity of a portion of moderate stream as it passes under a major East-West roadway in the Town that takes the runoff from Hollister Lake, the source of drinking water for the Village of Athens.	Existing	Flood, Severe Storm, Severe Winter Storm	2, 3, 6, 7, 10,11	Town Highway Department	FEMA	$31,355 Low	FEMA PDM or HMGP grant with local match from budget reserve	Short

Notes: Short term = 1 to 5 years. Long Term= 5 years or greater. OG = On going program. DOF = Depending on funding. PDM = Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

G.) ANALYSIS OF MITIGATION ACTIONS

This table summarizes the participant's mitigation actions by hazard of concern and the six mitigation types to illustrate that the Town has selected a comprehensive range of actions/projects.

Hazard of Concern	Mitigation Type					
	1. Prevention	2. Property Protection	3. Public Education and Awareness	4. Natural Resource Protection	5. Emergency Services	6. Structural Projects
Earthquake	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-5, TAT-6, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7
Flooding (riverine, flash, coastal and urban flooding)	TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-4, TAT-7,	TAT-1, TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-4, TAT-7, TAT-8, TAT-9	TAT-1, TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-4, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-5, TAT-6, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7, TAT-8, TAT-8, TAT-9
Ground Failure	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7, TAT-8	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7, TAT-8	TAT-3, TAT-5, TAT-6, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7
Severe Storms (windstorms, thunderstorms, hail, lightning and tornados)	TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-4, TAT-7,	TAT-1, TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-4, TAT-7, TAT-8, TAT-9	TAT-1, TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-4, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-2, TAT-3, TAT-5, TAT-6, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7, TAT-8, TAT-9
Severe Winter Storm (heavy snow, blizzards, ice storms)	TAT-3, TAT-7,	TAT-3, TAT-7, TAT-8, TAT-9	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-5, TAT-6, TAT-7	TAT-3, TAT-7, TAT-8, TAT-9

Notes:

1. **Prevention:** Government, administrative or regulatory actions or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. These actions also include public activities to reduce hazard losses. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.
2. **Property Protection:** Actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.
3. **Public Education and Awareness:** Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and school-age and adult education programs.
4. **Natural Resource Protection:** Actions that minimize hazard loss and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.
5. **Emergency Services:** Actions that protect people and property, during and immediately following, a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities.
6. **Structural Projects:** Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, setback levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.

H.) PRIORITIZATION OF MITIGATION INITIATIVES

Initiative #	# of Objectives met	Benefits	Costs	Do Benefits equal or exceed Costs? (Yes or No)	Is project Grant eligible? (Yes or No)	Can Project be funded under existing programs/budgets? (Yes or No)	Priority (High, Med., Low)
TAT-1A	3	H	H	Y	Y	N	M-H*
TAT-1B	3	H	H	Y	Y	N	M-H*
TAT-2	9	M	L	Y	N	Y	H
TAT-3	11	M	M	Y	N (Yes for 5 year update)	Y	H
TAT-4	9	H	L	Y	N	Y	H
TAT-5	4	M	L	Y	N	Y	H
TAT-6	4	M	L	Y	N	Y	H
TAT-7	11	M-H	L-M	Y	Dependant on specific initiative	Dependant on specific initiative	M-H (dependant)
TAT-8	5	M	L	Y	Y	Y with grant	M
TAT-9	5	M	L	Y	Y	Y with grant	M

Notes: H = High. L = Low. M = Medium. N = No. N/A = Not applicable. Y = Yes.
* This initiative has a "Medium" priority based on the prioritization scheme used in this planning process (implementation dependent on grant funding), however it is recognized that addressing repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties is considered a high priority by FEMA and SEMO (as expressed in the State HMP), and thus shall be considered a "High" priority for all participants in this planning process.

Explanation of Priorities

- ***High Priority*** - A project that meets multiple objectives (i.e., multiple hazards), benefits exceeds cost, has funding secured or is an on-going project and project meets eligibility requirements for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) or Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) programs. High priority projects can be completed in the short term (1 to 5 years).
- ***Medium Priority*** - A project that meets goals and objectives, benefits exceeds costs, funding has not been secured but project is grant eligible under, HMGP, PDM or other grant programs. Project can be completed in the short term, once funding is completed. Medium priority projects will become high priority projects once funding is secured.

- ***Low Priority*** - Any project that will mitigate the risk of a hazard, benefits do not exceed the costs or are difficult to quantify, funding has not been secured and project is not eligible for HMGP or PDM grant funding, and time line for completion is considered long term (1 to 10 years). Low priority projects may be eligible other sources of grant funding from other programs. A low priority project could become a high priority project once funding is secured as long as it could be completed in the short term.

  Prioritization of initiatives was based on above definitions: Yes

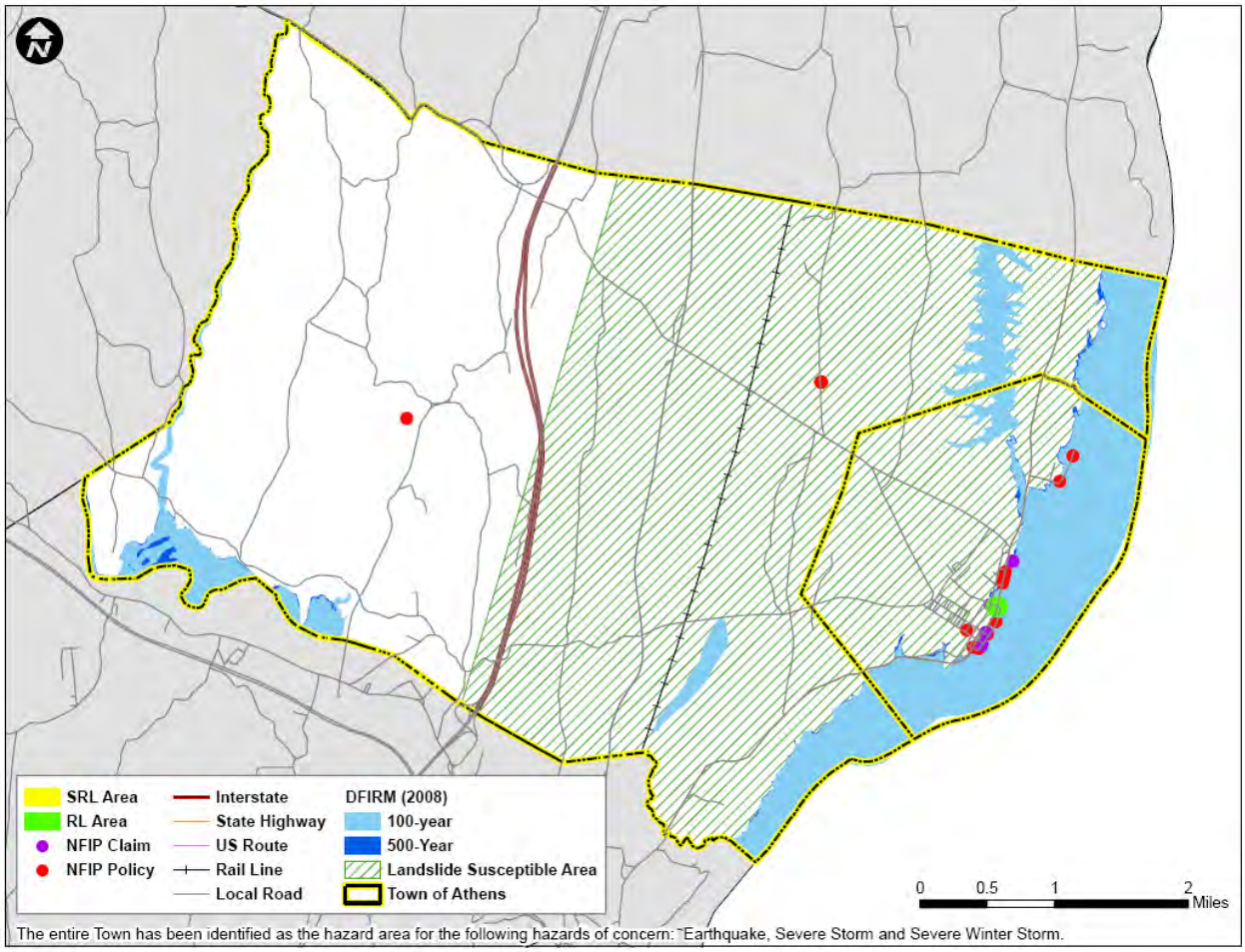
  Prioritization of initiatives was based on parameters other than stated above: Not applicable.

I.) FUTURE NEEDS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND RISK/VULNERABILITY

None at this time.

J.) HAZARD AREA EXTENT AND LOCATION

A hazard area extent and location map has been generated and is provided below for the Town of Athens to illustrate the probable areas impacted within the Town. This map is based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this Plan, and is considered to be adequate for planning purposes. Maps have only been generated for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies, and for which the Town of Athens has significant exposure. The county maps are provided in the hazard profiles within Section 5.4, Volume I of this Plan.



Sources: FEMA DFIRM, 2008; FEMA Region II, 2008; Greene County Planning and Economic Development, 2008; NYSDPC, 2008
Notes: DFIRM = Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map. NFIP = National Flood Insurance Program; RL = Repetitive Loss; SRL = Severe Repetitive Loss

K.) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

None at this time.