



6. TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS

This jurisdictional annex to the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) provides information to assist public and private sectors in the Township of Dennis with reducing losses from future hazard events. This annex is not guidance of what to do when a disaster occurs; its focus is on actions that can be implemented prior to a disaster to reduce or eliminate damage to property and people. The annex presents a general overview of Dennis, describes who participated in the planning process, assesses Dennis’s risk, vulnerability, and capabilities, and outlines a strategy for achieving a more resilient community.

6.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TEAM

The Township of Dennis identified primary and alternate HMP points of contact and developed this plan over the course of several months, with input from many Township departments. The Office of Emergency Management represented the community on the Cape May County HMP Planning Partnership supported the local planning process by securing input from persons with specific knowledge to enhance the plan. All departments were asked to contribute to the annex development through reviewing and contributing to the capability assessment, reporting on the status of previously identified actions, and participating in action identification and prioritization.

Table 6-1 summarizes Township officials who participated in the development of the annex and in what capacity. Additional documentation of the Township’s planning activities through Planning Partnership meetings is included in Volume I.

Table 6-1. Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Primary Point of Contact	Alternate Point of Contact
Name/Title: Adam Dotts, OEM Coordinator/Deputy Chief Address: 571 Petersburg Road, P.O. Box 204, Dennisville, NJ 08214 Phone Number: 609-425-4072 Email: adam.dotts@oceanviewfireco.com	Name/Title: Jessica Bishop, Administrator Address: 571 Petersburg Road, P.O. Box 204, Dennisville, NJ 08214 Phone Number: 609-861-9700 x225 Email: jbishop@dennistwp.org
National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Administrator	
Name/Title: Michael Morano, Construction Official Address: 571 Petersburg Road, P.O. Box 204, Dennisville, NJ 08214 Phone Number: (609) 861-9705 Email: eileen@dennistwp.org	
Additional Contributors	
Name/Title: Jason Dilworth, Construction Official Method of Participation: Assisted in worksheet completion and reviewing materials	
Name/Title: Jessica Ferrier, Technical Assistant to the Construction Official Method of Participation: Assisted in worksheet completion and reviewing materials	

6.2 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Township of Dennis is located within the northern section of Cape May County, New Jersey. It is bounded on the north by the Borough of Woodbine and Township of Upper, on the east by portions of the Township of Upper, the City of Sea Isle City and the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the Township of Middle, and on the west by Cumberland County, New Jersey and the Delaware Bay. It is part of the Ocean City Metropolitan Statistical Area. The township included the Dennis Creek community, the East and West Creek regions, the Southern portion of the Cedar Swamp, and the Seashore region between Townsend Inlet and Ludlam’s Bay. Today Dennis Township



includes the communities of Belleplain, Clermont, Dennisville, Eldora, Ocean View, South Dennis and South Seaville.

6.2.1 Governing Body Format

The governing body of the Township of Dennis, is structured as a Township Committee. This committee is responsible for the overall administration and governance of the township, ensuring that the needs and interests of the community are met. The Township Committee consists of several key officials, each with specific roles and responsibilities:

1. **Chairman:** leads the committee's efforts in overseeing the township's operations and making key decisions that impact the community.
2. **Members (4):** includes the responsibilities of the decision-making process and helps manage various aspects of the township's administration. As well, assisting in the governance and administration of the township, working together to address community needs.

The Township Committee works collaboratively to ensure the smooth functioning of Dennis Township. They hold regular meetings to discuss and address various issues, make decisions on policies, and oversee the implementation of township projects and initiatives. Their combined efforts contribute to the well-being and quality of life of the residents of Dennis Township

6.2.2 Population and Social Vulnerability

According to the U.S. Census, the 2020 population for Dennis was 6,285, a 6.6 percent of the County population.

Research has shown that some populations are at greater risk from hazard events because of decreased resources or physical abilities. These populations can be more susceptible to hazard events based on a number of factors including their physical and financial ability to react or respond during a hazard, and the location and construction quality of their housing. Data from the 2020 U.S. Census indicates that 7.7 percent of the population is 5 years of age or younger, 20.8 percent is 65 years of age or older, 0.5 percent is non-English speaking, 5.2 percent is below the poverty threshold, and 9.5 percent is considered disabled.

ALICE in Cape May County

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the County. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials.

According to 2021 Point-in-Time-Data from ALICE, 26% of the 48,860 households in Cape May County are ALICE households (on par with the state average of 26%). The median household income in Cape May is \$78,657, and the County sees a labor force participation rate of 57%. Cape May County faces low household income compared to the state average of \$89,296, along with a low labor participation rate of 57% compared to the state average of 66%. 8% of Cape May households live in poverty, which falls below the state average of 10%.

6.3 JURISDICTIONAL CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND INTEGRATION

Dennis performed an inventory and analysis of existing capabilities, plans, programs, and policies that enhance its ability to implement mitigation strategies. Volume I describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning. The jurisdictional assessment for this annex includes analyses of the following:



- Planning and regulatory capabilities
- Development and permitting capabilities
- Administrative and technical capabilities
- Fiscal capabilities
- Education and outreach capabilities
- Classification under various community mitigation programs
- Adaptive capacity to withstand hazard events

For a community to succeed in reducing long-term risk, hazard mitigation must be integrated into day-to-day local government operations. As part of the hazard mitigation analysis, planning and /policy documents were reviewed and each jurisdiction was surveyed to obtain a better understanding of their progress toward plan integration. Development of an updated mitigation strategy provided an opportunity for Dennis to identify opportunities for integrating mitigation concepts into ongoing Township procedures.

6.3.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability and Integration

Table 6-2 summarizes the planning and regulatory tools that are available to Dennis.

Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capability and Integration

	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
CODES, ORDINANCES, & REGULATIONS				
Building Code	Yes	Construction Code, Uniform, Chapter 80, March 14, 1977	State and Local	Construction Official
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? There is hereby established in the Township of Dennis a State Uniform Construction Code enforcing agency to be known as the "Department of Construction Inspection," consisting of a Construction Official, a Building Subcode Official, a Plumbing Subcode Official, an Electrical Subcode Official, a Fire Protection Subcode Official. The Construction Official shall be the chief administrator of the enforcing agency.				
Zoning/Land Use Code	Yes	Zoning, Chapter 185, August 12, 1996	Local	Township Committee
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? The purpose of this chapter is to establish a pattern for the use of land and buildings in the Township of Dennis, based on the latest updated Master Plan for the Township of Dennis and enacted in order to promote and to protect the public health, safety, comfort, convenience, and general welfare of the people. This Chapter encourages clustering as a method of developing residential dwellings that will preserve desirable open spaces, conservation areas and floodplains by permitting the reduction of lot sizes and certain other regulations hereinafter stated without increasing the number of lots in the total area to be developed.				
Subdivision Code	Yes	Subdivision of Land, Chapter 165, August 28, 1975 & amended July 15, 2013	Local	Township Committee
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? The purpose of this chapter shall be to provide rules, regulations and standards to guide land subdivision in the Township of Dennis and to implement the goals and objectives of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. It shall be administered to ensure orderly growth and development, the conservation, protection and proper use of land and adequate provisions for circulation, utilities and services in order to assure and promote the comfort, health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the municipality.				



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
Site Plan Code	Yes	Construction Code, Uniform, Chapter 80, March 14, 1977	Local and County	Township Committee

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?
 Dictated by the Municipal Land Use Law which sets forth minimum requirements for plans, etc., timeframes for development review. NJ Statute 40:27-6.2: The board of freeholders of any county having a county planning board shall provide for the review of all subdivisions of land within the county by said county planning board and for the approval of those subdivisions affecting county road or drainage facilities as set forth and limited hereinafter in this section. 40:27-6.10 In order that county planning boards shall have a complete file of the planning and zoning ordinances of all municipalities in the county, each municipal clerk shall file with the county planning board a copy of the planning and zoning ordinances of the municipality in effect on the effective date of this act and shall notify the county planning board of the introduction of any revision or amendment of such an ordinance which affects lands adjoining county roads or other county lands, or lands lying within 200 feet of a municipal boundary, or proposed facilities or public lands shown on the county master plan or official county map. Such notice shall be given to the county planning board at least 10 days prior to the public hearing thereon by personal delivery or by certified mail of a copy of the official notice of the public hearing together with a copy of the proposed ordinance. Site plan review is conducted by the Alternate Engineer.

Stormwater Management Code	Yes	Stormwater Control, Chapter 163, adopted by the Township Committee, May 4, 2006 and updated 2024	Local	Township Committee
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?
 As required by this Chapter, flood control, groundwater recharge, and pollutant reduction through nonstructural or low impact techniques shall be explored before relying on structural BMPs. Structural BMPs should be integrated with nonstructural stormwater management strategies and proper maintenance plans. Nonstructural strategies include both environmentally sensitive site design and source controls that prevent pollutants from being placed on the site or from being exposed to stormwater.

Post-Disaster Recovery/ Reconstruction Code	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Real Estate Disclosure Requirements	Yes	Senate Bill 3110; P. L. 2023, c. 93, July 3, 2023	State	Sellers and Landlords of commercial or residential property
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?
 For leases, the law amends the New Jersey Truth-in-Renting Act, N.J.S.A. 46:8-43 et seq., to require every landlord to notify in writing each of the landlord's tenants, prior to lease signing or renewal, whether the property is located in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area ("100-year floodplain") or Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area ("500-year floodplain") and if the landlord has actual knowledge that the rental premises or any portion of the parking areas of the real property containing the rental premises has been subjected to flooding. The law does not apply to (1) landlords who lease commercial space or residential dwellings for less than one month, (2) residential dwellings in a premises containing not more than two units, (3) owner-occupied premises containing not more than three units, or (4) hotels, motels, or other guest houses serving transient or seasonal guests for a period of less than 120 days.

The model notice is to contain the heading "Flood Risk" and questions for the landlord to answer regarding the landlord's actual knowledge of past flooding of the property. The questions regarding the property being in a FEMA Special or Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area shall not contain the option for "unknown." To determine how the questions are to be answered, FEMA's current flood insurance rate maps for the leased premises area must be consulted. The landlord will be required to answer whether the rental premises or any portions of the parking areas of the real property containing the rental premises ever experienced any flood damage, water seepage, or pooled water due to a natural flood event and, if so, the number of times that has occurred.



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
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The notice to residential tenants must also indicate that flood insurance may be available to renters through FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program to cover their personal property and contents in the event of a flood and that standard renter's insurance does not typically cover flood damage.

For sales, the law also amends the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., to require sellers of real property to disclose, on the property condition disclosure statement, whether the property is located in the FEMA Special or Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area and any actual knowledge of the seller concerning flood risks of the property to the purchaser before the purchaser becomes obligated under any contract for the purchase of the property.

The disclosure statement must contain the heading "Flood Risk" and ask the seller the following questions:

- Is any or all of the property in the Special Flood Hazard Area ("100-year floodplain") or a Moderate Risk Flood Hazard Area ("500-year floodplain") according to FEMA's current flood insurance rate maps?
- Is the property subject to any requirement under federal law to obtain and maintain flood insurance on the property? Properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to obtain and maintain flood insurance.
- Have you ever received assistance from, or are you aware of any previous owners receiving assistance from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, or any other federal disaster flood assistance for flood damage on the property? For properties that have received flood disaster assistance, the requirement to obtain flood insurance passes down to all future owners.
- Is there flood insurance on the property? A standard homeowner's insurance policy typically does not cover flood damage.
- Is there a FEMA elevation certificate available for the property? If so, it must be shared with the buyer. An elevation certificate is a FEMA form, completed by a licensed surveyor or engineer, that provides critical information about the flood risk of the property and is used by flood insurance providers to determine the appropriate insurance rating for the property.
- Have you ever filed a claim for flood damage to the property with any insurance provider? If the claim was approved, what was the amount received?
- Has the property experienced any flood damage, water seepage, or pooled water due to a natural flood event, such as heavy rainfall, coastal storm surge, tidal inundation, or river overflow? If so, how many times?

Not all provisions of this law have become effective at the time of the writing of this plan.

Growth Management	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Environmental Protection Ordinance(s)	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Yes	Flood Damage Prevention, Chapter 105, August 22, 2017	Federal, State, County and Local	Township Committee
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas accomplished by; a) Restricting or prohibiting uses which are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities; b) Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction; c) Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel flood waters; d) Controlling filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase flood damage; and, e) Preventing or



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards in other areas.				
Wellhead Protection	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Emergency Management Ordinance	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Climate Change Ordinance	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Other	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
PLANNING DOCUMENTS				
General/Comprehensive Plan	Yes	Master Plan – Land Use Plan, Township of Dennis, 2022	Local	Planning Board
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? Goal #5 of the Master Plan is to protect sensitive environmental areas from inappropriate development and to provide comprehensive protection for a broad range of natural resources. This appears to be the only goal directly related to environmental preservation and protection.				
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes	2025 Capital Improvement Plan	Local	Admin/ Finance
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? Capital Improvement Plan includes projects identified as mitigation actions.				
Disaster Debris Management Plan	Yes	TDMA Plan – Approved Jan 2022	Local	OEM
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? This plan has taken past hazard events and mitigation strategies (including actions) into consideration during its development.				
Floodplain Management or Watershed Plan	No	-	-	-
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?				
Stormwater Management Plan	Yes	Stormwater Control, Chapter 163, adopted by the Township Committee, May 4, 2006 and updated September 2020	Local	Public Works
How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk? This plan has taken past hazard events data and mitigation projects developed from mitigation actions into consideration.				



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	Yes	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, dated December 1, 2018	Local	Planning Board

This plan has taken past hazard events data and mitigation projects developed from mitigation actions into consideration.

Open Space Plan	No	-	County	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Urban Water Management Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Habitat Conservation Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Economic Development Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Community Forest Management Plan	Yes	Community Forestry Management Plan, December 15, 2015	Local	Environmental Commission
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

The goals of the Plan include; To maximize public safety relative to trees the Township manages through a proactive approach to tree care and management; To fully understand the magnitude of the tree resource for which Township employees are responsible for maintaining and also identify noteworthy trees on public and private land that lend character to the Township; To encourage Township residents to be good stewards of their tree resource; To encourage Township Employees to be good stewards of the Townships tree resource.

Transportation Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Agriculture Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Climate Action/Resilience/Sustainability Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Tourism Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?



	Jurisdiction has this? (Yes/No)	Citation and Date (code chapter or name of plan, date of enactment or plan adoption)	Authority (local, county, state, federal)	Responsible Person, Department or Agency
Business/ Downtown Development Plan	No	-	-	-

How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Other	No			
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

RESPONSE/RECOVERY PLANNING

Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	Township of Dennis Emergency Operations Plan	Local	OEM
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?
EOP for the Township takes into consideration response and operations strategy for all types of events, such as natural hazards identified in this HMP.

Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes	Township of Dennis Continuity of Operations Plan	Local	OEM
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?
This plan for the Township takes into consideration continuity of operations for all types of events, such as natural hazards identified in this HMP.

Substantial Damage Response Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

Public Health Plan	Yes	Township of Dennis Public Health Plan	County	County Public Health
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Public Health Plan has integrated natural hazards identified in this HMP in their plan.

Other	No	-	-	-
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How has or will this be integrated with the HMP and how does this reduce risk?

6.3.2 Development and Permitting Capability

Table 6-3 summarizes the capabilities of Dennis to oversee and track development.



Table 6-3. Development and Permitting Capability

	Yes/No	Comment
Do you issue development permits? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you issue development permits, what department is responsible? If you do not issue development permits, what is your process for tracking new development? 	No	Development permits are issued by the state.
Are permits tracked by hazard area? (For example, floodplain development permits.)	No	N/A
Do you have a buildable land inventory? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have a buildable land inventory, please describe 	No	N/A
Describe the level of buildout in your jurisdiction.	N/A	N/A

6.3.3 Administrative and Technical Capability

Table 6-4 summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to Dennis and their current responsibilities that contribute to hazard mitigation.

Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Resources	Available? (Yes/No)	Comment (available staff, responsibilities, support of hazard mitigation)
ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY		
Planning Board	Yes	Land Use/Planning
Zoning Board of Adjustment	No	-
Planning Department	No	-
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	OEM
Environmental Board/Commission	Yes	Environmental Commission
Open Space Board/Committee	No	-
Economic Development Commission/Committee	No	-
Public Works/Highway Department	Yes	Debris removal, cleanup
Construction/Building/Code Enforcement Department	Yes	Building and hazard evaluation
Emergency Management/Public Safety Department		Coordination, emergency response
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (stormwater maintenance, tree trimming, etc.)	Yes	Public Works conducts regular maintenance
Mutual aid agreements	Yes	Township Committee
Human Resources Manual - Do any job descriptions specifically include identifying or implementing mitigation projects or other efforts to reduce natural hazard risk?	No	-
Other	No	-



Resources	Available? (Yes/No)	Comment (available staff, responsibilities, support of hazard mitigation)
TECHNICAL/STAFFING CAPABILITY		
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Yes	Planning Board Engineer Mike Fralinger
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	Yes	Township Engineer Mike Fralinger
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Yes	Township Engineer Mike Fralinger
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	Yes	CFO
Professionals trained in conducting damage assessments	No	-
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS and/or Hazus applications	No	-
Staff that work with socially vulnerable populations or underserved communities	No	-
Environmental scientists familiar with natural hazards	No	-
Surveyors	Yes	Charles Adamson
Emergency manager	Yes	Adam Dotts OEM Coordinator
Grant writers	Yes	Consultants
Resilience Officer	No	-
Other (this could include stormwater engineer, environmental specialist, etc.)	No	-

6.3.4 Fiscal Capability

Table 6-5 summarizes financial resources available to Dennis.

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use? (Yes/No)
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG, CDBG-DR)	Yes
Capital improvement project funding	Yes
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes
User fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	No
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	No
Stormwater utility fee	No
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes
Incur debt through special tax bonds	Yes
Incur debt through private activity bonds	Yes
Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	No



Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use? (Yes/No)
Other federal or state funding programs	Yes
Open Space Acquisition funding programs	No
Other (for example, Clean Water Act 319 Grants [Nonpoint Source Pollution])	No

6.3.5 Education and Outreach Capability

Table 6-6 summarizes the education and outreach resources available to Dennis.

Table 6-6. Education and Outreach Capabilities

Outreach Resources	Available? (Yes/No)	Comment
Public information officer or communications office	No	-
Personnel skilled or trained in website development	No	-
Hazard mitigation information available on your website	Yes	The Township’s website posts information regarding important information and public notices and includes links to important hurricane and other disaster risk information.
Social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach	Yes	Website and Facebook
Citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation	No	-
Warning systems for hazard events	Yes	CodeRED, Warning Sirens
Natural disaster/safety programs in place for schools	Yes	School emergency plans
Organizations that conduct outreach to socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations	No	-
Public outreach mechanisms / programs to inform citizens on natural hazards, risk, and ways to protect themselves during such events	Yes	Township website

6.3.6 Community Classifications

Table 6-7 summarizes classifications for community programs available to Dennis.

Table 6-7. Community Classifications

Program	Participating? (Yes/No)	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS)	No	-	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	No	-	-
Public Protection (ISO Fire Protection Classes 1 to 10)	Yes	4- residential, 3-commercial	Unknown
National Weather Service StormReady Certification	No	-	-
Firewise Communities classification	No	-	-
New Jersey Sustainable Jersey Community	Yes	-	-
Other: Organizations with mitigation focus (advocacy group, non-government)	No	-	-



N/A = Not applicable
 — = Unavailable

6.3.7 Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity is defined as “the ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences” (IPCC 2022). Each jurisdiction has a unique combination of capabilities to adjust to, protect from, and withstand a future hazard event, future conditions, and changing risk. Table 6-8 summarizes the adaptive capacity for each identified hazard of concern and the Township’s capability to address related actions using the following classifications:

- Strong: Capacity exists and is in use.
- Moderate: Capacity might exist; but is not used or could use some improvement.
- Weak: Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement

Table 6-8. Adaptive Capacity

Hazard	Adaptive Capacity - Strong/Moderate/Weak
Dam Failure	Moderate
Drought	Moderate
Earthquake	Moderate
Extreme Temperature	Moderate
Flood	Moderate
Severe Weather	Moderate
Severe Winter Weather	Strong
Wildfire	Moderate

6.4 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

This section provides specific information on the management and regulation of the regulatory floodplain, including current and future compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The floodplain administrator listed in Table 6-1 is responsible for maintaining this information.

6.4.1 NFIP Statistics

Table 6-9 summarizes the NFIP policy and claim statistics for Dennis.

Table 6-9. Dennis NFIP Summary of Policy and Claim Statistics

# Policies	34
# Claims (Losses)	16
Total Loss Payments	\$1,036,011.27
# Repetitive Loss Properties (NFIP definition)	2
# Repetitive Loss Properties (FMA definition)	0
# Severe Repetitive Loss Properties (NFIP definition)	0
# Severe Repetitive Loss Properties (FMA definition)	0

NFIP Definition of Repetitive Loss: The NFIP defines a repetitive loss property as any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the NFIP within any rolling 10-year period since 1978.



FMA Definition of Repetitive Loss: FEMA’s Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program defines a repetitive loss property as any insurable building that has incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event.

Definition of Severe Repetitive Loss: A residential property covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and: (a) That has at least four NFIP claim payments over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000; or (b) For which at least two separate claims payments have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building. At least two of the claims must have occurred within any 10-year period, more than 10 days apart.

Source: FEMA, 2024

6.4.2 Flood Vulnerability Summary

Table 6-10 provides a summary of the NFIP program in Dennis.

Table 6-10. NFIP Summary

NFIP Topic	Comments
Flood Vulnerability Summary	
Describe areas prone to flooding in your jurisdiction.	There are two (2) marinas that are prone to typical coastal flooding.
Do you maintain a list of properties that have been damaged by flooding?	No, not at this time.
Do you maintain a list of property owners interested in flood mitigation?	No, none at this time.
How many homeowners and/or business owners are interested in mitigation (elevation or acquisition)?	None, at this time.
Are any RiskMAP projects currently underway in your jurisdiction? If so, state what projects are underway.	No, none at this time.
How do you make Substantial Damage determinations?	If the cost to repair the structure is 50% or more of the market value of the structure (excluding land) it is considered substantial damage.
How many Substantial Damage determinations were declared for recent flood events in your jurisdiction?	None, at this time.
How many properties have been mitigated (elevation or acquisition) in your jurisdiction? If there are mitigation properties, how were the projects funded?	None, at this time.
Do your flood hazard maps adequately address the flood risk within your jurisdiction? If not, state why.	Yes, the flood hazard maps adequately address flood risk within the Township.
NFIP Compliance	
What local department is responsible for floodplain management?	Construction Department is responsible for floodplain management.
Are any certified floodplain managers on staff in your jurisdiction?	Yes, there are floodplain managers on staff within the Township.
Do you have access to resources to determine possible future flooding conditions from climate change?	Yes, the Township has access to climate change resources.
Does your floodplain management staff need any assistance or training to support its floodplain management program? If so, what type of assistance/training is needed?	No, not at this time.



NFIP Topic	Comments
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services you provide (e.g., permit review, GIS, education/outreach, inspections, engineering capability)	Permit review; GIS, Education/outreach, inspections
How do you determine if proposed development on an existing structure would qualify as a substantial improvement?	If you're spending 50% or more of the structure's market value on the proposed development, it qualifies as a substantial improvement
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?	None, at this time.
Does your jurisdiction have any outstanding NFIP compliance violations that need to be addressed? If so, state the violations.	No, not at this time.
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?	Unknown.
What is the local law number or municipal code of your flood damage prevention ordinance?	Chapter 105 of the township code
What is the date that your flood damage prevention ordinance was last amended?	August 22, 2017
Does your floodplain management program meet or exceed minimum requirements? If exceeds, in what ways?	Yes, the floodplain management program meets requirements.
Are there other local ordinances, plans or programs (e.g., site plan review) that support floodplain management and meeting the NFIP requirements? For instance, does the planning board or zoning board consider efforts to reduce flood risk when reviewing variances such as height restrictions?	Yes
Does your community plan to join the CRS program or is your community interested in improving your CRS classification?	No, not at this time.

6.5 GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Understanding how past, current, and projected development patterns have or are likely to increase or decrease risk in hazard areas is a key component to appreciating a jurisdiction's overall risk to its hazards of concern. Recent and expected future development trends, including major residential/commercial development and major infrastructure development, are summarized in Table 6-11 through Table 6-13.

Table 6-11. Number of Building Permits for New Construction Issued Since the Previous HMP

Year	New Construction Permits Issued			Total
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	
2020				
Total Permits	18	0	2	20
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2021				
Total Permits	19	0	4	23
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2022				
Total Permits	15	0	6	21



Year	New Construction Permits Issued			
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Other (commercial, mixed-use, etc.)	Total
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2023				
Total Permits	13	0	5	18
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0
2024				
Total Permits	12	0	2	14
Permits within SFHA	0	0	0	0

SFHA = Special Flood Hazard Area (1% flood event)

Table 6-12. Recent Major Development and Infrastructure from 2017 to Present

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zones*	Description / Status of Development
No recent major development and infrastructure identified.					

* Only location-specific hazard zones or vulnerabilities identified.

Table 6-13. Known or Anticipated Major Development and Infrastructure in the Next Five Years

Property or Development Name	Type of Development	# of Units / Structures	Location (address and/or block and lot)	Known Hazard Zones*	Description / Status of Development
No known or anticipated major development and infrastructure in the next five years identified.					

6.6 JURISDICTIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The hazard profiles in Volume I provide detailed information regarding each planning partner’s vulnerability to the identified hazards, including summaries of Dennis’s risk assessment results and data used to determine the hazard ranking. Key local risk assessment information is presented below.

6.6.1 Hazard Area

Hazard area maps provided below illustrate the probable hazard areas impacted within the Township are shown in Figure 6-1 through Figure 6-3. These maps are based on the best available data at the time of the preparation of this plan and are adequate for planning purposes. Maps are provided only for hazards that can be identified clearly using mapping techniques and technologies and for which Dennis has significant exposure. The maps show the location of potential new development, where available.



Figure 6-1. Dennis Sea Level Rise and FEMA Flood Hazard Area Extent and Location Map

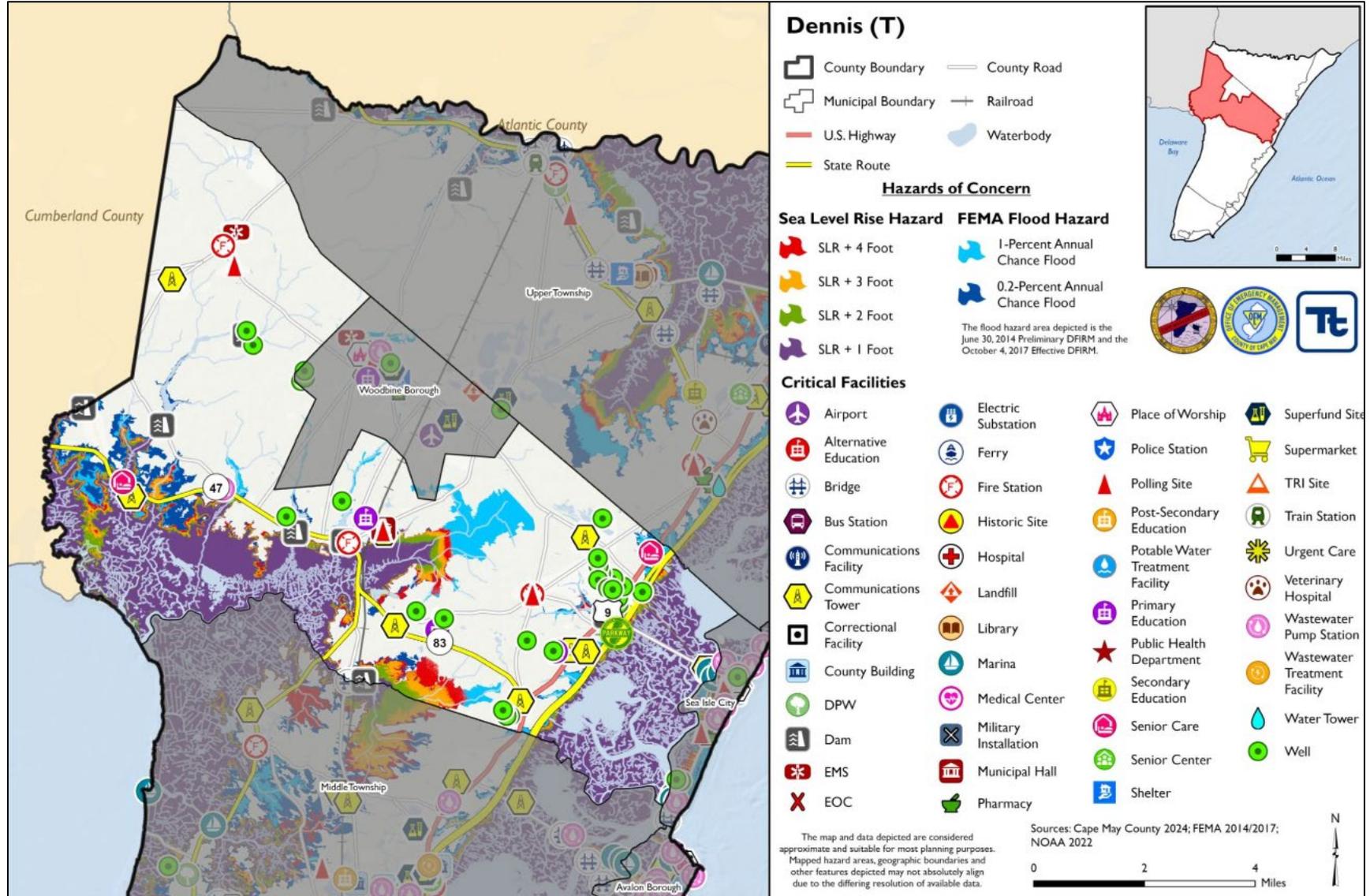




Figure 6-2. Dennis SLOSH Hazard Area Extent and Location Map

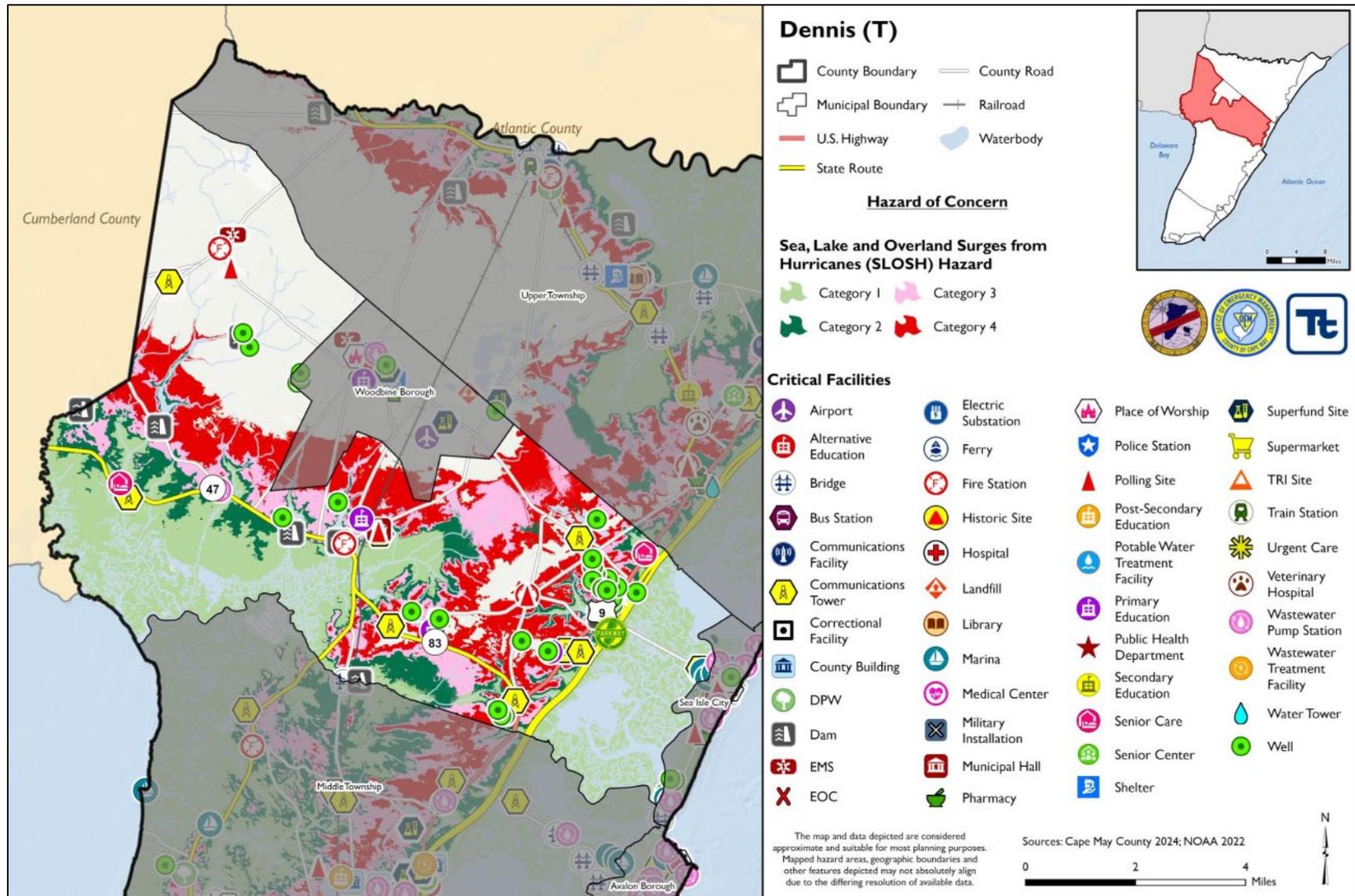
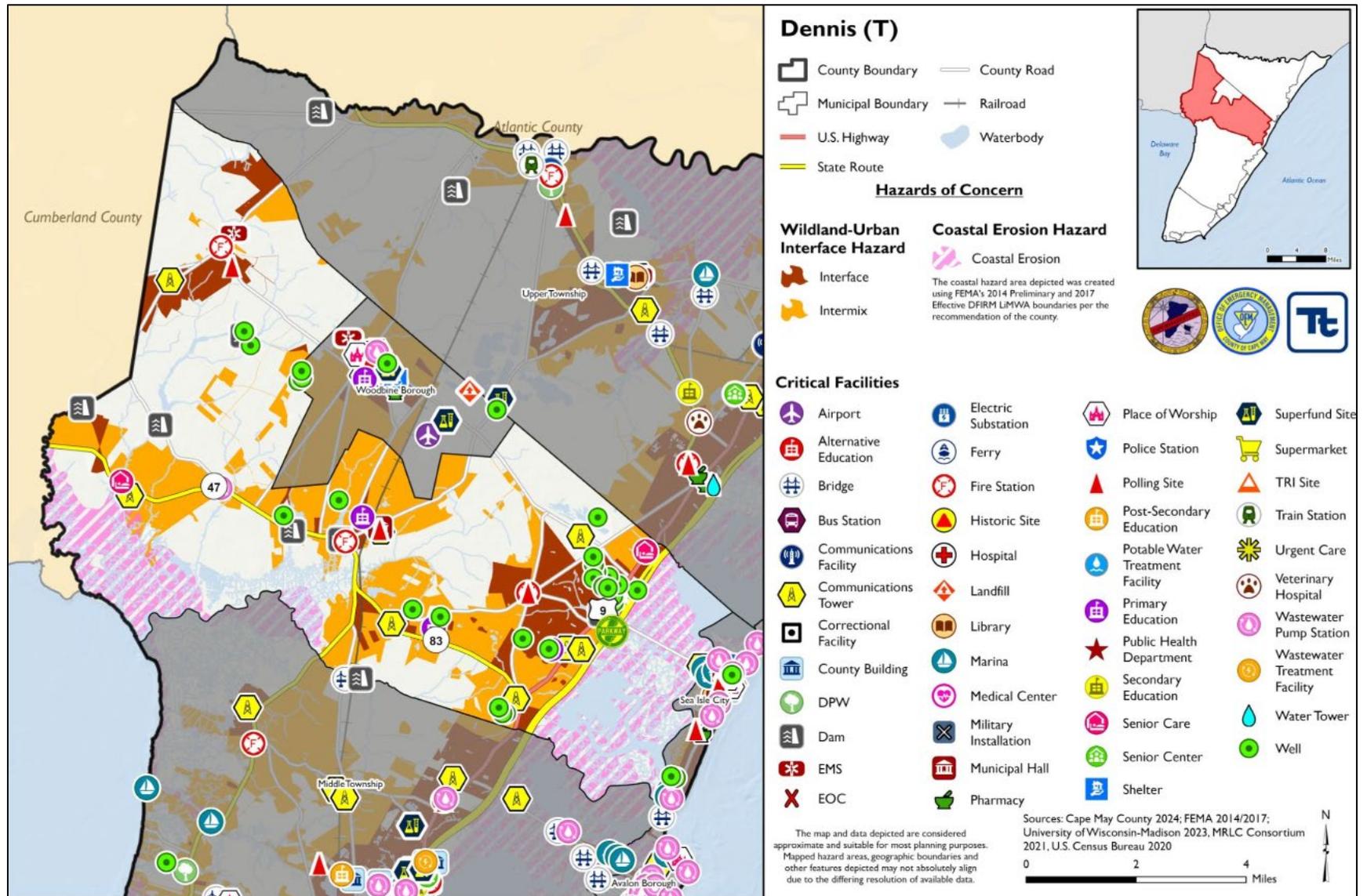




Figure 6-3. Dennis WUI and Coastal Erosion Hazard Area Extent and Location Map





6.6.2 Hazard Event History

The history of natural and non-natural hazard events in Dennis is detailed in Volume I, where each hazard profile includes a chronology of historical events that have affected the County and its municipalities. Table 6-14 provides details on loss and damage in Dennis during hazard events since the last hazard mitigation plan update.

Table 6-14. Hazard Event History in Dennis

Dates of Event	Event Type (Disaster Declaration)	County Designated?	Summary of Event	Summary of Damage and Losses in Dennis
February 11, 2021	Severe Winter Weather (4597-DR-NJ)	Yes	Widespread snow fell and accumulate between 3 to 5 inches across the County, with some amounts locally a little higher. The County was eligible for Public Assistance through Federal Declaration.	No damages reported
September 1-3, 2021	Remnants of Hurricane Ida (EM-3573-NJ, DR-4614-NJ)	Yes	The remnants of Hurricane Ida produced heavy rainfall through the County. The County was eligible for Public Assistance through Federal Declaration.	No damages reported
January 13, 2021	Severe Winter Weather, Flood	No	A quick moving winter storm impacted Cape May County where a widespread 6 to 12 inches of snow fell. Moderate coastal flooding in the tidal areas of Cape May County occurred around the time of the morning high tide causing numerous road closures.	No damages reported
April 1, 2023	Severe Weather	No	Thunderstorms produced damaging winds and small to medium-sized hail. Multiple trees downed on Corson Tavern Road and Route 9 in Dennis Township. A structure fire was caused by lightning in Rio Grande.	No damages reported, trees downed
September 23, 2023	Severe Weather	No	Tropical Storm Ophelia resulted in a steady onshore flow along the coast, causing widespread tidal flooding. There were numerous road closures. Many homes and other buildings were surrounded by flood waters with some minor property damage occurring.	No damages reported
January 19, 2024	Severe Winter Weather	No	A winter storm brought widespread light to moderate snowfall accumulations across the region. Snowfall totals ranged largely from around 3 to 4 across much of the zone. The highest snowfall report was from Dennis Township with 4.9.	No damages reported. Twp municipal building and school closed.



EM = Emergency Declaration (FEMA)
 FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency
 DR = Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA)
 N/A = Not applicable

6.6.3 Hazard Ranking and Vulnerabilities

The hazard profiles in Volume I have detailed information regarding each planning partner’s vulnerability to the identified hazards. The following presents key risk assessment results for Dennis.

Hazard Ranking

The participating jurisdictions have differing degrees of vulnerability to the hazards of concern, so each jurisdiction ranked its own degree of risk to each hazard. The community-specific hazard ranking is based on problems and impacts identified by the risk assessment presented in Volume I. The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard; the potential impacts of the hazard on people, property, and the economy; community capabilities to address the hazard; and changing future climate conditions. Dennis reviewed the County hazard ranking and individual results to assess the relative risk of the hazards of concern to the community. During the review of the hazard ranking, the Township indicated the following:

- None identified.

Table 6-15 shows Dennis’s final hazard rankings for identified hazards of concern. Mitigation action development uses the ranking to target hazards with the highest risk.

Table 6-15. Hazard Ranking

Hazard	Rank
Dam Failure	Medium
Drought	Medium
Earthquake	Low
Extreme Temperature	Medium
Flood	Medium
Severe Weather	High
Severe Winter Weather	Medium
Wildfire	High

Note: The scale is based on the hazard rankings established in Volume I, modified as appropriate based on review by the jurisdiction

Critical Facilities

Table 6-16 identifies critical facilities in the community located in the 1 percent and 0.2 percent annual chance floodplains.

Table 6-16. Critical Facilities Flood Vulnerability

Name	Type	Vulnerability	
		1% Annual Chance Event	0.2% Annual Chance Event
No Name	Communications Tower	Y	Y



Name	Type	Vulnerability	
		1% Annual Chance Event	0.2% Annual Chance Event
No Name	Communications Tower	Y	Y
No Name	Communications Tower	Y	Y
Ludlams Thorofare Bridge	Bridge	Y	Y
Minmar Marine Basin	Marina	Y	Y
Larsen's Marina	Marina	Y	Y
East Creek Manor	Senior Care	N	Y
Sea Isle Causeway Bridge	Bridge	Y	Y
Ocean View Service Area	Well	Y	Y
Magnolia Lake Dam	Dam	Y	Y
East Creek Pond Dam	Dam	N	Y
West Creek Dam	Dam	Y	Y
Ludlam Pond Dam	Dam	N	Y

Source: Cape May County 2022, 2024; HIFLD 2024; USACE 2024

In addition to critical facilities that are exposed to flooding, the following dams and high hazard dams are located in Dennis:

- Magnolia Lake Dam
- East Creek Pond Dam
- West Creek Dam
- Meisle (Nummy) Lake Dam
- Ludlam Pond Dam
- Johnson Pond Dam

6.6.4 Identified Issues

After a review of Dennis’s hazard event history, hazard rankings, hazard location, and current capabilities, Dennis identified the following vulnerabilities within the community:

- The Township has two remaining unmitigated properties that repeatedly flood, incurring frequent, costly damages and multiple NFIP claims. Despite prior mitigation efforts, these sites remain highly vulnerable during heavy rain, tides, and storm surges, jeopardizing residents and incurring ongoing financial costs.
- Ocean Fire Station #1 and the Dennisville Fire House currently lack dedicated water wells, limiting their ability to respond effectively to fire emergencies, particularly in areas with low hydrant coverage or during water supply disruptions. Reliable on-site water sources are essential to maintaining operational readiness and to increase response capabilities.
- Backup power sources are necessary to maintain critical services for critical facilities. Academy Lane and Hagon Road Schools which are both designated ‘Shelters of Last Resort’ lack backup power sources.



- The Township currently lacks portable or fixed message boards to support effective public outreach and emergency communication. In areas with limited internet access or during power outages, physical message boards are needed to conduct outreach and emergency messaging in the Township.
- Falling trees and large limbs continue to pose a serious threat to public safety and infrastructure throughout the Township, frequently resulting in power losses due to damage on wires and road closures due to tress across roadways.
- No water supply for fires due to no municipal water system.
- Dennis Township’s residential areas currently lack fire hydrants, leaving emergency responders without immediate access to water during fire events.
- The Township recently purchased a Drain Vac Truck to clean storm drains of silt and debris to prevent stormwater flooding. The truck is not yet in service but will be this year. A maintenance plan should be developed for existing storm drains.
- Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties in the township continue to experience repeated flood damage, resulting in costly recovery and increased risk to residents.
- Several buildings identified for emergency sheltering within the Township may be structurally or operationally vulnerable during certain severe weather events, such as hurricanes, high winds, or flooding.
- Evacuation procedures for 24-hour nursing homes and residential group homes may be insufficient or outdated, placing residents at risk during severe weather events.
- Many residents are not signed up for emergency alerts and may not be aware of the township’s Code Red notification system or how to respond in an emergency.

6.7 MITIGATION STRATEGY AND PRIORITIZATION

This section discusses the status of mitigation actions from the previous HMP, describes proposed hazard mitigation actions, and prioritizes actions to address over the next five years.

6.7.1 Past Mitigation Action Status

Table 6-17 indicates progress on the Township’s mitigation strategy identified in the 2021 HMP. Actions that are still recommended but not completed or that are in progress are carried forward and combined with new actions as part of the mitigation strategy for this plan update. Previous actions that are now ongoing programs and capabilities are indicated as such and are presented in the capability assessment earlier in this annex.

6.7.2 Additional Mitigation Efforts

In addition to the mitigation actions completed in Table 6-17, Dennis identified the following mitigation efforts completed since the last HMP:

- 2021-Dennis-006: The Township developed and adopted a Disaster Debris Management Plan.

Since the adoption of the County’s first HMP, Dennis has made significant mitigation progress in the following areas:

- 2021-Dennis-004: The State of New Jersey has installed a message board on Route 47 at Mile Post 20.5N. No additional message boards have been funded or installed at this time.
- 2021-Dennis-005: The truck has been purchased but has not yet been delivered. The expected delivery date is in the first quarter of 2025.



Table 6-17. Status of Previous Mitigation Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Action Review 1. Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete) 2. Provide a narrative to describe progress or obstacles that have prevented implementation	Next Steps 1. Project to be included in the 2026 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2026 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
2021-Dennis-001	Mitigate Repetitive Loss	Flood, Severe Weather	NFIP Floodplain Administrator, supported by homeowners	<p>Problem: The Township has two remaining unmitigated properties.</p> <p>Solution: The Township will conduct outreach to the two RL/SRL property owners and provide information on property acquisition or relocation. The Township will collect required property-owner information and develop a FEMA grant application and BCA to obtain funding to implement acquisition/purchase/moving residential homes in the flood prone areas that experience frequent flooding (high risk areas).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In progress The Township will conduct outreach to the two RL/SRL property owners and provide information on property acquisition or relocation. The Township will collect required property-owner information and develop a FEMA grant application and BCA to obtain funding to implement acquisition/purchase/moving residential homes in the flood prone areas that experience frequent flooding (high risk areas). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Include Keep as is N/A
2021-Dennis-002	Water Wells for Fire Stations	Drought, Wildfire	Fire Department	<p>Problem: Water wells are needed at Ocean Fire Station #1 and the Dennisville Fire House to increase response capabilities.</p> <p>Solution: The Township will install water wells at each fire station.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In progress The Township is currently identifying funding sources to support this mitigation action for each fire station. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Include Keep as is. N/A
2021-Dennis-003	Generators for Shelters	All Hazards	OEM, Engineer	<p>Problem: Backup power sources are necessary to maintain critical services for critical facilities. Academy Lane and Hagan Road Schools which</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In progress The Township will seek funding to purchase the appropriate sized generators for each facility. The Township will 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Include Keep as is N/A



Project Number	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Action Review 1. Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete) 2. Provide a narrative to describe progress or obstacles that have prevented implementation	Next Steps 1. Project to be included in the 2026 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2026 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
				are both designated 'Shelters of Last Resort' lack backup power sources. Solution: The Township will research the appropriately sized generators for each facility. The Township will then purchase and install generators and necessary electrical components for both schools.	then purchase and install generators and necessary electrical components for both schools.	
2021-Dennis-004	Variable Message Boards	All Hazards	OEM	Problem: Message boards are needed to conduct outreach and emergency messaging in the Township. Solution: The Township will purchase and permanently install variable message boards to advise of traffic, alternate routes/detours due to accidents / flooding / wildfire events/other hazardous conditions along the following Routes through the Township which serve as major evacuation routes: • 550 • 347 • 47 • 83	1. In progress 2. The state as currently installed one message board on Route 47 at Mile Post 20.5N. The Township will purchase and permanently install variable message boards to advise of traffic, alternate routes/detours due to accidents / flooding / wildfire events/other hazardous conditions along the following Routes through the Township which serve as major evacuation routes: • 550 • 347 • 83	1. Include 2. Keep as is 3. N/A
2021-Dennis-005	Drain Vac Truck	Severe Weather, Flood	DPW	Problem: The Township requires a Drain Vac Truck to clean storm drains of silt and	1. Completed	1. Discontinue 2. N/A 3. N/A



Project Number	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Responsible Party	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Action Review 1. Status (In Progress, Ongoing Capability, No Progress, Complete) 2. Provide a narrative to describe progress or obstacles that have prevented implementation	Next Steps 1. Project to be included in the 2026 HMP or Discontinue 2. If including action in the 2026 HMP, revise/reword to be more specific (as appropriate). 3. If discontinue, explain why.
				debris to prevent stormwater flooding. Solution: The Township will purchase a Drain Vac Truck and utilize for regular stormwater cleaning.	2. Truck was purchased and was delivered by 1 st quarter 2025.	
2021-Dennis-006	Disaster Debris Management Plan	All Hazards	Administration	Problem: The Township lacks a debris management plan. Solution: The Township will develop and adopt a Disaster Debris Management Plan.	1. Completed 2. N/A	1. Discontinue 2. N/A 3. Project completed
2021-Dennis-007	Vegetation Management Program	Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather, Hurricane, Nor'Easter	DPW	Problem: Falling trees result in power losses due to damage on wires. Solution: The Township will develop a vegetation management program.	1. In progress 2. The Township is currently identifying funding sources and additional staff to develop a vegetation management program.	1. Include 2. Keep as is 3. N/A



6.7.3 Proposed Hazard Mitigation Actions for the HMP Update

Dennis participated in the mitigation strategy workshop for this HMP to identify appropriate actions to include in a local hazard mitigation strategy. Its comprehensive consideration of all possible activities to address hazards of concern included review of the following FEMA documents:

- FEMA 551 “Selecting Appropriate Mitigation Measures for Floodprone Structures” (March 2007)
- FEMA “Mitigation Ideas—A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards” (January 2013).

The action worksheets included at the end of this annex list the mitigation actions that Dennis would like to pursue in the future to reduce the effects of hazards. The actions are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in Township priorities.

Table 6-18 indicates the range of proposed mitigation action categories. The four FEMA mitigation action categories and the six CRS mitigation action categories are listed in the table to further demonstrate the wide range of activities and mitigation measures selected.

Volume I identifies 14 evaluation criteria for prioritizing the mitigation actions. To assist with rating each mitigation action as high, medium, or low priority, a numeric rank is assigned (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the evaluation criteria. Table 6-19 provides a summary of the prioritization of all proposed mitigation actions for the HMP update.



Table 6-18. Analysis of Mitigation Actions by Hazard and Category

Hazard	Actions That Address the Hazard, by Action Category									
	FEMA				CRS					
	LPR	SIP	NSP	EAP	PR	PP	PI	NR	SP	ES
Dam Failure		X		X			X			X
Drought		X		X	X	X	X			X
Earthquake		X		X			X			X
Extreme Temperature		X		X		X	X			X
Flood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Severe Weather	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Severe Winter Weather		X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Wildfire		X		X		X	X			X

Local Plans and Regulations (LPR)—These actions include government authorities, policies or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.

Structure and Infrastructure Project (SIP)—These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct structures to reduce the impact of hazards.

Natural Systems Protection (NSP)—These are actions that minimize damage and losses and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.

Education and Awareness Programs (EAP)—These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady and Firewise Communities

Preventative Measures (PR)—Government, administrative or regulatory actions, or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.

Property Protection (PP)—These actions include public activities to reduce hazard losses or 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.

Public Information (PI)—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 educational programs for school-age children and adults.

Natural Resource Protection (NR)—Actions that minimize hazard loss and 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.

Structural Flood Control Projects (SP)—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.

Emergency Services (ES)—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



Table 6-19. Summary of Prioritization of Actions

Project Number	Project Name	Scores for Evaluation Criteria														High / Medium / Low	
		Life Safety	Property Protection	Cost-Effectiveness	Political	Legal	Fiscal	Environmental	Social Vulnerability	Administrative	Hazards of Concern	Climate Change	Timeline	Community Lifelines	Other Local Objectives		Total
2026-Dennis-01	Mitigate Repetitive Loss	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	11	High
2026-Dennis-02	Water Wells for Fire Stations	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	High
2026-Dennis-03	Generators for Shelters	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	12	High
2026-Dennis-04	Variable Message Boards	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	High
2026-Dennis-05	Vegetation Management Program	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	High
2026-Dennis-06	Comprehensive Water Supply Plans	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
2026-Dennis-07	Install High Capacity Wells	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	High
2026-Dennis-08	Storm drain Maintenance Program	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	High
2026-Dennis-09	Repetitive Loss Mitigation	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	11	High
2026-Dennis-10	Retrofit Sheltering Buildings	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	High
2026-Dennis-11	Update All Emergency/Contingency Plans	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	Medium
2026-Dennis-12	Code Red Public Education Campaign	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	High

Note: Volume I, Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) conveys guidance on prioritizing mitigation actions. Low (0-6), Medium (7-10), High (11-14).



Action 2026-Dennis-01. Mitigate Repetitive Loss

Lead Agency:	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	
Supporting Agencies:	Homeowners	
Hazards of Concern:	Flood, Severe Weather	
Description of the Problem:	The Township has two remaining unmitigated properties that repeatedly flood, incurring frequent, costly damages and multiple NFIP claims. Despite prior mitigation efforts, these sites remain highly vulnerable during heavy rain, tides, and storm surges, jeopardizing residents and incurring ongoing financial costs.	
Description of the Solution:	The Township will conduct outreach to the two RL/SRL property owners and provide information on property acquisition or relocation. The Township will collect required property-owner information and develop a FEMA grant application and BCA to obtain funding to implement acquisition/purchase/moving residential homes in the flood prone areas that experience frequent flooding (high risk areas).	
Estimated Cost:	Medium	
Potential Funding Sources:	FEMA HMGP and FMA, local cost share by residents	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 3 years	
Goals Met:	1	
Benefits:	Eliminates flood damage to homes and residents, creates open space for the municipality increasing flood storage.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	This action focuses on residents with repetitive losses, who are sometimes in economically vulnerable areas.	
Impact on Future Development:	Guides development away from high-risk flood zones.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Protects housing infrastructure but not direct lifelines.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Improves overall community resilience by reducing repeat flood losses.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Reduces future losses from intensified flooding due to climate change.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Property Protection	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	Repetitive loss properties remain vulnerable.
	Elevate the repetitive loss properties	This could potentially place residents at risk during severe weather events.
	Offer voluntary acquisition	Residents may not support this option and it may reduce the tax base of the borough.



Action 2026-Dennis-02. Water Wells for Fire Stations

Lead Agency:	Fire Department	
Supporting Agencies:	-	
Hazards of Concern:	Drought, Wildfire	
Description of the Problem:	Ocean Fire Station #1 and the Dennisville Fire House currently lack dedicated water wells, limiting their ability to respond effectively to fire emergencies, particularly in areas with low hydrant coverage or during water supply disruptions. Reliable on-site water sources are essential to maintaining operational readiness and to increase response capabilities.	
Description of the Solution:	The Township will install water wells at each fire station.	
Estimated Cost:	High	
Potential Funding Sources:	Community Facilities Grant Program, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	3, 4	
Benefits:	Increased emergency response capabilities	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Improves fire response in underserved and rural areas that are more vulnerable during drought and wildfire events.	
Impact on Future Development:	enhances safety in developing areas and can be a factor in fire insurance ratings.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Strengthens the firefighting capacity of key emergency services infrastructure.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Significantly enhances readiness and self-sufficiency of fire stations during drought and wildfire events.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Supports long-term adaptation to more frequent and severe droughts and wildfires linked to climate change.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Emergency Services	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Install large-capacity above-ground storage tanks at fire stations	May be more cost-effective and quicker to implement, but less sustainable and dependent on refills
	Establish water-sharing agreements with nearby municipal or private wells	Could reduce upfront costs but may limit reliability during emergencies and involve legal complexities.



Action 2026-Dennis-03. Generators for Shelters

Lead Agency:	OEM	
Supporting Agencies:	Engineer	
Hazards of Concern:	All Hazards	
Description of the Problem:	Backup power sources are necessary to maintain critical services for critical facilities. Academy Lane and Hagon Road Schools which are both designated 'Shelters of Last Resort' lack backup power sources.	
Description of the Solution:	The Township will research the appropriately sized generators for each facility. The Township will then purchase and install generators and necessary electrical components for both schools.	
Estimated Cost:	Medium	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, USDA Community Facilities Grant Program, Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program, Municipal Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 1 year	
Goals Met:	1, 3, 4	
Benefits:	High Continuity of sheltering services	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Ensures that shelters serving vulnerable populations remain operational during emergencies.	
Impact on Future Development:	Minimal direct impact, though it supports resilience planning for future development.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Maintains functionality of designated emergency shelters during outages.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Greatly improves emergency response and continuity of shelter operations.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Addresses increased frequency of outages and severe weather caused by climate-related disruptions.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Emergency Services	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Install solar panels with battery storage for off-grid power support	Renewable, long-term cost-effective, but higher upfront cost and complex permitting
	Relocate shelters to schools or facilities that already have generators	Lower cost but may not be feasible depending on location, access, and capacity



Action 2026-Dennis-04. Variable Message Boards

Lead Agency:	OEM	
Supporting Agencies:	-	
Hazards of Concern:	All hazards	
Description of the Problem:	The Township currently lacks portable or fixed message boards to support effective public outreach and emergency communication. In areas with limited internet access or during power outages, physical message boards are needed to conduct outreach and emergency messaging in the Township.	
Description of the Solution:	The Township will purchase and permanently install variable message boards to advise of traffic, alternate routes/detours due to accidents / flooding / wildfire events/other hazardous conditions along the following Routes through the Township which serve as major evacuation routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 550 • 347 • 47 • 83 	
Estimated Cost:	Medium	
Potential Funding Sources:	Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program, Municipal Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 3 years	
Goals Met:	2, 3, 4	
Benefits:	Increased emergency messaging	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Improves access to timely emergency notifications for populations who may lack access to traditional alert systems.	
Impact on Future Development:	supports safer conditions during development and emergencies.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Improves public communication near lifelines and evacuation routes.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Township's ability to disseminate real-time emergency information.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Supports adaptive response to increased frequency of extreme weather events linked to climate change.	
Mitigation Category	Education and Awareness Programs	
CRS Category	Public Information, Emergency Services	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Use portable message boards during emergencies	Lower upfront cost, but requires rapid deployment and may delay response.
	Develop an emergency text alert system as primary messaging tool	Cost-effective and fast, but may not reach travelers or those without devices



Action 2026-Dennis-05. Vegetation Management Program

Lead Agency:	Township Administration	
Supporting Agencies:	-	
Hazards of Concern:	Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather	
Description of the Problem:	Falling trees and large limbs continue to pose a serious threat to public safety and infrastructure throughout the Township, frequently resulting in power losses due to damage on wires and road closures due to tress across roadways.	
Description of the Solution:	The Township will develop a vegetation management program.	
Estimated Cost:	Low	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, Municipal budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 5	
Benefits:	Prevents outages and road blockages, improves emergency response, reduces clean up and recovery time.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Ensures uninterrupted power supply to dependent individuals and maintains access for emergency responders.	
Impact on Future Development:	Encourages proactive design for infrastructure protection near wooded or tree-lined areas.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Reduces power outages that affect hospitals, shelters, and other critical facilities.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Enhances maintenance readiness and reduces emergency clearing operations.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Addresses increased storm frequency and wind events associated with changing climate patterns.	
Mitigation Category	Natural Systems Protection	
CRS Category	Emergency Services, Public Information	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Trimming only as needed	This could lead to high costs for the township and potentially dangerous during extreme weather event.
	Transition utility lines underground	More resilient but prohibitively expensive and disruptive to install throughout the township.



Action 2026-Dennis-06. Comprehensive Water Supply Plan

Lead Agency:	Township Administration	
Supporting Agencies:	Township Fire Department	
Hazards of Concern:	Wildfire, drought	
Description of the Problem:	No water supply for fires due to no municipal water system.	
Description of the Solution:	There are no fire hydrants located within residential areas of Dennis Township. Develop comprehensive water supply plans for various sections of the township to ensure effective firefighting capabilities.	
Estimated Cost:	TBD	
Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 3, 5	
Benefits:	Expands fire protection coverage, lowers homeowner insurance premiums, and increases emergency response effectiveness.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Enhances fire safety in vulnerable communities.	
Impact on Future Development:	Supports any residential growth by ensuring fire suppression infrastructure is adequate.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Improves safety for essential facilities located within these areas.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Strengthens firefighting capacity and planning by ensuring reliable and accessible water supply.	
Climate Change Considerations:	An increase in drought events would increase communities' fire risk. This action enhances the township's preparedness for frequent and/or intense fire events.	
Mitigation Category	Local Plans and Regulations	
CRS Category	Emergency Services	
Priority	High	
Alternatives		
	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Rely on water tankers	Limited capacity for multiple or large events.
Install community cisterns	Would require routine maintenance with limited capacity	



Action 2026-Dennis-07. Install High Capacity Wells

Lead Agency:	Township Administration	
Supporting Agencies:	Township Fire Department	
Hazards of Concern:	Wildfire, drought	
Description of the Problem:	Dennis Township's residential areas currently lack fire hydrants, leaving emergency responders without immediate access to water during fire events.	
Description of the Solution:	There are no fire hydrants in the residential areas of Dennis Township. It is recommended to install high-capacity wells at strategic locations within the township to facilitate the refilling of fire trucks.	
Estimated Cost:	TBD	
Potential Funding Sources:	EMPG, Municipal budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 3	
Benefits:	Provides dependable water access for fire suppression and increases protection for residents and infrastructure.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Enhances safety in under-resourced neighborhoods where hydrant installation is constrained.	
Impact on Future Development:	Supports growth by ensuring emergency water infrastructure is scalable.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Ensure essential services remain protected from fire risks.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Increases self-sufficiency of local fire response and reduces reliance on distant water sources.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Ensures resilient water supply for vulnerable areas during droughts or wild fire events.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Emergency Services	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Rely on neighboring departments	May lead to delayed aid and insufficient water during peak demands.
	Install community cisterns	Would require routine maintenance with limited capacity



Action 2026-Dennis-08. Storm drain Maintenance Program

Lead Agency:	OEM	
Supporting Agencies:	-	
Hazards of Concern:	Severe Weather, Flood	
Description of the Problem:	The Township recently purchased a Drain Vac Truck to clean storm drains of silt and debris to prevent stormwater flooding. The truck is not yet in service but will be this year. A maintenance plan should be developed for existing storm drains.	
Description of the Solution:	Develop a storm drain maintenance program to ensure storm drains are cleared for when severe weather or flooding occurs.	
Estimated Cost:	TBD	
Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal budget, State stormwater grants	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 3	
Benefits:	Reduces blockages in the storm drain system, increases capacity and functionality of drainage infrastructure, and helps prevent property damage caused by localized flooding.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Reduces risk for residents in low-lying areas that frequently experience flooding and have limited resources to self-recover.	
Impact on Future Development:	Ensures stormwater infrastructure is well-maintained and effective.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Helps maintain clear roadways and access to critical facilities during and after storm events.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Improves township response to flood events and supports proactive maintenance practices.	
Climate Change Considerations:	This action will address the increased frequency of intense rainfall and flash flooding events caused by climate change.	
Mitigation Category	Local plan and regulations	
CRS Category	Natural resource protection	
Priority	Medium	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Outsource drain system cleaning	High costs and limited control of response time.
	Use existing staff for manual inspections	Lacks long-term effectiveness without a formal maintenance plan and equipment.



Action 2026-Dennis-09. Repetitive Loss Mitigation

Lead Agency:	Township Administration	
Supporting Agencies:	OEM	
Hazards of Concern:	Flood	
Description of the Problem:	Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties in the township continue to experience repeated flood damage, resulting in costly recovery and increased risk to residents.	
Description of the Solution:	The Township will conduct outreach to the two RL/SRL property owners and provide information on property acquisition or relocation. The Township will collect required property-owner information and develop a FEMA grant application and BCA to obtain funding to implement acquisition/purchase/moving residential homes in the flood prone areas that experience frequent flooding (high risk areas).	
Estimated Cost:	Low	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, Municipal Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1	
Benefits:	Reduces public and private costs from repeated disasters; restores floodplain functions; and permanently removes structures from high-risk areas.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Provides relocation options to low-income or elderly property owners who may not have the means to elevate or recover from repeated damage.	
Impact on Future Development:	Supports responsible land use by preventing redevelopment in high-risk flood zones.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	N/A	
Impact on Capabilities:	Improves community standing in CRS and enhances the municipality's capacity to implement managed retreat or property acquisition strategies.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Supports long-term adaptation as sea level rise and more frequent storm events increase flooding risks in known high-hazard areas.	
Mitigation Category	Education and Awareness Programs	
CRS Category	Property Protection	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Allow property owners to elevate their properties	It may not be cost-effective or feasible for every residence; it does not entirely eliminate the risk at the site.
	Offer voluntary acquisition	Residents may not support this option and it may reduce the tax base of the borough.



Action 2026-Dennis-10. Retrofit Sheltering Buildings

Lead Agency:	Township Administration	
Supporting Agencies:	OEM	
Hazards of Concern:	Severe Weather	
Description of the Problem:	Several buildings identified for emergency sheltering within the Township may be structurally or operationally vulnerable during certain severe weather events, such as hurricanes, high winds, or flooding.	
Description of the Solution:	Retrofit or harden these facilities to increase level of protection by reinforcing roofs, windows, and structural systems to meet wind-resistance standards and ensure they can safely operate during major storm events.	
Estimated Cost:	Medium	
Potential Funding Sources:	HMGP, Local Bond funds	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 4	
Benefits:	Increases protection for evacuees, reduces risk of facility damage, lowers liability and long-term repair costs.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Provides secure shelter to residents with fewer resources or no alternative housing options during emergency events.	
Impact on Future Development:	Encourages resilient design for future shelter facilities.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Ensures continuity of services from designated critical facilities during emergency events.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Strengthens preparedness posture and emergency shelter capabilities.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Responds to the growing risk of intense windstorms and severe weather due to climate change.	
Mitigation Category	Structure and Infrastructure Projects	
CRS Category	Emergency Services	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Utilize temporary retrofits	May not be sufficient for high wind or prolonged exposure to severe weather events.
	Relocate shelters	May delay response, reduce accessibility, and increase transportation demands during emergencies.



Action 2026-Dennis-11. Update all Emergency/Contingency Plans

Lead Agency:	Township Administration	
Supporting Agencies:	OEM	
Hazards of Concern:	Severe Weather	
Description of the Problem:	Evacuation procedures for 24-hour nursing homes and residential group homes may be insufficient or outdated, placing residents at risk during severe weather events.	
Description of the Solution:	Review and update all emergency/contingency plans for licensed care facilities in the township. Ensure plans include transportation arrangements, medical support, caregiver staffing, and alternate shelter locations. Conduct periodic drills.	
Estimated Cost:	Low	
Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 2, 4	
Benefits:	Enhances safety and survival outcomes for medically vulnerable residents; meets regulatory compliance.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Directly benefits elderly, disabled, and medically dependent populations.	
Impact on Future Development:	Encourages inclusion of emergency preparedness as a condition for new residential care facilities.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Protects lifeline services by ensuring coordinated evacuation support and reduced strain on emergency shelters.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Enhances coordination between emergency management and private care providers.	
Climate Change Considerations:	As extreme weather events become more frequent, ensures resilience of long-term care and congregate settings.	
Mitigation Category	Local plans and regulation	
CRS Category	Preventative Measures	
Priority	Medium	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Rely on general municipal plan	Lacks facility-specific needs; may lead to confusion or delayed response.
	Require facilities to develop plans independently	Inconsistent quality and coordination; may not align with local or FEMA standards.



Action 2026-Dennis-12. Code Red Public Education Campaign

Lead Agency:	Township Administration	
Supporting Agencies:	OEM	
Hazards of Concern:	All hazards	
Description of the Problem:	Many residents are not signed up for emergency alerts and may not be aware of the township's Code Red notification system or how to respond in an emergency.	
Description of the Solution:	Launch a public education campaign using social media, newsletters, school flyers, and town events to encourage Code Red enrollment and promote awareness of available emergency communication tools.	
Estimated Cost:	Low	
Potential Funding Sources:	Municipal Budget	
Implementation Timeline:	Within 5 years	
Goals Met:	1, 2	
Benefits:	Ensures faster, broader distribution of emergency warnings and instructions to the public.	
Impact on Socially Vulnerable Populations:	Reaches underserved groups by using multiple outreach formats, languages, and in-person strategies.	
Impact on Future Development:	Strengthens overall community preparedness culture.	
Impact on Critical Facilities/Lifelines:	Keeps staff at essential facilities informed during fast-changing emergencies.	
Impact on Capabilities:	Enhances community engagement and public participation in emergency readiness.	
Climate Change Considerations:	Ensures the public receives timely information during climate-driven hazard events like extreme heat or flooding.	
Mitigation Category	Education and Awareness Program	
CRS Category	Public Information	
Priority	High	
Alternatives	Action	Evaluation
	No action	-
	Rely on residents to search for information	Not effective in urgent situations where residents need to be informed and where resources can be found.
Promote enrollment only	Misses opportunities to reach new residents or reinforce seasonal risks.	