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# Town of Poestenkill

## Jurisdictional Annex to the

MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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# Town of Poestenkill Annex

This is the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Poestenkill. The jurisdiction’s governing body passed a formal resolution to participate in updating this multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan (HMP). A copy of their resolution is maintained at the local government offices and at the Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety.

## Contact Information

Table 1: Contact Information for the Town of Poestenkill

Name	Title	Contact Information
Tom Russell	Town Supervisor	Phone: 518-283-5100, ext 104 Email: trussell@poestenkillny.com
David Goyer	Highway Superintendent	Not Given
Tracy Church	Code Enforcement Officer	Not Given
Wayne Bonesteel	Engineer	Not Given

## Introduction

Town of Poestenkill has a fully integrated approach to hazard mitigation planning and program implementation. Table 2 lists the participants in the 2024 process for updating the HMP

Table 2: Participants in the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for the Town of Poestenkill

Name	Title	Jurisdiction
Wayne Bonesteel	Engineer	Town of Poestenkill
Tracy Church	Code Enforcement Officer	Town of Poestenkill
David Goyer	Highway Superintendent	Town of Poestenkill

# Jurisdiction Profile

## Location and Land area

The Town of Poestenkill is in central Rensselaer County, in the eastern part of New York State. It shares a border with Brunswick and Grafton to the north, Sand Lake to the south, Berlin to the east, and North Greenbush to the west.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Rensselaer County has a total area of 665 square miles (1,720 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 652 square miles (1,690 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 13 square miles (34 km<sup>2</sup>) (1.9%) is water. Of that, the Town of Poestenkill has a total area of 32.57 square miles (84.37 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 32.35 square miles (83.80 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 0.22 square miles (0.57 km<sup>2</sup>) is water.

## Population

According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates, the population of Town of Poestenkill was estimated to be 4,330 persons. The July 1, 2023, U.S Census population count shows a decrease in population to 4,303.

## Demographics

Of a total area of 32.57 square miles,<sup>1</sup> the land area is 32.35 square miles and population per square mile is 133.8 persons.<sup>2</sup>

The population includes 105.1 males per 100 females (all ages). Persons under 18 years of age account for 23.9% of the population, and 16.1% are persons 65 years of age and over.<sup>3</sup> Young and old subsets of the population may have unique needs as far as care requirements and potential cognitive and/or mobility limitations before, during, and after a disaster.<sup>4</sup>

Of persons age 25 years of age and older, 95.6% are high school graduates or higher, and 37.8% have received their bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>5</sup> Higher education can help enhance skills associated with cognition and evaluation of risk. Higher education can, therefore, foster an overall improved perception of risk, particularly where individuals may not have prior direct experience preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a particular hazard in their daily lives.

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<sup>1</sup> "[Census Reporter](#), 2025, "Town of Poestenkill, Rensselaer County, New York Population Demographics", [Poestenkill town, Rensselaer County, NY - Profile data - Census Reporter](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

From 2018 to 2022, there were 1,559 total households and 3.06 persons per household. Persons living alone sometimes have less of a direct social circle for support before, during, and after a disaster.

The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in housing units (house, apartment, mobile home, rented rooms) as living in group quarters. The two types of group quarters are institutional (correctional facilities, nursing homes, mental hospitals) and non-institutional (college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, shelters). The Census Bureau maintains no group quarters information for this municipality. The needs of persons living in group quarters are unique, and residents are likely to have access and functional needs and unique care requirements before, during, and after a disaster.

According to 2022 ACS, the median household income in the Town of Poestenkill was \$120,302, and the percentage of persons in poverty was 4.4%. Lower income persons have limited financial resources to draw from in both a pre- and post- disaster scenario and are likely to require support as they prepare for, and recover from, hazard events.

Non-institutionalized civilians with a disability accounted for 11.2%, and people over age 65 with a disability accounted for 18.7%. Persons (civilian, non-institutionalized) without health insurance was 3.0%. Persons with disabilities have access and functional needs, such as cognitive or mobility limitations, that may put them at greater risk before, during, and after a hazard event.

## Brief History

The area that is now Rensselaer County was inhabited by the Algonquian-speaking Mohican Indian tribe at the time of European encounter. Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a Dutch jeweler and merchant, purchased the area in 1630, as part of the Dutch colony New Netherland. The land passed from English rule (1664) to Dutch control (1673), then back to English rule (1674), until American independence in 1776. Rensselaer County was created in the 1790s from an area that was originally part of the very large Albany County. In 1807 the county reorganized.

The area was first settled around 1770, and the Town of Poestenkill was created from part of the Town of Sand Lake on March 2, 1848.<sup>6</sup>

## Governing Body

The governing body of the municipality consists of a Town Board and various departments. This council serves as the municipal/local government, performing executive functions of different natures. Members of this governing body are elected by the people.

## Growth and Development Trends

Performing an assessment of growth and development trends is one step of a hazard mitigation plan update. This look into the future is important because development in hazard areas could put more

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<sup>6</sup> 2020 Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Plan, "Town of Poestenkill Annex"

people and property in harm’s way and, in turn, could increase potential disaster-related damage and losses at a time when the mitigation plan’s purpose is to reduce the potential for damage from natural disasters.

An evaluation of growth and development trends was undertaken by each participating jurisdiction as part of the development of the initial plan in 2011. As part of this plan update, the Town of Poestenkill reviewed and updated its prior feedback to reflect current conditions in the community as of early 2019.

The Town of Poestenkill did not note any major residential or commercial development taking place or any major infrastructure development planned for the next five years in the municipality. Almost exclusively, residential development within planned development units is in the western third of the town. About 25% of the residential development has been spot development.

The Town of Poestenkill enforces a flood control law (to be updated when new FEMA maps are published for the town) to protect new development from the effects of natural hazards.

## Hazard Identification

The Calculated Priority Risk Index (CPRI) is a comprehensive assessment tool used to evaluate and prioritize risks in a given context. It considers various factors, such as probability, impact, and urgency, to determine the level of risk associated with particular events or situations. By considering these variables, the CPRI helps organizations and individuals make informed decisions about risk management and mitigation strategies. It provides a systematic approach to identifying and addressing potential issues, allowing for more efficient allocation of resources and proactive risk prevention. With the CPRI, stakeholders can prioritize their focus on the most critical risks, leading to more effective risk management and, ultimately, better outcomes. Table 3 shows the factors for calculating the CPRI.

Table 3: Factors in the Calculated Priority Risk Index

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
Probability What is the likelihood of the hazard occurring?	1	Unlikely	Less than 1% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of greater than every 100 years.	30%
	2	Occasional	1%–10% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 11–100 years.	
	3	Likely	11%–90% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 1–10 years.	

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
	4	Highly Likely	91%–100% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of less than 1 year.	
<b>Potential Consequences</b> What will be the overall impact in terms of injuries, damage, death, continuity of operations, and environmental and economic impacts?	1	Negligible	Very few injuries, if any. Only minor property damage and minimal disruption of quality of life. Temporary shutdown of critical facilities.	30%
	2	Limited	Minor injuries only. More than 10% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for more than one day.	
	3	Critical	Multiple deaths/injuries possible. More than 25% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities more than one week.	
	4	Catastrophic	High number of deaths/injuries possible. More than 50% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for 30 days or more.	
<b>Warning Time</b> How long will be there be between when it is recognized the hazard is approaching and when the hazard will begin to affect the community?	1	Self-defined	More than 24 hours	10%
	2	Self-defined	12–24 hours	
	3	Self-defined	6–12 hours	
	4	Self-defined	Less than 6 hours	
<b>Duration</b> What is the length of time the hazard will remain active, including how long emergency operations will need to continue after the hazard event?	1	Brief	Up to 6 hours	10%
	2	Intermediate	Up to one day	
	3	Extended	Up to one week	
	4	Prolonged	More than one week	

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
Spatial Extent How large of an area could be impacted by a hazard event? Are impacts localized or regional?	1	Negligible	Less than 1% of area affected	20%
	2	Small	1%–25% of area affected	
	3	Moderate	25%–50% of area affected	
	4	Large	Greater than 50% of area affected	

**RISK FACTOR EQUATION**

$$RF \text{ Value} = [(Probability \times .30) + (Magnitude \times .30) + (Onset \times .10) + (Duration \times .10) + (Frequency \times .20)]$$

Table 4 presents the CPRI for the Town of Poestenkill with respect to the different hazards the jurisdiction might experience.

Table 4: Types of Hazard Events with Calculated Priority Risk Index for the Town of Poestenkill

Type of Hazard Event	Probability	Potential Consequences	Warning Time	Duration	Spatial Extent	Risk Factor Value
Drought	1	1	1	4	2	1.5
Earthquake	1	1	4	1	4	1.9
Extreme Temperature	1	1	1	3	4	1.8
Flooding	3	1	3	2	3	2.3
Hazardous Materials	1	1	4	1	2	1.7
High Wind	2	1	2	2	4	2.1
Hurricane or Tropical Storm	1	1	1	2	4	1.7
Landslide	2	1	4	1	1	1.6
Lightning	1	1	4	1	1	1.3
Terrorism	1	1	4	1	1	1.3
Tornado	1	1	3	1	2	1.4
Utility & Infrastructure Failure	1	1	4	3	1	1.5

Type of Hazard Event	Probability	Potential Consequences	Warning Time	Duration	Spatial Extent	Risk Factor Value
Wildfire	2	1	4	1	1	1.6
Winter Storm	3	1	2	2	4	2.4

## Hazard Event History

Understanding hazard event histories is crucial for effective risk management. Analyzing past events allows us to identify trends, patterns, and recurring risk factors. This knowledge enables us to better prepare for and mitigate the impact of future hazards. Examining hazard event histories provides valuable insights to inform decision-making and help prioritize resources for risk prevention and response efforts. Table 5 lists some of the more notable events in the Town of Poestenkill since 2003.

Table 5: Notable Hazard Events in the Town of Poestenkill Since 2003

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
Drought	None	None	None	None
Earthquake	None	04/05/2024	No reported impacts	Earthquake with epicenter in NJ, felt in some parts of the county
Extreme Temperatures Extreme Heat	None	08/12/2021	Heat indices reached 95°F–104°F degrees across parts of the Hudson River from Albany and points southward reaching 105°F–110°F.	Extreme Heat
Extreme Cold	None	02/03/2023– 02/04/2023	Warming centers were opened	Arctic Cold, with extreme wind chills some squalls- temperatures ranging from -18°F to -39°F , wind gusts up to 44 mph
Flooding (Including Flooding, Dam Failure, and Ice Jams)	None	None	None	None
Hazardous Materials	N/A	None	None	None
High Wind	None	04/14/2021	Some of the storms also produced wind damage with reports of trees and wires down. There were several reports of trees and wires down in the Poestenkill area.	None
Hurricane or Tropical Storm	None	None	None	None
Landslide	None	None	None	None
Lightning	None	None	None	None
Terrorism	N/A	None	None	None

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
Tornado	None	None	None	None
Utility & Infrastructure Failure	N/A	None	None	None
Wildfire	None	05/30/2023	No damage to structures or people	Brush fire burning nearly 2 acres
Winter Storm (Including Ice Storm and Snowstorm)	None	None	None	None

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),<sup>7</sup> the notable events in the Town of Poestenkill since 2019 include the following:

- July 14, 2021** – Thunderstorm Winds: Slow-moving thunderstorms over Rensselaer County during the afternoon resulted in 2 to 5 inches of rainfall over two to three hours over central and southern portions of the county. The runoff from the rainfall washed out or destroyed numerous roads and bridges, some of which would take weeks to months to reconstruct. Damages to roads and bridges totaled around \$3 million, according to county officials. The Rensselaer County Executive declared a state of emergency and urged no unnecessary travel after the storms. Governor Hochul requested a Physical Disaster Declaration from the Small Business Administration, citing major damage to 18 homes and 9 businesses totaling \$1.895 million, and minor damage to 281 homes and 14 businesses totaling \$2.3 million. Some flash flooding extended into the northern portion of Columbia County as well. Some of the storms also produced wind damage with reports of trees and powerlines down.
- May 30, 2023** – Wildfire: Brush fire burned nearly 2 acres, but there was no damage to structures or people reported.

## National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program that provides flood insurance to millions of policyholders across the country. The following information is provided to meet federal standards. The Town of Poestenkill answered the NFIP questions in Table 6 through Table 8 to the best of its ability.

Table 6: Responses on Floodplain Management from the Town of Poestenkill

Question	Response
Who is the floodplain manager? Is this their primary or secondary role?	Tracy Church, CEO Secondary
Does the floodplain manager have adequate training and capacity for their role? If not, what else is needed?	Yes, FEMA training
How does the community enforce its floodplain rules? Does enforcement include monitoring compliance and acting to correct violations?	Yes, enforcement includes monitoring compliance and acting to correct violations.
When was the community’s most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV)?	2018

<sup>7</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). 01/01/2011–09/30/2024. “Rensselaer County, New York.” [https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/listevents.jsp?eventType=ALL&beginDate\\_mm=01&beginDate\\_dd=01&beginDate\\_yyyy=2011&endDate\\_mm=09&endDate\\_dd=30&endDate\\_yyyy=2024&county=RENSELAER%3A83&hailfilter=0.00&tornfilter=0&windfilter=000&sort=DT&submitbutton=Search&statefips=36%2CNEW+YORK](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/listevents.jsp?eventType=ALL&beginDate_mm=01&beginDate_dd=01&beginDate_yyyy=2011&endDate_mm=09&endDate_dd=30&endDate_yyyy=2024&county=RENSELAER%3A83&hailfilter=0.00&tornfilter=0&windfilter=000&sort=DT&submitbutton=Search&statefips=36%2CNEW+YORK).

Question	Response
Were any violations noted on the community's most recent CAV?	No
Is there an upcoming CAV? If no, is one needed?	No, a CAV is needed.
When was the most recent floodplain management ordinance adopted?	3/9/1987
Does your community participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)? If so, describe the steps the community has taken to achieve the CRS goals.	No
Does the community's floodplain management ordinance include any higher standards? If so, please list.	No
Who is responsible for permitting?	Tracy Church, CEO
How does the community issue development permits in the special flood hazard area?	Through application for building permit. Review and approval of a permit is required before any development occurs in a special flood hazard area.
Does the community maintain elevation certificates?	No
Does the community track the number of buildings in the special flood hazard area? If yes, are there any trends?	Yes
How many repetitive loss (RL) structures does the community have? (List number and type of structure)	1 – Residential
How many severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures does the community have? (List number and type of structure)	0
Have any RL/SRL properties been mitigated since the last plan update?	No
Who is responsible for making substantial damage/substantial improvement determinations?	The Code Enforcement Official
How does the substantial damage/substantial improvement process work in your community?	Building officials monitor and work with property owners.
Is there sufficient staff and training to make substantial damage/substantial improvement determinations?	Yes

Question	Response
How are substantial damage/substantial improvement requirements messaged to the public before and after an event?	Town meetings, town message board, website
Have any substantially damaged/substantially improved structures been mitigated since the last plan update?	No
How will the community remain in compliance with the NFIP moving forward? (Simply stating "the community will continue to comply with the NFIP" will not meet FEMA's planning requirements.)	The town will continue to monitor the program and educate the public through town newsletters and the website.

Table 7: Responses on Floodplain Mapping from the Town of Poestenkill

Question	Response
How does the community support map change requests? This could be requests during the Risk MAP process or through Letters of Map Amendment or Revision.	The Flood Plain Administrator accepts requests from property owners for any map amendments or revision and processes them accordingly.
When did the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) become effective?	1981
When was the latest FIRM adopted?	9/2/1981
Is the FIRM and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report in an accessible location? How would the public get access to their flood map information?	Paper copies are available at the Town Hall and online through the FEMA website.
Does the community use any Risk MAP products? If so, describe.	No
Does the community collect updated floodplain data or modeling? Is this shared with partners and with FEMA?	No
Other comments?	None

Table 8: Responses on Flood Insurance and Outreach from the Town of Poestenkill

Question	Response
How does the community educate the public on floodplain management and the availability of flood insurance, in and out of the floodplain?	Through the building permit application process

Question	Response
How does the community engage with insurance agents on flood insurance?	They don't.
Does the community (or state) have flood hazard disclosure laws?	No
How familiar is the public with their flood insurance options?	Unsure
How many properties have flood insurance in the community?	20
Are there any areas where flood insurance is lacking?	No
Other comments?	None

## Critical Facilities Information

The following information is provided to meet standard F1. Identifying critical facilities in flood-prone areas is crucial for effective emergency planning and risk management. By understanding the potential impact of flooding on these facilities, local authorities can develop proactive strategies to mitigate risks and ensure the safety and functionality of these important assets during flood events. This information is valuable for decision-making and prioritizing resources for emergency response and preparedness efforts. Table 9 lists the critical facilities (emergency facilities, critical infrastructure and utilities, and other key facilities, as presented in Risk Assessment) that are in the floodplain in the Town of Poestenkill.

Table 9: Critical Facilities Located in the Floodplain in the Town of Poestenkill

Critical Facility	Type of Facility	Jurisdictional Location	1% Chance? Zone AE	0.2% Chance? Zone X (Shaded)	How has this facility been protected from flooding?	Feasibility of Mitigating the Flood Risk
Algonquin Middle School	Schools	Town of Poestenkill	No	No	No additional measures have been taken to protect this facility from flooding.	The property is not within a designated flood zone, so the established risk is low.
East Poestenkill Vol Fire Co	Fire Stations	Town of Poestenkill	No	No	No additional measures have been taken to protect this facility from flooding.	The property is not within a designated flood zone, so the established risk is low.
Poestenkill Elementary School	Schools	Town of Poestenkill	No	No	No additional measures have been taken to protect this facility from flooding.	The property is not within a designated flood zone, so the established risk is low.
Poestenkill Fire Company	Fire Stations	Town of Poestenkill	No	No	No additional measures have been taken to protect this facility from flooding.	The town would like to address mitigation measures of these flood prone critical facilities.

Critical Facility	Type of Facility	Jurisdictional Location	1% Chance? Zone AE	0.2% Chance? Zone X (Shaded)	How has this facility been protected from flooding?	Feasibility of Mitigating the Flood Risk
Town Hall	Government	Town of Poestenkill	No	No	No additional measures have been taken to protect this facility from flooding.	The town would like to address mitigation measures of these flood prone critical facilities.

## Jurisdiction/Public Identified Vulnerabilities

Table 10 provides crucial information on critical facilities within the Town of Poestenkill, highlighting the town's vulnerability to identified hazards. It outlines the susceptibility of future assets to damage from the identified hazards, offering valuable insights into their potential impact on these essential facilities. By understanding the risks to these assets, local authorities can develop proactive strategies to mitigate the vulnerabilities and ensure the safety and functionality of these important assets during flood events. This data is invaluable for decision-making and prioritizing resources for emergency response and preparedness efforts, ultimately contributing to more effective risk management and building the resilience of the community.

Table 10: Vulnerable Assets in the Town of Poestenkill

Vulnerable Assets	What makes this group/asset vulnerable during hazards?  Have there ever been issues with recovery after an event?
<b>People</b> (residents, workers, visiting populations, and socially vulnerable populations like seniors, individuals with disabilities, lower-income individuals, etc.)	
Senior citizens	N/A
<b>Structures</b> (residential, commercial, industrial, government-owned, planned capital improvement, etc.)	
Town Hall	N/A
Bridges	N/A
<b>Economic Assets</b> (major employers, primary economic sectors, key infrastructure like telecommunications networks, etc.)	
None	N/A
<b>Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources</b> (areas of conservation, beaches, parks, critical habitats, community centers, historic places, etc.)	
None	N/A
<b>Critical Facilities and Infrastructure</b> (hospitals, law enforcement, water, power, transportation systems, etc.)	
Town Hall	N/A
Poestenkill Fire Station	N/A
Algonquin Middle School	N/A
<b>Community Activities</b> (major local events, such as festivals, or economic events, like farming or fishing)	
Farming	Farmlands in flood zones
Fishing	Poestenkill and Quackenkill Creeks – prone to flooding
<b>Are there any other assets that you can think to include?</b>	
None	N/A

## Additional Public Involvement

As part of this 2025 plan update, the Town of Poestenkill undertook various activities to (a) alert the public and other stakeholders to the fact that the HMP Planning Committee was developing the update and (b) provide the public and other stakeholders with a forum to ask questions and submit comments and suggestions on the process. Table 11 presents the outreach activities undertaken by the Town of Poestenkill for the 2025 plan update

Table 11: Outreach Activities Undertaken by the Town of Poestenkill

Activity Date	Type of Activity	Activity Details	Department and/or Staff Member
June 2024	Survey	Shared post about the hazard mitigation plan update on all local social media channels	Town Supervisor’s office

## Capabilities Assessment

Local mitigation capabilities are essential for reducing the impact of hazards on communities. Local authorities can effectively mitigate hazards by leveraging existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources. These capabilities encompass a range of strategies, such as land-use planning, building codes and enforcement, public education and outreach, infrastructure protection, and natural resource protection. Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including emergency management agencies, public works departments, and environmental organizations, local communities can implement comprehensive mitigation efforts to minimize the impact of disasters. Table 12 through Table 15 provide the capabilities of the Town of Poestenkill.

## Planning and Regulatory

Planning and regulatory capabilities are the plans, policies, codes, and ordinances that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards.

Table 12: Planning and Regulatory Capabilities of the Town of Poestenkill

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Building code	Y	Resource for structure vulnerability assessment
Zoning ordinance	Y	Does not focus on hazard mitigation
Subdivision ordinance or regulation	Y	Does not focus on hazard mitigation

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Special purpose ordinances (floodplain management, stormwater management, hillside or steep slope ordinances, wildfire ordinances, hazard setback requirements)	Y	Does not focus on hazard mitigation
Growth management ordinances (also called “smart growth” or anti-sprawl programs)	N	N/A
Site plan review requirements	Y	Does not focus on hazard mitigation
General, comprehensive or master plan	Y	No focus on hazard mitigation
Capital improvements plan	N	N/A
Economic development plan	N	N/A
Emergency response plan	Y	Would like to include provisions for flood resilience to ensure public safety before emergency response
Post-disaster recovery plan	N	N/A
Post-disaster recovery ordinance	N	N/A
Real estate disclosure requirements	N	N/A
Other	None	N/A

## Administrative and Technical

Administrative and technical capabilities include staff and their skills.

Table 13: Administrative Capabilities of the Town of Poestenkill<sup>8</sup>

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Y	Site plan and subdivision review

<sup>8</sup> All communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program; as such, they are required by the regulations to have an appointed floodplain manager.

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Y	Flood hazard mitigation and flood prone structures
Planners or engineer(s) with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards	Y	Flood hazard mitigation and flood prone structures
Floodplain manager	Y	Flood hazard mitigation and flood prone structures
Surveyors	N	N/A
Staff with education or expertise to assess the community's vulnerability to hazards	N	N/A
Personnel skilled in GIS and/or HAZUS	N	N/A
Scientists familiar with the hazards of the community	N	N/A
Emergency manager	N	N/A
Grant writers	N	N/A
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	N	N/A

## Financial

Financial capabilities are the resources to fund mitigation actions.

Table 14: Financial Capabilities of the Town of Poestenkill

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	No	N/A
Capital improvements project funding	No	N/A

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)	How has or could this resource be used for hazard mitigation?
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	Unknown but would like to find out what resources are available.
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes	Unknown but would like to find out what resources are available.
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers for new developments/homes	No	N/A
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes	Unknown but would like to find out what resources are available.
Incur debt through special tax and revenue bonds	Yes	Unknown but would like to find out what resources are available.
Incur debt through private activity bonds	No	N/A
Withhold spending in hazard-prone areas	No	N/A
State mitigation grant programs	Don't Know	N/A
Other state and federal grants	Unexpended fund balance	Unknown but would like to find out what resources are available.

## Education and Outreach

Education and outreach capabilities are programs and methods that could communicate about and encourage risk reduction.

Table 15: Education and Outreach Capabilities of the Town of Poestenkill

Education and Outreach Capability	In Place (Y/N)	Does this resource currently incorporate hazard mitigation?	Notes
Community newsletter(s)	Y	N	None
Hazard awareness campaigns (such as Firewise, Storm Ready, Severe Weather Awareness Week, school programs)	N	N/A	None
Public meetings/events (Please describe.)	Y	N	None

Education and Outreach Capability	In Place (Y/N)	Does this resource currently incorporate hazard mitigation?	Notes
Emergency management listserv	N	N/A	None
Local news	Y Eastwick Press	N	None
Distributing hard copies of notices (e.g., public libraries, door-to-door outreach)	Y	N	None
Insurance disclosures/outreach	N	N/A	None
Organizations that represent, advocate for, or interact with underserved and vulnerable communities (Please describe.)	Y Food pantries Churches	N	None
Social media (Please describe.)	Local social media channels	Yes	None
Other? (Please describe.)	None	N/A	None

## Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve Capabilities

Table 16 presents opportunities for the Town of Poestenkill to expand or improve capabilities.

Table 16: Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve the Capabilities of the Town of Poestenkill

Capability Type	Opportunity to Expand and/or Improve
Planning and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are working on a program that would allow all the technical information on a parcel to be accessed by all personnel who need a lot of information relative to flood plain and other factors.</li> <li>Need training for Planning and Zoning Board.</li> </ul>
Administrative and Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional training for floodplain administrator and cross-training for the DPW.</li> <li>Need funding for floodplain administration training.</li> </ul>
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the county in obtaining available grant funding; would like to apply for available grants.</li> </ul>
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update website to include public outreach regarding flood insurance assistance.</li> <li>Utilize social media for public outreach and awareness and include flood risk reduction education. Need a dedicated media specialist.</li> </ul>

## Mitigation Strategy

Table 17 presents details about the 2019 mitigation actions. Table 18 presents the actions in the 2025 update, and Table 19 shows the prioritization of the mitigation actions.

Table 17: Status of Actions for the Town of Poestenkill in 2019<sup>9</sup>

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
1	Map and Code Update (2011 PO-1)	Floodplain maps and codes are not up to date.	Flood Plain Mitigation. Update maps and put in place an updated Town Code to reflect new federal requirements. Adopt new maps when promulgated by FEMA.	Town Board	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
2	Culvert Replacement (2011 PO-2)	Culverts are undersized.	Culverts are being replaced in an ongoing manner and resized to perform better. Culvert replacement.	Town Highway	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
3	Public Awareness (2011 PO-CL-1)	Many residents are unaware of the hazards that flooding brings to both self and property.	Develop information on town website to sensitize those who live near streams and waterways to the hazards that are posed by them and improve overall public safety during storm events.	Town Website Administrator with CEO	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions

<sup>9</sup> Projects related to Critical Facilities (CF) must protect the facility to the 500-year event or worst damage scenario, whichever is greater.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
4	Removal of Flood Repetitive Loss Structures NEW	Three points in town are subject to flooding during extreme events. Homes at certain locations will experience future damage from flooding.	Avoid repeat damage to existing structures by adopting updated code to allow town to purchase homes at pre-flood value and remove the structures. After updating the code, purchase and remove the structures with grant funding. The homes in question include those around 351 Plank, 129 Plank, home above and below 5 Franklin and 1 house just north of the Poestenkill along NY351.	Town Board	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
5	Request Code/Ordinance Review by County as Needed (2011 PO-CL-2)	Communities are safer and more resilient when new construction and substantial improvements take into account the latest information on hazard vulnerabilities and measures to reduce risk.	Code update: Review existing local codes and ordinances against the identified hazards to determine whether there need to be any amendments to address identified hazards and, where a need is identified, modify or amend the codes and ordinances as applicable (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Town Supervisor	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
6	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 PO-CL-3)	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows	Code enforcement: Enforcement of NYS and Local Building Codes with Continual CEO training (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Town Supervisor	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
		officials to better regulate activities in hazard areas to protect lives and property.			
7	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning (2011 PO-CL-4)	A long-term vision for the community that doesn't take into account hazard areas can put lives and property at risk. Taking into account natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Town Supervisor	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
8	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 PO-CL-5)	When municipal staff are not armed with information on zoning and planning issues that sometimes arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation, they may make decisions that do not foster community resiliency.	Hold periodic workshops for municipalities regarding zoning and planning issues that arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Town Supervisor	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
9	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance per New FEMA Regulations (as needed) (2011 PO-NFIP-1)	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulated to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations.	Building Department	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
10	Floodplain Administrator (2011 PO-NFIP-2)	Will be done in updated code.	Designate/install a specific person to be the municipality's Floodplain Administrator.	Building Department	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
11	Floodplain Staffing/Training (2011 PO-NFIP-3)	Numbers of staff available and their level of training could be improved to better serve the town's floodplain management objectives.	Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations/floodplain management ordinances.	Building Department	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
12	Floodplain Management Ordinance (2011 PO-NFIP-4)	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulated to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs.	Legal	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
13	Floodplain Manager (2011 PO-NFIP-5)	Floodplain manager would benefit from the training and certification regarding FEMA-480.	Require staff involved in floodplain management and ordinance enforcement to become Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs)	Building Department	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions
14	Mitigation of Repetitive Loss Properties *NEW*	Poestenkill has one NFIP Repetitive Loss Property.	The town will support property owners who wish to undertake flood mitigation on private property.	Town Supervisor and Floodplain Manager	Insufficient staff, limited funding, carry over to 2025 Mitigation Actions

Table 18: Proposed 2025 Mitigation Actions for the Town of Poestenkill<sup>10</sup>

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
1	Map and Code Update (2011 PO-1)	No	Improve Capabilities Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	Floodplain maps and codes are not up to date.	Floodplain mitigation: Update maps and put in place updated Town Code to reflect new federal requirements. Adopt new maps when promulgated by FEMA.	Town Board	No	No	1 year	\$1,500	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, HMGP, FMA	High
2	Culvert Replacement (2011 PO-2)	No	Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	Culverts are undersized.	Culverts are being replaced in an ongoing manner and resized to perform better. Culvert replacement.	Highway Department	No	No	5 years	\$500,000	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action	Tax Levy, BridgeNY, BRIC, HMGP, FMA	High
3	Public Awareness (2011 PO-CL-1)	No	Public Awareness	Flooding	Many residents are unaware of the hazards that flooding brings to both self and property.	Develop information on town website to sensitize those who live near streams and waterways to the hazards that are posed by them and improve overall public safety during storm events.	Town Board, Flood Plain Administrator and Website Administrator	No	No	1 year	\$1,000	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, HMGP, FMA	High

<sup>10</sup> BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, DEC = Department of Environmental Conservation, FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance, HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, NYS DOT = New York State Department of Transportation

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
4	Removal of Flood Repetitive Loss Structures	No	Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	Three points in town are subject to flooding during extreme events. Homes at certain locations will experience future damage from flooding.	Avoid repeat damage to existing structures by adopting updated code to allow town to purchase homes at pre-flood value and remove the structures. After updating the code, purchase and remove the structures with grant funding. The homes in question include those around 351 Plank, 129 Plank, home above and below 5 Franklin. and 1 house just north of the Poestenkill along NY351.	Floodplain Administrator and Town Board*	No	No	5 years	\$500,000	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action.	BRIC, HMGP, FMA	Medium
5	Request Code/Ordinance Review by County as needed (2011 PO-CL-2)	No	Promote Resilient New Development	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/ tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	Communities are safer and more resilient when new construction and substantial improvements take into account the latest information on hazard vulnerabilities and measures to reduce risk.	Code update: Review existing local codes and ordinances against the identified hazards to determine whether there need to be any amendments to address identified hazards and, where a need is identified, modify and amend the codes and ordinances as applicable.	Town Board, county	No	No	1-3 years	Unknown	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
6	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 PO-CL-3)	No	Improve Capabilities	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/ tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when the staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to better regulate activities in hazard areas to protect lives and property.	Code enforcement: Enforcement of NYS and Local Building Codes with Continual CEO training (prevention).	Town Board* and county	No	No	1-3 years	\$1,000	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Medium
7	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning (2011 PO-CL-4)	No	Improve Capabilities Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/ tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	A long-term vision for the community that does not take into account hazard areas can put lives and property at risk. Taking into account natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department.	Town Board* and county	No	No	5 years	Unknown	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
8	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 PO-CL-5)	No	Improve Capabilities Promote Resilient New Development	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	When municipal staff are not armed with information on zoning and planning issues that sometimes arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation, they may make decisions that do not foster community resiliency.	Hold periodic workshops for municipalities regarding zoning and planning issues that arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation (prevention).	Town Board* and county	No	No	5 years	\$1,000	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Low
9	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance per New FEMA Regulations (as needed) (2011 PO-NFIP-1)	No	Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update and revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations.	Town Board*	No	No	5 years	\$10,000	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, HMGP, FMA	Low
10	Floodplain Administrator (2011 PO-NFIP-2)	No	Improve Capabilities Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to better regulate activities in hazard areas to protect lives and property.	The duties of the floodplain Administrator has been assigned to the CEO. Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations and floodplain management ordinances.	Town Board	No	No	1 year	Unknown	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	High

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
11	Floodplain Staffing/Training (2011 PO-NFIP-3)	No	Improve Capabilities Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to better regulate activities in hazard areas to protect lives and property.	Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations and floodplain management ordinances.	Town Board	No	No	1 year	Unknown	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Low
12	Floodplain Management Ordinance (2011 PO-NFIP-4)	No	Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update and revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations.	Town Board	No	No	1 year	Unknown	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Low
13	Floodplain Manager (2011 PO-NFIP-5)	No	Improve Capabilities Protect Existing Assets Promote Resilient New Development	Flooding	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when the staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to better regulate activities in hazard areas to protect lives and property.	Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations and floodplain management ordinances. Identify someone to be the Floodplain Manager.	Town Board	No	No	1 year	Unknown	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action and the population protected from injury and loss of life.	Tax Levy, BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Low

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal / Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
14	Mitigation of Repetitive Loss Properties (2019)	No	Increase in Public Awareness	Flooding	Poestenkill has one NFIP Repetitive Loss Property.	The town will support property owners who wish to undertake flood mitigation on private property.	Town Board/Town Attorney, Building Department	No	No	5 years	\$250,000	Losses avoided, such as the number and value of structures and infrastructure protected by the action.	BRIC, HMGP, FMA	Low

Table 19: Prioritization of Mitigation Actions for the Town of Poestenkill

#	Social	Technical	Administrative	Political	Legal	Economic	Environmental	Priority
1	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	High
2	4	3	3	3	4	2	4	High
3	2	4	3	3	4	4	4	High
4	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	Medium
5	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	Medium
6	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	Medium
7	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	Medium
8	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	Low
9	2	2	3	3	2	3	4	Low
10	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	High
11	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	Low
12	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	Low
13	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	Low
14	4	4	3	3	3	4	3	Low