



Village of Valley Falls

Jurisdictional Annex to the

MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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Village of Valley Falls Annex

This is the jurisdictional annex for the Village of Valley Falls. The jurisdiction’s governing body passed a formal resolution to participate in updating this multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan (HMP). A copy of its 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 Village of Valley Falls

Name	Title	Contact Information
Janet Weber	Village Clerk	Phone: 518-207-6093 Email: vfclerk@nycap.rr.com
Jay Overocker	Mayor	Contact village clerk

Introduction

Village of Valley Falls 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 Village of Valley Falls

Name	Title	Jurisdiction
Kirk Lipinski	Fire Chief	Valley Falls Fire Department
Jay Overocker	Mayor	Village of Valley Falls
Brian Backstrom	Board Member	Village of Valley Falls

Jurisdiction Profile

Location and Land Area

The Village of Valley Falls is located in northern Rensselaer County, in the eastern part of New York State (NYS). The village lies on the boundary of two towns, Pittstown and Schaghticoke. It shares a border with Schaghticoke to the north; Pittstown to the south and east; and both the Town and Village of Schaghticoke to the west.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, Rensselaer County has a total area of 665 square miles (1,720 km²), of which 652 square miles (1,690 km²) is land and 13 square miles (34 km²) (1.9%) is water. Of that, the Village of Valley Falls has a total area of 0.5 square miles (1.27 km²), of which 0.46 square miles (1.2 km²) is land and 0.03 square miles (0.06 km²) water bodies.¹

Population

According to the 2022 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates, the population of the Village of Valley Falls was estimated to be 461 persons.² The July 1, 2023, U.S Census population count shows a decreased in population to 430.³

Demographics

The total population of Valley Falls includes 51% males and 49% females. Persons under 18 comprise 25% of the population, and 28% are persons 60 and over. The population of ages 18 to 64 years of age make up 60% and the median age is 44.6.⁴ Young and old subsets of the population might have unique needs as far as care requirements and potential cognitive and/or mobility limitations before, during, and after a disaster.

The portion of the population who speak a language other than English is 2.2%.⁵ People who do not speak English well might have trouble understanding instructions regarding disaster preparation, response, and recovery.

Of those 25 years and older, 98.7% are high school graduates or higher, and 19.4% have received their bachelor's degree or higher.⁶ 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 might not have prior direct experience preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a particular hazard in their daily lives.

¹ United States. Census Bureau, 2025. "QuickFacts Village of Valley Falls,, Rensselaer County, New York, ." <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/rensselaercountynewyork,US/PST045223>.

² United States Census Bureau. 2022. *American Community Survey 5-year estimates*, <http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US3676672-valley-falls-ny/>.

³ Census Reporter. 2025. "Village of Valley Falls, Rensselaer County, New York Population Demographics." <http://censusreporter.dokku.censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US3676672-valley-falls-ny/>

⁴ United States. Census Bureau, 2025. "QuickFacts Village of Valley Falls, Rensselaer County, New York, ." <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/rensselaercountynewyork,US/PST045223>.

⁵ City Population, 2025, "Valley Falls, Rensselaer NY Population Statistics", [Valley Falls \(Rensselaer, New York, USA\) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map, Location, Weather and Web Information](#)

⁶ United States. Census Bureau, 2025. "QuickFacts Village of Valley Falls, Rensselaer County, New York, ." <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/rensselaercountynewyork,US/PST045223>.

The ACS reports that from 2018 to 2022, there were 184 total households and 2.5 persons per household in the Village of Valley Falls. The median household income was \$85,938; the per capita income was \$44,864; and the percentage of persons in poverty was 0.4%.⁷

The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in housing units (house, apartment, mobile home, rented rooms) as living in group quarters. Group quarters may be 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

Non-institutionalized civilians with a disability accounted for 12.6%, and people over 65 with a disability accounted for 30.6%. The total percentage of persons (civilian, noninstitutionalized) without health insurance is 1.4%.⁸ Persons with disabilities have access and functional needs such as cognitive or mobility limitations that might 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 1790s from an area that was originally part of the very large Albany County. In 1807 the county reorganized.⁹

Originally called Pittstown, the name was changed to the Village of Valley Falls sometime before 1860. The Village of Valley Falls was incorporated in 1904. The village straddles the Hoosic River. As was common for most communities along the river, the descent of water and the construction of dams made water-powered mills the early industries in the village.¹⁰

Governing Body

The governing body of the Village of Valley Falls consists of a Mayor and Village Board, who all serve the village's 466 residents on a volunteer basis. Members of this governing body are elected by the people. The village has no departments. Aside from the Mayor and Village Board, the village employs a Clerk and Treasurer, each of whom serve minimal hours annually; these two positions are paid and are the only staff members.

⁷ Census Reporter. 2025. "Village of Valley Falls, Rensselaer County, New York Population Demographics." <http://censusreporter.dokku.censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US3676672-valley-falls-ny/>

⁸ United States. Census Bureau, 2025. "QuickFacts Village of Valley Falls, Rensselaer County, New York, ." <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/rensselaercountynewyork,US/PST045223>.

⁹ 2020 Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Plan, "Village of Valley Falls Annex-Brief History",

¹⁰ Ibid.

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 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 Village of Valley Falls reviewed and updated its prior feedback to reflect current conditions in the community as of early 2024.

The Village of Valley Falls did not note any major residential or commercial development taking place since the last plan update. There is very little vacant land in the 0.39 square miles in land area. Most development activity that occurs is home renovations or rebuilds undertaken by individual homeowners. The village's library and church undertake occasional construction projects.

BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITIES AREA (BOA)

The Village of Valley Falls intends to develop a BOA Nomination for approximately 147 acres within the historic village. The study area includes the 23-acre former Thompson Mill site adjacent to the Hoosic River. The objective is to increase access to the riverfront and expand open space, park and recreation opportunities along the Hoosic River, as well as identify potential areas of contamination and reduce the number of vacant and underutilized properties. The anticipated completion date is April 30, 2027, and the grant award amount is \$125,000.¹¹

Since the last plan update, recent wildfires threatened the neighborhoods of Woody Hills and Forest Lanes. Multiple homeowners indicated they were previously unaware of their high wildfire risk. This risk is also likely to increase due to new development and changing conditions. More emphasis should be placed on the wildfire hazard, including to these neighborhoods. New flood maps have also been produced in response to concerns of risk of flooding to the community, and the high-risk Special Flood Hazard Area now includes sections of River Boulevard and Lake Lane as well.

The Village of Valley Falls enforces state building codes to protect new development from the effects of natural hazards. There are no buildings in the floodplain except the old abandoned and burned-out brick mill. The village has contracted out building code enforcement services because of the limited staff resources and capabilities of the village government.

¹¹ New York State, 2025, "Historic Valley Falls BOA Nomination", [Historic Valley Falls BOA Nomination | Regional Economic Development Councils](#)

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.	
	4	Highly Likely	91%–100% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of less than 1 year.	
Potential Consequences 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.	

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
	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.	
Warning Time 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	
Duration 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	
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 Village of Valley Falls with respect to the different hazards the jurisdiction might experience.

Table 4: Types of Hazard Events with Calculated Priority Risk Index for the Village of Valley Falls

Type of Hazard Event	Probability	Potential Consequences	Warning Time	Duration	Spatial Extent	Risk Factor Value
Dam Failure	1	1	4	3	1	1.5
Drought	3	2	1	4	4	2.8
Earthquake	2	2	4	1	4	2.5
Extreme Temperatures	4	2	1	3	4	3
Flooding	3	2	1	2	2	2.2
High Winds	4	2	2	2	3	2.8
Hurricane-Tropical Storm	2	2	1	2	2	1.9
Lightning	3	2	4	2	1	2.3
Tornado	3	3	2	3	2	2.7
Wildfire	2	2	4	3	3	2.5
Winter Storm	4	3	1	3	4	3.3

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 Village of Valley Falls since 2020.

Table 5: Notable Hazard Events in the Village of Valley Falls Since 2020

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 damages in village	Homeowners in village felt vibrations
Extreme Temperature Extreme Heat	None	08/12/2021	Heat indices reached 95°F–104°F 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, and wind gusts up to 44 mph
Flooding (Including Flooding, Dam Failure, and Ice Jams)	None	None	None	None
Hazardous Materials	None	None	None	None
High Wind	None	08/29/2020	Several large tree limbs were downed onto a house on Powder Mill Road.	Thunderstorms developed over portions of eastern New York during the afternoon. A couple of these storms produced hail up to ping-pong ball size.
Hurricane or Tropical Storm	None	None	None	None
Landslide	None	None	None	None
Lightning	None	None	None	None
Terrorism	None	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	None	None	None	None
Wildfire	None	None	None	None
Winter Storm (Including Ice Storm and Snowstorm)	None	12/16/2020– 12/17/2020	Downed trees and power lines from weight of snow	Snowfall in Rensselaer County ranging from 17.3 in to 26 in
	None	12/15/2022– 12/17/2022	N/A	Nor'easter: With snowfall ranging from 1 in to 12 in
	None	03/13/2023– 03/15/2023	Downed trees and power lines with widespread power outages	Nor'easter: With heavy wet snow, accumulations from 12 in to 31 in

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)¹² at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the notable events in the Village of Valley Falls since [year] include the following:

- **August 29, 2020** – NCEI reported Thunderstorm Winds in Valley Falls. Thunderstorms developed over portions of eastern New York during the afternoon. A couple of these storms produced hail up to ping-pong ball size. They later spawned two EF1 tornadoes in the towns of Stillwater and Schaghticoke, with damage to a couple of residences and a high school. Sporadic wind damage was noted elsewhere. Several large tree limbs were downed onto a house on Powder Mill Road.
- **June 6, 2023** – The Village of Valley Falls had two hail reports within 10 miles of the village center in 2023. The largest report of hail in 2023 near Valley Falls was 1.00 inches. The zip code with the highest number of damaging hail reports near Valley Falls in 2023 is 12082, with 1 report.

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 Village of Valley Falls answered the NFIP questions in Table 6 to the best of its ability.

Table 6: Responses on Floodplain Management from the Village of Valley Falls

Question	Response
Why does the community not participate in the NFIP?	The Village of Valley Falls entered FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on June 5, 1985 but was suspended from the program on January 7, 2016. The community was suspended due to non-compliance, improper staffing, which is necessary to be a part of the NFIP.
Is the community interested in joining the NFIP?	Yes, the community is interested in joining the NFIP.

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

¹² 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.

valuable for decision-making and prioritizing resources for emergency response and preparedness efforts. Table 7 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 Village of Valley Falls.

Table 7: Critical Facilities Located in the Floodplain in the Village of Valley Falls

Critical Facility	Type of Facility	Jurisdiction	1% Chance? Zone AE	0.2% Chance? Zone X (Shaded)	How has this facility been protected from flooding?	Feasibility of Mitigating the Flood Risk
No critical facilities are in the floodplain.						

Jurisdiction/Public Identified Vulnerabilities

Table 8 provides crucial information on critical facilities in the Village of Valley Falls, highlighting the village’s vulnerability to identified hazards. It outlines the susceptibility of 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 hazard 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 8: Vulnerable Assets in the Village of Valley Falls

Vulnerable Assets	What makes this group/asset vulnerable during hazards? Have there ever been issues with recovery after an event?
People (residents, workers, visiting populations, and socially vulnerable populations like seniors, individuals with disabilities, lower-income individuals, etc.)	
Population of 466 people	N/A
More elderly population that would need assistance	N/A
Some low income families	N/A
Structures (residential, commercial, industrial, government-owned, planned capital improvement, etc.)	
Mill building is condemned.	N/A

Vulnerable Assets	What makes this group/asset vulnerable during hazards? Have there ever been issues with recovery after an event?
Economic Assets (major employers, primary economic sectors, key infrastructure like telecommunications networks, etc.)	
Railroad	N/A
Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources (areas of conservation, beaches, parks, critical habitats, community centers, historic places, etc.)	
No listed historic or cultural resources are located in the floodplain in the Village of Valley Falls.	N/A
Critical Facilities and Infrastructure (hospitals, law enforcement, water, power, transportation systems, etc.)	
Valley Falls Volunteer Fire Department	Valley Falls (V) Waste Water Treatment Facility
Community Activities (major local events, such as festivals, or economic events, like farming or fishing)	
Memorial Day Parade	N/A
Are there any other assets that you can think to include?	
None	N/A

Additional Public Involvement

As part of this 2025 plan update, the Village of Valley Falls 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 9 presents the outreach activities undertaken by the Village of Valley Falls for the 2025 plan update.

Table 9: Outreach Activities Undertaken by the Village of Valley Falls

Activity Date	Type of Activity	Activity Details	Department and/or Staff Member
April 2024–September 2024	Survey	Survey was posted online and posted flyer in the library and other village gathering areas.	Mayor’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 10 through Table 13 provide the capabilities of the Village of Valley Falls.

Planning and Regulatory

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

Table 10: Planning and Regulatory Capabilities of the Village of Valley Falls

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Building code	Y	Used to encourage safe building practices
Zoning ordinance	N	N/A
Subdivision ordinance or regulations	N	N/A
Special purpose ordinances (floodplain management, stormwater management, hillside or steep slope ordinances, wildfire ordinances, hazard setback requirements)	N	N/A
Growth management ordinances (also called “smart growth” or anti-sprawl programs)	N	N/A
Site plan review requirements	N	N/A
General, comprehensive or master plan	N	N/A
Capital improvements plan	N	N/A
Economic development plan	N	N/A
Emergency response plan	Y	Used to properly respond to any emergency
Post-disaster recovery plan	N	N/A

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Post-disaster recovery ordinance	N	N/A
Real estate disclosure requirements	N	N/A
Other		N/A

Administrative and Technical

Administrative and technical capabilities include staff and their skills.

Table 11: Administrative Capabilities of the Village of Valley Falls

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	N	N/A
Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	N	N/A
Planners or engineer(s) with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards	N	N/A
Floodplain manager	Y*	Yes, Mayor
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 12: Financial Capabilities of the Village of Valley Falls

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Don't know	N/A
Capital improvements project funding	Yes	Used to improve infrastructure and other items that aid in hazard reduction
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	Taxes or fees used to fund programs associated with hazard reduction or mitigation
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes	Yes
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers for new developments/homes	No	N/A
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes	Can be used to fund programs to reduce or mitigate hazards
Incur debt through special tax and revenue bonds	Yes	Can be used to fund programs to reduce or mitigate hazards
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

Education and Outreach

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

Table 13: Education and Outreach Capabilities of the Village of Valley Falls

Education and Outreach Capability	In Place? (Y/N)	Does this resource currently incorporate hazard mitigation?	Notes
Community newsletter(s)	No	N/A	None
Hazard awareness campaigns (such as Firewise, Storm Ready, Severe Weather Awareness Week, school programs)	No	N/A	None
Public meetings/events (Please describe.)	Nothing besides monthly village meetings	N/A	None
Emergency management listserv	No	N/A	None
Local news	No	N/A	None
Distributing hard copies of notices (e.g., public libraries, door-to-door outreach)	Yes	Not currently, but it can	None
Insurance disclosures/outreach	No	N/A	None
Organizations that represent, advocate for, or interact with underserved and vulnerable communities (Please describe.)	No	N/A	None
Social media (Please describe.)	Facebook	N/A	None
Other? (Please describe.)	N/A	N/A	None

Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve Capabilities

Table 14 presents opportunities for the Village of Valley Falls to expand or improve capabilities.

Table 14: Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve the Capabilities of the Village of Valley Falls

Capability Type	Opportunity to Expand and/or Improve
Planning and Regulations	Need to have disaster plan and recovery plan
Administrative and Technical	Emergency management training

Capability Type	Opportunity to Expand and/or Improve
Financial	Our municipality of fewer than 450 total residents, a total annual village property tax levy of less than \$60,000, and only two part-time staff (Village Clerk and Village Treasurer) who are very minimally compensated. All other positions in the village government are unpaid volunteers. This limits the functions we are able to undertake, including hazard mitigations strategies.
Education and Outreach	Willing to put up education materials on Facebook

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 15: Status of Actions for the Village of Valley Falls in 2019¹³

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
1	Playground Drainage *NEW*	Drainage issue near playground. Water drains into a field, which then drains towards homes on Route 67. Flooding problems.	Phase 1- Evaluate further to assess the problem and identify a viable solution. Phase 2- Implement recommended project.	Mayor and Village Board	Take off list – no longer relevant
2	Drainage System, Corner of Edward and Ella *NEW*	No existing drainage system at corner of Edward and Ella Streets	Drainage system, with culvert and necessary roadway repaving	Mayor and Village Board	Road was repaved and a ditching placed
3	Possible Reinstatement in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) *NEW*	The village is presently suspended from the NFIP. The Village Board does not have an understanding of why they were suspended from the program or if there are any steps to take to be reinstated.	Phase 1- Village Board to evaluate and determine whether they seek to re-enter the program (if possible) or if they wish to opt out. Phase 2- Move forward pending results of Phase 1. If seeking re-entry, the next step would be to consult the state NFIP Coordinator and then follow his/her instructions.	Mayor and Village Board	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions

¹³ 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	Floodplain Ordinance (2011 VF-1)	Land use in the floodplain would be better controlled if the ordinance was current to reflect the 2016 FEMA flood maps. The village is presently suspended from the NFIP.	Update floodplain management ordinance to enable the Village to better control land use in floodplain areas.	Legislative Body	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions
5	Mill Site Cleanup (2011 VF-3)	Possibility of debris entering the river during flood conditions, with associated debris impact and contamination issues downstream. Site is contaminated and floods.	Work to complete cleanup and removal of hazardous waste site at site of destroyed mill. Phase 1 – ownership transfer Phase 2- samples and testing Phase 3 – site remediation and creation of park.	Code Enforcement (village contracts with the town) and Legislative Body	Phase 1 and Phase 2 are complete. For sampling and testing they did as much as possible
6	Participate in County-Led Hazard Mitigation Outreach (2011 VF-CL-1)	Residents could benefit from additional information on hazards, risks, and hazard mitigation measures they can take on their own properties to reduce damages and improve resident safety before, during and after a hazard event.	Public awareness program on hazards, prevention, and mitigation: County will maintain a hazard mitigation and mitigation planning web presence (local municipal websites to link up to this site, if they haven't already done so); all participating jurisdictions to support preparation of a joint annual hazard mitigation and mitigation planning fact sheet and its distribution; periodic discussion of hazard mitigation and the mitigation plan at other regular local meetings; use of annual flyers, newsletters,	County-led action item. CPG Member, Village Trustee	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
			advertisements, or radio/TV announcements at the discretion of each jurisdiction (incorporating as much free information as possible from the FEMA Publications Warehouse and other appropriate sources) (public education).		
7	Request Code/Ordinance Review by County As Needed (2011 VF-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/ordinances as applicable (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Village Trustee	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions
8	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 VF-CL-3)	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).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Village Trustee. **NOTE: Village contracts with the town for Code Enforcement**	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions
9	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by	A long-term vision for the community that does not take into account hazard areas can	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a	County-led action item.	Action carried forward to 2025

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
	County Planning (2011 VF-CL-4)	put lives and property at risk. Taking into account natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.	courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department (prevention).	CPG Member, Village Trustee	Mitigation Actions
10	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 VF-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, Village Trustee	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions
11	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance (2011 VF-NFIP-1)	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/revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations.	Code Enforcement	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions
12	Designate a Floodplain Administrator (2011 VF-NFIP-2)	Staff changes	Designate/install a specific person to be the municipality's Floodplain Administrator.	Board of Trustees	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions
13	Staff Training in NFIP (2011 VF-NFIP-3)	Staff changes	Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations/floodplain management ordinances.	Board of Trustees	Action carried forward to 2025

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department and Position Title	Status Update
					Mitigation Actions
14	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance When New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) Are Released (2011 VF-NFIP-4)	Substantial improvements of existing structures, and new construction, would be at risk if the city was regulating to old FIRMs.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs.	Board of Trustees	Action carried forward to 2025 Mitigation Actions

Table 16: Proposed 2025 Mitigation Actions for the Village of Valley Falls¹⁴

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	Possible Reinstatement in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	No	Improve capabilities.	Flooding	The village is presently suspended from the NFIP. The Village Board does not understand why they were suspended from the program or if there are any steps to take to be reinstated.	Phase 1- Village Board to evaluate and determine whether they seek to re-enter the program (if possible) or if they wish to opt out. Phase 2- Move forward pending results of Phase 1. If seeking re-entry, the next step would be to consult the state NFIP Coordinator and then follow his/her instructions.	Mayor and Village Board	No	No	1–3 years	<\$100,000	Restoring access to flood insurance for residents, improving floodplain management, and increasing community resilience to flooding risks by potentially re-entering the NFIP.	HMGP, BRIC, FMA	High
2	Floodplain ordinance	No	Improve capabilities.	Flooding	Land use in the floodplain would be better controlled if the ordinance was current to reflect the 2016 FEMA flood maps. The village is presently suspended from the NFIP.	Update floodplain management ordinance to enable the village to better control land use in floodplain areas.	Legislative Body	No	No	1–3 years	<\$100,000	Better control of land use in flood-prone areas, reduced flood risks, and increased chances of reinstating participation in the NFIP by aligning the ordinance with the 2016 FEMA flood maps.	HMGP, BRIC, FMA	Medium
3	Participate in County-Led Hazard Mitigation Outreach	No	Increase public awareness.	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/	Residents could benefit from additional information on hazards, risks, and hazard mitigation measures they can take on their own properties to reduce damages and improve resident safety	Public awareness program on hazards, prevention, and mitigation: County will maintain a hazard mitigation and mitigation planning web presence (local municipal websites to	County-led action item. CPG Member, Village Trustee	No	No	1–3 years	<\$100,000	Increased public awareness of hazards, risks, and mitigation strategies, empowering residents to reduce	HMGP, BRIC	Medium

¹⁴ BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, DEC = Department of Environmental Conservation, FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance, HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, NYSDOT = 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
				tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	before, during, and after a hazard event.	link up to this site, if they have not already done so); all participating jurisdictions to support preparation of a joint annual hazard mitigation and mitigation planning fact sheet and its distribution; periodic discussion of hazard mitigation and the mitigation plan at other regular local meetings; use of annual flyers, newsletters, advertisements, or radio/to announcements, etc. at the discretion of each jurisdiction (incorporating as much free information as possible from the FEMA Publications Warehouse and other appropriate sources) (public education).						property damage, improve safety, and better prepare for hazard events.		
4	Request Code/Ordinance Review by County As Needed	No	Promote resilient new development.	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/ tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism,	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/ordinances as applicable (prevention).	County-led action item. Village Trustee	No	No	1-3 years	<\$100,000	Enhanced community resilience, reduced risks from new construction and substantial improvements, and improved hazard prevention and safety by ensuring local	HMGP, BRIC	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
				tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms								building codes align with the latest hazard vulnerability data.		
5	Send CEO to County-Led Training	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).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Village Trustee. **NOTE: Village contracts with the town for Code Enforcement**	No	No	1-3 years	<\$100,000	Maintaining up-to-date knowledge of NYS and local building codes, improving the village's ability to enforce regulations effectively, and enhancing the protection of lives and property in hazard-prone areas.	HMGP, BRIC	Medium
6	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning	No	Promote resilient new development.	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/ tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure	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 (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member, Village Trustee	No	No	1-3 years	<\$100,000	Incorporating natural hazard mitigation techniques into the community's long-term vision, reducing risks to lives and property, and promoting greater community resilience and safety.	HMGP, BRIC	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
				failure, wildfire, winter storms										
7	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation	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	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, Village Trustee	No	No	1–3 years	<\$100,000	Equipping municipal staff with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions on zoning, planning, and hazard mitigation, ultimately enhancing community resilience and safety.	HMGP, BRIC	Medium
8	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance	No	Protect existing assets.	Flooding	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.	Code Enforcement	No	No	1–3 years	<\$100,000	Aligning local regulations with the latest FEMA standards and hazard data, improving flood risk management, and enhancing community resilience to flooding while better protecting lives and property.	HMGP, BRIC, FMA	Medium
9	Designate a Floodplain Administrator	No	Improve capabilities.	Flooding	Staff changes	Designate/install a specific person to be the	Board of Trustees	No	No	1–3 years	<\$100,000	Ensuring consistent flood risk	HMGP, BRIC, FMA	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
						municipality's Floodplain Administrator.						management and compliance with regulations, maintaining institutional knowledge during staff changes, and streamlining floodplain-related decision-making.		
10	Staff Training in NFIP	No	Improve capabilities.	Flooding	Staff changes	Add/train sufficient members of staff to adequately enforce NFIP regulations/floodplain management ordinances.	Board of Trustees	No	No	1-3 years	<\$100,000	Ensuring that enough trained staff are available to effectively enforce NFIP regulations and floodplain management ordinances, maintaining compliance despite staff turnover, and improving overall flood risk management.	HMGP, BRIC, FMA	Low
11	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance When New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) Are Released	No	Protect existing assets.	Flooding	Substantial improvements of existing structures, and new construction, would be at risk if the city was regulating to old FIRMs.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs.	Board of Trustees	No	No	1-3 years	<\$100,000	Ensuring that substantial improvements and new construction are protected using the most current flood risk data, reducing flood	HMGP, BRIC, FMA	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
												risks and maintaining compliance with updated regulations.		

Table 17: Prioritization of Mitigation Actions for the Village of Valley Falls

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