

Step 6 Set Goals and Objectives

6.A Setting Mitigation Goals

Following the review, assessment and screening of hazards that are likely to cause significant damage and harm to the Village of Patchogue, the Steering Committee with input from the consultant, prepared and selected principal goals and objectives to strive for in developing mitigative measures. The goals selected below are a consensus of the committee and the Village administration. The goals and objectives are consistent with the Village's plans in progress on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, the Emergency Plan and the MS4 Program. The goals established below are derived from primary hazards of concern identified and analyzed in Step 5 above namely, severe storms such as hurricanes and flood hazards. The goals however are sufficiently broad to encompass the other hazards evaluated and assessed at some future date. These hazards have the potential for serious impact, but would not likely cause the same level of frequent damage or harm to people. Thus the goals presented and discussed by the Committee that were not directly linked to the hazards of concern were excluded. For example, purely economic and development goals or capital construction projects goals are not included.

The goals developed include:

- Protect human life and safety from catastrophic disasters.
- Protect property from catastrophic disasters.
- Avoid the loss of property value from flood hazards.
- Protect and preserve environmental resources.

These goals were developed from discussions, suggestions and comments throughout the planning process with participating Village officials. They represent the major issues and aims of the community and cover significant hazards and their impacts in Step 5 above.

The goals consider the existing resources and capabilities of the Village planning area. They strive to reduce or mitigate hazards and their risks.

Specific objectives were established for each goal, as a strategy for identifying mitigation measures that meet these goals and objectives will be presented in Step 7. The objectives meet several relevant criteria that include social, technical, administrative, political, legal, economic and environmental criteria (STAPLEE). The mitigation measures proposed are intended to fulfill the following criteria.

- Improve the quality of life and reduce neighborhood impacts.
- Include public support and involvement.
- Reduce a hazard event or its risk.
- Reduce the impact from a hazard.
- Effectively protect the public and property.
- Develop feasible and affordable mitigation efforts.
- Have the resources, staffing, and capability to manage and maintain the action.
- Have support and stakeholder involvement.
- Meet applicable regulatory requirements.
- Be within the capabilities and jurisdiction of the Village.
- Have full support of the Village Board and Administration.
- Obtain the funding and be cost effective.
- Improve environmental quality.

The goals and objectives presented are not mutually exclusive. For example, preserving environmental resources can reduce flood hazards by providing a buffer zone. Loss of property value can be avoided by preventing building in a flood plain which also preserves the environmental resources. Each of the objectives discussed below form the bases for the mitigative measures presented and discussed in detail in Step 7.

6.B Protect human life and safety from catastrophic disasters

Avoiding loss of life and injury from catastrophic storm disasters is a major goal for the Village. Storm related events such as hurricanes are likely to have the most significant impacts (See Section 5.B above). Strong winds and floods from these storms cause the greatest degree of deaths and injuries as well as reduction in quality of life. Category 3 and 4 Hurricanes have occurred on Long Island in the past, and are likely to be the most likely to impact human life and safety. Several objectives related to this goal include:

- Protect critical Village facilities.
- Improve emergency response.
- Improve public information activities and outreach.
- Correct sewer overflow problems.
- Reduce health risks by reducing on-site septic systems.

One of the major objectives is to ensure that all efforts are directed at avoiding loss of life during a major storm event by a well-prepared emergency response and escape plan. For example, new or additional escape routes to high ground need to be created. Critical facilities need to be protected from storm hazards to assure that critical village and emergency services are not disrupted and that people in need of emergency services get them during a major hazardous event. The hazard warning system needs to be evaluated and updated. Depending on feasibility and costs, certain buildings in high hazard areas could be retrofitted to protect against flood and storm damage.

6.C Protect property from catastrophic disasters

Protecting property from catastrophic storm disasters is a key goal for the Village. Again, hurricanes are likely to have the most significant impacts from strong winds and flooding (See Section 5.B and 5.C above). These storms cause the greatest damage, property loss and economic impact. They are costly (See Section 5.C) and difficult to

clean up after the storm has caused its damage. They also cause a loss of electrical service and other infrastructure improvements. Category 3 Hurricanes have occurred on Long Island in the past and are likely to be the most costly and to have the highest degree of impact. For example, in Table 5-18, the estimated total building damage losses from Category 2 hurricane (98 mph wind gusts) is about \$14 million and Category 3 hurricane (128 mph wind gusts) is about \$295 million.

Objectives proposed to meet this goal include:

- Protect existing structures and properties.
- Protect new buildings and infrastructures.
- Improve and protect electrical service to critical areas.
- Prepare for post disaster recovery and reconstruction.
- Elevate flood-prone roads.
- Control damage problems by planning.
- Improve the storm water system.
- Create barriers to storm damage.

This goal is aimed to mitigate losses through various property protection activities before, during and after hazardous events occur. Where feasible, barriers could be constructed that would protect areas such as marinas and waterfronts against storm surges.

6.D Avoid the loss of property value from flood hazards

The goal to avoid the loss of property value from flood hazards is aimed to mitigate these impacts related to water damage through appropriate compliance enforcement, preparing management plans, upgrading drainage and sewage systems, and improvement of roads. These may include modifying building and utility elevations, retrofitting buildings and creating barriers to storms. Meeting the criteria of FEMA's Community Rating System will also help meet this goal. Several objectives intended to obtain this goal include:

- Become certified in the Community Rating System Program.

- Manage storm water problems in flood prone areas.
- Correct vulnerabilities to the sanitary sewer system.
- Bring the Village into compliance with new storm water regulations.
- Reduce flood hazards using new innovative measures.
- Modify building and utilities in the flood plain.

Mitigating impacts from flood hazards is needed in areas of high risk such as in the 100-year flood zone or in hurricane inundation zones. Localized flood events are frequent in the Village and impact several locations. Flooding hazards are significant and second only to severe storms in the harm and damage they do in the Village.

Avoiding and limiting the loss of property value is important to the Village, since it not only has a substantial cost impact, it also reflects a loss of business services, Village services, utilities, useable infrastructures, and may result in environmental damage and reduction in quality of life. Property loss and damage may be due to flooding and severe storm hazards. For example, in Section 5.C.2, the estimated total building flood damage losses from Category 1 and 4 hurricanes is about \$4.3 and \$168 million respectively. Flooding losses from a 100-year flood event could be about \$29.8 million and \$59.8 million for a 500-year flood event.

The sanitary sewer system, for example, is impacted by overflows into the sanitary sewers due to groundwater mounding and leakage directly into the sewers. In addition, significant structural defects in the sanitary sewer pumping station could knock out the entire system. Thus, correcting these problems in the sanitary system would help meet this goal.

Compliance with new MS-4 Storm Water Regulation will also reduce the street flooding that may be the source of health and safety problems in the Village. The major objective of this regulation is to control and largely reduce the flow of storm water into Patchogue Bay.

6.E Protect and preserve environmental resources

Preserving environmental resources is important for protecting plants, wildlife, fish, marine life, sensitive ecosystems, water quality and open space. In addition, meeting this goal also has significant benefits to meeting the other goals discussed above.

Several objectives proposed to meet this goal of environment preservation include:

- Preserve open space.
- Protect the Village wetlands.
- Control erosion and sediment deposition.
- Maintain water quality.
- Improve waterway drainage and value.

Open space can act as a buffer to flooding and storm surges. Habitat improvement can aid in protection of the shoreline from erosion. Improved water quality adds to the quality of life through improved recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, shell fishing and boating. Achieving this goal also protects the health and safety of the community through better water quality and uncontaminated shellfish. Restricting building construction in open spaces or ecological preserves prevents future damage to buildings that may have been built in these areas.