

NIAGARA COUNTY  
**ALL HAZARDS  
PLANNING  
PROCESS**



# Introductions



UB Regional Institute and faculty/students from UB's School of Architecture and Planning are engaged to update Niagara County's Hazard Mitigation Plan



Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Working in close partnership with Niagara County Emergency Services, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services



HAZARD  
MITIGATION  
PLAN



Looking to leverage this opportunity to build a hazard mitigation and preparation online tool that can serve as a resource for the county and local communities



# Meeting Participation



Answer poll  
questions in Zoom

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Type comments into  
the Chat

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Please raise your  
hand if you wish to  
speak up

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Presentation will be  
recorded



# Why do a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

## Where's everyone from?

Poll ended | 1 question | 1 of 9 (11%) participated

1. What town/village are you from? (Single Choice) \*

4/4 (100%) answered

Cambria/Pendleton	(0/4) 0%
Lockport (Town or City)	(2/4) 50%
Newfane or Wilson (Town/Village)	(1/4) 25%
Niagara Falls	(0/4) 0%
Niagara/Wheatfield	(1/4) 25%
North Tonawanda	(0/4) 0%
Porter/Youngstown or Lewiston (Town or Village)	(0/4) 0%
Royalton/Hartland	(0/4) 0%

Hazards happen. We need to work together to come up with ways to minimize hazard impacts.





12 Mile Creek - overflowed the following day of due to heavy rain. (Multiple times at different scales)

Lockport - SW oriented home. Wind velocity intensity seems to be increasing.

studies of the wind velocity?

my fields are tile drained, but the road ditches and creeks that take the water from my fields to Keg Creek or Lake Ontario are often inadequate. A great start would be better maintenance of road ditches as well as off-road maintenance

Lack of rainfall during the 2020 growing season as well as parts of 2021 has caused various amounts of crop losses. We are equipped to irrigate, and the county water system is a true lifesaver.

Hopefully we will have enough water to irrigate well into the future.

No:  
50%

Yes:  
50%

## Types of recent hazard events

Poll ended | 1 question | 7 of 10 (70%) participated

1. What type of hazard events were you personally impacted by in the last five years? (Multiple Choice) \*

7/7 (100%) answered



# Who has been impacted by hazards over the last five years? What type of hazard?



# What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan

A hazard mitigation plan:

increases **awareness** of hazard risks

identifies **actions** to reduce risks

focuses **resources** on the greatest risks to **limit the impact** of disasters.

## KEY FACTS

Required to **receive FEMA funding** for hazard mitigation actions

Must be **updated every 5 years**, Niagara County's last HMP was approved in 2017

NYS is transforming the local HMP process by using a **statewide online, interactive tools** to update county plans

New plan **needs to meet new requirements** from FEMA and NYS on HMPs



# What goes into a Hazard Mitigation Plan?



## Assess Risks

Identify the characteristics and potential consequences of hazards, and which communities and assets are vulnerable.



## Develop a Mitigation Strategy

Set priorities, long-term strategies, and specific actions to minimize hazard impacts.



## Adopt and Implement the Plan

Local jurisdictions adopt the plan and work with partners to implement mitigation actions.



# How will Niagara County inform the new Hazard Mitigation Plan?

## Mitigation Advisory Committee

Government representatives from Niagara County and municipalities provide project oversight and assistance with outreach and implementation



## Community Meetings

Community members weigh in and help set priorities for hazard mitigation at a project kick-off and a draft plan review meeting



## Stakeholder Workshops and Interviews

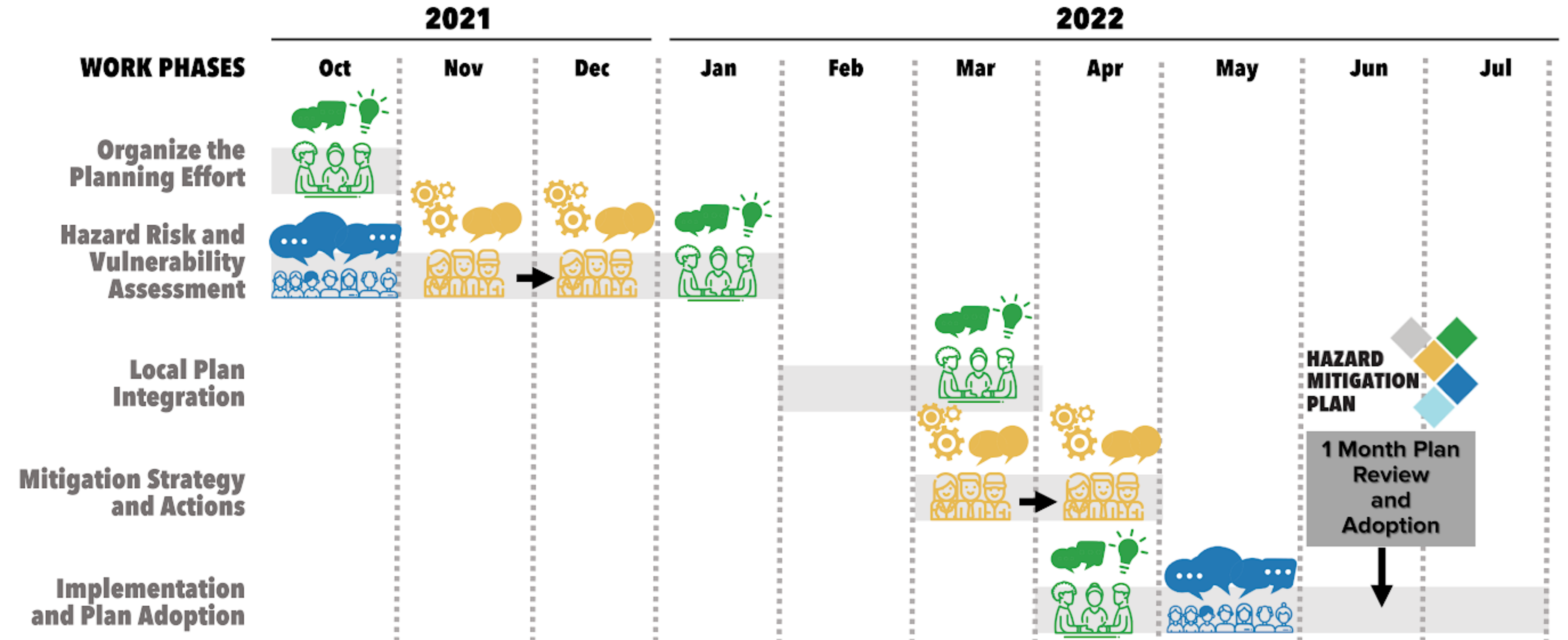
Focused sessions with stakeholders from each municipality to drill down on specific topics and understand local concerns







# What does the process look like?





# Key Terms for a Hazard Mitigation Plan



## Hazard Risks

Likelihood of a hazard occurring and the expected impact it would have on people, services, facilities, and structures in a community.

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## Hazard Vulnerability

Limited capacity for the social, built, or natural environment to handle, avoid, or recover from hazard impacts.

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## Mitigation

Taking action to reduce the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage that may be caused by hazards.

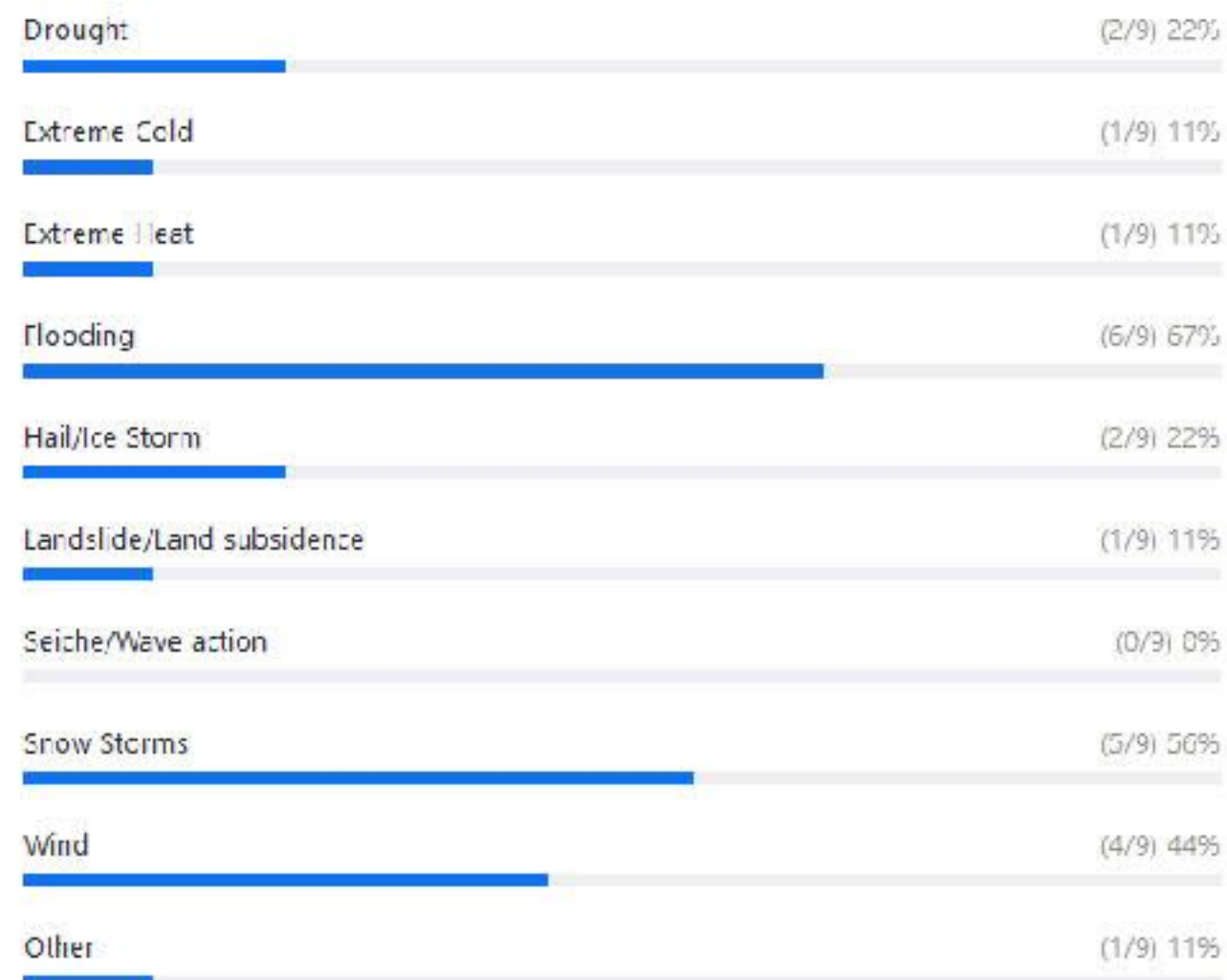


## Hazard concerns

Poll ended | 1 question | 9 of 12 (75%) participated

1. What type of hazards are you most concerned about? (Choose Top 2) (Multiple Choice) \*

9/9 (100%) answered



# What types of hazards are you most concerned about?

# What places are you most concerned about hazard risks?

**12 Mile  
Creek**

Flooding in general  
but also along  
eighteen mile creek  
here in Lockport,  
especially near the  
old industrial sites  
in lower town.

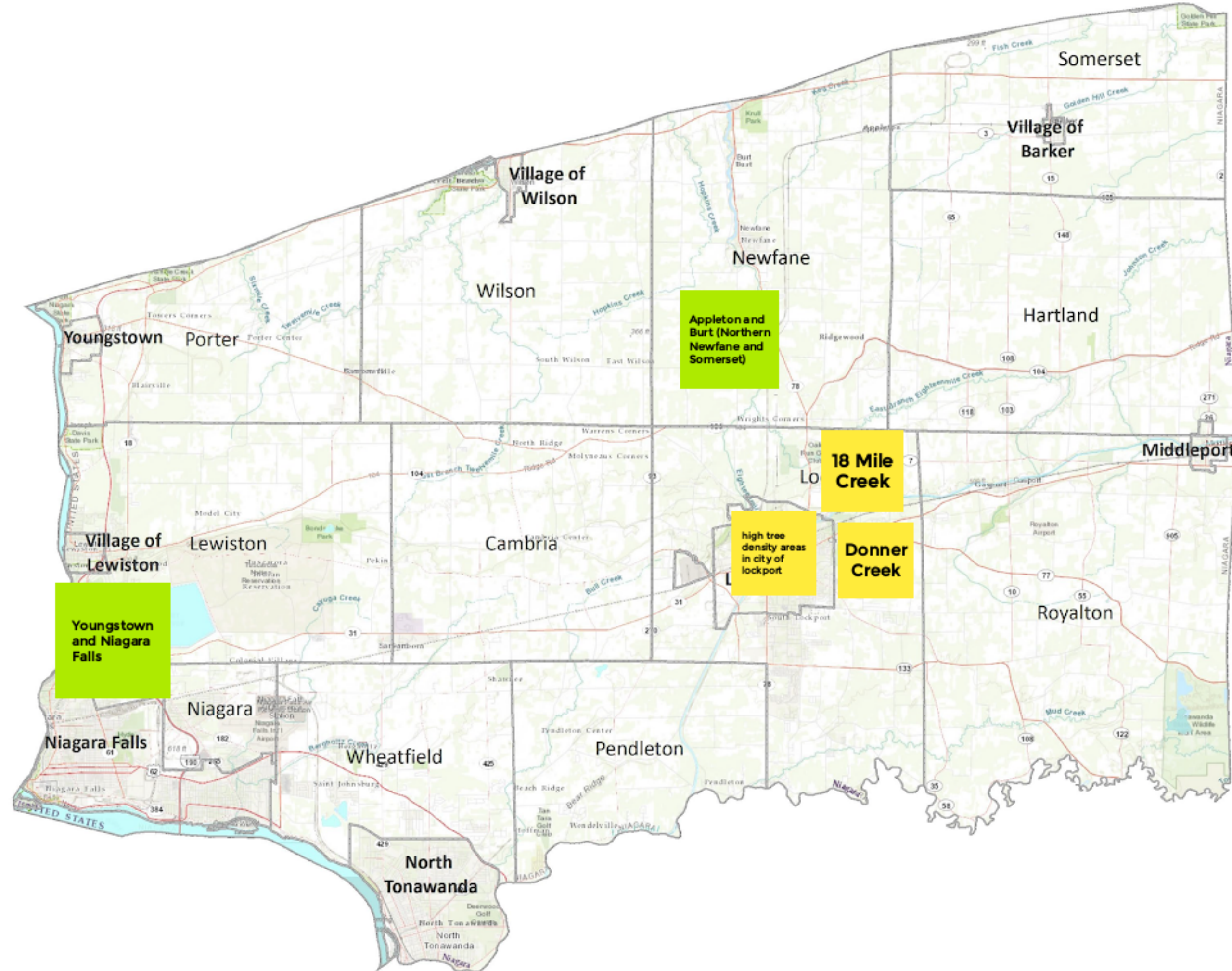
Appleton and  
Burt (Northern  
Newfane and  
Somerset)

**18 Mile  
Creek**

high tree  
density areas  
in city of  
lockport

**Donner  
Creek**

Youngstown  
and Niagara  
Falls



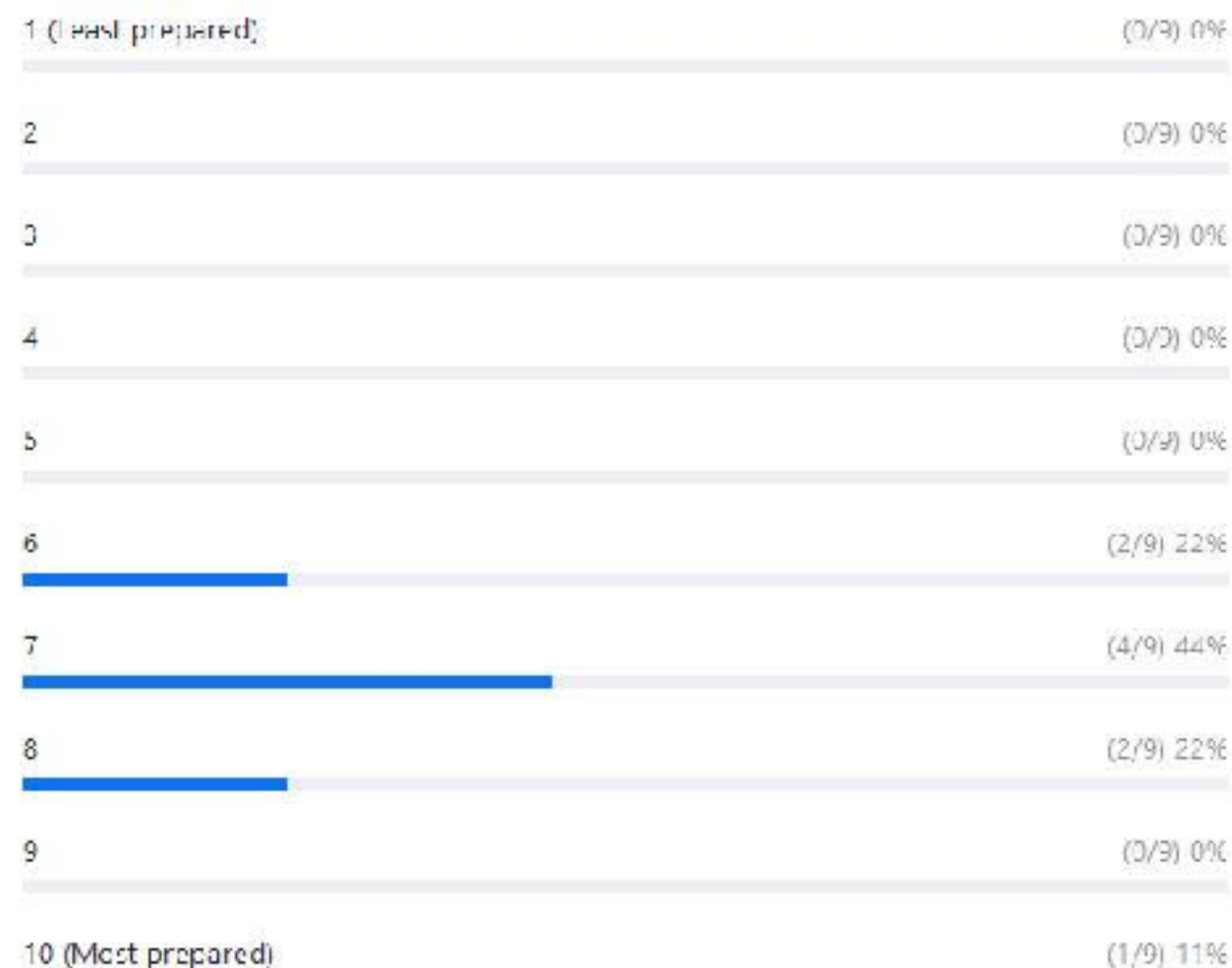


## Household preparedness

Poll ended | 1 question | 9 of 12 (75%) participated

1. How prepared is your household to deal with hazard impacts? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being most prepared. (Single Choice) \*

9/9 (100%) answered



**With fixed budgets its difficult to allocate funds to "what ifs"**

**Community is stretched to the limit already. Agreed with the fixed funds comment.**

## Community preparedness

Poll ended | 1 question | 9 of 12 (75%) participated

1. How prepared is your community to deal with hazard impacts? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being most prepared. (Single Choice) \*

9/9 (100%) answered



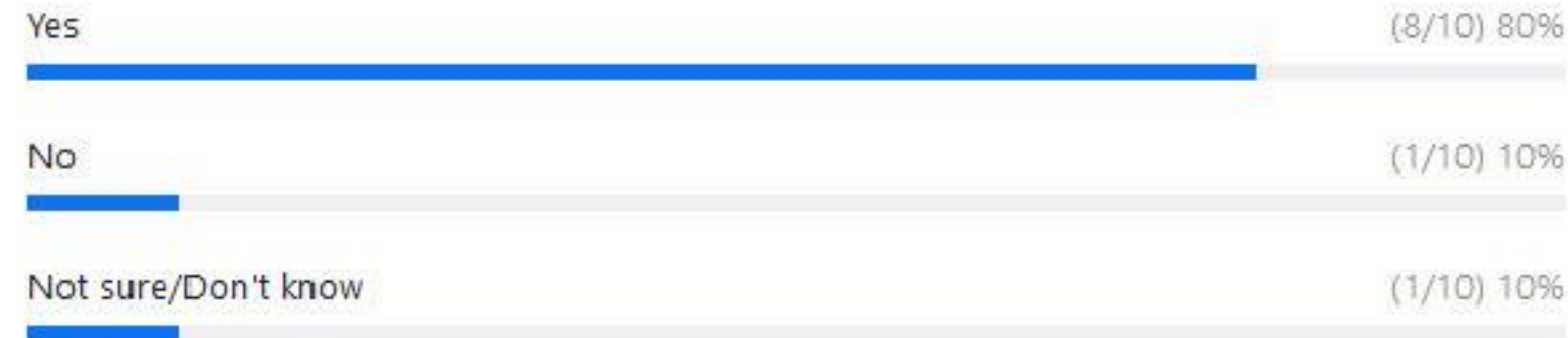
# How prepared is your household to deal with hazards? How prepared is your community?

## Hazard mitigation actions

Poll ended | 1 question | 10 of 12 (83%) participated

1. Have you taken any actions to mitigate against hazards over the last five years? (Single Choice) \*

10/10 (100%) answered



**extra sump  
pump and a  
generator**

Substituted  
plantings for black  
top along the  
driveway side of the  
house. This has  
reduced the water  
in the basement.

**extensive  
drainage**



# Have you taken any actions to mitigate against hazards over the last five years?

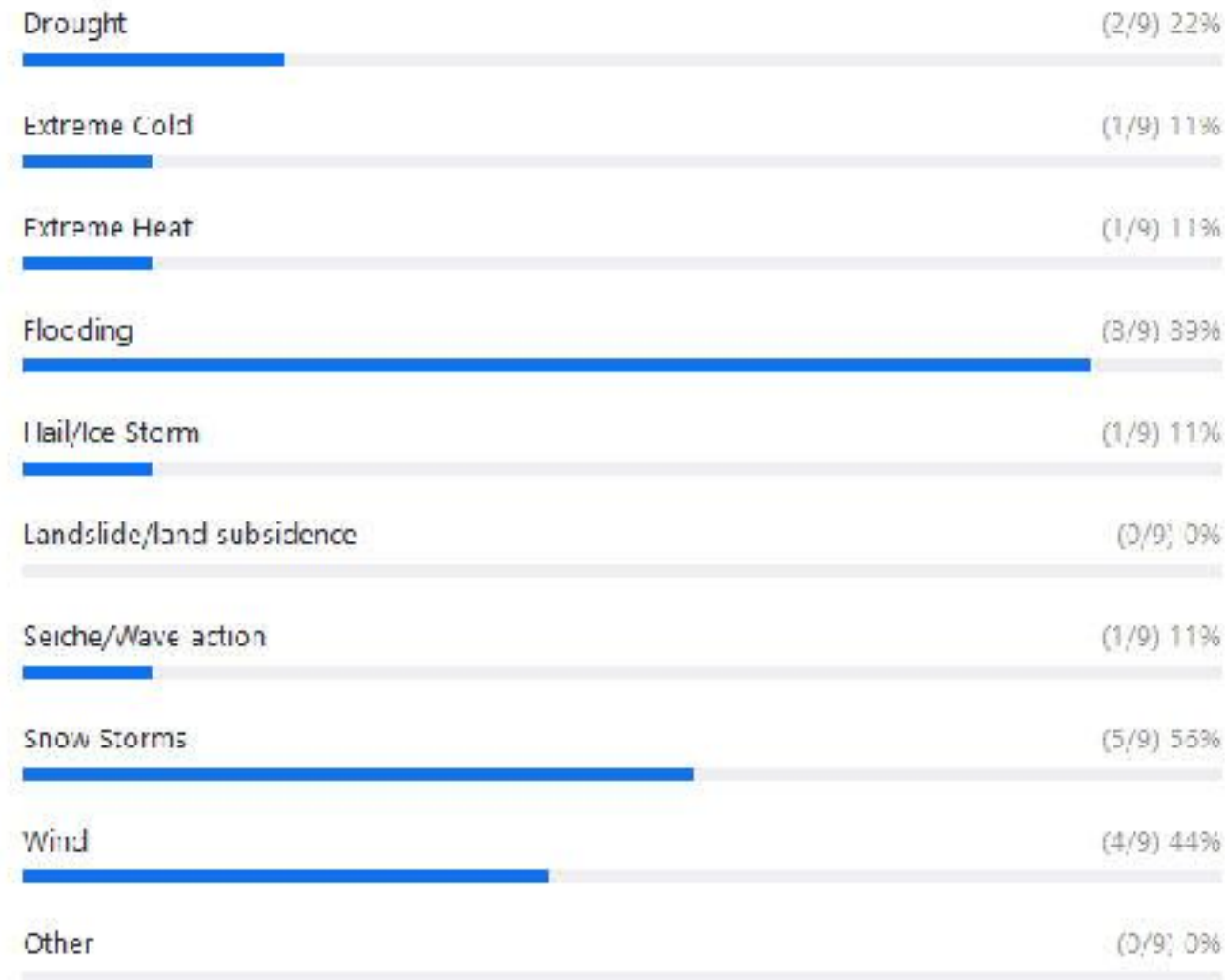


## Hazard mitigation priorities

Poll ended | 1 question | 9 of 12 (75%) participated

1. What type of hazards should be prioritized when preparing for hazards? (Choose Top 2)  
(Multiple Choice) \*

9/9 (100%) answered



# What type of hazards should be prioritized when preparing for hazards?

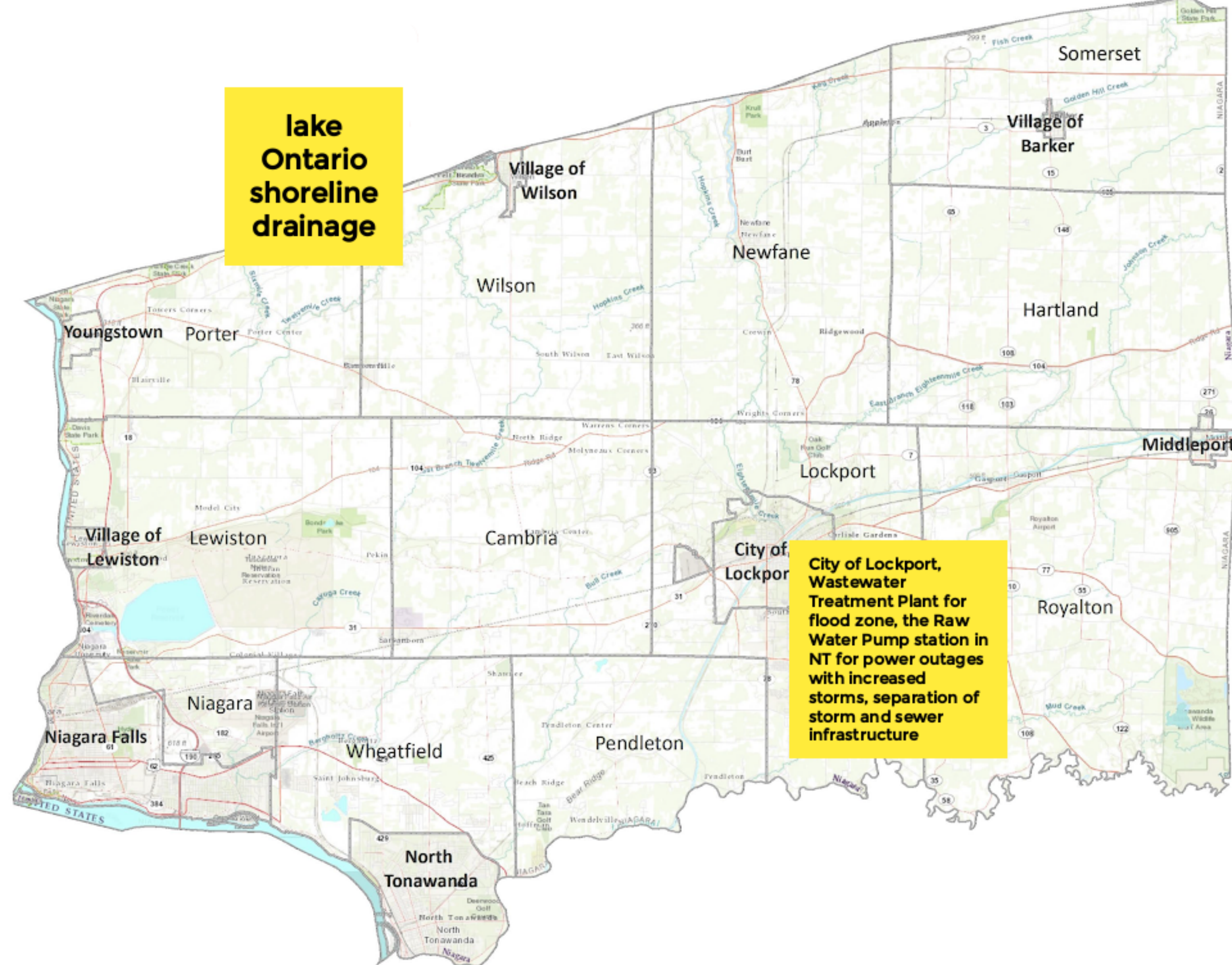
**lake  
Ontario  
shoreline  
drainage**

**Where should  
future hazard  
mitigations be  
prioritized ?**

**Keg Creek - lots of  
flooding risk due to  
excessive debris, no  
maintenance has  
been performed on  
parts of the creek  
system in over 50  
years**

**City of Lockport,  
Wastewater  
Treatment Plant for  
flood zone, the Raw  
Water Pump station in  
NT for power outages  
with increased  
storms, separation of  
storm and sewer  
infrastructure**

**Watersheds and  
waterfronts but also  
in low to moderate  
income  
neighborhoods.**





# TAKE THE SURVEY!



We want to hear  
from you.  
Please take our  
survey online.

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/mitigate-niagara](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mitigate-niagara)





# Next Steps

Complete the Survey

Help us get the word out

Stay tuned for more

Comment on the draft plan in 2022

Questions/Comments?

Email us at [mitigate.niagaracounty@gmail.com](mailto:mitigate.niagaracounty@gmail.com)



**THANK YOU FOR  
PARTICIPATING!**



