

Funding Flood Resilient Communities

Stephanie A. Smith, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
September 21, 2023

VERMONT STRONGER

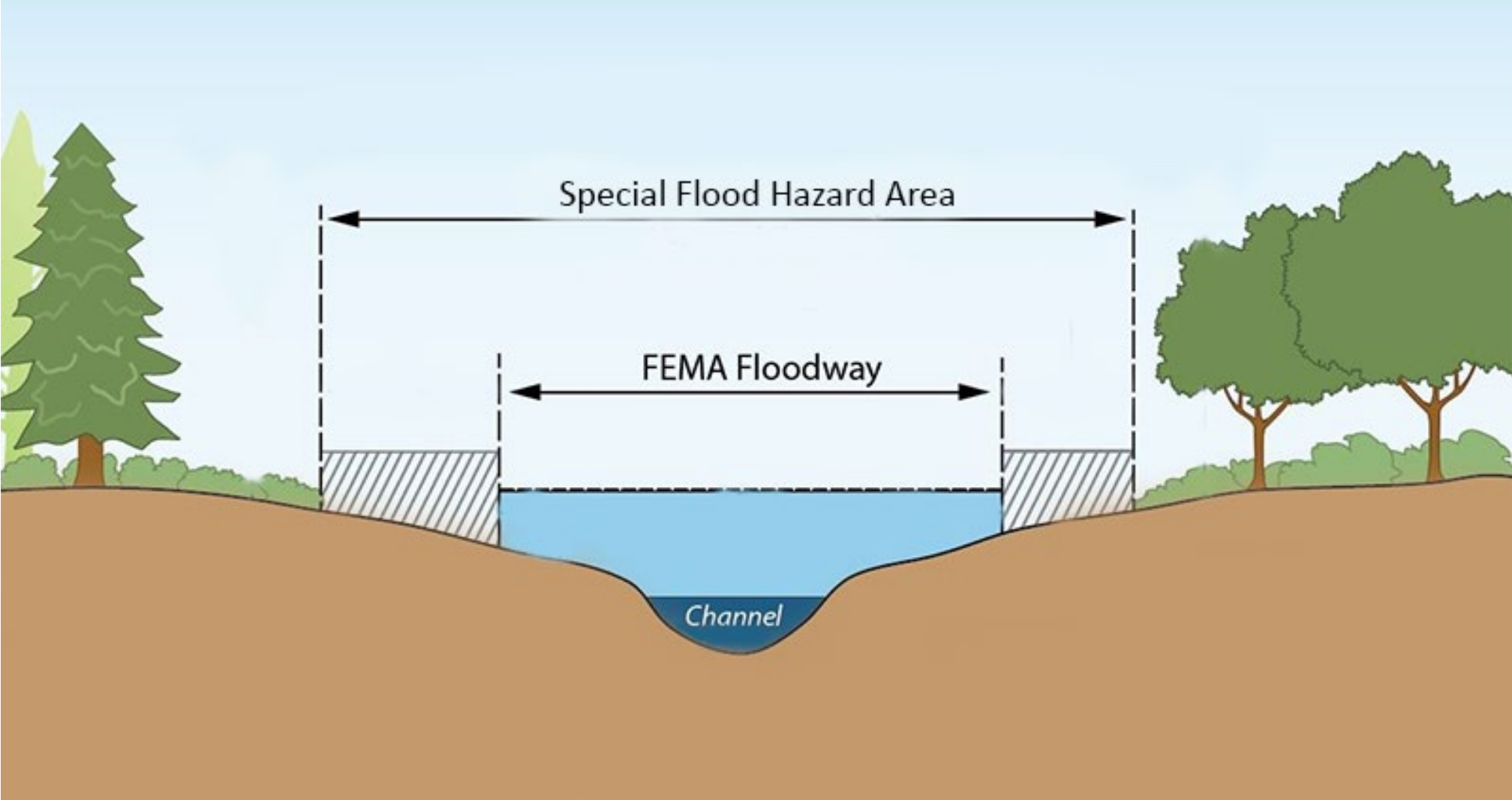


A SAFE AND RESILIENT VERMONT

in the face
of climate
change and
natural
disasters.



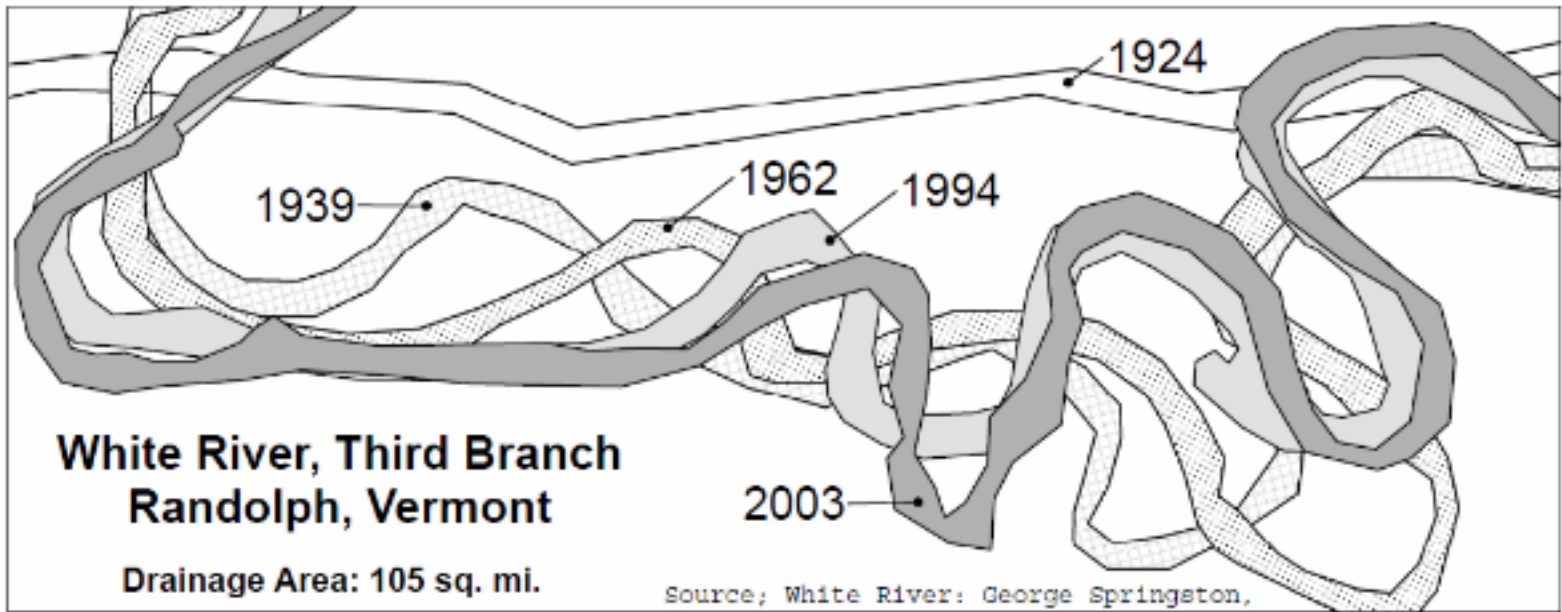
Inundation Flood Zones:



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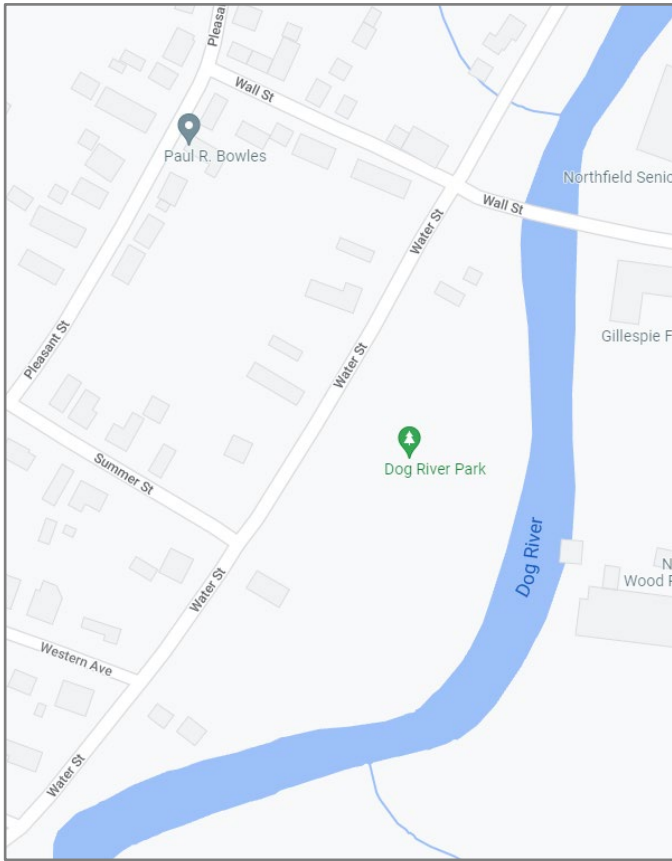
River Corridor (Fluvial Erosion Hazard):



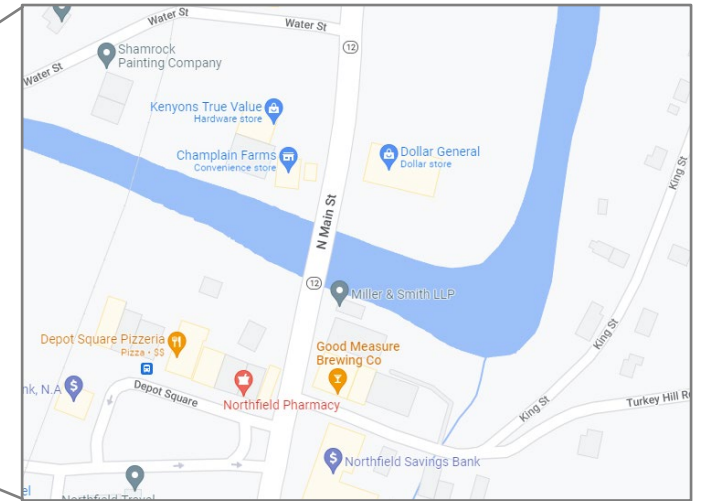
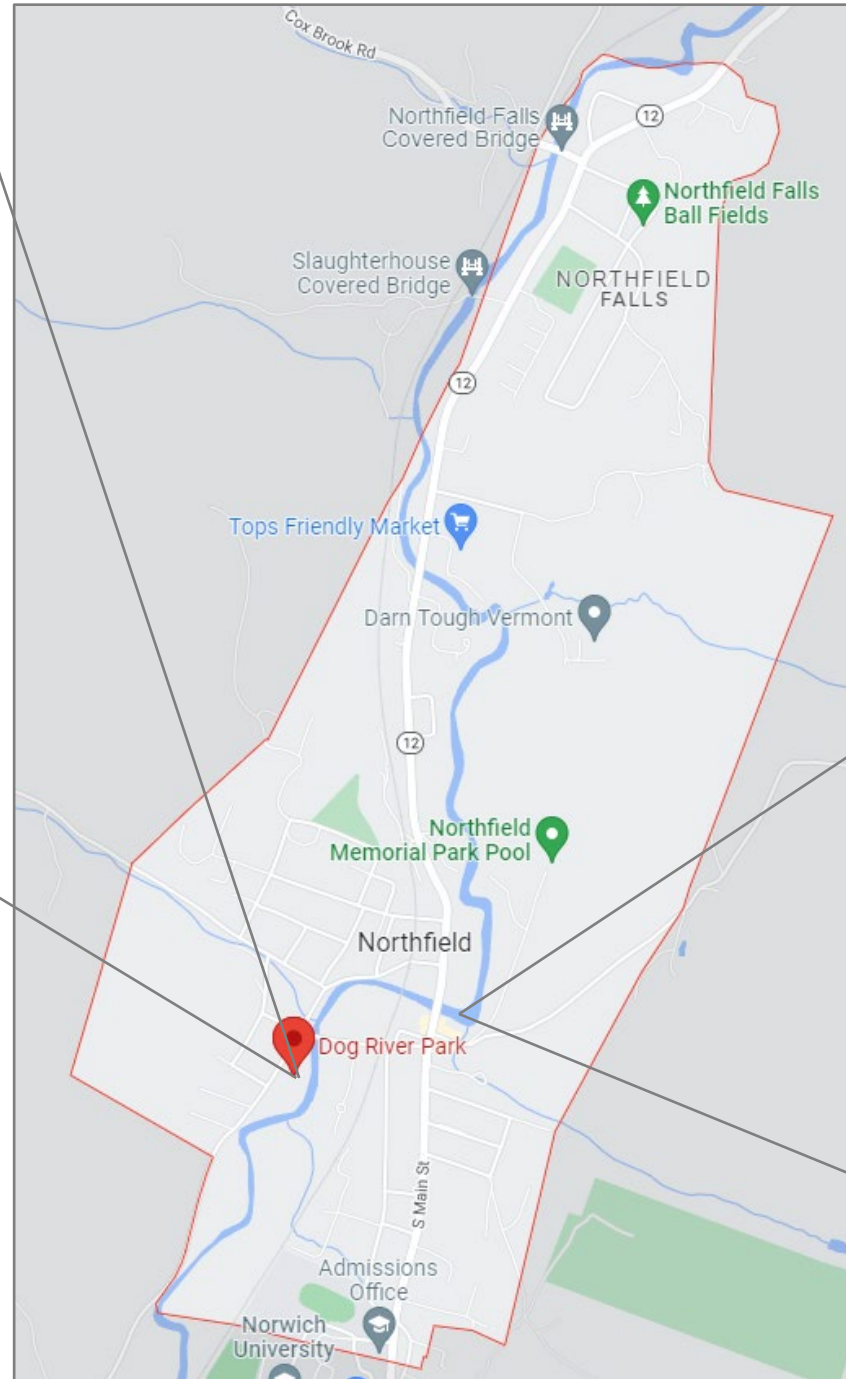
River Corridor (Fluvial Erosion):



Case Studies: Flood Resilient Communities



Water Street Neighborhood
Buyouts, Restoration &
Community Park

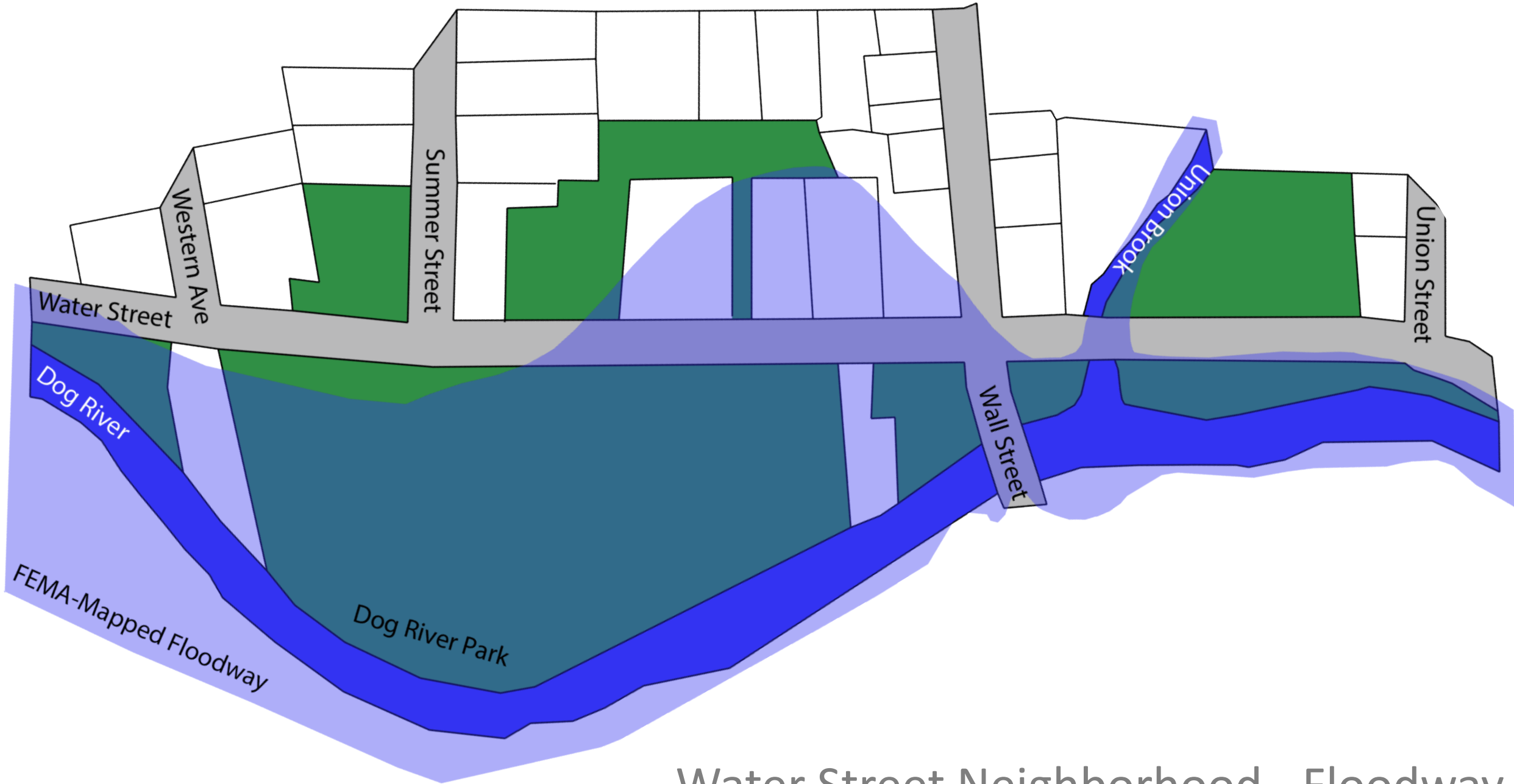


Cross Brothers Dam Removal &
Floodplain Restoration

Northfield



Property Buyouts and Floodplain Restoration



Water Street Neighborhood - Floodway

Dog River Park

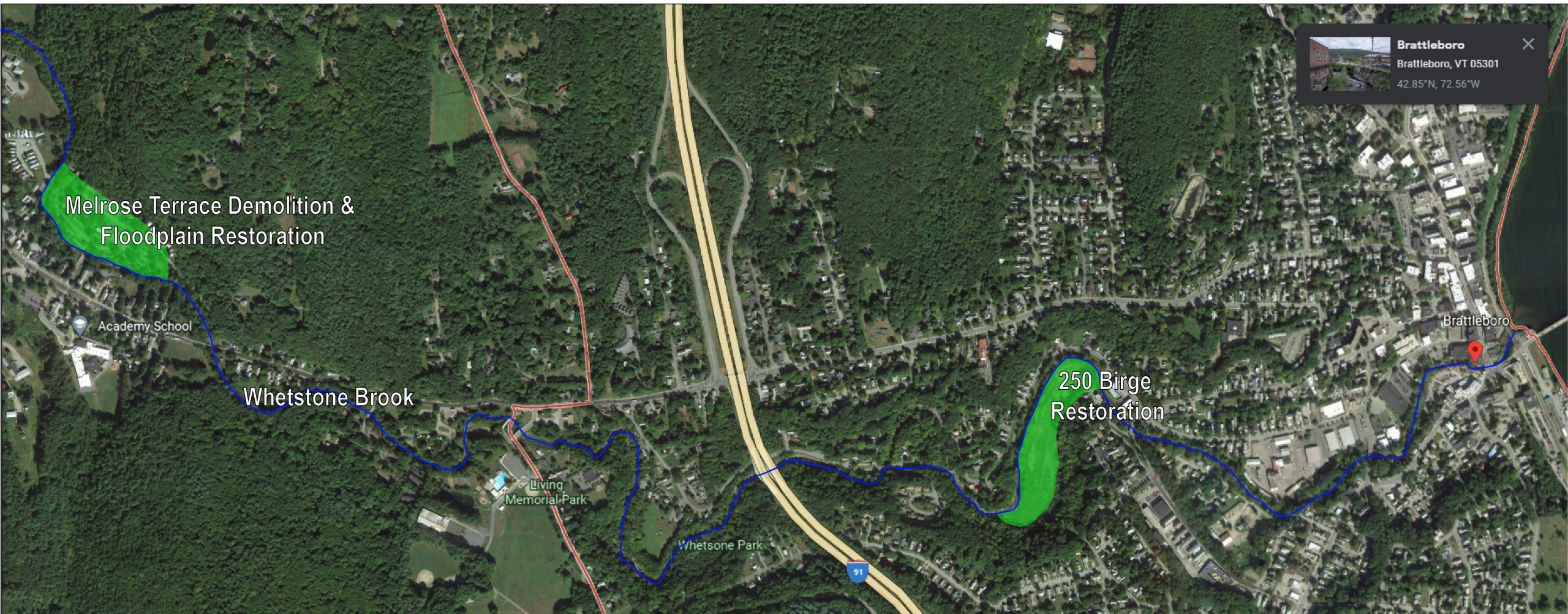




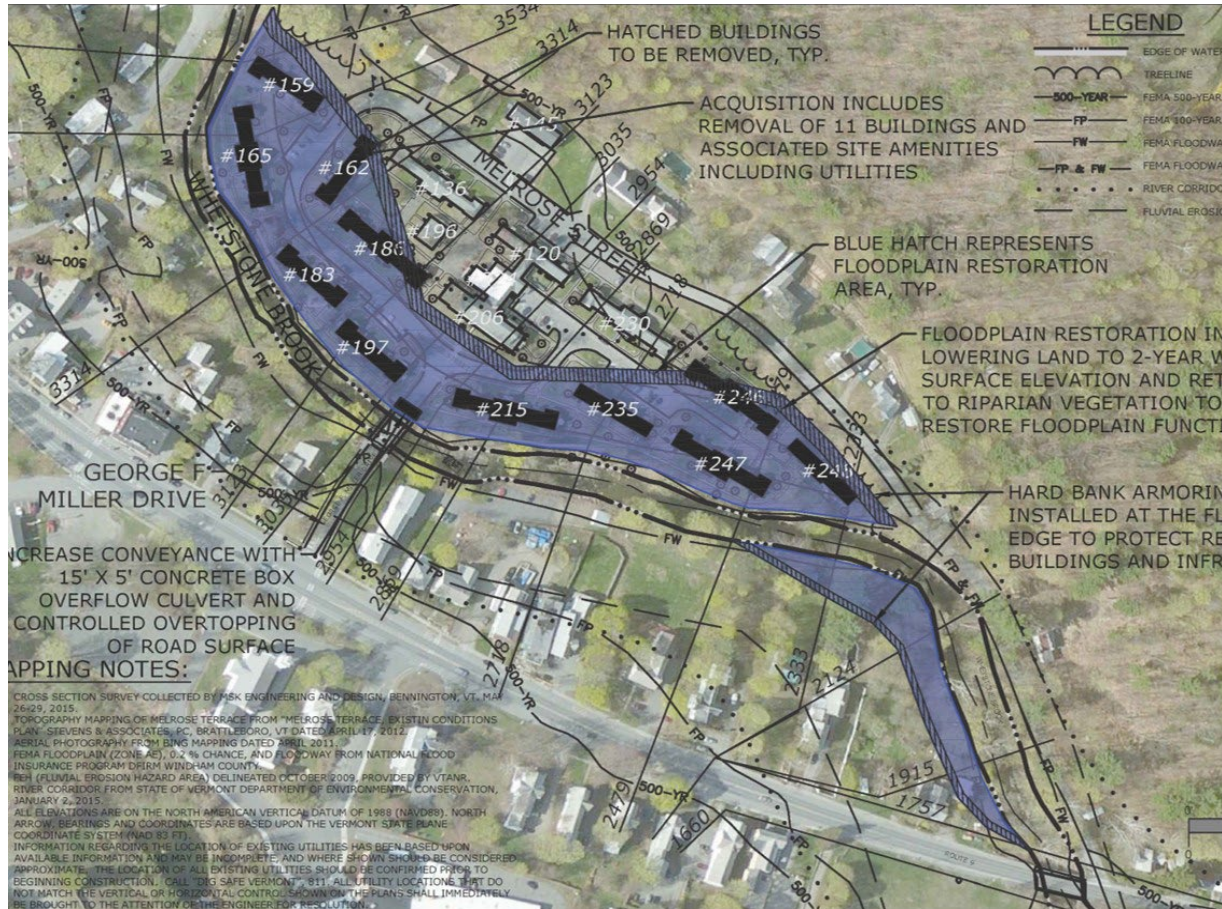
Cross Brothers Dam Removal & Restoration



Cross Brothers Dam Removal & Restoration



Brattleboro



Melrose Terrace Demolition, Culvert & Floodplain Restoration

Melrose Terrace Park



December 2022 Flooding







- 1 RESTORE FLOODPLAIN WITH NATURALLY VEGETATED BUFFER
- 2 MOWED PATHWAYS
- 3 ADA COMPLIANT 6' WIDE COMPACTED STONEDUST PATH
- 4 GRAVEL PARKING LOT WITH INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- 5 RIVER OVERLOOK SEATING AREA
- 6 ADA COMPLIANT COMPACTED STONEDUST PATH FROM PARKING LOT TO RIVERS EDGE
- 7 WETLAND RESTORATION

WHETSTONE BROOK - FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION SITE PLAN, BRATTLEBORO, VT



Brandon



Newton Road Flooding



Center Street Overflow Culvert



Photo courtesy of Jean Jenauskas

Jeffersonville/Cambridge

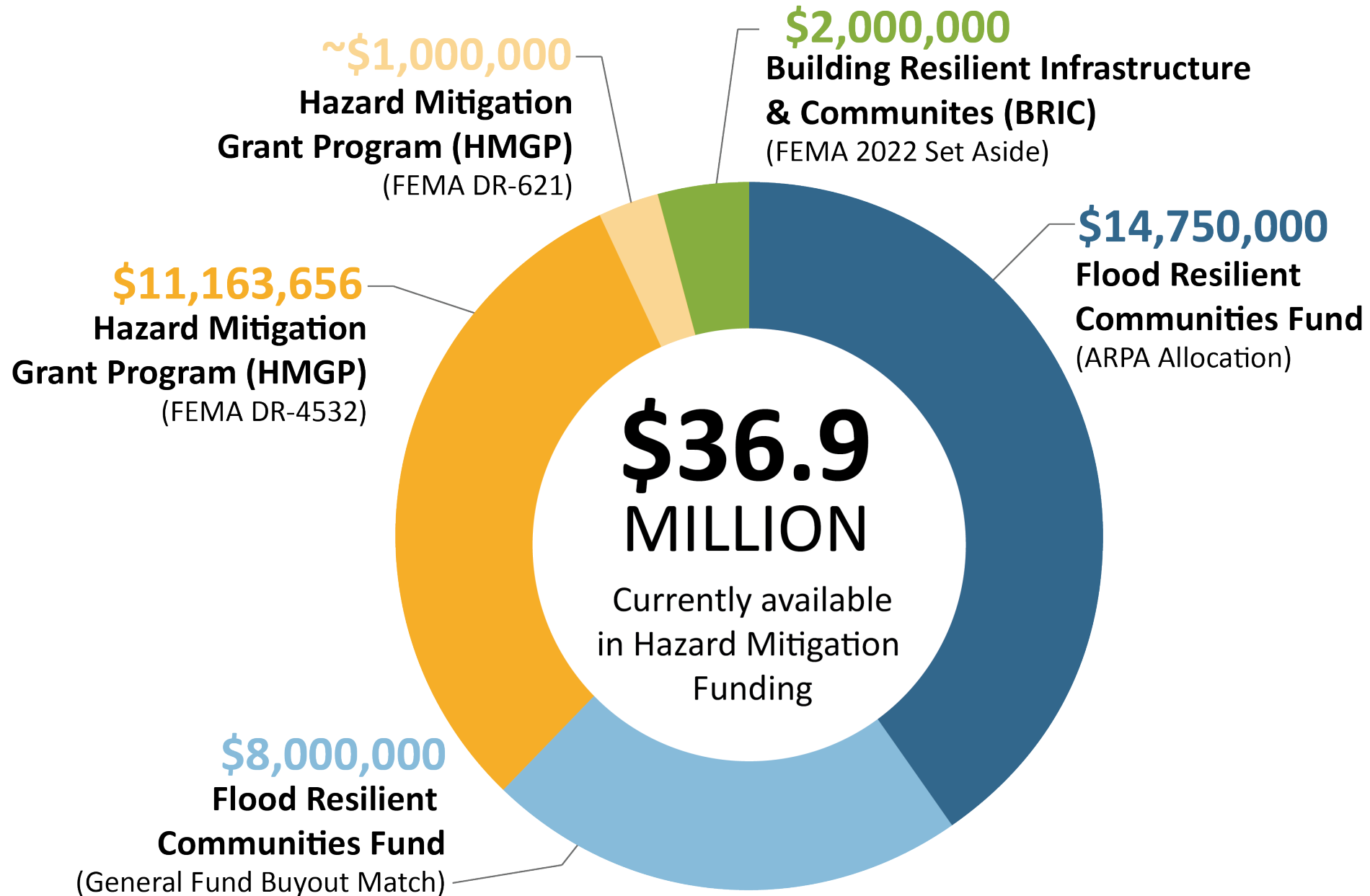
April 2012 Flood

Cambridge Trail Bridge Upsizing & Floodplain Restoration



Original Trail Bridge

Funding Flood Resilience



Hazard Mitigation Funding Available in 2022



FEMA

Building Resilient
Infrastructure and
Communities (BRIC)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):

- Annual funding program
- Waiting on the Notice of Funding for BRIC 2023
- \$2 million set-aside for Vermont in BRIC 2022
- State Deadline: Generally early December
- Eligible Applicants: State agencies, Regional Planning Commissions and municipalities

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):

- **Best Use:**

- Project Scoping: analysis of alternatives, designs, budget, scoping and Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) for preferred alternative
 - Broad area (neighborhood with flood risk)
 - Single structure (i.e., bridge or culvert)
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Development/Updates
- Other Planning Activities

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):

- Approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) at time of application submittal and award
 - *not required if you're applying to develop an LHMP
- 75% Federal Funding, 25% Local Match
 - 90% Cost Share is available for certain communities with a population under 3,000 and economically disadvantaged
- 5% of total project costs to manage the project (no match required)



FEMA

Hazard Mitigation
Grant Program (HMGP)

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):

- Funding follows declared disasters
- July flooding open funding round:
 - DR-4720: **\$30 million** anticipated available
- Deadline: Summer 2024
- Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) support is available

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):

■ Best Use: Project Implementation

■ Property Buyouts:

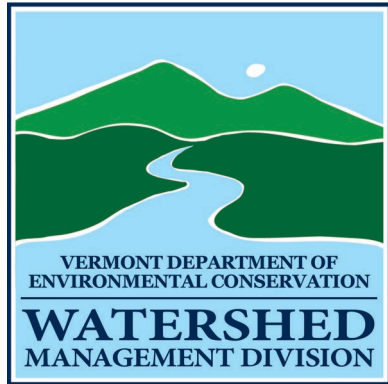
- Property buyouts in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
- Property buyouts with significant landslide risk
- Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) is not required if the total project cost is below \$323K

■ Other Flood Reduction Projects: (BCA Required)

- Culvert/bridge upsizing
- Road relocation/road resilience
- Floodplain restoration
- Floodproofing/elevations

Program Requirements:

- Approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) at time of application submittal and award
- **75% Federal share, 25% local match**
 - No local match for property buyouts
 - Local ARPA funding can be used as match if it is part of your revenue loss
 - 5% of total project costs to manage the project (no match required)



Flood Resilient Communities Fund

Building watershed resilience in the face of climate change

Program Purpose:

Improving landscape and community resilience and reducing the future public safety and water quality impacts of climate-related flood hazards in Vermont.



Flood Resilient Communities Fund:

- Created by the Vermont Legislature in May 2021 with funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- \$4.88 million allocated in 2021
- \$14.75 million allocated in 2022



FY2023 Funding Round:

- Application accepted on a rolling basis
- Funding to be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024
- Funding to be spent by Dec. 31, 2026



Eligible Projects:

- Flood-vulnerable structure and buyout projects
- Vacant at-risk parcel buyout/conservation
- Natural resource projects to improve floodplain access/function
- Project scoping, planning, education and outreach initiatives

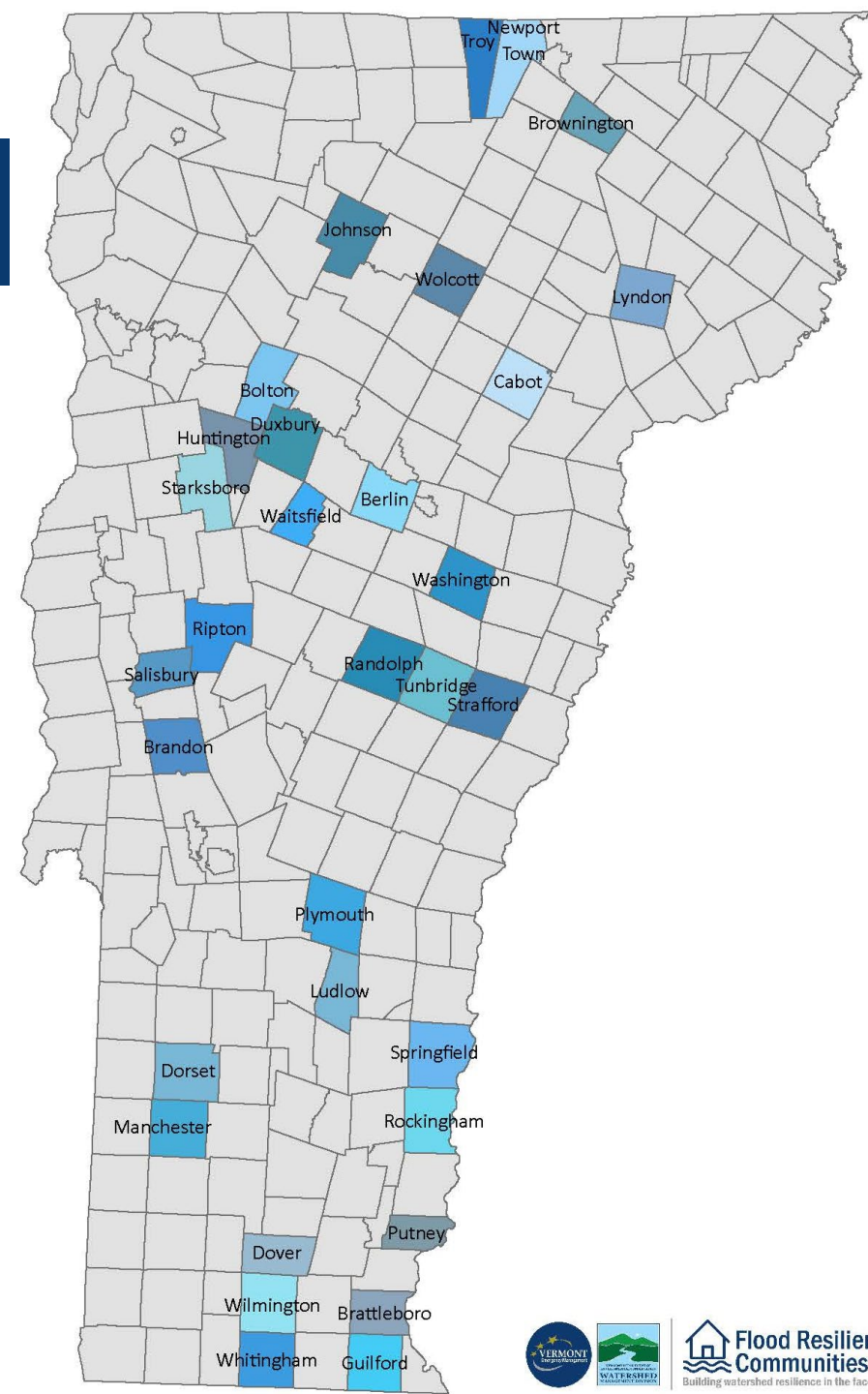


Project Prioritization:

- Where feasible, funding under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs should be utilized first
- Leverage other funding sources or fill funding gaps to make projects viable
- Prioritize projects in communities and/or for homeowners with greatest economic need and projects that mitigate repetitive loss

By the Numbers:

- \$14 million obligated to date
 - Buyouts/Demolition: \$8.2 million
 - Restoration/Dam Removal: \$4.4 million
 - Scoping & Planning: \$700k



Flood Resilient Communities Fund

Building watershed resilience in the face of climate change



Building watershed resilience in the face of climate change

Questions?

- What questions do you have?
- What projects are you considering to reduce risk in your community?



Flood Resilient Communities Fund

Building watershed resilience in the face of climate change

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Hazard Mitigation Grants: vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation