

13 – Town of New Hope

- 13.1 Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

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- Primary Point of Contact

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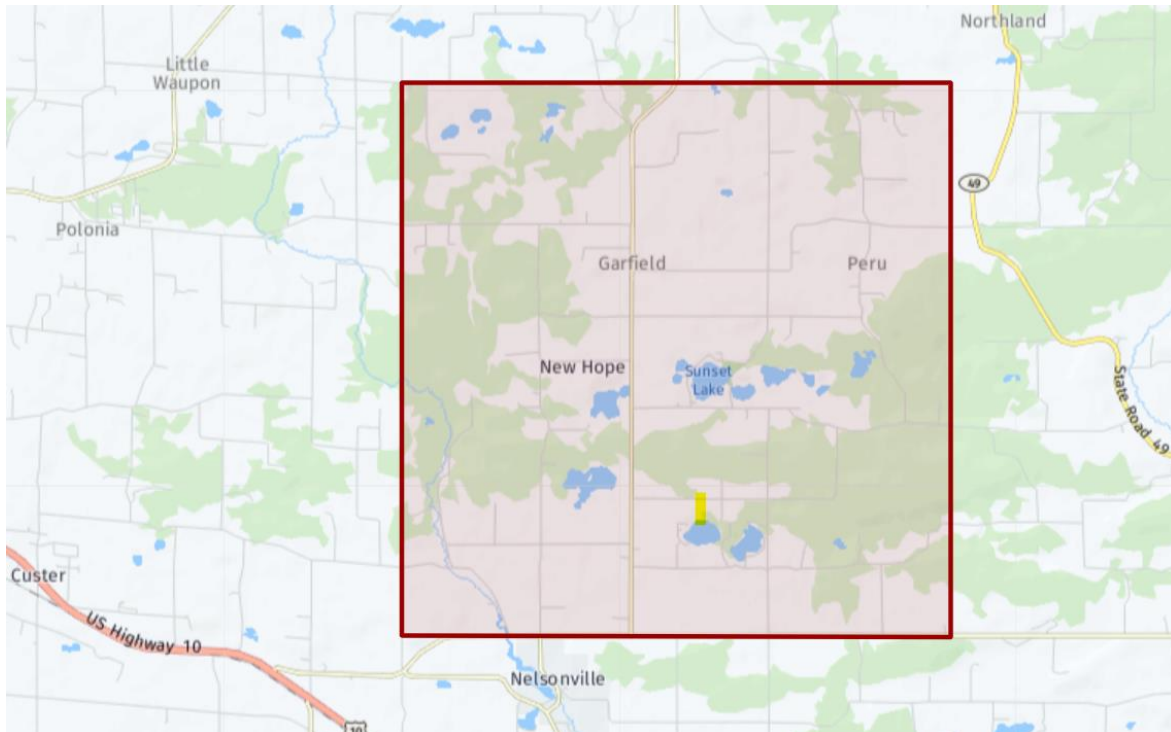
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This annex was developed by the local hazard mitigation planning team, whose members are listed in Table 13-1.

The Continuance of Operation Resolution (2025-01) can be found on page 42 of this document and on the Town website.

Name	Title
Timm Raddatz	Town Supervisor
Ray Reser	Town Supervisor
Dorene Stolpa	Town Treasurer

Town of New Hope, Portage County, WI.



- 13.2 Jurisdiction Profile

13.2.1 Location and Features

The Town of New Hope is located in northeast Portage County, approximately 18 miles northeast of the City of Stevens Point. State Highway 161 forms the southern edge of New Hope, with Waupaca County on the east, the Town of Alban to the north, and the Towns of Sharon and Stockton on the west. The Town of New Hope currently ranks fifteenth in population size out of 17 Towns in Portage County, about 1.0% of Portage County’s population of 70,377), and encompasses 23,323 acres (36.44 square miles or ~4.43% of Portage County’s area of 823 square miles). The unincorporated communities of New Hope, Garfield, and Peru are located within the town borders. <https://wisconsin.hometownlocator.com/>

New Hope lies completely on the terminal moraine of the last Wisconsin glaciation, with an elevation of 1224 feet. The topography of New Hope is hilly with some kettles and a number of small kettle lakes: Sunset, Minister, Skunk, Rinehardt, Onland, Budsberg/Severson, Hintz, Reton, and Johnson Lakes (see chart). Most of these lakes have been named after pioneer families. Because they have no outlet and are not fed by streams, these lakes represent the surface of the water table. Lake levels are highly variable, completely dependent on ground water level. Three of the lakes (Sunset, Rinehart, Budsberg/Severson) have public access.

Sunset Lake, the largest of these lakes, is one of the most beautiful lakes in New Hope, with a public beach and county park along the east side of the lake.

New Hope Lakes	Size, in Acres	Maximum Depth	Public Access, within 1000 ft.
Sunset Lake	63 acres	55 feet	Public Boat landing, Public Park, Public Beach
Minister (Preacher) Lake	17 acres	15 feet	No Public Access
Onland Lake	48 acres	28 feet	No Public Access
Rinehart Lake	43 acres	27 feet	Public Boat Landing
Hintz Lake	41 acres	6 feet	No Public Access
Reton Lake	26 acres	10 feet	No Public Access
Skunk Lake	21 acres	26 feet	No Public Access
Budsberg Lake	20 acres	60 feet	Ice Age Trail
Johnson Lake	4 acres	7 feet	No Public Access

The Ice Age Trail, spanning 1,200 miles across the State, runs through the eastern border of New Hope, and includes miles of public hiking trails.

New Hope (Rusted) Pines (Sunset Road) is one of the largest and least disturbed northern dry-mesic forests remaining in central Wisconsin, per the WI DNR. It has been a State Natural Area since 1983, and offers hiking through a forest reminiscent of pre-settlement pineries.

The Richard A. Hemp Fishery Area is a 1,372-acre trout stream corridor, open to fishing, hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities. Multiple access sites are available.

<https://wisconsin.hometownlocator.com/counties/subdivisions/data,n,town%20of%20new%20hope,id,5509756850,cfips,097.cfm#demographic>

13.2.2 History

In 1856, the Town of New Hope was formally established, making it one of the oldest towns in Portage County. New Hope has remained rural. The town's first settlers were almost all Norwegian immigrants; as of 1860, 99 of the 105 households established were farmsteads.

Several small settlements within the Town of New Hope developed, but never evolved into villages. The community of New Hope (also known as Benson Corners, located east of Nelsonville along Hwy 161) included a store and a post office that operated from 1861 to 1904. Garfield Store (along Hwy A) is all that remains of the settlement of Garfield; its post office served that community from 1884 to 1907. Peru (at the intersection of Hwy T and Z) was the site of a post office from 1882 to 1907, with a creamery that converted to a cheese factory (now closed).

<https://www.pchswi.org/post/the-small-communities-of-portage-county>

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS16156>

Public Services:

The Town of New Hope provides recycling services and garbage pickup for its residences, covered by a special charge assessed to each property (year-round and seasonal) on property taxes.

The Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES), originally a Boy Scout camp, is a 200-acre teaching and learning center operated by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on the south shore of Sunset Lake. It hosts the Tomorrow River Community Charter School, a preK-8 Waldorf-inspired public school, and is utilized by Portage County public schools for field trips.

Iola-Scandinavia, Amherst (including CWES), and Rosholt school districts serve the Town of New Hope for grades K-12. Mid-State Technical College, Fox Valley Technical College, and North Central Technical College are supported by Town of New Hope as part of our school system for post-high school education.

Development Trends: The Town of New Hope is in the process of analyzing all of the lands within the Town of New Hope corporate boundary, and include the short and long-range recommendations for residential, commercial and industrial development, as well as the protection of important farmlands and other natural resources as determined by the residents of the Town of New Hope.

Hazard Considerations Specific to the Town of New Hope:

Hazards that represent a county-wide risk are addressed in the Risk Assessment section of the 2019 Portage County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. This section only addresses the hazards and their associated impacts that are relevant and unique to the municipality.

Tornado: New Hope-area historical tornado activity is near Wisconsin state average. It is 22% greater than the overall U.S. average. On 9/26/1951, a category F4 (max. wind speeds 207-260 mph) tornado 15.1 miles away from the New Hope town center killed six people and injured three people and caused between \$50,000 and \$500,000 in damages. On 4/27/1984, a category F3 (max. wind speeds 158-206 mph) tornado 17.5 miles away from the town center caused between \$500,000 and \$5,000,000 in damages.

Flood Risk: Map 5.5 shows the locations of the 100-year floodplain within the Town of New Hope.

Natural disasters: The number of natural disasters in Portage County (9) is smaller than the US average (13).

Major Disasters (Presidential) Declared: 7 Emergencies Declared: 2 Causes of natural disasters: Floods: 7, Storms: 6, Tornadoes: 2, Drought: 1, Hurricane: 1 (Note: some incidents may be assigned to more than one category)

Maps:

Maps utilized in this evaluation include the following maps from the Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan Document:

- Map 4.1: Town of New Hope Facilities
- Map 5.4: Surface Water, Watersheds & Wetlands Map
- Map 5.5: Floodplains Map
- Map 5.6: Groundwater Flow Map
- Map 8.1: Existing Land Use Map
- Map 8.2: Future Land Use Map

Sources:

- [Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan \(PDF\)](https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2487/Town-of-New-Hope-Comprehensive-Plan-PDF?bidId=) Sep 28, 2023
- Town of New Hope website: <https://tn.newhope.wi.gov>
- CityData.com <https://www.city-data.com/city/New-Hope-Wisconsin.html>
- https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Population_Estimates.aspx

13.2.3 Governing Body Format

The Town of New Hope is governed by a town board. The board is comprised of a Town Chair, Supervisors, Clerk, Treasurer, and a Town Assessor.

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- 13.3 Current Trends

13.3.1 Population

Current Population: The Town of New Hope population estimate for 2024 is estimated at 720, and represents about 1.0% of the total Portage County population of 71,024. The entire population of New Hope is rural.

The Town of New Hope exhibits a demographic profile characterized by a stable population and a slightly older age structure. Over the past 50 years, the population in New Hope has ranged from a low of 492 (1970) to a high of 736 in 2000 to the current US Census Dept. population estimate of 720 in 2024.

Per the US Census, the 2020 population for New Hope was 711 residents, representing a minimal change from the 2010 census of 718. In 2024, that population has increased to 720 (1.26% increase since 2020, with a median age of 49.8, and 584 residents of voting age.

The median age in New Hope is 49.8, compared to 38.8 nationwide (2021). Those over age 65 make up 26.83% of the town's population, compared to 16.04% nationwide (Neilsberg.com) The US 2020 Census reported 357 males (50.2%) and 354 females (49.8%) **living in New Hope, almost identical to the State ratio of 50.1% males and 49.89% females.**

When divided into age groups, New Hope's 2020 population included 138 (19.4%) age 0-17, 368 (51.8%) age 18-64, and 205 (28.8%) 65+ years old. The 2020 Census data reported 286 people (40.2%) age 60+.

The current estimated population density (as of 2024) is 20.06 people/miles² (7.8 people/km²), compared to the state density of 105 people/mile² or 39.6 people/km².

There are approximately 310 households in New Hope that include 227 families; the average housing unit density in New Hope is 10.2 homes per square mile (3.9/km²). The average household size is 2.28 people with an average family size of 3.

Of the 367 housing units reported in New Hope, 287 (78.2%) are owner occupied (compared to 65.7% in the US), 23 (6.3%) are rented, with an additional 57 housing units (15.5%) are unoccupied.

The median home owner value in 2023 was approximately \$343,182, with a mean value of \$358,362.

The racial makeup of the town is approximately 93.2% White, 0.4% Asian, and 5.6% from two or more races, and 0.7% other; 2.1% within the last two categories self-identified as Hispanic/Latino. A small percentage of the population (1.9%) speaks a language other than English at home.

Data source: WI Demographic Services Center.

The educational attainment in New Hope is a good indicator of the population education level which can be used to correlate with other metrics like average and per capita income. Approximately 95% of the adults in New Hope are high school graduates; 61% of the adults completed some college, and 37% hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

The median household income reported in New Hope for 2023 was \$74,976 (92.8% of the State median income) (compared to \$46,538 in 2000), with a per capita income of \$39,607 (61% of the State per capita income). In 2022, the median household income in Wisconsin was \$70,996. Approximately 7.5% of the households in New Hope are classified as high income (\$200,000+ annually). Using the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines (\$25,820 for a family of 3), 11.79% of New Hope is at or below the poverty level.

2023 Estimated Median Household and per Capita Incomes compared to the State

	2023, New Hope	2023, Wisconsin	Difference of
Estimated median household income	\$73,975	\$79,690	-\$5,715 or 92.8% of State Income
Estimated per capita Income	\$39,607	\$64,976	-\$25,369 or 54.8% of State Income

<https://uspopulation.org/wisconsin/portage-county/new-hope/> (<https://wisconsin.hometownlocator.com/>)
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/184902/homeownership-rate-in-the-us-since-2003/>

2021 Income Comparison of Civilian Employees 16 Years or Older in New Hope

Full Time, Year-Round Workers age 16+	Population number	Median Earnings
Total New Hope Employed Population	306	\$73,975 per household
Males in New Hope	162	\$61,072
Females in New Hope	144	\$51,343 (-16%)

Statistics for residents who work solely in farming were not available.

<https://uspopulation.org/wisconsin/portage-county/new-hope/> <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WIPCP1>
https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Population_Estimates.aspx

13.3.2 Climate and Weather

The National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center (NEMAC) predicts potential changes in Portage County’s climate due to rising emissions. By 2050, average daily highs could increase by up to 3 degrees Fahrenheit, with lows potentially rising by 3 degrees. While total precipitation might stay relatively stable, its distribution could change, leading to more intense rainfall and snowfall events. Warmer winters could potentially include more freezing rain for precipitation.

New Hope’s climate is typically continental, with four seasons of weather, an average of 187 days a year that are sunny or partly sunny, and a frost-free growing season of about 150 days. About 2/3 of the 34” of annual precipitation falling in the growing season. Thunderstorms, hail and ice, tornados, and damaging winds can occur throughout the year, but are common from spring through fall. With those storm events, downed trees, outages for power, phone, and internet, damaged buildings, and flooding of local roads can be devastating. Drought, intense rain storms, lack of snow cover during extreme cold events, and early or late frost have repeatedly damaged or destroyed crop production in a town that is heavily agricultural. New Hope utilizes the Town Board for tree clean up on local roads, but with no heavy equipment, hires out for snow removal and road salting. Heavy snowfalls and spring ice storms are challenging in keeping roads open and safe, and in budgeting for those unpredictable events. Until recently, there has been no designated place serving as an emergency management/shelter area.

Cold winter temperatures can drop to -20°F (or lower) with an average snow fall of 47” (which can fall 6 months of the year), and an average of five snow days per month during the winter. Average temperatures in January (the coldest month) range from 6-24 °F, with a record -55 °F recorded in the State in 1996. Heavy snowfalls, ice storms, icy roads, falling trees, and outages for power, phone and internet service have occurred in all seasons. Summers can be hot and humid, with temperatures reaching the 90s and humidity at 60% during parts of July and August, although the average temperature in July can range from 58-80 °F. 2023 was one of the hottest summers on record in Central Wisconsin.

The climate in New Hope appears to be warming, influenced by El Niño and La Niña. weather patterns. The summer of 2024 was roughly 4 °F warmer that the long-term average. Winters recently have been milder, and with less snow fall. Over the past 25 years, snow fall has varied from 28” in 2024 to 92.5” in 2019. Storms tend to be more extreme, and rainfall can exceed 2” in a several hour period. Central Wisconsin experienced a severe drought in 1988 and 2012. According to the Milwaukee Journal, while southern and northern Wisconsin experienced a near-historic drought in late spring, summer, and early fall of 2024, Portage County received more than double the normal May precipitation. Drought in mid-September, following weeks of unseasonably hot dry weather impacted fire danger, crops, and animals.

<https://www.bestplaces.net/climate/city/wisconsin/new%20hope>
<https://www.currentresults.com/Weather/Wisconsin/annual-days-of-sunshine.php>

13.3.3 Development

Table 13-2 summarizes development trends in the performance period since the preparation of the previous hazard mitigation plan, as well as expected future development trends.

Criterion	Response																																				
<p>Has your jurisdiction annexed any land since the preparation of the previous hazard mitigation plan? <i>If yes, give the estimated area annexed and estimated number of parcels or structures.</i></p>	No																																				
<p>Is your jurisdiction expected to annex any areas during the performance period of this plan? <i>If yes, describe land areas and dominant uses.</i></p> <p><i>If yes, who currently has permitting authority over these areas?</i></p>	No																																				
<p>Are any areas targeted for development or major redevelopment in the next five years? <i>If yes, briefly describe, including whether any of the areas are in known hazard risk areas</i></p>	No																																				
<p>How many permits for new construction were issued in your jurisdiction since the preparation of the previous hazard mitigation plan?</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single Family</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accessory Dwelling Unit</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multi-Family</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (commercial, mixed use, etc.)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Single Family	4	4	0	3	2	Accessory Dwelling Unit	0	0	0	0	0	Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0	Other (commercial, mixed use, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	Total	4	4	0	3	2
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023																															
	Single Family	4	4	0	3	2																															
	Accessory Dwelling Unit	0	0	0	0	0																															
	Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0																															
Other (commercial, mixed use, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0																																
Total	4	4	0	3	2																																
<p>Provide the number of new construction permits for each hazard area or provide a qualitative description of where development has occurred.</p>	0																																				
<p>Describe the level of buildout in the jurisdiction, based on your jurisdiction's buildable lands inventory. If no such inventory exists, provide a qualitative description.</p>	Rezoning on a few properties has occurred over the past 10 years, changing from Ag to Residential, with a 10-acre minimum per lot restriction.																																				

- 13.4 Capability Assessment

This section describes an assessment of existing capabilities for implementing hazard mitigation strategies. The base plan of the hazard mitigation plan describes the components included in the capability assessment and their significance for hazard mitigation planning. This section summarizes the following findings of the assessment:

- An assessment of planning and regulatory capabilities is presented in Table 13-3.
- Development and permitting capabilities are presented in Table 13-4.
- An assessment of fiscal capabilities is presented in Table 13-5.
- An assessment of administrative and technical capabilities is presented in Table 13-6.
- An assessment of education and outreach capabilities is presented in Table 13-7.
- Information on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance is presented in Table 13-8.
- Classifications under various community mitigation programs are presented in Table 13-9.
- The community's adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in Table 13-10.

Findings of the capability assessment were reviewed to identify opportunities to expand, initiate or integrate capabilities to further hazard mitigation goals and objectives.

Table 13-3. Planning and Regulatory Capability				
	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
Codes, Ordinances, & Requirements				
Building Code	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Planning and Zoning</i>				
Zoning Code	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Planning and Zoning</i>				
Subdivisions	No	No	Yes	No
<i>Comment:</i>				
Stormwater Management	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown
<i>Comment: New Hope participated in the WisDOT 6-20 Culvert Inventory and regular Bridge Inspections by Portage County. Also see Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Planning and Zoning</i>				
Post-Disaster Management	No	Yes	No	Unknown
<i>Comment: New Hope is concurrently working on completing the Emergency Management Plan, which will be posted on the town website upon completion and review by Portage Co. Emergency Management.</i>				
Real Estate Disclosure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope, Portage County Planning and Zoning</i>				
Growth Management	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Planning and Zoning</i>				
Site Plan Review	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Planning and Zoning</i>				
Environmental Protection	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Planning and Zoning</i>				
Flood Damage Prevention	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Planning and Zoning, New Hope Culvert Inventory, Portage County Bridge Inspection.</i>				
Emergency Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope Emergency Management Plan is currently in progress, to be posted on the town website upon completion and review by Portage Co. Emergency Management. Also see Portage Co. Emergency Management.</i>				
Climate Change	No	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Comment: Town of New Hope will investigate this category and implement ordinances and resolutions as needed.</i>				
Other	No	No	No	No
<i>Comment:</i>				

	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
Planning Documents				
Comprehensive Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown
<i>Is the plan compliant with the Comprehensive Planning Law (s. 66.1001)?</i> <i>Comment:</i> Yes, see Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/683/Town-Comprehensive-Plans and tn.newhope.wi.gov website, https://tn.newhope.wi.gov/town-resolutions/comprehensive-plan/ and Portage Co. Comprehensive Plan: https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/702/County-Comprehensive-Plan				
Capital Improvement Plan	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown
<i>How often is the plan updated?</i> <i>Comment:</i> Building fund, implemented in 2025 Town Budget to build or purchase a building to serve as town hall in five years (per Special Electors' vote). Will be updated each year in Budget.				
Disaster Debris Management Plan	Yes	No	No	Unknown
<i>Comment:</i> Town of New Hope Emergency Plan				
Floodplain or Watershed Plan	No	No	No	No
<i>Comment:</i> According to WI DNR maps, there is no floodplain area within the Town of New Hope. Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Comprehensive Plan.				
Stormwater Plan	No	Yes	No	Unknown
<i>Comment:</i> Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan Portage County Planning and Zoning (Stormwater and Construction Site Erosion Control Plan)				
Urban Water Management Plan	No	Not applicable	No	Not applicable
<i>Comment:</i> Not applicable – all of New Hope is rural.				
Habitat Conservation Plan	No	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Comment:</i> Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Bird Conservation (www.wisconsinbirds.org), Karner Blue Butterfly Conservation Plan (www.cooperativeconservation.org)				
Economic Development Plan	No	No	No	Not applicable
<i>Comment:</i> No businesses located in New Hope other than farming				
Shoreline Management Plan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Comment:</i> Sunset Lake Association (https://sunsetlakeportageco.com/), Portage County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (datcp.wi.gov), UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education (ww3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed/Documents/LakeMgmtPlanDevelopFinal.pdf), WI DNR				
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Comment:</i> WI DNR: Community Wildfire Protection Plans (WEPPs), Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program (US Forest Service) (www.fs.usda.gov)				
Forest Management Plan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Comment:</i> Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan, Portage County Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/361/Land-Water-Conservation), WI DNR WI Forest Regeneration				

<i>Report, Managed Forest Land (MFL) program (docs.legis.wisconsin.gov)</i>				
Climate Action Plan	No	Yes	No	Yes
Comment: Climate Change Task Force (climatechange.wi.gov), Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE) (osce.wi.gov), UWSP Climate Action and Resilience Plan (www.uwsp.edu/carp)				
Emergency Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comment: In progress, will be posted on Town website (tn.newhope.wi.gov) when reviewed and approved. Portage Co. Emergency Management, WI DNR; Wisconsin Emergency Management (https://wem.wi.gov/),)				
Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Comment: Town of New Hope Hazard Mitigation Plan, Portage County Hazard Mitigation Plan (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/207/Portage-County-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan), FEMA Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (Thira) (https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/CPG201Final20180525.pdf) Wisconsin Emergency Management (https://wem.wi.gov/wp-content/library/Mitigation/Appendix_A_THIRA.pdf)				
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	Yes	No	No	Yes
Comment: Town of New Hope Emergency Plan				
Continuity of Operations Plan	No	No	No	No
Comment: Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/683/Town-Comprehensive-Plans)				
Public Health Plan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comment: Public Health Planning and Preparedness, (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/313/public-health-planning-preparedness) , Healthy People Portage County (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/243/Healthy-People-Portage-County) , Town of New Hope Comprehensive Plan (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/683/Town-Comprehensive-Plans), Portage County Comprehensive Plan (https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/702/County-Comprehensive-Plan), American Red Cross				
Other: Groundwater Protection	No	Yes	No	Yes
Comment: Town of New Hope is working with the Portage County Groundwater Citizen Advisory Committee, Portage County Planning and Zoning, the Village of Nelsonville, and the WI DNR				

Table 13-4. Development and Permitting Capability

Criterion	Response
Does your jurisdiction issue development permits? <i>If no, who does? If yes, which department?</i>	No Portage County Planning and Zoning
Does your jurisdiction have the ability to track permits by hazard area?	No
Does your jurisdiction have a buildable lands inventory?	No

Table 13-5. Fiscal Capability

Financial Resource	Accessible or Eligible to Use?
Community Development Block Grants	No
Capital Improvements Project Funding	Yes
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes	Yes
User Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Service	No
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	Yes
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	No

Incur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	No
Withhold Public Expenditures in Hazard-Prone Areas	No
State-Sponsored Grant Programs	Yes
Development Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers	No
Other	No

Table 13-6. Administrative and Technical Capability

Staff/Personnel Resource	Available?	Department/Agency/Position
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Yes	Portage County Planning and Zoning
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	Yes	Portage County Planning and Zoning
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Yes	Portage County Planning and Zoning
Staff with training in benefit/cost analysis	No	
Surveyors	Yes	Portage County Planning and Zoning
Personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	Yes	Portage County Planning and Zoning
Scientist familiar with natural hazards in local area	Yes	UWSP staff and emeritus professors, local geologists, DNR
Emergency manager	Yes	Town Chair, Portage County Emergency Management
Grant writers	Yes	Town Board, Portage County
Other	No	

Table 13-7. Education and Outreach Capability

Criterion	Response
Do you have a public information officer or communications office? <i>All communication with residents is posted by the town clerk.</i>	No
Do you have personnel skilled or trained in website development?	Yes (hired)
Do you have hazard mitigation information available on your website? <i>In progress. The New Hope Mitigation Plan will be posted on the town website once completed, reviewed, and approved.</i>	Yes This report will be uploaded to the Town and County website
Do you use social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach?	No
Do you have any citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation? GCAC for ground water	Yes
Do you have any other programs already in place that could be used to communicate hazard-related information? <i>Town website (tn.newhope.wi.gov), Community message boards at Sunset Lake and North New Hope Church</i>	Yes
Do you have any established warning systems for hazard events? <i>Potentially, Sheriff's communication alerts, Neighborhood watch</i>	No

Table 13-8. National Flood Insurance Program Compliance

Criterion	Response
What is your participation status in the National Flood Insurance Program?	Not Participating
What local department is responsible for floodplain management?	None
Who is your floodplain administrator? (department/position)	None
Are any certified floodplain managers on staff in your jurisdiction?	No
What is the date that your flood damage prevention ordinance was last amended?	None
Does your floodplain management program meet or exceed minimum requirements set by NFIP? The DNR’s model floodplain ordinance meets NFIP’s minimum standards.	No floodplain management program in place
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit or Community Assistance Contact?	No
Does your jurisdiction have any outstanding NFIP compliance violations that need to be addressed?	No
What date was your latest Flood Insurance Rate Map adopted?	No
Are any RiskMAP projects currently underway in your jurisdiction?	No
Do your flood hazard maps adequately address the flood risk within your jurisdiction? <i>Per FEMA, not in floodplain</i>	No
Does your floodplain management staff need any assistance or training to support its floodplain management program? <i>If so, what type of assistance/training is needed? It would be helpful to have a certified floodplain manager on staff,</i>	No
Does your jurisdiction participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)? <i>If yes, is your jurisdiction interested in improving its CRS Classification? If no, is your jurisdiction interested in joining the CRS program?</i>	No
How many flood insurance policies are in force in your jurisdiction? <i>What is the insurance in force? What is the premium in force?</i>	0 None 0
How many total loss claims have been filed in your jurisdiction?^a <i>What were the total payments for losses?</i>	0 0
Please describe the implementation and enforcement of floodplain management regulations to regulate and permit development in Special Flood Hazard Areas.	None
Please describe the floodplain management programs and activities that contribute to continued compliance with NFIP. <i>Per FEMA, none of New Hope contains floodplains.</i>	None

a. According to FEMA statistics as of 2024

Table 13-9. Community Classifications			
	Participating?	Classification	Date Classified
FIPS Code	Yes	55-56850	N/A
DUNS #	Yes	8553151462	N/A
Community Rating System	No	N/A	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule	No	N/A	N/A
Public Protection	No	N/A	N/A
Storm Ready	No	N/A	N/A
Firewise	No	N/A	N/A

Table 13-10. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change

Criterion	Jurisdiction Rating ^a
Technical Capacity	
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts. <i>Comment: Supervisor is trained geologist, works with University (UWSP) and local specialists</i>	High
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts <i>Comment: None</i>	Low
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities. <i>Comment: None</i>	Low
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory <i>Comment: None</i>	Low
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts. <i>Comment: None</i>	Low
Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks. <i>Comment: Not currently involved with any regional groups other than WI Towns Association</i>	Low
Implementation Capability	
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes. <i>Comment: Reliant on local, county and state expertise</i>	High
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts. <i>Comment: None</i>	Low
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts. <i>Comment: None</i>	Low
Champions for climate action in local government departments <i>Comment: Board members are involved at local level</i>	High
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies. <i>Comment: Reliant on local, county and state expertise</i>	High
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation. <i>Comment: None, but Board develops and controls the town budget; possible State and County</i>	Low
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted. <i>Comment: Board members are involved at local level</i>	High
Public Capability	
Local residents knowledge of and understanding of climate risk. <i>Comment: Many residents are very informed, keep abreast of information available, and are concerned about climate change.</i>	Medium
Local residents support of adaptation efforts <i>Comment: Most residents are very supportive of proactive plans regarding climate change</i>	Medium
Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts. <i>Comment: Because of the rural nature of our Town, most residents are pro-active and are supportive of any innovations and plans brought by the Town Board</i>	Medium
Local economy's current capacity to adapt to climate impacts. <i>Comment: Because of the rural nature of our Town, and because Agriculture is the only 'business' in New Hope, funding is limited. Agriculture will be most impacted, which will affect the economy.</i>	Medium
Local ecosystems' capacity to adapt to climate impacts. <i>Comment: Water/drought/storm damage/high snowfall can cause a major impact on the local ecosystems, especially the groundwater level, which in turn impacts the lake levels and ditches.</i>	Medium

a. High = Capacity exists and is in use; Medium = Capacity may exist but is not used or could use some improvement; Low = Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement; Unsure= Not enough information is known to assign a rating.

- 13.5 Integration Review

For hazard mitigation planning, “integration” means that hazard mitigation information is used in other relevant planning mechanisms, such as general planning and capital facilities planning, and that relevant information from those sources is used in hazard mitigation. This section identifies where such integration is already in place, and where there are opportunities for further integration in the future. The resources listed at the end of this annex were used to provide information on integration.

13.5.1 Existing Integration

Some level of integration has already been established between local hazard mitigation planning and the following other local plans and programs:

The Town Board has successfully begun establishing a community shelter at North New Hope Church, with plans to purchase and install a generator. The Church is planning on upgrading the internet and cell service. New kiosks have been installed to improve communication with the residents. The 2025 budget includes contingencies for storm damage and excessive snowfall.

13.5.2 Opportunities for Future Integration

The capability assessment presented in this annex identified the following plans and programs that do not currently integrate hazard mitigation information but provide opportunities to do so in the future:

Improved communication with residents is needed.

- 13.6 Risk Assessment

13.6.1 Jurisdiction-Specific Hazard Event History

Table 13-11 lists past occurrences of hazards for which specific damage was recorded in The Town of New Hope. Other hazard events that broadly affected the entire planning area, including Portage County, are listed in the risk assessments in the base plan of this hazard mitigation plan.

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster #	Date	Assessed Damage (monetary, fatalities, injuries, structures destroyed or damaged)
High groundwater level due to excessive rainfall or snowmelt		2022-23	Riparian zone damaged on east side Sunset Lake (trees and vegetation loss from high water level) County beach damaged; saturated fields and ditches with minor flooding on roads
Excessive snowfall		2023	Need for additional plowing and salting to keep town roads passable exhausted and exceeded the budget
Straight-line winds and intense summer storms		Each summer for past 10 years	Trees were downed, many across town roads; removal was prolonged and expensive.
Intense summer storms		2024, 2022, 2021, 2019	Local flooding, downed trees, 2019 power outage for most residents lasting from hours to more than a week, disrupted phone and internet service (which impacts emergency requests – fire, EMS)

13.6.2 Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Summary

Table 13-12 presents a summary of all hazards of concern for this jurisdiction including their location, extent, and probability.

Table 5-12. Hazard Risk Ranking			
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Severe Weather – including tornadoes, high winds, hail, and lightning</p> <p>Extent: Townwide</p> <p>Probability: Highly likely for at least one major weather event to occur annually</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Tornadoes, High and Straight-Line Winds: Although infrequent, tornadoes do develop here; that number may increase with climate change. With wind speeds of up to 300 mph, diameters from 10 yards to more than 1 mile across, and duration on the ground from seconds to several hours. They can travel a few miles along the ground to a record-breaking 219 miles (1926, in Missouri). Topography and local conditions make tornadoes highly variable. High Winds and Straight-Line Winds are more common, can reach speeds in excess of 100 mph with no rotation, usually accompany a severe thunderstorm, and can travel 500-600 miles.</p> <p>Hazard Description: Lightning Common, especially in summer, but can happen during any month. Straight-line winds: becoming more common, especially in summer, and as storms intensify.</p> <p>Excess rainfall: Sporadic but rainfalls of 2-5 inches have been recorded lately.</p> <p>Excess snowfall: Sporadic and unpredictable, varying from year to year, with either little snow (which can damage crops because of little ground cover) to an overabundance of snow, causing problems with keeping roads safe, structural damage to residential and agricultural buildings.</p> <p>Ice/freezing rain: Occurs regularly in spring (usually March), accompanied by loss of power,</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Town Roads: Keeping town roads clear and safe is imperative for the safety of any travelers, but is also impacted by a limited town budget. Buildings: North New Hope Church: (which serves as the town hall) is brick, but has no backup generator, which would impact serving as an emergency center and shelter (heat, storms, extreme cold weather), including availability of water. New Hope has a high number of residents age 65 and older, some of whom live alone. Keeping roads open for emergency vehicles is critical, but in the event of a large-scale power outage, everyone is impacted. Roadsides and Utility Lines: Heavily wooded areas along most of our town roads are especially vulnerable in straight-line winds and (less frequently) tornadoes. Regular brushing along roadsides is a proactive approach, but does little for large trees beyond the right of way, or for downed branches on the roads. During drought conditions, fire danger can be a problem (particularly from lightning), and because we are served by a fire department that is 20+ miles away, downed brush and trees is hazardous. Ditches: changes in ground water level, intense and/or abundant rainfall, abundant snow fall (especially if rapid melting follows) can have a</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Excess snow and downed trees can be a major catastrophe. Inability to keep roads clear of trees and debris (which is common) and heavy snowfall (also common) has a severe impact on the safety of any travelers and emergency vehicles, and can cause major structural damage (especially risk of roof collapse), along with a significant risk to vehicles and buildings due to damage from downed trees. Downed powerlines (especially in extreme heat or extreme cold weather) can cause major health and safety risks (especially with older residents). Downed phone lines and internet can pose life-threatening risks, especially if emergency assistance is required. Risk to damaged water pipes can have major financial and health impacts to municipal and residential homes. Freezing rain, which occurs almost every spring, often results in downed powerlines and disrupted phone service, impacting emergency vehicles, travel, delivery of the mail, the ability to heat homes (especially for the elderly and very young), pump water (all homes in New Hope are on private wells, run by pumps) and flush toilets. Cost of losing herd animals</p>

	<p>treacherous road conditions, and risk of structural damage to residential and agricultural buildings.</p> <p>Impact: The immediate impact could include injury or death; property destruction or damage; loss of crops, herds, or forests and ecosystems; road closures; damaged/destroyed buildings; jeopardized travel, including emergency vehicles (EMT, Ambulance, Fire truck); economic disruption.</p> <p>Long term impact could include prolonged health care, clean-up, repair/rebuilding, reconstruction where possible. Road and shoulder damage from excess rain and snow (or the spin—off effect of snow plowing) impacts town road maintenance. Freezing rain and ice is especially dangerous on narrow rural roads; we are reliant on hired snow plows for snow removal and salting, often waiting until other roads are cleared.</p> <p>Removal of any downed trees on town roads is done by the town board members. Downed powerlines can make that especially hazardous. Our older residents are reliant on neighbors to remove snow. Phone service in New Hope is not as reliable as in other areas, especially if cell towers or lines break in storm events. Vulnerability: All town roads, residences and Church (which will serve as storm shelter.)</p>	<p>serious negative impact on local roads flooding. Herd animals (especially cows and horses) are vulnerable to lightning strikes, with the possibility of losing an entire herd from one strike.</p> <p>Vulnerability: Structures on flat open terrain are most vulnerable; any person, animal or possession in the path of the storm is susceptible to death, injury, or damage. People, animals, vehicles in buildings (especially if in basements or enforced structures) may be less at risk, but only if the structure holds up. Wooden buildings, shingled roofs, signs are more at risk.</p> <p>Park and Natural Areas are heavily treed; destruction level could be quite extensive. Terrain in Natural Area and Ice Age Trail would make</p>	<p>can be extremely costly, not only in replacing the animals (which could be thousands of dollars per animal) but also in lost revenue, especially if it is a dairy. Hail damage to crops, vehicles, and buildings is a real danger each summer.</p> <p>Indirect Impacts: Loss of income, cost of rebuilding or repair, choice of moving or rebuilding (loss of residents), strain on FEMA, State and County Aid, delays in payments, permanent/long term change in landscape.</p> <p>Severity: Tornados: sporadic but Moderate to catastrophic.</p> <p>High Winds and Straight-Line Winds: more common, damage similar to tornado. Moderate to catastrophic.</p> <p>Hail: Common, usually in summer, but can occur throughout the calendar year. Damage is dependent on size of hail, and duration of storm. Moderate to major.</p> <p>Ice Storms: Common in early spring (March). Moderate to major.</p> <p>Lightning: Common spring and summer, but can occur anytime. Minor, but can be major in small areas.</p>
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Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Flooding – including Dam Failure</p> <p>Extent: Roadside ditches, lake shores, stream banks, low areas</p> <p>Probability: Likely for at least one event to occur annually</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Flooding With increased severity of rainstorms and rapid melting of snow, the risk of flooding is significant. New Hope has no dams, but there are several small aging bridges and culverts where structural failure or erosion along the edges because of flooding would be problematic, especially the bridge on Hwy 161, which would block all east-west traffic in the south half of the town. Limited roads in New Hope run east-west (Hwy 161, Cty. Rd Z, Cty Rd OO) and north-south (Cty Rds ZZ and T, and restrict travel for everyone to one of those major arteries, especially important with emergency vehicles. Damage to or closure of any of those roads due to flooding would severely impact the community, including a significant number of commuters who regularly use Hwy 161 to travel east or west. Heavy farm equipment is regularly used on all New Hope roads including Hwy 161; limiting that usage would negatively impact farming. Of more concern is flooding of roads, which would cause structural damage to the road and/or shoulders. The amount of precipitation (especially rain or rapid snow melt) and variability in groundwater have a major impact of flooding.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Several bridges (especially Hwy 161 over the Tomorrow River), and culverts that divert water under roadways. All town residents and travelers would be at risk. The Hwy 161 bridge shows signs of aging (see 2024 Inspection Report P-49-909 from WisDOT). The 2024 Culvert Report showed some damage to two culverts due to age (Clementson and River Rds). All local roads are at risk if localized flooding occurs. With increased severity and volume of recent rains, and the expectation that this trend will continue or worsen, there is a real concern about the structural integrity of our town roads, exacerbated by trees falling onto roads (instability due to saturated ground) that line most of the local roads and can block entire roads if downed.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Our town roads are rural: narrow, curvy, and built-in hilly areas, often with deep ditches and steep inclines. The prohibitive cost of road construction and repair due to flood damage could be devastating, especially for the residents who depend on the safety and accessibility of those roads. Access by emergency vehicles is of primary concern, but it would also impact any travelers, as well as postal service, utility work, and local business (including Ag). Damage to property (residences) and roads could be minor to catastrophic, dependent on the extent of the flooding, but it would also put significant strain on a small annual budget for any necessary repairs.</p> <p>Severity: mild to extreme</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Wildfire</p> <p>Extent: Variable from very localized to extensive</p> <p>Probability: High fuel load, increased summer temperatures and drought occurrences, increased recreational use increase the likelihood</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Because of increased risk of seasonal drought due to climate change, the amount of forested and farmland, and the significant amount of fuel load due to the large number of trees and branches brought down by storms in the past 10 years, the risk of wildfire has increased, especially considering the number of lightning storms that occur in spring and summer.</p> <p>Impact: The lola fire department (which services New Hope) is at least 20 minutes away from most residences in the town. A wildfire, especially if coupled with high winds, could get out of hand quickly, and could damage residences and utility lines in its path before the fire department could get it under control. Loss of homes, farms (including herds and equipment), utility lines (including the consequence of losing power for heat, cooling, water, and food, or phone service for emergency vehicles) could be extreme. The financial effect of loss of timber could be staggering, the impact on the environment could be staggering (including the impact on hunting).</p> <p>Most of New Hope is heavily wooded, and depending on the time of year, large fields containing dried crops ready for harvest could result in large areas impacted before a fire could be contained.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Most residences (most of which are frame structures), barns, sheds, and outbuildings, mature woods (timber), utility lines (many of which are not buried).</p> <p>Residents, domestic herds, and wildlife (migratory and non-migratory) are all at risk, as well as habitat destruction (including at least two natural areas and the headwaters for trout streams and rivers) in or just on the edge of New Hope. While wildfires are rare in New Hope, with recent storm damage and the abundant fuel load that has accumulated in the forested areas in New Hope, coupled with seasonal droughts and intense lightning storms, the risk is increasing.</p> <p>Park and Natural Areas are heavily treed; destruction level could be quite extensive. Terrain in Natural Area and Ice Age Trail would make fire-fighting and restoration difficult.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: The potential loss of homes and farms, herds and wildlife, public recreational areas, wildlife habitat, forest land, and potentially lives are serious and possible outcomes of a wildfire. Long term, the loss of forested land could impact property values (because of the change in property aesthetics), hunting and fishing, and farming due to erosion. Although the threat of wildfire is currently remote, with climate change and the accompanying change in precipitation, drought, high temperatures, strong storms, and more people using public and private lands for recreation increases that risk.</p> <p>Severity: currently unlikely but mild to extreme, dependent on weather, location, conditions, and emergency response.</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Drought</p> <p>Extent: Variable from localized to extensive</p> <p>Probability: Increased summer temperatures and drought occurrences, with wide variability in where and how much rain falls increase the likelihood.</p> <p>Minor drought is often an annual occurrence in New Hope.</p>	<p>Hazard Description: New Hope has experienced an increased number of drought events. As with torrential rainfall recently, while sporadic and spotty in nature, the areas affected can be devastated, with lasting side effects like loss of habitat and trees, increased runoff and erosion until soils become remoisturized, the risk of wells going dry, lakes and stream levels dropping to detrimental levels for dependent flora and fauna.</p> <p>Impact: Because New Hope relies heavily on agriculture, the financial effect can be extreme, with recovery questionable, sometimes driving families out of farming and leveling them financially. New Hope soils are very porous. Available moisture percolates through the soil quickly. A drop in groundwater levels, which feeds all the local lakes and streams, can have a major impact on tourism, wildlife, and home values, as well as the lake’s ability to recover ecologically. All residents of New Hope rely on private wells, fed by groundwater.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: All residents are susceptible to the negative impact of drought, from the risk of your well drying up to losing crops and possibly that year’s income. The natural areas and fisheries in the area are often hard-hit, with recovery questionable, especially coupled with large-scale crop irrigation that can further lower the groundwater level. Describe the specific assets, infrastructure, or people at risk from the hazard. Climate change will only increase negative impacts in the future.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Disruption of economy, especially for farmers: People may be forced to move or convert a family farm to residential due to financial loss of an entire year’s crops. Crop insurance may cover some of the damage, but not all of it.</p> <p>Tourism and recreation (fishing, hunting, swimming and boating) are hard-hit when the lake and stream levels drop.</p> <p>The risk of fire increases with the dryness, and because there is already a large fuel load on the ground, fire seems more likely in the future. Long term:</p> <p>A drop in crop production (including milk and dairy when herds are sold because of a lack of grazing land or feed) will cause groceries to increase. Some residents grow fruit and vegetables to sell roadside or at the Farmer’s Market, but because of supply and demand, fresh fruit and vegetables may be limited, which long term will impact diet and ultimately health.</p> <p>Severity: mild to extreme, dependent on the duration and timing, but often long-lasting effects and a long recovery period follow.</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Extreme Cold Temperatures</p> <p>Extent: Widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable, but on average, 21 days of 0°F or lower annually</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Wisconsin is notorious for extreme temperatures, not only temperature but the timing, especially of extreme cold weather, with early and late frosts always possible.</p> <p>Extreme cold: Pipes freeze and burst, vehicles (including tractors and school busses) may not start or may run poorly. Although plans are being developed, New Hope has no warming shelter for people who have no heat.</p> <p>Some residents raise bees, some have orchards, and some commercially raise produce, all of which are negatively impacted by extreme cold (especially in late spring or early fall, or when the snow cover is minimal, risking damage to native and introduced plants favored by bees and other pollinators. Maple trees, used by many residents to make maple syrup in spring, are especially susceptible to frost cracks which can stress the trees and may result in large branches breaking or the entire tree dying, impacting manufacture and possible revenue from syrup sales.</p> <p>The need for heat can put a strain on utilities, and trigger an increase in fuel costs.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: All residents are vulnerable to cold weather due to hypothermia, frostbite, and cold weather-related health issues like immunity, cardiac, balance and skin problems, especially in children and the elderly. All children traveling to school are at risk, especially if busses stall or children are exposed to cold wind and air while waiting for the bus. People who must work outdoors (farmers, utility workers, delivery people, etc.) are at risk of frostbite or hypothermia, sometimes within a few minutes of exposure. Structurally, frozen pipes can result in lack of water for personal and agricultural use, and possible structural damage to water lines when pipes burst. Repair can be very costly, not only the pipes but surrounding walls, floors, ceilings, and basements that may get wet. Transformers on powerlines can sometimes be damaged or malfunction during extreme cold snaps, leading to no heat in homes reliant on electric furnace and stove ignition, and no water (all private pumps, run on electricity). Often cold weather follows a storm event, which can make clearing roads difficult.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: All residents are at risk. Death from hypothermia, especially in small children and the elderly. The impact of extensive repairs following frozen pipes or loss of electricity can be detrimental. There is a real risk for anyone who must work outside (farmers, utility repair people, plumbers, electricians, carpenters), as well as those who must travel (road crews, bus drivers, emergency crews, law enforcement, medical staff).</p> <p>Severity: Major to extreme</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Extreme Heat</p> <p>Extent: Widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable, but on average, 19 days of 90°F or higher annually</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Extreme heat is becoming more common and more severe as a result of climate change, and is defined as summer temperatures much hotter and/or more humid than average, defined as above 90°F for at least several days.</p> <p>High humidity, which often accompanies high temperatures in Wisconsin, makes it feel even hotter.</p> <p>Severe storms can be spawned by temperature and pressure extremes.</p> <p>Your body works harder to maintain a normal temperature; excess sweating can lead to dehydration. It is considered a global threat, often occurring here in July and August, but in 2024, we had record-breaking temperatures accompanied by drought in September.</p> <p>Humans are particularly vulnerable to succumbing to heat-related illness and even death.</p> <p>Dairy herds, chickens, bee hives, and pets are all stressed by heat. All play an important role in New Hope.</p> <p>Infrastructure, especially paved roads, can be affected, with roads buckling in extreme heat.</p> <p>The electric grid is taxed as more people use fans and air conditioning, with brown-outs becoming more common in New Hope.</p> <p>The risk of drought and wildfires increases with increased temperatures.</p> <p>Without sufficient irrigation, crops are often lost or damaged; many of the fields in New Hope are not irrigated.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets Heat is the leading cause of death in the US (according to MIT). The elderly, children, people with chronic illness, and those working/recreating outside are particularly vulnerable and can succumb to heat stroke, heat exhaustion, sun stroke, and death.</p> <p>Milk production decreases, growth rates slow down (affecting meat production), reproduction is negatively impacted, and death can occur. Chickens have a high body temperature and no sweat glands, making them vulnerable to dying in high temperatures. Reduced egg production, growth rate, and immune response, making the birds more susceptible to infection.</p> <p>Honey production decreases as bees switch from collecting nectar for honey to keeping the hive cool. That inadvertently changes the pollination rate</p> <p>Wildlife is impacted for the same reasons.</p> <p>Flowering crops may stop blooming to reduce stress, which also impacts honey production.</p> <p>Roads can buckle, requiring expensive repairs. Failure to make those repairs in a timely manner results in further degradation that only becomes more expensive. New Hope is limited by the availability of road crews that often book out months in advance, and a very limited road budget that is delegated to other needed repairs.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: All residents are at risk, especially the very young, the elderly, those with compromised immune systems. Death from hyperthermia, especially in small children and the elderly is a problem.</p> <p>Children and pets left in a closed car overheat quickly, and can die within a short time.</p> <p>There is a real risk for anyone who must work outside (farmers, utility repair people, carpenters, field workers) and for those working in enclosed areas with poor circulation and no air conditioning.</p> <p>Animals (including dairy herds, chickens, and other farm animals) all exhibit negative effects from heat.</p> <p>Electrical grids are challenged to keep up with increased need because of air conditioning and irrigation lines.</p> <p>Crops are jeopardized, and may result in complete or partial crop failure, followed by financial spin-offs.</p> <p>Severity: Major to extreme</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Pest Infestation</p> <p>Extent: Can be widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable, dependent on temperature, moisture, growing conditions</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Irregular weather and extremes in precipitation, moisture/humidity, and mild temperatures (warmer winters, warm summers) trigger increases in the number of pests and exotics here. Monoculture crops (like corn or soybeans) are more vulnerable to insect infestation, which may necessitate increased use of pesticides or reduced harvest. Exotic invasive plants like garlic mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>), spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>), giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>), Japanese knotweed (<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>), and wild parsnip (<i>Pastubaca satuva</i>) have all become more common in ditches, fields, and woods edges. All can cause health issues in humans, and outcompete native species, often forming a monoculture. High amounts of precipitation have increased mosquito populations, which can cause West Nile, La Crosse Encephalitis, and Zika, with infections that range from mild to debilitating or fatal in humans and animals. Crops can be infected by viruses, nematodes, fungi, or bacteria that can increase and spread more readily with extreme weather (especially humidity, moisture, and high temperatures), all of which can decrease production and/or produce deformed or pest-infested crops that may be unusable or unpalatable. Warm temperatures and warm winters are partially to blame for the spread of emerald ash borers, and the prevalence of the fungi that cause oak leaf wilt, maple wilt, fungal collar rot and basal canker complex causing the decline of ash, oak, and maple in our forests.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: A number of residents rely on garden crops for the next year’s food supply. An increase in pests can negatively impact productivity in gardens and field crops. A number of residents also grow fruit and vegetables to be sold at roadside stands or at the Farmer’s market, but decreased production and deformed or infected produce won’t sell, affecting income. Increased pathogens and pests negatively impact human and animal health, including both herd animals and pets. There is concern that Oak Wilt and emerald ash borer will negatively impact the hardwood forests found here, which could affect property values, timber production, and habitat. The number of people who test positive for Lyme disease has more than doubled in the last 15 years. The population of blacklegged deer ticks (<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>) has spread and will search for a host any time the temperature is above freezing. It is estimated that 15,000 people have contracted Lyme disease over the past 20 years in Portage County; 40% of deer (<i>Ixodes</i>) ticks collected in Portage County are infected with <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>, the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. The abundant population of white-tail deer and white footed mice, birds, pets, and people are all carriers of different stages of the ticks.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Loss of trees would impact property value and timber production, as well as affecting the aesthetics. Decreased production and/or quality of produce will decrease income for some and will impact grocery costs if gardens fail. Honey production has decreased because of mites, which impacts food production and income. Health issues from tick bites can have short- and long-term effects on the health of infected individuals, especially if untreated. Diversity in each ecosystem is reliant on healthy organisms.</p> <p>Severity: Mild to moderate</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Power Outage</p> <p>Extent: Can be widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable, dependent on severe weather, most often occurring in early summer or late winter/early spring</p>	<p>Hazard Description: With increased severity of summer storms, heavier snowfalls, power outages happen more frequently and may take longer to repair because the damage is more extensive. Increased demands on electricity production from agriculture and extreme temperatures stresses the electrical grid, making brown-outs and power outages more likely,</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Residents are all at risk, especially during extreme temperature events (heat and cold). All dairy farms rely on electricity for milking, milk refrigeration, and on having lights on when working early or late. Barn cleaning equipment and irrigation systems are run on electricity.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Loss of power will impact heating and cooling, water supply, and irrigation of crops, as well as refrigeration for food storage. Dairy farmers without proper refrigeration are forced to dump milk, affecting income.</p> <p>When the power goes out, residents risk losing food stored in a refrigerator or freezer, cannot run stoves, furnaces, air conditioners, heaters, fans, or lights, reducing productivity for those working at home, and risking their food supply. The inability to heat or cool a house adequately can have extreme effects on health.</p> <p>Severity: minor to catastrophic, dependent on extent and duration.</p>
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Solar Weather – including solar flares and coronal mass ejections</p> <p>Extent: Widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable, dependent on sun spots and solar flares</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Solar flares can impede communication (cell phones, landlines, computers, radio), alter power grids, and satellite systems that run everything from text messages to national security. Programs as diverse as NOAA (for tracking weather and producing weather reports and warnings) to radio broadcasting with current news and entertainment are impacted.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: The entire population of New Hope is dependent in large part on radio, TV, and the internet for everything from storm warnings to navigating by GPS while traveling to warnings about health risks, reports, and regulations for everything from the Covid-19 pandemic to the latest flu virus to weather-related outages to warnings cyberattacks to reminders to do things like vote or change the clock for daylight savings time. No local daily or weekly newspaper shifts the need for good internet and reliable cell phone coverage from convenient and entertaining to imperative.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Because solar weather events can and do have an effect on communications, every resident of New Hope is affected.</p> <p>Severity: Minor to moderate, dependent on solar activity and duration.</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Electromagnetic Pulse</p> <p>Extent: Widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable</p>	<p>Hazard Description: An electromagnetic pulse (EMP) can occur from nuclear attack or from natural events like solar flares. The effect could damage or destroy electrical equipment, data, and systems. If it was a nuclear attack, military communications and national command authority would be knocked out, eliminating the US Military’s ability to respond to a nuclear attack. A nationwide blackout of the electrical power grid could follow, and shut down all critical infrastructure reliant on that grid, impacting communication, transportation, food and water supply, and sanitation. Long-term effects could be massive starvation, disease, and general breakdown of society. Solar flares and storms happen regularly. While it is unlikely that we would enter a nuclear war, it is possible. It would impact everyone in New Hope.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Permanent damage or destruction of the electrical grid here would alter every aspect of our lives, from pumping gas to pumping water, from growing food to storing it, to processing it, to cleaning up afterward. Temperature control, lighting, communication, daily operations of any business, ag or otherwise, would be altered if not stopped. The possibility of a nuclear winter would ensure a large loss of life due to exposure and starvation.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Regardless of the cause (natural or manmade) an EMP could change everything we do, how we do it, and if we do it, and potentially not just for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Severity: minor to catastrophic</p>
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Terrorism/Sabotage/Weapon of Mass Destruction</p> <p>Extent: Could be widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Depending on what act of terrorism or sabotage (unless it is the use of a weapon of mass destruction), the immediate effect on the residents of New Hope might be barely perceptible, including the disruption of the national or state government. Terrorism is designed to scare and subdue. Long term effects would be difficult – people would be called to protect and defend the US, so it would impact our youth, and their families. Depending on what was sabotaged, it might or might not affect us, at least not directly. If it was a weapon of mass destruction, we would have time to react because of our remote location, but there would be no safe place to go.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: In New Hope, there would be little effect initially, other than panic. Long term, it depends on what the act of terrorism or sabotage is. Attacks on oil refineries, the water supply (affecting large municipalities reliant on city wells and/or reservoirs), the federal or state government, and the like would not have any significant impact immediately, although obviously it would seriously impact all residents in the very near future. If it’s the banking system or health system, or communications systems everyone would be affected immediately.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Economic disruption is an obvious effect. Mistrust, fear, anxiety would be rampant. Hording, lines at the gas station could occur, disruption of government services, transportation and shipping would be likely, well as an increase in weapon and ammunition purchases (at least if supplies are available).</p> <p>Conduction of Elections: the polling place represents a risk; remote, rural, located in a basement, far from police and sheriff’s office. Severity – Major to catastrophic</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Cyber Incident</p> <p>Extent: Could be widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable</p>	<p>Hazard Description: It is estimated that cyber incidents occur every 39 seconds. Businesses, government, finance, communications, information, security systems, and individuals are all susceptible.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Because we all use computers, phones, etc., and all run on software, and because we all do banking, use local and regional health care, rely on government for continued services, and a myriad list of day-to-day activities, a cyber incident could be personally devastating, or impact an entire community. The elderly seem to be especially easy targets, but hackers can attack everyone.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: the impact would be dependent on what and who was attacked, ranging from a single individual in the community to the entire government.</p> <p>Severity: Dependent on the extent and target, minor (except for an individual singled out) to major</p>
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Internet & Communications Failure</p> <p>Extent: Could be widespread</p> <p>Probability: Highly variable</p>	<p>Hazard Description: All residents of New Hope rely on phone service, and most depend on the internet for information, entertainment, and conducting business.</p> <p>Failure of internet or disruption of phone service would impede local government. Most residents who work are in business that rely on the internet.</p> <p>Elections would be impacted as we depend on phone service to relay information and receive direction.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: This would impact everyone in the town for everything from news to weather reports to financial reports to school closures to contacting the fire department, EMS, or the hospital.</p> <p>There is no local daily or weekly newspaper, so information is most commonly received via internet or cell phone.</p> <p>Access to the town website must be done through the internet, so communication with residents would be restricted to posted notices at the kiosks.</p> <p>[Susceptibility Factors: Explain why these assets are vulnerable.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: The residents would be very limited to health care access, from routine checkups to urgent care phone calls to emergency responders and ambulance.</p> <p>The safety of the community would be impacted without a way to contact the fire department, EMS, or Sheriff.</p> <p>Many residents shop online; lack of internet would force people to travel for purchases, especially difficult for our residents who do not drive or rely on others for assistance.</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Water Failure (Water/Wastewater)</p>	<p>Hazard Description: All residences and farms in New Hope rely on private wells for water supply, and all rely on maintaining a high purity level in the groundwater that supports those wells. All residences use a private septic system connected either to a drain field or mound. Please see Hazardous Materials for more information.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Groundwater impacts all wells in New Hope. Well head protection zones are in place, and groundwater monitoring south of New Hope has been implemented in 2023.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Failure of any local septic system would contaminate groundwater, making regular maintenance imperative. Water quality is key to health, for humans, wildlife, domestic herds, and fisheries. Well contamination from substances in groundwater is of growing concern, especially from high nitrate levels and other contaminants. Groundwater also impacts ecosystems, especially streams, headwaters, and lakes.</p>
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Infrastructure Failure (bridges, roads, etc.)</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Town Roads: The Town of New Hope maintains 35.98 miles of town roads, with 20 roads having only one combined inlet/outlet. Most of the town roads are paved, maintained on an annual budget of \$95,000 (2024). An additional \$75,000 is set aside annually for snow removal, brushing, and downed tree removal (2024). These roads are utilized by residents, visitors, school buses, postal and other delivery workers, trucks, and agricultural equipment. Road maintenance, brushing, and snow removal are critical services in keeping local roads in good repair and safe for travel. Bikers and pedestrians traveling along the local roads are common, and wildlife (deer, turkeys, bear, and other species) are abundant, making extended visibility along roadside ditches by regular brushing essential. In 2023, there were 16,153 deer-vehicle collisions in Wisconsin, with six fatalities, 607 injuries sustained (DNR), and an average repair cost of \$6,500.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: In April, the Board completes an annual road condition assessment (WISLR) to determine which roads to repair. All drivers, bikers, pedestrians, and operators of farm equipment on town roads are at risk. Road, bridge, and culvert are critical infrastructures. Harsh winter conditions, use of plows for snow removal, heavy rains, and frost all have a negative impact. In recent years, the increased use of large heavy farm equipment has created new challenges in maintenance and road safety, especially on roads that are curvy and narrow.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: In April, the Board completes an annual road condition assessment (WISLR) to determine which roads to repair within the constraints of the annual budget. Failure to maintain the town roads jeopardizes all who use them, risking injury and death.</p> <p>Severity: Major</p>

	<p>Many of the roads are shaded, which can create icy and treacherous driving conditions in winter. Timely snow removal, with salt/sand, are essential in maintaining winter road safety. There are several bridges in New Hope spanning the Tomorrow River, the largest on Hwy. 161, and several culverts under town roads. Bridge and culvert inspections are regularly conducted, with repairs completed by the Town. Failure of any of these would disrupt traffic, and in several cases, would isolate homes.</p>		
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
Hazardous Materials	<p>Hazard Description: The risk for the Town of New Hope of most concern is groundwater contamination from excess use of nitrogen by residents and farms, spraying of herbicides and pesticides, and application of solid waste from local farms (especially CAFOs) and the City of Appleton onto porous soils found in most fields in New Hope. New Hope relies entirely on private wells for water, including all residences and agriculture. Several trout stream headwaters are located in or just north of New Hope and are very susceptible to pollution, impacting fisheries from New Hope to the Mississippi River. Groundwater from New Hope travels through the Village of Nelsonville, entirely reliant on private wells for its water supply, and on to the Village of Plover which relies on city and private wells. The Tomorrow River flows through Waupaca County, along with any pollutants introduced into the water supply. High nitrate levels are associated with myriad health issues, including heart disease, cancers, miscarriages, and other serious health risks. New Hope nitrate levels can fluctuate from a 'safe'</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Any surface water is immediately exposed, with water moving into and out of groundwater. New Hope soil is highly porous, with nutrients leaching into groundwater. Because groundwater movement is slow (often taking years to move a few miles), once in the groundwater, it remains there for a long time. Reverse-osmosis systems are only effective in removing nitrates at a relatively low level. More sophisticated treatments are usually prohibitively priced, as is drilling a new well in hopes of getting clean water. Although water testing (especially for nitrates) is low cost or free through the county, many people are unaware of a problem and do not test. One of the selling points in attracting people to this area has always been clean water. Some wells test at or above 40 ppm (with EPA maximum level set at 10 ppm). Hormone, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals used in manufacturing are as yet not monitored, and for the most part remain untested. No safe</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Groundwater pollution impacts not only everyone in New Hope but anyone downstream, from Nelsonville to the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. Work has begun with the installation of test wells in Nelsonville to monitor what happens upstream, and discussion with the County Ag Officer and local farmers has begun to find a reasonable solution. In the meantime, the health of all residents, their pets, and livestock are at risk, especially the unborn, the very young, the elderly, and anyone who is immuno-compromised.</p>

	<p>level of under 10 to much higher levels, dependent on groundwater flow and nitrates introduced into the groundwater. Other concerns are levels of hormones, prescription and street drugs, and chemicals used in manufacturing and processing that are mostly unmonitored and unmeasured in the solid wastes from Fox Valley. The amount of sludge spread on New Hope fields and the chemical, hormone, and drug composition of that material is unavailable according to Appleton Waste Treatment Facilities. Routine aerial spraying of chemicals like glyphosate on local fields is not only airborne, but can seep into groundwater; this chemical is linked to various types of lymphoma. Other herbicides and pesticides are used on local fields, with largely unknown-to-date health effects.</p>	<p>levels have been set for many of these chemicals.</p>	
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Public Health Emergency (emerging diseases, etc.)</p>	<p>Hazard Description: Covid-19 affected all of us world-wide, and made us aware of emerging infectious diseases, especially viral. H1N1, Influenza A and B, RSV are good examples. Excess use of antibiotics, combined with antibiotics that have made their way into drinking water have decreased effective treatment of common bacterial infections. There is also a resurgence of a number of diseases, including whooping cough, measles, and mumps. Climate change contributes to a rise in global temperatures, as well as shifts in animal habitats and human interaction; a good example is the outbreak of Covid, an increase in Lyme and other tick-born diseases, Chronic wasting disease, etc. All humans are at risk, especially the very young, the elderly, and those immunocompromised. cow disease, monkey pox</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: Any interaction between individuals increases the risk of transmission of communicable disease. The increased number of infected ticks in New Hope, combined with the large deer population (a carrier) and people who hunt, fish, or hike increase the risk for all tick-borne infections, not just Lyme disease. That puts all residents and animals (domestic and wild) at risk. Farmers are at risk of herds becoming infected, followed by significant loss of income. All residents are at risk of infection, and chronic conditions that result. Wildlife and domestic animals are at risk, with data being gathered. An increase in diseases like avian flu, chronic wasting disease, mad cow disease</p>	<p>Description of Impact: We have an aging population in New Hope. A paucity of health care providers, especially in rural areas like New Hope, may result in less-than optimal health care for many of our residents. Acute infections and chronic conditions that result may impact productivity, income, and overall health. Another epidemic or pandemic is possible, which would impact finance, business, education, production, transportation, health, and the economy for years. Severity: Major to catastrophic.</p>

Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Food Related/Agricultural Threats (food contamination, etc.)</p>	<p>Hazard Description: With food sourced from around the world, massive feedlots that supply meat, crops potentially treated with pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides, and global shipping available, the quality and safety of food is questionable unless home grown. Contamination can occur at any stage of food production, delivery, and consumption. Outbreaks of <i>E. coli</i>, <i>Listeria</i>, and <i>Salmonella</i> can affect large groups of people, and product recall is often difficult if not impossible. Increased allergies and food intolerance has also affected human health. The impact on animals likely mirrors humans.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: All residents and domestic animals are at risk. Finances, productivity, and community health are all susceptible, but is subject to how extensive the contamination is and who is affected. With an aging population, an increased reliance on fast food, commercially prepared canned goods and prepared food, and wide-spread global shipping, the potential for illness and death increases accordingly.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Food contamination for humans and animals is potentially devastating, but again, is subject to the extent of consumption.</p> <p>Severity: Minor to major</p>
Hazard	Risk Summary	Vulnerability Summary	Impact Summary
<p>Widespread Town Emergency or Crisis</p>	<p>Hazard Description: The Town of New Hope uses North New Hope Church as a functional town hall; the existing Town Hall building at 9785 Town Hall Road no longer meets the needs of the Town. An Emergency Management Center is needed to serve as a central place of operation to assist residents and manage the situation until it is resolved. Electricity, heat, communications (internet and phone service), space to meet with others from the County, State, and local support, and a central location are key components required to function well. New Hope does not have a shelter for residents in case of a community-wide emergency, including power outages, tornado, terrorism, extreme weather (especially for elderly and people with disabilities). Electricity, running water, heat, and communications are all essential elements necessary to function as a shelter.</p>	<p>Exposed Assets: North New Hope Church is a moderate sized brick building. This space is relatively secure, and has space for the Board to meet, communicate with other resources, manage and direct activities during a crisis, there is enough room to temporarily shelter people, with a kitchen, running water and bathrooms. Currently, there is no common space designated to coordinate a town emergency. The need for a generator and better internet service is important. Currently the space does not have good cell phone reception, internet service, or backup power source.</p>	<p>Description of Impact: Residents of New Hope are widely dispersed, making a central shelter area less advantageous than sheltering in place for most natural disasters like storm events or a public health crisis like Covid. However, if residences are damaged or destroyed in high winds, tornado, fire, flooding, or a nuclear disaster, or there are massive power outages during extreme cold or heat, there is no place for those people to go where they will be safe, sheltered, with water and heat available, in a place that is easily accessible via County Road T or MM for emergency medical care or Sheriff's support.</p> <p>Severity: Major to catastrophic.</p>

13.6.3 Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerabilities

The base plan of this hazard mitigation plan provides complete risk assessments for each identified hazard of concern. This section provides information on a few key vulnerabilities for the jurisdiction. Available jurisdiction-specific risk maps of the hazards are provided at the end of this annex.

The Town of New Hope’s Hazard Mitigation Planning Team identified the following jurisdiction-specific vulnerabilities:

Each of these vulnerabilities is described in greater detail below.

Repetitive Loss Properties

Repetitive loss records are as follows:

- Number of Repetitive-Loss Properties: 0
- Number of Severe-Repetitive-Loss Properties: 0
- Number of Repetitive-Loss Properties or Severe-Repetitive-Loss Properties that have been mitigated: [0]

Other Noted Vulnerabilities

- Unknown

- 13.7 Status of Previous Plan Actions

Table 13-13 summarizes the actions that were recommended in the previous version of the hazard mitigation plan (Portage County Hazard Mitigation Plan) and their implementation status at the time this update was prepared.

Table 13-13. Status of Previous Plan Actions (2019)

Action Item	Completed	Removed; No longer Feasible	Carried Over to Plan Update	
			Check if Yes	Action # in Update
Develop a Stormwater Management Plan and integrate with Community Plans, Zones, and Ordinances. Mitigation number changed in 2024 to TNHMP4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown
<i>Comment: In 2024 New Hope participated in a 6-20 Culvert Inventory to identify any culverts in need of repair. A bridge assessment was also completed.</i>				
Winter weather road cleaning to reduce snow build up/debris and trees along roadside to reduce roadway hazards. Mitigation number changed in 2024 to TNHHH2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Comment: 2024 budget included extensive brushing; turnarounds at several residences and road repairs.</i>				
Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPPs). Mitigation number changed in 2024 to TNHMP5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown
<i>Comment: Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPPs).</i>				

- 13.8 Hazard Mitigation Action Plan and Evaluation of Recommended Actions

TNHHH1 Mitigation Action: New Hope	
Activity Code:	TNHH1: Health and Safety
Goal:	Emergency Management Center
Additional Goals:	Also used as Temporary Emergency Shelter
Action Item Summary:	Establish an Emergency Management Center Establish an Emergency Shelter when needed
Action Item Description:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a space where the Board can effectively manage a crisis from a central location, with adequate services, water, sanitation, utilities, and communications needed to complete tasks until crisis passes and emergency is resolved. Currently identified as North New Hope Church. 2. Purchase and install a generator to provide emergency power
Hazard(s):	Widespread Town Emergency or Crisis, Public Health Emergency; Severe Weather Heat/Cold), Power Outage, Terrorism/Sabotage/Weapon of Mass Destruction, Water Failure, Internet & Communications Failure
Lead Party Responsible:	Town of New Hope Board
Supporting Parties:	Town Supervisors, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Emergency Management Team, Sheriff, Emergency Medical Facilities
Estimated Cost:	Medium (generator and installation, upgrade internet and phone)
Funding Method:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Space: included in Town Hall agreement with Church May need to improve cell phone coverage and ensure adequate internet service 2. Generator: seeking grants.
Benefits:	High
Benefits New or Existing Assets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will serve as a Command Center for the Town Board in the event of a crisis or disaster that impacts a large number of residents, and improve coordination of efforts until crisis is resolved. 2. Secondly will serve as a shelter when residents temporarily need a place to stay (extreme weather, power outage, tornado or high wind, fire, water failure)
Implementation Schedule:	Short Term (1-5 years)
Year Initiated:	2024
Priority:	High

TNHHH2	Mitigation Action: Town of New Hope
Activity Code:	TNHH2: Health and Safety
Goal:	Improve Safety on Town Roads in Severe Winter Weather
Additional Goals:	Improve safety for pedestrians and bikers using local roads
Action Item Summary:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winter weather road cleaning to reduce snow build up/debris and trees along roadside to reduce roadway hazards. 2. May decrease icy patches and amount of salt/sand used, especially when thawing/freezing of snow on roads leads to ice. 3. Decreased snow along roadsides may decrease risk of flooding during rapid snow melt (especially if ground is still frozen) 4. Increase safety of pedestrians and bikers using town roads 5. Keeping roads clear eases access for utility workers
Action Item Description:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect the health and safety of New Hope residents by lessening the negative impacts of natural and technological hazards 2. Develop a route plan to clean/treat roads during winter events.
Hazard(s):	Infrastructure Failure, Severe Weather, Flooding, Power Outage
Lead Party Responsible:	Town of New Hope Board
Supporting Parties:	Portage County Highway Dept., State of Wisconsin DOT/DOR
Estimated Cost:	High
Funding Method:	Grants - HMA, Public Assistance, other federal and state grants
Benefits:	High
Benefits New or Existing Assets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improves safety of local roads during winter for drivers and pedestrians 2. Reduces risk of accidents.
Implementation Schedule:	Short Term (1-5 years)
Year Initiated:	2019, updated 2024
Priority:	High

TNHHP1	Mitigation Action: Town of New Hope
Activity Code:	TNHHP1: Health and Safety
Goal:	To Prevent and Mitigate Groundwater Contamination
Additional Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease health risks due to agriculturally sourced nitrates and pesticides
Action Item Summary:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage residents to have water tested regularly (free and low-cost programs available through the County and University) 2. Encourage the County to continue monitoring test wells in Nelsonville for ag-sourced nitrates and pesticides. 3. The County is assessing Livestock Siting and Operational Ordinances; the Town could support the County in adopting an ordinance. 4. Support efforts of GCAC and Planning and Zoning on mitigating drinking water contamination. 5. Investigate the amount and impact of human and municipal solid waste on town acreage by the City of Appleton and other sources 6. Assess and document components with negative public health impacts contained within all municipal waste applied to town acreage (i.e. chemicals, hormones, pharmaceuticals, nutrients) 7. Address negative human health impacts of agriculturally-applied pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides
Action Item Description:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently, monitoring and education are critical
Hazard(s):	Water Failure. Public Health Emergency, Food Related/Agricultural Threats (food contamination, etc.) Public Health Emergency (emerging diseases, etc.)
Lead Party Responsible:	Town of New Hope Board
Supporting Parties:	GCAC, Portage County Planning and Zoning, WI DNR, EPA, Wisconsin Dept of Health Sciences (DHS), Portage County Health and Human Services
Estimated Cost:	TBD
Funding Method:	TBD
Benefits:	High
Benefits New or Existing Assets:	Health benefits: decreased risk of heart disease, cancer, miscarriage and birth defects, thyroid disease, and ‘blue baby syndrome”(cyanosis). Farming benefits: decreased risk nitrate toxicity for calves and piglets, reduced risk of miscarriage in cattle Clean water is critical to livestock and dairy operations Clean water for residents increases property values and is attractive to potential future residents
Implementation Schedule:	Long Term (5-10 years)
Year Initiated:	2024
Priority:	High

TNHHP2 Mitigation Action: Town of New Hope	
Goal:	TNHHP2 Reduce Flooding Risks along Town Road Ditches
Additional Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce erosion along shoulders of town roads. 2. Increase Property Value because of less risk of flooding 3. Improve environment - decrease pests (insects) in stagnant ditch water, 4. Increased health – reducing mosquito breeding areas, bacteria and fungi in wet areas to reduce health risks for humans and pets
Action Item Summary:	Develop a Stormwater Management Plan integrated with Community Plans, Zones, and Ordinances.
Action Item Description:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the high risk and probability ranking and widespread impact of stormwater impact (flooding), New Hope will work with Portage County Planning and Zoning and Highway Dept. to identify funding sources to develop a Stormwater Management Plan, after which the Town will develop a municipality-specific annex on stormwater management. 2. Repair as needed two culverts identified as problematic in 6-20 Culvert Inventory
Hazard(s):	Flooding, Infrastructure Failure, Water Failure
Lead Party Responsible:	Town of New Hope Board
Supporting Parties:	Portage County Emergency Management, Floodplain Manager, Municipality EM and Planner, Planning and Zoning, Portage County Highway Dept.
Estimated Cost:	Medium
Funding Method:	Grants - HMA, Public Assistance, other federal and state grants, town budget
Benefits:	High
Benefits New or Existing Assets:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decreasing the erosion along town roads will save money in road repairs (especially along shoulders) 2. Lowering the mosquito population by reducing breeding grounds and lowering the risk of harmful fungi by draining areas that encourage fungal growth is beneficial to community
Implementation Schedule:	Short Term (1-5 years)
Year Initiated:	2019, updated 2024
Priority:	High

TNHHP3 Mitigation Action: Town of New Hope	
Goal:	TNHHP3 Assess the Risk of Wildfire
Additional Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease the risk to property and the environment 2. Decrease the risk to human health 3. Decrease the risk to domestic animals and wildlife
Action Item Summary:	Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPPs)
Action Item Description:	Once funding is identified, and if the Municipality has been ranked 'high' or 'very high', the Town will work with Portage County Planning and Zoning and/or the State DNR to develop a wildfire plan
Hazard(s):	Wildfire
Lead Party Responsible:	Town of New Hope EM
Supporting Parties:	Portage County EM, Local Fire Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Portage County Planning and Zoning (GIS)
Estimated Cost:	Medium
Funding Method:	Town will seek funding advice from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Benefits:	Medium
Benefits New or Existing Assets:	
Implementation Schedule:	Short Term (1-5 Years)
Year Initiated:	2019, updated 2024
Priority:	Medium

TNHHE1 Mitigation Action: Town of New Hope	
Goal:	TNHHE1 Improve disaster notification and communications to New Hope residents by various means.
Additional Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase participation in town decisions. 2. Raise awareness of community events. 3. Provide information on voting, recycling, upcoming events, community opportunities, State regulations.
Action Item Summary:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve website 2. Improve posted communications
Action Item Description:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hire a specialist to improve the town website. 2. Update website regularly, adding pertinent information and removing any outdated material 3. Send postcards on time-sensitive or crucial information or events 4. Purchase and install new kiosks to replace those at the old Town Hall and on the east side of Sunset Lake. 5. Move the Sunset Lake kiosk closer to the road for better visibility. 6. Install a kiosk at North New Hope Church. 7. Contact the Sheriff’s Office Communication Center for information on the Portage County Emergency Warning system (phone); relay that information to the residents.
Hazard(s):	Internet & Communications Failure, Widespread Town Emergency or Crisis, Terrorism/Sabotage/Weapon of Mass Destruction, Food Related/Agricultural Threats (food contamination, etc.), Public Health Emergency (emerging diseases, etc.), Cyber Incident, Water Failure (Water/Wastewater)
Lead Party Responsible:	Town Board
Supporting Parties:	Portage County Sheriff’s Office Communication Center, Portage County Emergency Management
Estimated Cost:	Low
Funding Method:	2024-2025 budget
Benefits:	Keeping the residents updated on current information is really difficult. The Board and Clerk are researching other ways in which to effectively communicate without exorbitant costs.
Benefits New or Existing Assets:	
Implementation Schedule:	Short Term (1-5 years)
Year Initiated:	2024
Priority:	High

TNHH11 Mitigation Action: [Jurisdiction]	
Goal:	TNHH11 Develop a Stormwater Management Plan and Integrate with Community Plans, Zones, and Ordinances
Additional Goals:	Public Education, Property and Environment, Plan Integration, Intergovernmental Relationships
Action Item Summary:	Develop Municipal Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs) integrated with Community Plans, Zones, and Ordinances, with support from Portage County.
Action Item Description:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To demonstrably address potential flooding from stormwater runoff, the Town of New Hope] will complete a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). This plan will involve a professional assessment of critical areas and existing infrastructure, followed by the development of a strategy that incorporates Best Management Practices (BMPs) like rain gardens and permeable pavement. The number and location of each BMP type will be clearly defined. 2. A phased implementation timeline will prioritize high-risk areas and ensure long-term success through a dedicated maintenance plan. Public engagement will be central, with multiple meetings to gather feedback and ensure alignment with existing community plans. 3. Upon finalization and approval, the SWMP will be implemented through secured funding and a designated team. Measurable progress will be tracked through performance monitoring of BMP effectiveness and reported publicly to demonstrate the plan's impact on mitigating future flood risks.
Hazard(s):	Flooding, Severe Thunderstorms, Severe Weather/Heavy Snowfall
Lead Party Responsible:	Town Board
Supporting Parties:	Portage County Planning and Zoning
Estimated Cost:	Medium (\$10,000)
Funding Method:	Grants – HMA; PA; Other Local, State, and Federal Grants
Benefits	High
Benefits New or Existing Assets:	New and Existing
Implementation Schedule:	Short Term (1-5 years)
Year Initiated:	2019, updated 2024
Priority:	High

- 13.9 Public Outreach

13.9.1 Public Outreach Events/Activities

Table 13-15. Public Outreach Events/Activities			
Event	Date	Summary	Attendees
Voting 2024	October 25, 2024	Field Trip – Amherst HS students met at New Hope Church to teach a class on Absentee Voting, voting equipment, voting security, and why you should vote.	40
Voting 2024	October 31, 2024	Iola-Scandinavia HS – met at HS to teach a class on Absentee Voting, voting equipment, voting security, and why you should vote.	120
Initial Mitigation Plan Development	May 14, 2024	Initiated work on Mitigation Plan and signed agreement with Emergency Management	5
August Regular Town Board Meeting	August 14, 2024	Public comment/questions solicited during Regular August Town Meeting and request for comments posted on Town Website regarding Mitigation Plan; no public comments were provided	30
Draft Mitigation Plan	October 17, 2024	Met with County Emergency Management to share information and develop plan.	2
Public Comment Session for Emergency Mitigation Plan	November 25, 2024	Available on Town Website, with invitation for public comment at town meeting or via email or phone to town clerk. One resident (and Board members) provided positive support of the plan. The Emergency Mitigation Plan received unanimous approval from the Board. It will be submitted to Portage County Emergency Management for approval.	9
Editing Final Draft of Emergency Mitigation Plan	January 15, 2025	Minor edits were made to the plan and posted on the Town Website, with copies sent to Board Members and County Emergency Manager.	3

13.9.2 Continued Public Participation

- The website is updated regularly, including posted agendas, minutes, notices, ordinances, and pertinent information on the town calendar and front page.
- Two postcards have been mailed out to inform residents, one for the special recycling event, and the second for a special electors meeting. Both postcards contained information about accessing the town website for up-to-date information.
- Posted agendas, official notices, and resolutions are posted in a timely fashion on the town kiosks, located at Sunset Lake and North New Hope Church.

The public is encouraged to come to monthly board meetings. Residents are reminded to seek information on the website.

13.10 Plan Monitoring, Implementation, and Future Updates

As a participant in the 2025 update to the Portage County Mitigation Plan, Town of New Hope agrees to convene their internal planning team at least annually to review their progress on hazard mitigation strategies and to update the plan based on new data or recent disasters.

When Portage County sends federal notices of funding opportunity for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, the jurisdiction will evaluate the viability of projects eligible for such grants and submit grant applications if appropriate to align with the priorities of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This will be a key strategy to implement the plan.

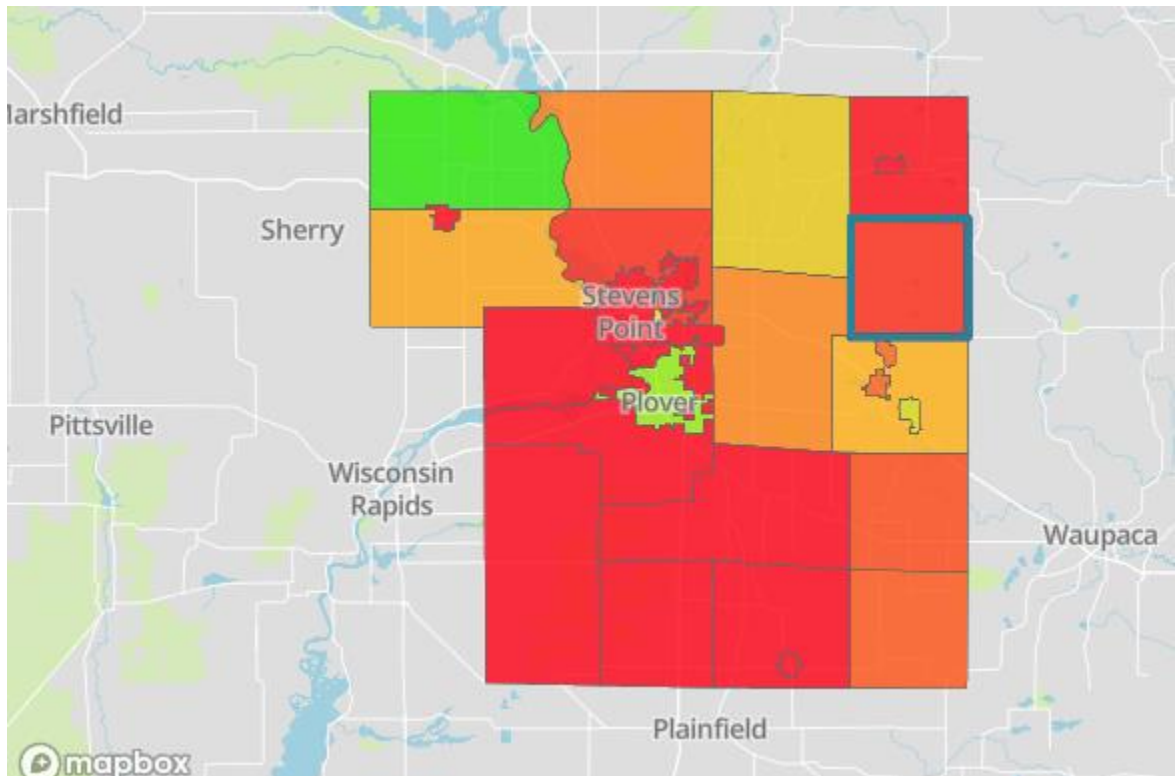
13.11 Information Sources Used for This Annex

The following technical reports, plans, and regulatory mechanisms were reviewed for this annex.

- Portage County Planning Commission document
- Town of New Hope Planning Commission document

The following outside resources and references were reviewed:

- Portage County Planning and Zoning informational documents
 - US Census Bureau documents
 - Portage County Water Testing site
 - Portage County GCAC bylaws and management plan
- Wisconsin DNR regulations on fires and informational sheets on wildfires, including the fire ordinance example.



<https://data.usatoday.com/census/total-population/total-population-change/new-hope-town-portage-county-wisconsin/060-5509756850/>

**TOWN OF NEW HOPE
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01
Continuance of Operations**

WHEREAS, disaster, natural and man-made, can occur at any time and any place and,

WHEREAS, it is not always possible to convene the entire Town Board, and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the property and well-being of our residents be protected and,

WHEREAS, the New Hope Town Board desires to determine a procedure to declare a state of emergency,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the event of disaster, natural or man-made, and the New Hope Town Board cannot be convened,

- A) the chairperson may declare a state of emergency, and,
- B) in the absence of the chairperson, the first supervisor and,
- C) in his/her absence, the second supervisor may declare a state of emergency for New Hope Town, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this state of emergency shall be in effect for a time of forty-eight (48) hours, during which time the New Hope Town Board shall convene to extend or terminate the state of emergency.

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required under s. [60.80](#), Wis. Stats.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of January, 2025

APPROVED:

- s- Todd Knepfel, Chairperson

- s- Timm Raddatz, Supervisor I

- s- Ray Reser, Supervisor II

ATTESTED: -s- Pat Zellmer, Clerk

Original Signed Document on file

January 15, 2025