



City Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. Location: Parker Building Meeting Room 2E - 124 Watertown Street, Watertown, MA 02472 - Second Floor
- B. This is an in-person meeting - any remote access is provided solely as a courtesy and may not be relied upon as alternative access. Therefore, any interruption in remote access technology shall not interrupt the meeting, and the meeting will proceed accordingly in person. In the event of such interruption, in-person attendance is available and encouraged.
- C. The in-person meeting will also be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- D. The public may join the in-person meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- E. The public may join the in-person meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- F. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
- G. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

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- 1. ROLL CALL
 - 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 6:30 P.M.
 - A. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. - City Auditor - Council Clerk
 - 3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:00 P.M.
 - 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - 5. PUBLIC FORUM
 - 6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes from City Council Meeting July 14, 2026
 - 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Proposed Resolution regarding the Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Process
 - B. Heather Angstrom Appointment to the Stormwater Committee

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance Adjusting the City Auditor's Salary
- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance Adjusting the Council Clerk's Salary

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Consideration and Action on the Expenditure of \$990,000 in Community Preservation Act Funds for the Second Phase of the Walker Pond Project
- B. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order Amendment stating that Order No. 2026-0-11 of the City Council passed February 10, 2026 authorizing a borrowing in the amount of \$300,000 for the Electric Vehicle Charging Platform project is hereby amended to increase the authorized borrowing amount for such project to \$439,580, which amended order shall read as follows in its entirety: "ORDERED: That the sum of \$439,580 is appropriated to pay costs of purchasing a SparkCharge Level 3 mobile electric vehicle charging platform for the police station, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the amount of borrowing authorized by this order shall be reduced by any grant amount received for this purpose."
- C. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order Amendment stating that Order No. 2026-0-12 of the City Council passed February 10, 2026 authorizing a borrowing in the amount of \$900,404 for the Level 3 electric vehicle chargers for the police station project is hereby amended to increase the authorized borrowing amount for such project to \$1,026,078, which amended order shall read as follows in its entirety: "ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,026,078 is appropriated to pay costs of purchasing three Level 3 electric vehicle chargers for the police station, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the amount of borrowing authorized by this order shall be reduced by any grant amount received for this purpose."
- D. Resolution Approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds from Watertown Wheels to the Watertown Food Pantry

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Public Safety Report regarding its meeting on July 9, 2026 - Gardner, Chair
- B. Committee on Parks and Recreation Report regarding its meeting on July 14, 2026 - Offei, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council approve the appointment of Ian Edwards-Clancy to the Conservation Commission to a term ending February 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council approve the appointment of Rachel Slater to the Conservation Commission to a term ending February 15, 2027

- C. Committee on Human Services Report regarding its meeting on July 15, 2026 - Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Cliff Cook as a member of the Watertown Affordable Housing Trust to a term expiring June 30, 2029

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of James O'Connor as a member of the Council on Aging to a term expiring May 15, 2029

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council approve the reappointment of Helen Oliver as a member of the Watertown Affordable Housing Trust to a term expiring June 30, 2029

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Referral to the Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight regarding Water and Sewer Rates
B. Referral to the Committee on Climate and Energy regarding the Minerva Group Study of Carbon Storage Assessment at Whitney Hill

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Board of Election Commissioners
B. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Memorialization Committee
C. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation - Board of Directors
D. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee
E. Request for Confirmation of Appointments to the Historic District Commission

13. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

15. PUBLIC FORUM

16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,

District A Councilor

District B Councilor

District D Councilor

JULY 14, 2026



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
PARKER ANNEX BUILDING – MEETING ROOM 2E
124 WATERTOWN STREET, WATERTOWN, MA 02472**

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on July 14, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. Location: Parker Annex Building – Meeting Room 2E, 124 Watertown Street, Watertown, MA 02472
- B. This is an in-person meeting - any remote access is provided solely as a courtesy and may not be relied upon as alternative access. Therefore, any interruption in remote access technology shall not interrupt the meeting, and the meeting will proceed accordingly in person. In the event of such interruption, in-person attendance is available and encouraged.
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1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Parker Annex Building, Meeting Room 2E. Those present were Councilors Caroline Bays, Lisa J. Feltner, John G. Gannon (via Zoom), Nicole Gardner (via Zoom), Emily Izzo, Theophilus Offei, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Mark Reich, City Attorney, and Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Mary Canada – Resident – Called for a ban of gas-powered lawn equipment in addition to the a noise ordinance, and stated that they are bad for air quality, wildlife, and land & water. She stressed the importance of keeping the Charles River a safe place for all animals.

John Portz – 66 Robins Road – Stated that he is representing the First Parish of Watertown in saying that there are many concerns regarding the proposed construction of the Watertown Square Demonstration Project as abutters. He remarked that the Parish wants to be proactive in engaging with the City, and that he hopes that they will be able to work together in addressing the issue.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Minutes from City Council Meeting June 23, 2026

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Presentation of a Historically Accurate Printing of the Declaration of Independence

President Sideris stated that this item will be delayed in this meeting until the State Representatives arrive.

6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Hazard Mitigation Plan

Martin Pillsbury – MAPC Senior Environmental Advisor – Stated that the overview of the plan comes under a FEMA national program that addresses what kind of planning can be done before a disaster happens to make communities more resilient and reduce the amount of damage that those natural events cause. The program is not mandated, but incentives to have one in place includes grants for projects like drainage and generators. Every type of natural hazard is accounted for in the plan.

Jenifer Wallitsch – MAPC Emergency Preparedness Specialist – Further described the plan as a result of the work from public meetings with the Watertown Emergency Management Team which is comprised of the Fire Chief, Public Health Dept, Community

Development and Planning, along with other individuals and departments to give local perspective to project goals. She continued by sharing that flood mitigation planning make up the majority of the focus of the plan as well as brush fires and winter storms.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Main Street northwesterly thence northeasterly from manhole MH11279, approximately 90 feet east of Whites Avenue, to install approximately 92 feet of conduit. This work is to provide electrical service to a newly installed pedestrian-actuated flashing crosswalk sign, as part of the City's project, 2026-12 Main Street at Whites Avenue Bus Stop Improvements. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Joanne Callender – Eversource – Presented the petition for a grant of location in Main Street.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the grant of location and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Chapman Street - easterly side, approximately 80 feet south of Carey Avenue, to relocate utility pole 199/20 to approximately 8 feet north of its current location. This work is to accommodate a fully permitted new driveway and to provide a new overhead wired electrical service for 128 Carey Avenue. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Joanne Callender – Eversource – Presented the petition for a grant of location in Chapman Street.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the grant of location and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- C. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$750,000 is appropriate to pay costs of purchasing a fire engine for the Fire Department, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2027 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

City Manager Proakis presented the loan order for the Fire Engine.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the loan order and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

D. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order Establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2027

City Manager Proakis shared the administration's recommendation to increase rates by 4.5%. He then voiced concern for FY28 and beyond, and that they intend to take a close look to strategize the best use of capital costs moving forward.

Public Works Director Tom Brady remarked that the numbers have shown a marked divergence between revenue and cost as opposed to last year, and that was due to an error discovered in modeling numbers. He shared that there will be a working group to determine best way to address this moving forward.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the rates established at 4.5% for FY27 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Palomba voiced some frustration that using less water doesn't mean a resident will pay less.

DPW Director Brady responded that, while he does not want to speak for the MWRA, buying water and discharging to the MWRA is a factor in cost, as well as aged infrastructure currently being repaired on a large scale.

Councilor Piccirilli remarked that the City was facing higher percentage increases several years ago, and while they were able to quell large increases via creating a tiered system and ARPA funds, it's time again to focus on what can be done for long term solutions. The MRWA costs are fixed, but there is an opportunity to look back at capital costs.

Councilor Feltner asked for an explanation for the mistake in the modeling numbers.

Matt Abrahams - Weston and Sampson - confirmed that the issue in the modeling numbers occurred in last year's study where an incorrect rate was applied to projected revenue numbers. This issue was corrected in this year's study.

Councilor Feltner replied that, while the numbers weren't that far off, the overall deficits turned into a much higher figure. She asked if the Council is expected to just trust that the current numbers are correct and that this error will not happen again in the future. She then mentioned the proposed working group and asked if the topic of tiers/how renters are affected will be examined.

DPW Director Brady replied that there will be a robust group that will look at all aspects of this topic.

Councilor Offei asked if there would be a financial accountability for the error.

DPW Director Brady replied that that the 4.5% is an adjustment from the original projected number, but it is a modest one, and the focus will be on how to address the larger looming issue in the coming years.

City Manager Proakis added that the error in the previous year's study did not create any crisis in this fiscal year, and that the adjustment is a percentage of a point. Discovering the issue now highlights the larger issue of significant jumps in the near future. There is still a window to address and mitigate those large hikes, though admittedly, it is a smaller window than if the modeling was correct the previous year.

Councilor Offei expressed concern for residents being able to afford sewer and water bills. He then asked why some other communities have lower rates.

Matt Abrahams replied that, while he can't speak for each specific community, each municipality invests differently in their budget based on their particular needs. A community may not invest in capital at all, where Watertown does.

Councilor Bays and Councilor Gardner both expressed the need to create guidelines and stress tests to ensure a singular modeling number error would be caught prior to rate recommendations.

President Sideris expressed frustration he has on behalf of the residents. He is looking forward to the future working group addressing concerns, but he believes that the administration needs to be less aggressive with capital improvements to address these needs. He stated that an 8% increase in rates is unacceptable, and that the Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight will work diligently with staff to find solutions.

President Sideris then went back in the agenda to address the President's Report item.

5. *PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

A. Presentation of a Historically Accurate Printing of the Declaration of Independence

State Representatives Ownes and Lawn presented to the City of Watertown a historically accurate copy of the Ezekiel Russel printing of the Declaration of Independence. The document was specially commissioned by the state to be gifted to all municipalities. They were made at the Haverhill Museum of

Printing using materials and methods only available in the 18th century with a printing press on linen paper.

E. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Noise Ordinance

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the amended version of the Noise Ordinance and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Bays moved to amend “95.05 A” to change hours of use for audible domestic devices to 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM as opposed to the drafted 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

Councilor Feltner remarked that there was much discussion on this topic, and that the concern for staff and feasibility enforcement prevailed to keep 8am start time as drafted in the ordinance.

Councilor Bays stated that she understands the argument, but that her concern is with residents.

Councilor Gardner added that another concern is that it is important for the actual landscaping workers to be able to work in the early hours on hot days from a health perspective.

Councilor Piccirilli shared that, while this seems like a minor change, it is actually a large one for the entire landscaping industry because it will greatly affect many local businesses’ hours of operations. He stated that he is not comfortable considering such a large-scale change.

Councilor Gannon added that this ordinance has been discussed for years, and that the 11th hour is an inappropriate time to make a large change.

Councilor Bays stated that she understands this is a final last-minute effort, but that residents do complain about the early start time. She added that, while the heat of the day may present health risk for workers, they still do work those hours regardless, and they do not work in the 6pm or 7pm hours that are allowed in this code.

Councilor Bays’ motion to amend the hours of operation failed 8 (Feltner, Gannon, Gardner, Izzo, Offei, Palomba, Piccirilli, Sideris) no, to 1 (Bays) yes in a Roll Call Vote.

President Sideris then brought up that language should be slightly adjusted on “95.05 B” to read “All devices employed in commercial lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible at the property line shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM” just as “95.05 A” includes the “at the property line” language. The reason being that properties like Mt. Auburn Cemetery and the Oakley County Club are vast properties, and they should be able to tend their grounds whenever if it is not audible past their property lines. He also pointed out that Mt. Auburn has switched to electric devices which also greatly reduce noise.

City Attorney Reich agreed that the omittance of the language seems to be an oversight, and that it would be logical with the intent to include it.

The motion to adopt the Noise Ordinance as amended carried 8 (Feltner, Gannon, Gardner, Izzo, Offei, Palomba, Piccirilli, Sideris) yes, 0 no, and 1 (Bays) present in a Roll Call Vote.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Clerical Correction to the Administrative Code - Licensing Board Appointment Date

City Manager stated that there was a small typo oversight in the accepted draft of the Administration Code. The Licensing Board appointment date on the accepted code reads February 1, when it should read February 15.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the corrective change and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$360,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund

City Auditor Langan remarked that the City utilizes the ESCO stabilization fund to pay the debt service on the energy efficiency projects incurred under the ESCO agreement. The request this year is to facilitate a \$360,000 transfer.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$850,000 from the Fiscal Year 2026 City Health Insurance and Fiscal Year 2026 School Health Insurance accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund

City Auditor Langan stated that the OPEB trust fund is established to enable the City to achieve long term financial stability and to meet the City's obligations to its employees and retirees.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- D. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$18,800 from the Fiscal Year 2026 Manager Salary Adjustment account to various Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel accounts

City Manager Proakis stated that this item reflects balancing paid vacation time for several employees.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- E. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$1,250,200 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Personnel accounts to various Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvements accounts

City Manager Proakis stated that this item relates to unspent budgets from departments having vacancies to be used for several items in the capital improvement plan which will lessen future borrowing amounts.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- F. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$200,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects - Public Buildings account

City Manager Proakis stated that this item relates to shifting funds from unspent non-salary budget line items for future projects.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- G. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$690,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Waste Disposal accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects - City account

City Manager Proakis remarked that there is a surprising surplus in waste disposal

accounts which can be attributed to carefully managed accounting from the DPW during the Republic Waste strike and holding a hard line on recovering costs from Republic. These funds will go to several planned vehicle purchases and lower overall future borrowing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- H. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$22,000 from the Fiscal Year 2027 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2027 City Manager Personnel accounts

City Auditor Langan stated that this item relates to facilitating the updated contract obligations for the City Manager.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- I. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$1,700,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Debt Services accounts and the Fiscal Year 2026 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2026 Stabilization accounts

City Auditor Langan stated that this transfer relates to supporting the Watertown Square Stabilization account, the Senior Center Stabilization Account, and ESCO Stabilization Fund.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Piccirilli remarked on the great work done by the City Auditor and staff. By annually repurposing funds, the amount of money saved by mitigating future borrowing is an asset to the community.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- J. Resolution Approving the Expenditure of a Gift of Funds from the Armenian Memorial Church

City Manager presented the generous donation from the Armenian Memorial Church who elected to give these funds to the Watertown Fire and Police Departments following a tragic motor accident last December.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept and approve the expenditure of the gift of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- K. Consideration and Approval of Exemptions of Interests of Existing City Employees in Contracts with the City Including Summer, Winter, Holiday, and After-School Program Employment Positions in Response to Disclosures Filed with the City Clerk by Prospective Employees and Certification by the Recreation Director that No Employee of that Department is Available to Perform those Services as part of their Regular Duties in Accordance with G.L. c. 268A, sec 20(b)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the employee exemption and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- L. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance Adjusting the City Auditor's Salary
- M. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance Adjusting the City Council Clerk's Salary

President Sideris remarked that Item 8L and 8M are first readings for ordinances to adjust the Council Clerk and City Auditor salaries. This measure must be done via ordinance, and the public hearing for these two items will take place at the following meeting.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Human Services regarding its meeting on June 23, 2026 - Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council appoint Phyllis Perrone as a member of the Council on Aging to a term expiring May 15, 2029

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council appoint Ryan Nicholson as a member of the Council on Aging to a term expiring May 15, 2029

Councilor Palomba presented the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the first action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the second action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- B. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report regarding its meeting on June 23, 2026 – Izzo , Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council appoint Adrienne Roberts as a member of the Watertown Cable Access Corporation - Board of Directors, filling the unexpired term of Christopher Mckenzie, to a term expiring September 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM

To recommend that the City Council appoint Lindsay Graham as a member of the Watertown Cable Access Corporation - Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2029

Councilor Izzo read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the first action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the second action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- C. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report regarding its meeting from June 22, 2026 - Gannon, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Simone Worsdale as an appointed member of the Cultural Council to fulfill the unexpired term of Nick Haddad expiring May 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Kevin Lee as an appointed member of the Historical Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of Marilynne Roach expiring October 1, 2026

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Phyllis Perrone for reappointment to the Cultural Council to a term expiring May 15, 2029

Councilor Gannon read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the first action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Second action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the third action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Proakis addressed a letter that expressed concern about a potential conflict of interest relating to the Police Chief. He stated that Chief Hanrahan has met every necessary step to satisfy any possible conflict. Chief Hanrahan is a statewide leader in police assessment processes and wrote the book on police legal procedure in Massachusetts; this is a huge asset to the community. The advantage is that the expert in training is Chief Hanrahan himself. There are instances where he has to be cautious, and that is coming into the spotlight with the WPD budget including Blue Voice AI system. Chief Hanrahan has been forthright and honest with the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission, and he recused himself from participating in bringing Blue Voice to Watertown. He receives no financial benefit from the City using the product.

City Manager Proakis then addressed two potential ordinances. Regarding the tree ordinance, awaited data from a UVM study of the tree canopy has recently been received, and with that data, he believes the administration will be ready to resume discussion with the public on the viability of a tree ordinance. Regarding the BERDO, the reason why it remains on his desk at the moment is because he does not believe that the City has the administrative capacity to enforce it as written. He is continuing efforts to learn what other communities have done with similar constraints, but it does require more imagining on how to execute an important and ambitious code.

City Manager Proakis then expressed gratitude to the MA State House for passing and forwarding the tax withholding home rule petition. It is imperative for residents that this gets passed, and he is thankful for the representatives in their work in doing so. He then addressed a change in the state's zoning act that substantially changes the standard by which a zoning board reviews a variance which allows a zoning board to grant a variance for residential use in a non-residential district. He believes that this, along with several other issues with language in the governor's bond bill, needs to be closely reviewed and perhaps challenged as it could undermine much planning and regulatory efforts.

11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Feltner requested the following:

- What is the design for "the critical gap in pedestrian & bicycle backbone of our Community Path", including street trees, signage, paint, etc? Please include how it may affect Arsenal St travel and parking lanes. What are the estimated total costs and what funds will be used for these improvements?
- When will the sidewalks and planting strips on Bellevue Rd be fully restored, between Russell Ave and Common St? Especially on the north side of Bellevue, most all of the planting strips remain full of construction debris instead of fresh loam, and sidewalks are in a temporary asphalt repair state. (Residents do appreciate the new curbing).

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no participants.

14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of ___ for, ___ against, and ___ present on August 11, 2026.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Parker Annex Building
Meeting Room 2E, 124 Watertown Street
List of Documents

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan – Item 6A
2. Grant of Location – Eversource – Main Street – Item 7A
3. Grant of Location – Eversource – Chapman Street – Item 7B
4. Loan Order - \$750k – Fire Engine – Item 7C
5. FY27 Water and Sewer Rates – Item 7D
6. Noise Ordinance - Item 7E
7. Admin Code Correction – Item 8A
8. Transfer of Funds - \$360k ESCO – Item 8B
9. Transfer of Funds - \$850k – OPEB Trust – Item 8C
10. Transfer of Funds - \$18,800 FY26 Personnel – Item 8D
11. Transfer of Funds - \$1,250,200 – Capital Improvements – Item 8E
12. Transfer of Funds - \$200k – Public Buildings – Item 8F
13. Transfer of Funds - \$690k – Capital Projects – City – Item 8G
14. Transfer of Funds - \$22k – City Mager Personnel – Item 8H
15. Transfer of Funds \$1.7 mil – Stabilization – Item 8I
16. Gift of Funds – Armenian Memorial Church – Item 8J
17. Employee Exemption (20b) – Item 8K
18. Committee on Human Services Report – 26-06-23 – Item 9A
19. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report – 26-06-23 – Item 9B
20. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report – Item 9C
21. Letter from First Parish of Watertown

**ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE JULY 14,
2026 CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**



City Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Parker Annex Building - Meeting Room 2E

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. Location: Parker Building Meeting Room 2E - 124 Watertown Street, Watertown, MA 02472 - Second Floor
- B. This is an in-person meeting - any remote access is provided solely as a courtesy and may not be relied upon as alternative access. Therefore, any interruption in remote access technology shall not interrupt the meeting, and the meeting will proceed accordingly in person. In the event of such interruption, in-person attendance is available and encouraged.
- C. The in-person meeting will also be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- D. The public may join the in-person meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- E. The public may join the in-person meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- F. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
- G. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

-
- 1. ROLL CALL
 - 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - 3. PUBLIC FORUM
 - 4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes from City Council Meeting June 23, 2026
 - 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Presentation of a Historically Accurate Printing of the Declaration of Independence
 - 6. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Main Street northwesterly thence northeasterly from manhole MH11279, approximately 90 feet east of Whites Avenue, to install approximately 92 feet of conduit. This work is to provide electrical service to a newly installed

pedestrian-actuated flashing crosswalk sign, as part of the City's project, 2026-12 Main Street at Whites Avenue Bus Stop Improvements. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Chapman Street - easterly side, approximately 80 feet south of Carey Avenue, to relocate utility pole 199/20 to approximately 8 feet north of its current location. This work is to accommodate a fully permitted new driveway and to provide a new overhead wired electrical service for 128 Carey Avenue. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.
 - C. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$750,000 is appropriate to pay costs of purchasing a fire engine for the Fire Department, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2027 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.
 - D. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order Establishing Water and Sewer Rates and Charges for Fiscal Year 2027
 - E. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Noise Ordinance
8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
- A. Clerical Correction to the Administrative Code - Licensing Board Appointment Date
 - B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$360,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund
 - C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$850,000 from the Fiscal Year 2026 City Health Insurance and Fiscal Year 2026 School Health Insurance accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund
 - D. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$18,800 from the Fiscal Year 2026 Manager Salary Adjustment account to various Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel accounts
 - E. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$1,250,200 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Personnel accounts to various Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvements accounts
 - F. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$200,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects - Public Buildings account
 - G. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$690,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Waste Disposal accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects - City account
 - H. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$22,000 from the Fiscal Year 2027 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2027 City Manager Personnel accounts

- I. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$1,700,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Debt Services accounts and the Fiscal Year 2026 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2026 Stabilization accounts
- J. Resolution Approving the Expenditure of a Gift of Funds from the Armenian Memorial Church
- K. Consideration and Approval of Exemptions of Interests of Existing City Employees in Contracts with the City Including Summer, Winter, Holiday, and After-School Program Employment Positions in Response to Disclosures Filed with the City Clerk by Prospective Employees and Certification by the Recreation Director that No Employee of that Department is Available to Perform those Services as part of their Regular Duties in Accordance with G.L. c. 268A, sec 20(b)
- L. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance adjusting the City Auditor's Salary
- M. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance adjusting the Council Clerk's Salary

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Human Services Report regarding its meeting on June 23, 2026 - Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council appoint Phyllis Perrone as a member of the Council on Aging to a term expiring May 15, 2029

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council appoint Ryan Nicholson as a member of the Council on Aging to a term expiring May 15, 2029

- B. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report regarding its meeting on June 23, 2026 - Izzo, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council appoint Adrienne Roberts as a member of the Watertown Cable Access Corporation - Board of Directors, filling the unexpired term of Christopher Mckenzie, to a term expiring September 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM

To recommend that the City Council appoint Lindsay Graham as a member of the Watertown Cable Access Corporation - Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2029

- C. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report regarding its meeting on June 22, 2026 - Gannon, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Simone Worsdale as an appointed member of the Cultural Council to fulfill the unexpired term of Nick Haddad expiring May 15, 2027

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Kevin Lee as an appointed member of the Historical Commission to fulfill the unexpired term of Marilynne Roach expiring

October 1, 2026

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm Phyllis Perrone for reappointment to the Cultural Council to a term expiring May 15, 2029

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER
11. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS
13. PUBLIC FORUM
14. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X(remote)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X(remote)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to adopt the minutes of City Council Meeting 26-06-23

Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update

Public Meeting #2

July 14, 2026

Watertown City Council

Jenifer Wallitsch and Martin Pillsbury
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning

- **Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000**
FEMA national guidelines for local Hazard Mitigation Plans
- **5-year plan update cycle:**
Update plan data and community priorities for mitigation actions
- **FEMA grant eligibility:**
Approved plan required for eligibility for FEMA mitigation project grants

CITY OF WATERTOWN
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE



Draft for MEMA and FEMA Review
March 24, 2026



City of Watertown
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning

Reducing impacts of natural hazards through strategies including policy, projects, and programs.

1. What preventative actions are being taken **now** to reduce risks and damages?
2. What **additional** actions can be taken in the future to increase resilience?

A plan for Multiple Natural Hazards



Flooding (coastal and inland)



Wind events (thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes)



Winter hazards (blizzards, nor'easters)



Geologic hazards (earthquakes, landslides)



Wild Fires



Extreme temperatures and drought

Process Guided by the Local Hazard Mitigation Team

Local Team Role:

- Participate in four meetings
- Establish and endorse project goals
- Provide updated data and local expertise
- Finalize mitigation actions for the final plan

Representatives from:

- Emergency Management
- Public Health
- Community Development and Planning
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Works Department

Plan Development Process



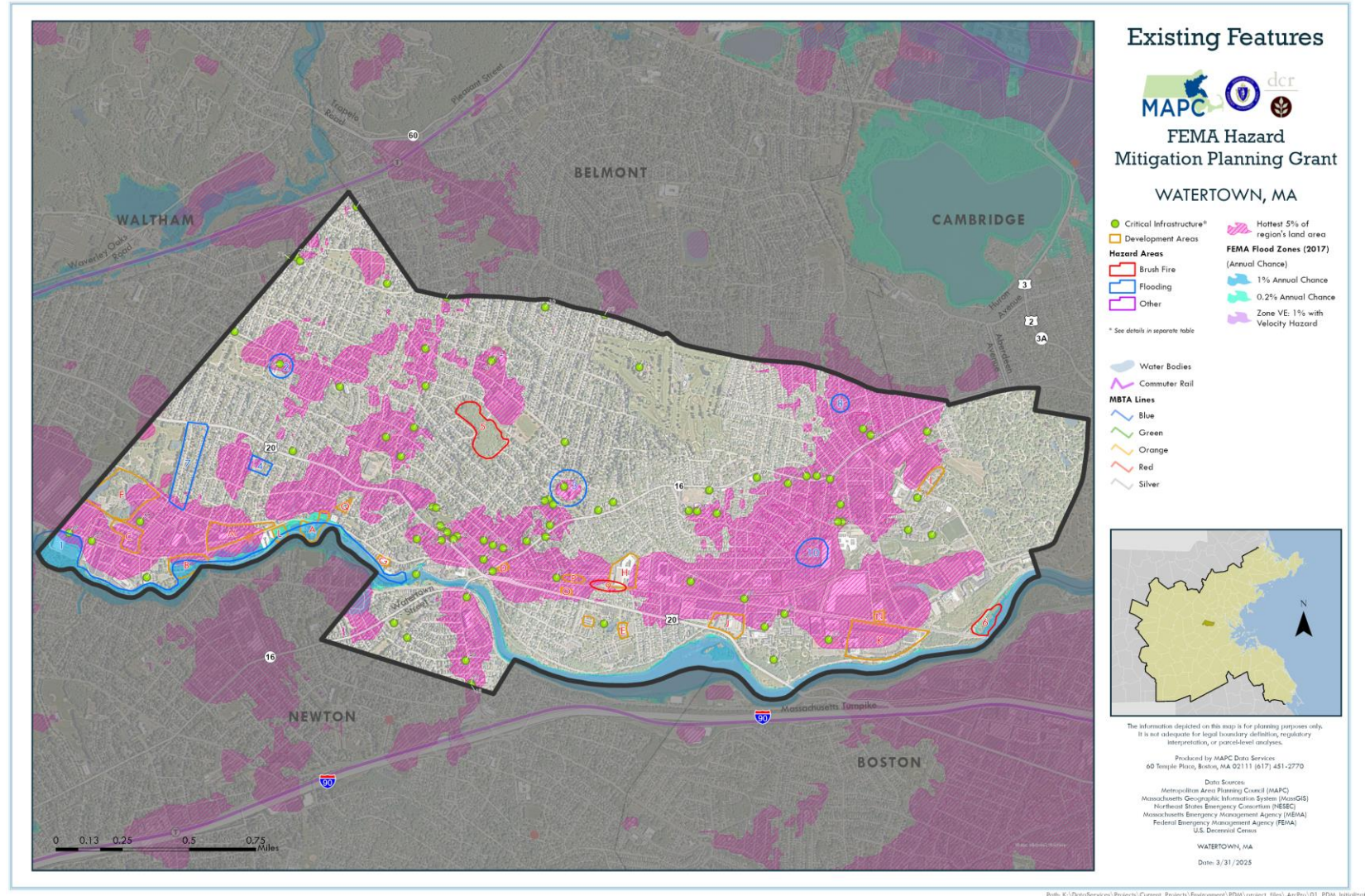
Examples of Local Hazard Areas

Flooding areas:

- Rutland Street
- Arlington Street
- Laurel St
- Phillip Darch and Robert Ford Road

Other Hazards:

- The City identified only three small areas of potential brush fires, Whitney Hill, the wooded area off of Greenough Boulevard, and the Bike Path along Arsenal Street and Pleasant Street



MITIGATION MEASURES

Flooding Mitigation

Maintain requirements regarding updates for Flood Insurance Rate Maps and seek city approval for ordinances	High
Upgrade pumps and improve site drainage at Watertown High School.	Medium
Conduct education and outreach programs about rain events and flooding	Low
Study feasibility of creating stormwater utility	Medium

Winter Hazard Mitigation

Identify hydrants and roadways that may be vulnerable to damage from winter weather	Medium
---	--------

Brushfire Mitigation

Evaluate the feasibility of the city obtaining a UTV for preparedness and response activities	Low
Provide public information about brushfire hazards and preventive measures for property owners.	Medium

Earthquake Mitigation

Identify public buildings and facilities that may be vulnerable to earthquakes and investigate options to make them more resistant to earthquakes	Low
---	-----

Extreme Temperature Mitigation

Continue the public awareness program on the risks of extreme temperatures and resources available to residents	Medium
Continue to implement Site Design regulations to increase shade tree plantings near buildings, increase trees used in parking areas and along public ways	Medium

Drought Mitigation

Adopt guidelines for new development to promote drought tolerant landscaping and site design measures

Medium

Dam Mitigation

Maintain coordination with operators of Watertown Dam (DCR) and dams upstream of Watertown in Waltham and Weston (Cambridge Water Dept). The City supports removal of the Watertown dam for ecological purposes.

Medium

Wind Mitigation

Acquire new equipment to continue with regular tree maintenance.

Medium

Invasives

Strategically reduce invasive plants and combine with ongoing city efforts to manage invasives on city properties

Low

Thank You!

Jenifer Wallitsch and Martin Pillsbury
MAPC

WatertownResilience@mapc.org

Download Plan:

www.mapc.org/resource-library/watertown-hmp/

Send comments by July 31: WatertownResilience@mapc.org



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Informational Presentation

Attached is the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan outlining strategies to reduce the City's vulnerability to natural hazards, including flooding, hurricanes, and winter storms. The plan incorporates climate change impacts and recommends actions to strengthen overall community resilience.

This update was prepared by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team with support from MAPC and funded by MEMA through a FEMA grant. It updates the plan approved by FEMA on May 8, 2019.

The Planning Team met on April 14, July 22, and October 16, 2025, and January 23, 2026, to review hazards, update mitigation measures, and identify new strategies. Public input was collected through meetings on December 15, 2025, and March 24, 2026, and through posting the draft online. Key stakeholders and neighboring communities were also invited to comment.

I respectfully request that an Informational Presentation be added to the July 14, 2026 City Council agenda. The presentation will be given by Jenifer Wallitsch and Martin Pillsbury of MAPC.

Thank you for your consideration.

CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT



**Draft for MEMA and FEMA Review
April 2026**



**City of Watertown
Metropolitan Area Planning Council**

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

This plan was prepared for the City of Watertown by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) under the direction of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The plan was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

MAPC Officers

President	Erin Wortman, Town of Stoneham
Vice President	Jennifer Constable, Town of Rockport
Secretary	Imaikalani Aiu, Town of Weston
Treasurer	Sam Seidel, Gubernatorial
Executive Director:	Elizabeth Weyant

Credits

Project Manager	Martin Pillsbury
Lead Project Planner	Jenifer Wallitsch
Mapping/GIS Services	Alexa DeRosa

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Director:	Dawn Brantley
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Department of Conservation and Recreation

Commissioner:	Nicole LaChapelle
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Watertown Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Ryan Nicholson	Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director
Gideon Schrieber	Director of Planning and Zoning
Ralph Mele	Fire Captain
Kevin McManus	Lieutenant and Commander of the Community Staff Development Division
Steve Magoon	Assistant City Manager
Thomas Brady	DPW Director
Abbey Myers	Health Director

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

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2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

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SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hazard Mitigation planning is a proactive effort to identify actions that can be taken to reduce the dangers to life and property from natural hazard events. In the communities of the Boston region of Massachusetts, hazard mitigation planning tends to focus most on flooding, the most likely natural hazard to impact these communities. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all municipalities that wish to be eligible to receive FEMA funding for hazard mitigation grants, to adopt a local multi-hazard mitigation plan and update this plan in five-year intervals.

PLANNING PROCESS

This is an update of the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was approved by FEMA on May 8, 2019. Planning for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update was led by the Watertown Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team, composed of staff from a number of different City Departments. This team met on April 14, 2025, July 22, 2025, October 16, 2025, and January 23, 2026. The Team discussed where the impacts of natural hazards most affect the Town, goals for addressing these impacts, updates to the city's existing mitigation measures and new or revised hazard mitigation measures that would benefit the city.

Public participation in this planning process is important for improving awareness of the potential impacts of natural hazards and to build support for the actions the city takes to mitigate them. The city's Hazard Mitigation Planning Team hosted two public meetings, the first on December 15, 2025 and the second on March 24th, 2026 and the draft plan update was posted on the city's website for public review. Key town stakeholders and neighboring communities were notified and invited to review the draft plan and submit comments. Several public comments were received and can be found in Appendix C.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the potential impacts to the city from flooding, high winds, winter storms, brush fire, geologic hazards, extreme temperatures, and drought. These are shown on the map series (Appendix B).

The Watertown Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team identified 86 Critical Facilities. These are also shown on the map series and listed in Table 42, identifying which facilities are located within the mapped hazard zones. The locations of the Critical Facilities are shown on the hazard map series, copies of which are found in Appendix A.

A HAZUS-MH analysis provided estimates of damages from Hurricanes damages of 100 year and 500-year storms (\$34 million to \$152.3 million), earthquakes of magnitudes 5 and 7 (\$904 million to \$5.8 million), and flood damage estimates for the 100- and 500-year storms (\$13 million to \$23 million).

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS

The Watertown Local Multiple Hazard Community Planning Team reviewed and discussed the set of goals for the Town of Watertown. The Team endorsed the eight goals included in the previous plan, and added an additional goal relating to priority populations. The following goals were endorsed by the team for the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update:

Goal 1: Prevent and reduce the loss of life, injury, public health impacts and property damages resulting from all major natural hazards.

Goal 2: Identify and seek funding for measures to mitigate or eliminate each known significant flood hazard area.

Goal 3: Integrate hazard mitigation planning as an integral factor in all relevant municipal departments, committees and boards.

Goal 4: Prevent and reduce the damage to public infrastructure resulting from all hazards.

Goal 5: Encourage the business community, major institutions and non-profits to work with the City to develop, review and implement the hazard mitigation plan.

Goal 6: Work with surrounding communities, state, regional and federal agencies to ensure regional cooperation and solutions for hazards affecting multiple communities.

Goal 7: Ensure that future development meets federal, state and local standards for preventing and reducing the impacts of natural hazards.

Goal 8: Take maximum advantage of resources from FEMA and MEMA to educate City staff and the public about hazard mitigation.

Goal 9: Consider the potential impacts of future climate change. Incorporate climate sustainability and resiliency in hazard mitigation planning.

Goal 10: Address priority populations in the hazard mitigation process, including outreach and engagement, analysis of hazard impacts, and development and implementation of mitigation measures.

HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

The Watertown Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team identified a number of mitigation measures that would serve to reduce the city's vulnerability to natural hazard events.

Overall, the hazard mitigation strategy recognizes that mitigating hazards for Watertown will be an ongoing process as our understanding of natural hazards and the steps that can be taken to mitigate their damages changes over time. Global climate change and a variety of other factors impact the city's vulnerability now and in the future, and local officials will need to work together across municipal lines and with state and federal agencies in order to understand and address

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

these changes. The Hazard Mitigation Strategy will be incorporated into the city's other related plans and policies.

PLAN REVIEW & UPDATE PROCESS

The process for developing Watertown's Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update is summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Plan Review and Update Process

Section	Reviews and Updates
3 – Public Participation	The Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team placed an emphasis on public participation for the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, discussing strategies to enhance participation opportunities at the first local committee meeting. During plan development, the plan was discussed at two public meetings hosted by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. The plan was also available on the city's website for public comment.
4 – Risk Assessment	MAPC gathered the most recently available hazard and land use data and met with town staff to identify changes in local hazard areas and development trends. Town staff reviewed critical infrastructure with MAPC staff in order to create an up-to-date list. MAPC also used the most recently available version of HAZUS to assess the impacts of flooding, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
5 - Goals	The Hazard Mitigation Goals were reviewed and endorsed by the Watertown Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team.
6 – Existing Mitigation Measures	The list of existing mitigation measures was updated to reflect current mitigation activities in the town.
7 & 8 – Hazard Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation measures from the 2019 plan were reviewed and assessed as to whether they were completed, in-progress, or deferred. The Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team determined whether to carry forward measures into the 2026 Plan Update or modify or delete them. The Plan Update's hazard mitigation strategy reflects both new measures and measures carried forward from the 2019 plan. The Local Hazard Mitigation Team prioritized all of these measures based on current conditions.

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

9 – Plan Adoption & Maintenance	This section of the plan was updated with a new on-going plan for implementation review and a five-year update process that will assist the City in incorporating hazard mitigation issues into other City planning and regulatory review processes and better prepare the City for the next comprehensive plan update.
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As indicated on Table 48, Watertown made good progress on implementing mitigation measures identified in the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Several projects have been completed, including An update to the City of Watertown Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Watertown Fire Dept attended EAP training for Weston Reservoir Dam and Norumbega Reservoir Dams/Schenck’s Pond Dams , updates were made to the Watertown Tree Maintenance team, and schools received new generators.

For Watertown to succeed in reducing hazard risks over the long term, the information, ideas, conclusions, and strategic recommendations of this hazard mitigation plan should be integrated throughout government operations. Effective integration means to include mitigation principles, vulnerability information, and mitigation actions into other existing community planning mechanisms to leverage activities that have co-benefits, reduce risk, and increase resilience. Many other local plans and processes will present opportunities to address hazard mitigation in a way that can support multiple community objectives, so an important part of maintaining and implementing this hazard mitigation plan will be to identify and capitalize on these opportunities to leverage activities that have co-benefits including but not limited to risk reduction.

Going forward, the City will help to ensure that all new or updated local plan documents and bylaw updates are informed by and consistent with the goals and actions of this hazard mitigation plan and will not contribute to increased hazard vulnerability in Watertown.

Moving forward into the next five-year plan implementation period there will be many more opportunities to incorporate hazard mitigation into the city's decision-making processes, plans, policies, and operations. The City will document any actions taken within this iteration of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, including challenges met and actions successfully adopted as part of the ongoing plan maintenance to be conducted by the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team, as described in Section 9, Plan Adoption and Maintenance.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FEDERAL DISASTER MITIGATION ACT

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act, passed in 2000, requires that after November 1, 2004, all municipalities that wish to continue to be eligible to receive FEMA funding for hazard mitigation grants, must adopt a local multi-hazard mitigation plan and update this plan in five-year intervals. This planning requirement does not affect disaster assistance funding.

Federal hazard mitigation planning and grant programs are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in collaboration with the states. These programs are administered in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

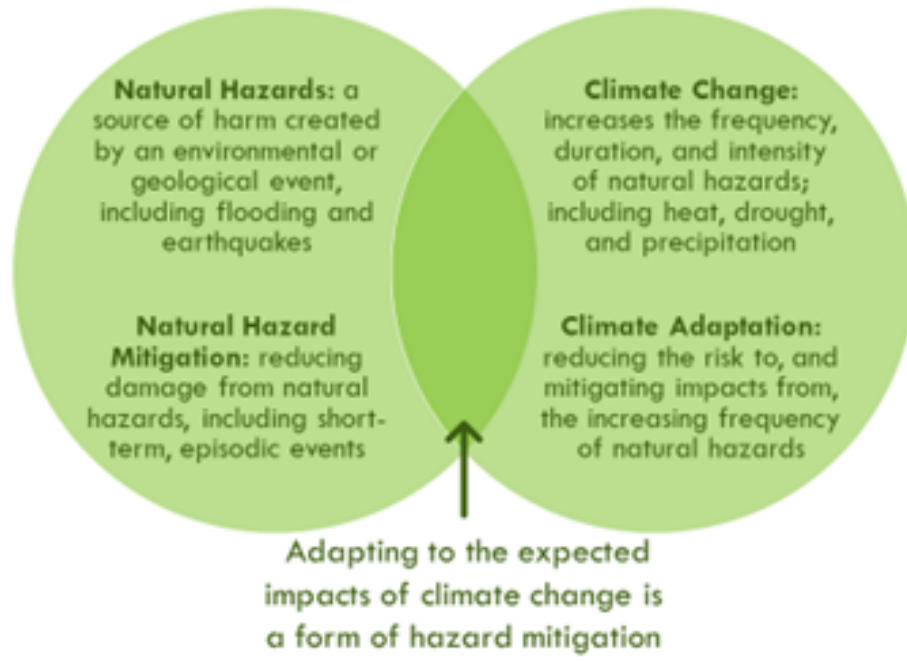
The City of Watertown contracted with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), to assist the City in updating its local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update is designed to meet the city's requirements under the Disaster Mitigation Act for each community while listing regional concerns and hazards that impact the Town. MAPC is the state-designated Regional Planning Agency (RPA) serving the 101 communities in the greater Boston area. MAPC provided facilitation and technical support for Watertown for this project and has provided similar support for 90 municipalities in the region.

WHAT IS A HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN?

Natural hazard mitigation planning is the process of determining how to systematically reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Hazard mitigation means to permanently reduce or alleviate the losses of life, injuries, and property resulting from natural hazards through long-term strategies. These long-term strategies include planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. FEMA's 2022 Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide recognized that adapting to the expected impacts of climate change is a form of hazard mitigation (FEMA, 2022). Therefore, this plan incorporates consideration of future risks due to projections for the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather fueled by a warming planet.

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Figure 1: Natural Hazards and Climate Change Overlap



PREVIOUS FEDERAL/STATE DISASTERS

Since 1991, there have been 25 natural hazard events that triggered Federal disaster declarations that included Middlesex County, which includes the City of Watertown. These are listed in Table 2 below. The majority of these events involved flooding, while others were due to hurricanes or nor'easters, and severe winter weather.

Table 2: Previous Federal/State Disaster Declaration 1991-2023

Disaster Name	Date of Event	Declared Areas
Hurricane Bob	August 1991	Counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Plymouth, Nantucket, Norfolk, Suffolk
Severe Coastal Storm No Name Storm	October 1991	Counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Plymouth, Nantucket, Norfolk, Suffolk
Blizzard	March 1993	Statewide
Blizzard	January 1996	Statewide
Severe Storms, Flood	October 1996	Counties of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk
Heavy Rain, Flood	June 1998	Counties of Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Plymouth, Worcester

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Severe Storms, Flood	March 2001	Counties of Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Plymouth, Worcester
Snowstorm	March 2001	Berkshire, Essex, Franklin, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Worcester
Snowstorm	February 2003	Statewide
Snowstorm	December 2003	Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester
Flooding	April 2004	Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Worcester
Snow	January 2005	Statewide
Hurricane Katrina	August 2005	Statewide
Severe Storms, Flooding	October 2005	Statewide
Severe Storms, Flooding	May 2006	Statewide
Severe Storm, Inland, Coastal Flooding	April 2007	Statewide
Severe Winter Storm	December 2008	Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Suffolk, Worcester
Severe Storms, Flooding	December 2008	Statewide
Severe Storms, Flooding	March/April 2010	Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Worcester
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm	January 2011	Berkshire, Essex, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk
Severe Storm, Snowstorm	October 2011	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Worcester
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, Flooding	February, 2013	Statewide
Severe winter storm, snowstorm, and flooding	April 2015	Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester
Severe winter storm and Snowstorm	March 2018	Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Worcester

Source: database provided by MEMA

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In addition to Federal disaster declarations the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared state emergencies fourteen times since 2011. Eight of these emergencies were related to natural hazards such as winter storms, Nor'easters, flooding, and hurricanes (Table 3).

Table 3: Massachusetts State Declared Emergencies

Declaration Date	Termination Date	Event
9/15/23	9/16/23	Hurricane Lee
9/12/23	9/16/23	Severe Weather & Flooding
2/9/15	2/25/15	Winter Storm
1/26/15	1/28/15	Winter Storm
2/8/13	2/13/13	Winter Storm
10/27/12	11/1/12	Hurricane Sandy
10/29/11	11/7/11	Nor'easter
8/26/11	9/6/11	Hurricane Irene

Source: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency [State of Emergency Information](#) | [Mass.gov](#)

FEMA FUNDED MITIGATION PROJECTS AND PLANS

The City of Watertown has not received funding from FEMA for mitigation projects under the various Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. However, MAPC received a PDMC-07 grant to prepare the City's first Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the City received a PDMC-16 grant to prepare an updated plan that was approved by FEMA in 2019. This 2026 updated plan is funded by an HMGP-4651 grant. These grants are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: FEMA-Funded Mitigation Plans

Grant	Grantee/ Project Title	Scope of Work	Total Cost	Federal Funding	Local Funding
PDMC 07-01	MAPC/ Hazard Mitigation Planning	Development of first hazard mitigation plan (17 municipalities including Watertown)	\$217,000	\$162,000	\$54,000
PDMC16-Wat	Watertown/ Hazard Mitigation Planning	Update of first hazard mitigation plan	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
HMGP 4651	Watertown/ Hazard Mitigation Planning	Update of the 2019 Plan	\$25,500	\$19,125	\$6,375

Source: MEMA Grants Database

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Watertown is located in Middlesex County in eastern Massachusetts and borders Belmont to the north, Cambridge to the east, the Brighton neighborhood of Boston to the southeast, and Newton to the southwest. The Charles River forms much of its southern and eastern boundary. Watertown lies approximately 7 miles west of downtown Boston and is part of the Greater Boston area. The city is accessible via the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), Soldiers Field Road, and other major roadways. While it does not have commuter rail or subway service, multiple MBTA bus routes provide public transit connections to Harvard Square, Central Square, and downtown Boston. In addition, the city supports a local electric shuttle service during peak hours through its Transportation Management Association. Watertown promotes a comprehensive transportation strategy through its Complete Streets policy and Transportation Demand Management program, which require large developments to reduce vehicle traffic and support walking, biking, and transit use. The nearest airport is Boston Logan International Airport, approximately 10 miles to the east.

Watertown operates under a council–manager form of government, with a City Council serving as the legislative body and a City Manager responsible for daily administration. The city underwent a charter review in 2021 and voted to retain this structure, which provides professional management while maintaining elected representation.

Watertown was first settled in 1630 and incorporated the same year, making it one of the earliest communities in Massachusetts. It played a significant role in colonial and Revolutionary history, serving as the seat of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress during the early stages of the American Revolution. The city later became an industrial center, with textile manufacturing and the establishment of the Watertown Arsenal in the 19th century. In recent years, development has focused on revitalization and mixed-use projects, including the transformation of the former arsenal into a modern commercial and residential area. While much of Watertown has experienced urban development, the city continues to preserve its historic character through active historic preservation efforts, including designated historic districts and landmarks such as the Common Street Cemetery and Commander’s Mansion.

Watertown had a population of 35,329 at the time of the April 1, 2020 Census. The city contains approximately 17,059 housing units, of which around 7,688 (45%) were built in 1939 or earlier.

Watertown supports a large workforce (20,000+ employees) across many industries, including small businesses and growing tech and life sciences sectors.

Some of Watertown’s unique characteristics to keep in mind include:

- The city is part of Greater Boston’s urban network, with access to major routes like the Mass Pike and local MBTA bus connections.
- Watertown strongly supports small businesses: 94% of employers here employ 50 or fewer employees.
- Watertown is growing with ongoing residential and commercial development, especially around Arsenal Yards and other corridors

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The City of Watertown maintains a website at <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/>

The significant demographic characteristics of the City of Watertown are summarized in Table 5. Some of these features are important to keep in mind for hazard mitigation as well as emergency preparedness and response in the town.

Table 5: City of Watertown Characteristics

Population	
Total population	35,329
Residents under 5 years old	5.4%
Residents 65 years old and over	17.9%
Race & Ethnicity	
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%
Asian	11.9%
Black or African American	4.2%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0.0
White	71.1%
Other Race	2.1%
Two or More Races	9.0%
Hispanic or Latino	6.5%
White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	69.8%
Household Income	
Occupied Housing Units	17,059
Mean Household Income	\$123,422
Housing units built before 1960	7,688
Renter occupied housing units	48.8%
Languages	
Speak a language other than English at home	31.2%
Spanish	5.8%
Other Indo-European languages	16.0%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	6.1%
Other languages	2.8%
Speaks English less than “very well”	2.5%
Additional Information	
Residents with a Disability	25.4%
Age 65 to 74 with a disability	2.1%
Age 75 and over with a disability	4.2%
Residents in Poverty	6.1%
Households with no vehicle	10.3%

Sources: 2020 Decennial Census and American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau, 2021)

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Environmental Justice Populations

There are seven Environmental Justice census block groups in Winthrop designated by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. An environmental justice population is a neighborhood where one or more of the following criteria are true:

- Median household income is 65 percent or less of the statewide median household income
- Minorities make up 40 percent or more of the population
- 25 percent or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well"

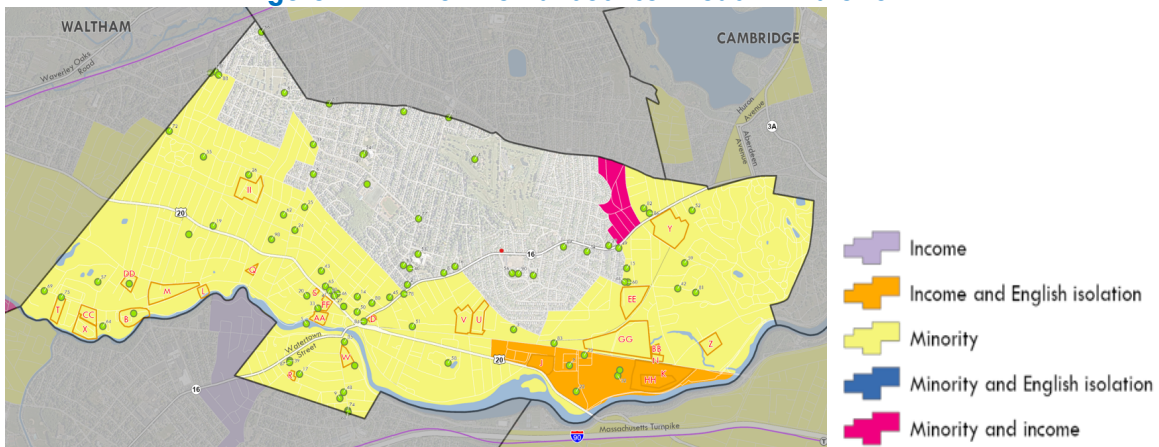
In Watertown, 20 census block groups are designated Environmental Justice; 18 are based on minority population, one is based on minority and income, and one is based on income and English language. See Table 6 and Figure 2. About two-thirds of Watertown's groups and its population are within designated Environmental Justice Areas.

Table 6. EJ Population Data for Watertown, MA

EJ Criteria	Number of EJ Block Groups	Number of Block Groups	Percent of EJ Block Groups	Population in EJ Block Groups	Total Population	Percent of Population in EJ BGs
Minority, Income, and English	20	30	66.7%	22,935	35,329	64.9%

Source: MassGIS

Figure 2: Environmental Justice Areas in Watertown



Source: MassGIS

SECTION 3: PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PLANNING PROCESS SUMMARY

MAPC employs a six-step planning process based on FEMA’s hazard mitigation planning guidance focusing on local needs and priorities, but maintaining a regional perspective matched to the scale and nature of natural hazard events. Public participation is a central component of this process, providing critical information about the local occurrence of hazards while also serving as a means to build a base of support for hazard mitigation activities. MAPC supports participation by the general public and other plan stakeholders through:

- Meetings and work with the Local Teams
- Two public meetings, shared on Local Access TV and advertised through email, webpage content, a flyer, press release to local media, and social media posts,
- A project website at: www.mapc.org/resource-library/Watertown-hmp and a dedicated email for public comments,
- Launching a public comment period at the second public meeting, and posting the draft plan to the project website to facilitate public review,
- Outreach to neighboring communities, Town boards and commissions, the local chamber of commerce and businesses, and other local or regional entities.

The six-step planning process outlined in Figure 3 is based on the guidance provided by FEMA in the Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance. Public participation is a central element of this process, which attempts to focus on local problem areas and identify needed mitigation measures based on where gaps occur in the existing mitigation efforts of the municipality. By working on municipal hazard mitigation plans in groups of neighboring cities and towns, MAPC is able to identify regional opportunities for collaboration and facilitate communication between communities. In plan updates, the process described below allows staff to bring the most recent hazard information into the plan, including new hazard occurrence data, changes to a municipality’s existing mitigation measures, and progress made on actions identified in previous plans.

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Figure 3: Six-Step Planning Process



- **Map the Hazards** – MAPC relies on data from a number of different federal, state, and local sources in order to map the areas with the potential to experience natural hazards. This mapping represents a multi-hazard assessment of the municipality and is used as a set of base maps for the remainder of the planning process. A particularly important source of information is the knowledge drawn from local municipal staff on where natural hazard impacts have occurred. These maps can be found in Appendix A.
- **Assess the Risks & Potential Damages** – Working with local staff, critical facilities, infrastructure, vulnerable populations, and other features are mapped and contrasted with the hazard data from the first step to identify those that might represent particular vulnerabilities to these hazards. Land use data and development trends are also incorporated into this analysis. In addition, MAPC develops estimates of the potential impacts of certain hazard events on the community. MAPC drew on the following resources to complete the plan:
 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Resilient MA Plan, 2023
 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP), 2018 and 2023
 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MA Climate Change Assessment, 2022
 - DCR, Community Information System, Community Overview, 2022
 - DCR, Massachusetts State Dam Inventory, 2012
 - FEMA, Disaster Declarations for States and Counties, 2023
 - FEMA, Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide; October 1, 2011
 - FEMA, Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Middlesex County, MA, 2012
 - FEMA, Flood Insurance Study for Middlesex County, Updated 2021
 - FEMA, Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, 2022
 - Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety, Inventory of Dams, 2018
 - Metropolitan Area Planning Council, GIS Lab, Regional Plans and Data.

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- New England Seismic Network, Boston College Weston Observatory,
 - NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information,
 - Northeast States Emergency Consortium
 - US Census, 2020, American Community Survey
 - USDA Forest Service, Wildfire Risk to Communities
 - USGS, National Water Information System,
 - US Global Change Research Program, Fourth National Climate Assessment, 2018
 - USACE Ice Jam Database
 - City of Watertown, Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019
 - City of Watertown, Watertown Comprehensive Plan
 - City of Watertown, Open Space and Recreation Plan
 - City of Watertown, Annual Report
 - City of Watertown, Zoning Ordinance
 - City of Watertown, Complete Streets Policy
 - City of Watertown, Resilient Watertown Climate and Energy Plan
 - City of Watertown, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- **Review Existing Mitigation** – Municipalities in the Boston Metropolitan Region have an active history in hazard mitigation as most have adopted flood plain zoning districts, wetlands protection programs, and other measures as well as enforcing the State building code, which has strong provisions related to hazard resistant building requirements. All current municipal mitigation measures must be documented.
 - **Develop Mitigation Strategies** – MAPC works with the local municipal staff to identify new mitigation measures, utilizing information gathered from the hazard identification, vulnerability assessments, and the community's existing mitigation efforts to determine where additional work is necessary to reduce the potential damages from hazard events. Additional information on the development of hazard mitigation strategies can be found in Section 8.
 - **Plan Approval & Adoption** – Once a final draft of the plan is complete it is sent to MEMA for the state level review and, following that, to FEMA for approval. Typically, once FEMA has approved the plan, the agency issues a conditional approval (Approval Pending Adoption), with the condition being adoption of the plan by the municipality. More information on plan adoption can be found in Chapter IX and documentation of plan adoption can be found in Appendix D.
 - **Implement & Update the Plan** – Implementation is the final and most important part of any planning process. Hazard Mitigation Plans must also be updated on a five-year basis making preparation for the next plan update an important on-going activity. Chapter IX includes more detailed information on plan implementation.

2019 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE

The 2019 City of Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan contained a risk assessment of identified hazards for the Town and mitigation measures to address the risk and vulnerability from these hazards. As indicated on Table 48, Watertown made good progress on implementing numerous

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mitigation measures identified in the 2019 plan. Projects that have been completed include an update of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, a new public radio system was enacted, schools received new emergency power generators, and a dedicated tree maintenance crew went into effect.

THE LOCAL HAZARD COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

MAPC worked with the local community representatives to organize a Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team for Watertown. MAPC briefed the local representatives as to the desired composition of that team as well as the need for public participation in the local planning process.

The Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team is central to the planning process as it is the primary body tasked with developing a mitigation strategy for the community. The local team was tasked with working with MAPC to set plan goals, provide information on the hazards that impact the town, existing mitigation measures, and help to develop new mitigation measures for this plan update. The Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team membership can be found in Table 7.

The Watertown Department of Community Development and Planning is the primary entity responsible for regulating development in town. In addition, MAPC, the State-designated regional planning authority for Watertown, works with all agencies that regulate development in the region, including the listed municipal entities and state agencies, such as MassDOT.

Table 7 - Watertown Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Ryan Nicholson	Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director
Gideon Schrieber	Director of Planning and Zoning
Ralph Mele	Fire Captain
Kevin McManus	Lieutenant and Commander of Community Staff Development Division
Steve Magoon	Assistant City Manager
Thomas Brady	DPW Director
Abbey Myers	Health Director

The Local Team met four times on the dates listed below. The agendas for these meetings are included in Appendix C. The topics of each meeting are summarized below. The agendas for these meetings are included in Appendix B.

- **April 14, 2025:** discuss the project overview and update the inventory and GIS maps of local flood and fire hazard areas and critical facilities.
- **July 22, 2025:** update the hazard mitigation goals and review the current status of the existing mitigation measures, and prepare for Public Meeting #1
- **October 16, 2025:** Review the status of the recommended mitigation from the 2017 plan and determine which measures should be retained in the 2023 plan.
- **January 23, 2026:** to develop new recommended mitigation measures and prepare for Public Meeting #2.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public participation in the hazard mitigation planning process is important, both for plan development and for later implementation of the plan. Residents, business owners, and other community members are an excellent source for information on the historical and potential impacts of natural hazard events and particular vulnerabilities the community may face from these hazards. Their participation in this planning process also builds understanding of the concept of hazard mitigation, potentially creating support for mitigation actions taken in the future to implement the plan. To gather this information and educate residents on hazard mitigation, the Town hosted two public meetings, one during the planning process and one after a complete draft plan was available for review. Public comments were received, and charts can be found with results in Appendix C.

One of the best strategies for increasing the impact of local meetings is to invite one of the municipal boards or commissions to host the public discussion of the hazard mitigation plan. With this strategy, the meeting receives widespread advertising and a guaranteed audience of the board or commission members plus those members of the public who attend the meeting. These board and commission members represent an engaged audience that is informed and up to date on many of the issues that relate to hazard mitigation planning in the locality and will likely be involved in plan implementation, making them an important audience with which to build support for hazard mitigation measures. In addition, these meetings frequently receive press coverage, expanding the audience that has the opportunity to hear the presentation and provide comments.

The public had an opportunity to provide input to the Watertown hazard mitigation planning process during a Public Works Committee meeting on December 15, 2025, held at the Town Hall. The draft plan update was presented at a City Council meeting on March 24, 2026. Both meetings were publicized in accordance with the Massachusetts Public Meeting Law. See public meeting notices in Appendix C.

LOCAL STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team reached out to local stakeholders that might have an interest in the Hazard Mitigation Plan including neighboring communities, agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and other interested parties. Notice was sent to the following organizations and neighboring towns inviting them to attend the public meeting and review the Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Local Communities

- City of Boxborough
- City of Acton
- City of Westford
- City of Groton
- City of Ayer
- City of Harvard

Businesses & Employers

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- Acton Medical
- Acton Toyota
- Amazon
- CVS
- Donelan's Super Market
- FIBA Technology
- Watertown Cinemas (now closed)
- Concord Lumber and Building Center
- Market Basket
- Nashoba Valley Life Care
- Patriot Beverages

Faith-Based Organizations

- Blessed Trinity Parish, St. Anne Church
- Boston MetroWest Bible Church
- Congregational Church of Watertown
- First Baptist Church of Watertown
- First Church Unitarian
- First Watertown Partnership
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Schools, Camps

- Camp Nashoba
- Watertown Public Schools
- Watertown Park & Rec.
- Oak Meadow Montessori School
- Mill Pond
- Pine Tree Park
- Pondsides at Watertown
- Rodgers Family Holdings
- Village Green Watertown

The flyer sharing information about the plan, found in appendix C, was disseminated in the following ways:

- Posted on Planning Board page of the city website
- "News Blast" from the City's IT on the Watertown website
- Posted on Watertown Community Television
- Delivered copies of flyer to business around Town by hand
- Emailed flyer to City boards/committees

See Appendix C for public meeting notices and an example of the email that was sent to companies.

The draft Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update was posted on the city's website for the second public meeting. Members of the public could access the draft document and submit comments or questions to the City.

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CONTINUING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Following the adoption of the plan update, the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Team will continue to provide residents, businesses, and other stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the hazard mitigation planning process and to contribute information that will update the city's understanding of local hazards. The Watertown Fire Chief will act as the coordinator for the Team. As updates and a review of the plan are conducted by the Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team, these will be placed on the city's web site, and any meetings of the Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team will be publicly noticed in accordance with town and state open meeting laws.

PLANNING TIMELINE

PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

Major milestones in the planning process to prepare this plan update included the following:

April 14, 2025	1 st meeting of the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Team
July 22, 2025	2nd meeting of the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Team
December 15, 2025	First Public Meeting before the Public Works Committee
October 16, 2025	3 rd meeting of the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Team
January 23, 2026	4th meeting of the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Team
July 14, 2026	Second Public Meeting before the City Council
	Draft Plan Update submitted to MEMA
	Comments on the Draft Plan received from MEMA
	Revised Draft Plan Update submitted to MEMA
	Plan Review Tool Received from FEMA
	Revised Draft Plan submitted to MEMA
	Approval Pending Adoption notice issued by FEMA
	Plan Adopted by the Town (Select Board vote)
	FEMA Approval of the Plan

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MILESTONES

After this plan update is approved by FEMA for a five-year period, Watertown should take note of the following milestones for the ongoing implementation, review, and updating of this plan:

2028	Conduct Mid-Term Plan Survey on Progress
2029	Seek FEMA grant to prepare next plan update
2030	Begin process to update the plan
2031	Submit Draft XXXX Plan Update to MEMA and FEMA
2031	FEMA approval of XXX Plan Update

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SECTION 4: RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment analyzes the potential natural hazards that could occur within the City of Watertown as well as the relationship between those hazards and current land uses, potential future development, and critical infrastructure. This section also includes a vulnerability assessment that estimates the potential damages that could result from certain large scale natural hazard events.

In order to update Watertown's risk assessment, MAPC gathered the most recently available hazard and land use data and met with Town staff to identify changes in local hazard areas and development trends. MAPC also used FEMA's damage estimation software, HAZUS (described below).

"Global climate is changing rapidly compared to the pace of natural variations in climate that have occurred throughout Earth's history. Global average temperature has increased by about 1.8°F from 1901 to 2016, and observational evidence does not support any credible natural explanations for this amount of warming; instead, the evidence consistently points to human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse or heat-trapping gases, as the dominant cause."

Fourth National Climate Assessment, 2018 (Chapter 2-1)

The projected impacts of our warming climate on natural hazards are integrated throughout this risk assessment. Key impacts include rising temperatures, which in turn affect precipitation patterns and extreme weather. Analysis of these impacts included in this plan aligned closely with the data and assessment presented in Massachusetts' 2018 State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (2018 SHMCAP) and the Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Change Assessment.

CLIMATE CHANGE OBSERVATIONS AND PROJECTIONS

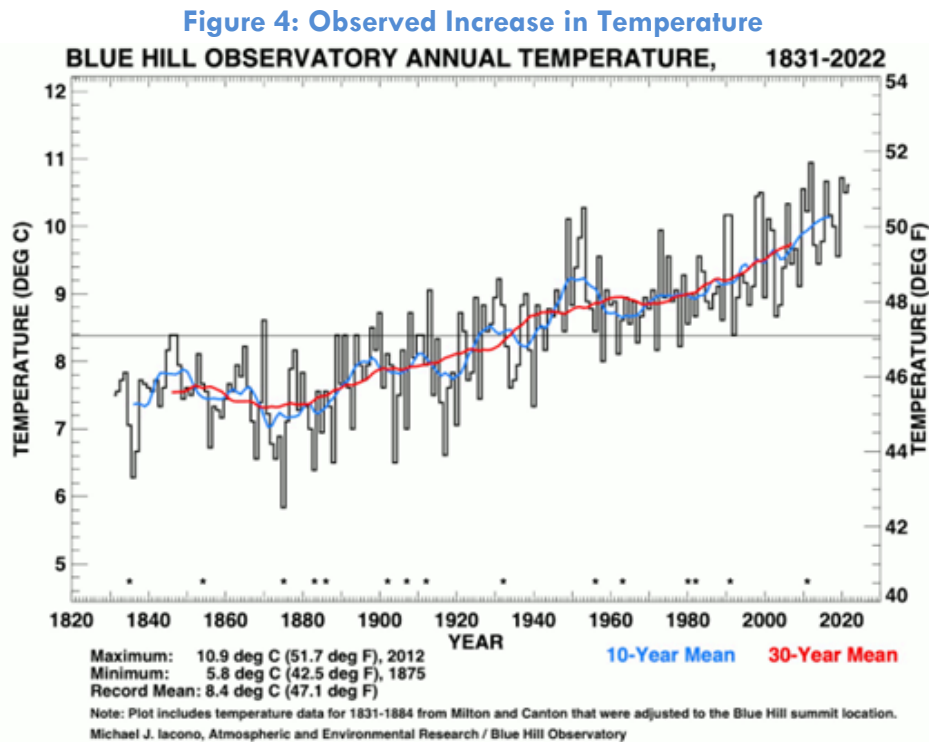
Climate change observations come from a variety of data sources that have measured and recorded changes in recent decades and centuries. Climate change projections, however, predict future climate impacts and, by their nature, cannot be observed or measured. As a result of the inherent uncertainty in predicting future conditions, climate projections are generally expressed as a range of possible impacts.

TEMPERATURE

Our climate has always been regulated by gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, which blanket the earth. These gases trap heat that would otherwise be reflected out to space; without them our planet would be too cold to support life. We refer to these gases as "greenhouse gases" (GHGs) for their heat trapping capacity. The combustion of fossil fuels, our primary energy source in the age of industrialization, releases GHGs into the atmosphere. In the past century, human activity associated with industrialization has contributed to a growing concentration of GHGs in our atmosphere. According to the Resilient MA: Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth website, Massachusetts has experienced a recorded 3.5°F increase in average temperatures since 1900. Average temperatures during the winter are

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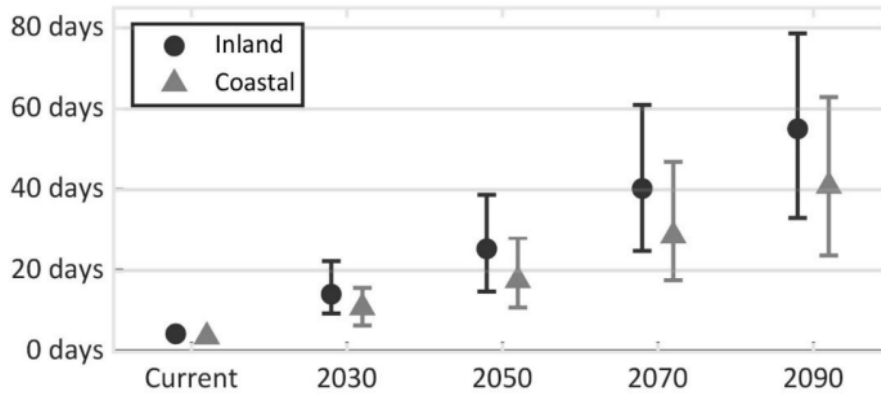
expected to increase more than average summer temperatures, resulting in less snow and ice, increased invasive species, challenging timber harvests, and other issues related to increasing hazard intensity. Also, according to the Resilient MA website, with increased temperatures, extreme heat days (days with temperatures over 90 degrees) will also increase across the state, increasing public health implications such as heat-related illness and mortality. Between 1971 and 2000, the Commonwealth experienced four days with temperatures over 90°F. By mid-century, it is expected to experience between 10 and 28 such days. Records from the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, MA show that average temperatures (30-year mean) have risen approximately 3 degrees (F) in the almost 200 years since record keeping began in 1831. See Figure 4 below for more information.



Climate projections include an increase in average temperature and in the number of extreme heat days (Figure 5). Extreme cold days are projected to decrease in number. By 2030, the summer mean temperature could increase by 3.6°F from the historical period (1950-2013). By 2070, there could be 58 fewer days below freezing, which could lead to an increase in ticks. By mid-century, the State anticipates about 25 more days per year where the temperature exceeds 90°F for inland areas, and about 19 more days above 90°F for coastal areas (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2022).

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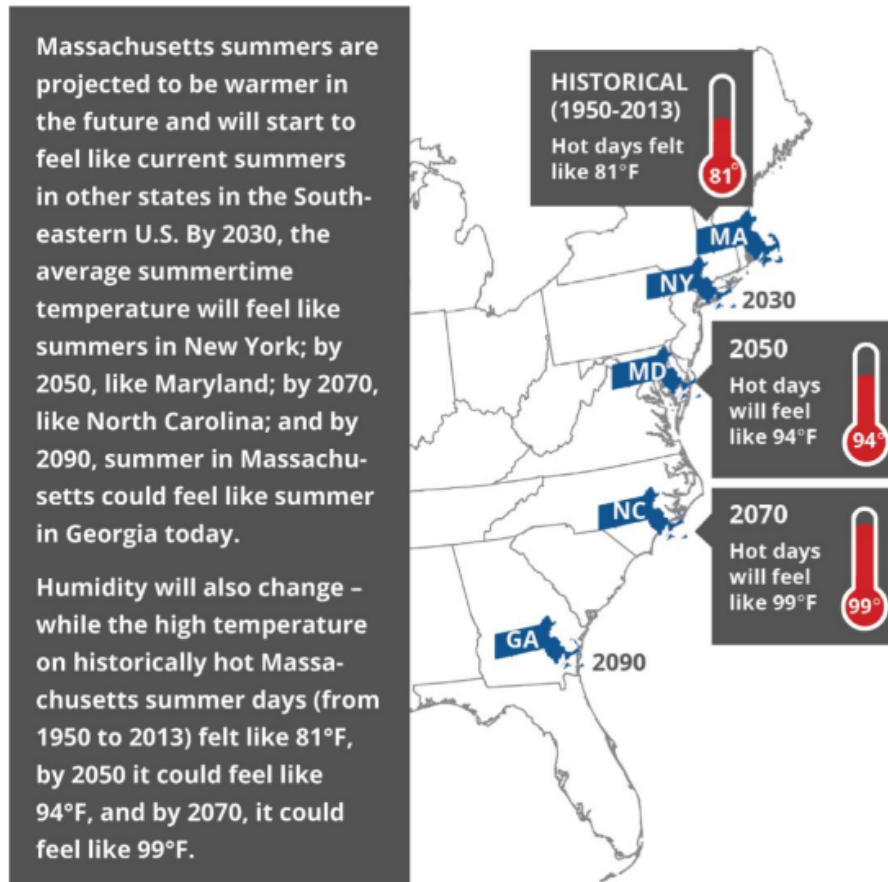
Figure 5: Change in the Annual Number of Days Over 90°F Compared to Today



Sources: 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment and Stochastic Weather Generator

These changes could result in Massachusetts summers feeling like a more southern state, as described in the infographic in Figure 6 from the State's 2022 Climate Change Assessment.

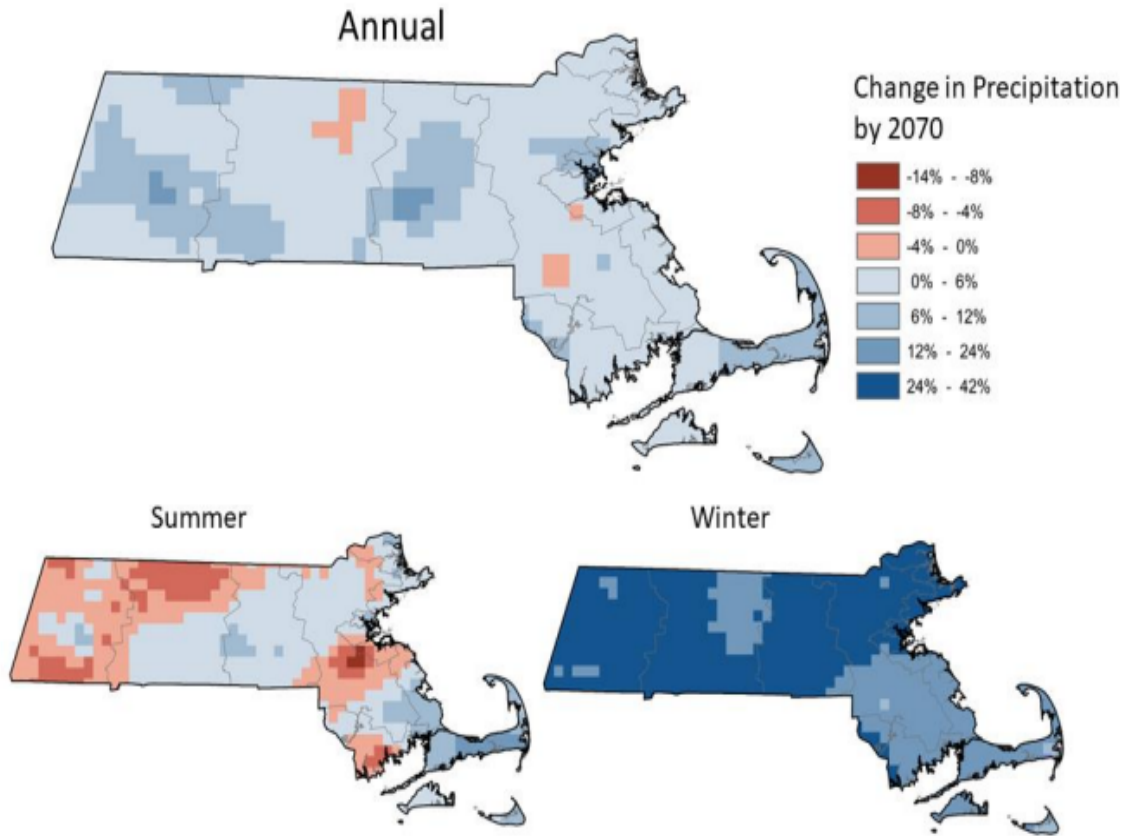
Figure 6: Change in Average Summertime Temperatures for Massachusetts



Source: 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment

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Figure 8: Change in Annual and Seasonal Precipitation in 2070 Compared to Today



Source: 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment. Current climate is the 1986-2005 era, the projection for 2070 is for a 20-year era centered on 2070. Maps show LOCA downscaled GCM projections at the 50th percentile across 20 LOCA GCMs that overlap with the GCMs used in the Stochastic Weather Generator.

Despite overall increasing precipitation, more frequent and significant summer droughts are also a projected consequence of climate change. This is due to projections that precipitation will increase in winter and spring and decrease slightly in the summer and, as a result of earlier snow melt, and higher temperatures that will reduce soil moisture. Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Change Assessment anticipates that these changes will vary by region. The Eastern Inland region where Watertown is located may experience slightly more consecutive dry days, and significantly more days without rain per year, by 2090 (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2022). See Figure 9 below for more information.

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Figure 9: Consecutive dry day events (number of multiple-dry-day events per year)

Panel A: Consecutive dry day events (number of multiple-dry-day events per year)

Region	Baseline	2030	2050	2070	2090
Berkshires & Hilltowns	29	29	30	30	31
Greater Connecticut River Valley	31	31	32	32	33
Central	32	32	32	33	33
Eastern Inland	32	32	32	33	33
Boston Harbor	31	31	32	32	33
North & South Shores	31	31	32	32	33
Cape, Islands, & South Coast	31	31	32	32	33
Statewide	31	31	31	32	33
Statewide Percent Change	0%	1%	2%	4%	6%

Source: Stochastic Weather Generator

Panel B: Annual number of days without rain (days per year)

Region	Baseline	2030	2050	2070	2090
Berkshires & Hilltowns	159	161	165	167	170
Greater Connecticut River Valley	171	172	175	178	181
Central	180	182	185	188	192
Eastern Inland	186	181	185	188	193
Boston Harbor	192	185	192	194	198
North & South Shores	184	182	187	190	195
Cape, Islands, & South Coast	186	182	187	191	194
Statewide	176	175	179	182	187
Statewide Percent Change	0%	-1%	2%	3%	6%

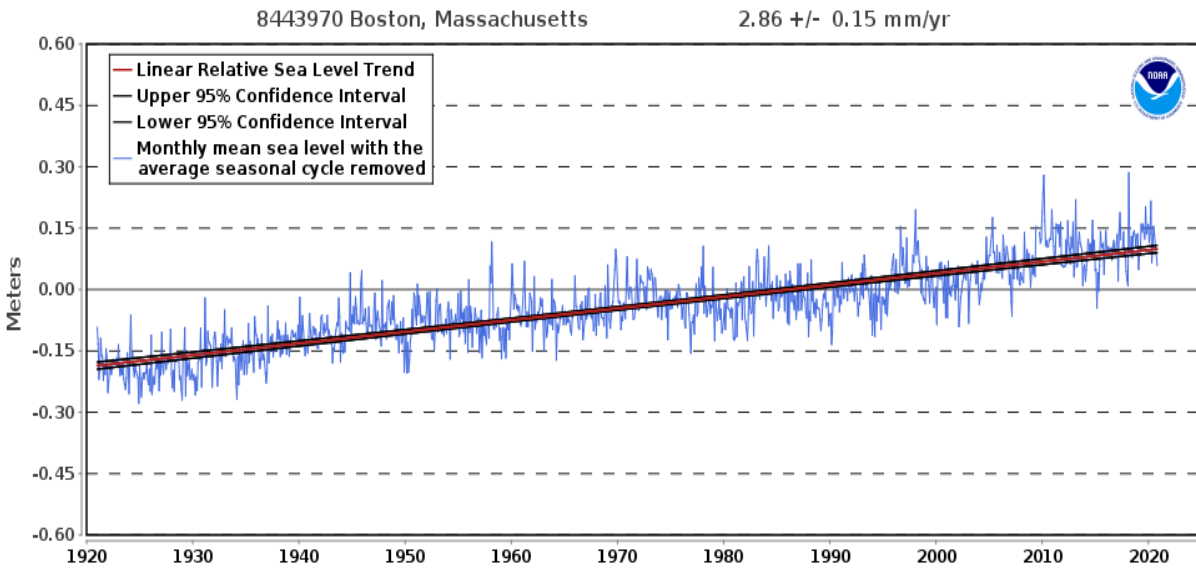
Source: 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment.

SEA LEVEL RISE

While Watertown is not a coastal community, high-level information on sea level rise is discussed here as the regional economy of the Boston Metro area may be impacted by sea level rise in the future. Warming temperatures contribute to sea level rise in three ways. First, warm water expands to take up more space. Second, rising temperatures are melting land-based ice which enters the oceans as melt water. A third, quite minor, contributor to sea level rise in New England is not related to climate change. New England is still experiencing a small amount of land subsidence (drop in elevation) in response to the last glacial period. NOAA's records from the Boston Tide Station show nearly one foot of sea level rise over the past century. See Figure 10 below for more information.

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Figure 10: Observed Increase in Sea Level Rise



The sea level rise information in Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Change Assessment considers sea-level changes, land-level changes, and other regional facts that can impact the rate of change. The report includes the following approximate sea level rise projections for the State:

- **Northern Massachusetts:** 21 inches by 2050, and 43 inches by 2070
- **Southern Massachusetts:** 23 inches by 2050 and 45 inches by 2070

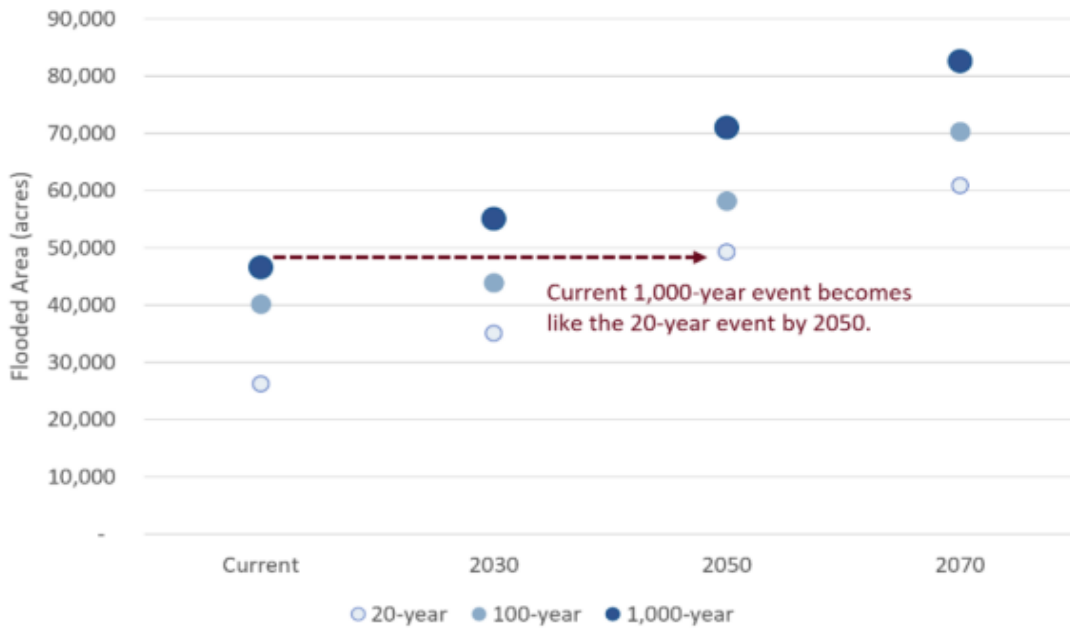
The 2022 Climate Change Assessment also quantified the developed land area flooded for events including:

- the 20-year (5% annual probability)
- 100-year (1% probability)
- 1000-year (0.1% probability) events

This approach found that the area flooded by the current 1000-year event is comparable to the area of a 20-year event by 2050. Even more areas could be impacted by the annual probability event by 2070. See Figure 11 below for more information.

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Figure 11: Total Flooded Area of the Commonwealth for Selected Events



Following the outline of the 2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP), this local hazard mitigation plan organizes consideration of natural hazards based on their relationship to projected climate changes. The table below, which is originally from the SHMCAP, summarizes the natural hazards reviewed in this plan, climate interactions, and expected impacts.

Table 8: Climate Change & Natural Hazards

Primary Climate Change Interaction	Natural Hazard	Other Climate Change Interactions	Representative Climate Change Impacts
 Change in Precipitation	Inland Flooding	Extreme Weather	Flash flooding, urban flooding, drainage system impacts (natural and human-made), lack of groundwater recharge, impacts to drinking water supply, public health impacts from mold and worsened indoor air quality, vector-borne diseases from stagnant water, increased potential for loss of life, episodic drought, changes in snow-rain ratios, changes in extent and duration of snow cover, degradation of stream channels and wetland
	Drought	Rising Temperatures, Extreme Weather	
	Landslide	Rising Temperatures, Extreme Weather	

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 Sea Level Rise	Coastal Flooding	Extreme Weather	Increase in tidal and coastal floods, storm surge, coastal erosion, marsh migration, inundation of coastal and marine ecosystems, loss of wetlands
	Coastal Erosion	Extreme Precipitation	
	Tsunami	Rising Temperatures	
 Rising Temperatures	Average/Extreme Temperatures	N/A	Shifting in seasons (longer summer, early spring, including earlier timing of spring peak flow), increase in length of growing season, increase of invasive species, increase in vector-borne illnesses (West Nile, Zika, EEE), ecosystem stress, energy brownouts from higher energy demands, more intense heat waves, public health impacts from high heat exposure and poor outdoor air quality, increased potential for loss of life, drying of streams and wetlands, eutrophication of lakes and ponds
	Wildfires	Changes in Precipitation	
	Invasive Species	Changes in Precipitation, Extreme Weather	
 Extreme Weather	Hurricanes/Tropical Storms	Rising Temperatures, Changes in Precipitation	Increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, resulting in greater damage to natural resources, property, and infrastructure, as well as increased potential for loss of life
	Severe Winter Storm / Nor'easter		
	Tornadoes		
	Other Severe Weather (Strong Wind & Thunderstorms)		

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OVERVIEW OF HAZARDS AND IMPACTS

In order to update Watertown risk assessment, MAPC gathered the most recently available hazard and land use data and met with Town staff to identify changes in local hazard areas and development trends. The Resilient MA Plan, the SHMCAP (2018) and the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2013) are key planning documents that examine natural hazards that have the potential to impact the Commonwealth. The 2013 State HMP set the stage by defining considerations such as frequency and severity and summarizing the frequency and severity of hazards of greatest concern. The 2018 SHMCAP used similar definitions for hazard considerations and expanded on this research by including additional climate projections. Because the 2013 State HMP includes definitions that were not specified in the SHMCAP, both resources are referred to in this report. MAPC also used FEMA's damage estimation software, HAZUS (described below).

Table 9 below summarizes the hazard risks for Watertown. This evaluation takes into account the frequency and severity of each hazard for Massachusetts and Watertown, based on available data, including:

- **State-level data**, including the Resilient MA Plan, the 2022 Climate Change Assessment, and 2018 SHMCAP.
- **County-level data** from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center and Storm Events
- **Local-level information** including input from the Local Team, the hazard mapping included in Appendix A, and the HAZUS results.

The statewide hazard risk assessment is based on the definitions for hazard frequency and severity listed below. The statewide assessment was modified to reflect local conditions in Watertown using the same criteria.

Definitions of Hazard Frequency and Severity
<u>Frequency</u> Very low: Very unlikely; minimal examples of historical occurrences. Low: Likely to occur at least once by the end of the century; some examples of historical occurrences; anticipated every 100 years. Medium: Likely to occur at least once every 50 years (two or more occurrences in the next century) High: Almost certain to occur at least once a year. Very High: Almost certain to occur multiple times a year.
<u>Severity</u> Minor: Limited and scattered property damage; limited damage to public infrastructure and essential services not interrupted; limited injuries or fatalities. Serious: Scattered major property damage; some minor infrastructure damage; essential services are briefly interrupted; some injuries and/or fatalities. Extensive: Widespread major property damage; major public infrastructure damage (up to several days for repairs); essential services are interrupted from several hours to several days; many injuries and/or fatalities. Catastrophic: Property and public infrastructure destroyed; essential services stopped; numerous injuries and fatalities.

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Table 9: Overview of Hazards and Impacts

Hazard	Frequency		Severity	
	Massachusetts	Watertown	Massachusetts	Watertown
Flooding from Precipitation	Very High	High	Serious	Serious
Dam Overtopping	Very Low	Very Low	Extensive	Serious
Coastal Erosion	Very High	N/A	Serious-Extensive	N/A
Coastal Flooding	Very High	N/A	Serious-Extensive	N/A
Tsunami	Very Low	N/A	Extensive-Catastrophic	N/A
Hurricane/Tropical Cyclones	Medium	Medium	Serious - Catastrophic	Extensive
Tornadoes	High	Very Low	Serious - Extensive	Serious
Other Severe Weather (Thunderstorms/Hail)	Very High	Very High	Minor - Extensive	Minor-Serious
Severe Winter/Nor'easter	High	High	Minor - Extensive	Minor-Serious
Earthquakes	Medium	Medium	Serious - Catastrophic	Serious
Landslides	High	Very Low	Minor - Extensive	Minor
Wildfire/Brushfires	Very High	Medium	Minor - Extensive	Minor-Serious
Extreme Temperatures	Very High	Very High	Minor - Serious	Minor- Serious
Drought	Medium	Medium	Minor - Serious	Minor-Serious
Invasive Species	Very High	low/Medium	Serious - Extensive	Minor
Winter Ice Storms	Medium	Medium	Minor-Extreme	Minor-Serious

Sources: Resilient MA Plan (Frequency), State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013 (Severity), HAZUS, Local information.

The city is not addressing mitigation measures for Coastal erosion, Tsunamis, and Coastal flooding as these hazards are not relevant to an inland community. The topic of Avian flu was raised which is included as a hazard later in this plan.

CLIMATE TRENDS: CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION

FLOODING HAZARDS

Flooding is generally caused by severe rainstorms, thunderstorms, hurricanes, and nor'easters. Large rainstorms can occur year-round. Hurricanes are most common in the summer and early fall. Nor'easters are most common in winter. Spring snowmelt may exacerbate flooding during storm events. Large rainstorms can occur year-round. Climate change has the potential to exacerbate these issues over time due to increasing extreme rainfall events. Increase in average annual rainfall may also lead to more incidents of basement flooding caused by high seasonal groundwater levels.

Flooding has not been a widespread natural hazard identified by local officials in Watertown, however the town does contain several floodplain areas and is also subject to localized flooding. Despite the limited flooding exposure, the town has been active in implementing regulatory strategies that will serve to prevent future flooding by preserving natural capacity for stormwater infiltration. Flooding can occur during hurricanes, nor'easters, severe rainstorms and thunderstorms. Flooding is generally caused by hurricanes, nor'easters, severe rainstorms, and thunderstorms. Global climate change has the potential to exacerbate these issues over time with the potential for changing rainfall patterns leading to heavier storms.

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT FLOODS

There have been a number of major floods that have affected the Metro Boston region over the last fifty years. Significant historic flood events in Watertown have included

- The blizzard of 1978
- January 1979
- April 1987
- October 1991
- October 1996
- June 1998
- March 2001
- April 2004
- May 2006
- April 2007
- March 2010
- February 2013
- January 2018
- March 2018
- June 2020

The best available local data on flooding events is for Middlesex County through the National Center for Environmental Information (see Table 10). Middlesex County, which includes the City of Watertown, experienced 60 flood events from 1996 –2016. No deaths or injuries were reported and the total reported property damage in the county was \$40.9 million dollars. Of that total, \$35.2 million is attributed to the two major events of March 2010.

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Table 10: Middlesex County Flood Events, 2010-2022

Date	Deaths	Injuries	Property Damage (\$)
3/14/2010	0	0	26,430,000
3/29/2010	0	0	8,810,000
4/1/2010	0	0	0
8/28/2011	0	0	5,000
10/14/2011	0	0	0
6/8/2012	0	0	0
6/23/2012	0	0	15,000
7/18/2012	0	0	5,000
10/29/2012	0	0	0
6/7/2013	0	0	0
7/1/2013	0	0	0
7/23/2013	0	0	0
9/1/2013	0	0	10,000
3/30/2014	0	0	35,000
7/27/2014	0	0	0
8/31/2014	0	0	0
10/22/2014	0	0	20,000
10/23/2014	0	0	0
12/9/2014	0	0	5,000
12/9/2014	0	0	30,000
5/31/2015	0	0	0
8/4/2015	0	0	0
8/15/2015	0	0	125,000
9/30/2015	0	0	0
4/6/2017	0	0	0
6/27/2017	0	0	1,000
7/12/2017	0	0	1,000,000
7/18/17	0	0	0
8/2/2017	0	0	5,000
10/25/17	0	0	0
10/30/2017	0	0	0
1/12/2018	0	0	0
1/13/2018	0	0	0
4/16/2018	0	0	0
6/25/2018	0	0	15,000
8/8/2018	0	0	35,000
8/12/2018	0	0	30,000

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8/17/2018	0	0	0
10/29/2018	0	0	0
11/3/2018	0	0	0
11/10/2018	0	0	0
7/6/2019	0	0	0
8/07/19	0	0	0
9/2/2019	0	0	300
6/21/20	0	0	0
6/28/20	0	0	5,000
7/23/20	0	0	0
9/10/20	0	0	3,000
7/9/21	0	0	0
9/2/21	0	0	0
11/12/21	0	0	10,000
8/5/22	0	0	0
8/7/22	0	0	0
9/5/22	0	0	0
5/20/23	0	0	0
6/26/23	0	0	50,000
Total	0	0	\$42.06 M

Source: NOAA, National Centers for Environmental Information

OVERVIEW OF TOWN-WIDE FLOODING

FEMA-designated flood plains are found throughout Watertown, mainly along the city's waterways (see Map 3 in Appendix A). The Charles River is the predominant source of potential flood waters in Watertown. Flood zones line the riverbanks, though they are generally constricted to the area immediately adjacent to the waterway. Most actual flooding occurs upstream of the Watertown Dam. Groundwater sourced flooding of basements is also relatively common across many different parts of the City.

SEVERE PRECIPITATION

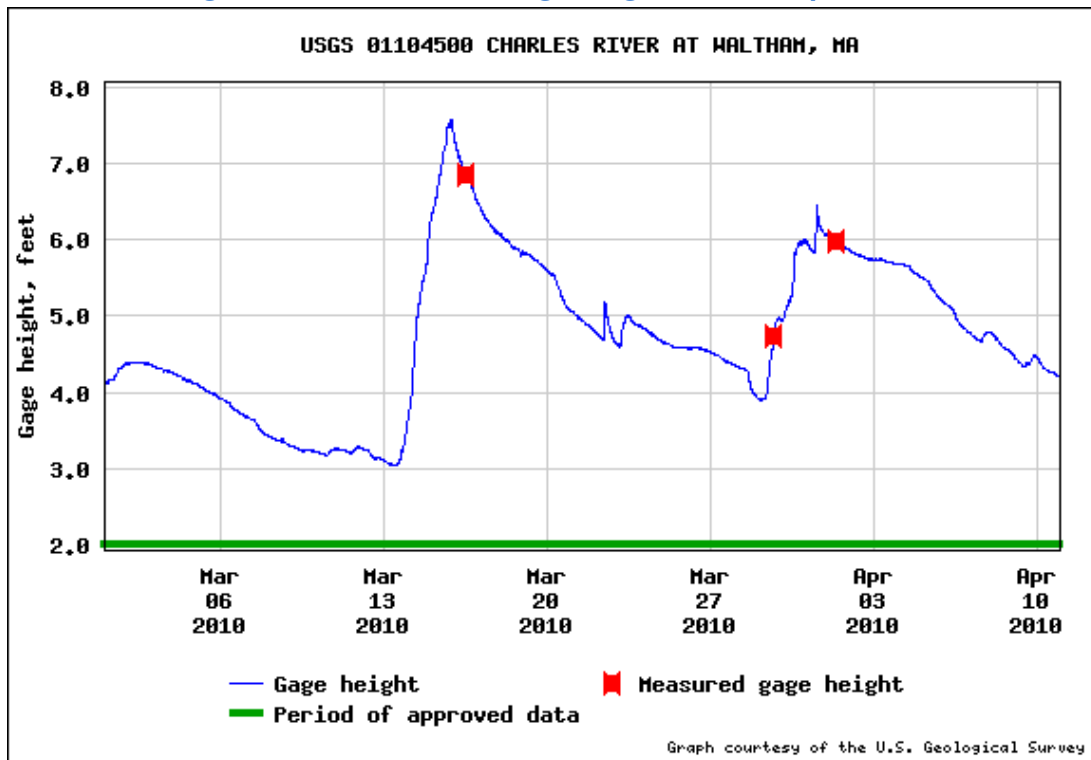
The most severe flooding since the previous plan occurred during March 2010, when a total of 14.83 inches of rainfall accumulation was recorded by the National Weather Service (NWS). The weather pattern that caused these floods consisted of early springtime prevailing westerly winds that moved three successive storms, combined with tropical moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, across New England. Torrential rainfall caused March 2010 to be the wettest month on record. The March 2010 rainstorms fit the profile of a type of severe precipitation event

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expected to increase in frequency as the climate warms. That is, significant precipitation, falling in late winter as rain rather than snow, on frozen ground, and while vegetation is still dormant.

One indication of the extent of flooding is the gage height at the nearest USGS streamflow gauging station, which is on the Charles River in nearby Waltham. The USGS gage height, shown in Figure 12, reached 7.5 feet on March 16, 2010 and over 6 feet on March 31, 2010. Average gage height in April is about 4 feet.

Figure 12 Charles River Gage Heights, March-April 2010



Source, US Geological Service, National Water Information System

Damages from flooding from 2010 to 2022 in Middlesex County totaled \$42.5 million. It is notable that \$35.2 million of that total was due to the March 2010 storms. Those storms were a federally declared disaster, making federal assistance available to residents who did not carry flood insurance. The HAZUS analysis estimates of both losses due to business interruption and property damages in Watertown from a 100-year flood at \$29.7 million and \$50.6 million from a 500-year flood.

POTENTIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study

Information on potential flood hazard areas was taken from two sources. The first was the National Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and accompanying Flood Insurance Study (FIS). The FIRM flood zones are shown on Map 3 in Appendix A and their definitions are listed below. Mapped flood plains are primarily along the city's ponds, brooks, and associated wetlands.

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Revised FIRMs for Middlesex County, which includes Watertown, were adopted by FEMA on July 8th, 2025. The City has adopted an updated floodplain zoning bylaw to reflect the new FIRM mapping and to comply with a state model floodplain bylaw.

The Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) was also revised and adopted on July 8, 2025. This provides supporting data and analysis regarding flooding in Watertown. The FIS provides the following overview description of flooding trends and impacts in Middlesex County:

Flood Insurance Rate Map Zone Definitions

Zone A (1% annual chance) - Zone A is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 100-year floodplains that are determined in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) by approximate methods. Because detailed hydraulic analyses are not performed for such areas, no BFEs (base flood elevations) or depths are shown within this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply.

Zone AE and A1-A30 (1% annual chance) - Zones AE and A1-A30 are the flood insurance rate zones that correspond to the 100-year floodplains that are determined in the FIS by detailed methods. In most instances, BFEs derived from the detailed hydraulic analyses are shown at selected intervals within this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply.

Zones X500 (0.2% annual chance) - Zone X500 is the flood insurance rate zone that correspond to the 500-year floodplains that are determined in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) by approximate methods. Because detailed hydraulic analyses are not performed for such areas, no BFEs (base flood elevations) or depths are shown within this zone.

Zone VE (1% annual chance) - Zone VE is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 100-year coastal floodplains that have additional hazards associated with storm waves. BFEs derived from the detailed hydraulic analyses are shown at selected intervals within this zone. Mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply.

Historically, excessive rainfall along, or in combination with, snowmelt runoff has produced flooding in low-lying areas of Middlesex County. Severe flooding occurred during August 1955. The flood of August 1955 resulted from two hurricanes that arrived almost concurrently-Hurricane Connie, occurring between August 11 and 15; and Hurricane Diane occurring between August 17 and 20. As a result of these two storms, roads and bridges were overtopped, and residences and businesses were flooded. Further, significant recorded floods were those occurring in May 1850, December 1878, July 1891, July 1897, February and March 1900, November 1927, March 1936, July and September 1938, October 1942, October 1955, April 1960, March 1968, and January 1979. FEMA's summary of historic Charles River flooding problems in Table 11.

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Table 11: Summary of Flood Problems – Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study

Flooding Source	Description of Flood Problems
Charles River	Charles River has caused flooding issues in Middlesex County over the years as a result of hurricanes, snow melt combined with spring rains, and summer thunderstorms. The notable flood events along Charles River were the March 1936 snow melt and rainfall event, July 1938 rainfall event, August 1955 - two successive hurricanes in a one week span, March 1968 snow melt and rainfall event, and spring 2010 which involved three large rainfall events over a five week period. Some bridges were overtopped and numerous roads in low-lying areas along the river were flooded. The July 1938, August 1955, and March 1968 flood events were about at a 2-percent annual chance flood, and the spring 2010 event was about a 4-percent annual chance flood, based on peak-flow data at the USGS Charles River at Dover streamgage (01103500). At the USGS Charles River at Waltham streamgage (01104500) further downstream, the spring 2010 event was about a 1-percent annual chance flood, and the 1938, 1955, and 1968 were between a 20- and 10-percent annual chance flood.

Source: Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study, 2025, FEMA

Middlesex County also saw flooding from severe storms in October 1996, June 1998, April 2001, April 2004, October 2005, May 2006, and March 2010. During the May 2006 storm neighboring Boston recorded four- and six-day rainfalls of 8.49 and 13-15 inches respectively. In March 2010, heavy rainfall of 6 to 10 inches fell over much of Southern New England resulting in major flooding across eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including the Middlesex County area. Each of the seven gaged mainstem rivers in Middlesex County rose above flood stage.

FIS Hydrologic Analyses

Hydrologic analyses were carried out to establish the peak elevation-frequency relationships for floods of the selected recurrence intervals for each flooding source studied. Depending on factors such as watershed size and shape, land use and urbanization, and natural or man-made storage, various models or methodologies may be applied. A summary of the discharges for the Charles River is provided in Table 12 and historic flood elevations are shown in Table 13.

Table 12: Summary of Discharges Neponset River Watershed

Flooding Source	Location	Drainage Area (Sq Miles)	Peak Discharge (cfs)				
			10% Annual Chance	4% Annual Chance	2% Annual Chance	1% Annual Chance	0.2% Annual
Charles River	Watertown-Cambridge boundary	278	2,640	3330	3,880	4,460	5,990

Source: Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study, 2025, FEMA

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Table 13: Historic Flooding Elevations

Flooding Source	Location	Historic Peak (Feet NAVD88)	Event Date	Source of Data
Charles River	Washington St., Wellesley	45.2	March 2010	USGS
Charles River	Community Rowing, Nonantum Rd., Boston	3.0	March 2010	USGS

Source: Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study, 2025, FEMA

FIS Flood Profiles

The most detailed, site-specific analysis included in the Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study are the Flood Profiles, which graphically display the elevations of the watershed and flood levels in cross-sections of the rivers and tributaries of the county. The FIS includes 109 Flood Profile diagrams, two of which are within the City of Watertown, as follows: Charles River, Panel 122P and Charles River, Panel 123P.

The Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study notes that cross sections with Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) shown on the FIRM maps correspond to the cross sections shown in the FIS Flood Profiles. BFEs are primarily intended for flood insurance rating purposes. For construction and/or floodplain management purposes, users are cautioned to use the flood elevation data presented in this FIS Report in conjunction with the data shown on the FIRM.

Flood Protection Measures for the Charles River

The upstream portions of the Charles River are located within neighboring Norfolk County, where a significant flood mitigation project was undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s. The Norfolk County Flood Insurance Study summarizes this flood protection measure known as the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Project (See Table 14).

Table 14: Charles River Flood Protection Measures

Flooding Source	Structure Name	Type of Measure	Location	Description of Measure
Charles River	Charles River Natural Valley Storage	Natural storage in low-lying areas adjacent to the Charles River	Towns of Dedham, Dover, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, and Wellesley	USACE purchased undeveloped land in the floodplain of the Charles River, so it can act as natural storage during a flood - to slowly release water and slow velocities

Source: FEMA, Norfolk County Flood Insurance Study, Revised July 2021

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Locally Identified Flood Hazards

In addition, to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, information on areas subject to flooding was provided by local officials. The Locally Identified Areas of Flooding described below were identified by town staff as areas where flooding is known to occur. All of these areas do not necessarily coincide with the flood zones from the FIRM maps. Some may be areas that flood due to inadequate drainage systems or other local conditions rather than location within a flood zone. The numbers correspond to the numbers on Map 8, "Local Hazard Areas" in Appendix A.

1 , Charles River , During severe storms flooding can occur directly along the shore on this stretch of the Charles River, above the dam.

3 , Watertown High School , Basement flooding from groundwater. New building will not have this problem.

4 , New Police Headquarters , Basement flooding from groundwater.

7 , Rutland Street , Basement flooding of homes from groundwater.

8 , Arlington Street and Keith Street , Flooding was caused after a series of three storms.

9 , Laurel St., Melendy Ave. and Oak St. , Neighborhood flooding

11 , Phillip Darch and Robert Ford Road- West End Projects Housing Authority ,This Federal housing authority explored a variety of flooding due to a high-water table issue.

12 , Gore Estate/Walker Pond , This area experiences flooding up the city boundary.

Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

As defined by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a repetitive loss property is any property which the NFIP has paid two or more flood claims of \$1,000 or more in any given 10-year period since 1978. A Severe Repetitive Loss property consists of any NFIP-insured residential property that has met at least one of the following flood loss criteria since 1978:

- 4 or more separate claim payments of more than \$5,000 each (including building and contents payments); or
- 2 or more separate claim payments (building payments only) where the total of the payments exceeds the current value of the property.

There are 2 repetitive loss property in Watertown. These properties had a total of 6 losses, totaling \$529,115 in combined building and contents claim payments. In addition there is one Severe Repetitive Loss properties that has had 4 losses totaling \$503,651. The total of all losses for RL and SRL properties in Watertown is \$1,032,767. Table 15 summarizes the number of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties in Watertown and the number of losses and insurance claims payments for buildings and contents.

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Table 15. Summary of Repetitive Losses and Claims

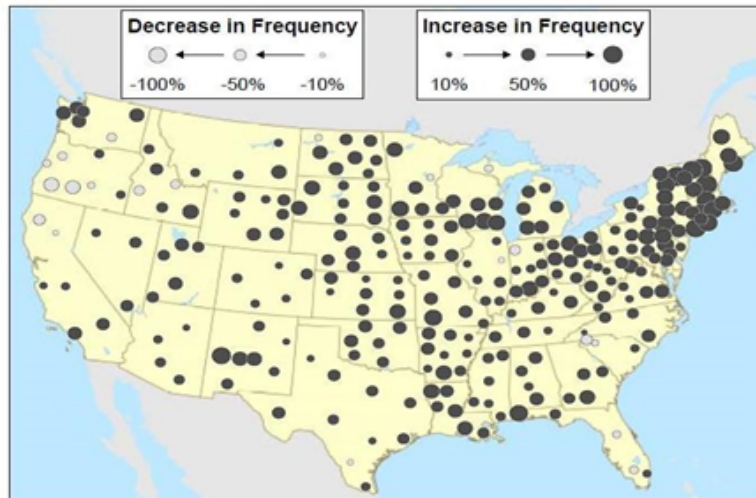
	Repetitive Loss Properties	Severe Repetitive Loss Properties	Total
Number of Properties	2	1	3
Number of Losses	6	4	10
Building Claim Payments	\$39,613.90	\$14,149.40	\$53,763.30
Contents Claim Payments	\$489,501.83	\$489,501.83	\$979,003.66
Total Claim Payments	\$529,115.73	\$503,651.23	\$1,032,766.96

Source: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

FLOODING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Watertown's average annual precipitation is 42 inches. While total annual precipitation has not changed significantly, according to the 2012 report *When It Rains It Pours – Global Warming and the Increase in Extreme Precipitation from 1948 to 2011*, intense rainstorms and snowstorms have become more frequent and more severe over the last half century in the northeastern United States. Extreme downpours are now happening 30 percent more often nationwide than in 1948 (see Figure 13). In other words, large rain or snow storms that happened once every 12 months, on average, in the middle of the 20th century, now happen every nine months.

Figure 13 Changes in Frequency of Extreme Downpours, 1948 – 2011



Source: *When It Rains It Pours – Global Warming and the Increase in Extreme Precipitation*, Environment America Research and Policy Center, July 2012

Not only are these intense storm events more frequent, they are also more severe; the largest annual storms now produce 10 percent more precipitation, on average, than in 1948. In particular, the report finds that New England has experienced the greatest change with intense rain and snow storms occurring 85 percent more often than in 1948.

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Data from the 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment related to changes in precipitation patterns is included in an earlier section of this chapter. Those projections suggest that future rain events will be increasingly intense and lengthy, which could lead to increased inland and stormwater flooding.

Precipitation frequency estimates, which are used to derive stormwater design standards, were published in 1961 by the U.S. Commerce Department in a document known as TP-40 (Technical Paper 40). The 10-year, 24-hour storm for eastern Massachusetts was calculated as a 4.5-inch event. Recently the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration published updated estimates (NOAA Atlas 14), which increased this design storm by 0.6 inches to 5.14 inches for eastern Massachusetts. Communities should consider future rainfall rates when designing infrastructure.

For example, communities could consider using NOAA Atlas 14 rainfall rates with an additional allowance to account for projected rainfall during the life of projects permitted today when sizing stormwater infrastructure. DEP takes a similar approach to describe current (not future) rainfall rates, called “NOAA14+” (Table 16). Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) communities propose “NOAA14++”, which they say reflects 2070 projections. The NOAA 14+ number is calculated by multiplying the NOAA 14 precipitation frequency estimate upper confidence interval by 0.9 (i.e., current but extreme precipitation events reflect 90% of upper confidence intervals). The NOAA 14++ number is the upper confidence interval. A comparison of these numbers is summarized in the table below (NOAA, 2023).

Table 16: Rainfall rates for the 10-year 24-hour storm

NOAA 14	NOAA 14+	NOAA 14++
5.27 inches	5.90 inches	6.56 inches

NOAA, 2023

The 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment also highlights the following flooding climate impacts:

- By 2050, the 1 percent annual chance river flood could be two times more likely to occur
- By 2090, the historical 10 percent annual chance daily rainfall event (2.8 to 4 inches) could occur four times more frequently
- Damage could occur to inland buildings from heavy rainfall and overwhelmed drainage systems
- Damage could occur to transit service due to flooding
- There could be a reduction in the availability of affordably priced housing from direct damage including from flooding (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2022)

Probability of Future Occurrences

Based on the record of previous occurrences, flooding in Watertown is a Very High frequency event as defined by the Resilient MA Plan. Flooding is almost certain to occur multiple times a year.

DAM HAZARDS

Dam failure can occur as a result of structural failure, independent of a hazard event, or as the result of the impacts of a hazard event such as flooding associated with storms or an earthquake. In the event of a dam failure, the energy of the water stored behind even a small dam can cause loss of life and property damage if there are people or buildings downstream. The number of fatalities from a dam failure depends on the amount of warning provided to the population and the number of people in the area in the path of the dam's floodwaters.

Dam failure is a highly infrequent occurrence, but a severe incident could result in loss of lives and significant property damage. Since 1984, three dams have failed in or very near to Massachusetts, one of which resulted in a death. There have been no recorded dam breaches in Watertown.

The increasing intensity of precipitation is the primary climate concern related to dams, as they were designed based on historic weather patterns. The 2018 SHMCAP indicates that changing precipitation patterns may increase the likelihood of overflow events.

According to data provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the town, there is one dam located in Watertown, the Watertown Dam on the Charles River, owned by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Town coordinates with DCR at this dam and others up and downstream on the Charles River to maintain an appropriate level of flow during storm events to manage flooding to the extent possible.

In addition to the Watertown Dam, there are also several upstream dams on tributaries of the Charles that could have an impact on Watertown should they fail. These include two dams owned by the City of Cambridge Water Department in Weston and Waltham, the Norumbega Reservoir Dams, Schenck's Pond Dam, and Weston Reservoir Dam in Weston, operated by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

The Watertown Dam and upstream dams are summarized in Tables 17A and 17B according to river or stream, ownership, and hazard potential. DCR defines dam hazard classifications as follows:

High: Dams located where failure or mis-operation will likely cause loss of life and serious damage to homes(s), industrial or commercial facilities, important public utilities, main highways(s) or railroad(s).

Significant: Dams located where failure or mis-operation may cause loss of life and damage home(s), industrial or commercial facilities, secondary highway(s) or railroad(s) or cause interruption of use or service of relatively important facilities.

Low: Dams located where failure or mis-operation may cause minimal property damage to others. Loss of life is not expected.

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Table 17A Inventory of Dams in Watertown

Dam Name	River/Stream	Owner/Operator	Owner Type	Hazard Potential Classification
Watertown Dam	Charles River	DCR	State	Significant Hazard

Source: Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Dam Inventory

Table 17B Inventory of Dams Upstream of Watertown

Dam Name	River/Stream	Owner/Operator	Owner Type	Hazard Potential Classification
Dam Name	River/Stream	Owner/Operator	Owner Type	Hazard Potential Classification
Cambridge Reservoir	Hobbs Brook	City of Cambridge	Municipal	Significant Hazard
Norumbega Dam#1	Seaverns Brook	DCR/MWRA	State	High Hazard
Norumbega Dam#2	Seaverns Brook	DCR/MWRA	State	Significant Hazard
Norumbega Dam#3	Seaverns Brook	DCR/MWRA	State	Significant Hazard
Norumbega Dam#4	Seaverns Brook	DCR/MWRA	State	High Hazard
Norumbega East Dike	Seaverns Brook	DCR/MWRA	State	High Hazard
Schencks Pond Dam	Seaverns Brook	DCR/MWRA	State	High Hazard
Stony Brook Reservoir	Stony Brook	City of Cambridge	Municipal	High Hazard
Weston Reservoir	Pine Brook	DCR/MWRA	State	High Hazard

Source: Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Dam Inventory

There are no records of dam failures in Watertown or upstream communities. Based on the record of previous occurrences, dam failure in Watertown is a low frequency event as defined by the Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan. This hazard may occur less frequently than once in 50 years to once in 100 years (1% to 2% per year).

Future land use development in areas below a dam could increase the city's vulnerability to dam hazards. However, there is no indication of increased vulnerability in Watertown.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Based on the record of no previous occurrences dam failure in Watertown this is a Very Low frequency event. This hazard may occur less frequently than once in 100 years (less than 1% chance per year)

DROUGHT HAZARDS

Drought is a temporary irregularity in precipitation and differs from aridity since the latter is restricted to low rainfall regions and is a permanent feature of climate. Drought is a period characterized by long durations of below normal precipitation. Drought conditions occur in virtually all climatic zones yet its characteristics vary significantly from one region to another, since it is relative to the normal precipitation in that region. Drought can affect agriculture, water supply, aquatic ecology, wildlife, and plant life.

In Massachusetts, droughts are caused by the prevalence of dry northern continental air and a decrease in coastal- and tropical-cyclone activity. During the 1960's, a cool drought occurred because dry air from the north caused lower temperatures in the spring and summer of 1962-65.

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The northerly winds drove frontal systems to sea along the Southeast Coast and prevented the Northeastern States from receiving moisture (U.S. Geological Survey). This is considered the drought of record in Massachusetts.

Average annual precipitation in Massachusetts is 44 inches per year, with approximately 3 to 4 inch average amounts for each month of the year. Regional monthly precipitation ranges from zero to 17 inches. Statewide annual precipitation ranges from 30 to 61 inches. Thus, in the driest calendar year (1965), the statewide precipitation total of 30 inches was 68 percent of average.

Although Massachusetts is relatively small, it has a number of distinct regions that experience significantly different weather patterns and react differently to the amounts of precipitation they receive. The DCR precipitation index divides the state into seven regions: Western, Central, Connecticut River Valley, Northeast, Southeast, Cape Cod, and Islands.

The Massachusetts Drought Management Plan was revised in 2019 to change the state's classification of droughts by establishing four levels to characterize drought severity beyond normal conditions:

- Level 0-Normal Conditions (no drought)
- Level 1-Mild Drought (formerly Advisory)
- Level 2-Significant Drought (formerly Watch)
- Level 3-Critical Drought (formerly Warning)
- Level 4-Emergency Drought (formerly Emergency)

The Massachusetts drought levels are shown in comparison to the U.S. Drought Monitor levels in Table 13. The two sets of drought indices are similar, but Massachusetts combines the USDM's level D2 and D3 into one category, Critical Droughts.

These levels are based on conditions of natural resources and provide information on the current status of water resources. As dry conditions can have a range of different impacts, a number of drought indices are available to assess these impacts. Massachusetts uses a multi-index system that takes advantage of several of these indices to determine the severity of a given drought or extended period of dry conditions. Drought level is determined monthly based on the number of indices which have reached a given drought level. Drought levels are declared on a regional basis for each of seven regions in Massachusetts. County by county or watershed-specific determinations may also be made. A determination of drought level is based on seven indices:

1. Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) reflects soil moisture and precipitation.
2. Crop Moisture Index: (CMI) reflects soil moisture conditions for agriculture.
3. Keetch Byram Drought Index (KBDI) is designed for fire potential assessment.
4. Precipitation Index is a comparison of measured precipitation amounts to historic normal precipitation.
5. The Groundwater Level Index is based on the number of consecutive month's groundwater levels are below normal (lowest 25% of period of record).
6. The Stream flow Index is based on the number of consecutive months that stream flow levels are below normal (lowest 25% of period of record).
7. The Reservoir Index is based on the water levels of small, medium and large index reservoirs across the state, relative to normal conditions for each month.

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As shown in Table 18, another measure of drought is the U.S. Drought Monitor, which characterizes droughts as abnormally dry, moderate, severe, extreme, and exceptional. Extreme drought is characterized by likely crop and pasture losses, water shortages, and water restrictions.

Table 18: US Drought Monitor Compared to MA Statewide Drought Levels

USDM Names	Recurrence	Percentile Ranges	MA DMP Levels	MA Percentile Ranges	MA DMP Names
D0: Abnormally Dry	once per 3 to 5 years	21 to 30	1	>20 and ≤30%	Mild Drought
D1: Moderate	once per 5 to 10 years	11 to 20	2	>10 and ≤20%	Significant Drought
D2: Severe Drought	once per 10 to 20 years	6 to 10	3	>2 and ≤10%	Critical Drought
D3: Extreme Drought	once per 20 to 50 years	3 to 5			
D4: Exceptional Drought	once per 50 to 100 years	0 to 2	4	≤2%	Emergency

Source: Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, 2019

Table 19 shows the range of values for each of the indices associated with the drought levels. Because drought tends to be a regional natural hazard, this plan references state data as the best available data for previous drought occurrences.

Determinations regarding the end of a drought or reduction of a drought level focus on precipitation and groundwater levels. These factors have the greatest long-term impact on stream flow, water supply, reservoir levels, soil moisture, and forest fire potential.

The drought levels provide a framework from which to take actions to assess, communicate, and respond to drought conditions. Drought levels are used to coordinate both state agency and local response to drought situations. Water restrictions might be appropriate at the significant drought stage, depending on the capacity of each individual water supply system. A critical drought level indicates a severe situation and the possibility that a drought emergency may be necessary. A drought emergency is one in which mandatory water restrictions or use of emergency supplies is necessary.

Table 19: Indices Values Corresponding to Drought Index Severity Levels

Index Severity Level	Standardized Precipitation Index	Streamflow	Lakes and Impoundments	Groundwater	Keetch-Byram Drought Index	Crop Moisture Index
0	>30 th percentile				< 200	> -1.0
1	≤30 and >20				200-400	≤-1.0 and > -2.0
2	≤20 and >10				400-600	≤-2.0 and < -3.0
3	≤10 and >2				600-700	≤ -3.0 and > -4.0
4	≤2				700-800	≤-4.0

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Source: Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, 2019

[Previous Occurrences](#)

Because drought tends to be a regional natural hazard, the best available date on previous drought occurrences is state-wide data, summarized below.

A summary of Massachusetts long term historic drought events from 1879 to 2019 is shown in Table 20. This table was prepared for the 2019 Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, so it does not include the more recent droughts of 2020 (Level 3) and 2021 (Level 2).

Table 20: Chronology of major droughts in Massachusetts since 1879

Date	Area affected	Recurrence interval (years)	Remarks	Reference
1879-83	–	–	Kinnison 1931 referenced these periods as two of three worst droughts on record in 1931, the third being the then current drought of 1929-1932.	Kinnison 1931
1908-12	–	–		
1929-32	Statewide	10 to >50	Water-supply sources altered in 13 communities. Multistate.	USGS 1989
1939-44	Statewide	15 to >50	More severe in eastern and extreme western Massachusetts. Multistate.	USGS 1989
1957-59	Statewide	5 to 25	Record low water levels in observation wells, northeastern Massachusetts.	USGS 1989
1961-69	Statewide	35 to >50	Water-supply shortages common. Record drought. Multistate.	USGS 1989
1980-83	Statewide	10 to 30	Most severe in Ipswich and Taunton River basins; minimal effect in Nashua River basin. Multistate.	USGS 1989
1985-88	Housatonic River Basin	25	Duration and severity as yet unknown. Streamflow showed mixed trends elsewhere.	USGS 1989
1995	–	–	Based on statewide average precipitation	DMP 2013
1998-1999	–	–	Based on statewide average precipitation	DMP 2013
Dec 2001 - Jan 2003	Statewide	–	Level 2 drought (out of 4 levels) was reached statewide for several months	DCR 2017
Oct 2007 - Mar 2008	Statewide except West and Cape & Islands regions	–	Level 1 drought (out of 4 levels)	DCR 2017
Aug 2010 - Nov 2010	Connecticut River Valley, Central and Northeast regions	–	Level 1 drought (out of 4 levels)	DCR 2017
Oct 2014 - Nov 2014	Southeast and Cape & Islands regions	–	Level 1 drought (out of 4 levels)	DCR 2017
Jul 2016 - Apr 2017	Statewide	–	Level 3 drought (out of 4 levels)	DCR 2017

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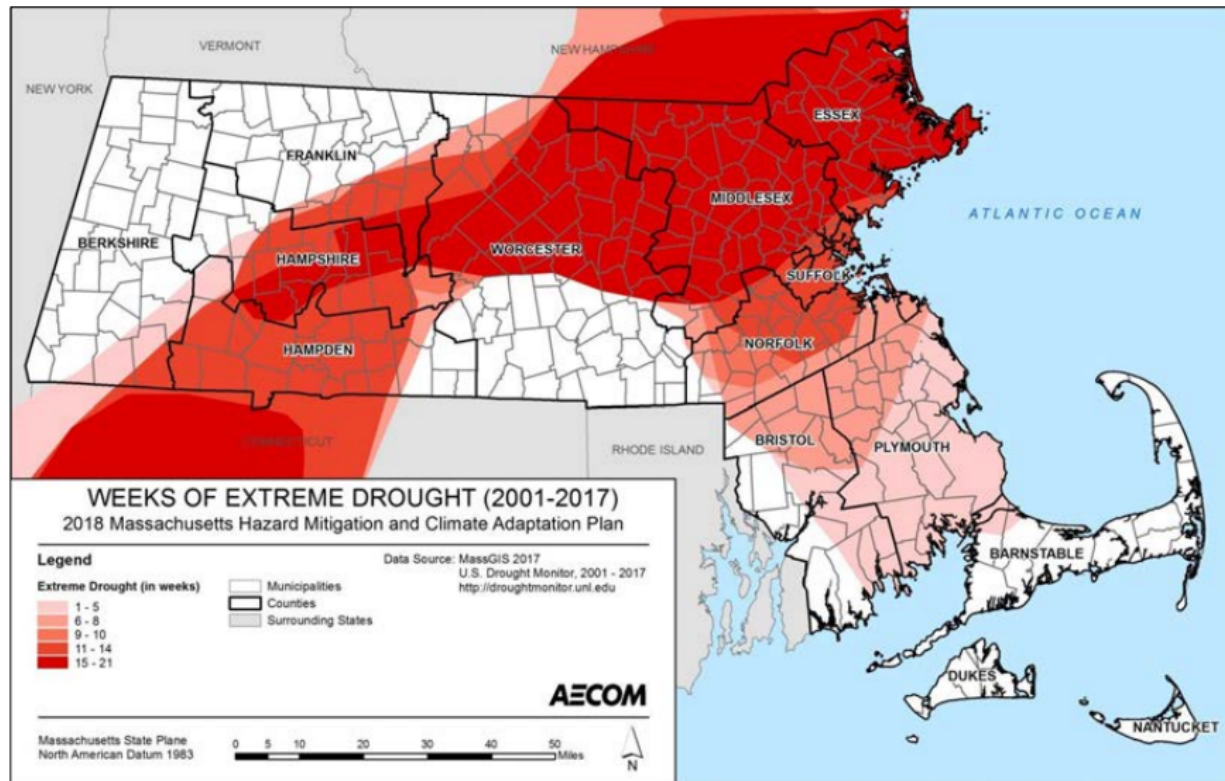
Source: Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, 2019

The Executive Office of Energy and Environment's Drought Management Task Force also provides information on historic drought status for each drought level in Massachusetts. That information is summarized below.

Mild Drought/Advisory	2001, 2002, 2007, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022
Significant Drought/Watch	2002, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022
Critical Drought/Warning	2016, 2017, 2020, 2022
Emergency Drought/Emergency	None

In recent past there have been several droughts in Massachusetts. The drought of 2016 was the worst one since 1985, with more than half of the state reaching the Extreme Drought stage for several months. This was followed by another drought four years later in 2020, which was most severe in Southeastern Massachusetts. Finally, in the early spring of 2021 a third, milder, drought was declared. By the summer of 2021 conditions in the northeast region improved but the region experienced another drought in the summer of 2022.

Figure 14: Weeks of Extreme Drought (2001-2017)

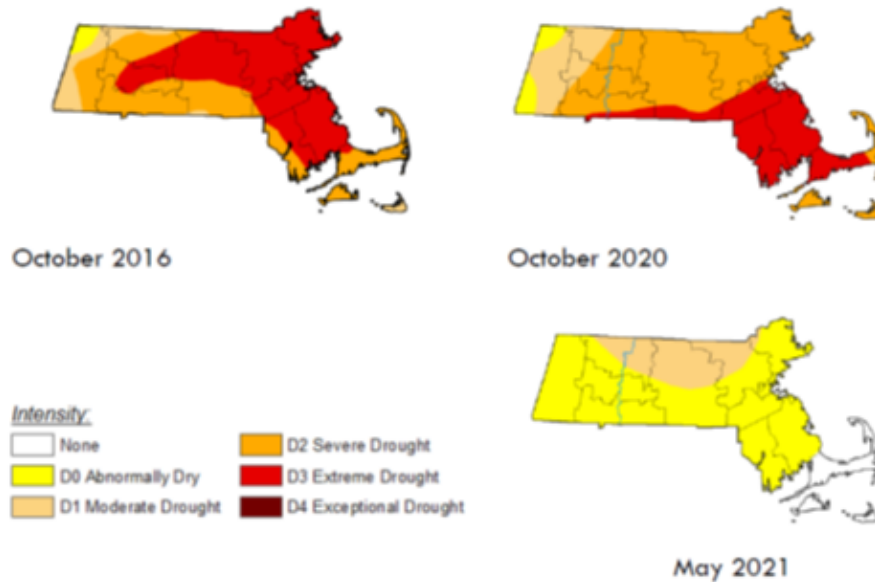


Source: SHMCAP 2018

In just the last ten years there have been three significant droughts in Massachusetts. The drought of 2016 was the worst one since 1985, with more than half of the state reaching the Extreme Drought stage for several months (Figure 15). This was followed by another drought four years later in 2020, which was most severe in Southeastern Massachusetts. Finally, in the early spring of 2021 a third, milder

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Figure 15: Recent Massachusetts Drought Events (2016-2021)



Source: US Drought Monitor, 2016-2021

Potential Drought Vulnerability

The entire City of Watertown is potentially vulnerable to the impacts of drought. Under a severe long term drought the City could be vulnerable to restrictions on water supply, as the city's public water supply relies on local groundwater aquifers that could experience reduced yield. Potential damages of a severe drought could include losses of landscaped areas if outdoor watering is restricted and potential loss of business revenues if water supplies were severely restricted for a prolonged period. Another potential vulnerability of droughts could be increased risk of wildfires.

As this hazard has never occurred to such a severe degree in Watertown, there are no data or estimates of potential damages, but under a severe long term drought scenario it would be reasonable to expect a range of potential damages from several million to tens of millions of dollars.

Probability of Future Occurrence

The SHMCAP, using data collected since 1850, calculates that statewide there is a 1% chance of being in a drought emergency in any given month. For drought warning and watch levels, the chance is 2% and 8% respectively in any given month. See Table 21 for more information.

Table 21: Frequency of Massachusetts Drought Levels

Drought Level	Frequency Since 1850	Probability in a Given Month
Drought Emergency	5 occurrences	1% chance
Drought Warning	5 occurrences	2% chance
Drought Watch	46 occurrences	8% chance

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Source: 2018 SHMCAP

Droughts And Climate Change

Droughts are projected to increase in frequency and intensity in the summer and fall as weather patterns change. Factors contributing to this include increasing evaporation as a result of warmer weather, earlier snow melt, and more extreme weather patterns. Information from the 2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment related to drought is included in the “Climate Change Observations and Projections” section of this report. Additionally, the 2022 Assessment highlights the following drought-related impacts:

- Freshwater ecosystem degradation due to drought and other impacts
- Increased contaminant concentrations in freshwater during drought conditions
- Loss of tree cover due to drought and other impacts

LANDSLIDE HAZARDS

According to the USGS, “The term landslide includes a wide range of ground movement, such as rock falls, deep failure of slopes, and shallow debris flows. Although gravity acting on an over steepened slope is the primary reason for a landslide, there are other contributing factors.” Among the contributing factors are: erosion by rivers or ocean waves over steepened slopes; rock and soil slopes weakened through saturation by snowmelt or heavy rains; earthquakes create stresses that make weak slopes fail; and excess weight from accumulation of rain or snow, and stockpiling of rock or ore, from waste piles, or from man-made structures. Landslides can result from human activities that destabilize an area or can occur as a secondary impact from another natural hazard such as flooding. In addition to structural damage to buildings and the blockage of transportation corridors, landslides can lead to sedimentation of water bodies. Typically, a landslide occurs when the condition of a slope changes from stable to unstable. Natural precipitation such as heavy snow accumulation, torrential rain and run-off may saturate soil creating instability enough to contribute to a landslide. The lack of vegetation and root structure that stabilizes soil can destabilize hilly terrain.

In Massachusetts, according to the SHMCAP, the most common cause of landslides are geologic conditions combined with steep slopes and/or heavy rains. Landslides associated with heavy rains typically occur on steep slopes with permeable soils underlain by till or bedrock.

There is no universally accepted measure of landslide extent but it has been represented as a measure of destructiveness. Table 22 summarizes the estimated intensity for a range of landslides. For a given landslide volume, fast moving rock falls have the highest intensity while slow moving landslides have the lowest intensity.

The SHMCAP, utilized data from the MA Department of Transportation from 1986 to 2006 to estimates that, on average, roughly one to three known landslides have occurred each year in the state. A slope stability map published by the MA Geological Survey and UMass-Amherst indicates that the most significant risk of landslide is in western Massachusetts.

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Table 22: Landslide Volume and Velocity

Estimated Volume (m ³)	Expected Landslide Velocity		
	Fast moving (rock fall)	Rapid moving (debris flow)	Slow moving (slide)
<0.001	Slight intensity	--	--
<0.5	Medium intensity	--	--
>0.5	High intensity	---	--
<500	High intensity	Slight intensity	--
500-10,000	High intensity	Medium intensity	Slight intensity
10,000 – 50,000	Very high intensity	High intensity	Medium intensity
>500,000	--	Very high intensity	High intensity
>500,000	--	--	Very high intensity

Source: *A Geomorphological Approach to the Estimation of Landslide Hazards*, M. Cardinali et al, 2002

Probability of Future Occurrences

Based on past occurrences and the Resilient Massachusetts Plan, landslides are very low, very unlikely, minimal examples of historical occurrences.

Climate Change and Landslides

Changes in precipitation may increase the chance of landslides, as extreme rain events could result in more frequent saturated soils which are conducive to landslides. Drought may also increase the likelihood of landslides if loss of vegetation decreases soil stability.

Watertown is classified as having a low risk for landslides (see Map 4, Appendix A). No acreage in Watertown has been lost to landslides, as there have been no recorded incidents of landslides or damage caused by landslides in the town.

Should a landslide occur in the future, the type and degree of impacts would be highly localized, and the city's vulnerabilities could include damage to structures, damage to transportation and other infrastructure, and localized road closures. Potential damages would depend on the extent of impact, based on how many properties were affected. Given the relatively high assessed value of property in Watertown, damages affecting a single residence could exceed \$500,000, and damages affecting several homes or business properties could theoretically total several million dollars. However, there are no data available on landslide damages in Watertown, as there are no records of any damages caused by landslides in the town. Injuries and casualties, while possible, would be unlikely given the low extent and impact of landslides in Watertown.

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CLIMATE TRENDS: RISING TEMPERATURES

EXTREME TEMPERATURE HAZARDS

AVERAGE AND EXTREME TEMPERATURES

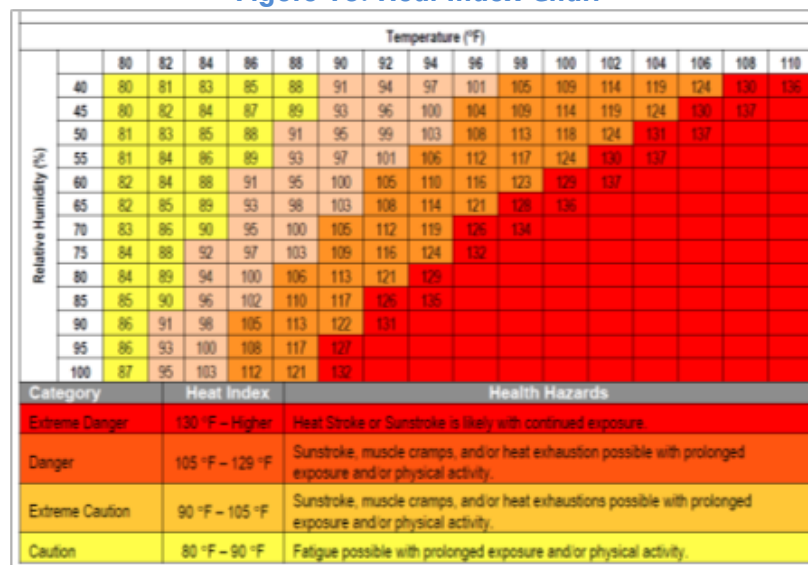
Extreme temperatures occur when either high temperature or low temperatures relative to average local temperatures occur. These can occur for brief periods of time and be acute, or they can occur over long periods of time where there is prolonged period of excessively hot or cold weather. Extreme temperatures are a community-wide hazard in Watertown.

Watertown has four well-defined seasons. The seasons have several defining factors, with temperature one of the most significant. Extreme temperatures can be defined as those, which are far outside of the normal seasonal ranges for Massachusetts. The average temperatures for Massachusetts are: winter (Dec-Feb) Average = 31.8°F and summer (Jun-Aug) Average = 71°F. Extreme temperatures are a citywide hazard.

EXTREME HEAT

While a heat wave for Massachusetts is defined as three or more consecutive days above 90°F, another measure used for identifying extreme heat events is through a Heat Advisory from the NWS. These advisories are issued when the heat index (Figure 16) is forecast to exceed 100-degree Fahrenheit (F) for 2 or more hours; an excessive heat advisory is issued if forecast predicts the temperature to rise above 105 degree F.

Figure 16: Heat Index Chart



Source: National Weather Service

The best available data on past occurrences of extreme heat events is from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) for Middlesex County, which includes Watertown.

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The NCEI records indicate that in the last decade, there have been two excessive heat events recorded, with one reported death, no injuries, and no property damage (see Table 23).

Table 23: Middlesex County Extreme Heat Occurrences 2010-2023

Date	Deaths	Injuries	Damage
7/6/2010	0	0	0
7/5/2013	1	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	0

Source: NOAA, National Centers for Environmental Information

Extreme heat poses a potentially greater risk to the elderly, children, and people with certain medical conditions. However, even young and healthy individuals can succumb to heat if they participate in strenuous physical activities during hot weather.

Older adults are often at elevated risk due to a high prevalence of pre-existing and chronic conditions; in Watertown approximately 16.3% of the population is over age 65. People who live in older housing stock and in housing without air conditioning have increased vulnerability to heat-related illnesses. Areas with less shade and darker surfaces (pavement and roofs) will experience even hotter temperatures; these surfaces absorb heat during the day and release it in the evening, keeping nighttime temperatures warmer as well.

Hot summer days can worsen air pollution. With increased extreme heat, urban areas are likely to experience more days that fail to meet air quality standards. Power failures are more likely to occur during heat waves, affecting the ability of residents to remain cool during extreme heat. Individuals with pre-existing conditions and those who require electric medical equipment may be at increased risk during a power outage.

Extreme Heat and Climate Change

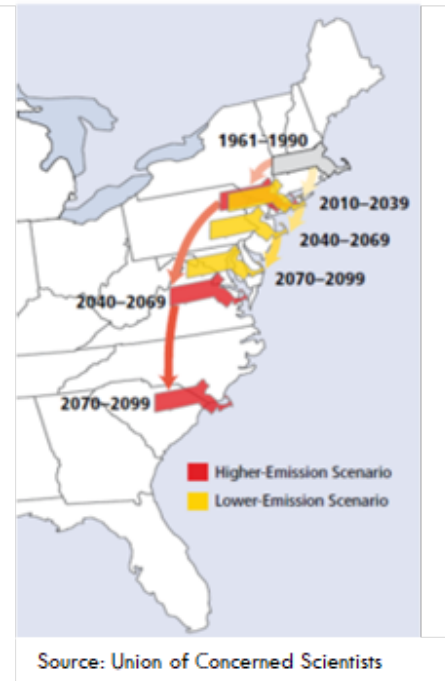
The 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment includes projections of climate-driven future increases in average temperature and in the number of extreme heat days. The assessment also highlights the following climate impacts for the Eastern Inland Region, related to temperatures. Over time our climate will become more similar to areas well to the south of New England (Figure 17).

- Warmer temperatures and more frequent heat waves are connected to impaired human health, increased droughts, reduced agriculture yields, species range shifts, and damaged infrastructure.
- By 2030, the summer mean temperature could increase by 3.6°F from the historical period (1950-2013), worsening stress on electric transmission and utility distribution infrastructure.
- By 2070, there could be 58 fewer days below freezing, increasing the chance of ticks overwintering and reducing winter recreation opportunities.
- Increase in vector borne diseases and bacterial infections, including West Nile Virus and Lyme disease due to more favorable conditions for ticks and mosquitoes.
- Damage to electric transmission and utility distribution infrastructure associated with heat stress

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- Damage to rails and loss of transit service, including flooding and track buckling during high heat events.
- Reduced ability to work, particularly for outdoor workers during extreme heat, as well as commute delays due to damaged infrastructure.
- Reduced ability to work, particularly for outdoor workers during extreme heat, as well as commute delays due to damaged infrastructure.
- Freshwater ecosystem degradation due to warming waters.
- Forest health degradation from warming temperatures and increasing pest occurrence

Figure 17: Climate Impact Scenarios



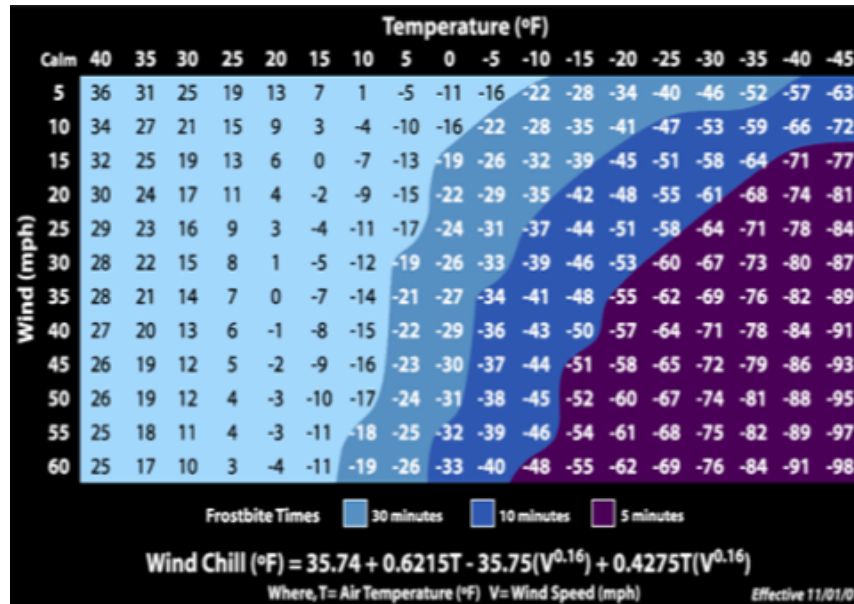
The 2018 SHMCAP identifies ecosystems that are expected to be particularly vulnerable to warming temperatures. These include cold-water fisheries, vernal pools, spruce-fir forests, northern hardwood forests (Maple, Beech, Birch), Hemlock forests, and urban forests (due to heat island impacts). Other impacts on natural resources include a longer growing season and northern migration of plants and animals, including invasive species.

EXTREME COLD

Extreme cold is relative to the normal climatic lows in a region. Temperatures that drop decidedly below normal and wind speeds that increase can cause harmful wind-chill factors. The severity of extreme cold temperature is typically measured using the Wind Chill Temperature Index, which is provided by the National Weather Service (NWS). The wind chill is the apparent temperature felt on exposed skin due to the combination of air temperature and wind speed. The index is provided in Figure 18. A Wind Chill warning is issued when the Wind Chill Index is forecast to fall below -25 degrees F for at least 3 hours.

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Figure 18: Wind Chill Temperature Index and Frostbite Risk



Source: National Weather Service

The best available data on past occurrences of extreme cold events are from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) for Middlesex County, which includes Watertown. There were three extreme cold events recorded by NCEI in the past ten years (Table 24), which caused no deaths, no injuries, or property damage.

Table 24: Middlesex County Extreme Cold and Wind Chill Occurrences

Date	Deaths	Injuries	Damages
2/15/2015	0	0	0
2/16/2015	0	0	0
2/14/2016	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

Source: NOAA, National Centers for Environmental Information

Extreme cold is a dangerous situation that can result in health emergencies for susceptible people, such as those without shelter or who are stranded or who live in homes that are poorly insulated or without heat. The entire City of Watertown is potentially vulnerable to the impacts of extreme cold. The greatest vulnerability to the Watertown would be a power outage during a winter storm, which could temporarily leave many residents without heat. Extremely cold temperatures often accompany winter storms, which may also cause power failures and hazardous travel due to icy roads.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Extreme temperature events are projected to be medium frequency events based on past occurrences, as defined by the Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Both extreme cold

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and hot weather events occur between once in five years to once in 50 years, or a 2 percent to 20 percent chance of occurring each year.

INVASIVE SPECIES

The 2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan included invasive species as a natural hazard for the first time. They are defined as “non-native species that cause or are likely to cause harm to ecosystems, economies, and/or public health”. In new habitats invasive species displace native species because they have competitive advantages including no biological controls from their native habitat.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) currently has two open Orders of Conditions with the Watertown Conservation Commission related to invasive species management along the Charles River. One Order of Conditions covers the removal of aquatic invasive plants in the Lower Charles River Basin and the Lakes District, work that is carried out by Solitude Lake Management. The second Order of Conditions addresses the removal of terrestrial invasive plants along the Charles River and its banks, which is conducted through volunteer efforts coordinated by DCR.

For DCR projects with open Orders of Conditions in Watertown, the Charles River Lower Basin and Lakes Districts fall under MassDEP filing numbers 321-0179 and 321-0183. According to the 2024 annual report submitted by DCR in partnership with Solitude Lake Management, curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) was present in both 2023 and 2024, while water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) was present in 2023 but not observed in 2024.

Terrestrial invasive plant management is guided by the Charles River Vegetation Management Plan (MassDEP filing number 321-0185). Annual end-of-year reports from 2023 and 2024 document the presence and management of several invasive species, including garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*), black swallowwort (*Cynanchum* spp.), and mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*).

In addition to DCR’s efforts, the Watertown Community Gardens have played a significant role in invasive plant removal along the Watertown–Cambridge Greenway. Their work has included removing invasive species and planting native vegetation to help outcompete invasives in certain areas. In FY26, the Watertown Community Gardens were awarded a MassTrails Grant to support poison ivy removal and the development of a comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) to guide future efforts.

Based on current data that is available through MDAR, Beech Leaf Disease, and Spotted Lanternfly are listed for Watertown. The City’s Tree Warden has observed Beech Leaf Disease in one of the City’s woodland parcels, Whitney Hill Park.

[Invasive Species and Climate Change](#)

Climate change is predicted to increase the abundance of invasive species and expand their habitat ranges. Species hierarchies in ecosystems are also expected to change, and ecosystems

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that are stressed (due to climate-change associated drought, increased temperatures, wildfires, etc.) will be more susceptible to invasive species.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Based on the record of previous occurrences, invasive species in Watertown is a Low-Medium frequency event as defined by the Resilient MA Plan.

AVIAN FLU

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), commonly referred to as avian flu, has been an increasing concern in Massachusetts since 2021. The disease primarily affects wild and domestic bird populations and has resulted in periodic die-offs of wild birds across the region. Activity intensified in 2025, prompting increased monitoring and response by local and state agencies.

Local response actions follow guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). During periods of heightened activity, municipal staff may be required to respond to reports of sick or deceased birds. In past response efforts, staff collected birds suspected of infection while wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE) and following sanitization protocols to reduce the risk of disease transmission. Collected birds were temporarily stored in a secured freezer and later cremated and disposed of in accordance with public health and environmental guidance.

Due to the limited availability of wildlife veterinarians capable of responding to or euthanizing infected birds, municipalities may need to rely on internal staff and established protocols for safe handling and disposal. Currently, municipal response is limited to the collection of deceased birds located on public property, consistent with MDAR guidance.

Preventive measures focus primarily on protecting domestic poultry populations. Poultry owners are advised to implement strong biosecurity practices to prevent contact between domestic birds and wild birds, which are known carriers of the virus. Recommended measures include eliminating standing water that may attract waterfowl and restricting domestic poultry access to areas frequented by wild birds.

The risk of human infection from HPAI is considered very low, though individuals who have close contact with sick or deceased birds may face elevated risk. To date, no human cases have been reported in Massachusetts. Municipal monitoring and response procedures remain adaptable and will continue to follow guidance from MDAR and other relevant public health and regulatory agencies.

WILDFIRE HAZARDS

A wildfire is a non-structure fire occurring in a forested, shrub, or grassland area. In the Boston Metro region these fires rarely grow to the size of a wildfire as seen more typically in the western U.S. As their name implies, these fires typically burn no more than the underbrush of a forested area. There are three different classes of wild fires:

- **Surface fires** are the most common type and burn along the floor of a forest, moving slowly and killing or damaging trees;
- **Ground fires** are usually started by lightning and burn on or below the forest floor;
- **Crown fires** spread rapidly by wind, jumping along the tops of trees.

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Wildfire season can begin in March and usually ends in late November. The majority of wildfires typically occur in April and May, when most vegetation is void of any appreciable moisture, making them highly flammable. Once "green-up" takes place in late May to early June, the fire danger usually is reduced somewhat.

A wildfire differs greatly from other fires by its extensive size, the speed at which it can spread out from its original source, its potential to unexpectedly change direction, and its ability to jump gaps such as roads, rivers and fire breaks.

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) classifies the severity of wildfires based on their acreage as follows:

- Class A - one-fourth acre or less;
- Class B - more than one-fourth acre, but less than 10 acres;
- Class C - 10 acres or more, but less than 100 acres;
- Class D - 100 acres or more, but less than 300 acres;
- Class E - 300 acres or more, but less than 1,000 acres;
- Class F - 1,000 acres or more, but less than 5,000 acres;
- Class G - 5,000 acres or more (NWCG, 2023) .

The most susceptible fuels are pitch pine, scrub oak and oak forests. Topography can affect the behavior of fires, as fire spreads more easily uphill. Fires can present a hazard where there is the potential to spread into developed or inhabited areas, particularly residential areas where sufficient fuel materials might exist to allow the fire the spread into homes. Protecting structures from fire poses special problems and can stretch firefighting resources to the limit. The most common cause of wildfires is the careless disposal of smoking materials and untended campfires.

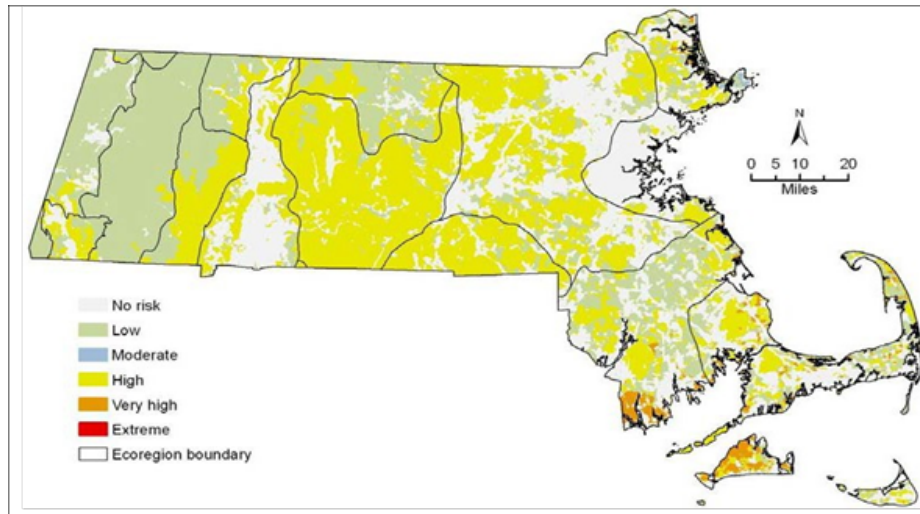
If heavy rains follow a fire, other natural disasters can occur, including landslides, mudflows, and floods. If a wildfire destroys ground cover, erosion becomes one of several potential problems. Wildfires in Massachusetts are measured by the number of fires and the sum of acres burned. The most recent data available for wildfires in Massachusetts, shown in Figure 20 below.

Potential Wildfire Hazard Areas

The 2018 SHMCAP includes a map that depicts statewide fire risk incorporating three risk components: fuel, wildland-urban interface, and topography (Figure 19). The wildland-urban interface reflects communities where housing and vegetation intermingle, and fire can spread from structures to vegetated areas.

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Figure 19: Wildfire Risk Areas in Massachusetts



Source: 2018 SHMCAP

Potential vulnerabilities to wildfires include damage to structures and other improvements, and impacts on natural resources such as wildlife habitat. Smoke and air pollution from wildfires can be a health hazard, especially for sensitive populations including children, the elderly, and those with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Should a wildfire occur in Watertown or in other nearby communities, the resulting smoke could have negative impacts on air quality. This could have public health impacts, particularly for those with respiratory conditions such as asthma. Given the low extent of wildfires in the town and the immediate response times to reported fires in Watertown the likelihood of injuries and casualties is minimal. Since 2019, the Fire Department has responded to 7 in 2020, 10 in 2021, 16 in 2022, 9 in 2023, and 13 in 2024.

Potential Local Brushfire Hazard Areas

According to local officials, brush fires in Watertown are not a significant issue. The city sees several brush fires annually, but these fires have not caused significant property damage or injuries. The City identified only three small areas of potential brush fires, Whitney Hill, the wooded area off of Greenough Boulevard, and the Bike Path along Arsenal Street and Pleasant Street. These are shown on Map 8 in Appendix B as sites number 5, 6, and 10 respectively.

Potential vulnerabilities to wildfires include damage to structures and other improvements, and impacts on natural resources such as town conservation land. Smoke and air pollution from wildfires can be a health hazard, especially for sensitive populations including children, the elderly, and those with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Potential damages from wildfires in Watertown would depend on the extent and type of land affected. Based on past occurrences and the Resilient MA Plan, brushfires are of Medium

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frequency in Watertown meaning that they are likely to occur at least once every 50 years (two or more occurrences this century).

Wildfire and Climate Change

As the climate warms, drought and warmer temperatures may increase the risk of wildfire as vegetation dries out and becomes more flammable. Increasing drought and increasing damage to trees from pests, can also lead to greater fire risk. The 2022 MA Climate Change Assessment cites anticipated forest health degradation from increasing wildfire frequency for the Eastern Inland Region, where Watertown is located.

CLIMATE TRENDS: EXTREME WEATHER

Extreme weather includes wind-related hazards (such as hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, and thunderstorms) as well as winter weather (such as Nor'easters, blizzards, and ice conditions). Following is a description of the types of natural hazards associated with extreme weather events.

WIND HAZARDS

Wind-related hazards include hurricanes, tropical storms, and tornadoes as well as high winds during Nor'easters and thunderstorms. As with many communities, falling trees that result in downed power lines and power outages are an issue in Watertown. Information on wind related hazards can be found in Appendix A.

HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS

A hurricane is a violent wind and rainstorm with wind speeds of 74-200 miles per hour. A hurricane is strongest as it travels over the ocean and is particularly destructive to coastal property as the storm hits the land. The city's entire area is vulnerable to hurricanes. Hurricanes occur between June and November. A tropical storm has similar characteristics, but wind speeds are below 74 miles per hour.

Since 1900, Massachusetts has experienced approximately 32 tropical storms, nine Category 1 hurricanes, five Category 2 hurricanes and one Category 3 hurricane (Table 25). A hurricane or storm track is the line that delineates the path of the eye of a hurricane or tropical storm. No hurricanes have tracked directly through Watertown.

Table 25: Hurricane Records for Massachusetts, 1938 - 2023

Hurricane Event	Date
Great New England Hurricane	September 21, 1938
Great Atlantic Hurricane	September 14-15, 1944
Hurricane Doug	September 11-12, 1950
Hurricane Carol	August 31, 1954
Hurricane Edna	September 11, 1954
Hurricane Diane	August 17-19, 1955
Hurricane Donna	September 12, 1960
Hurricane Gloria	September 27, 1985
Hurricane Bob	August 19, 1991

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Hurricane Event	Date
Hurricane Earl	September 4, 2010
Tropical Storm Irene	August 28, 2011
Hurricane Sandy	October 29-30, 2012

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hurricane intensity is measured according to the Saffir/Simpson scale, which categorizes hurricane intensity linearly based upon maximum sustained winds, barometric pressure, and storm surge potential. These are combined to estimate potential damage. The following gives an overview of the wind speeds, surges, and range of damage caused by different hurricane categories:

Scale No. (Category)	Winds(mph) Storm	Surge (ft)	Potential Damage
1	74 – 95	4 - 5	Minimal
2	96 – 110	6 - 8	Moderate
3	111 – 130	9 - 12	Extensive
4	131 – 155	13 - 18	Extreme
5	> 155	>18	Catastrophic

Source: NOAA

Falling trees and branches are a significant problem because they can result in power outages when they fall on power lines or block traffic and emergency routes. Hurricanes are a city-wide hazard in Watertown. Potential hurricane damages to Watertown have been estimated using HAZUS-MH. Total property damages are estimated at \$34 million for a 100 hurricane and \$152.3 Million for a 500 year hurricane.

Based on records of previous occurrences, hurricanes in Watertown are a medium frequency event as defined by the Massachusetts Resilience Plan. This hazard is likely to occur every fifty years.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Based on records of previous occurrences, hurricanes in Watertown are a Medium frequency event as defined by the Resilient MA Plan. This hazard occurs from once in 5 years to once in 50 years, or a 2% to 20% chance per year.

Hurricanes and Climate Change

Climate models suggest that hurricanes and tropical storms will become more intense as warmer ocean waters provide more fuel for the storms. In addition, rainfall amounts associated with hurricanes are predicted to increase because warmer air can hold more water vapor.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

While less severe than the other types of storms discussed, thunderstorms can lead to localized damage and represent a hazard risk for communities. Generally defined as a storm that includes thunder, which always accompanies lightning, a thunderstorm is a storm event featuring lightning, strong winds, and rain and/or hail. Thunderstorms sometime give rise to tornados. On average, these storms are only around 15 miles in diameter and last for about 30 minutes. A severe thunderstorm can include winds of close to 60 mph and rain sufficient to produce flooding. The

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severity of thunderstorms ranges from commonplace and of short duration to intense storms that cause damage due to high winds, flooding, or lightning strikes.

Eastern Massachusetts is at risk of one to two severe thunderstorms per year. The best available data on previous occurrences of thunderstorms in Watertown is through NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). For the years 2010 to 2022, NCEI records show 84 thunderstorm wind events in Middlesex County (Table 26). These storms resulted in an estimate of \$3.47 million in property damage. There were seven injuries and no death reported.

Table 26: Middlesex County Thunderstorm Wind Events, 2010 to 2023

DATE	MAGNITUDE (knots)	DEATHS	INJURIES	PROPERTY DAMAGE \$
5/4/2010	50	0	0	30000
6/1/2010	50	0	0	5000
6/3/2010	50	0	0	20000
6/5/2010	50	0	0	40000
6/6/2010	50	0	1	100000
6/24/2010	50	0	0	30000
7/12/2010	50	0	0	50000
7/19/2010	50	0	0	25000
6/1/2011	50	0	0	5000
6/9/2011	50	0	0	15000
8/2/2011	50	0	0	1000
8/19/2011	50	0	0	15000
6/8/2012	50	0	0	25000
6/23/2012	45	0	0	5000
7/4/2012	50	0	0	10000
7/18/2012	70	0	0	350000
9/7/2012	50	0	0	10000
9/8/2012	40	0	0	3000
6/17/2013	50	0	0	25000
6/18/2013	45	0	0	10000
6/24/2013	45	0	0	3000
7/23/2013	50	0	0	20000
7/29/2013	50	0	0	5000
7/3/2014	50	0	0	75000
7/7/2014	87	0	0	100000
7/15/2014	50	0	0	25000
7/28/2014	50	0	0	50000
9/6/2014	50	0	1	15000
5/28/2015	45	0	0	5000
8/4/2015	50	0	0	40000
8/15/2015	50	0	0	25000

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2/25/2016	50	0	0	30000
3/17/2016	45	0	0	5000
7/22/2016	50	0	0	14,000
7/23/2016	50	0	0	0
8/22/2016	50	0	0	0
9/11/2016	50	0	0	10,000
5/18/2017	50	0	0	0
6/13/2017	52	0	0	0
6/23/2017	52	0	0	1000
6/27/2017	50	0	0	0
7/12/2017	50	0	0	0
8/2/2017	50	0	0	0
9/6/2017	50	0	0	0
5/15/2018	40	0	0	0
6/18/2018	50	0	0	0
6/25/2018	43	0	0	0
7/17/2018	50	0	0	3000
7/26/2018	50	0	0	5000
8/7/2018	50	0	0	3000
8/17/2018	50	0	0	4000
9/6/2018	50	0	0	2000
10/23/2018	46	0	0	10,000
6/30/2019	50	0	0	800
7/17/2019	50	0	0	7250
7/31/2019	50	0	0	2500
8/7/2019	50	0	0	800
9/4/2019	55	0	0	26700
5/15/20	50	0	0	285,000
6/06/20	50	0	0	7000
6/21/20	50	0	0	38,200
6/28/20	55	0	0	6000
7/02/20	50	0	0	15300
7/05/20	50	0	0	12300
7/23/20	60	0	0	40600
7/30/20	50	0	0	3100
8/22/20	50	0	0	6000
8/23/20	50	0	0	25600
8/27/20	50	0	0	1600
10/07/20	61	0	5	6500
11/15/20	56	0	0	4000
5/6/21	50	0	0	800
6/30/21	50	0	0	500

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7/6/21	50	0	0	18,500
7/7/21	55	0	0	7,600
7/27/21	52	0	0	33,800
8/19/21	50	0	0	1,300
9/13/21	50	0	0	400
3/7/22	56	0	0	19,000
7/2/22	50	0	0	800
7/21/22	50	0	0	500
8/5/22	50	0	0	9,900
8/7/22	60	0	0	30,300
8/26/22	50	0	0	7,800
9/13/22	50	0	0	3,000
6/2/23	52	0	0	20,000
TOTAL		0	7	\$3.48M

*Magnitude refers to maximum wind speed. Source: NOAA, National Climatic Data Center

The entire city of Watertown is potentially vulnerable to the impacts of thunderstorms, which are principally high winds and may include severe precipitation. The city's vulnerability to the winds associated with severe thunderstorms can include falling trees which cause power outages, as well as obstruction of key routes and emergency access. Heavy precipitation may also cause localized flooding, both riverine and urban drainage related. Severe localized flooding may also block key travel corridors and emergency access.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Based on the record of previous occurrences, severe thunderstorms in Watertown are very high frequency events. This hazard is likely to occur more than once a year.

Thunderstorms and Climate Change

As noted previously, the intensity of rainfall events has increased significantly, and those trends are expected to continue. Neither the 2018 SHMCAP, nor the 2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment, specifically address whether climate will affect the intensity or frequency of thunderstorms.

HAIL

Hail events are frequently associated with thunderstorms and other severe storm events. Hail size typically refers to the diameter of the hailstones. Warnings may report hail size through comparisons with real-world objects that correspond to certain diameters as shown in Table 27.

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Table 27: Hail Size Comparisons

Description	Diameter (inches)
Pea	0.25
Marble or mothball	0.50
Penny or dime	0.75
Nickel	0.88
Quarter	1.00
Half dollar	1.25
Walnut or ping pong ball	1.50
Golf ball	1.75
Hen's egg	2.00
Tennis ball	2.50
Baseball	2.75
Teacup	3.00
Grapefruit	4.00
Softball	4.50

Source: NOAA

The entire built environment of Watertown is potentially vulnerable to the impacts of hail. Potential damages from larger-size hail could include damage to vehicles, windows, roofs, and other structures, as well as some utility facilities. However, no significant hail damage has been reported in Watertown. Should solar energy facilities be sited in Watertown in the future, they could be vulnerable to the impacts of hail.

The best available data on previous hail events are recorded for Middlesex County through NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Storm Events Database. There were 9 hail events recorded from December 2012 through December 2022, as shown in Table 28. There was no property damage, injuries, or deaths reported for any of these hail events.

Table 28: Middlesex County Hail Events, 2012-2023

Date	Magnitude	Deaths	Injuries	Property Damage (\$)
5/4/2010	0.75	0	0	0
5/7/2011	0.75	0	0	0
6/1/2011	0.75	0	0	0
8/2/2011	0.75	0	0	0
8/19/2011	0.75	0	0	0
3/13/2012	1.25	0	0	0
3/14/2012	1	0	0	0
6/23/2012	0.75	0	0	0
7/18/2012	1	0	0	0
10/30/201	1	0	0	0

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6/17/2013	0.75	0	0	0
5/25/2014	0.75	0	0	0
7/3/2014	1	0	0	0
8/7/2014	0.75	0	0	0
9/6/2014	0.88	0	0	0
8/4/2015	1	0	0	0
8/15/2015	0.75	0	0	0
7/23/2016	.75	0	0	0
6/27/2017	1.00	0	0	0
8/2/2017	.75	0	0	0
6/29/19	.75	0	0	0
6/06/20	1.00	0	0	0
6/28/20	1.00	0	0	0
7/30/20	.75	0	0	0
8/23/20	1.00	0	0	0
6/2/23	.75	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	0	0

Source: NOAA, National Centers for Environmental Information

*Magnitude refers to diameter of hail stones in inches

The city has not reported any local damages associated with hail. Should a significant hail event occur, the most likely damages would be to vehicles, both town-owned and privately owned, damage to vegetation which could cause power outages, and damage to some buildings. Hail events are a potential city-wide hazard in Watertown.

TORNADOES

A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud. These events are spawned by thunderstorms and occasionally by hurricanes, and may occur singularly or in multiples. They develop when cool air overrides a layer of warm air, causing the warm air to rise rapidly. Most vortices remain suspended in the atmosphere. Should they touch down, they become a force of destruction. Some ingredients for tornado formation include:

- Very strong winds in the mid and upper levels of the atmosphere
- Clockwise turning of the wind with height (from southeast at the surface to west aloft)
- Increasing wind speed with altitude in the lowest 10,000 feet of the atmosphere (i.e., 20 mph at the surface and 50 mph at 7,000 feet.)
- Very warm, moist air near the ground with unusually cooler air aloft
- A forcing mechanism such as a cold front or leftover weather boundary from previous shower or thunderstorm activity

Tornados are most common in the summer, June through August and most form in the afternoon or evening. Tornados can be associated with strong thunderstorms.

Tornado damage severity is measured by the Fujita Tornado Scale, in which wind speed is not measured directly but rather estimated from the amount of damage. As of February 01, 2007, the National Weather Service began rating tornados using the Enhanced Fujita-scale (EF-scale), which allows surveyors to create more precise assessments of tornado severity. The EF-scale is summarized in Table 29 below:

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The frequency of tornadoes in eastern Massachusetts is low; on average, there are six tornadoes that touchdown somewhere in the Northeast region every year. The strongest tornado in Massachusetts history was the Worcester Tornado in 1953 (NESEC).

Recent tornado events in Massachusetts resulted in significant damage in Springfield in 2011 and in Revere in 2014. The Springfield tornado caused significant damage and resulted in four deaths in June of 2011. The Revere tornado touched down in Chelsea just south of Route 16, moved north into Revere's business district along Broadway, and ended near the intersection of Routes 1 and 60. The path was approximately two miles long and 3/8 mile wide, with wind speeds up to 120 miles per hour. Approximately 65 homes had substantial damage and 13 homes and businesses were rendered uninhabitable. And on August 22, 2016, an F1 tornado passed through part of nearby Concord, Concord. It impacted an area 0.85 miles long by 400 yards wide. According to the report from the National Centers for Environmental Information:

"This tornado touched down near the Cambridge Turnpike and headed northeast. Most of the damage was concentrated in an area beginning near the intersection of Lexington Road and Alcott Road and continuing up to the neighborhood of Alcott and Independence Roads. Numerous trees were uprooted or had the tops sheared off. These subsequently blocked roads, damaged homes, and downed power lines, cutting off power to the neighborhood. In addition, utility poles were downed either from the wind or from the downed power lines. Thirty-nine houses in this area were damaged to some degree. Only one house suffered significant structural damage. The tornado continued for a short distance beyond this neighborhood before lifting. The historical home of Louisa May Alcott and her family was right next to the tornado path but was not damaged."

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Table 29: Enhanced Fujita Scale

Scale	Wind speed		Relative frequency	Potential damage	
	mph	km/h			
EF0	65–85	105–137	53.5%	Minor damage. Peels surface off some roofs; some damage to gutters or siding; branches broken off trees; shallow-rooted trees pushed over. Confirmed tornadoes with no reported damage (i.e., those that remain in open fields) are always rated EF0.	
EF1	86–110	138–178	31.6%	Moderate damage. Roofs severely stripped; mobile homes overturned or badly damaged; loss of exterior doors; windows and other glass broken.	
EF2	111–135	179–218	10.7%	Considerable damage. Roofs torn off well-constructed houses; foundations of frame homes shifted; mobile homes completely destroyed; large trees snapped or uprooted; light-object missiles generated; cars lifted off ground.	
EF3	136–165	219–266	3.4%	Severe damage. Entire stories of well-constructed houses destroyed; severe damage to large buildings such as shopping malls; trains overturned; trees debarked; heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown; structures with weak foundations blown away some distance.	
EF4	166–200	267–322	0.7%	Extreme damage to near-total destruction. Well-constructed houses and whole frame houses completely leveled; cars thrown and small missiles generated.	
EF5	>200	>322	<0.1%	Massive Damage. Strong frame houses leveled off foundations and swept away; steel-reinforced concrete structures critically damaged; high-rise buildings have severe structural deformation. Incredible phenomena will occur.	

Source: SHMCAP 2018

There has not been a recorded tornado within the limits of the City of Watertown. Since 1955 there have been 18 tornadoes in surrounding Middlesex County recorded by the National Center for Environmental Information. Two of these were F3 tornadoes, and four were F2. These 18 tornadoes resulted in a total of one fatality and six injuries and \$4.88 million in damages, as summarized in Table 30.

Table 30: Tornado Records for Middlesex County

Date	Fujita Scale	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage \$	Length (mile)	Width (yard)
10/24/1955	1	0	0	2.50K	10	0.1
6/19/1957	1	0	0	25.00K	17	1
6/19/1957	1	0	0	0.25K	100	0.5
7/11/1958	2	0	0	250.00K	17	1.5
8/25/1958	2	0	0	2.50K	50	1

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7/3/1961	0	0	0	25.00K	10	0.5
7/18/1963	1	0	0	25.00K	50	1
8/28/1965	2	0	0	250.00K	10	2
7/11/1970	1	0	0	25.00K	50	0.1
10/3/1970	3	1	0	250.00K	60	35.4
7/1/1971	1	0	1	25.00K	10	25.2
11/7/1971	1	0	0	0.25K	10	0.1
7/21/1972	2	0	4	2.500M	37	7.6
9/29/1974	3	0	1	250.00K	33	0.1
7/18/1983	0	0	0	0.25K	20	0.4
9/27/1985	1	0	0	0.25K	40	0.1
8/7/1986	1	0	0	250.00K	73	4
8/22/2016	1	0	0	1.000M	400	.85
8/23/2021	0	0	0	10.00K		
TOTAL		1	6	4.88M		

Source: NOAA, National Center for Environmental Information

Buildings constructed prior to current building codes may be more vulnerable to damages caused by tornadoes. Evacuation of impacted areas may be required on short notice. Sheltering and mass feeding efforts may be required along with debris clearance, search and rescue, and emergency fire and medical services. Key routes may be blocked by downed trees and other debris, and widespread power outages are also typically associated with tornadoes. At this time, the Massachusetts State Building Code's provisions are the most cost-effective mitigation measure against tornados given the extremely low probability of occurrence.

Although tornadoes are a potential town-wide hazard in Watertown, tornado impacts are relatively localized compared to severe storms and hurricanes. Damages from any tornado in Watertown would greatly depend on the track of the tornado.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Based on the record of previous occurrences since 1950, Tornado events in Watertown are a very low frequency event as defined by the Resilient MA Plan.

Tornadoes and Climate Change

According to the SHMCAP, it is possible that severe thunderstorms which can include tornadoes may increase in frequency and intensity. However, scientists have less confidence in the models that seek to project future changes in tornado activity. Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Change Assessment does not include information related to tornadoes.

WINTER HAZARDS

Winter storms, including heavy snow, blizzards, and ice storms, are the most common and most familiar of the region's hazards that affect large geographic areas. The majority of blizzards and ice storms in the region cause more inconvenience than they do serious property damage, injuries, or deaths. However, periodically, a storm will occur which is a true disaster, and necessitates intense large-scale emergency response.

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SEVERE WINTER STORM/NOR'EASTER

A northeast coastal storm, known as a nor'easter, is typically a large counter-clockwise wind circulation around a low-pressure center. Featuring strong northeasterly winds blowing in from the ocean over coastal areas, nor'easters are relatively common in the winter months in New England occurring one to two times a year. The storm radius of a nor'easter can be as much as 1,000 miles and these storms feature sustained winds of 20 to 40 mph with gusts of up to 70 mph. These storms are accompanied by heavy rains or snows, depending on temperatures. Nor'easters may also sit stationary for several days, affecting multiple tide cycles and extended heavy precipitation.

Many of the historic flood events identified in the previous section were precipitated by nor'easters, including the "Perfect Storm" event in 1991. More recently, blizzards in December 2010, October 2011, February 2013, and January 2015, and March 2018 were large nor'easters that caused significant snowfall amounts.

Previous occurrences of Nor'easters are listed in Table 31.

Table 31: Nor'easter Events for Massachusetts, 1978 - 2021

Date	Nor'easter Event
February 1978	Blizzard of 1978
October 1991	Severe Coastal Storm ("Perfect Storm")
December 1992	Great Nor'easter of 1992
January 2005	Blizzard/Nor'easter
October 2005	Coastal Storm/Nor'easter
April 2007	Severe Storms, Inland & Coastal Flooding/Nor'easter
January 2011	Winter Storm/Nor'easter
October 2011	Severe Storm/Nor'easter
February 2013	Blizzard of 2013
January 2015	Blizzard of 2015
March 2015	March 2015 Nor'easters
January 2018	January 2018
March 2018	March 2018

Watertown is vulnerable to both the wind and precipitation that accompanies nor'easters. High winds can cause damage to structures, fallen trees, and downed power lines leading to power outages. Intense rainfall can overwhelm drainage systems causing localized flooding of rivers and streams as well as urban stormwater ponding and localized flooding. Fallen tree limbs as well as heavy snow accumulation and intense rainfall can impede local transportation corridors, and block access for emergency vehicles.

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The entire City of Watertown could be at risk from the wind, rain or snow impacts from a nor'easter, depending on the track and radius of the storm, but due to its inland location the town is not subject to coastal hazards.

Based on the record of previous occurrences, nor'easters in Watertown are high frequency events as defined by the 2013 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan. This hazard may occur more frequently than once in 5 years (greater than 20% per year).

BLIZZARDS & HEAVY SNOW

A blizzard is a winter snow storm with sustained or frequent wind gusts to 35 mph or more, accompanied by falling or blowing snow reducing visibility to or below $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. These conditions must be the predominant condition over a 3 hour period. Extremely cold temperatures are often associated with blizzard conditions, but are not a formal part of the definition. The hazard created by the combination of snow, wind and low visibility significantly increases, however, with temperatures below 20 degrees.

Winter storms are a combination hazard because they often involve wind, ice and heavy snow fall. The National Weather Service defines "heavy snow fall" as an event generating at least 4 inches of snowfall within a 12 hour period. Winter Storms are often associated with a Nor'easter event, a large counter-clockwise wind circulation around a low-pressure center often resulting in heavy snow, high winds, and rain. Blizzards and winter storms are often associated with a Nor'easter event (see Nor'easters section above).

The Regional Snowfall Index (RSI) characterizes and ranks the severity of northeast snowstorms. RSI has five categories: Extreme, Crippling, Major, Significant, and Notable. RSI scores are a function of the area affected by the storm, the amount of snow, and the number of people living in the path of the storm. The largest RSI values result from storms producing heavy snowfall over large areas that include major metropolitan centers. The RSI categories are shown in Table 32.

Table 32: Regional Snowfall Index

Category	RSI	Value Description
1	1 – 3	Notable
2	3-6	Significant
3	6-10	Major
4	10-18	Crippling
5	18+	Extreme

Source: 2018 SHMCAP

The most significant winter storm in recent history was the "Blizzard of 1978," which resulted in over 3 feet of snowfall and multiple day closures of roadways, businesses, and schools.

The best available data on previous occurrences and impacts of heavy snow events in Watertown is available for Middlesex County from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) records. From 2010 to 2022, Middlesex County experienced nearly 40 days with heavy snowfall events, resulting in no injuries, deaths, and property damage of \$142,500, as shown in Table 33.

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Table 33: Heavy Snow Events in Middlesex County, 2010 to 2022

Date	Deaths	Injuries	Property Damage (\$)
1/18/2010	0	0	0
2/16/2010	0	0	15,000
2/23/2010	0	0	8,000
1/12/2011	0	0	0
10/29/2011	0	0	30,000
12/29/2012	0	0	0
2/8/2013	0	0	0
2/8/2013	0	0	0
2/23/2013	0	0	0
3/7/2013	0	0	0
3/18/2013	0	0	0
12/14/2013	0	0	0
12/17/2013	0	0	0
1/2/2014	0	0	0
1/18/2014	0	0	0
2/5/2014	0	0	0
2/13/2014	0	0	0
2/18/2014	0	0	0
11/26/2014	0	0	10,000
1/24/2015	0	0	0
1/26/2015	0	0	0
2/2/2015	0	0	0
2/8/2015	0	0	0
2/14/2015	0	0	0
2/5/2016	0	0	75,000
3/21/2016	0	0	0
4/4/2016	0	0	0
12/29/2016	0	0	0
3/14/2017	0	0	0
11/15/2018	0	0	0
12/1/2019	0	0	4,000
1/18/20	0	0	0
3/23/20	0	0	0
10/30/20	0	0	500
12/05/20	0	0	0
12/16/20	0	0	0
2/1/21	0	0	0
1/28/22	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	\$142,500

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Source: NOAA, National Climatic Data Center

An indication of previous severe winter events is the list of Presidentially-declared disasters for blizzards snowstorms. There have been 14 since 1978, as shown in Table 29. The most significant single winter storm was the “Blizzard of 1978,” which resulted in over three feet of snowfall and multiple day closures of roadways, businesses, and schools. The record snowfall of January 2015 resulted from a series of storms over that month. The most recent significant winter event was Winter Storm Kenan (January 29, 2022), which resulted in 30.9” of snow in Massachusetts (Stucker, 2022).

Table 34: Winter-Related Federal Disaster Declarations, 1978-2022

Disaster Name	Date of Event
Coastal Storms, Flood, Ice & Snow	February 1978
Winter Coastal Storm	December 1992
Blizzard	March 1993
Blizzard	January 1996
Snowstorm	March 2001
Snowstorm	February 2003
Snowstorm	December 2003
Snowstorm	January 2005
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm	January 2011
Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, Flooding	February 2013
Severe winter storm, snowstorm, flooding	January 2015
Severe winter storm and Snowstorm	March 2018
Severe winter storm and flooding	March 2018
Severe winter storm and snowstorm	January 2022

Sources: OpenFEMA Dataset: Disaster Declarations and FEMA Declared Disasters

Winter storms are a potential town-wide hazard in Watertown. They are considered a high frequency event in the city. The impacts of winter storms are often related to the weight of snow and ice, which can cause roof collapses and also causes tree limbs to fall which can in turn cause power outages, property damage, and injuries. The city's vulnerability is primarily related to restrictions to travel on roadways, road closures, school closures, and potential restrictions on emergency vehicle access. The City works to clear roads and carries out general snow removal operations, and bans on-street parking during snow removal to ensure that streets can be plowed and public safety vehicle access is maximized. Another winter storm vulnerability is power outages due to fallen trees and utility lines.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Blizzards are considered to be high frequency events based on past occurrences. This hazard occurs more than once in five years, with a greater than 20 percent chance of occurring yearly.

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ICE STORMS

The ice storm category covers a range of different weather phenomena that collectively involve rain or snow being converted to ice in the lower atmosphere leading to potentially hazardous conditions on the ground. Ice storm conditions are defined by liquid rain falling and freezing on contact with cold objects, creating ice buildups of one-fourth of an inch or more. An ice storm warning, which is now included in the criteria for a winter storm warning, is issued when a half inch or more of accretion of freezing rain is expected.

Sleet and hail are other forms of frozen precipitation. Sleet occurs when raindrops fall into subfreezing air thick enough that the raindrops refreeze into ice before hitting the ground. The difference between sleet and hail is that sleet is a wintertime phenomenon whereas hail falls from convective clouds (usually thunderstorms), often during the warm spring and summer months (a description of hail is included in a subsequent report section).

The best available data on previous ice storm events are recorded at the county level through NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Storm Events Database. Middlesex County, which includes the City of Watertown, experienced three events from 1998 to 2023 which caused a total of \$3,155,000 in damages (Table 35).

Table 35: Middlesex County Ice Storm Events, 1998 –2023

BEGIN_DATE	EVENT_TYPE	DEATHS	INJURIES	DAMAGE
1/9/1998	Ice Storm	0	0	5,000
11/16/2002	Ice Storm	0	0	150,000
12/11/2008	Ice Storm	1	0	3,000,000
TOTAL		0	0	3,155,000

Source: NOAA, National Centers for Environmental Information.

The greatest hazard is created by freezing rain conditions, which is rain that freezes on contact with hard surfaces leading to a layer of ice on roads, walkways, trees, and other surfaces. The conditions created by freezing rain can make driving particularly dangerous and emergency response more difficult. The weight of ice on tree branches can also lead to falling branches causing power outages and blocking roadways. The impacts of winter storms may also include roof collapses and property damage and injuries related to the weight of snow and ice.

Probability of Future Occurrences

Ice storms are considered to be medium-frequency events based on past occurrences. This hazard occurs once in 5 years to once in 50 years, with 2% to 20% chance of occurring each year.

Winter Weather and Climate Change

As with hurricanes, warmer ocean water and air will provide more fuel for winter storms. According to the 2018 SHMCAP it appears that Atlantic coast nor'easters are increasing in frequency and intensity. Further, the SHMCAP notes that research suggests that warmer weather

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in the Arctic is producing changes to atmospheric circulation patterns that favor the development of winter storms in the Eastern United States. There is also some indication that as winters warm, temperatures may be more likely to produce icing conditions. Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Change Assessment predicts more mild winters, increased precipitation in the winter months, and multiple freeze-thaw cycles every winter due to warming temperatures (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2022).

NON-CLIMATE INFLUENCED HAZARDS

EARTHQUAKES

EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes are the sole natural hazard for which there is no established correlation with climate impacts. Damage in an earthquake stems from ground motion, surface faulting, and ground failure in which weak or unstable soils, such as those composed primarily of saturated sand or silts, liquefy. The effects of an earthquake are mitigated by distance and ground materials between the epicenter and a given location. An earthquake in New England affects a much wider area than a similar earthquake in California due to New England's solid bedrock geology (NESEC). Earthquakes can also trigger landslides

Seismologists use a magnitude scale known as the Richter scale to express the seismic energy released by each earthquake. The typical effects of earthquakes in various ranges are summarized in Table 36.

According to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, New England experiences an average of five earthquakes per year. From 1668 to 2016, 408 earthquakes were recorded in Massachusetts (NESEC). Most have originated from the La Malbaie fault in Quebec or from the Cape Ann fault located off the coast of Rockport. The region has experienced larger earthquakes in the distant past, including a magnitude 5.0 earthquake in 1727 and a 6.0 earthquake that struck in 1755 off the coast of Cape Ann. More recently, a pair of damaging earthquakes occurred near Ossipee, NH in 1940. A 4.0 earthquake centered in Hollis, Maine in October 2012 was felt in the Boston area. Historic records of some of the more significant earthquakes in the region are shown in Table 37.

Table 36: Richter Scale and Effects

Richter Magnitudes	Earthquake Effects
Less than 3.5	Generally, not felt, but recorded
3.5- 5.4	Often felt, but rarely causes damage
Under 6.0	At most slight damage to well-designed buildings. Can cause major damage to poorly constructed buildings over small regions.
6.1-6.9	Can be destructive in areas up to about 100 km. across where people live.
7.0- 7.9	Major earthquake. Can cause serious damage over larger areas.
8 or greater	Great earthquake. Serious damage in areas several hundred meters across.

Source: Nevada Seismological Library (NSL), 2005

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Table 37: Historic Earthquakes in Massachusetts or Surrounding Area

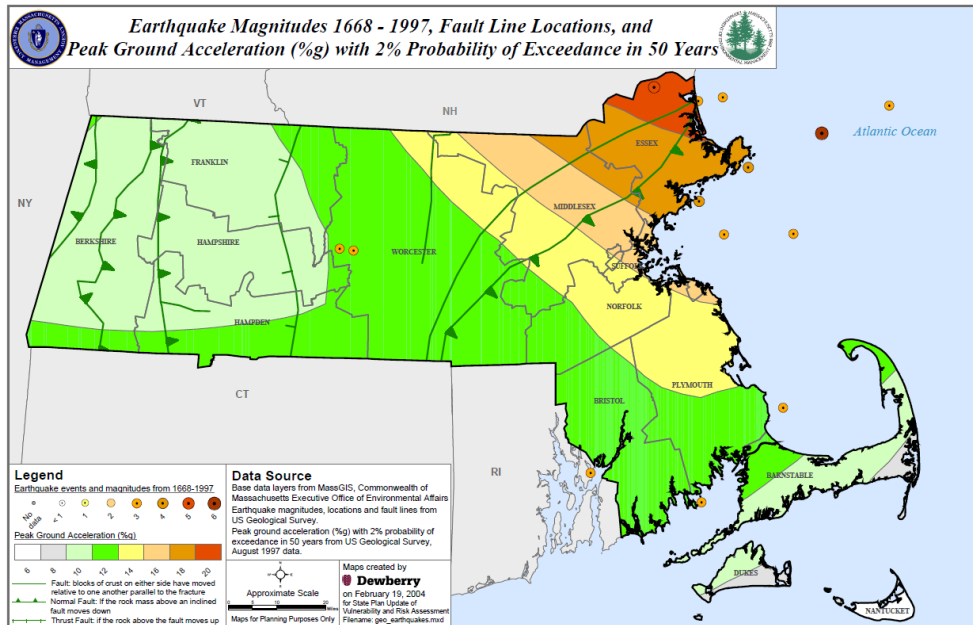
Location	Date	Magnitude
MA - Cape Ann	11/10/1727	5
MA - Cape Ann	12/29/1727	NA
MA - Cape Ann	2/10/1728	NA
MA - Cape Ann	3/30/1729	NA
MA - Cape Ann	12/9/1729	NA
MA - Cape Ann	2/20/1730	NA
MA - Cape Ann	3/9/1730	NA
MA – Boston	6/24/1741	NA
MA - Cape Ann	6/14/1744	4.7
MA – Salem	7/1/1744	NA
MA - Off Cape Ann	11/18/1755	6
MA - Off Cape Cod	11/23/1755	NA
MA – Boston	3/12/1761	4.6
MA - Off Cape Cod	2/2/1766	NA
MA – Offshore	1/2/1785	5.4
MA - Wareham/Taunton	12/25/1800	NA
MA – Woburn	10/5/1817	4.3
MA - Marblehead	8/25/1846	4.3
MA – Brewster	8/8/1847	4.2
MA – Boxford	5/12/1880	NA
MA – Newbury	11/7/1907	NA
MA - Wareham	4/25/1924	NA
MA - Cape Ann	1/7/1925	4
MA - Nantucket	10/25/1965	NA
MA – Boston	12/27/74	2.3
MA - Nantucket	4/12/12	4.5
ME – Hollis	10/17/12	4.0

Source: Boston HIRA

One measure of earthquake risk is ground motion, which is measured as maximum peak horizontal acceleration, expressed as a percentage of gravity (%g). The range of peak ground acceleration in Massachusetts is from 10 %g to 20 %g, with a 2% probability of exceedance in 50 years, as shown in Figure 20. Watertown is in the middle part of the range for Massachusetts, at 12-14g, making it a moderate area of earthquake risk relative to the state, although Massachusetts as a whole is considered to have a low risk of earthquakes compared to the rest of the country. There have been no recorded earthquake epicenters within Watertown.

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Figure 20: Massachusetts Earthquake Probability Map



Source: 2018 SHMCAP

Although New England has not experienced a damaging earthquake since 1755, seismologists state that a serious earthquake occurrence is possible. There are five seismological faults in Massachusetts, but there is no discernible pattern of previous earthquakes along these fault lines. Earthquakes occur without warning and may be followed by aftershocks. The majority of older buildings and infrastructure were constructed without specific earthquake resistant design features.

Earthquakes are a hazard with multiple impacts beyond the obvious building collapse. Buildings may suffer structural damage which may or may not be readily apparent. Earthquakes can cause major damage to roadways, making emergency response difficult. Water lines and gas lines can break, causing flooding and fires. Another potential vulnerability is equipment within structures. For example, a hospital may be structurally engineered to withstand an earthquake, but if the equipment inside the building is not properly secured, the operations at the hospital could be severely impacted during an earthquake.

Earthquakes are a potential town-wide hazard in Watertown. The town has many un-reinforced, older buildings which would be vulnerable in the event of a severe earthquake. Potential earthquake damage to Watertown has been estimated by HAZUS-MH. Property damages are estimated at \$904 million for a 5.0 magnitude earthquake and \$5.8 billion in a magnitude 7 earthquake.

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Probability of Future Events

There are several ways the probability of future occurrences has been estimated. According to the Boston College Weston Observatory, in most parts of New England, there is a one in ten chance that a potentially damaging earthquake will occur in a 50-year time period. According to the SHMCAP there is a 10-15% chance of a magnitude 5 earthquake in a given ten-year period. The Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation Plan classifies earthquakes as "very low" frequency events that occur less frequently than once in 100 years.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

EXISTING LAND USE

Table 38 shows the acreage and percentage of land in 17 categories. The three most significant types of land use can be summarized as follows:

- If the four residential categories are aggregated, residential uses make up 40.6% of the area of the town (1,090 acres).
- Rights of way and Developed Open Space/Impervious combined comprise a total of 25.1%, or 665 acres.
- Commercial and industrial combined make up 12.7% of the town, or 340 acres.

Table 38: Watertown Land Use 2016

Land Use	Acres	Proportion (%)
Unknown	32	1.2
Open land	104	3.9
Commercial	228	8.6
Industrial	112	4.2
Developed Open Space/Impervious	220	8.3
Grassland/Pasture/Hay	24	0.9
Forest/Shrub	175	6.6
Wetlands	9	0.3
Water	3	0.1
Mixed use, primarily residential	34	1.3
Residential - single family	421	15.9
Residential - multi-family	634	24.0
Residential - other	1	0.0
Mixed use, other	38	1.4
Mixed use, primarily commercial	89	3.4
Right-of-way	445	16.8
Water	71	2.7
TOTAL	2,640	100

Source: Massachusetts GIS, 2016 Land Use Inventory

Economic Elements

Watertown has several major economic centers distributed throughout the city. Commercial and mixed-use activity is concentrated in key corridors including Mount Auburn Street, Arsenal Street, Main Street, and the Watertown Square area. The Arsenal Street corridor in particular has

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evolved into a significant life sciences, technology, retail, and office hub, anchored by the redevelopment of the former Arsenal property and proximity to Cambridge and Boston. According to recent economic data, Watertown supports thousands of jobs across several hundred businesses, reflecting its role as a regional employment center within the Greater Boston area.

Historic, Cultural, and Natural Resource Areas

Founded in 1630, Watertown has been described as the “mother town” as it was one of America’s earliest colonial settlements and served as an entry into the heartland of America for early settlers. These early arrivals to the “New World” were welcomed by Native Americans of the Pequotsette Tribe, who had a long-established tribal network strategically situated to access the natural bounties of the Charles River. Early colonial accounts of the area describe the abundance of bass, salmon, and herring making their way to and from the sea for spawning.

During the past 300 years, the Charles River along its length changed from a bountiful aquatic habitat to a polluted waterway, damaged by former use as an open sewer for industrial and human wastes. It was reborn as a “water parkway” in the late 1890's only to decline in the mid-20th century and then be rediscovered as a regional recreational asset. The river has begun to rebound with aquatic life, improved water quality, and a significant return of recreational activities. Additionally, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) continues to make improvements to the Charles River Reservation land that enhances open space and recreational opportunities for Watertown’s residents and visitors.

Watertown’s open space system is closely linked to the larger regional system of open space and natural areas of its neighboring communities. The Charles River links Watertown ecologically and recreationally with Cambridge and Boston to the east and with up-stream communities such as Waltham, Newton, Weston, Wellesley, Needham and beyond. Watertown’s open space network is particularly closely connected with Cambridge where the two communities share another significant regional landmark, the Mt. Auburn Cemetery as a semi-public open space. Approximately 164 acres of the 175-acre Mt. Auburn Cemetery are in Watertown, making it the largest contiguous open space in Watertown. Narrative from the Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015. Other notable historic, cultural and natural resources are summarized in Table 39.

Table 39: Watertown’s Historical, Cultural, and Natural Resource Areas

Resource Type	Number of Sites
All Types	1468
Areas	31
Buildings	1061
Objects	310
Structures	63
Burial Grounds	3

MACRIS database accessed February 2026

Watertown hosts a vibrant and growing arts and cultural community. Watertown is home to institutions such as the Mosesian Center for the Arts, a multidisciplinary venue offering theater, music, exhibitions, workshops, and arts education; the New Repertory Theatre, a professional theater company resident at the Mosesian Center; the Armenian Museum of America, which

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preserves and exhibits Armenian history and culture; and the Watertown Free Public Library, which provides cultural programming and community events. The city also supports annual events like the Watertown Arts Market and city-wide public art initiatives that showcase local creative talent, and a state-designated Watertown Cultural District centered around Watertown Square that brings together galleries, performance spaces, and public programming.

Watertown covers about 7 square miles along the Charles River just west of Boston and is one of the earliest Massachusetts Bay settlements, incorporated in 1630. The city's landscapes range from riverfront paths and parks, such as Saltonstall Park, Arsenal Park, and the Charles River Reservation, to residential neighborhoods and historic sites like Mount Auburn Cemetery. Watertown's water resources and open space areas are valued for recreation, natural beauty, and ecological protection. The city works to maintain and enhance these public spaces while preserving historical and community character.

DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

By the early twentieth century, Watertown had transitioned from its colonial agricultural origins to a more urbanized community characterized by residential neighborhoods and industrial activity along the Charles River. Over time, many former industrial sites have been redeveloped for commercial, office, and mixed-use purposes. In recent decades, improved regional transportation access and proximity to Boston and Cambridge have supported growth in the commercial and life sciences sectors. Watertown has also experienced continued housing development, driven by strong regional job growth and its appeal as a walkable inner-ring suburb with convenient commuting options. Development pressure is expected to continue as the community evolves.

MAPC consulted with the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Team to determine areas that have been recently developed or may be developed in the future, based on the City's comprehensive planning efforts and locally identified projects.

Table 40: Summary of Watertown Developments Since 2019 Plan

SITE #	LOCATON / NAME	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
B	Boston Scientific		
D	Port Oil/MT Auburn St	Residential use, approx. 40 units	Approved by planning board in 2025
J	Athena Campus	Arsenal on the Charles	Completed in 2024
K	Arsenal Yards	Mixed Use Neighborhood	Completed in 2022
L	330 Pleasant St	Watermills	Completed 2021
M	385 Pleasant St	The Aver	Completed
R	101 Morse St	36 units; 6 affordable	Completed 2022

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S	166 Main St	34 units, 5 affordable; commercial	Completed 2024
T	Arranta Bio	commercial/lab; 650 Pleasant Stest	Completed 2021
U	85 Walnut St	commercial/lab	Under construction; est. completion 2022
V	202 Arsenal St	commercial/lab	approved, under appeal
W	66 Galen St	2 phases; commercial/lab	under construction; est 2024
X	580 Pleasant St	commercial/lab	under construction; est 2022
Y	705 Mt Auburn/64 Grove St	commercial/lab	under construction 2021
Z	99 Coolidge Ave	commercial/lab	under construction; est 2023
AA	64 Pleasant St	commercial/lab	substantially completed; est 2024
BB	23 Elm St	commercial/lab	under construction
CC	Former Russo's site	office/lab	Estimated completion 2025; 560 Pleasant St
DD	Former Sterritt Lumber	commercial/lab	approved; 148 Walham St
EE	LINX Phase 2	commercial/lab; 490 Arsenal way	Estimated completion 2025
FF	104 Main Street	retail	approved
GG	Watertown Mall & adjoining properties	88 units; commercial/lab	approved
HH	330 Forge Road	commercial/lab	approved
II	1 Rosary Drive	multi-family	approved

Potential Future Development

MAPC consulted with town planning staff to determine areas that may be developed in the future, based on the city's comprehensive planning efforts and current trends and projects. These areas are described below. In order to characterize any change in the city's vulnerability associated with new developments, a GIS mapping analysis was conducted which overlaid the development sites with the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map.

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DEVELOPMENT SITES IN HAZARD AREAS

Table 41 shows the relationship of these parcels to the mapped hazard from Appendix A. This information is provided so that planners can ensure that development proposals comply with flood plain zoning and that careful attention is paid to drainage issues.

Table 41: Watertown New Developments in Relation to Hazard Areas

site_id	Parcel	Acres	Locally Identified flooding area	Brushfire Risk	Flood_Zones	hotspots	Landslide Risk
B	Boston Scientific	6.069864326	59.28% in Charles River		55.45% in AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE , and 16.92% in X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding	41.23% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
D	Port Oil / Mount Auburn St	0.571489975				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
J	Athena Campus	5.473786963				17.07% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
K	Arsenal Yards	20.08965269				55.15% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
L	330 Pleasant	1.607677481	36.33% in Charles River		29.48% in AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE , and 65.89% in X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding		Low incidence

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M	385 Pleasant St.	9.026351111				89.53% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
N	Marriott Inn Hotel	1.074897282				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
Q	Howard Bacon	0.86686119					Low incidence
R	101 Morse St	0.707399135					Low incidence
S	166 Main St	0.355321562				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
T	Arranta Bio	2.986116937	10.12% in Charles River		5.51% in AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE , and 3.76% in X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding	57.66% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
U	85 Walnut St	5.033042808				82.44% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
V	202 Arsenal St	5.880414399		4.82% in Bike Path - Arsenal St. and Pleasant St.		13.56% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
W	66 Galen St	2.453119512				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence

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X	580 Pleasant St	5.451960207	14.07% in Charles River		14.48% in AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE	31.07% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
Y	705 Mt Auburn/64 Grove St	13.12429194				91.02% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
Z	99 Coolidge	3.977793474					Low incidence
AA	64 Pleasant	2.414213159			3.05% in AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE , and 0.0% in X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding	12.77% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
BB	23 Elm St	1.027997421				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
CC	Former Russo's	3.544244489				98.34% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
DD	Former Sterritt Lumber	2.526363177				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
EE	Linx phase 2	8.315873289				32.69% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence

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FF	104 Main St	1.627662193				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
GG	Watertown mall and adjoining properties	23.4211259				100.0% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in MAPC Region	Low incidence
HH	330 Forge Road					46.2% in top 5% hottest land surface temperature in the MAPC Region	Low Incidence
II	1 Rosary Dr						Low Incidence

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN HAZARD AREAS

Critical infrastructure includes facilities that are important for disaster response and evacuation (such as emergency operations centers, fire stations, water pump stations, etc.) and facilities where additional assistance might be needed during an emergency (such as nursing homes, elderly housing, day care centers, etc.). There are 86 facilities identified in Watertown. These are listed in Table 42 and are shown on the maps in Appendix A.

Table 42: Critical Facilities and Relationship to Hazard Areas

OBJECT ID	NAME	TYPE	Landslides	FEMA Flood Zone	Within Locally Identified Area of Flooding	Annual Snow Zone
1	Watertown Town Hall	Municipal	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
2	Watertown Health Department	Municipal	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
3	Public Safety Communications	Police Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
4	EOC-Secondary Fire HQ	Emergency Operations Center	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
5	Fire Department #2	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0

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6	Fire Department HQ	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
7	Fire Department #3	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
8	Harvard Vanguard Medical Facility Associates	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
9	Caritas Medical Facility Group At Watertow	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
10	St. Elizabeths Caritas Clinic	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
11	Milestones Child Care & Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
12	Bright Horizons on the Charles	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
13	Caterpillars to Butterflies	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
14	First Path Day Care Center	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
15	Four Seasons Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
16	Russell Cooperative Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
17	St. Stephens Armenian Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
18	Stepping Stones Child Care Center, Inc.	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
19	Storyville Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
20	Watertown Cooperative Nursery School	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
21	Watertown Creative Start	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
22	Watertown Town Hall	Municipal	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
23	Watertown Health Department	Municipal	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
24	Public Safety Communications	Police Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
25	EOC- Secondary Fire HQ	Emergency Operations Center	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
26	Fire Department #3	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0

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27	Fire Department HQ	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
28	Fire Department #4	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
29	Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
30	Caritas Medical Facility Group At Watertown	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
31	St. Elizabeths Caritas Clinic	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
32	Milestones Child Care & Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
33	Bright Horizons on the Charles	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
34	Caterpillars to Butterflies	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
35	First Path Day Care Center	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
36	Four Seasons Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
37	Russell Cooperative Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
38	St. Stephens Armenian Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
39	Stepping Stones Child Care Center, Inc.	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
40	Storyville Preschool	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
41	Watertown Cooperative Nursery School	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
42	Watertown Creative Start	Child Care	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
43	Watertown Town Hall	Municipal	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
44	Watertown Health Department	Municipal	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
45	Public Safety Communications	Police Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
46	EOC- Secondary Fire HQ	Emergency Operations Center	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
47	Fire Department #4	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0

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48	Fire Department HQ	Fire Station	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
51	MWRA Meter #2	MWRA	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
52	MWRA Water Meter #103	MWRA	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
53	MWRA Water Meter #92	MWRA	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
54	MWRA Water Isolation Valve	MWRA	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
55	Watertown Free Public Library	Municipal	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
56	Arsenal Apartment Elder Housing	Elder Housing	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
57	Watertown Elder Housing	Elder Housing	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
58	McSherry Gardens	Elder Housing	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
59	100 Warren Street Elder Housing	Elder Housing	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
60	Local Emergency Water Connection Belmont	Water Connection	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
61	Local Emergency Water Connection Belmont	Water Connection	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
62	Local Emergency Water Connection Newton	Water Connection	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
63	Local Emergency Water Connection Waltham	Water Connection	Low incidence	No	Gore Estate	H 48.1 - 72.0
64	Local Emergency Water Connection Waltham	Water Connection	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
65	Local Emergency Water Connection Waltham	Water Connection	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
66	Local Emergency Water	Water Connection	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0

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	Connection Waltham					
67	Clinic - Partners Urgent Care	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
68	Watertown Health Center	Nursing Home	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
69	Coolidge Hill Radio Antenna	Communications	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
70	Coolidge School Apartments	Senior Housing	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
71	MBTA Transit Hub	Transportation	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
72	Residence	Nursing Home/Assisted Living	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
73	AFC Urgent Clinic	Medical Facility	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
74	Circle of Boston Nursery School	Daycare	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
75	Day Hill/Municipal Annex	Daycare	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
76	First Step Child Care Center	Daycare	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
77	Open Wings Child Care Center	Daycare	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
78	Early Steps Watertown Integrated Pre-school	Daycare	Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
79	Public Works		Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
80	Public Works Annex		Low incidence	No	No	H 48.1 - 72.0
81	2nd Home Adult Day Health Care	Daycare	Low incidence	No	No	No
82	Mt Auburn Medical Facility	Medical Facility	Low incidence	AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding	Charles River	No
83	Public Safety Radio		Low incidence	No	No	No
84	Police Headquarters	Police	Low incidence	No	Police Headquarters	No
85	Armenian Museum of America	Museum	Low incidence	No	No	No
86	Temporary School Facility	School	Low incidence	No	No	No

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the vulnerability assessment is to estimate the extent of potential damages from natural hazards of varying types and intensities. A vulnerability assessment and estimation of damages was performed for hurricanes, earthquakes, and flooding. The methodology used for hurricanes and earthquakes was the HAZUS-MH software. The methodology for flooding was developed specifically to address the issue in many of the communities where flooding was not solely related to location within a floodplain.

Introduction to HAZUS-MH

HAZUS- MH (multiple-hazards) is a computer program developed by FEMA to estimate losses due to a variety of natural hazards. The following overview of HAZUS-MH is taken from the FEMA website. For more information on the HAZUS-MH software, go to <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/hazus/index.shtm>

“HAZUS-MH is a nationally applicable standardized methodology and software program that contains models for estimating potential losses from earthquakes, floods, and hurricane winds. HAZUS-MH was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under contract with the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS). Loss estimates produced by HAZUS-MH are based on current scientific and engineering knowledge of the effects of hurricane winds, floods and earthquakes. Estimating losses is essential to decision-making at all levels of government, providing a basis for developing and evaluating mitigation plans and policies as well as emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning.

HAZUS-MH uses state-of-the-art geographic information system (GIS) software to map and display hazard data and the results of damage and economic loss estimates for buildings and infrastructure. It also allows users to estimate the impacts of hurricane winds, floods and earthquakes on populations.”

There are three modules included with the HAZUS-MH software: hurricane wind, flooding, and earthquakes. There are also three levels at which HAZUS-MH can be run. Level 1 uses national baseline data and is the quickest way to begin the risk assessment process. The analysis that follows was completed using Level 1 data. Level 1 relies upon default data on building types, utilities, transportation, etc. from national databases as well as census data. While the databases include a wealth of information on the City of Watertown, it does not capture all relevant information. In fact, the HAZUS training manual notes that the default data is “subject to a great deal of uncertainty.”

However, for the purposes of this plan, the analysis is useful. This plan is attempting to generally indicate the possible extent of damages due to certain types of natural disasters and to allow for a comparison between different types of disasters. Therefore, this analysis should be considered a starting point for understanding potential damages from the hazards.

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ESTIMATED DAMAGES FROM HURRICANES

The HAZUS-MH software was used to model potential damages to the community from a 100 year and 500 year hurricane event; storms that are 1% and .0.2% likely to happen in a given year, and roughly equivalent to a Category 2 and Category 4 hurricane. The damages caused by these hypothetical storms were modeled as if the storm track passed directly through the City, bringing the strongest winds and greatest damage potential (Table 43).

Though there are no recorded instances of a hurricane equivalent to a 500 year storm passing through Massachusetts, this model was included in order to present a reasonable “worst case scenario” that would help planners and emergency personnel evaluate the impacts of storms that might be more likely in the future, as we enter into a period of more intense and frequent storms.

Table 43 - Estimated Damages from Hurricanes

	100 Year	500 Year
Building Characteristics		
Estimated total number of buildings	9,294	
Estimated total building replacement value (2006 \$)	\$5,461,919,000	
Building Damages		
# of buildings sustaining minor damage	512	1646
# of buildings sustaining moderate damage	55	366
# of buildings sustaining severe damage	2	29
# of buildings destroyed	1	41
Population Needs		
# of households displaced	0	17
# of people seeking public shelter	0	4
Debris		
Building debris generated (tons)	3,944	14,479
Tree debris generated (tons)	942	2,161
# of truckloads to clear building debris	119	491
Value of Damages		
Property damage (buildings and content)	\$34,000,000	\$152,300,000
Losses due to business interruption	\$1,656,900	\$15,394,260
Total	\$15,080,620	\$167,694,260

ESTIMATED DAMAGES FROM EARTHQUAKES

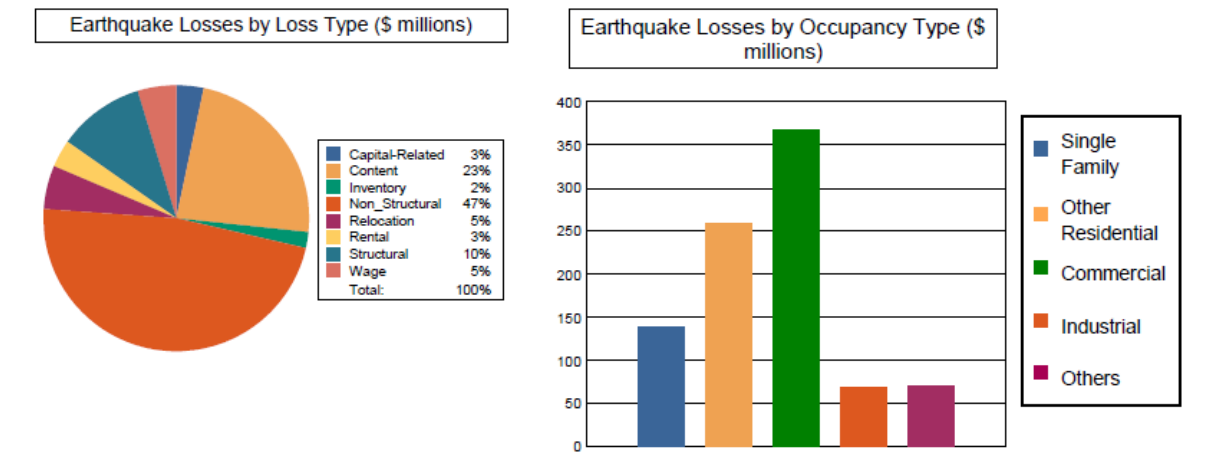
The HAZUS-MH earthquake module allows users to define an earthquake magnitude and model the potential damages caused by that earthquake as if its epicenter had been at the geographic center of the study area. For the purposes of this plan, two earthquakes were selected: magnitude 5.0 and magnitude 7.0 (Table 44). Historically, major earthquakes are rare in New England, though a magnitude 5 event occurred in 1963.

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Table 44 - Estimated Damages from Earthquakes

	Magnitude 5.0	Magnitude 7.0
Building Characteristics		
Estimated total number of buildings	9,294	
Estimated total building replacement value (2006 \$)	\$5,461,919,000	
Building Damages		
# of buildings sustaining slight damage	2,736	517
# of buildings sustaining moderate damage	1,512	2,218
# of buildings sustaining extensive damage	421	2,495
# of buildings completely damaged	124	4,000
Population Needs		
# of households displaced	799	10,363
# of people seeking public shelter	315	4,032
Debris		
Building debris generated (tons)	154,000	1,127,000
# of truckloads to clear debris (@ 25 tons/truck)	6,160	45,080
Value of Damages		
Income Losses	\$152,438,700	\$861,932,200
Capital Stock Losses	\$752,091,500	\$4,976,107,200
Total	\$904,530,200	\$5,838,040,000

Watertown Losses from a Magnitude 5 Earthquake



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ESTIMATED DAMAGES FROM FLOODING

The HAZUS-MH flood risk module was used to estimate damages to the municipality at the 100 and 500 return periods. These return periods correspond to flooding events that have a 1% and a 0.2% likelihood of occurring in any given year (Table 45).

Table 45: Estimated Damages from Flooding

	100 Year	500 Year
Building Characteristics		
Estimated total number of buildings	9,294	
Estimated total building replacement value (2006 \$)	\$5,461,191,000	
Building Damages		
# of buildings sustaining slight damage (<20%)	2	5
# of buildings sustaining moderate damage (20-50%)	0	1
# of buildings sustaining substantial damage (>50%)	0	0
Population Needs		
# of households displaced	77	125
# of people seeking public shelter	42	66
Debris		
Building debris generated (tons)	140	266
# of truckloads to clear building debris	6	11
Value of Damages		
Property damage (buildings and content)	\$13,470,000	\$23,790,000
Losses due to business interruption	\$16,320,000	\$26,890,000
Total:	\$29,780,000	\$50,680,000

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CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Table 46: Summary of Hazard Risks for Society, Built Environment, and Natural Resources

CLIMATE CHANGE	NATURAL HAZARD	KEY CONCERNS SOCIETY	KEY CONCERNS BUILT ENVIRONMENT	KEY CONCERNS NATURAL RESOURCES
Changes in Precipitation 	Inland Flooding	Elderly residents and environmental justice populations; property damage. Impacts on businesses	Roadway closures, damage to buildings; impacts on infrastructure	Pollutants, erosion, scouring, damage to habitat
	Drought	Increases costs for irrigation, drinking water supply	Impacts on landscaped areas, parks, playing fields, etc.	Impacts on streams, wetlands, vegetation
	Landslide	Private property damage	Damage to buildings and infrastructure	Erosion, sedimentation
Sea Level Rise 	Coastal Flooding	Property damage, impacts on businesses	Roadway closures, damage to buildings; impacts on infrastructure	Damage to coastal habitat
Rising Temperatures 	Average and Extreme Temperatures	Elderly populations if no access to cooling or financial resources to buy an AC		Increasing invasives, stress on aquatic and terrestrial habitats
	Wildfires	Air Quality - Smoke	Damage to buildings	Damage to resources
	Invasive species	Potential health impacts of pests	Impaired use of park and open space	Loss of biodiversity
Extreme Weather 	Hurricanes / Tropical Storms	Power outages; property damage, impacts to businesses	Street closures, house flooding, emergency access, wind damage to buildings, power outages	Tree damage
	Severe Winter Storms	Power outages, elderly, or isolated residents	Damage to public buildings with snow loads, power outages that can affect municipal operations, road blockages.	Tree damage
	Tornadoes	Property damage, impacts on businesses	Damage to buildings and infrastructure	Tree damage
	Thunderstorms/ Microbursts)	Power outages, property damage	Power loss, road closures (same as above)	Tree damage
Non-Climate Hazard	Earthquake	Property damage, impacts on businesses	Damage to buildings and infrastructure	Landslides

SECTION 5: HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS

The Watertown Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team reviewed and discussed the goals from the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Watertown. All of the goals were found to continue to be reflective of the city's priorities and concerns relative to natural hazard mitigation. A 10th goal was added to address the needs of priority populations. All of the goals are considered critical for the City and they are not listed in order of importance.

Goal 1: Prevent and reduce the loss of life, injury, public health impacts and property damages resulting from all major natural hazards.

Goal 2: Identify and seek funding for measures to mitigate or eliminate each known significant flood hazard area.

Goal 3: Integrate hazard mitigation planning as an integral factor in all relevant municipal departments, committees and boards.

Goal 4: Prevent and reduce the damage to public infrastructure resulting from all hazards.

Goal 5: Encourage the business community, major institutions and non-profits to work with the City to develop, review and implement the hazard mitigation plan.

Goal 6: Work with surrounding communities, state, regional and federal agencies to ensure regional cooperation and solutions for hazards affecting multiple communities.

Goal 7: Ensure that future development meets federal, state and local standards for preventing and reducing the impacts of natural hazards.

Goal 8: Take maximum advantage of resources from FEMA and MEMA to educate City staff and the public about hazard mitigation.

Goal 9: Consider the potential impacts of future climate change. Incorporate climate sustainability and resiliency in hazard mitigation planning.

Goal 10: Address priority populations in the hazard mitigation process, including outreach and engagement, analysis of hazard impacts, and development and implementation of mitigation measures.

SECTION 6: EXISTING MITIGATION MEASURES

The existing protections in the City of Watertown are a combination of zoning, land use, and environmental regulations, infrastructure maintenance and drainage infrastructure improvement projects. Infrastructure maintenance generally addresses localized drainage clogging problems, while large scale capacity problems may require pipe replacement or invert elevation modifications. These more expensive projects are subject to the capital budget process and lack of funding is one of the biggest obstacles to completion of some of these.

The city's existing mitigation measures, which were in place prior to the original 2019 Plan, are listed by hazard type here and are summarized in Table 42 below.

Mitigation Measures Relating to Multiple Hazards

There are several mitigation measures that impact more than one hazard. These include the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), the Massachusetts State Building Code and participation in a local Emergency Planning Committee.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

Every community in Massachusetts is required to have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. These plans address mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from a variety of natural and man-made emergencies. Watertown's CEMP was updated in 2023.

Massachusetts State Building Code

The Massachusetts State Building Code contains many detailed regulations regarding wind loads, earthquake resistant design, flood-proofing and snow loads. The City of Watertown has adopted the "Stretch Code." For enhanced energy efficiency.

Participation in the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Watertown is part of the Mystic Valley LEPC.

Flood Related Hazards

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Watertown participates in the NFIP with 80 policies in force as of April 2, 2025.

The City complies with the NFIP by enforcing floodplain regulations, maintaining up-to-date floodplain maps, and providing information to property owners and builders regarding floodplains and building requirements. The Watertown Conservation Agent is responsible for enforcing the city's floodplain regulations. The following information is provided for the City of Watertown:

Flood insurance policies in force (as of May 1, 2023)	80
Coverage amount of flood insurance policies	\$22,528,000
Total Number of Closed Paid Losses	18

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Number of Substantial Damage Closed Paid Losses	3
Closed Paid Losses	\$788,690

Since 1978 there have been 3 claims paid for substantial damage in Watertown (see table above). The Town implements the Substantial Improvements/Substantial Damages provisions of the floodplain management regulations as required per the NFIP (CFR Title 44, Parts 59 through 65) and Massachusetts State Building Code (780CMR). The Town will also coordinate with State Flood Hazard Management Program staff to assure that proper practices are followed and that a post-disaster plan will be in place to implement all Substantial Improvements/Substantial Damages provisions.

Other Flood Mitigation Measures

- *The City complies with the NFIP by enforcing floodplain regulations, maintaining up-to-date floodplain maps, and providing information to property owners and builders regarding floodplains and building requirements.*
- *Street sweeping* – Every street gets swept at least four times a year with the City completing on average 16 curb miles a week.
- *Catch basin cleaning* – The town has approximately 3200 catch basins that are cleaned every year on average. This service is contracted out by the town.
- *Drainage infrastructure maintenance* - The town requires a maintenance agreement in perpetuity on private drainage facilities. To the extent possible, the City requires all storm water to be handled on site rather than directed into the municipal storm drain system.
- *Roadway treatments* – The City uses liquid calcium salt additive.
- *Zoning Regulations* – Zoning is intended to protect the public health and safety through the regulation of land use. The Watertown Zoning Ordinance includes a Floodplain District. This was updated in July 2025.
- *Stormwater Ordinance* – A storm water ordinance is has been adopted to help the Town comply with the MS4 Stormwater Permit issued by EPA. The Ordinance requires stormwater retention up to the 100-year storm for new development
- *Wetlands Ordinance* - The Town of Watertown Wetlands Ordinance (Chapter XV) protects water resources, wetlands, and their adjoining land areas by controlling activities that might have a significant or cumulative impact on the recognized values of these resource areas, including their ability to serve as a flood control and storm damage prevention feature. Any activity that might fill or otherwise alter these resource areas requires a permit from the Watertown Conservation Commission. The adjoining land area under the protection of this by-law includes land within 150 feet of a pond or wetland and land within 200 feet of a river or stream as well as any land within a designated floodplain.
- *Watertown Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)* - Watertown's OSRP was updated in 2015 and identifies a number of open space parcels in identified hazard areas including floodplains and brush fire areas. For many of these parcels the plan recommends developing use and management plans, including lands along the Charles River and

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Whitney Hill. These management plans should include consideration of hazard issues such as flooding and brush fires.

Flooding: Existing Site-Specific Mitigation

The following sites were identified by Town staff as areas that have experienced more significant flooding in the past. The numbers in parentheses refer to the Areas of Concern on Map 8 in Appendix A.

Table 47: Locally Identified Areas of Flooding

Map ID	Name	Description
1	Charles River	During severe storms flooding can occur directly along the shore on this stretch of the Charles River, above the dam.
3	Watertown High School	Basement flooding from groundwater. New building will not have this problem.
4	New Police Headquarters	Basement flooding from groundwater.
7	Rutland Street	Basement flooding of homes from groundwater.
8	Arlington Street and Keith Street	Flooding was caused after a series of three storms.
9	Laurel St., Melendy Ave. and Oak St.	Neighborhood flooding due to intense rainfall July 2014.
11	Phillip Darch and Robert Ford Road- West End Projects Housing Authority	This Federal housing authority explored a variety of flooding due to a high-water table issue.
12	Gore Estate/Walker Pond	This area experiences flooding up the city boundary.

Dam Failures

- a) *DCR dam safety regulations* – The state has enacted dam safety regulations mandating inspections and emergency action plans. All new dams are subject to state permitting.
- b) Emergency Action Plans (EAP) have been prepared for the Watertown Dam, Cambridge Reservoir and Stony Brook Dams, Weston Dam, and the Norumbega and Schenck's Pond Dams

Wind-Related Hazards

- a) To enhance the tree maintenance program for the city, a dedicated crew was established to maintain trees, with a 3rd party also brought in to assist. Tree planting was also encouraged to help reduce heat islands.
- b) *Massachusetts State Building Code* – The town enforces the Massachusetts State Building Code whose provisions are generally adequate to protect against most wind damage. The code's provisions are the most cost-effective mitigation

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measure against tornados given the extremely low probability of occurrence. If a tornado were to occur, the potential for severe damages would be extremely high.

- c) **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)** – Every community in Massachusetts is required to have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. These plans address mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from a variety of natural and man-made emergencies. These plans contain important information regarding flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, dam failures, earthquakes, and winter storms. Therefore, the CEMP is a mitigation measure that is relevant to all of the hazards discussed in this plan. Watertown updated their plan in 2023.

Winter-Related Hazards

- a) *Snow disposal* –The town conducts general snow removal operations with its own equipment. There is a park on grove street that is used a snow disposal site as necessary. Their is regular salting and sanding for the roads.

Brush Fire-Related Hazards

- a) *Outdoor Burning Prohibited* – Outdoor burning is prohibited in Watertown.

Geologic Hazards

Earthquakes

- a) *Massachusetts State Building Code* – The State Building Code contains a section on designing for earthquake loads (780 CMR 1612.0). Section 1612.1 states that the purpose of these provisions is “to minimize the hazard to life to occupants of all buildings and non-building structures, to increase the expected performance of higher occupancy structures as compared to ordinary structures, and to improve the capability of essential facilities to function during and after an earthquake”. This section goes on to state that due to the complexity of seismic design, the criteria presented are the minimum considered to be “prudent and economically justified” for the protection of life safety. The code also states that absolute safety and prevention of damage, even in an earthquake event with a reasonable probability of occurrence, cannot be achieved economically for most buildings.

MULTIHAZARD MITIGATION MEASURES

The City of Watertown has several mitigation measures in place that address more than one hazard. Major issues in preventing natural hazards in Watertown are the ability of the Fire and Police departments to operate efficiently, or at all, in outdated facilities in the event of a significant natural hazard.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) – Every community in Massachusetts is required to have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. These plans address mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from a variety of natural and man-made emergencies.

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These plans contain important information regarding flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, dam failures, earthquakes, and winter storms. Therefore, the CEMP is a mitigation measure that is relevant to all of the hazards discussed in this plan.

Communications Equipment – The Town has access to three Incident Command Units, mobile communications centers available to the town through the MA State Police, the MA Dept. of Fire Services, and MEMA. Improvements to the communications system are being pursued by the Town (see Section 8).

Emergency Power Generators – Emergency generators are located at the Town Hall, Main Library, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Facility, and Watertown High School. The town is planning to install additional generators in schools (See Section 8).

Massachusetts State Building Code – The Massachusetts State Building Code contains many detailed regulations regarding wind loads, earthquake resistant design, flood-proofing, and snow loads.

Existing mitigation measures are summarized in Table 47 below.

Table 48: Existing Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure	Area Covered	Effectiveness / Comments	Updates and/or Improvements since 2019
FLOOD RELATED HAZARDS			
A) Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program	Town-Wide	Effective/91 policies in force	
B) Street sweeping	Town-Wide	Effective	
C) Catch basin cleaning	Town-Wide	Effective	
D) Drainage system maintenance	Town-wide	Effective	
E) Roadway Treatments	Town roads	Effective	
F) Zoning Floodplain District	Town-Wide	Effective	Floodplain Ordinance updated in July 2025
G) Stormwater Ordinance	Town-Wide	Effective,	New Plan needed in 2026

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H) Wetlands Protection Ordinance	Wetland Resource Areas	Effective	
I) Watertown OSRP	Town-Wide	Effective	
DAM HAZARDS			
J) DCR Dam Safety Regulations and permitting	Town-Wide	Somewhat effective	
K) Emergency Action Plans (EAP) have been prepared for the Watertown Dam, Cambridge Reservoir and Stony Brook Dams, Weston Dam, and the Norumbega and Schenck's Pond Dams	Charles River floodplain areas	Effective	
L) Watertown Fire Dept attended EAP training for Weston Reservoir Dam and Norumbega Reservoir Dams/Schenck's Pond Dams	Charles River floodplain areas	Effective	Delete in 2026 update as this was done.
WIND HAZARDS			
M) Tree Maintenance Program	Town-Wide	Improvements are being implemented by the town.	Dedicated crew established to maintain trees, 3 rd party also brought in to assist, tree planting also encouraged to help reduce heat islands
N) Massachusetts State Building Code	Town-Wide	Effective for most situations except severe storms	
O) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)	Town-Wide	Effective primarily for emergency response	2023 Update was conducted
WINTER HAZARDS			
P) Regular salting and sanding of the roads and local plowing	Town-Wide	Effective	
GEOLOGIC HAZARDS			
Q) Massachusetts Building code	Town-Wide	Effective for most situations	Stretch code in effect

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BRUSHFIRE HAZARDS			
R) Outdoor burning prohibited	Town-wide	Effective	
MULTI-HAZARDS			
S) Development Review	Town-wide	Effective	
U) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)	Town-wide.	Emphasis is on emergency response.	
V) Communications Equipment	Town-wide.	Improvements are being implemented by the town.	New public safety radio system
W) Massachusetts State Building Code	Town-wide.	Most effective for new construction.	
X) Participation in the Regional Emergency Planning Committee (disbanded since the previous plan)	Town-wide.	A forum for cooperation on natural and manmade disasters.	This has been disbanded as the city is in the Mystic Valley REPC
Y) Emergency Power Generators	Town-wide.	Improvements are being implemented by the town.	Schools have since received new emergency power generators

Local Capabilities for Implementation

Under the Massachusetts system of “Home Rule,” the Town of Watertown is authorized to adopt and from time to time amend a number of local bylaws and regulations that support the town’s capabilities to mitigate natural hazards. These include the Zoning Ordinance, Stormwater Ordinance, Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations, Wetlands Ordinance, Health Regulations, Public Works regulations, and local enforcement of the State Building Code. Local Ordinances may be amended by the Town Council to improve the town’s capabilities, and changes to most regulations simply require a public hearing and a vote of the authorized board or commission. The Town of Watertown has recognized several existing mitigation measures that require implementation or improvements, and has the capacity based on these Home Rule powers within its local boards and departments to address these. Several Town departments including Public Works and Community Development and Planning will address planned infrastructure projects. The Department of Public Works will collaborate with state agencies (DCR, MWRA) on dam management issues. Finally, efforts to improve emergency communications will be a collaborative effort among the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works Department.

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SECTION 7: MITIGATION MEASURES FROM THE 2019 PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE PREVIOUS PLAN

At a meeting of the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, City staff reviewed the mitigation measures identified in the 2019 Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan and determined whether each measure had been implemented or deferred. Of those measures that had been deferred, the committee evaluated whether the measure should be deleted or carried forward into this Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update. The decision on whether to delete or retain a particular measure was based on the committee's assessment of the continued relevance or effectiveness of the measure and whether the deferral of action on the measure was due to the inability of the Town to take action on the measure. Table 48 summarizes the status of mitigation measures, and mitigation projects completed are described in more detail below.

Table 49: Status of Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure	Priority 2019 Plan	CURRENT STATUS 1. Completed 2. Partially Completed (Explain) 3. Not Completed (Reasons/Constraints?)	FOR THE 2026 PLAN UPDATE 1. Retain as-is in the 2026 Plan? 2. Keep and Revise for 2026? 3. Change Priority for 2026? 4. Delete from the 2026 Plan?
FLOODING MITIGATION			
1. Continue developing storm water program to comply with the MS4 permit	High	Completed	Delete
2. Maintain updated Flood Information Rate Maps information and town ordinance.	High	Partially Complete	Keep and Revise for 2026- Change this to maintaining requirements to conform to FEMA regulations and seek town approval for ordinances.
3. Upgrade pumps and improve site drainage at	Medium	Completed	Delete for 2026

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Cuniff Elementary.			
4. Test Program to fund and assist homeowners with pumps.	Medium	Partially Completed	Revise for 2026- Focus on overall education and outreach about rain events and flooding
5. Study feasibility of creating stormwater utility	Medium	Not Completed	Keep for 2026
WINTER HAZARDS MITIGATION			
6. Identify public buildings that may be vulnerable to damage from snow loads and conduct a structural assessment if needed	Low	Completed	Delete for 2026
BRUSHFIRE MITIGATION			
7. Evaluate the status of fire access roads and maintain or upgrade if needed	Low	Completed	Delete for 2026
8. Provide public information about brushfire hazards and preventive measures for property owners.	Low	Completed	Keep to Continue for 2026 Plan
EARTHQUAKE MITIGATION			

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9. Identify public buildings that may be vulnerable to earthquakes and investigate options to make them more resistant to earthquakes	Low	Not Completed	Keep and Revise to include facilities in 2026 Plan
EXTREME TEMPERATURE MITIGATION			
10. Conduct a public awareness program on the risks of extreme temperatures and resources available to residents	Medium	Not Completed	Keep and revise to say conduct instead of completed
11. Adopt Site Design regulations to increase shade tree plantings near buildings, increase trees used in parking areas and along public ways.	Medium	Completed	Keep and revise for 2026 to make this about continuing to implement.
DROUGHT MITIGATION			
12. Adopt guidelines for new development to promote drought tolerant landscaping and site design measures	High		Keep

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DAM MITIGATION			
13. Maintain coordination with operators of Watertown Dam and dams upstream of Watertown in Waltham and Weston	High	Completed	Keep and Revise for 2026 to include coordination with DCR and the City's support of removing the dam for ecological purposes.
WIND MITIGATION MEASURES			
14. Increase contract labor for tree maintenance program	Medium	Completed	Delete for 2026 Plan, the city hired staff to do this maintenance.
Multi Hazard			
15. Upgrade communications to a uniform single system that will serve Police, Fire, and Public Works, including interconnections conduit. The Town is having a study done by Cyber-Comm, and awaiting a decision by the FCC regarding radio frequency availability.	High	Complete	Delete for 2026 Plan
16. Upgrade all fixed generators as needed. The Fire Dept, Police and DPW all have generators.	High	Partially Complete	Revise for 2026 Plan to reflect that the older schools would benefit from generators and that updates and

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The town hall recently added one. The schools are being rebuilt with generators added through the capital budget process.			maintained to current generators is required.
DAM MITIGATION			
17. Maintain coordination with operators of Watertown Dam and dams upstream of Watertown in Waltham and Weston	High	Completed	Keep and Revise for 2026 to include coordination with DCR and the City's support of removing the dam for ecological purposes.
WIND MITIGATION MEASURES			
18. Increase contract labor for tree maintenance program	Medium	Completed	Delete for 2026 Plan, the city hired staff to do this maintenance.

As indicated on Table 49, Watertown made good progress on implementing mitigation measures identified in the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Projects that have been completed include an update of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, a new public radio system was enacted, schools received new emergency power generators, and a dedicated tree maintenance crew went into effect.

Moving forward into the next five-year plan implementation period there will be many more opportunities to incorporate hazard mitigation into the city's decision-making processes. The challenges the City faces in implementing these measures are primarily due to limited funding and available staff time. This plan should help the City prioritize the best use of its limited resources for enhanced mitigation of natural hazards.

SECTION 8: HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGY

WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

Hazard mitigation means to permanently reduce or alleviate the losses of life, injuries and property resulting from natural hazards through long-term strategies. These long-term strategies include planning, policy changes, education programs, infrastructure projects and other activities. FEMA currently has two mitigation grant programs: the Hazards Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program.

According to FEMA Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance, identified measures can generally be sorted into the following groups:

- **Prevention**: Government administrative or regulatory actions or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. These actions also include public activities to reduce hazard losses. Examples include planning and zoning, building codes, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and stormwater management regulations.
- **Property Protection**: Actions that involve the modification of existing buildings or infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or removal from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, flood proofing, storm shutters, and shatter resistant glass.
- **Public Education & Awareness**: Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about the potential risks from hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and school-age and adult education programs.
- **Natural Resource Protection**: Actions that, in addition to minimizing hazard losses, also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.
- **Structural Projects**: Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include storm water controls (e.g., culverts), floodwalls, seawalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.
- **Emergency Services Protection**: Actions that will protect emergency services before, during, and immediately after an occurrence. Examples of these actions include protection of warning system capability, protection of critical facilities, and protection of emergency response infrastructure.

REGIONAL AND INTER-COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

Some hazard mitigation issues are strictly local. The problem originates primarily within the municipality and can be solved at the municipal level. Other issues are inter-community and require cooperation between two or more municipalities. There is a third level of mitigation which is regional and may involve a state, regional or federal agency or three or more municipalities.

REGIONAL PARTNERS

In many communities, mitigating natural hazards, particularly flooding, is more than a local issue. The drainage systems that serve these communities are complex systems of storm drains, roadway drainage structures, pump stations, dams, and other facilities owned and operated by a wide array of agencies including the Town, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The planning, construction, operation and maintenance of these structures are integral to the flood hazard mitigation efforts of towns. These agencies must be considered the town's regional partners in hazard mitigation. These agencies also operate under the same constraints as communities do including budgetary and staffing constraints and they must make decisions about numerous competing priorities. In the sections that follow, the plan includes recommendations for activities where cooperation with these other agencies may be necessary. Implementation of these recommendations will require that all parties work together to develop solutions. Rail (MBTA).

REGIONAL AND INTERCOMMUNITY FACILITIES WITHIN WATERTOWN

Major facilities owned, operated and maintained by state or regional entities include:

1. Watertown Dam (DCR)
2. Cambridge Reservoir and Stony Brook Dams (Cambridge Water Department)
3. Weston Dam, Norumbega Dam, and Schenck's Pond Dams (MWRA)
4. State Route 20 (Main Street)
5. MBTA Bus Lines
6. MWRA water distribution mains and wastewater collectors

NEW DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the process of developing recommendations for new mitigation measures for this plan update, the City considered the issues related to new development, redevelopment, and infrastructure needs in order limit future risks. Taking into consideration the Zoning and Stormwater Ordinances, priorities for the future include bylaw updates for stormwater management, upgrading intraoperative communications, installation of key generators, and coordination of dam management with state agencies.

PROCESS FOR SETTING PRIORITIES FOR MITIGATION MEASURES

The last step in developing the city's mitigation strategy is to assign a level of priority to each mitigation measure so as to guide the focus of the city's limited resources towards those actions with the greatest potential benefit. At this stage in the process, the Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team had limited access to detailed analyses of the cost and benefits of any given mitigation measure, so prioritization is based on the local team members' understanding of

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existing and potential hazard impacts and an approximate sense of the costs associated with pursuing any given mitigation measure.

Priority setting was based on local knowledge of the hazard areas, including impacts of hazard events, the extent of the area impacted, and the relation of a given mitigation measure to the city's goals. In addition, the local Hazard Mitigation Planning Team also took into consideration factors such as the number of homes and businesses affected, whether or not road closures occurred and what impact closures had on delivery of emergency services and the local economy, anticipated project costs, whether any environmental constraints existed, and whether the Town would be able to justify the costs relative to the anticipated benefits.

Table 50 below demonstrates the prioritization of the city's potential hazard mitigation measures. For each mitigation measure, the geographic extent of the potential benefiting area is identified as is an estimate of the overall benefit and cost of the measures. The benefits, costs, and overall priority were evaluated in terms of:

Estimated Benefits	
High	Action will result in a significant reduction of hazard risk to people and/or property from a hazard event
Medium	Action will likely result in a moderate reduction of hazard risk to people and/or property from a hazard event
Low	Action will result in a low reduction of hazard risk to people and/or property from a hazard event
Estimated Costs	
High	Estimated costs greater than \$250,000
Medium	Estimated costs between \$50,000 to \$250,000
Low	Estimated costs less than \$50,000 and/or staff time
Mitigation Priority	
High	Action very likely to have political and public support and necessary maintenance can occur following the project, and the costs seem reasonable considering likely benefits from the measure
Medium	Action may have political and public support and necessary maintenance has potential to occur following the project. Medium priority measures would address a hazard of concern to the town, but costs may not be in proportion to the benefits achieved.
Low	Not clear if action has political and public support and not certain that necessary maintenance can occur following the project. Low priority measures would not address significant or high priority hazards and/or the cost would not be in proportion to the benefits

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Table 50: Mitigation Measure Prioritization

Mitigation Action	Overall Priority	Geographic Coverage	Estimated Benefit	Estimated Cost
Flooding Mitigation				
1. Maintain requirements regarding updates for Flood Insurance Rate Maps and seek city approval for ordinances	High	City-Wide	Medium	Medium
2. Upgrade pumps and improve site drainage at Watertown High School.	Medium	Watertown High School	Low	Low
3. Conduct education and outreach programs about rain events and flooding	Low	City-Wide	Medium	Low
4. Study feasibility of creating stormwater utility	Medium	City-Wide	Medium	Low
Winter Hazards Mitigation				
5. Identify hydrants and roadways that may be vulnerable to damage from winter weather	Low	City-Wide	Medium	Low
Brushfire Mitigation				
6. Evaluate the feasibility of the city obtaining a UTV for preparedness and response activities	Low	City-Wide	Low	Low
7. Provide public information about brushfire hazards and preventive measures for property owners.	Medium	City-Wide	Medium	Low
Earthquake Mitigation				
8. Identify public buildings and facilities that may be vulnerable to	Low	City-Wide	Low	Low

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earthquakes and investigate options to make them more resistant to earthquakes				
Extreme Temperature Mitigation				
9. Continue the public awareness program on the risks of extreme temperatures and resources available to residents	Medium	City-Wide	Medium	Low
10. Continue to implement Site Design regulations to increase shade tree plantings near buildings, increase trees used in parking areas and along public ways	Medium	City-Wide	Low	Low
Drought Mitigation				
11. Adopt guidelines for new development to promote drought tolerant landscaping and site design measures	Medium	City-Wide	Low	Low
Dam Mitigation				
12. Maintain coordination with operators of Watertown Dam (DCR) and dams upstream of Watertown in Waltham and Weston (Cambridge Water Dept). The City supports removal of the Watertown dam for ecological purposes.	Medium	City-Wide	Medium	Low
Wind Mitigation Measures				
13. Acquire new equipment to continue with regular tree maintenance.	Medium	City-Wide	Medium	Medium

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Multi-Hazard				
14. Upgrade and maintain generators as needed. The police and fire headquarters require an update, and all of the schools would benefit from a generator.	High	City-Wide	High	Medium/High
15. Expand open space and green stormwater infrastructure through policy and management programs in public projects, through the expansion of GSI into existing impervious areas, and public education on individual actions for GSI such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and de-paving residential properties.	Low	City-Wide	Medium	Low
16. Systematically integrate climate change projections into the design of all new and upgraded infrastructure projects.	Low	City-Wide	Low	Low
Invasives				
17. Strategically reduce invasive plants and combine with ongoing city efforts to manage invasives on city properties	Low	City-Wide	Low	Low

Recommended Mitigation Strategy

The recommended mitigation strategy is summarized in Table 50, which provides the following information about each recommended mitigation measure:

Description of the Mitigation Measure – The description of each mitigation measure is brief and cost information is given only if cost data were already available from the community. The cost

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data represent a point in time and would need to be adjusted for inflation and for any changes or refinements in the design of a particular mitigation measure.

Priority – As described above and summarized in Table 49, the designation of high, medium, or low priority was done considering potential benefits and estimated project costs, as well as other factors in the STAPLEE analysis.

Implementation Responsibility – The designation of implementation responsibility was done based on a general knowledge of what each municipal department is responsible for. It is likely that most mitigation measures will require that several departments work together and assigning staff is the sole responsibility of the governing body of each community.

Time Frame – The time frame was based on a combination of the priority, the complexity of the measure and whether or not the measure is conceptual, in design, or already designed and awaiting funding. Because the time frame for this plan is five years, the timing for all mitigation measures has been kept within this framework. The identification of a likely time frame is not meant to constrain a community from taking advantage of funding opportunities as they arise.

Potential Funding Sources – This column attempts to identify the most likely sources of funding for a specific measure. The information on potential funding sources in this table is preliminary and varies depending on a number of factors. These factors include whether or not a mitigation measure has been studied, evaluated or designed, or if it is still in the conceptual stages. MEMA and DCR assisted MAPC in reviewing the potential eligibility for hazard mitigation funding. Each grant program and agency has specific eligibility requirements that would need to be taken into consideration. In most instances, the measure will require a number of different funding sources. Identification of a potential funding source in this table does not guarantee that a project will be eligible for, or selected for funding. Upon adoption of this plan, the local team responsible for its implementation should begin to explore the funding sources in more detail.

Additional information on funding sources – The best way to determine eligibility for a particular funding source is to review the project with a staff person at the funding agency. The following websites provide an overview of programs and funding sources.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) – The website for the North Atlantic district office is <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/>. The ACOE provides assistance in a number of types of projects including shoreline/streambank protection, flood damage reduction, flood plain management services and planning services.

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) – The grants page <http://www.mass.gov/dem/programs/mitigate/grants.htm> has a useful table that compares eligible projects for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

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Table 51: Recommended Mitigation Strategy

Mitigation Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeframe 2026-2031	Potential funding Sources
FLOODING MITIGATION					
1. Maintain requirements regarding updates for Flood Insurance Rate Maps and seek city approval for ordinances	High	Department of Community Development and Planning	Staff time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/DCDP
2. Upgrade pumps and improve site drainage at Watertown High School.	Medium	School Dept/DPW	Low		School Building Fund and Watertown General Fund/ DPW
3. Conduct education and outreach programs about rain events and flooding	Low	DPW, Health	Staff Time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW and Health
4. Study feasibility of creating stormwater utility	Medium	DPW	Staff Time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW
WINTER HAZARDS MITIGATION					
5. Identify hydrants and roadways that may be vulnerable to damage from winter weather	Low	DPW/Planning	Staff Time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW and DCDP

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BRUSHFIRE MITIGATION					
6. Evaluate the feasibility of the city obtaining a UTV for preparedness and response activities	Low	Fire	\$50,000	2028-2031	Capitol Plan Funds
7. Provide public information about brushfire hazards and preventive measures for property owners.	Medium	Fire Department	Staff time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ Fire
EARTHQUAKE MITIGATION					
8. Identify public buildings and facilities that may be vulnerable to earthquakes and investigate options to make them more resistant to earthquakes	Low	Emergency Management/Public Buildings	Staff time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ Emergency Management and Public Buildings
EXTREME TEMPERATURE MITIGATION					
9. Continue the public awareness program on the risks of extreme temperatures and resources available to residents	Medium	Health Department/Emergency Management	Staff time; cost for developing & distributing education materials	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ Emergency Management and Health
10. Continue to implement Site Design regulations to increase shade tree plantings near buildings, increase trees used in parking areas and along public ways	Medium	DPW, Community Development and Planning, Planning Board, ZBA	Staff Time		Watertown General Fund/ DPW and DCDP

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DROUGHT MITIGATION					
11. Adopt guidelines for new development to promote drought tolerant landscaping and site design measures	Medium	Community Development and Planning , Conservation Commission, Planning Board, ZBA	Staff Time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW and DCDP
DAM MITIGATION					
12. Maintain coordination with operators of Watertown Dam (DCR) and dams upstream of Watertown in Waltham and Weston (Cambridge Water Dept). The City supports removal of the Watertown dam for ecological purposes.	Medium	DPW,DCR MWRA, and City of Cambridge	Staff time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW
WIND MITIGATION MEASURES					
13. Acquire new equipment to continue with regular tree maintenance.	Medium	DPW/Tree Warden	Medium	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW
MUTLI HAZARD					
14. Upgrade and maintain generators as needed. The police and fire headquarters require an update, and all of the schools would benefit from a generator.	High	Fire Dept./Police Dept/DPW	\$1,000,000	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW, Fire and Police
15. Expand open space and green stormwater infrastructure through policy and	Low	DPW/Community Development and Planning	Staff Time	2026-2031	Watertown General

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management programs in public projects, through the expansion of GSI into existing impervious areas, and public education on individual actions for GSI such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and de-paving residential properties.					Fund/ DPW and DCDP
16. Systematically integrate climate change projections into the design of all new and upgraded infrastructure projects.	Low	DPW/Community Development and Planning	Staff Time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DPW and DCDP
Invasives					
17. Strategically reduce invasive plants and combine with ongoing city efforts to manage invasives on city properties	Low	Community Development and Planning	Staff Time	2026-2031	Watertown General Fund/ DCDP

SECTION 9: PLAN ADOPTION AND MAINTENANCE

Plan Adoption

The Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update was adopted by the Select Board on [ADD DATE]. See Appendix D for documentation. The plan was approved by FEMA on [ADD DATE] for a five-year period that will expire on [ADD DATE].

Plan Maintenance

MAPC worked with the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Team to prepare this plan. After approval of the plan by FEMA, the local Team will meet on a regular basis to oversee implementation of the plan and prepare for the next plan update. Additional members could be added to the local implementation team from other town departments, local businesses, non-profits, and institutions.

The city will encourage public participation during the next 5-year planning cycle. As updates and a review of the plan are conducted by the local Team, these will be placed on the project's website, and any meetings of the Local Team will be publicly noticed in accordance with the town and state open meeting laws. The posting will include a mechanism for citizen feedback such as an e-mail address to send comments.

Implementation Schedule

Mid-Term Survey on Progress– The coordinator of the Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team will prepare and distribute a survey in year three of the plan. The survey will be distributed to all of the local implementation group members and other interested local stakeholders. The survey will poll the members on any changes or revisions to the plan that may be needed, progress and accomplishments for implementation, and any new hazards or problem areas that have been identified.

This information will be used to prepare a report or addendum to the local hazard mitigation plan in order to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting the plan's goals and identify areas that need to be updated in the next plan. The Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team, coordinated by the Commissioner of Public Works, will have primary responsibility for tracking progress, evaluating, and updating the plan.

Begin to Prepare for the next Plan Update -- FEMA's approval of this plan is valid for five years, by which time an updated plan must be approved by FEMA in order to maintain the city's approved plan status and its eligibility for FEMA mitigation grants. Given the lead time needed to secure funding and conduct the planning process, the Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team will begin to prepare for an update of the plan in year three. This will help the Town avoid a lapse in its approved plan status and grant eligibility when the current plan expires.

The Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team will use the information from the Mid-Term progress review to identify the needs and priorities for the plan update and seek funding for the plan update process. Potential sources of funding may include FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Both grant programs can pay for 75% of a planning project, with a 25% local cost share required.

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Prepare and Adopt an Updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan –Once the resources have been secured to update the plan, the Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team may decide to undertake the update themselves, contract with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to update the plan or to hire another consultant. However the Hazard Mitigation Implementation Team decides to update the plan, the group will need to review the current FEMA hazard mitigation plan guidelines for any changes. The Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan Update will be forwarded to MEMA and DCR for review and to FEMA for approval.

Integration of the Plans with Other Planning Initiatives

Upon approval of the Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update by FEMA, the Local Hazard Mitigation Team will provide all interested parties and implementing departments with a copy of the plan and will initiate a discussion regarding how the plan can be integrated into that department's ongoing work. At a minimum, the plan will be reviewed and discussed with the following departments:

- Fire
- Emergency Management
- Police
- Community Development NS Planning
- Conservation
- Health
- Building

Other stakeholders that will be coordinated will include land conservation organizations, watershed groups, business groups, and nonprofit institutions.

Moving forward, the Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update will be integrated into other town plans and policies as they are updated and renewed, including the Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

SECTION 10: LIST OF REFERENCES

City of Watertown, Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019

City of Watertown, Watertown Comprehensive Plan

City of Watertown, Open Space and Recreation Plan

City of Watertown, Annual Report

City of Watertown, Zoning Ordinance

City of Watertown, Complete Streets Policy

City of Watertown, Resilient Watertown Climate and Energy Plan

City of Watertown, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan 21q A

FEMA, Flood Risk Report, Concord River Watershed, 2/27/2013

FEMA, Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Middlesex County, MA, 2012

FEMA, Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide; October 1, 2011.

MA Emergency Management Agency, *State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2013

MA Geographic Information System, *McConnell Land Use Statistics*, 2005

MA Office of Dam Safety, *Inventory of Massachusetts Dams*

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, *Geographic Information Systems Lab*

New England Seismic Network, *Weston Observatory*

Northeast States Emergency Consortium, *website*

NOAA, National Climatic Data Center, *website*

Union of Concerned Scientists, *Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast*, 2007

U. S. Census, 2020, *American Community Survey*

USGS, National Water Information Center, *website*

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APPENDIX A: HAZARD MAP SERIES

The MAPC GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Lab produced a series of maps for each community. Some of the data came from the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC). More information on NESEC can be found at <http://www.serve.com/NESEC/>. Due to the various sources for the data and varying levels of accuracy, the identification of an area as being in one of the hazard categories must be considered as a general classification that should always be supplemented with more local knowledge.

The map series consists of twelve map panels displaying the following information:

Map 1.	Population Density
Map 1 a.	Environmental Justice
Map 2.	Land Use
Map 3.	Flood Zones
Map 3b.	Flood Claims from March 2010 Disaster Declaration
Map 4.	Earthquakes and Landslides
Map 5.	Hurricanes and Tornadoes
Map 6.	Average Snowfall
Map 7.	Composite Natural Hazards
Map 8.	Local Hazard Areas
Map 9	Land Surface Temperature
Map 10	Wildfires

Map 1: Population Density – This map uses the US Census block data for 2020 and shows population density as the number of people per acre in seven categories with 60 or more people per acre representing the highest density areas.

Map 1b: Environmental Justice – This map shows Environmental Justice (EJ) populations using 2020 data. EJ designations from the State include English isolation, income, and minority residents.

Map 2: Land Use – This map shows land cover and land use from MassGIS' 2016 [Land Cover/Land Use](#) dataset.

Map 3: Flood Zones – The map of flood zones used the FEMA NFIP Flood Zones for Middlesex County as its source. For more information, refer to the FEMA Map Service Center website <http://www.msc.fema.gov>. The definitions of the flood zones are described in detail on this site as well. The flood zone map for each community also shows critical infrastructure and municipally owned and protected open space.

Map3b: Flood Claims – This map shows flood insurance and disaster claim records from March 2010. The March 29, 2010 federal disaster declaration associated with severe rainfall and flooding triggered the launch of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Individual Assistance Program through which residential property owners, businesses, and institutions without flood insurance were eligible to apply for relief to pay for storm-related expenditures and repairs.

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

Map 4: Earthquakes and Landslides (Regional) – This map depicts landslide risk and recorded earthquake epicenters in the community and surrounding region. This information came from NESEC. For most communities, there was no data for earthquakes because only the epicenters of an earthquake are mapped.

The landslide information shows areas with either a low susceptibility or a moderate susceptibility to landslides based on mapping of geological formations. This mapping is highly general in nature. For more information on how landslide susceptibility was mapped, refer to <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/p1183/pp1183.html>.

Map 5: Hurricanes and Tornadoes (Regional) – This map shows the spatial characteristics of several different meteorological properties and past events in the community and surrounding region. The map includes the storm tracks for both hurricanes and tropical storms. This information must be viewed in context. A storm track only shows where the eye of the storm passed through. In most cases, the effects of the wind and rain from these storms were felt in other communities even if the track was not within that community. This map also shows the location of tornadoes with a classification as to the level of damages. What appears on the map varies by community since not all communities experience the same wind-related events. These maps also show the 100-year wind speed and areas that could be inundated by storm surge during a hurricane, if any.

Map 6: Average Snowfall (Regional) - This map shows the average snowfall in the community and the surrounding region.

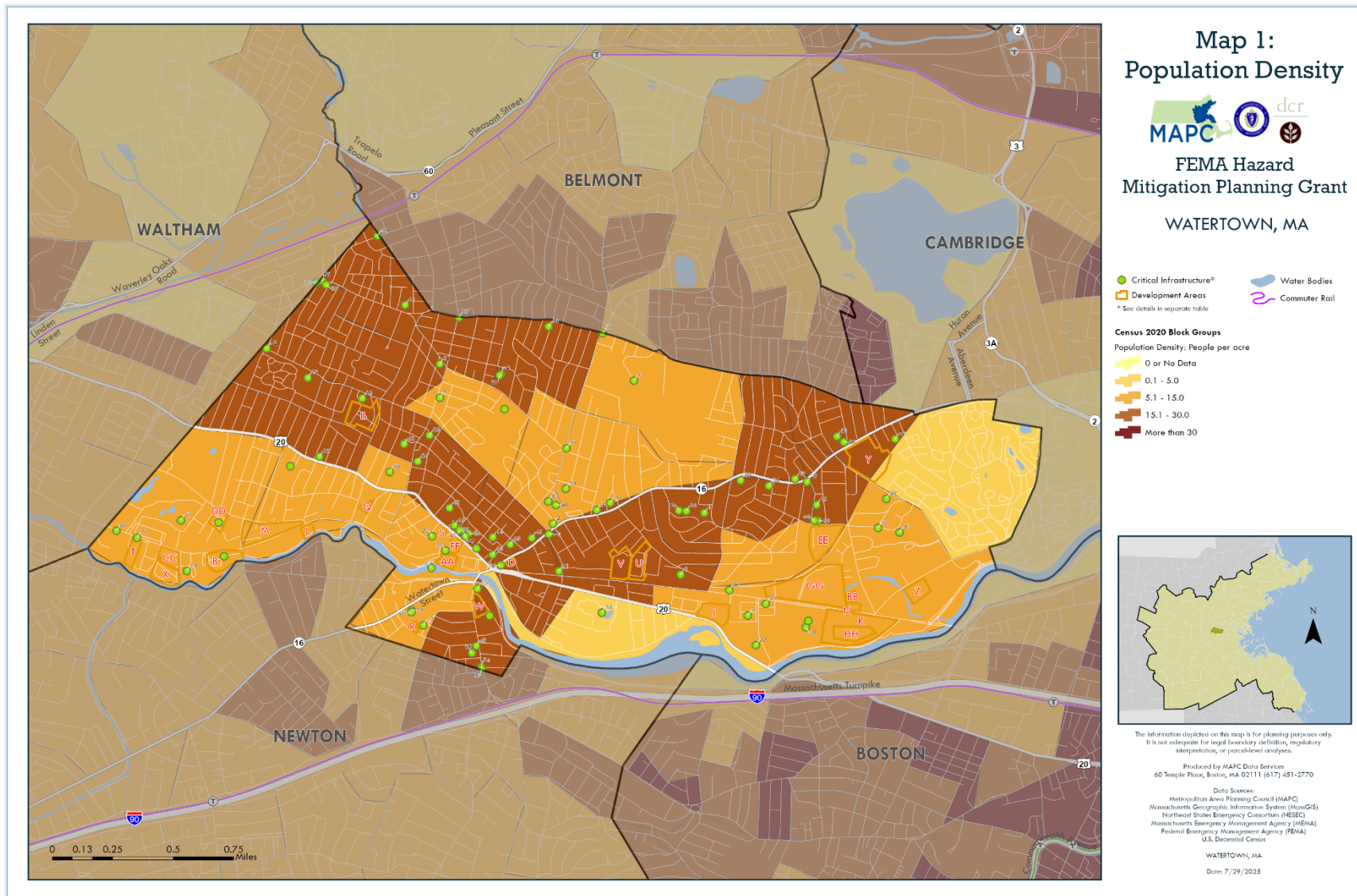
Map 7: Composite Natural Hazards (Regional) - This map shows four categories of composite natural hazards. The hazards included in this map are 100-year wind speeds of 110 mph or higher, low, and moderate landslide risk, FEMA Q3 flood zones (100 year and 500 year) and hurricane surge inundation areas. Areas with only one hazard were considered to be low hazard areas. Moderate areas have two of the hazards present. High hazard areas have three hazards present and severe hazard areas have four hazards present.

Map 8: Local Hazard Areas – For each community, locally identified hazard areas are overlaid on an aerial photograph. The critical infrastructure sites and planned development areas are also shown. The source of the aerial photograph is Mass GIS.

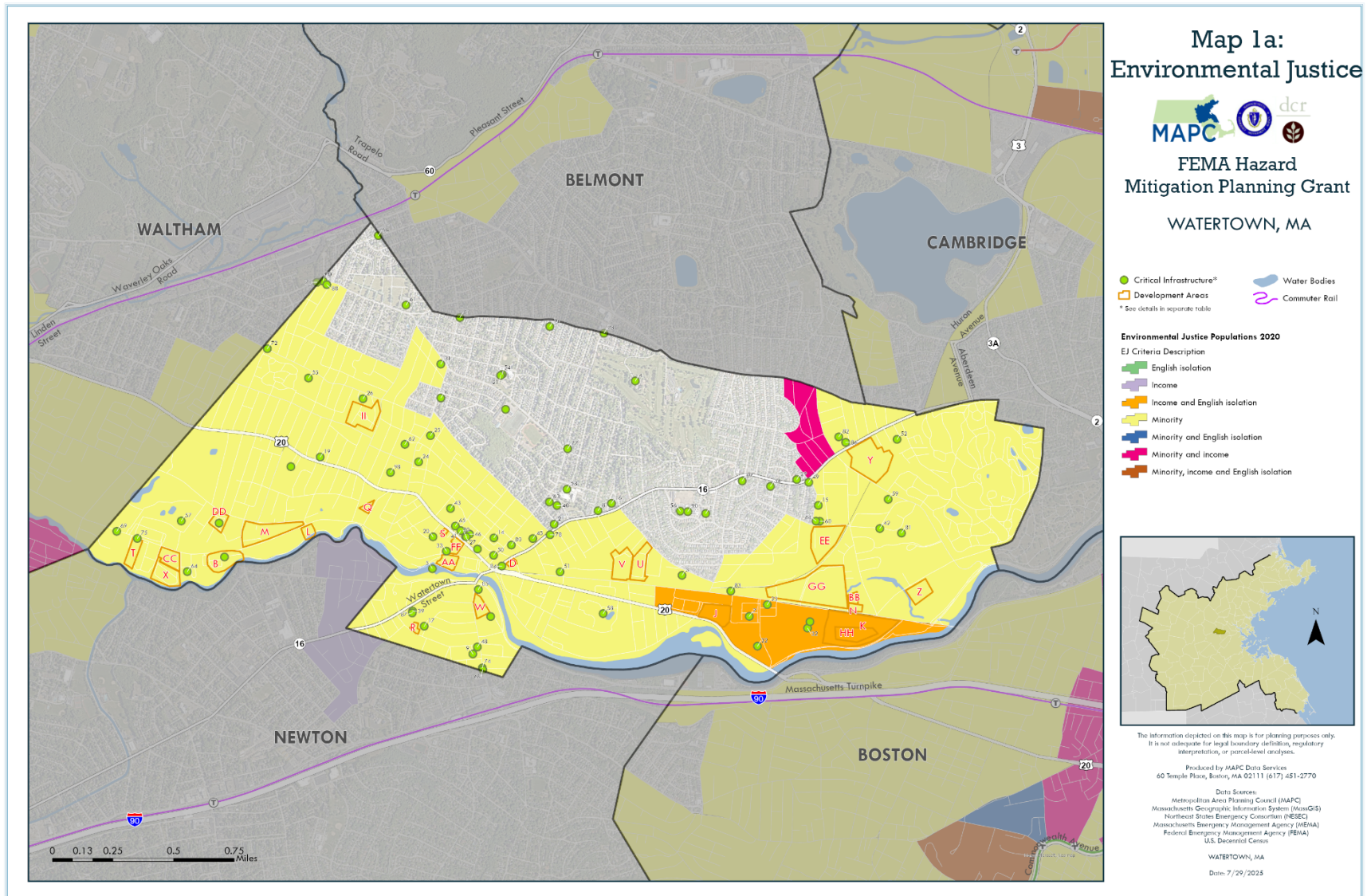
Map 9: Land Surface Temperature- MAPC's Statewide Land Surface Temperature (LST) Index was created by combining estimates of surface temperature from days in 2018, 2019, and 2020 where the daily air temperature maximum exceeded 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The Statewide LST Index "Hot Spots" data depicts the 5% highest LST index areas in each Regional Planning Agency (RPA) region. The data was generated by identifying pixels whose LST index values are equal to or greater than 95% of LST index values in the region, and then delineating cohesive regions where pixels meet this criterion as polygons. Map 9 represents the "Hot Spots" relative to the MAPC region, mapped on top of the National Land Cover Database's [2016 30-m tree canopy data](#).

Map 10: Wildfires – This map shows wildfire risk to the community using USDA data. Wildfire risk is classified as very low, low, moderate, high, and very high.

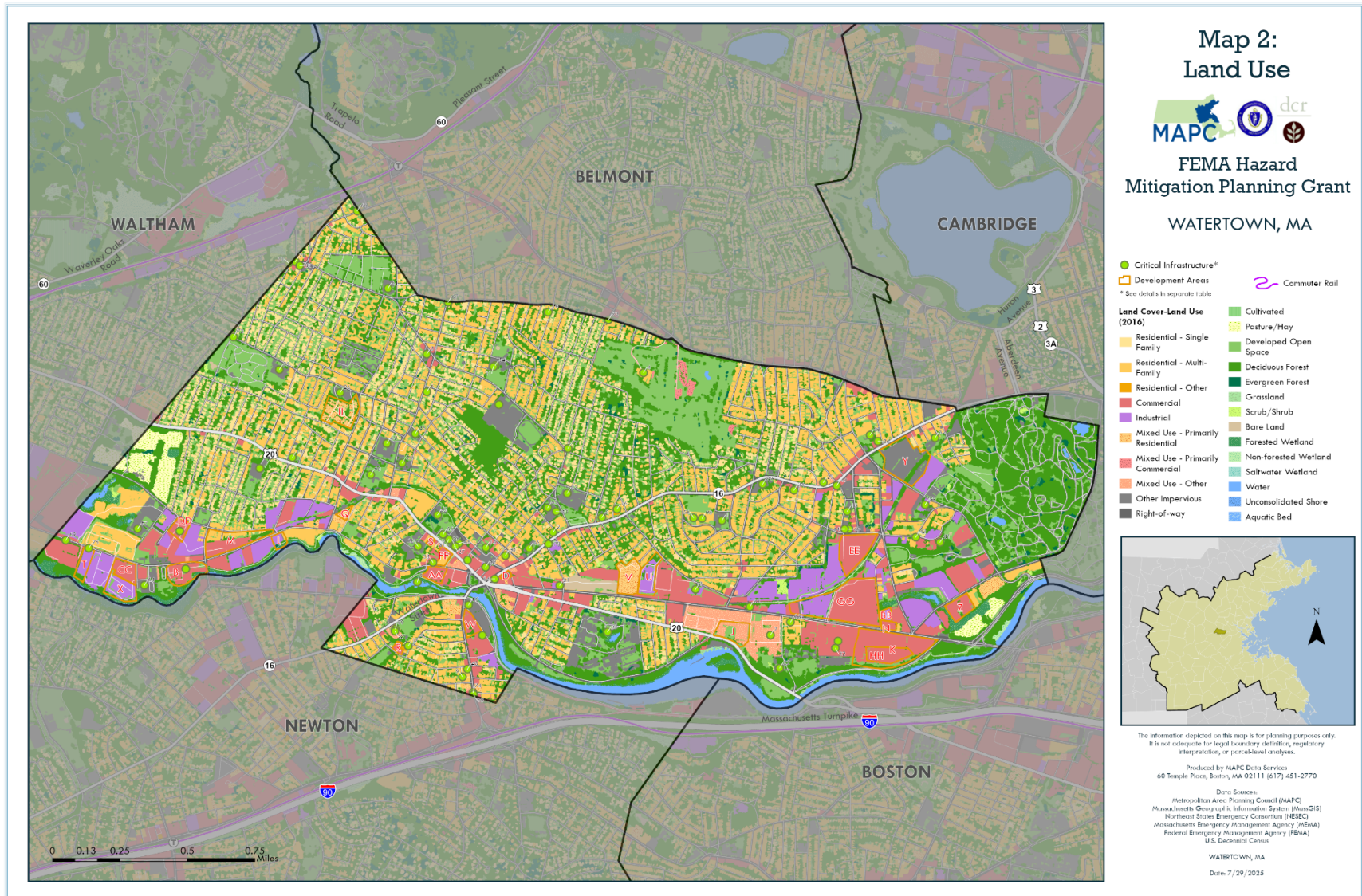
CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT



CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT

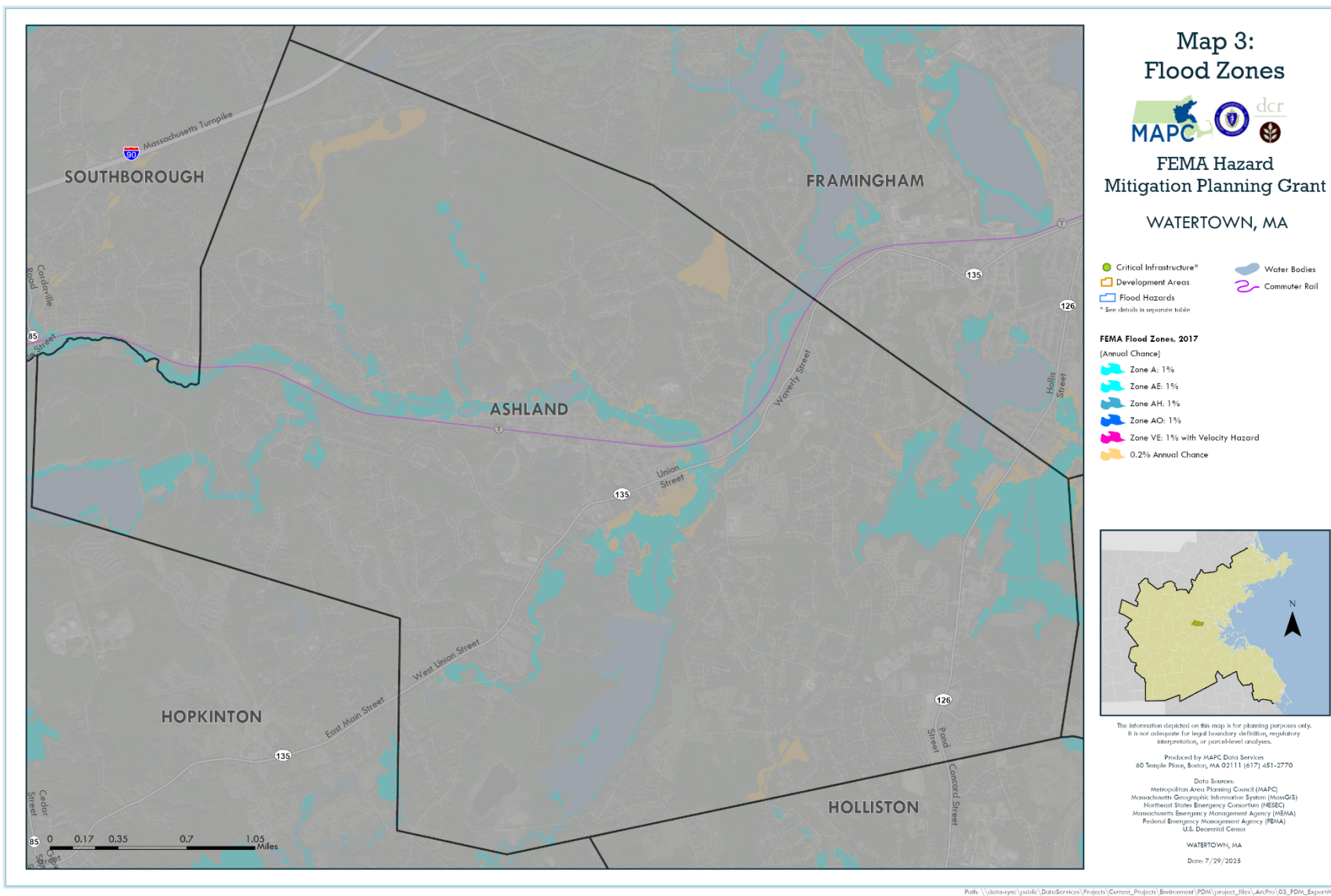


CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT

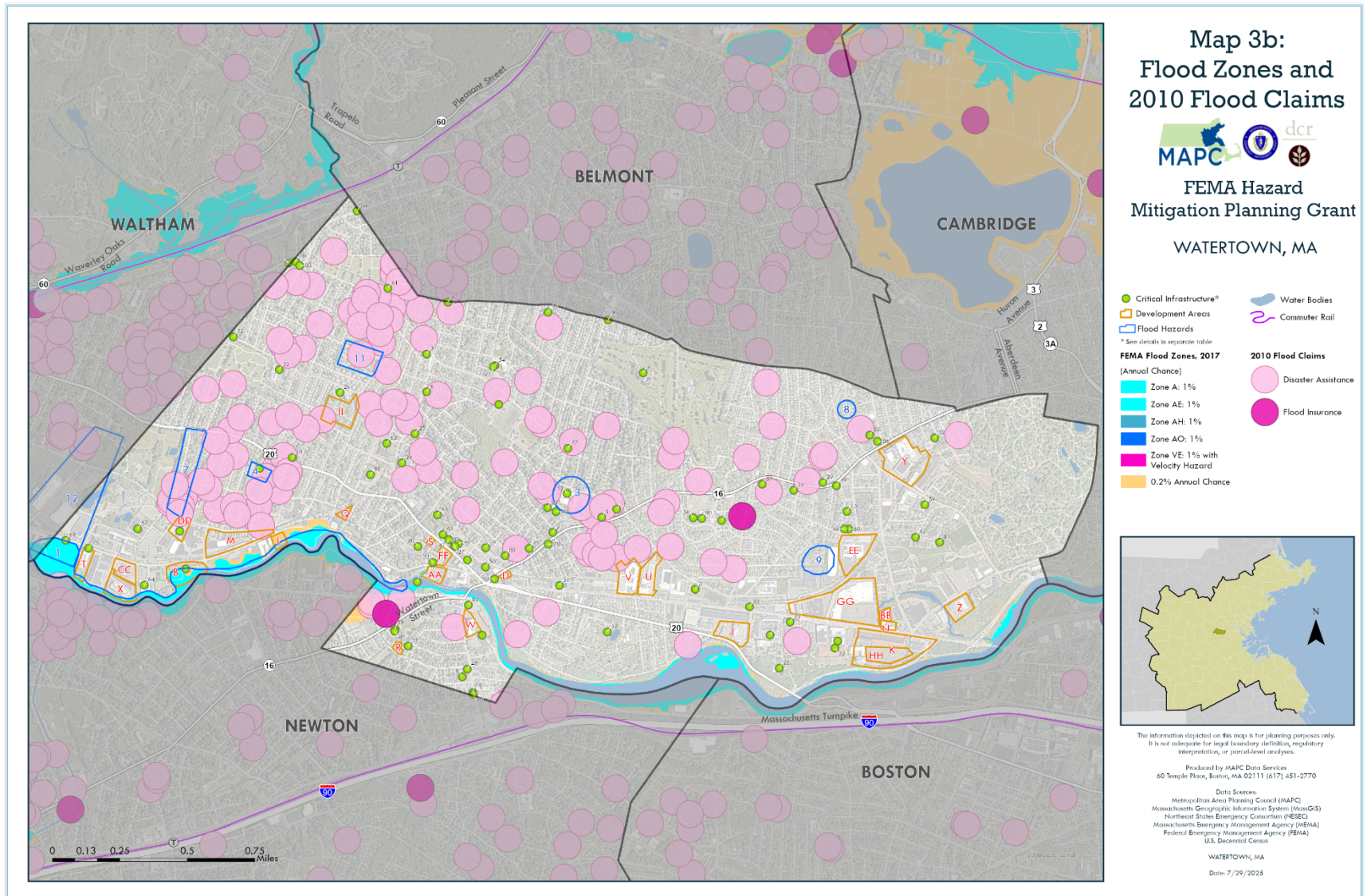


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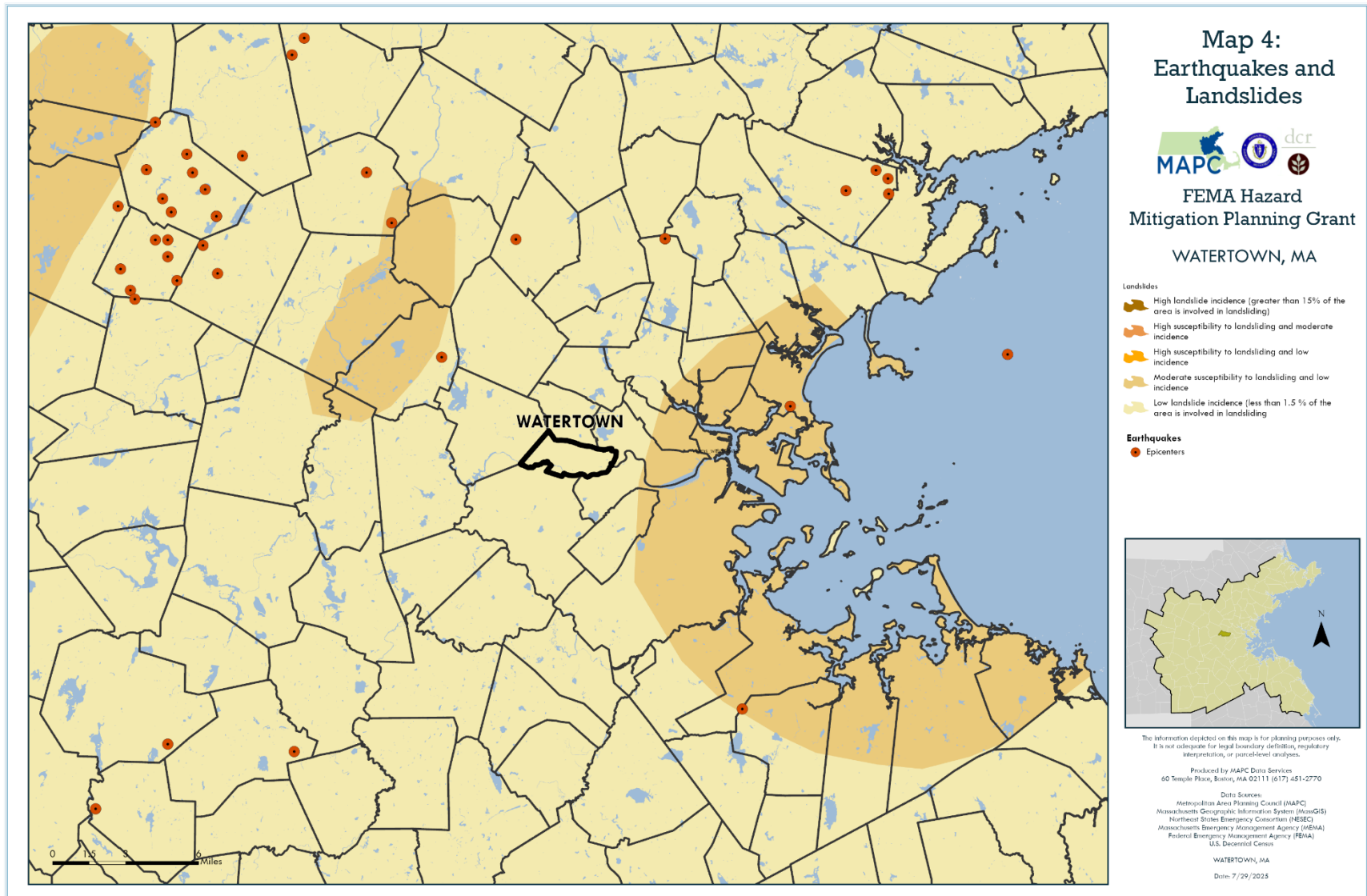
**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**



CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT

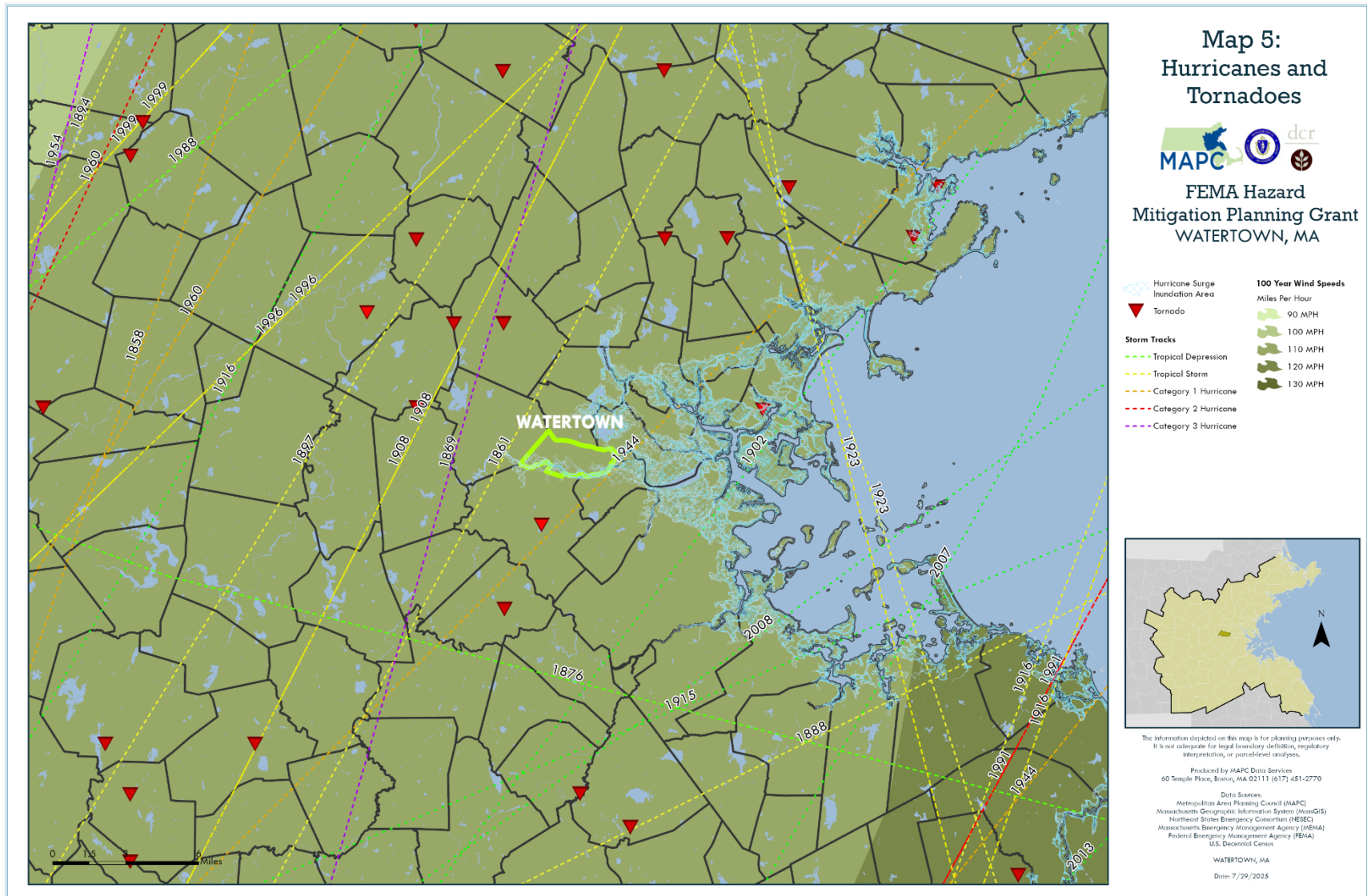


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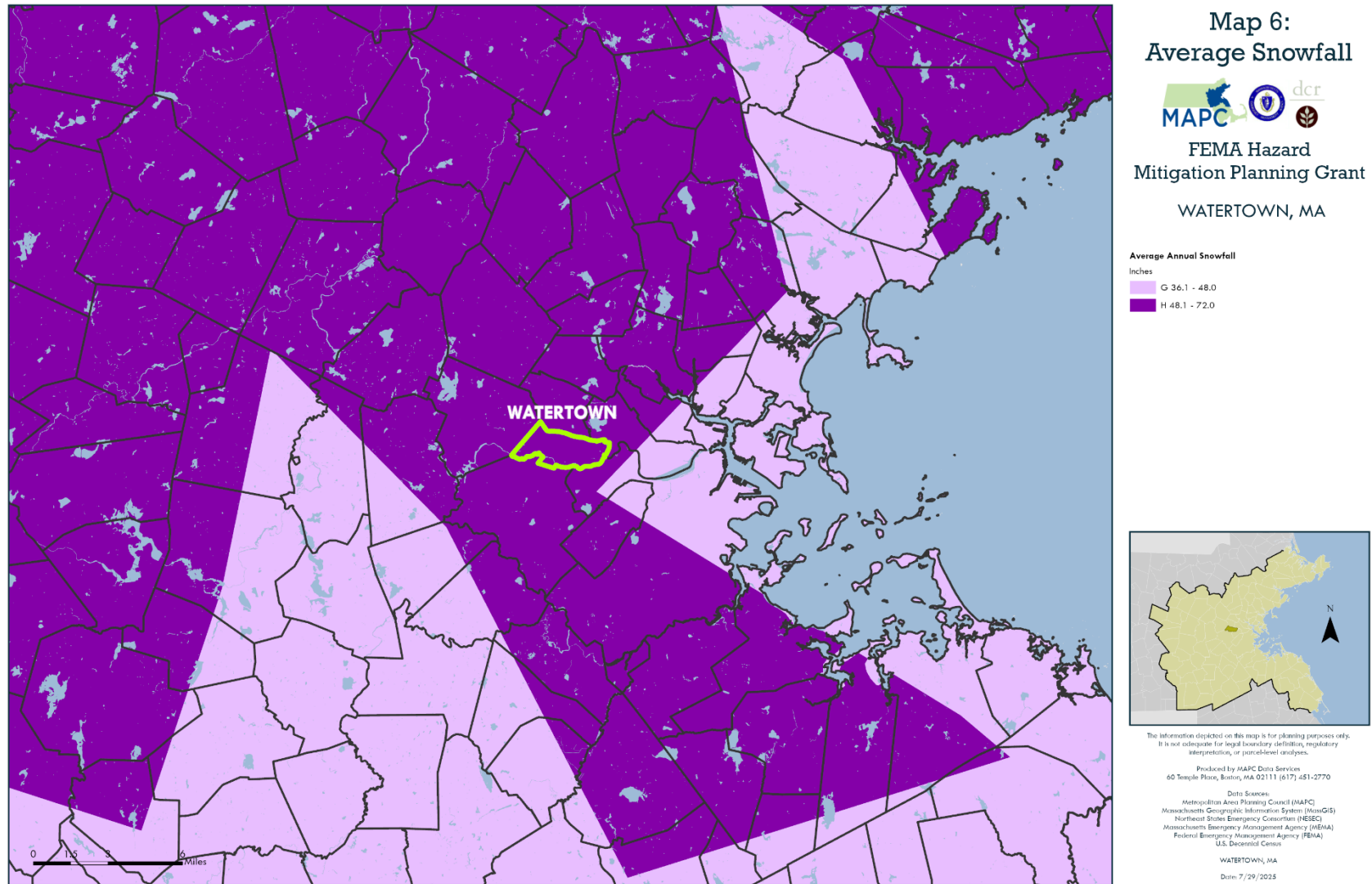


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CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT

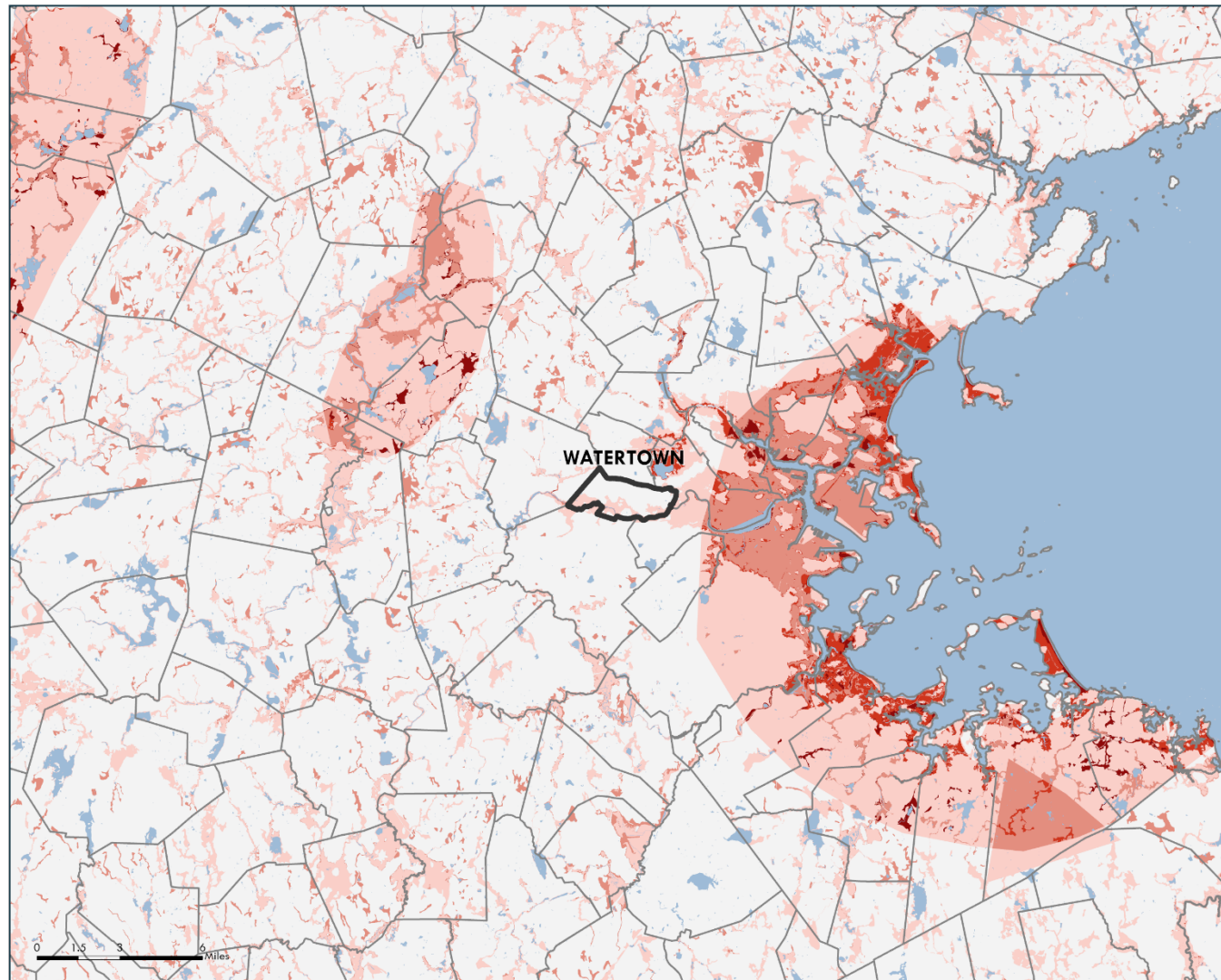


CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT



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CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT



Map 7: Composite Natural Hazards



FEMA Hazard
Mitigation Planning Grant

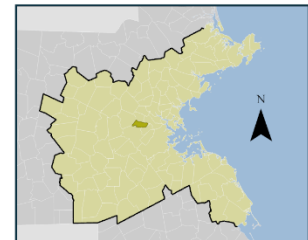
WATERTOWN, MA

Composite Natural Hazards

- Low (2 Hazards)
- Moderate (3 Hazards)
- High (4 Hazards)
- Very High (5 Hazards)

Composite natural hazards shown for areas of existing development.
Hazards include:

- 100 year wind speed of 110 MPH or higher
- Moderate landslide risk
- FEMA Flood zones (100 year and 500 year)
- Average snowfall of 36.1" or more
- Hurricane surge inundation areas



The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only.
It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory
interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

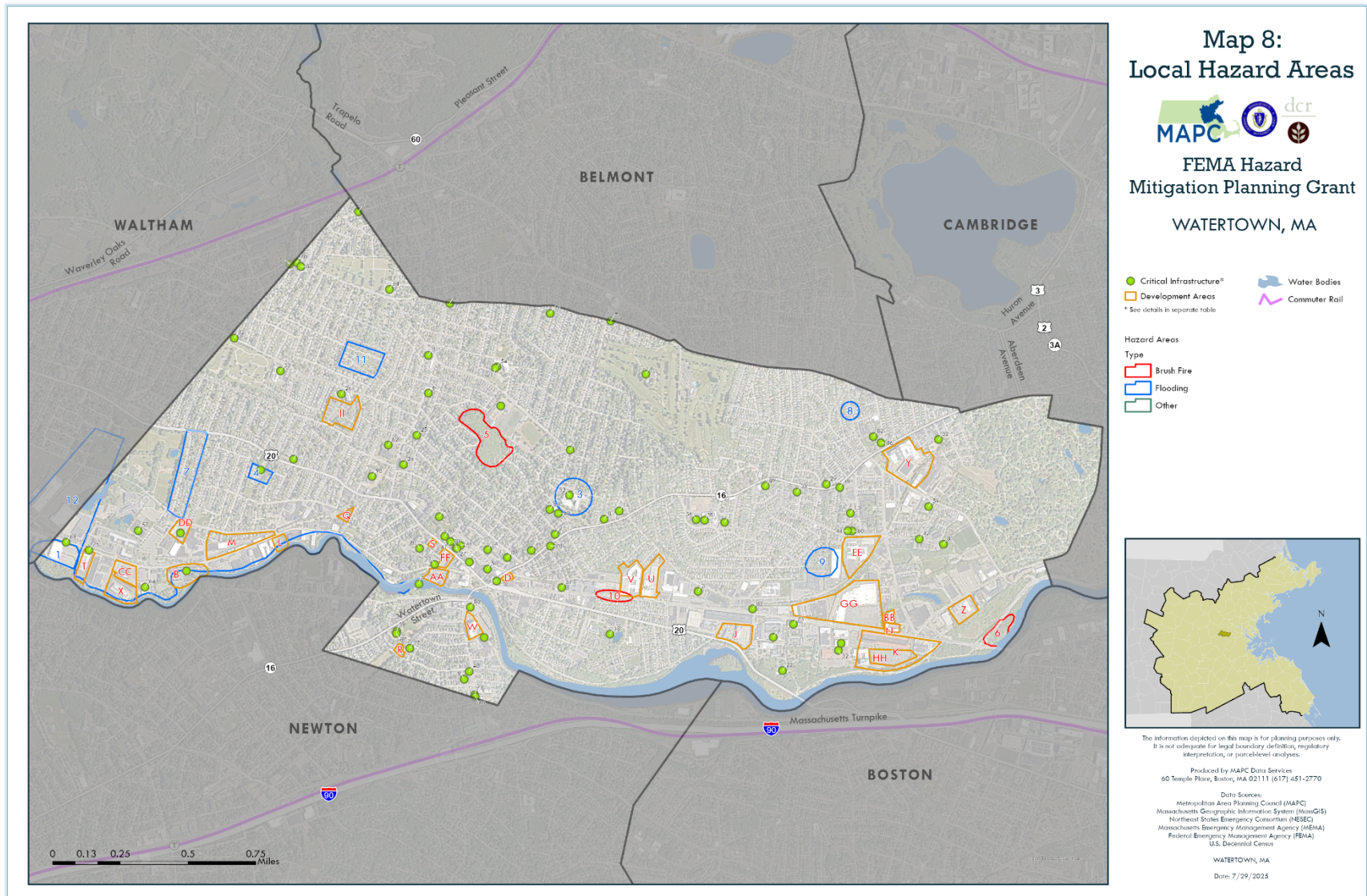
Produced by MAPC Data Services
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 (617) 451-2770

Data Sources:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS)
Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC)
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
U.S. Decennial Census

WATERTOWN, MA
Date: 7/29/2025

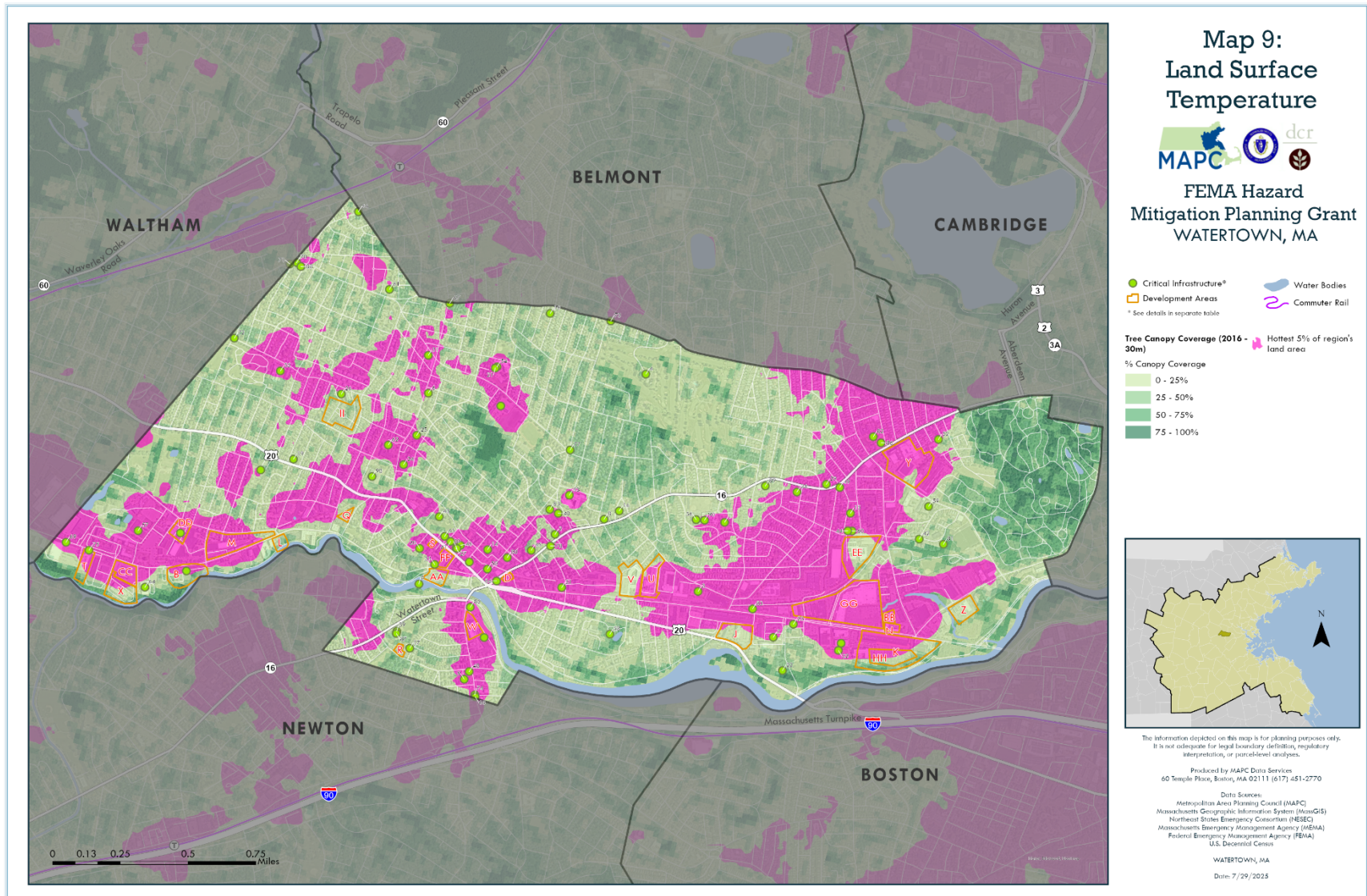
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CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT



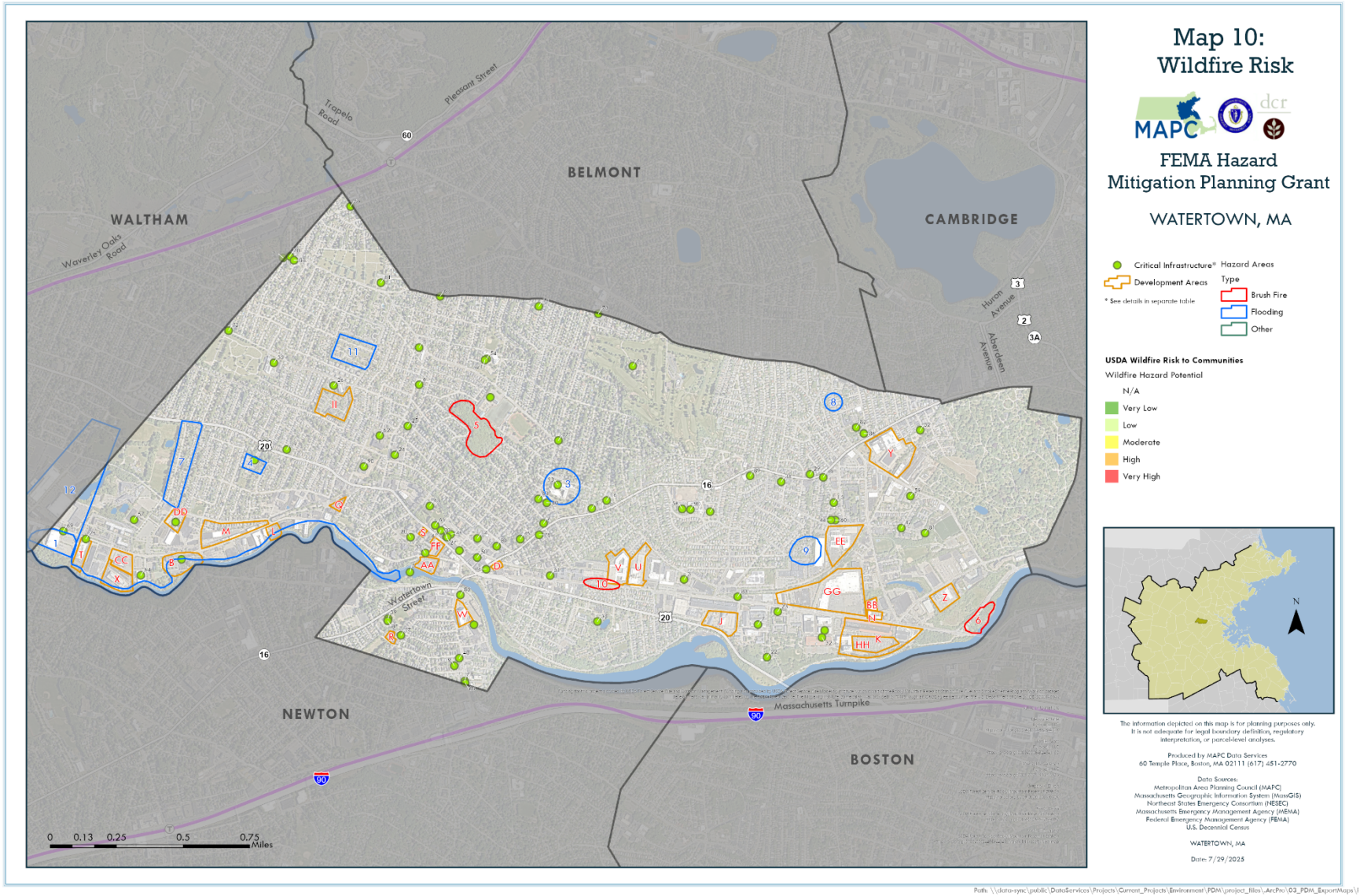
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**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**



APPENDIX B: HAZARD MITIGATION TEAM MEETINGS

Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Team Meeting #1

Monday, April 14, 2025
10:00 – 11:30 AM

Police Emergency Operations Center

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of Planning Process and Schedule (see attached timeline)

3. Getting Started: Local Data Updates from the 2019 Plan

- *The Team will update 3 types of local data from the 2019 plan (see attached worksheets):*
 1. Local Hazard Areas (Flooding, Wildfire, etc.)
 2. ¹Critical Facilities
 3. New Development sites
- *MAPC's GIS Planner will join via Zoom to map new or revised sites using the online platform Google [MyMaps](#)*

4. Next steps: Preparing for Public Meetings and Outreach

- *We will hold 2 Public Meetings during development of the plan:*
 - 1st public meeting during the planning process (Fall 2025)*
 - 2nd public meeting on the draft plan and invite comments (Winter 2026)**HMP Team, please identify local stakeholders to invite*
- *Next HMP Team meeting in July*

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

**Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2025
Local Team Meeting #2**

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025
1:00 – 2:30 PM**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Project Update

2. Review and Update of Mitigation Goals for the Plan

See Worksheet #4 Mitigation Goals from the 2019 plan attached

3. Review Status of Existing Mitigation Measures

See Worksheet #5 Existing Mitigation from the 2019 Plan attached

- Note any **Changes for 2026**
- Update any **Improvements Needed**
- Add any **New Measures** adopted since 2017

4. Prepare for First Public Meeting and Community Survey

- Meeting date and host board/commission (target November)
- *Meeting Invitation/outreach:*
 - *Identify local stakeholders to invite (refer to MVP invitees)*
 - *Community groups, businesses, NGO's, etc.*
 - Public outreach on City [website](#), social media, etc.
 - MAPC to prepare flyer, social media card, press advisory

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

**Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Local Team Meeting #3**

Thursday, October 16, 2025
10:30 – 12:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Project Update

2. Review Status of Mitigation Strategies from the Past Plan

The Team will review the recommended mitigation measures from the past plan and note those that have been implemented, are in progress, or have not been implemented.
See the attached worksheet to note the status of mitigation recommendations.

3. Next Steps

- **Final Team Meeting –January**
 - To be Scheduled in November 2025
 - Finalize mitigation recommendations for the 2025 plan
- **First Public Meeting–October/November**
 - Presentation of the draft plan and public questions/comments
 - Draft plan to be posted on the Town's website for public review
- **Second Public Meeting–February**
 - Presentation of the draft plan and public questions/comments
 - Draft plan to be posted on the Town's website for public review
- **Draft Plan to be submitted for MEMA & FEMA review**
 - Revisions to the draft plan if required by MEMA or FEMA
 - FEMA will issue "Approval Pending Adoption" notice
- **Adoption of the Final Plan by the Town**
 - FEMA will issue "Approval Pending Adoption" notice
- **FEMA will issue a formal Letter of Plan Approval**
 - The new plan will be in effect for 5 years, until 2030

**CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
2026 UPDATE DRAFT**

**Watertown Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Local Team Meeting #4 (Final Meeting)**

**Friday, January 23, 2026
10:00 – 11:30**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Project Update

2. Finalize the Mitigation Strategies for 2026 Plan

- The Team will review the draft recommended mitigation measures for the 2026 plan
- We will confirm the recommendations, lead agencies, timeframes, and costs
- *See the attached worksheet.*

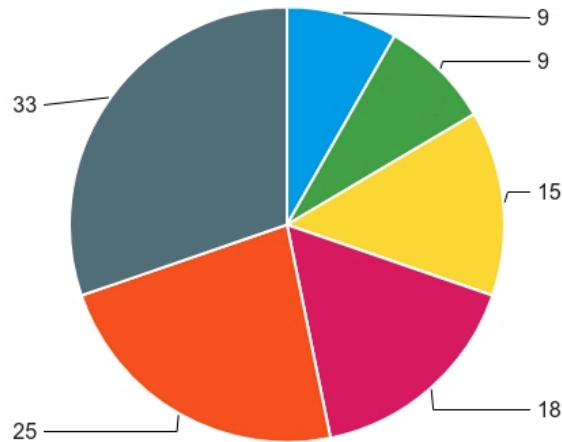
3. Next Steps

• Second Public Meeting / Review of Draft Plan

- **Need to Schedule Public Meeting**
- Meeting notice and social media outreach, please advise on public engagement
- Presentation of the draft plan and public questions/comments
- Draft plan to be posted on the [City](#) website for public review

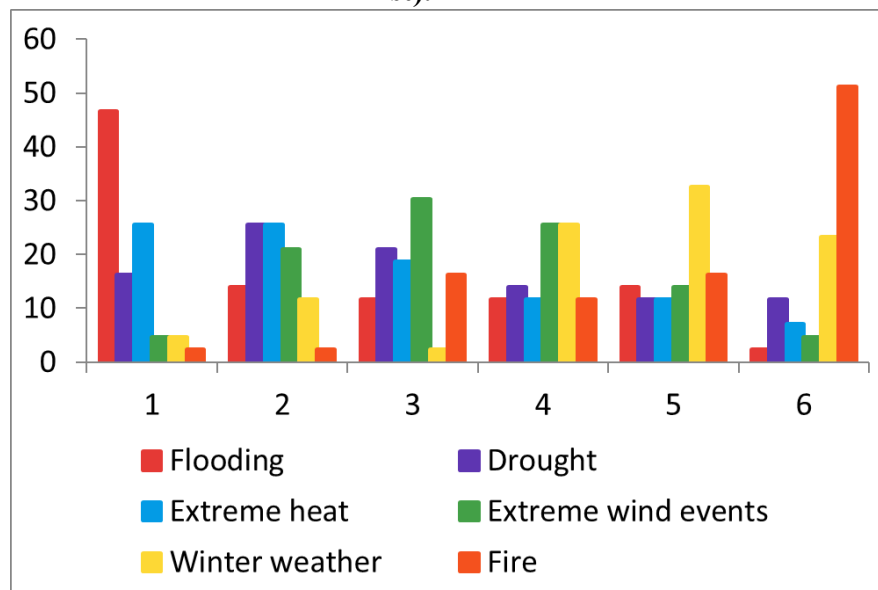
APPENDIX C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Which hazard mitigation strategies are most important to you? Please select your top three priorities



- Modeling and data analysis to project future conditions in Watertown
- Public outreach, education, and engagement related to natural hazards
- Updating bylaws and regulations to incorporate resiliency considerations
- Strategies that promote community resilience and support the City's most vulnerable residents
- Designing resilient infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings
- Designing resilient green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and public open space

What natural hazards are you most concerned about? Please rank the following options from most concerning (top of the list) to least concerning (bottom of the list).



CITY OF WATERTOWN HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2026 UPDATE DRAFT

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Upcoming Meeting to Update FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan  Summarize

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out today as I am supporting the City's Emergency Management team as the City updates our FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan. An important aspect of updating these plans is conducting outreach to our community, in particular local businesses and community organizations to invite them to the upcoming Council Committee meeting on Public Works on December 15 at 6:00 PM in City Hall. At the meeting, attendees will hear the presentation about the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and before and afterwards, we are asking for everyone's engagement in a survey I have linked below.

Please find below a short blurb and an attached flyer regarding the meeting. If you might be able to join, we'd love to have you. Additionally, if you might be willing to also provide any support in sharing this with your network of businesses in Watertown, I would be very very grateful.

...

The City of Watertown is updating its FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan to assess its vulnerability to natural hazards and identify strategies to increase the resilience of our community, infrastructure, and natural resources. Please join the upcoming presentation to the Committee on Public Works at their meeting on **December 15, 2025, at 6:00pm** at Watertown City Hall (149 Main Street), or by watching online. See the [agenda](#) for the meeting details.

Also, please take the [community survey](#) associated with this project to help inform and support the project team through this process!

...

I appreciate your support and collaboration always. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving and I look forward to connecting again very soon!

Best wishes,
Tyler

Tyler Cote
Community Engagement Specialist
City of Watertown, Massachusetts

The information for the first public meeting was shared in the newsletter. This email was sent to the Watertown business coalition, MIT, Watertown gardens, and WCATV.

APPDENDIX D CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

[Martin will add this]

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve the Grant of Location on Main Street



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 72

2026 – R - 72

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Watertown Department of Public Works has reviewed the attached petition by N'STAR Electric DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location in Main Street northwesterly thence northeasterly from manhole MH11279, approximately 90 feet east of Whites Avenue, to install approximately 92 feet of conduit.

This work is to provide electrical service to newly installed pedestrian-actuated flashing crosswalk sign, as part of the City's project, 2026-12 Main Street at Whites Avenue Bus Stop Improvements. Said Grant of Location shall be subject to the following recommendations and conditions.

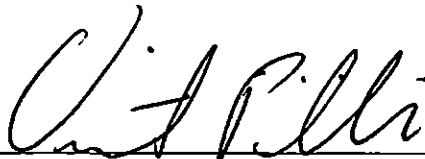
Standard Conditions

1. This Grant of Location does not authorize physical excavation. The Applicant or its Contractor must apply for and receive a Street Opening Permit and/or a Sidewalk Crossing Permit from the Watertown Department of Public Works (DPW) prior to the commencement of any site activities.
2. The Applicant or their Contractor must contact DIGSAFE (811) at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the commencement of any excavation. A valid DIGSAFE Ticket Number must be provided to the DPW as part of the Street Opening Permit application. It is the Contractor's responsibility to verify that all underground infrastructure has been marked in the field before breaking ground..
3. If subsurface infrastructure not shown on the approved plans is encountered, or if a conflict arises between the proposed installation and existing public or private utilities, work shall cease in the affected area. The Applicant shall contact the City Engineer immediately to determine an appropriate resolution or redesign.
4. The Contractor shall coordinate with the City of Watertown Health Department to ensure compliance with all applicable rodent control and integrated pest management (IPM) requirements prior to and during construction.
5. Unimpeded pedestrian access, or temporary accessible facilities meeting The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), and City of Watertown standards, shall be maintained at all times. Any temporary path must be clearly delineated, stable, and slip-resistant.
6. All work within the Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be performed in strict adherence to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and MassDOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines. The Contractor is responsible for scheduling and funding any required police details and implementing safety measures as mandated by OSHA.
7. Equipment, materials, and stockpiles shall be staged in a clean and orderly fashion. No materials or equipment shall be placed in a manner that obstructs intersectional sightlines or creates hazards for motorists or pedestrians.

8. The Applicant and its Contractor are responsible for the protection of all public and private property. Any damage to City-owned infrastructure (valves, hydrants, manholes) or private utilities shall be repaired or replaced at the Applicant's sole expense.
9. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, and roadway surfaces shall be restored "in-kind" to the satisfaction of the DPW.
10. If a segment of sidewalk is removed, it must be replaced to full width. All restoration work must comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), and City of Watertown construction standards.
11. All material stockpiled on-site must be protected with erosion control devices. The Contractor is strictly liable for the removal of any sediment, construction materials, or debris, that enters the City's MS4 drainage system or sanitary sewer system as a result of the work.
12. Public shade trees within or adjacent to the work zone shall be protected per City standards. Individual tree protection is required for impacted trees. No equipment or materials shall be stored within the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) of any public shade tree without prior written approval from the City's Tree Warden. The Contractor shall refer to the City's standard tree protection detail for additional information.
13. Upon completion of the work, the Applicant shall submit an As-Built Survey Plan to the DPW. This plan shall be recorded with the City and must include the precise horizontal and vertical locations of all installed infrastructure. The Applicant shall refer to the Engineering Division's As-Built Requirements for additional information.
14. The Applicant shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City of Watertown and its employees from all claims, damages, or losses arising out of the installation, maintenance, or failure of the utility infrastructure authorized by this Grant of Location.
15. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the DPW or the Watertown Police Department (WPD), or in the event of a documented emergency, work within the Public ROW shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Work may be permitted to occur on Saturday from the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the sole discretion of the DPW and WPD.
16. The Applicant shall provide the DPW and the Watertown Police Department with a 24-hour emergency contact name and phone number for a representative authorized to address site safety or infrastructure issues.
17. The Contractor shall install catch basin filter inserts (e.g., "Silt Sacks") in all storm drains within 100 feet of the work zone or as directed by the DPW. To prevent "track-out" onto public ways, the Contractor shall perform street sweeping of the work area and adjacent streets, as necessary or as determined by the DPW. If sediment enters the MS4 system due to inadequate controls, the Contractor shall be responsible for the professional cleaning of the affected reach at no cost to the City.
18. No trench backfilling, utility covering, or permanent surface restoration shall proceed until the work has been inspected and authorized by a DPW Inspector. The Applicant must provide a minimum of 24-hour notice to the DPW to schedule these inspections. At the City's discretion, the Applicant may be required to provide certified compaction testing results from an independent laboratory for any trenching within the roadway travel lane before the final paving courses are applied.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the petitioner shall deposit sufficient cash surety as determined by the Superintendent of Public Works to be held in escrow until the Superintendent of Public Works is satisfied with the condition of repair and restoration of the street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said petition is forwarded to the City Clerk for processing.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA EVERSOURCE

**Grant of Location: Main Street
WO # 25542262**

June 25, 2026

Dear Abutters:

The City Council of the City of Watertown will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parking Building Meeting Room 2E, 124 Watertown St., Watertown, MA along with remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online:
<https://watertownma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344 #
- D. Public may also comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

On a petition from NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location for the following installations:

Main Street - Northwesterly thence northeasterly from manhole MH11279, approximately 90 feet east of Whites Avenue, install approximately 92 feet of conduit.

This work is to provide electrical service to a newly installed pedestrian-actuated flashing crosswalk sign, as part of the City's project, 2026-12 Main Street at Whites Avenue Bus Stop Improvements. The remaining work involves pulling electrical wire through the pre-installed conduit. No new excavation is to occur. We are submitting the following recommendations and conditions for consideration by the City Council should this Grant of Location application be approved. A photo of the location of the proposed work is attached to this document.

Standard Conditions

1. This Grant of Location does not authorize physical excavation. The Applicant or its Contractor must apply for and receive a Street Opening Permit and/or a Sidewalk Crossing Permit from the Watertown Department of Public Works (DPW) prior to the commencement of any site activities.
2. The Applicant or their Contractor must contact DIGSAFE (811) at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the commencement of any excavation. A valid DIGSAFE Ticket Number must be provided to the DPW as part of the Street Opening Permit application. It is the Contractor's responsibility to verify that all underground infrastructure has been marked in the field before breaking ground..
3. If subsurface infrastructure not shown on the approved plans is encountered, or if a conflict arises between the proposed installation and existing public or private utilities, work shall cease in the affected area. The Applicant shall contact the City Engineer immediately to determine an appropriate resolution or redesign.
4. The Contractor shall coordinate with the City of Watertown Health Department to ensure compliance with all applicable rodent control and integrated pest management (IPM) requirements prior to and during construction.
5. Unimpeded pedestrian access, or temporary accessible facilities meeting The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), and City of Watertown standards, shall be maintained at all times. Any temporary path must be clearly delineated, stable, and slip-resistant.
6. All work within the Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be performed in strict adherence to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and MassDOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines. The Contractor is responsible for scheduling and funding any required police details and implementing safety measures as mandated by OSHA.
7. Equipment, materials, and stockpiles shall be staged in a clean and orderly fashion. No materials or equipment shall be placed in a manner that obstructs intersectional sightlines or creates hazards for motorists or pedestrians.
8. The Applicant and its Contractor are responsible for the protection of all public and private property. Any damage to City-owned infrastructure (valves, hydrants, manholes) or private utilities shall be repaired or replaced at the Applicant's sole expense.
9. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, and roadway surfaces shall be restored "in-kind" to the satisfaction of the DPW.
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11. All material stockpiled on-site must be protected with erosion control devices. The Contractor is strictly liable for the removal of any sediment, construction materials, or debris, that enters the City's MS4 drainage system or sanitary sewer system as a result of the work.
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13. Upon completion of the work, the Applicant shall submit an As-Built Survey Plan to the DPW. This plan shall be recorded with the City and must include the precise horizontal

and vertical locations of all installed infrastructure. The Applicant shall refer to the Engineering Division's As-Built Requirements for additional information.

14. The Applicant shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City of Watertown and its employees from all claims, damages, or losses arising out of the installation, maintenance, or failure of the utility infrastructure authorized by this Grant of Location.

15. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the DPW or the Watertown Police Department (WPD), or in the event of a documented emergency, work within the Public ROW shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Work may be permitted to occur on Saturday from the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the sole discretion of the DPW and WPD.

16. The Applicant shall provide the DPW and the Watertown Police Department with a 24-hour emergency contact name and phone number for a representative authorized to address site safety or infrastructure issues.

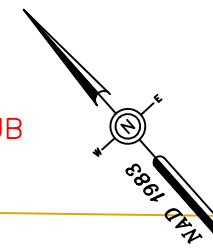
17. The Contractor shall install catch basin filter inserts (e.g., "Silt Sacks") in all storm drains within 100 feet of the work zone or as directed by the DPW. To prevent "track-out" onto public ways, the Contractor shall perform street sweeping of the work area and adjacent streets, as necessary or as determined by the DPW. If sediment enters the MS4 system due to inadequate controls, the Contractor shall be responsible for the professional cleaning of the affected reach at no cost to the City.

18. No trench backfilling, utility covering, or permanent surface restoration shall proceed until the work has been inspected and authorized by a DPW Inspector. The Applicant must provide a minimum of 24-hour notice to the DPW to schedule these inspections. At the City's discretion, the Applicant may be required to provide certified compaction testing results from an independent laboratory for any trenching within the roadway travel lane before the final paving courses are applied.

Location Photos



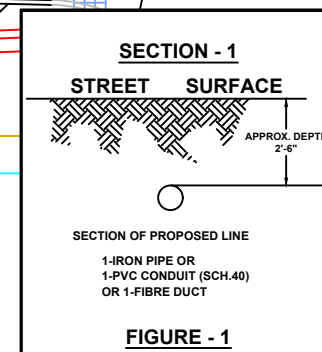
321/1/A
25 WHITES AVE
N/F
WATERTOWN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



WARNING
PIPE TYPE CABLE
IN THIS AREA

206/8/0C
222 MAIN ST
N/F
ROGER & MARTHA
GALLAGHER

206/1/0
MAIN ST
N/F
ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHBISHOP OF B



BY YOUR USE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MAP, YOU AGREE THAT NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IS GIVEN WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION. NEITHER NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, NSTAR GAS COMPANY NOR ITS PARENTS, AFFILIATES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS (COLLECTIVELY THE "NSTAR ENTITIES") SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR INJURY CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY USE OF THIS INFORMATION OR IN RELIANCE UPON IT. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, YOU AGREE BY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE INFORMATION TO RELEASE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE NSTAR ENTITIES HARMLESS FROM ANY SUCH LOSS OR INJURY.

THE INFORMATION MAY NOT REPRESENT A SURVEY, MAY NOT BE THE MOST COMPLETE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. NO LIABILITY IS ASSUMED FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION, EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. UNAUTHORIZED ATTEMPTS TO MODIFY THE INFORMATION OR USE THE INFORMATION FOR OTHER THAN ITS INTENDED PURPOSES ARE PROHIBITED.

MASS. LAW

REQUIRES 72 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE TO UTILITY COMPANIES
BEFORE DIGGING BY ANYONE. CALL DIG-SAFE 1-888-344-7233

C# 100-26

Ward #

Work Order # 25542262

Surveyed by: VT/GR

Research by: GR

Plotted by: VTVT

Proposed Structures: VT

Approved: K RICE

P#

NSTAR
ELECTRIC
d/b/a **EVERSOURCE**

1165 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. DORCHESTER, MASS. 02125

Plan of MAIN STREET

WATERTOWN

Showing PROPOSED CONDUIT LOCATION

--	--

Scale	1"=20'
-------	--------

SHEET 1 of 1

Date APRIL 22, 2026

Your participation is not necessary if you choose not to object to the above petition.

Sincerely,

Watertown City Council

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve the Grant of Location on Chapman Street



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 73

2026 – R - 73

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Watertown Department of Public Works has reviewed the attached petition by N'STAR Electric DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location in Chapman Street - easterly side, approximately 80 feet south of Carey Avenue, to relocate utility pole 199/20 to approximately 8 feet north of its current location. This work is to accommodate a fully permitted new driveway and to provide a new overhead wired electrical service for 128 Carey Avenue.

This work is to accommodate a fully permitted new driveway and to provide a new overhead wired electrical service for 128 Carey Avenue. Said Grant of Location shall be subject to the following recommendations and conditions.

Standard Conditions

1. This Grant of Location does not authorize physical excavation. The Applicant or its Contractor must apply for and receive a Street Opening Permit and/or a Sidewalk Crossing Permit from the Watertown Department of Public Works (DPW) prior to the commencement of any site activities.
2. The Applicant or their Contractor must contact DIGSAFE (811) at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the commencement of any excavation. A valid DIGSAFE Ticket Number must be provided to the DPW as part of the Street Opening Permit application. It is the Contractor's responsibility to verify that all underground infrastructure has been marked in the field before breaking ground..
3. If subsurface infrastructure not shown on the approved plans is encountered, or if a conflict arises between the proposed installation and existing public or private utilities, work shall cease in the affected area. The Applicant shall contact the City Engineer immediately to determine an appropriate resolution or redesign.
4. The Contractor shall coordinate with the City of Watertown Health Department to ensure compliance with all applicable rodent control and integrated pest management (IPM) requirements prior to and during construction.
5. Unimpeded pedestrian access, or temporary accessible facilities meeting The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), and City of Watertown standards, shall be maintained at all times. Any temporary path must be clearly delineated, stable, and slip-resistant.
6. All work within the Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be performed in strict adherence to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and MassDOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines. The Contractor is responsible for scheduling and funding any required police details and implementing safety measures as mandated by OSHA.
7. Equipment, materials, and stockpiles shall be staged in a clean and orderly fashion. No materials or equipment shall be placed in a manner that obstructs intersectional sightlines.

or creates hazards for motorists or pedestrians.

8. The Applicant and its Contractor are responsible for the protection of all public and private property. Any damage to City-owned infrastructure (valves, hydrants, manholes) or private utilities shall be repaired or replaced at the Applicant's sole expense.

9. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, and roadway surfaces shall be restored "in-kind" to the satisfaction of the DPW.

10. If a segment of sidewalk is removed, it must be replaced to full width. All restoration work must comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), and City of Watertown construction standards.

11. All material stockpiled on-site must be protected with erosion control devices. The Contractor is strictly liable for the removal of any sediment, construction materials, or debris, that enters the City's MS4 drainage system or sanitary sewer system as a result of the work.

12. Public shade trees within or adjacent to the work zone shall be protected per City standards. Individual tree protection is required for impacted trees. No equipment or materials shall be stored within the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) of any public shade tree without prior written approval from the City's Tree Warden. The Contractor shall refer to the City's standard tree protection detail for additional information.

13. Upon completion of the work, the Applicant shall submit an As-Built Survey Plan to the DPW. This plan shall be recorded with the City and must include the precise horizontal and vertical locations of all installed infrastructure. The Applicant shall refer to the Engineering Division's As-Built Requirements for additional information.

14. The Applicant shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City of Watertown and its employees from all claims, damages, or losses arising out of the installation, maintenance, or failure of the utility infrastructure authorized by this Grant of Location.

15. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the DPW or the Watertown Police Department (WPD), or in the event of a documented emergency, work within the Public ROW shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Work may be permitted to occur on Saturday from the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the sole discretion of the DPW and WPD.

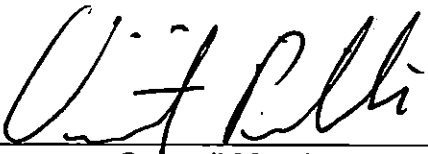
16. The Applicant shall provide the DPW and the Watertown Police Department with a 24-hour emergency contact name and phone number for a representative authorized to address site safety or infrastructure issues.

17. The Contractor shall install catch basin filter inserts (e.g., "Silt Sacks") in all storm drains within 100 feet of the work zone or as directed by the DPW. To prevent "track-out" onto public ways, the Contractor shall perform street sweeping of the work area and adjacent streets, as necessary or as determined by the DPW. If sediment enters the MS4 system due to inadequate controls, the Contractor shall be responsible for the professional cleaning of the affected reach at no cost to the City.

18. No trench backfilling, utility covering, or permanent surface restoration shall proceed until the work has been inspected and authorized by a DPW Inspector. The Applicant must provide a minimum of 24-hour notice to the DPW to schedule these inspections. At the City's discretion, the Applicant may be required to provide certified compaction testing results from an independent laboratory for any trenching within the roadway travel lane before the final paving courses are applied.

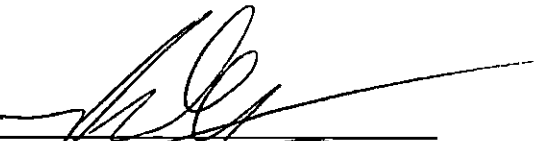
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the petitioner shall deposit sufficient cash surety as determined by the Superintendent of Public Works to be held in escrow until the Superintendent of Public Works is satisfied with the condition of repair and restoration of the street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said petition is forwarded to the City Clerk for processing.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA EVERSOURCE

**Grant of Location: Chapman Street
WO # 25399844**

June 25, 2026

Dear Abutters:

The City Council of the City of Watertown will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parker Building Meeting Room 2E, 124 Watertown St, Watertown, MA along with remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online:
<https://watertownma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344 #
- D. Public may also comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

On a petition from NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location for the following installations:

Chapman Street - Easterly side, approximately 80 feet south of Carey Avenue, relocate utility pole 199/20 to approximately 8 feet north of current location.

This work is to accommodate a fully permitted new driveway and to provide a new overhead wired electrical service for 128 Carey Avenue. As of May 26, 2026, the existing utility pole has been removed and the new utility pole has been installed into the proposed location. We are submitting the following recommendations and conditions for consideration by the City Council should this Grant of Location application be approved. A photo of the location of the proposed work is attached to this document.

Standard Conditions

1. This Grant of Location does not authorize physical excavation. The Applicant or its Contractor must apply for and receive a Street Opening Permit and/or a Sidewalk Crossing Permit from the Watertown Department of Public Works (DPW) prior to the commencement of any site activities.
2. The Applicant or their Contractor must contact DIGSAFE (811) at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to the commencement of any excavation. A valid DIGSAFE Ticket Number must be provided to the DPW as part of the Street Opening Permit application. It is the Contractor's responsibility to verify that all underground infrastructure has been marked in the field before breaking ground..
3. If subsurface infrastructure not shown on the approved plans is encountered, or if a conflict arises between the proposed installation and existing public or private utilities, work shall cease in the affected area. The Applicant shall contact the City Engineer immediately to determine an appropriate resolution or redesign.
4. The Contractor shall coordinate with the City of Watertown Health Department to ensure compliance with all applicable rodent control and integrated pest management (IPM) requirements prior to and during construction.
5. Unimpeded pedestrian access, or temporary accessible facilities meeting The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), and City of Watertown standards, shall be maintained at all times. Any temporary path must be clearly delineated, stable, and slip-resistant.
6. All work within the Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be performed in strict adherence to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and MassDOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines. The Contractor is responsible for scheduling and funding any required police details and implementing safety measures as mandated by OSHA.
7. Equipment, materials, and stockpiles shall be staged in a clean and orderly fashion. No materials or equipment shall be placed in a manner that obstructs intersectional sightlines or creates hazards for motorists or pedestrians.
8. The Applicant and its Contractor are responsible for the protection of all public and private property. Any damage to City-owned infrastructure (valves, hydrants, manholes) or private utilities shall be repaired or replaced at the Applicant's sole expense.
9. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, and roadway surfaces shall be restored "in-kind" to the satisfaction of the DPW.
10. If a segment of sidewalk is removed, it must be replaced to full width. All restoration work must comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB), and City of Watertown construction standards.
11. All material stockpiled on-site must be protected with erosion control devices. The Contractor is strictly liable for the removal of any sediment, construction materials, or debris, that enters the City's MS4 drainage system or sanitary sewer system as a result of the work.
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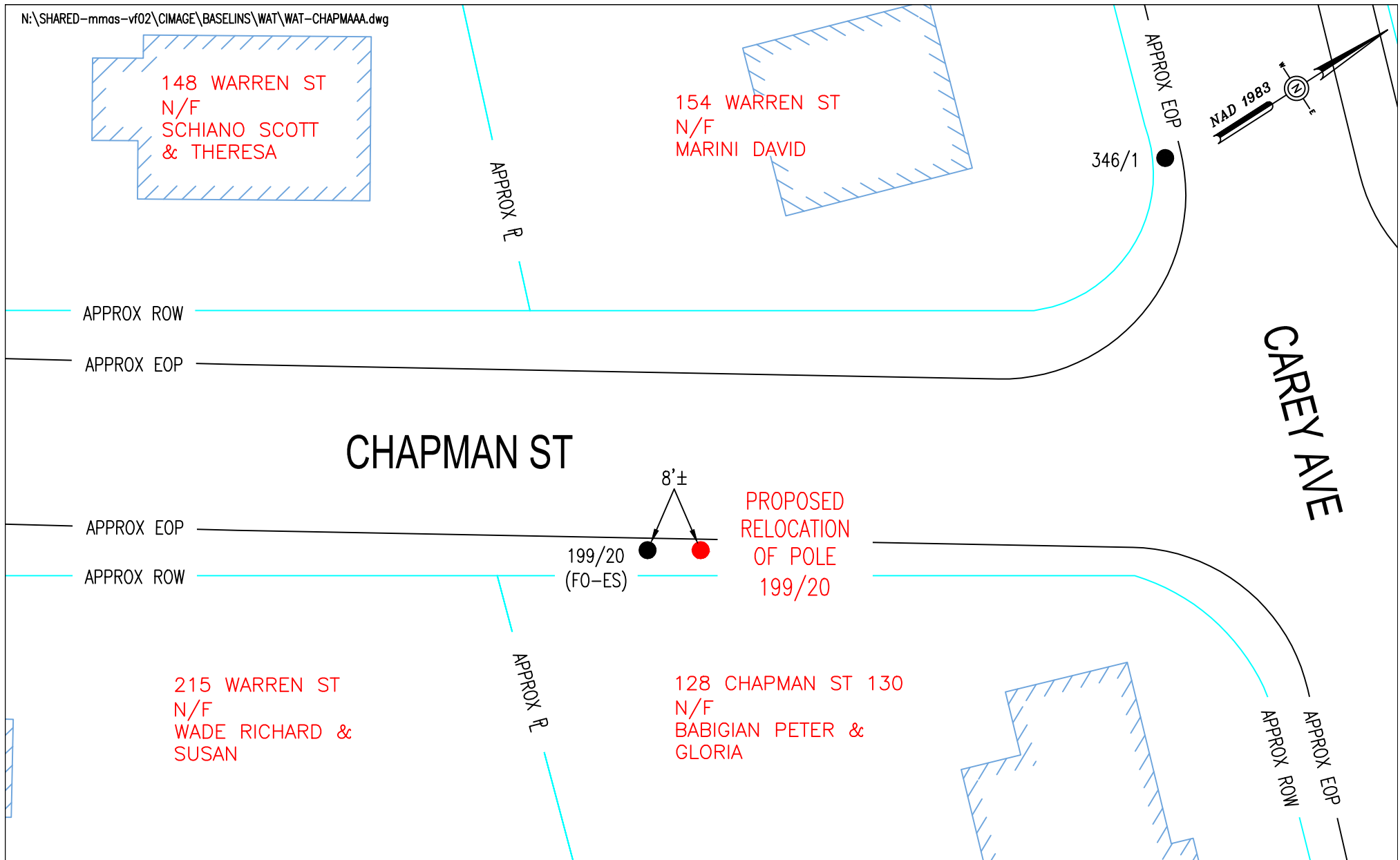
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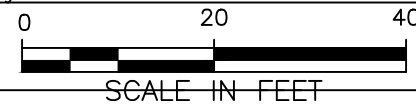
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Location Photos





BY YOUR USE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MAP, YOU AGREE THAT NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IS GIVEN WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION. NEITHER NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, NSTAR GAS COMPANY NOR ITS PARENTS, AFFILIATES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS (COLLECTIVELY THE "NSTAR ENTITIES") SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR INJURY CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY USE OF THIS INFORMATION OR IN RELIANCE UPON IT, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, YOU AGREE BY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE INFORMATION TO RELEASE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE NSTAR ENTITIES HARMLESS FROM ANY SUCH LOSS OR INJURY. THE INFORMATION MAY NOT REPRESENT A SURVEY, MAY NOT BE THE MOST COMPLETE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. NO LIABILITY IS ASSUMED FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION, EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. UNAUTHORIZED ATTEMPTS TO MODIFY THE INFORMATION OR USE THE INFORMATION FOR OTHER THAN ITS INTENDED PURPOSES ARE PROHIBITED.	Proposed pole locations shown thus	⊕	C#	NSTAR EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC d/b/a 1165 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. DORCHESTER, MASS. 02125
	Pole locations to be abandoned, shown thus	○	Ward #	
	Proposed Anchor Guy shown thus	T	Work Order # 25399844	Plan of CHAPMAN STREET WATERTOWN
	Proposed Hip Guy shown thus	T±	Surveyed by: N/A	
	Proposed Underground location shown thus	—	Research by: VT	Showing PROPOSED POLE RELOCATION
	Proposed Push Brace shown thus	⊕	Plotted by: VT	
	Existing Pole location shown thus	●	Proposed Structures: VT	Scale 1"=20' Date APRIL 15, 2026
			Approved: K RICE	
			P#	SHEET 1 of 1



Your participation is not necessary if you choose not to object to the above petition.

Sincerely,

Watertown City Council

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve a loan order for \$750,000 to pay costs of purchasing a new fire engine for the Fire Department



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDER # 74

2026 - O - 74

ORDER TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE ENGINE

ORDERED: That the sum of \$750,000 is appropriate to pay costs of purchasing a fire engine for the Fire Department, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2027 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above order was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
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Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
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Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: April 23, 2026
RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

Attached is correspondence from Fire Chief Ryan A. Nicholson regarding replacement of the 2013 “Engine 3.”

The Fire Department has finalized specifications with the vendor, who is holding our place in the production queue and now requires a signed agreement and purchase order to proceed. Given the engine’s age and rising maintenance costs, advancing the planned replacement is advisable.

Working with the Auditor’s Office, \$500,000 has been identified in the FY26 Full-Time Salaries line item, reducing the required loan authorization from \$1,250,000 in Conceptual Recommendation 21a of the FY27–31 CIP to \$750,000.

A \$500,000 transfer has been placed on the June 23, 2026 City Council Agenda, contingent on approval of the proposed \$750,000 loan order.

I respectfully request that the attached Loan Order be placed on the June 23, 2026 City Council Agenda for First Reading.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
p: 617-345-9000 f: 617-345-9020
hinckleyallen.com

Chelsea A. Tryder
(617) 378-4190
ctryder@hinckleyallen.com

June 18, 2026

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order – Fire Engine

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following forms of loan order to approve the borrowing of funds to pay costs of purchasing a new fire engine and ambulance for the Fire Department:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$750,000 is appropriated to pay costs of purchasing a fire engine for the Fire Department, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2027 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

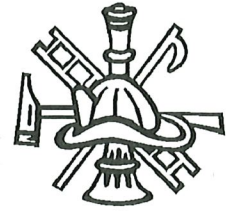
Sincerely,

/s/ Chelsea A. Tryder

Chelsea A. Tryder



WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT
Fire Department Headquarters, 99 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472-4410
Tel. (617) 972-6512 • Fax (617) 972-6575
www.fire.watertown-ma.gov



RYAN A. NICHOLSON
Chief of Department

Memorandum

To: Mr. George Proakis, City Manager
From: Chief Ryan A. Nicholson
Date: June 16, 2026
Subject: Engine replacement for a 2013 Engine

As you are aware, the FY27 budget includes \$1,250,000 for the replacement of 2013 "Engine 3". I recommend that we move forward with this replacement at this time. We have been working closely with the vendor to create the specifications for this engine. The vendor has been holding our position in a queue and requires a signed agreement and purchase order at this time in order to move forward with our order. Due to the age of the current engine and the increased costs of maintaining its serviceability it would be beneficial to move forward with replacement as planned.

In working with the Auditor's Office, \$500,000 has been identified in our FY26 Full Time Salaries line item to decrease the necessary loan order request from the \$1,250,000 noted in Conceptual Recommendation #21a of the FY27-31 CIP to \$750,000.

Thank you for your attention to this request and please let me know if I can provide any further information.

Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Thank you for placing your Legal Notice in The Boston Globe.

Your order information and a preview of your notice are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1314 or email legals@globe.com.

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AD PREVIEW:

Legal Notice The City Council of Watertown hereby gives notice of a public hearing and vote to be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Richard Mastrangelo Chamber Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA and online at the following link: https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344 which may be found on the City of Watertown's website, on a proposed Loan Order as follows: ORDERED: That the sum of \$750,000 is appropriate to pay costs of purchasing a fire engine for the Fire Department, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2027 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this public hearing. A copy of the proposed Loan Order is available for inspection at the Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472 in the City Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday evening up to 7:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m., and on the City's website page: www.watertown-ma.gov.
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CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Water and Sewer Rates and Charges



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDER # 75

2026 - O - 75

ORDER ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2027 WATER AND SEWER RATES AND CHARGES

ORDERED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts Fiscal Year 2027 Water and Sewer Rates and Charges as attached.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: June 16, 2026
RE: Fiscal Year 2027 Water & Sewer Rates

Attached please find correspondence from Thomas D. Brady, DPW Director summarizing the Water and Sewer Rate Study Analysis performed for the City of Watertown. As stated in the report, this study was performed to provide the City with recommended water and sewer rate changes that will generate sufficient revenue to fund the purchase of water and wastewater treatment from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority ("MWRA"), operational costs, indirect costs, debt service costs, and short-term and long-term capital improvements. The proposed rate changes will ensure the water fund and sewer fund continue to maintain healthy retained earnings.

I respectfully request a First Reading on an Order establishing water and sewer rates and charges for Fiscal Year 2027 be considered at the June 23, 2026 City Council meeting. The Public Hearing and consideration of rate schedules and fees designed to raise sufficient revenues to support the Fiscal Year 2027 operational services provided to customers of the City's Water/Sewer System would be scheduled for the July 14, 2026 City Council Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

To: George J. Proakis, City Manager

From: Thomas D. Brady, DPW Director

Date: June 15, 2026

Re: FY27 Water & Sewer Rates

Background

A water and sewer rate study was conducted to provide the City with recommended water and sewer rate changes which will generate sufficient revenue to fund the operational, indirect, debt service, and short- and long-term capital improvement costs while ensuring the water and sewer funds continue to maintain healthy retained earnings. The attached report contains rate recommendations which fully support the City's final FY 2027 water and sewer budgets and capital plans.

Estimated Expenses and Revenues

Without any changes in revenue, total projected water revenues for FY 2027 are \$9,816,450 and projected expenditures are \$10,531,533, leaving a deficit of over \$715,000 for FY 2027. The revenue total does not include liens, which is revenue from prior years that the City has already identified as revenue in those years.

Without any changes in revenue, total projected sewer revenues for FY 2027 are \$12,981,892 and projected expenditures are \$14,788,830, leaving a deficit of over \$1.8 million for FY 2027. The revenue total does not include liens, which is revenue from prior years that the City has already identified as revenue in those years.

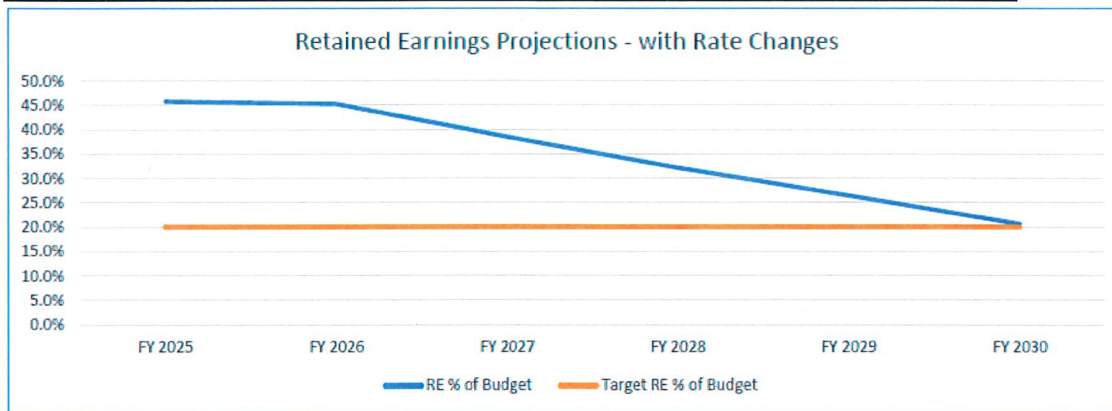
The Water Enterprise Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund are experiencing budgetary shortfalls because revenue recovered from rates is insufficient to cover expenditures.

A Look Back to FY 2026 and Ahead to FY 2028

The FY 2026 rate study indicated that 4% annual increases in water and sewer rates over the five-year projection period would ensure that all expenses could be covered by revenues and available retained earnings while maintaining healthy retained earnings of 20% by the end of FY2030:

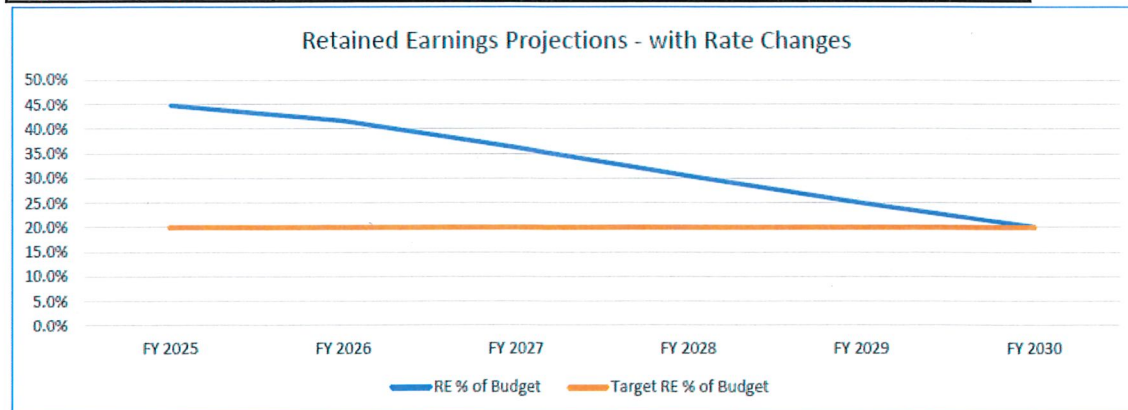
Water Rate Study

Rate Changes:	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
	3.50%	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Rate Impact	FY 2025 PROJECTED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 939,759	\$ 73,537	\$ (359,289)	\$ (504,064)	\$ (531,372)	\$ (580,946)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$ 4,409,700	\$ 4,483,237	\$ 4,123,948	\$ 3,619,884	\$ 3,088,512	\$ 2,507,566
RE % of Budget	45.8%	45.3%	38.5%	32.2%	26.4%	20.6%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%



Sewer Rate Study

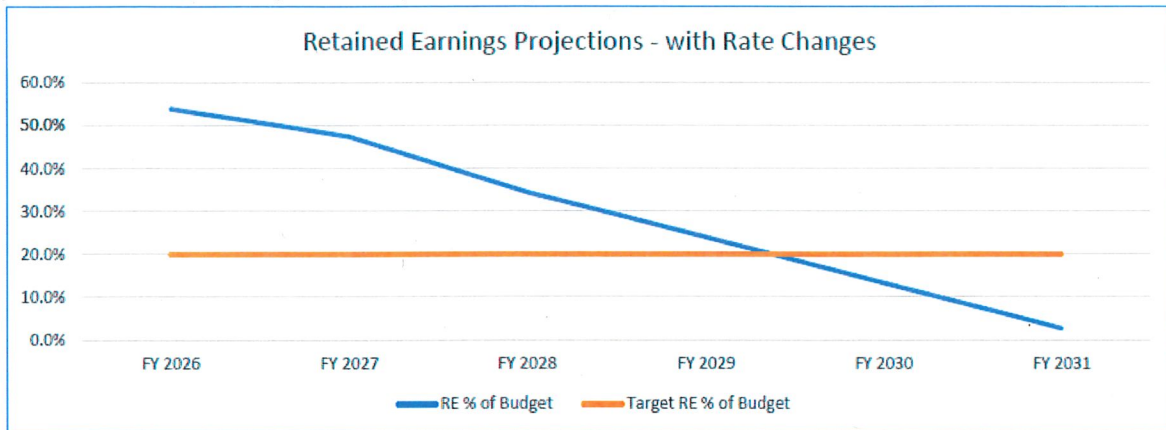
Rate Changes:	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
	3.50%	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Rate Impact	FY 2025 PROJECTED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 1,466,714	\$ (59,777)	\$ (406,376)	\$ (595,501)	\$ (660,548)	\$ (653,164)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$ 5,620,921	\$ 5,561,144	\$ 5,154,768	\$ 4,559,267	\$ 3,898,719	\$ 3,245,555
RE % of Budget	44.8%	41.7%	36.2%	30.5%	25.0%	20.1%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%



In the FY 2027 rates study, 4% annual increases in water and sewer rates over the five-year projection period show a very different picture, with retained earnings dropping to 13.2% of budget in the Water Enterprise Fund and to -2.1% in the Sewer Enterprise Fund in FY 2030, and going even lower in FY 2031:

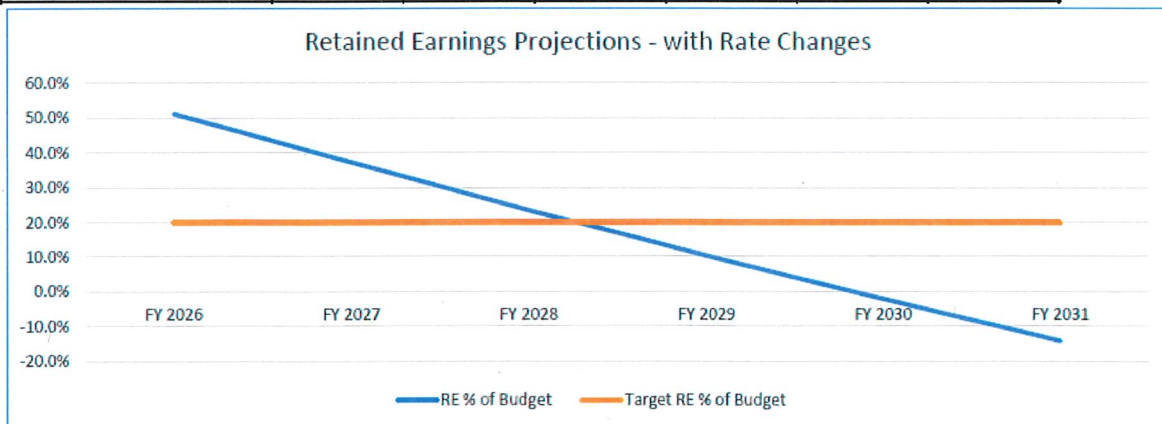
Water Rate Study

Rate Changes:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Rate Impact	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 514,183	\$ (342,932)	\$ (1,008,251)	\$ (1,097,162)	\$ (1,217,277)	\$ (1,319,912)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$5,335,172	\$4,992,240	\$ 3,983,989	\$ 2,886,827	\$ 1,669,550	\$ 349,638
RE % of Budget	53.9%	47.4%	34.4%	23.9%	13.2%	2.7%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%



Sewer Rate Study

Rate Changes:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Rate Impact	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 884,676	\$ (1,294,777)	\$ (1,811,237)	\$ (1,994,244)	\$ (2,075,693)	\$ (2,188,743)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$ 6,811,848	\$ 5,517,071	\$ 3,705,834	\$ 1,711,590	\$ (364,103)	\$ (2,552,846)
RE % of Budget	51.2%	37.3%	23.4%	10.3%	-2.1%	-14.2%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%



Similarly, the annual budget deficits toward the end of the projection period have also grown substantially in the new rate study, projected at \$1.3 million in the Water Enterprise Fund and nearly \$2.2 million in the Sewer Enterprise Fund in FY 2031.

For this reason, the new rate study calls for substantially higher rate increases in the outyears of the projection window – 6% for water and 8% for sewer – to maintain retained earnings at a health level.

Our consultant recently informed us that the FY 2026 rate study contained a modeling error that contributed to the differences between the FY 2026 and FY 2027 financial outlooks for the Enterprise Funds. Building the model on FY 2024 actual user charges revenue, the consultant used FY 2025 rate increases that were higher than those actually adopted (5.5% for water and 6.0% for sewer versus the 3.5% adopted for both), which overstated projected revenues and understated the rate increases needed in FY 2026 and future years. After correcting the error in the FY 2027 rate study, higher rate increases were required to maintain healthy reserve levels.

While it is helpful to know one of the causes of the significant change in the financial outlook of the Enterprise Funds between the FY 2026 and FY 2027 rate studies was a modeling error, it does not change the fact that we are facing a serious financial challenge with the Enterprise Funds in the five-year projection window. As such, Assistant Director for Public Utilities Sean Harrington and I will lead a comprehensive review of the finances of the Funds well before the FY 2028 rate-setting process, beginning in the fall of this calendar year, in an attempt to mitigate the high rate increases currently shown in the model for FY 2028 and beyond. We intend to examine every expense category and revenue stream – starting with a careful review of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for both Enterprise Funds as well as the combined additional \$4.4 million that has been included in the rate model for the past several years for unidentified capital projects to be funded out of retained earnings.

Proposed Rates and Charges

Taking into consideration all the foregoing, we are recommending that Watertown increase its water rates, sewer rates, and service charges by 4.5% for FY 2027. This increase is slightly higher than the rate increase projected in the FY 2026 rate study (4%) because of the significant change in the financial outlook of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds presented in the FY 2027 rate study. We hope to mitigate the more substantial rate increases outlined in

Option 2 of the FY 2027 rate study with the comprehensive financial review of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds discussed above.

With a 4.5% increase, the quarterly water bill for a typical resident using 1,800cf will increase \$5.10 per quarter, from \$115.28 to \$120.38. The quarterly sewer bill for a typical resident with a usage of 1,800cf will increase \$9.54 per quarter, from \$213.48 to \$223.02. The overall or combined water and sewer bill for a typical resident with a usage of 1,800cf would increase from \$328.76 per quarter to \$343.40 per quarter; for an overall increase of \$14.64 per quarter, or 4.5%.

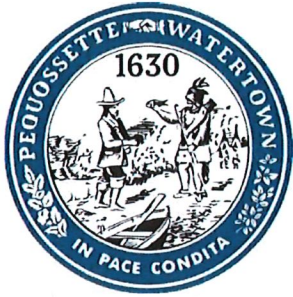
Tables 1 and 2 below present the current and proposed water and sewer rates, as well as quarterly bill impacts for typical customers, respectively.

Table 1: Current and Proposed Water and Sewer Rates

Base Charge	FY 2026	FY 2027	Difference	
<i>Minimum Charge</i>				
<i>(Quarterly)</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	\$	%
5/8	\$9.44	\$9.86	\$0.42	4.5%
¾	\$10.05	\$10.50	\$0.45	4.5%
1	\$11.87	\$12.40	\$0.53	4.5%
1 1/4	\$14.29	\$14.93	\$0.64	4.5%
1.5	\$14.29	\$14.93	\$0.64	4.5%
2	\$20.84	\$21.78	\$0.94	4.5%
3	\$69.46	\$72.59	\$3.13	4.5%
4	\$87.46	\$91.40	\$3.94	4.5%
6	\$129.46	\$135.29	\$5.83	4.5%
Volumetric Rate (per Ccf)				
<i>Water</i>				
Tier 1	\$5.88	\$6.14	\$0.26	4.5%
Tier 2	\$9.16	\$9.57	\$0.41	4.5%
Tier 3	\$12.38	\$12.94	\$0.56	4.5%
Tier 4	\$16.16	\$16.89	\$0.73	4.5%
<i>Sewer (100% of Water Consumption)</i>				
Tier 1	\$11.86	\$12.39	\$0.53	4.5%
Tier 2	\$15.48	\$16.18	\$0.70	4.5%
Tier 3	\$17.28	\$18.06	\$0.78	4.5%
Tier 4	\$21.17	\$22.12	\$0.95	4.5%
<i>Combined Rate</i>				
Tier 1	\$17.74	\$18.54	\$0.80	4.5%
Tier 2	\$24.64	\$25.75	\$1.11	4.5%
Tier 3	\$29.66	\$30.99	\$1.33	4.5%
Tier 4	\$37.33	\$39.01	\$1.68	4.5%
<i>Irrigation (all Ccf)</i>	\$16.16	\$16.89	\$0.73	4.5%

Table 2: Quarterly Bill Impacts for Typical Customers

Meter Size	Usage (cu. Ft)	Current FY 2026			Proposed FY 2027			Difference	
		Water	Sewer	Total	Water	Sewer	Total	\$	%
5/8"	1,000	\$68.24	\$118.60	\$186.84	\$71.31	\$123.94	\$195.25	\$8.41	4.5%
5/8"	2,500	\$156.44	\$296.50	\$452.94	\$163.48	\$309.84	\$473.32	\$20.38	4.5%
5/8"	5,000	\$385.44	\$683.50	\$1,068.94	\$402.78	\$714.26	\$1,117.04	\$48.10	4.5%
5/8"	15,000	\$1,623.44	\$2,411.50	\$4,034.94	\$1,696.49	\$2,520.02	\$4,216.51	\$181.57	4.5%
1"	25,000	\$2,863.87	\$4,139.50	\$7,003.37	\$2,992.74	\$4,325.78	\$7,318.52	\$315.15	4.5%
4"	75,000	\$11,019.46	\$14,724.50	\$25,743.96	\$11,515.34	\$15,387.10	\$26,902.44	\$1,158.48	4.5%



City of Watertown
Massachusetts

Water and Sewer Rate Study

Fiscal Year 2027

June 2026



WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC.
55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100, Reading, MA 01867
Tel: 978.532.1900



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Appendix A Water Rate Study

Appendix B Sewer Rate Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the Water and Sewer Rate Study performed for the City of Watertown ("City") by The Abrahams Group LLC and Weston & Sampson. This study was performed to provide the City with recommended water and sewer rate changes that will generate sufficient revenue to fund the purchase of water and wastewater treatment from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority ("MWRA"), operational costs, indirect costs, debt service costs, and short-term and long-term capital improvements. The proposed rate changes will ensure the water fund and sewer fund continue to maintain healthy retained earnings.

Rate options were reviewed with City management and discussed with City staff. The discussion led to two (2) rate options for presentation in this report. The rate options are designed to support the City's final FY 2027 water and sewer budgets, planned capital projects, and maintain healthy retained earnings balances.

1.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Watertown consists of primarily urban commercial and residential development with a population of approximately 35,000, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. The City's Public Utilities Division through the City's Department of Public Works ("DPW"), provides services to approximately 9,500 commercial, residential, industrial, and institutional accounts.

The Public Utilities Division is responsible for providing its customers with drinking water and providing wastewater collection and conveyance in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner that meets EPA and DEP standards.

The City is a member community of the MWRA. The MWRA supplies water to the City, with an average daily demand of 2.52 million gallons per day, per the MWRA's Community Water Use data from December 2023. The water is then conveyed to the City's residents through the City's 82 miles of water distribution mains.

The City's sewer system consists of approximately 82 miles of sewer mains that transport wastewater to the MWRA's interceptors. The City transports an average daily flow of 3.85 million gallons per day, per the MWRA's Sewer Flow Report for the calendar years of 2021, 2022, and 2023.

2.0 EXISTING RATE STRUCTURE AND CHARGES

The City's water and sewer rates are based on a multi-tier rate structure in which the rate per 100 cubic feet of water increases with consumption. All 9,500 plus residential, commercial, and irrigation accounts are billed quarterly which are staggered across each quarter according to the billing cycle.

The City currently has an inclining, four-tier structure for non-irrigation water consumption and sewer flow and a flat fee for irrigation water consumption, as well as meter and fire protection charges.

The following table shows current water and sewer rates for FY 2026:

Tier	Consumption	Water Rate (per 100 cubic feet)	Sewer Rate (per 100 cubic feet)
1	0 - 2,500 cu ft	\$5.88	\$11.86
2	2,501 - 5,000 cu ft	\$9.16	\$15.48
3	5,001 - 25,000 cu ft	\$12.38	\$17.28
4	Over 25,000 cu ft	\$16.16	\$21.17
Irrigation	All	\$16.16	N/A

The following table shows current meter service charges for FY 2026:

Meter Size (inches)	Rates/Quarter
5/8	\$9.44
3/4	\$10.05
1	\$11.87
1 1/4	\$14.29
1 1/2	\$14.29
2	\$20.84
3	\$69.46
4	\$87.46
6	\$129.46

The following table shows current fire service charges for FY 2026:

Service Size (inches)	Rates/Quarter
2	\$13.77
3	\$48.19
4	\$96.39
6	\$282.27
8	\$598.95
10	\$1,080.88

2.1 Comparison to Neighboring Communities

When considering rate and/or tier changes, comparing the City's rates and tiers to neighboring communities' rates and tiers provides helpful information on how communities measure up. The table below compares water rates by tier and base charges. The average customer's bill, based on an industry-standard 2,800 cubic feet of usage, is also included in the table. Each community in the table is a member of the MWRA.

Community	Tiers					Base	Rates					Average Bill
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5		Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	
Watertown	0-2,500	2,500-5,000	5,001-25,000	Over 25,000		\$9.44	\$5.88	\$9.16	\$12.38	\$16.16		\$183.92
Waltham	0-2,100	2,100-4,500	4,500-12,000	Over 12,000			\$3.07	\$4.15	\$11.90	\$17.14		\$93.52
Needham	0-600	600-2,700	2,700-4,200	Over 4,200		\$16.00	\$3.47	\$3.72	\$5.44	\$5.73		\$120.38
Lexington	0-4,000	4,000-8,000	Over 8,000				\$5.06	\$7.59	\$10.02			\$141.68
Wellesley	0-1,500	1,500-3,600	3,600-7,200	7,200-108,000	Over 108,000	\$32.25	\$5.81	\$6.82	\$10.81	\$14.00	\$17.81	\$208.06
Brookline	0-1,800	Over 1,800				\$39.42	\$3.46	\$8.65				\$188.20
Belmont	0-9,000	Over 9,000				\$18.90	\$7.20	\$8.26				\$220.50
Arlington	0-1,500	1,500-3,000	Over 3,000			\$19.56	\$9.19	\$9.84	\$11.95			\$285.33
Newton	0-1,000	1,000-2,500	2,500-6,000	Over 6,000			\$8.09	\$9.36	\$10.76	\$13.42		\$253.58

Data in the table above is per quarter. Tiers are in cubic feet. Rates per 100 cubic feet. Average bill is for usage of 2,800 cubic feet with 5/8" meter.

FY '27 Water and Sewer Rate Study

The following table compares sewer rates by tier and base charges.

Community	Tiers					Base	Rates					Average Bill
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5		Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	
Watertown	0-2,500	2,500-5,000	5,001-25,000	Over 25,000			\$11.86	\$15.48	\$17.28	\$21.17		\$342.94
Waltham	0-2,100	2,100-4,500	4,500-12,000	Over 12,000			\$5.46	\$7.63	\$13.26	\$16.51		\$168.07
Needham	0-600	600-2,700	2,700-4,200	Over 4,200		\$13.00	\$11.13	\$12.29	\$13.25	\$14.45		\$351.12
Lexington	0-4,000	4,000-8,000	Over 8,000				\$10.27	\$16.78	\$26.69			\$287.56
Wellesley	Flat Rate					\$15.00	\$11.55					\$338.40
Brookline	Flat Rate					\$39.42	\$10.36					\$329.50
Belmont	Flat Rate					\$17.76	\$15.11					\$440.84
Arlington	0-1,500	1,500-3,000	Over 3,000				\$10.80	\$11.51	\$13.97			\$311.63
Newton	0-1,000	1,000-2,500	2,500-6,000	Over 6,000			\$12.59	\$14.73	\$15.82	\$18.19		\$394.31

Data in the table above is per quarter. Tiers are in cubic feet. Rates per 100 cubic feet. Average bill is for usage of 2,800 cubic feet with 5/8" meter.

2.2 Existing Expenses and Revenues

A fourth tier was added to the water and sewer rate structures for FY 2023. The positive impact of the tier changes on water and sewer billings continued into FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026. For FY 2025, water rates increased by 3.5% across all tiers and sewer rates increased by 3.5% across all tiers. A dry summer in 2024 impacted FY 2025 billings, with both the water fund and sewer fund ending FY 2025 with a large surplus. The water fund's surplus in FY 2025 was \$1,540,281 and the sewer fund's surplus in FY 2025 was \$2,862,347. These surpluses have contributed to healthy retained earnings balances for both funds at the time of the most recent certification, which was as of July 1, 2025. The latest certification for water was \$4,820,989, or 53.0%, of water fund expenses in FY 2025, and the latest certification for sewer was \$5,927,172, or 45.9%, of sewer fund expenses in FY 2025.

Projections for FY 2026 show that the water fund should end with a surplus of about \$500,000. The 3.5% rate increase and increased consumption due to very dry conditions for a second consecutive year greatly contributed to the projected surplus. Total fund expenses are projected to increase 8.8% over FY 2025's, which includes a \$96,000, or 2.1%, increase to the City's MWRA water

assessment and a \$292,000, or 25.1%, increase to long-term debt. The water fund's projected surplus for FY 2026 is \$514,183 despite these increases in expenses. Any surplus should further enhance the retained earnings balance. The sewer fund should also end FY 2026 with a sizable surplus. Like with water, the 3.5% rate increase and increased consumption due to very dry conditions at the end of the summer of 2025 have greatly contributed to the projected surplus. Total fund expenses are projected to increase 19.0% compared to FY 2025's. FY 2026 saw a \$398,000, or 5.5%, increase to the City's MWRA sewer assessment, an \$835,000, or 146.6%, increase in capital outlay, and a \$478,000, or 113.9%, increase to long-term debt. The sewer fund's projected surplus for FY 2025 is \$884,676. Any surplus should further enhance the retained earnings balance.

The City's FY 2027 water and sewer budgets were integrated into this study. The FY 2027 water budget is \$10,531,542, a 6.3% increase over FY 2026's water budget, and the FY 2027 sewer budget is \$14,788,830, a 10.8% increase over FY 2026's sewer budget. The MWRA's preliminary FY 2027 water assessment is \$4,707,331, a 0.4% increase over the FY 2026 assessment. Although an increase, this is the second straight year for which the City's water assessment increase is below the City's average increase in the recent past. The MWRA's preliminary FY 2027 sewer assessment is \$7,881,472, an increase of 2.7% over the FY 2026 assessment. The sewer assessment increased 2.9% on average over the five prior years. The MWRA's assessment is the single largest expense for the Water Enterprise Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

The City plans to invest in infrastructure improvements via its regularly maintained capital improvement plans ("CIPs") over the next five years. Included in the water projections presented, in addition to the funding of the City's regularly maintained CIP, is funding for capital improvements of \$2.4 million total from FY 2028 to FY 2031, to be funded out of retained earnings. Included in the sewer projections presented, in addition to the funding of the City's regularly maintained CIP, is funding for capital improvements of \$2.0 million total from FY 2028 to FY 2031, to be funded out of retained earnings.

3.0 BASELINE ANALYSIS

Without any changes in revenue (i.e., no rate adjustments), as presented in the baseline financial analysis, total projected water revenues for FY 2027 are \$9,816,450 and projected expenditures are \$10,531,533, leaving a deficit of over \$715,000 for FY 2027. The revenue total does not include liens, which is revenue from prior years that the City has already identified as revenue in those years.

Without any changes in revenue (i.e., no rate adjustments), as presented in the baseline financial analysis, total projected sewer revenues for FY 2027 are \$12,981,892 and projected expenditures are \$14,788,830, leaving a deficit of over \$1.8 million for FY 2027. The revenue total does not include liens, which is revenue from prior years that the City has already identified as revenue in those years.

The Water Enterprise Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund are experiencing budgetary shortfalls because revenue recovered from rates is insufficient to cover expenditures. The City should strongly consider rate action for FY 2027 and beyond to ensure sufficient revenue is realized from rates. Any deficit at the conclusion of a fiscal year would presumably be covered by available retained earnings. While healthy retained earnings balances in both funds would allow for this, the consistent use of retained earnings could eventually lead to retained earning balances dropping below recommended levels.

4.0 OPTIONS FOR RATES AND CHANGES

Options for updated rates and charges included in this report are designed to ensure all expenses included can be covered by revenues and available retained earnings and to target retained earnings of 20% of total expenditures by the end of the five-year period. The recommended retained earnings balance is between 10% and 25%.

Since the analysis conducted was a five-year look-ahead, proposed rate increases are presented for the next five (5) fiscal years, including FY 2027. Each of these options will help the City achieve its goals of covering actual costs of services, maintaining healthy retained earnings, investing in capital improvements, and ensuring long-term fiscal stability, although one of the rate options presented is the rate plan supported by City Council when rates were set for FY 2026. Its inclusion allows for illustration of how the financial picture has changed for both water and sewer since the conclusion of the FY 2026 rate study.

The options are designed to change rates and charges only, without changes to the City's rate structure. This is consistent with how the City has changed rates and charges in the recent past, other than the recent addition of the fourth tier in the rate structure, which was implemented for FY 2023.

4.1 Option 1

Option 1 is consistent with the rate plan supported by City Council as part of the FY 2026 rate study.

Rate increases are presented in the following table:

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Water	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Sewer	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%

FY '27 Water and Sewer Rate Study

The following table shows current meter service charges and proposed FY 2027 meter service charges along with the difference between them. The increases to the meter service charges are the same as the increases to water rates.

Meter Size (inches)	Rates/Quarter		Difference	
	Current FY 2026	Proposed FY 2027	\$	%
5/8	\$9.44	\$9.82	\$0.38	4.0%
3/4	\$10.05	\$10.45	\$0.40	4.0%
1	\$11.87	\$12.34	\$0.47	4.0%
1 1/4	\$14.29	\$14.86	\$0.57	4.0%
1 1/2	\$14.29	\$14.86	\$0.57	4.0%
2	\$20.84	\$21.67	\$0.83	4.0%
3	\$69.46	\$72.24	\$2.78	4.0%
4	\$87.46	\$90.96	\$3.50	4.0%
6	\$129.46	\$134.64	\$5.18	4.0%

The following table shows current private fire protection charges and proposed FY 2027 private fire protection charges along with the difference between them. The increases to the private fire protection charges are the same as the increases to water rates.

Service Size (inches)	Rates/Quarter		Difference	
	Current FY 2026	Proposed FY 2027	\$	%
2"	\$13.77	\$14.32	\$0.55	4.0%
3"	\$48.19	\$50.12	\$1.93	4.0%
4"	\$96.39	\$100.25	\$3.86	4.0%
6"	\$282.27	\$293.56	\$11.29	4.0%
8"	\$598.95	\$622.91	\$23.96	4.0%
10"	\$1,080.88	\$1,124.12	\$43.24	4.0%

FY '27 Water and Sewer Rate Study

The following table shows current volumetric rates and proposed FY 2027 volumetric rates along with the difference between them.

Tier	Volume (cu. Ft)	Volumetric Rates (per 100 cubic feet)		Difference	
		Current FY 2026	Proposed FY 2027	\$	%
Water					
1	0 - 2,500	\$5.88	\$6.12	\$0.24	4.0%
2	2,501 - 5,000	\$9.16	\$9.53	\$0.37	4.0%
3	5,001 - 25,000	\$12.38	\$12.88	\$0.50	4.0%
4	Over 25,000	\$16.16	\$16.81	\$0.65	4.0%
Irrigation	All	\$16.16	\$16.81	\$0.65	4.0%
Sewer					
1	0 - 2,500	\$11.86	\$12.33	\$0.47	4.0%
2	2,501 - 5,000	\$15.48	\$16.10	\$0.62	4.0%
3	5,001 - 25,000	\$17.28	\$17.97	\$0.69	4.0%
4	Over 25,000	\$21.17	\$22.02	\$0.85	4.0%
Combined					
1	0 - 2,500	\$17.74	\$18.45	\$0.71	4.0%
2	2,501 - 5,000	\$24.64	\$25.63	\$0.99	4.0%
3	5,001 - 25,000	\$29.66	\$30.85	\$1.19	4.0%
4	Over 25,000	\$37.33	\$38.82	\$1.49	4.0%
Irrigation	All	\$16.16	\$16.81	\$0.65	4.0%

The following table contains the quarterly bill impact on sample customers.

Meter Size	Usage (cu. Ft)	Current FY 2026			Proposed FY 2027			Difference	
		Water	Sewer	Total	Water	Sewer	Total	\$	%
5/8"	1,000	\$68.24	\$118.60	\$186.84	\$70.97	\$123.34	\$194.31	\$7.47	4.0%
5/8"	2,500	\$156.44	\$296.50	\$452.94	\$162.70	\$308.36	\$471.06	\$18.12	4.0%
5/8"	5,000	\$385.44	\$683.50	\$1,068.94	\$400.86	\$710.84	\$1,111.70	\$42.76	4.0%
5/8"	15,000	\$1,623.44	\$2,411.50	\$4,034.94	\$1,688.38	\$2,507.96	\$4,196.34	\$161.40	4.0%
1"	25,000	\$2,863.87	\$4,139.50	\$7,003.37	\$2,978.42	\$4,305.08	\$7,283.50	\$280.13	4.0%
4"	75,000	\$11,019.46	\$14,724.50	\$25,743.96	\$11,460.24	\$15,313.48	\$26,773.72	\$1,029.76	4.0%

The information presented for this option includes the total additional funding of \$2.4 million in water capital from FY 2028 to FY 2031 to be funded out of retained earnings and the additional funding of \$2.0 million in sewer capital from FY 2028 to FY 2031 to be funded out of retained earnings. This funding is in addition to what is in the City-maintained water and sewer CIPs.

While a rate increase for FY 2027 of 4.0% certainly improves the outlook of both funds, projections based on annual 4.0% increases show that retained earnings will be below the targeted 20% of fund expenses by FY 2030 and FY 2031, in large part due to large expense increases in FY 2027, and

that corresponding revenues are no longer covering the larger expenses in both funds. This rate option is included so updated projections can illustrate that rate action greater than the supported plan during the FY 2026 study is necessary to allow retained earnings to remain healthy.

4.2 Option 2

Option 2 contains a slightly higher rate increase for FY 2027 compared to the FY 2026 rate study supported by City Council, along with level rate increases in the subsequent years.

Rate increases are presented in the following table:

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Water	4.5%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Sewer	4.5%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%

The following table shows current meter service charges and proposed FY 2027 meter service charges along with the difference between them. The increases to the meter service charges are the same as the increases to water rates.

Meter Size (inches)	Rates/Quarter		Difference	
	Current FY 2026	Proposed FY 2027	\$	%
5/8	\$9.44	\$9.86	\$0.42	4.5%
3/4	\$10.05	\$10.50	\$0.45	4.5%
1	\$11.87	\$12.40	\$0.53	4.5%
1 1/4	\$14.29	\$14.93	\$0.64	4.5%
1 1/2	\$14.29	\$14.93	\$0.64	4.5%
2	\$20.84	\$21.78	\$0.94	4.5%
3	\$69.46	\$72.59	\$3.13	4.5%
4	\$87.46	\$91.40	\$3.94	4.5%
6	\$129.46	\$135.29	\$5.83	4.5%

FY '27 Water and Sewer Rate Study

The following table shows current private fire protection charges and proposed FY 2027 private fire protection charges along with the difference between them. The increases to the private fire protection charges are the same as the increases to water rates.

Service Size (inches)	Rates/Quarter		Difference	
	Current FY 2026	Proposed FY 2027	\$	%
2"	\$13.77	\$14.39	\$0.62	4.5%
3"	\$48.19	\$50.36	\$2.17	4.5%
4"	\$96.39	\$100.73	\$4.34	4.5%
6"	\$282.27	\$294.97	\$12.70	4.5%
8"	\$598.95	\$625.90	\$26.95	4.5%
10"	\$1,080.88	\$1,129.52	\$48.64	4.5%

The following table shows current volumetric rates and proposed FY 2027 volumetric rates along with the difference between them.

Tier	Volume (cu. Ft)	Volumetric Rates (per 100 cubic feet)		Difference	
		Current FY 2026	Proposed FY 2027	\$	%
Water					
1	0 - 2,500	\$5.88	\$6.14	\$0.26	4.5%
2	2,501 - 5,000	\$9.16	\$9.57	\$0.41	4.5%
3	5,001 - 25,000	\$12.38	\$12.94	\$0.56	4.5%
4	Over 25,000	\$16.16	\$16.89	\$0.73	4.5%
Irrigation	All	\$16.16	\$16.89	\$0.73	4.5%
Sewer					
1	0 - 2,500	\$11.86	\$12.39	\$0.53	4.5%
2	2,501 - 5,000	\$15.48	\$16.18	\$0.70	4.5%
3	5,001 - 25,000	\$17.28	\$18.06	\$0.78	4.5%
4	Over 25,000	\$21.17	\$22.12	\$0.95	4.5%
Combined					
1	0 - 2,500	\$17.74	\$18.54	\$0.80	4.5%
2	2,501 - 5,000	\$24.64	\$25.75	\$1.11	4.5%
3	5,001 - 25,000	\$29.66	\$30.99	\$1.33	4.5%
4	Over 25,000	\$37.33	\$39.01	\$1.68	4.5%
Irrigation	All	\$16.16	\$16.89	\$0.73	4.5%

FY '27 Water and Sewer Rate Study

The following table contains the quarterly bill impact on sample customers.

Meter Size	Usage (cu. Ft)	Current FY 2026			Proposed FY 2027			Difference	
		Water	Sewer	Total	Water	Sewer	Total	\$	%
5/8"	1,000	\$68.24	\$118.60	\$186.84	\$71.31	\$123.94	\$195.25	\$8.41	4.5%
5/8"	2,500	\$156.44	\$296.50	\$452.94	\$163.48	\$309.84	\$473.32	\$20.38	4.5%
5/8"	5,000	\$385.44	\$683.50	\$1,068.94	\$402.78	\$714.26	\$1,117.04	\$48.10	4.5%
5/8"	15,000	\$1,623.44	\$2,411.50	\$4,034.94	\$1,696.49	\$2,520.02	\$4,216.51	\$181.57	4.5%
1"	25,000	\$2,863.87	\$4,139.50	\$7,003.37	\$2,992.74	\$4,325.78	\$7,318.52	\$315.15	4.5%
4"	75,000	\$11,019.46	\$14,724.50	\$25,743.96	\$11,515.34	\$15,387.10	\$26,902.44	\$1,158.48	4.5%

The information presented for this option includes the total additional funding of \$2.4 million in water capital from FY 2028 to FY 2031 to be funded out of retained earnings and the additional funding of \$2.0 million in sewer capital from FY 2028 to FY 2031 to be funded out of retained earnings. This funding is in addition to what is in the City-maintained water and sewer CIPs.

A rate increase for FY 2027 of 4.5% allows retained earnings to remain at a healthy level for both water and sewer in the short term, but strong rate action would be needed in subsequent years to ensure retained earnings remain healthy in those years.

5.0 CONCLUSION

It is important to the City that the proposed rate increases are mitigated as much as possible, given the current environment, while also balancing the importance of continuing to fund the City's water and sewer capital improvement plans. The projections in this report include the full funding of the CIPs, as well as funding of additional capital improvements as described.

The City is focused on water and sewer rate increases of 4.5% for FY 2027 and also on committing to a thorough review of the status of the water and sewer enterprise funds, the water and sewer capital plans, and the water and sewer rate structure in the early part of FY 2027. This review may yield changes that will mitigate the rate increases needed in future years.

The projections provided in the report are based on many assumptions. We recommend that the water and sewer analyses conducted for the City are reviewed and updated each year. For example, assumptions including planned expenditures and anticipated revenues, change year to year and it is important to capture those changes to ensure that the rate plans presented are based on the most accurate information available at the time.

If, in future years, retained earnings projections show balances lower than those considered industry standard, the City can look at its planned expenses to see if any can be adjusted for a given year. This review should include any planned debt as the City can choose to push out planned debt a year or two, if necessary.

APPENDIX A

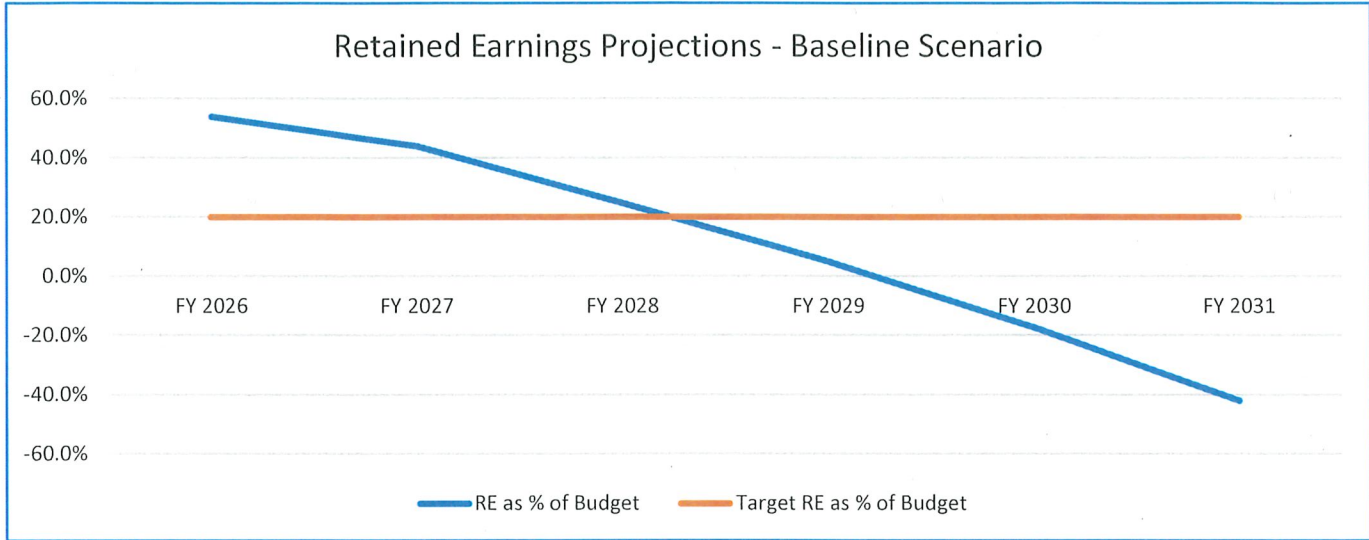
Water Rate Study

Includes:

Baseline Scenario
Option1 Summary
Option 2 Summary

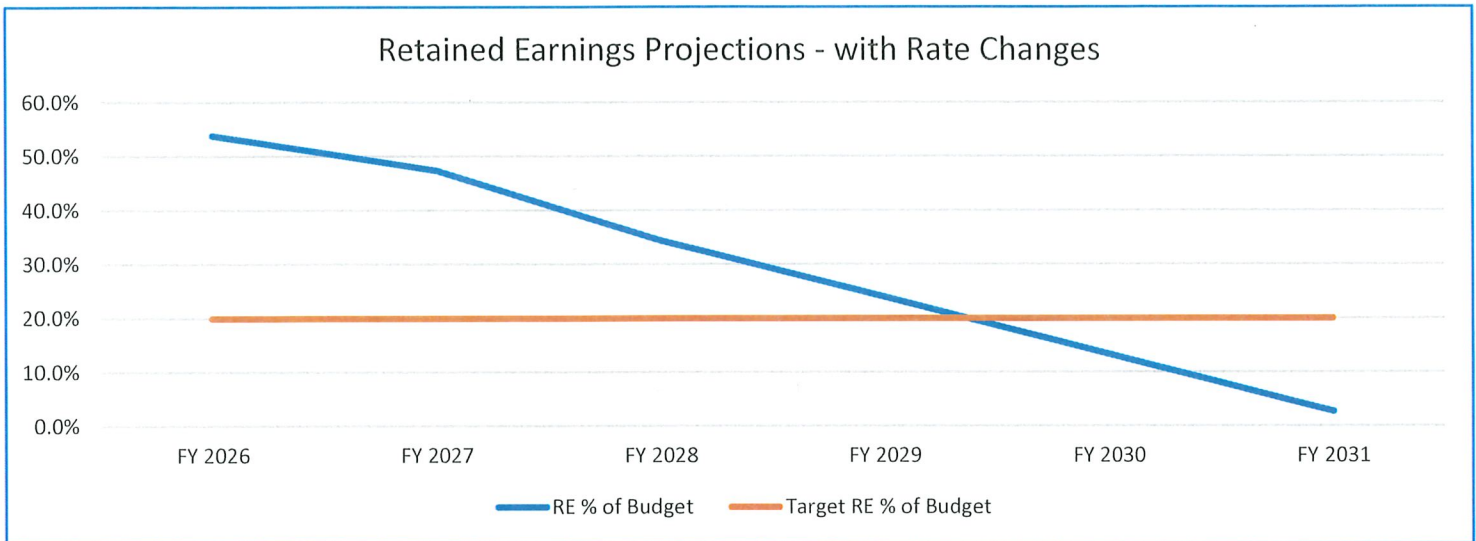
Target Retained Earnings as % of Budget:	20.0%
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Baseline	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 514,183	\$ (715,083)	\$ (1,767,438)	\$ (2,258,866)	\$ (2,797,599)	\$ (3,335,597)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$5,335,172	\$4,620,089	\$ 2,852,651	\$ 593,785	\$ (2,203,814)	\$ (5,539,411)
RE as % of Budget	53.9%	43.9%	24.6%	4.9%	-17.5%	-42.1%
Target RE as % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%



Description	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGETED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 BUDGETED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED	COMMENTS
Revenues and Other Sources														
TAX LIENS REDEEMED	\$ 4,605	\$ 7,498	\$ 6,813	\$ 2,148	\$ 87,477		\$ 5,444		\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN ON LIENS/WATER	\$ 8,323	\$ 3,594	\$ 3,987	\$ 2,860	\$ 21,118		\$ 4,140		\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN WATER CHARGES	\$ 49,699	\$ 43,905	\$ 57,217	\$ 49,102	\$ 70,285		\$ 56,764		\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
WATER UTILITY USAGE CHARGES	\$ 7,148,519	\$ 7,304,812	\$ 8,410,930	\$ 8,685,156	\$ 9,628,770		\$ 9,686,176		\$ 9,303,756	\$ 9,303,756	\$ 9,303,756	\$ 9,303,756	\$ 9,303,756	FY26, based on YTD actuals + estimated May commitments; FY27 and on based on FY26 YTD Actual; FY27 and on is the FY23 actual amount
MUNICIPAL WATER CHARGES	\$ 160,000	\$ 185,675	\$ 171,810	\$ 210,248	\$ 201,348		\$ 179,333		\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27 and on is the FY23 actual amount
WATER LIENS	\$ 190,168	\$ 234,594	\$ 256,455	\$ 265,022	\$ 392,895		\$ 340,009		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FY26 based on YTD actual; zeroed out FY27-FY31 to exclude from rev req't
WATER/OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ 408,882	\$ 68,287	\$ 119,824	\$ 190,732	\$ 128,809		\$ 54,362		\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
WATER TEST CHARGES	\$ 74,458	\$ 77,255	\$ 85,537	\$ 85,034	\$ 98,812		\$ 82,705		\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SALE OF PROP/INFRA READS	\$ 3,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
WATER/INTEREST INCOME	\$ 9,349	\$ 1,177	\$ 1,314	\$ 1,939	\$ 11,893		\$ 10,893		\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
Sub Total	\$ 8,057,893	\$ 7,926,796	\$ 9,113,886	\$ 9,492,241	\$ 10,641,406	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 10,419,826	\$ 10,531,542	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	
Retained Earnings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 8,057,893	\$ 7,926,796	\$ 9,113,886	\$ 9,492,241	\$ 10,641,406	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 10,419,826	\$ 10,531,542	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	\$ 9,816,450	
								27.5%						
Expenditures and Other Uses														
Salaries and Wages	\$ 861,865	\$ 999,818	\$ 1,056,380	\$ 991,273	\$ 1,188,722	\$ 1,316,084	\$ 1,316,084	\$ 1,325,709	\$ 1,325,709	\$ 1,385,366	\$ 1,447,707	\$ 1,512,854	\$ 1,580,933	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 4.5% yearly incr (6.3% avg. incr. last 5 years)
MWRA Assessment	\$ 3,935,832	\$ 4,184,354	\$ 4,147,401	\$ 4,202,656	\$ 4,592,105	\$ 4,688,527	\$ 4,688,527	\$ 4,707,340	\$ 4,707,331	\$ 5,074,534	\$ 5,272,440	\$ 5,478,066	\$ 5,691,710	FY26 actual and FY27 preliminary; FY28 and on based on 1.45% flow share
Other Expenses	\$ 361,066	\$ 358,695	\$ 480,254	\$ 508,423	\$ 288,130	\$ 492,757	\$ 492,757	\$ 672,000	\$ 672,000	\$ 688,800	\$ 706,020	\$ 723,671	\$ 741,762	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 2.5% yearly incr (1.0% avg. incr. last 5 years)
Capital Outlay	\$ 235,199	\$ 219,757	\$ 103,981	\$ 468,678	\$ 252,672	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 316,000	\$ 386,000	\$ 436,000	\$ 486,000	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; \$50K increase FY28 and on
Long Term Debt	\$ 542,013	\$ 645,750	\$ 1,271,610	\$ 1,288,418	\$ 1,164,200	\$ 1,456,650	\$ 1,456,650	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,451,425	\$ 1,438,463	\$ 1,459,160	\$ 1,464,343	FY27 on, from Planned Debt schedule with CIP, as provided by the City
Projected Additional Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 750,000	Anticipated additional capital to be funded out of RE; Increase \$100,000 annually
Sub Total	\$ 5,935,975	\$ 6,408,373	\$ 7,059,626	\$ 7,459,468	\$ 7,485,828	\$ 8,240,018	\$ 8,240,018	\$ 8,408,099	\$ 8,408,099	\$ 9,386,125	\$ 9,800,631	\$ 10,259,750	\$ 10,715,348	
Indirect Costs	\$ 1,588,520	\$ 1,553,006	\$ 1,511,731	\$ 1,423,464	\$ 1,615,298	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 2,123,443	\$ 2,123,443	\$ 2,197,764	\$ 2,274,685	\$ 2,354,299	\$ 2,436,700	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 3.5% yearly incr (0% avg. incr. last 5 years, but
Transfer to Capital Projects	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Used to be \$250K/\$500K annually; not including now due to add'l debt line from ca
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 7,774,495	\$ 7,961,379	\$ 8,571,357	\$ 8,882,932	\$ 9,101,126	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 10,531,542	\$ 10,531,533	\$ 11,583,888	\$ 12,075,316	\$ 12,614,050	\$ 13,152,048	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and														
Available Funds > Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 283,398	\$ (34,583)	\$ 542,529	\$ 609,309	\$ 1,540,281	\$ -	\$ 514,183	\$ -	\$ (715,083)	\$ (1,767,438)	\$ (2,258,866)	\$ (2,797,599)	\$ (3,335,597)	
Retained Earnings Summary														
Proj. Certified Retained Earnings as of July 1, 2025					\$ 4,820,989									
Available Retained Earnings Start of FY							\$ 4,820,989		\$ 5,335,172	\$ 4,620,089	\$ 2,852,651	\$ 593,785	\$ (2,203,814)	
Close Prior Year Reserves							\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Establish New Year's Reserves (for Expenditures Only)							\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)							\$ 514,183		\$ (715,083)	\$ (1,767,438)	\$ (2,258,866)	\$ (2,797,599)	\$ (3,335,597)	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance							\$ 5,335,172		\$ 4,620,089	\$ 2,852,651	\$ 593,785	\$ (2,203,814)	\$ (5,539,411)	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance as % of Budget					53.0%		53.0%		43.9%	24.6%	4.9%	-17.5%	-42.1%	

Rate Changes:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
Rate Impact	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 514,183	\$ (342,932)	\$ (1,008,251)	\$ (1,097,162)	\$ (1,217,277)	\$ (1,319,912)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$5,335,172	\$4,992,240	\$ 3,983,989	\$ 2,886,827	\$ 1,669,550	\$ 349,638
RE % of Budget	53.9%	47.4%	34.4%	23.9%	13.2%	2.7%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%



Service Charge

Meter Size	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
5/8"	\$ 9.44	\$ 9.82	\$ 10.21	\$ 10.62	\$ 11.04	\$ 11.48
3/4"	\$ 10.05	\$ 10.45	\$ 10.87	\$ 11.30	\$ 11.75	\$ 12.22
1"	\$ 11.87	\$ 12.34	\$ 12.83	\$ 13.34	\$ 13.87	\$ 14.42
1 1/2"	\$ 14.29	\$ 14.86	\$ 15.45	\$ 16.07	\$ 16.71	\$ 17.38
2"	\$ 20.84	\$ 21.67	\$ 22.54	\$ 23.44	\$ 24.38	\$ 25.36
3"	\$ 69.46	\$ 72.24	\$ 75.13	\$ 78.14	\$ 81.27	\$ 84.52
4"	\$ 87.46	\$ 90.96	\$ 94.60	\$ 98.38	\$ 102.32	\$ 106.41
6"	\$ 129.46	\$ 134.64	\$ 140.03	\$ 145.63	\$ 151.46	\$ 157.52

Rates (per 100 cf of usage)

1st Step (0 - 2,500 cf)

2nd Step (2,501 - 5,000 cf)

3rd Step (5,001 - 25,000 cf)

4th Step (over 25,001)

	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
1st Step (0 - 2,500 cf)	\$ 5.88	\$ 6.12	\$ 6.36	\$ 6.61	\$ 6.87	\$ 7.14
2nd Step (2,501 - 5,000 cf)	\$ 9.16	\$ 9.53	\$ 9.91	\$ 10.31	\$ 10.72	\$ 11.15
3rd Step (5,001 - 25,000 cf)	\$ 12.38	\$ 12.88	\$ 13.40	\$ 13.94	\$ 14.50	\$ 15.08
4th Step (over 25,001)	\$ 16.16	\$ 16.81	\$ 17.48	\$ 18.18	\$ 18.91	\$ 19.67

User Impact (per Bill) - Water Bills Only			New Bills				
User Type	Usage	Current Bill	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Low-End User (5/8" meter)	1,000	\$ 68.24	\$ 71.02	\$ 73.81	\$ 76.72	\$ 79.74	\$ 82.88
High Tier 1 User (5/8" meter)	2,500	\$ 156.44	\$ 162.82	\$ 169.21	\$ 175.87	\$ 182.79	\$ 189.98
High Tier 2 User (5/8" meter)	5,000	\$ 385.44	\$ 401.07	\$ 416.96	\$ 433.62	\$ 450.79	\$ 468.73
Mid Tier 2 User (5/8" meter)	15,000	\$ 1,623.44	\$ 1,689.07	\$ 1,756.96	\$ 1,827.62	\$ 1,900.79	\$ 1,976.73
High Tier 2 User (1" meter)	25,000	\$ 2,863.87	\$ 2,979.59	\$ 3,099.58	\$ 3,224.34	\$ 3,353.62	\$ 3,487.67
Large User (4" meter)	75,000	\$ 11,019.46	\$ 11,463.21	\$ 11,921.35	\$ 12,399.38	\$ 12,897.07	\$ 13,414.66

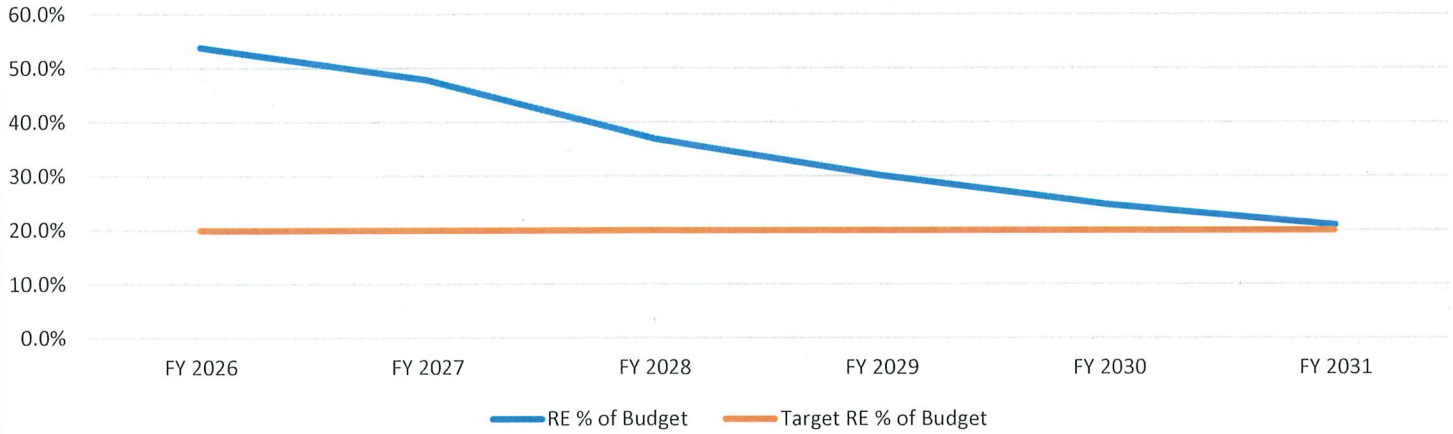
Description	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGETED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 BUDGETED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED	COMMENTS
Revenues and Other Sources															
TAX LIENS REDEEMED	\$ 6,608	\$ 4,605	\$ 7,498	\$ 6,813	\$ 2,148	\$ 87,477	\$ -	\$ 5,444	\$ -	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN ON LIENS/WATER	\$ 7,825	\$ 8,323	\$ 3,594	\$ 3,987	\$ 2,860	\$ 21,118	\$ -	\$ 4,140	\$ -	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN WATER CHARGES	\$ 46,155	\$ 49,699	\$ 43,905	\$ 57,217	\$ 49,102	\$ 70,285	\$ -	\$ 56,764	\$ -	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
WATER UTILITY USAGE CHARGES	\$6,629,005	\$7,148,519	\$7,304,812	\$8,410,930	\$8,695,156	\$ 9,628,770	\$ -	\$ 9,686,176	\$ -	\$ 9,675,906	\$10,062,942	\$10,465,160	\$10,884,078	\$11,319,441	FY26, based on YTD actuals + estimated May commitments; FY27 and on based on FY24
MUNICIPAL WATER CHARGES	\$ 195,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 185,675	\$ 171,810	\$ 210,248	\$ 201,348	\$ -	\$ 179,333	\$ -	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27 and on is the FY23 actual amount
WATER LIENS	\$ 235,517	\$ 190,168	\$ 234,594	\$ 256,455	\$ 265,022	\$ 392,895	\$ -	\$ 340,009	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FY26 based on YTD actuals; zeroed out FY27-FY31 to exclude from rev req't
WATER/OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ 113,359	\$ 408,882	\$ 68,287	\$ 119,824	\$ 190,732	\$ 128,809	\$ -	\$ 54,362	\$ -	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
WATER TEST CHARGES	\$ 71,850	\$ 74,458	\$ 77,255	\$ 85,537	\$ 85,034	\$ 98,812	\$ -	\$ 82,705	\$ -	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SALE OF PROP/FINAL READS	\$ 117,633	\$ 3,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
WATER/INTEREST INCOME	\$ 9,819	\$ 9,349	\$ 1,177	\$ 1,314	\$ 1,939	\$ 11,893	\$ -	\$ 10,893	\$ -	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
Sub Total	\$7,432,772	\$8,057,893	\$7,926,796	\$9,113,886	\$9,492,241	\$10,641,406	\$9,905,643	\$10,419,826	\$10,531,542	\$10,188,601	\$10,575,637	\$10,978,154	\$11,396,773	\$11,832,136	
Retained Earnings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$7,432,772	\$8,057,893	\$7,926,796	\$9,113,886	\$9,492,241	\$10,641,406	\$9,905,643	\$10,419,826	\$10,531,542	\$10,188,601	\$10,575,637	\$10,978,154	\$11,396,773	\$11,832,136	
Expenditures and Other Uses															
Salaries and Wages	\$ 898,466	\$ 861,865	\$ 999,818	\$1,056,380	\$ 991,273	\$ 1,188,722	\$1,316,084	\$ 1,316,084	\$ 1,325,709	\$ 1,325,709	\$ 1,385,366	\$ 1,447,707	\$ 1,512,854	\$ 1,580,933	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 4.5% yearly incr (6.3% avg. incr. last 5 years)
MWRA Assessment	\$3,897,384	\$3,935,832	\$4,184,354	\$4,147,401	\$4,202,656	\$ 4,592,105	\$4,688,527	\$ 4,688,527	\$ 4,707,340	\$ 4,707,331	\$ 5,074,534	\$ 5,272,440	\$ 5,478,066	\$ 5,691,710	FY26 actual and FY27 preliminary; FY28 and on based on 1.45% flow share
Other Expenses	\$ 310,698	\$ 361,066	\$ 358,695	\$ 480,254	\$ 508,423	\$ 288,130	\$ 492,757	\$ 492,757	\$ 672,000	\$ 672,000	\$ 688,800	\$ 706,020	\$ 723,671	\$ 741,762	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 2.5% yearly incr (1.0% avg. incr. last 5 years)
Capital Outlay	\$ 231,446	\$ 235,199	\$ 219,757	\$ 103,981	\$ 468,678	\$ 252,672	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 336,000	\$ 386,000	\$ 436,000	\$ 486,000	FY26 and FY27 from budget; \$50k increase FY28 and on
Long Term Debt	\$ 676,446	\$ 542,013	\$ 645,750	\$1,271,610	\$1,288,438	\$1,164,200	\$1,456,650	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,451,425	\$ 1,438,463	\$ 1,459,160	\$ 1,464,943	FY27 on, from Planned Debt schedule with CIP, as provided by the City
Projected Additional Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 750,000	Anticipated additional capital to be funded out of RE; increase \$100,000 annually
Sub Total	\$6,034,439	\$5,935,975	\$6,408,373	\$7,059,626	\$7,459,458	\$ 7,485,828	\$8,240,018	\$ 8,240,018	\$ 8,408,099	\$ 8,408,099	\$ 9,386,125	\$ 9,800,631	\$10,298,750	\$10,715,348	
Indirect Costs	\$1,631,808	\$1,588,320	\$1,553,006	\$1,511,731	\$1,423,464	\$ 1,615,298	\$1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,723,443	\$ 1,723,443	\$ 1,797,764	\$ 2,274,685	\$ 2,354,299	\$ 2,436,700	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 3.5% yearly incr (0% avg. incr. last 5 years, but big
Transfer to Capital Projects	\$ 500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Used to be \$250K/\$500K annually; not including now due to add'l debt line from capital
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$8,166,247	\$7,774,495	\$7,961,379	\$8,571,357	\$8,882,932	\$ 9,101,126	\$9,905,643	\$ 9,905,643	\$10,531,542	\$10,531,533	\$11,583,888	\$12,075,316	\$12,614,050	\$13,152,048	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Available Funds > Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (733,475)	\$ 283,398	\$ (34,583)	\$ 542,529	\$ 609,309	\$ 1,540,281	\$ -	\$ 514,183	\$ -	\$ (342,932)	\$ (1,008,251)	\$ (1,097,162)	\$ (1,217,277)	\$ (1,319,912)	
Retained Earnings Summary															
Proj. Certified Retained Earnings as of July 1, 2025						\$ 4,820,989		\$ 4,820,989		\$ 5,335,172	\$ 4,992,240	\$ 3,983,989	\$ 2,886,827	\$ 1,669,550	
Available Retained Earnings Start of FY								\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Close Prior Year Reserves								\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Establish New Year's Reserves (for Expenditures Only)								\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)								\$ 514,183		\$ (342,932)	\$ (1,008,251)	\$ (1,097,162)	\$ (1,217,277)	\$ (1,319,912)	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance								\$ 5,335,172		\$ 4,992,240	\$ 3,983,989	\$ 2,886,827	\$ 1,669,550	\$ 349,638	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance as % of Budget						53.0%		53.9%		47.4%	34.4%	23.9%	13.2%	2.7%	

City of Watertown
Water Rate Study

5-Year Analysis - Option 2

Rate Changes:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
	3.50%	4.50%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
Rate Impact	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 514,183	\$ (296,414)	\$ (765,423)	\$ (638,505)	\$ (521,791)	\$ (365,016)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$ 5,335,172	\$ 5,038,758	\$ 4,273,335	\$ 3,634,830	\$ 3,113,039	\$ 2,748,023
RE % of Budget	53.9%	47.8%	36.9%	30.1%	24.7%	20.9%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%

Retained Earnings Projections - with Rate Changes



Service Charge

Meter Size	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
5/8"	\$ 9.44	\$ 9.86	\$ 10.45	\$ 11.08	\$ 11.74	\$ 12.44
3/4"	\$ 10.05	\$ 10.50	\$ 11.13	\$ 11.80	\$ 12.51	\$ 13.26
1"	\$ 11.87	\$ 12.40	\$ 13.14	\$ 13.93	\$ 14.77	\$ 15.66
1 1/2"	\$ 14.29	\$ 14.93	\$ 15.83	\$ 16.78	\$ 17.79	\$ 18.86
2"	\$ 20.84	\$ 21.78	\$ 23.09	\$ 24.48	\$ 25.95	\$ 27.51
3"	\$ 69.46	\$ 72.59	\$ 76.95	\$ 81.57	\$ 86.46	\$ 91.65
4"	\$ 87.46	\$ 91.40	\$ 96.88	\$ 102.69	\$ 108.85	\$ 115.38
6"	\$ 129.46	\$ 135.29	\$ 143.41	\$ 152.01	\$ 161.13	\$ 170.80

Rates (per 100 cf of usage)

	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
1st Step (0 - 2,500 cf)	\$ 5.88	\$ 6.14	\$ 6.51	\$ 6.90	\$ 7.31	\$ 7.75
2nd Step (2,501 - 5,000 cf)	\$ 9.16	\$ 9.57	\$ 10.14	\$ 10.75	\$ 11.40	\$ 12.08
3rd Step (5,001 - 25,000 cf)	\$ 12.38	\$ 12.94	\$ 13.72	\$ 14.54	\$ 15.41	\$ 16.33
4th Step (over 25,001)	\$ 16.16	\$ 16.89	\$ 17.90	\$ 18.97	\$ 20.11	\$ 21.32

User Impact (per Bill) - Water Bills Only			New Bills				
User Type	Usage	Current Bill	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Low-End User (5/8" meter)	1,000	\$ 68.24	\$ 71.26	\$ 75.55	\$ 80.08	\$ 84.84	\$ 89.94
High Tier 1 User (5/8" meter)	2,500	\$ 156.44	\$ 163.36	\$ 173.20	\$ 183.58	\$ 194.49	\$ 206.19
High Tier 2 User (5/8" meter)	5,000	\$ 385.44	\$ 402.61	\$ 426.70	\$ 452.33	\$ 479.49	\$ 508.19
Mid Tier 2 User (5/8" meter)	15,000	\$ 1,623.44	\$ 1,696.61	\$ 1,798.70	\$ 1,906.33	\$ 2,020.49	\$ 2,141.19
High Tier 2 User (1" meter)	25,000	\$ 2,863.87	\$ 2,993.15	\$ 3,173.39	\$ 3,363.18	\$ 3,564.52	\$ 3,777.41
Large User (4" meter)	75,000	\$ 11,019.46	\$ 11,517.15	\$ 12,207.13	\$ 12,936.94	\$ 13,713.60	\$ 14,537.13

Description	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGETED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 BUDGETED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED	COMMENTS
Revenues and Other Sources															
TAX LIENS REDEEMED	\$ 6,608	\$ 4,605	\$ 7,498	\$ 6,813	\$ 2,148	\$ 87,477	\$ -	\$ 5,444	\$ -	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	\$ 5,266	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN ON LIENS/WATER	\$ 7,825	\$ 8,323	\$ 3,594	\$ 3,987	\$ 2,860	\$ 21,118	\$ -	\$ 4,140	\$ -	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	\$ 4,691	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN WATER CHARGES	\$ 46,155	\$ 49,699	\$ 43,905	\$ 57,217	\$ 49,102	\$ 70,285	\$ -	\$ 56,764	\$ -	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	\$ 49,981	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
WATER UTILITY USAGE CHARGES	\$ 6,629,005	\$ 7,148,519	\$ 7,304,812	\$ 8,410,930	\$ 8,685,156	\$ 9,628,770	\$ -	\$ 9,686,176	\$ -	\$ 9,722,425	\$ 10,305,770	\$ 10,924,117	\$ 11,579,564	\$ 12,274,337	FY26, based on YTD actuals + estimated May commitments; FY27 and on based on FY2
MUNICIPAL WATER CHARGES	\$ 195,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 185,675	\$ 171,810	\$ 210,248	\$ 201,348	\$ -	\$ 179,333	\$ -	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	\$ 171,810	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27 and on is the FY23 actual amount
WATER LIENS	\$ 235,517	\$ 190,168	\$ 234,594	\$ 236,455	\$ 265,022	\$ 392,895	\$ -	\$ 340,009	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FY26 based on YTD actuals; zeroed out FY27-FY31 to exclude from rev req't
WATER/OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ 113,359	\$ 408,882	\$ 68,287	\$ 119,824	\$ 190,732	\$ 128,809	\$ -	\$ 54,362	\$ -	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	\$ 196,931	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
WATER TEST CHARGES	\$ 71,850	\$ 74,458	\$ 77,555	\$ 85,537	\$ 85,034	\$ 98,812	\$ -	\$ 82,705	\$ -	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	\$ 80,571	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SALE OF PROP/PIHAL READS	\$ 117,633	\$ 3,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
WATER/INTEREST INCOME	\$ 9,819	\$ 9,349	\$ 1,177	\$ 1,314	\$ 1,939	\$ 11,893	\$ -	\$ 10,893	\$ -	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	\$ 3,445	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
Sub Total	\$ 7,432,772	\$ 8,057,893	\$ 7,926,796	\$ 9,113,886	\$ 9,492,241	\$ 10,641,406	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 10,419,826	\$ 10,531,542	\$ 10,235,119	\$ 10,818,465	\$ 11,436,811	\$ 12,092,258	\$ 12,787,032	
Retained Earnings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 7,432,772	\$ 8,057,893	\$ 7,926,796	\$ 9,113,886	\$ 9,492,241	\$ 10,641,406	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 10,419,826	\$ 10,531,542	\$ 10,235,119	\$ 10,818,465	\$ 11,436,811	\$ 12,092,258	\$ 12,787,032	
Expenditures and Other Uses															
Salaries and Wages	\$ 898,466	\$ 861,865	\$ 999,818	\$ 1,056,380	\$ 991,273	\$ 1,188,722	\$ 1,316,084	\$ 1,316,084	\$ 1,325,709	\$ 1,325,709	\$ 1,385,366	\$ 1,447,707	\$ 1,512,854	\$ 1,580,933	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 4.5% yearly incr (6.3% avg. incr. last 5 years)
MWRA Assessment	\$ 3,897,384	\$ 3,935,832	\$ 4,184,354	\$ 4,147,401	\$ 4,202,656	\$ 4,592,105	\$ 4,688,527	\$ 4,688,527	\$ 4,707,340	\$ 4,707,331	\$ 5,074,534	\$ 5,272,440	\$ 5,478,066	\$ 5,691,710	FY26 actual and FY27 preliminary; FY28 and on based on 1.45% flow share
Other Expenses	\$ 330,698	\$ 361,066	\$ 358,695	\$ 480,254	\$ 508,423	\$ 288,130	\$ 492,757	\$ 492,757	\$ 672,000	\$ 672,000	\$ 688,800	\$ 706,020	\$ 723,671	\$ 741,762	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 2.5% yearly incr (1.0% avg. incr. last 5 years)
Capital Outlay	\$ 231,446	\$ 235,199	\$ 219,757	\$ 103,981	\$ 468,678	\$ 252,672	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 336,000	\$ 386,000	\$ 436,000	\$ 486,000	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; \$50K increase FY28 and on
Long Term Debt	\$ 676,146	\$ 542,013	\$ 645,750	\$ 1,271,610	\$ 1,288,438	\$ 1,164,200	\$ 1,456,650	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,417,050	\$ 1,451,425	\$ 1,438,463	\$ 1,459,160	\$ 1,464,943	FY27 on, from Planned Debt schedule with CIP, as provided by the City
Projected Additional Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 750,000	Anticipated additional capital to be funded out of RE; increase \$100,000 annually
Sub Total	\$ 6,034,439	\$ 5,935,975	\$ 6,408,373	\$ 7,059,626	\$ 7,459,468	\$ 7,485,828	\$ 8,240,018	\$ 8,240,018	\$ 8,408,099	\$ 8,408,099	\$ 9,386,125	\$ 9,800,631	\$ 10,259,750	\$ 10,715,346	
Indirect Costs	\$ 1,631,808	\$ 1,588,320	\$ 1,553,006	\$ 1,511,731	\$ 1,423,464	\$ 1,615,298	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 2,123,443	\$ 2,123,443	\$ 2,197,764	\$ 2,274,685	\$ 2,354,299	\$ 2,436,700	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 3.5% yearly incr (0% avg. incr. last 5 years, but big
Transfer to Capital Projects	\$ 900,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Used to be \$250K/\$500K annually; not including now due to add'l debt line from capita
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 8,166,247	\$ 7,774,495	\$ 7,961,379	\$ 8,571,357	\$ 8,882,932	\$ 9,101,126	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 9,905,643	\$ 10,531,542	\$ 10,531,533	\$ 11,583,888	\$ 12,075,316	\$ 12,614,050	\$ 13,152,046	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Available Funds > Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (733,475)	\$ 283,398	\$ (34,583)	\$ 542,529	\$ 609,309	\$ 1,540,281	\$ -	\$ 514,183	\$ -	\$ (296,414)	\$ (765,423)	\$ (688,505)	\$ (521,791)	\$ (365,016)	
Retained Earnings Summary															
Proj. Certified Retained Earnings as of July 1, 2025						\$ 4,820,989									
Available Retained Earnings Start of FY								\$ 4,820,989		\$ 5,335,172	\$ 5,038,758	\$ 4,273,335	\$ 3,634,830	\$ 3,113,039	
Close Prior Year Reserves										\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Establish New Year's Reserves (for Expenditures Only)										\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)										\$ 514,183	\$ (296,414)	\$ (765,423)	\$ (638,505)	\$ (521,791)	\$ (365,016)
Projected Retained Earnings Balance										\$ 5,335,172	\$ 5,038,758	\$ 4,273,335	\$ 3,634,830	\$ 3,113,039	\$ 2,748,023
Projected Retained Earnings Balance as % of Budget							53.0%			53.9%	47.8%	36.9%	30.1%	24.7%	20.9%

APPENDIX B

Sewer Rate Study

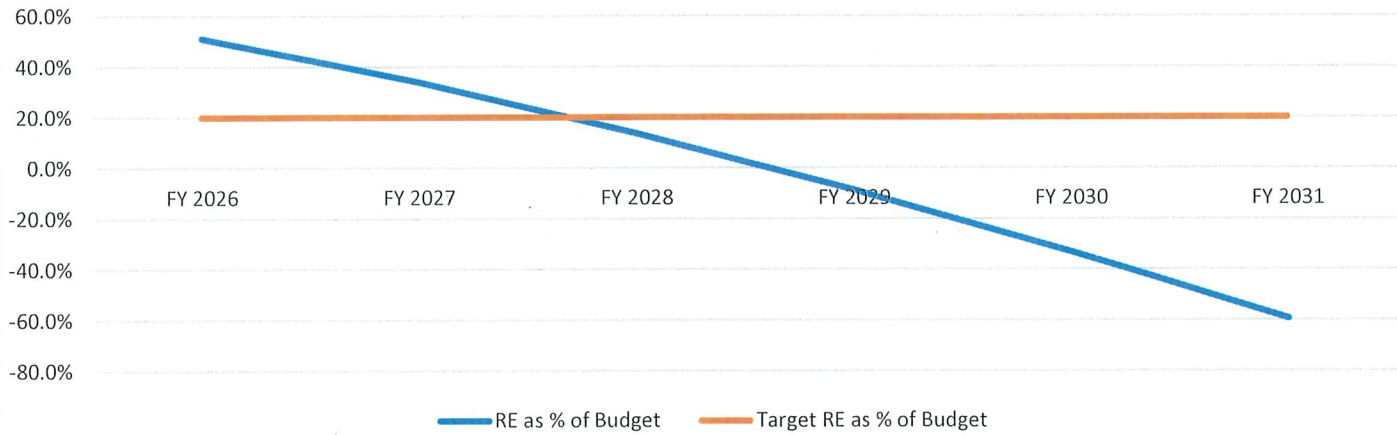
Includes:

Baseline Scenario
Option1 Summary
Option 2 Summary

Target Retained Earnings as % of Budget:	20.0%
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Baseline	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 884,676	\$ (1,806,938)	\$ (2,856,046)	\$ (3,593,006)	\$ (4,250,566)	\$ (4,962,772)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$ 6,811,848	\$ 5,004,910	\$ 2,148,864	\$ (1,444,142)	\$ (5,694,708)	\$ (10,657,480)
RE as % of Budget	51.2%	33.8%	13.6%	-8.7%	-33.0%	-59.4%
Target RE as % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%

Retained Earnings Projections - Baseline Scenario



Description	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGETED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 BUDGETED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED	COMMENTS
Revenues and Other Sources														
TAX LIENS REDEEMED	\$ 7,742	\$ 12,202	\$ 9,969	\$ 3,164	\$ 130,302		\$ 9,263		\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN ON LIENS/SEWER	\$ 12,874	\$ 5,233	\$ 6,191	\$ 4,434	\$ 31,260		\$ 7,102		\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN ON SEWER CHARGES	\$ 80,888	\$ 70,772	\$ 88,187	\$ 77,234	\$ 105,199		\$ 91,392		\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SEWER UTILITY USAGE CHARGES	\$ 10,304,173	\$ 10,519,436	\$ 11,557,328	\$ 11,952,692	\$ 13,021,653		\$ 13,395,042		\$ 12,804,023	\$ 12,804,023	\$ 12,804,023	\$ 12,804,023	\$ 12,804,023	FY26, based on YTD actuals + estimated May commitments; FY27 and on based on FY27 and on is the FY23 actual amount
MUNICIPAL SEWER CHARGES	\$ 86,068	\$ 85,000	\$ 77,190	\$ 110,217	\$ 128,731		\$ 85,563		\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	FY26 based on YTD actuals; zeroed out FY27-FY31 to exclude from rev req't
SEWER LIENS	\$ 327,560	\$ 383,618	\$ 461,044	\$ 551,077	\$ 614,514		\$ 581,121		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SEWER/OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ 630	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,705	\$ 240	\$ 210		\$ 615		\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SEWER/INTEREST INCOME	\$ 14,855	\$ 1,378	\$ 1,641	\$ 2,208	\$ 16,325		\$ 16,756		\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
Sub Total	\$ 10,834,789	\$ 11,078,809	\$ 12,203,256	\$ 12,701,266	\$ 14,048,194	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 14,197,854	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	Assume none
Retained Earnings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 10,834,789	\$ 11,078,809	\$ 12,203,256	\$ 12,701,266	\$ 14,048,194	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 14,197,854	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	\$ 12,981,892	
Expenditures and Other Uses														
Salaries and Wages	\$ 498,991	\$ 547,601	\$ 624,811	\$ 620,031	\$ 796,215	\$ 924,601	\$ 924,601	\$ 1,320,030	\$ 1,320,030	\$ 1,379,431	\$ 1,441,506	\$ 1,506,374	\$ 1,574,160	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 4.5% yearly incr (10.2% avg. incr. last 5 years)
MWRA Assessment	\$ 6,648,177	\$ 6,806,903	\$ 6,800,255	\$ 7,004,552	\$ 7,277,190	\$ 7,713,813	\$ 7,675,590	\$ 7,881,480	\$ 7,881,472	\$ 8,117,916	\$ 8,361,454	\$ 8,612,297	\$ 8,870,666	FY26 actual and FY27 preliminary; increase 3.0% yearly (3.0% average last 5 years)
Other Expenses	\$ 450,569	\$ 796,940	\$ 397,024	\$ 694,988	\$ 403,841	\$ 513,775	\$ 513,775	\$ 529,000	\$ 529,000	\$ 542,225	\$ 555,781	\$ 569,675	\$ 583,917	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 2.5% yearly incr (12.4% avg. incr. last 5 years)
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,053,285	\$ 3,648,133	\$ 771,263	\$ 2,835,168	\$ 569,718	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,455,000	\$ 1,505,000	\$ 1,555,000	\$ 1,605,000	FY26 and FY27 from budget; \$50k increase FY28 and on
Long Term Debt	\$ 411,053	\$ 369,578	\$ 300,253	\$ 254,588	\$ 419,904	\$ 898,355	\$ 1,049,635	\$ 1,049,635	\$ 1,049,635	\$ 1,298,543	\$ 1,472,017	\$ 1,552,351	\$ 1,673,123	FY27 on, from Planned Debt schedule with CIP, as provided by the City
Projected Additional Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	Anticipated additional capital to be funded out of RE; increase \$100,000 annually
Sub Total	\$ 9,072,074	\$ 12,169,154	\$ 8,893,606	\$ 11,409,327	\$ 9,466,969	\$ 11,455,544	\$ 11,417,321	\$ 12,185,145	\$ 12,185,137	\$ 13,145,116	\$ 13,785,757	\$ 14,345,697	\$ 14,956,867	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 3.5% yearly incr (2.6% avg. incr. last 5 years, but
Indirect Costs	\$ 1,491,802	\$ 1,507,448	\$ 1,397,934	\$ 1,494,512	\$ 1,718,878	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 2,603,693	\$ 2,603,693	\$ 2,694,822	\$ 2,789,141	\$ 2,886,751	\$ 2,987,798	Was \$250k per year, but not including new due to additional debt line from capital
Transfer to Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 10,563,876	\$ 13,676,602	\$ 10,291,600	\$ 12,903,839	\$ 11,185,847	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 13,313,178	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 14,788,830	\$ 15,837,938	\$ 16,574,698	\$ 17,232,458	\$ 17,944,664	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Available Funds > Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 270,913	\$ (2,597,792)	\$ 1,911,656	\$ (202,573)	\$ 2,862,347	\$ -	\$ 884,676	\$ -	\$ (1,806,938)	\$ (2,856,046)	\$ (3,593,006)	\$ (4,250,566)	\$ (4,962,772)	
Retained Earnings Summary														
Certified Retained Earnings as of July 1, 2025					\$ 5,927,172									
Available Retained Earnings Start of FY							\$ 5,927,172		\$ 6,811,848	\$ 5,004,910	\$ 2,148,864	\$ (1,444,142)	\$ (5,694,708)	
Close Prior Year Reserves							\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Establish New Year's Reserves (for Expenditures Only)							\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)							\$ 884,676		\$ (1,806,938)	\$ (2,856,046)	\$ (3,593,006)	\$ (4,250,566)	\$ (4,962,772)	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance							\$ 6,811,848		\$ 5,004,910	\$ 2,148,864	\$ (1,444,142)	\$ (5,694,708)	\$ (10,657,480)	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance as % of Budget						45.9%	51.2%		33.8%	13.6%	-8.7%	-33.0%	-59.4%	

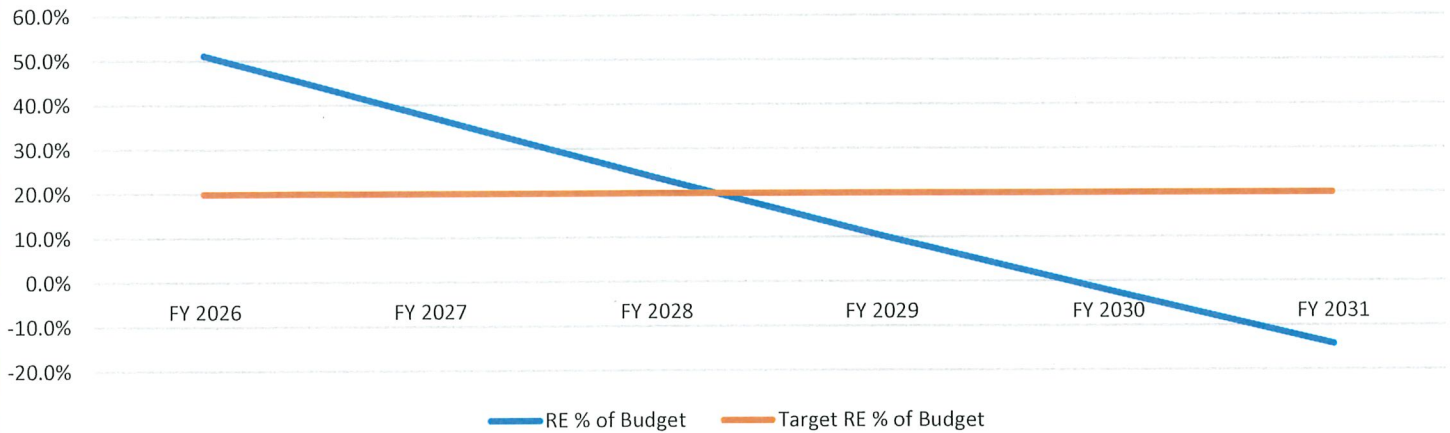
City of Watertown
Sewer Rate Study

5-Year Analysis - Option 1

Rate Changes:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%

Rate Impact	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 884,676	\$ (1,294,777)	\$ (1,811,237)	\$ (1,994,244)	\$ (2,075,693)	\$ (2,188,743)
Projected Retained Earnings	\$ 6,811,848	\$ 5,517,071	\$ 3,705,834	\$ 1,711,590	\$ (364,103)	\$ (2,552,846)
RE % of Budget	51.2%	37.3%	23.4%	10.3%	-2.1%	-14.2%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%

Retained Earnings Projections - with Rate Changes



Rates (per 100 cf of usage)

1st Step (0 - 2,500 cf)

2nd Step (2,501 - 5,000 cf)

3rd Step (5,001 - 25,000 cf)

4th Step (over 25,001)

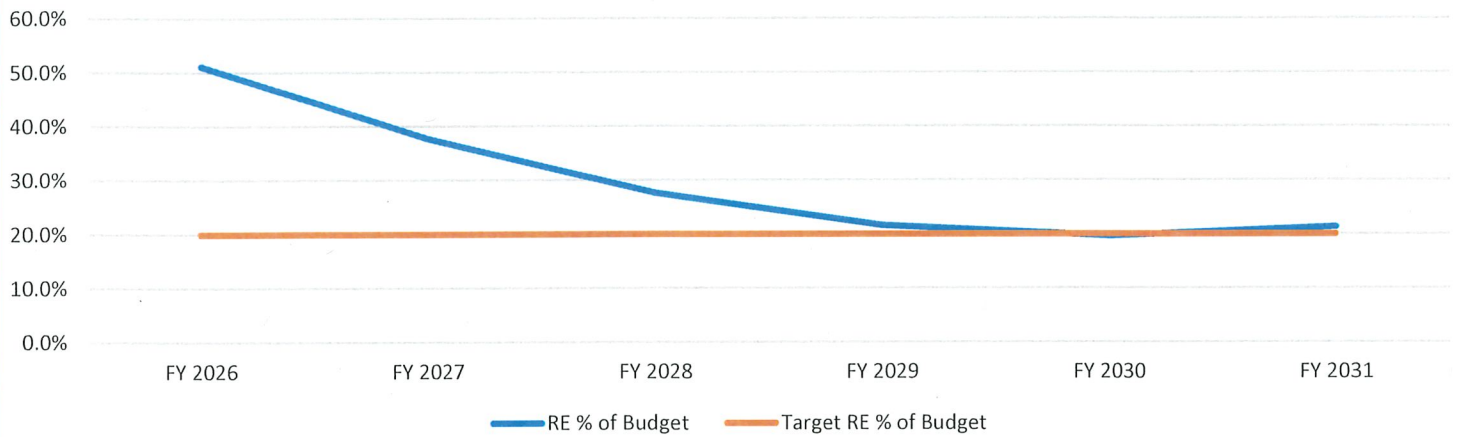
	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
1st Step (0 - 2,500 cf)	\$ 11.86	\$ 12.33	\$ 12.82	\$ 13.33	\$ 13.86	\$ 14.41
2nd Step (2,501 - 5,000 cf)	\$ 15.48	\$ 16.10	\$ 16.74	\$ 17.41	\$ 18.11	\$ 18.83
3rd Step (5,001 - 25,000 cf)	\$ 17.28	\$ 17.97	\$ 18.69	\$ 19.44	\$ 20.22	\$ 21.03
4th Step (over 25,001)	\$ 21.17	\$ 22.02	\$ 22.90	\$ 23.82	\$ 24.77	\$ 25.76

User Impact (per Bill) - Sewer Bills Only			New Bills				
User Type	Usage	Current Bill	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Low-End User	1,000	\$ 118.60	\$ 123.30	\$ 128.20	\$ 133.30	\$ 138.60	\$ 144.10
High Tier 1 User	2,500	\$ 296.50	\$ 308.25	\$ 320.50	\$ 333.25	\$ 346.50	\$ 360.25
Low Tier 2 User	5,000	\$ 683.50	\$ 710.75	\$ 739.00	\$ 768.50	\$ 799.25	\$ 831.00
Mid Tier 2 User	15,000	\$ 2,411.50	\$ 2,507.75	\$ 2,608.00	\$ 2,712.50	\$ 2,821.25	\$ 2,934.00
High Tier 2 User	25,000	\$ 4,139.50	\$ 4,304.75	\$ 4,477.00	\$ 4,656.50	\$ 4,843.25	\$ 5,037.00
Large User	75,000	\$ 14,724.50	\$ 15,314.75	\$ 15,927.00	\$ 16,566.50	\$ 17,228.25	\$ 17,917.00

Description	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGETED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 BUDGETED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED	COMMENTS
Revenues and Other Sources														
TAX LIENS REDEEMED	\$ 7,742	\$ 12,202	\$ 9,969	\$ 3,164	\$ 130,302	\$ -	\$ 9,263	\$ -	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN ON LIENS/SEWER	\$ 12,874	\$ 5,233	\$ 6,191	\$ 4,434	\$ 31,260	\$ -	\$ 7,102	\$ -	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
INT AND PEN ON SEWER CHARGES	\$ 80,888	\$ 70,772	\$ 88,187	\$ 77,234	\$ 105,199	\$ -	\$ 91,392	\$ -	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SEWER UTILITY USAGE CHARGES	\$ 10,304,173	\$ 10,519,436	\$ 11,557,328	\$ 11,952,692	\$ 11,021,653	\$ -	\$ 13,395,042	\$ -	\$ 13,316,184	\$ 13,848,831	\$ 14,402,784	\$ 14,978,896	\$ 15,578,052	FY26, based on YTD actuals + estimated May commitments; FY27 and on based on FY24
MUNICIPAL SEWER CHARGES	\$ 85,068	\$ 85,000	\$ 77,190	\$ 110,217	\$ 128,731	\$ -	\$ 96,563	\$ -	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	FY27 and on is the FY23 actual amount
SEWER LIENS	\$ 327,560	\$ 383,618	\$ 461,044	\$ 551,077	\$ 614,534	\$ -	\$ 581,121	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FY26 based on YTD actuals/removed out FY27-FY31 to exclude from rev req't
SEWER/OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ 630	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,705	\$ 240	\$ 210	\$ -	\$ 615	\$ -	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
SEWER/INTEREST INCOME	\$ 14,855	\$ 1,378	\$ 1,641	\$ 2,200	\$ 16,325	\$ -	\$ 16,756	\$ -	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY21-FY24
Sub Total	\$ 10,834,789	\$ 11,078,809	\$ 12,203,256	\$ 12,701,266	\$ 14,048,194	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 14,197,854	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 13,494,053	\$ 14,026,700	\$ 14,580,654	\$ 15,156,765	\$ 15,755,921	
Retained Earnings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 10,834,789	\$ 11,078,809	\$ 12,203,256	\$ 12,701,266	\$ 14,048,194	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 14,197,854	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 13,494,053	\$ 14,026,700	\$ 14,580,654	\$ 15,156,765	\$ 15,755,921	
Expenditures and Other Uses														
Salaries and Wages	\$ 498,991	\$ 547,601	\$ 624,811	\$ 620,031	\$ 796,215	\$ 924,601	\$ 924,601	\$ 1,320,030	\$ 1,320,030	\$ 1,379,431	\$ 1,441,506	\$ 1,506,374	\$ 1,574,160	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 4.5% yearly incr (10.2% avg. incr. last 5 years)
MWRA Assessment	\$ 6,648,177	\$ 6,806,903	\$ 6,800,255	\$ 7,004,552	\$ 7,277,150	\$ 7,713,813	\$ 7,675,590	\$ 7,881,480	\$ 7,881,472	\$ 8,117,916	\$ 8,361,454	\$ 8,612,287	\$ 8,870,666	FY26 actual and FY27 preliminary; increase 3.0% yearly (3.0% average last 5 years)
Other Expenses	\$ 400,569	\$ 796,940	\$ 397,024	\$ 694,988	\$ 403,941	\$ 513,775	\$ 513,775	\$ 529,000	\$ 529,000	\$ 542,225	\$ 555,781	\$ 569,675	\$ 583,917	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 2.5% yearly incr (12.4% avg. incr. last 5 years)
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,053,285	\$ 3,648,133	\$ 771,263	\$ 2,835,168	\$ 569,718	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,455,000	\$ 1,505,000	\$ 1,555,000	\$ 1,605,000	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; \$50k increase FY28 and on
Long Term Debt	\$ 411,053	\$ 369,578	\$ 300,253	\$ 254,588	\$ 419,504	\$ 898,355	\$ 898,355	\$ 1,049,635	\$ 1,049,635	\$ 1,298,543	\$ 1,472,017	\$ 1,552,351	\$ 1,673,123	FY27 on, from Planned Debt schedule with CIP, as provided by the City
Projected Additional Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	Anticipated additional capital to be funded out of RE; increase \$100,000 annually
Projected New Debt (stormwater capital plan below)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Anticipated debt tied to additional stormwater projects as shown below
Prior Year Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Only FY17 impact shown
Prior Year Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Only FY17 and FY18 impact shown
New Long Term Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Ignoring since new debt provided by Town in schedule on Existing Debt row
Short Term Debt (Related to New Debt Service)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assuming none for now
Sub Total	\$ 9,072,074	\$ 12,169,154	\$ 8,893,606	\$ 11,409,327	\$ 9,466,969	\$ 11,455,544	\$ 11,417,321	\$ 12,185,145	\$ 12,185,137	\$ 13,143,116	\$ 13,785,757	\$ 14,345,697	\$ 14,956,867	
Indirect Costs	\$ 1,491,802	\$ 1,507,448	\$ 1,397,994	\$ 1,494,512	\$ 1,718,878	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 2,603,693	\$ 2,603,693	\$ 2,694,822	\$ 2,769,141	\$ 2,886,761	\$ 2,987,798	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 3.5% yearly incr (2.6% avg. incr. last 5 years, but big
Transfer to Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Was \$250K per year, but not including now due to additional debt line from capital
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 10,563,876	\$ 13,676,602	\$ 10,291,600	\$ 12,903,839	\$ 11,185,847	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 13,313,178	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 14,788,830	\$ 15,837,938	\$ 16,574,898	\$ 17,232,458	\$ 17,944,664	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Available Funds > Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 270,913	\$ (2,597,792)	\$ 1,911,656	\$ (202,573)	\$ 2,862,347	\$ -	\$ 884,676	\$ -	\$ (1,294,777)	\$ (1,811,237)	\$ (1,994,244)	\$ (2,075,693)	\$ (2,188,743)	
Retained Earnings Summary														
Certified Retained Earnings as of July 1, 2025					\$ 5,927,172									
Available Retained Earnings Start of FY						\$ 5,927,172			\$ 6,811,848	\$ 5,517,071	\$ 3,705,834	\$ 1,711,590	\$ (364,103)	
Close Prior Year Reserves						\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Establish New Year's Reserves (for Expenditures Only)						\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)						\$ 884,676			\$ (1,294,777)	\$ (1,811,237)	\$ (1,994,244)	\$ (2,075,693)	\$ (2,188,743)	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance						\$ 6,811,848			\$ 5,517,071	\$ 3,705,834	\$ 1,711,590	\$ (364,103)	\$ (2,552,846)	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance as % of Budget					45.9%		51.2%		37.3%	23.4%	10.3%	-2.1%	-14.2%	

Rate Changes:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
	3.50%	4.50%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Rate Impact	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 884,676	\$ (1,230,757)	\$ (1,209,448)	\$ (790,359)	\$ (199,385)	\$ 436,825
Projected Retained Earnings	\$ 6,811,848	\$ 5,581,091	\$ 4,371,643	\$ 3,581,284	\$ 3,381,899	\$ 3,818,724
RE % of Budget	51.2%	37.7%	27.6%	21.6%	19.6%	21.3%
Target RE % of Budget	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%

Retained Earnings Projections - with Rate Changes



Rates (per 100 cf of usage)

	Current	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
1st Step (0 - 2,500 cf)	\$ 11.86	\$ 12.39	\$ 13.38	\$ 14.45	\$ 15.61	\$ 16.86
2nd Step (2,501 - 5,000 cf)	\$ 15.48	\$ 16.18	\$ 17.47	\$ 18.87	\$ 20.38	\$ 22.01
3rd Step (5,001 - 25,000 cf)	\$ 17.28	\$ 18.06	\$ 19.50	\$ 21.06	\$ 22.74	\$ 24.56
4th Step (over 25,001)	\$ 21.17	\$ 22.12	\$ 23.89	\$ 25.80	\$ 27.86	\$ 30.09

User Impact (per Bill) - Sewer Bills Only			New Bills				
User Type	Usage	Current Bill	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Low-End User	1,000	\$ 118.60	\$ 123.90	\$ 133.80	\$ 144.50	\$ 156.10	\$ 168.60
High Tier 1 User	2,500	\$ 296.50	\$ 309.75	\$ 334.50	\$ 361.25	\$ 390.25	\$ 421.50
Low Tier 2 User	5,000	\$ 683.50	\$ 714.25	\$ 771.25	\$ 833.00	\$ 899.75	\$ 971.75
Mid Tier 2 User	15,000	\$ 2,411.50	\$ 2,520.25	\$ 2,721.25	\$ 2,939.00	\$ 3,173.75	\$ 3,427.75
High Tier 2 User	25,000	\$ 4,139.50	\$ 4,326.25	\$ 4,671.25	\$ 5,045.00	\$ 5,447.75	\$ 5,883.75
Large User	75,000	\$ 14,724.50	\$ 15,386.25	\$ 16,616.25	\$ 17,945.00	\$ 19,377.75	\$ 20,928.75

Description	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGETED	FY 2026 PROJECTED	FY 2027 BUDGETED	FY 2027 PROJECTED	FY 2028 PROJECTED	FY 2029 PROJECTED	FY 2030 PROJECTED	FY 2031 PROJECTED	COMMENTS
Revenues and Other Sources														
TAX LIENS REDEEMED	\$ 7,742	\$ 12,202	\$ 9,969	\$ 3,164	\$ 130,302	\$ -	\$ 9,263	\$ -	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	\$ 8,269	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY23-FY24
INT AND PEN ON LIENS/SEWER	\$ 12,874	\$ 5,233	\$ 8,191	\$ 4,434	\$ 31,260	\$ -	\$ 7,102	\$ -	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	\$ 7,183	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY23-FY24
INT AND PEN ON SEWER CHARGES	\$ 80,888	\$ 70,772	\$ 88,187	\$ 77,234	\$ 105,199	\$ -	\$ 91,392	\$ -	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	\$ 79,270	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY23-FY24
SEWER UTILITY USAGE CHARGES	\$ 10,304,173	\$ 10,519,436	\$ 11,557,328	\$ 11,952,692	\$ 13,021,653	\$ -	\$ 13,395,042	\$ -	\$ 13,380,204	\$ 14,450,620	\$ 15,606,670	\$ 16,855,203	\$ 18,203,620	FY26, based on YTD actuals + estimated May commitments; FY27 and on based on FY24
MUNICIPAL SEWER CHARGES	\$ 86,068	\$ 85,000	\$ 77,190	\$ 110,217	\$ 128,731	\$ -	\$ 96,561	\$ -	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	\$ 77,190	FY27 and on is the FY23 actual amount
SEWER LIENS	\$ 327,560	\$ 383,618	\$ 461,044	\$ 551,077	\$ 614,514	\$ -	\$ 581,121	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FY26 based on YTD actualized out FY27-FY31 to exclude from rev req
SEWER/OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ 630	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,705	\$ 240	\$ 210	\$ -	\$ 615	\$ -	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	\$ 936	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY23-FY24
SEWER/INTEREST INCOME	\$ 14,855	\$ 1,378	\$ 1,641	\$ 2,208	\$ 16,325	\$ -	\$ 16,756	\$ -	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	\$ 5,021	FY26 YTD Actual; FY27-FY31, four-year average FY23-FY24
Sub Total	\$ 10,834,789	\$ 11,078,809	\$ 12,203,256	\$ 12,701,266	\$ 14,048,194	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 14,197,854	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 13,558,073	\$ 14,628,490	\$ 15,784,539	\$ 17,033,073	\$ 18,381,489	
Retained Earnings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assume none
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$ 10,834,789	\$ 11,078,809	\$ 12,203,256	\$ 12,701,266	\$ 14,048,194	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 14,197,854	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 13,558,073	\$ 14,628,490	\$ 15,784,539	\$ 17,033,073	\$ 18,381,489	
Expenditures and Other Uses														
Salaries and Wages	\$ 498,991	\$ 547,601	\$ 624,811	\$ 620,031	\$ 796,215	\$ 924,601	\$ 924,601	\$ 1,320,030	\$ 1,320,030	\$ 1,379,431	\$ 1,441,506	\$ 1,506,374	\$ 1,574,160	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 4.5% yearly incr (10.2% avg. incr. last 5 years)
MWRA Assessment	\$ 6,648,177	\$ 6,806,903	\$ 6,800,255	\$ 7,004,552	\$ 7,277,190	\$ 7,713,813	\$ 7,675,590	\$ 7,881,480	\$ 7,881,472	\$ 8,117,916	\$ 8,361,454	\$ 8,612,297	\$ 8,870,666	FY26 actual and FY27 preliminary; increase 3.0% yearly (3.0% average last 5 years)
Other Expenses	\$ 460,569	\$ 796,940	\$ 397,024	\$ 694,988	\$ 403,941	\$ 513,775	\$ 513,775	\$ 529,000	\$ 529,000	\$ 542,225	\$ 555,781	\$ 569,675	\$ 583,917	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 2.5% yearly incr (12.4% avg. incr. last 5 years)
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,053,285	\$ 3,648,133	\$ 771,263	\$ 2,835,168	\$ 569,718	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,455,000	\$ 1,505,000	\$ 1,555,000	\$ 1,605,000	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; \$50k increase FY28 and on
Long Term Debt	\$ 411,053	\$ 369,578	\$ 300,253	\$ 254,588	\$ 419,904	\$ 898,355	\$ 898,355	\$ 1,049,635	\$ 1,049,635	\$ 1,298,543	\$ 1,472,017	\$ 1,552,351	\$ 1,673,123	FY27 on, from Planned Debt schedule with CIP, as provided by the City
Projected Additional Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	Anticipated additional capital to be funded out of RE; increase \$100,000 annually
Projected New Debt (stormwater capital plan below)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Anticipated debt tied to additional stormwater projects as shown below
Prior Year Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Only FY17 impact shown
Prior Year Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Only FY17 and FY18 impact shown
New Long Term Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Ignoring since new debt provided by Town in schedule on Existing Debt row
Short Term Debt (Related to New Debt Service)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Assuming none for now
Sub Total	\$ 9,072,074	\$ 12,169,154	\$ 8,893,606	\$ 11,409,327	\$ 9,466,969	\$ 11,455,544	\$ 11,417,321	\$ 12,185,145	\$ 12,185,137	\$ 13,143,116	\$ 13,785,757	\$ 14,345,697	\$ 14,956,867	
Indirect Costs	\$ 1,491,802	\$ 1,507,448	\$ 1,397,994	\$ 1,494,512	\$ 1,718,878	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 2,603,693	\$ 2,603,693	\$ 2,694,822	\$ 2,789,141	\$ 2,886,761	\$ 2,987,798	FY26 and FY27 from Budget; FY28 on 3.5% yearly incr (2.6% avg. incr. last 5 years, but big
Transfer to Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Was \$250K per year, but not including now due to additional debt line from capital
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 10,563,876	\$ 13,676,602	\$ 10,291,600	\$ 12,903,839	\$ 11,185,847	\$ 13,351,401	\$ 13,313,178	\$ 14,788,838	\$ 14,788,830	\$ 15,837,938	\$ 16,574,898	\$ 17,232,458	\$ 17,944,664	
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Available Funds > Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 270,913	\$ (2,597,792)	\$ 1,911,656	\$ (202,573)	\$ 2,862,347	\$ -	\$ 884,676	\$ -	\$ (1,230,757)	\$ (1,209,448)	\$ (790,359)	\$ (199,385)	\$ 436,825	
Retained Earnings Summary														
Certified Retained Earnings as of July 1, 2025					\$ 5,927,172									
Available Retained Earnings Start of FY							\$ 5,927,172		\$ 6,811,848	\$ 5,581,091	\$ 4,371,643	\$ 3,581,284	\$ 3,381,899	
Close Prior Year Reserves							\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Establish New Year's Reserves (for Expenditures Only)							\$ 884,676		\$ (1,230,757)	\$ (1,209,448)	\$ (790,359)	\$ (199,385)	\$ 436,825	
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)							\$ 884,676		\$ (1,230,757)	\$ (1,209,448)	\$ (790,359)	\$ (199,385)	\$ 436,825	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance							\$ 6,811,848		\$ 5,581,091	\$ 4,371,643	\$ 3,581,284	\$ 3,381,899	\$ 3,818,724	
Projected Retained Earnings Balance as % of Budget					45.9%		51.2%		37.7%	27.6%	21.6%	19.6%	21.3%	

Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Thank you for placing your Legal Notice in The Boston Globe.

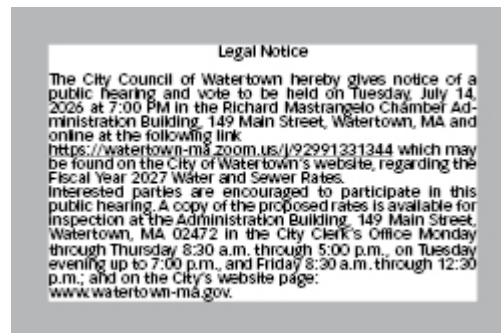
Your order information and a preview of your notice are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1314 or email legals@globe.com.

Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the notice must be communicated to us in writing prior to the deadline specified in the Advertising Specs + Deadlines page located at <https://www.bostonglobemedia.com/specs-deadlines>.

Thank you,
Boston Globe Classified Sales

617-929-1314
Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
legals@globe.com

Order Number	768743	Order Price	\$456.02
Sales Rep.	Jackson Kocak	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	06/27/2026	Last Run Date	06/27/2026
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:


The Boston Globe | Classified Advertising Proof | Printed on: Jun 26 2026

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> X (zoom) </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> </u>	<u> X(zoom) </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to amend the Noise Ordinance 95.05A to change the start time of hours of enforcement from 7AM to 8AM

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	_____	_____	___X___
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to adopt the Noise Ordinance as amended



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDINANCE # 76

2026 – O - 76

Noise Ordinance

WHEREAS noise pollution is a hazard to public health, welfare, safety, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS a substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise pollution may be measured and abated; and

WHEREAS people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise pollution that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Watertown that Title IX, Chapter 95 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, inclusive of all sections, is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety with a new Chapter 95 as follows:

95.01 Statement of Purpose

- A. Noise pollution is a serious hazard to public health, welfare, safety, and quality of life. A substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise may be measured and substantially abated, and the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety, or degrade their quality of life. This chapter serves to address persistent noise pollution.

95.02 Definitions:

- A. Construction and demolition: Any site preparation, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration, destruction, or similar action for public or private rights of way, structures, utilities, or similar property, and also the use of any equipment for any processing of any material
- B. Emergency: Any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical hazard or property damage which demands immediate action
- C. Emergency work: Any work performed to prevent or alleviate the physical hazard or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency

- D. Noise pollution: A noise source which increases noise level above ambient to the level prescribed in 95.03 (A), or the level prescribed in 95.03 (B) in the case of tonal noise
- E. A-weighted decibels (dBA): The A-weighted sound-pressure level expressed in decibels
- F. Ambient noise level: The sound level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources excluding the alleged offensive noise, at the location and approximate time at which a comparison with the alleged offensive noise is to be made
- G. Plainly audible: any sound that is detectable and distinguishable from ambient or background noise at a specified location, such that the sound's source or character can be reasonably identified under ordinary conditions. A determination of plainly audible sound may be made by direct observation
- H. Tonal noise: any noise that is judged by a listener to have the characteristics of a pure tone, whine, hum, or buzz
- I. Publicly Accessible: Any location, whether publicly or privately owned, that is physically open, accessible, and inviting to the general public for gathering, recreation, civic engagement, or commercial transactions, without requiring individual prior permission, check-in, or payment for entry

95.03 Prohibition of Noise Pollution

- A. Any activity, other than those exempted by 95.03(C) below, which creates or produces sound measured at 10 dBA above ambient noise level at any of the following locations shall be deemed a violation of this section:
 - 1. The property line of any property
 - 2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if on any publicly accessible space within a private property
- B. When a tonal noise, as defined in 95.02 (H) above, is emitted, the creation or production of noise measured at 5 dBA above ambient noise level at any of the following locations shall be deemed a violation of this section:
 - 1. The property line of any property
 - 2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if on any publicly accessible space within a private property
- C. Noise emanating from the operation of the following is exempt from the application of this section 95.03:
 - 1. Motor vehicles on a public way
 - 2. Equipment used for construction and demolition

3. Equipment used in domestic or commercial maintenance
 4. Noncommercial public speaking and public assembly as protected by state and federal constitutions
 5. An emergency or emergency work
 6. City-sponsored events
- D. No person owning, leasing or controlling a source of noise shall cause, suffer, allow or permit unnecessary emissions from said source of noise that causes noise pollution.

95.04 Construction and Demolition

- A. All devices employed in construction or demolition which are plainly audible at the property line shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and during the hours of 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays. All such devices shall be prohibited outside of such hours on Monday through Friday and Saturdays, and at any time on Sundays and legal holidays.
- B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit noise emanating from vehicles used in construction or demolition for the purposes of safety such as backup alarms on a vehicle.

95.05 Domestic and Commercial Maintenance

- A. All devices employed in domestic lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible at the property line shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. All such devices which are plainly audible are prohibited outside of such hours.
- B. All devices employed in commercial lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible at the property line shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. All such devices which are plainly audible are prohibited outside of such hours.

95.06 Waiver

- A. The Director of Public Health or their designee may grant a waiver for any activity otherwise forbidden by the provisions of this chapter upon a determination that compliance in the conduct of such activity would cause undue hardship on the person or persons conducting such activity or on the community, taking into account the extent of noise pollution caused by not requiring such compliance and whether reasonable efforts

have been made to abate the noise. The Director of Public Health shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such waivers, including such hearings as they deem appropriate. The Director of Public Health may seek the input of the Director of Public Works in waiver requests related to construction or demolition. In granting any such waiver, the Director of Public Health may impose such appropriate conditions as they deem necessary pursuant to this section. Copies of all such waivers shall be filed with the City Clerk and sent to all City Councilors.

95.07 Enforcement

- A. The provisions of this chapter may be enforced by the Director of Public Health or their designee. The provisions of this chapter may also be enforced by the Chief of Police or their designee, the Fire Chief or their designee, and the Building Inspector or their designee.

95.08 Penalty

- A. Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 21D of Massachusetts General Law and the City's non-criminal disposition ordinance, any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be issued a written and verbal warning for the first offense, then fined as follows:
 - 1. \$100 for the second offense
 - 2. \$200 for the third offense
 - 3. \$300 for the fourth offense and each subsequent offense
- B. Each subsequent day or part thereof on which a violation occurs, whether continuous or intermittent, shall be considered a separate and succeeding offense.
- C. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the use of other lawful methods of abating violations of this section, including but not limited to application for equitable relief from a court of law.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above ordinance was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 1 present on July 14, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

ORDINANCE #__ 2026 – O – __

WHEREAS noise pollution is a hazard to public health, welfare, safety, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS a substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise pollution may be measured and abated; and

WHEREAS people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise pollution that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety.

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95.02 Definitions:

A. Construction and demolition: Any site preparation, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration, destruction, or similar action for public or private rights of way, structures, utilities, or similar property, and also the use of any equipment for any processing of any material

B. Emergency: Any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical hazard

or property damage which demands immediate action

C. Emergency work: Any work performed to prevent or alleviate the physical hazard or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency

D. Noise pollution: A noise source which increases noise level above ambient to the level prescribed

in 95.03 (A), or the level prescribed in 95.03 (B) in the case of tonal noise

E. A-weighted decibels (dBA): The A-weighted sound-pressure level expressed in decibels

F. Ambient noise level: The sound level associated with a given environment, being a composite of

sounds from all sources excluding the alleged offensive noise, at the location and approximate time at which a comparison with the alleged offensive noise is to be made

G. Plainly audible: any sound that is detectable and distinguishable from ambient or background noise at a specified location, such that the sound's source or character can be reasonably identified under ordinary conditions. A determination of plainly audible sound may be made by direct observation

H. Tonal noise: any noise that is judged by a listener to have the characteristics of a pure tone,

whine, hum, or buzz.

- I. **Publicly Accessible:** Any location, whether publicly or privately owned, that is physically open, accessible, and inviting to the general public for gathering, recreation, civic engagement, or commercial transactions, without requiring individual prior permission, check-in, or payment for entry.

95.03 Prohibition of Noise Pollution

A. Any activity, other than those exempted by 95.03(C) below, which creates or produces sound measured at 10 dBA above ambient noise level at any of the following locations shall be deemed a violation of this section:

1. The property line of any property
2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if on any publicly accessible space within a private property

B. When a tonal noise, as defined in 95.02 (H) above, is emitted, the creation or production of noise measured at 5 dBA above ambient noise level at any of the following locations shall be deemed a violation of this section:

1. The property line of any property
2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if on any publicly accessible space within a private property

C. Noise emanating from the operation of the following is exempt from the application of this section 95.03:

1. Motor vehicles on a public **way (delete: highway)**
2. Equipment used for construction and demolition
3. Equipment used in domestic or commercial maintenance
4. Noncommercial public speaking and public assembly as protected by state and federal constitutions
5. An emergency or emergency work
6. City-sponsored events

D. No person owning, leasing or controlling a source of noise shall cause, suffer, allow or permit unnecessary emissions from said source of noise that causes noise pollution.

95.04 Construction and Demolition

A. All devices employed in construction or demolition which are plainly audible **at the property line** shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and during the hours of 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays. All such devices shall be prohibited outside of such hours on Monday through Friday and Saturdays, and at any time on Sundays and legal holidays.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit noise emanating from vehicles used in construction or demolition for the purposes of safety such as backup alarms on a vehicle.

95.05 Domestic and Commercial Maintenance

A. All devices employed in domestic lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible **at the property line** shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. All such devices which are plainly audible are prohibited outside of such hours.

B. All devices employed in commercial lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. All such devices which are plainly audible are prohibited outside of such hours.

95.06 Waiver

A. The Director of Public Health or their designee may grant a waiver for any activity otherwise forbidden by the provisions of this chapter upon a determination that compliance in the conduct of such activity would cause undue hardship on the person or persons conducting such activity or on the community, taking into account the extent of noise pollution caused by not requiring such compliance and whether reasonable efforts have been made to abate the noise. The Director of Public Health shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such waivers, including such hearings as they deem appropriate. The Director of Public Health may seek the input of the Director of Public Works in waiver requests related to construction or demolition. In granting any such waiver, the Director of Public Health may impose such appropriate conditions as they deem necessary pursuant to this section. Copies of all such waivers shall be filed with the City Clerk and sent to all City Councilors.

95.07 Enforcement

A. The provisions of this chapter may be enforced by the Director of Public Health or their designee. The provisions of this chapter may also be enforced by the Chief of Police or their designee, the Fire Chief or their designee, and the Building Inspector or their designee.

95.08 Penalty

A. Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 21D of Massachusetts General Law and the City's non-criminal disposition ordinance, any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be issued a written and verbal warning for the first offense, then fined as follows:

1. \$100 for the second offense
2. \$200 for the third offense
3. \$300 for the fourth offense and each subsequent offense

B. Each subsequent day or part thereof on which a violation occurs, whether continuous or intermittent, shall be considered a separate and succeeding offense.

C. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the use of other lawful methods of abating violations of this section, including but not limited to application for equitable relief from a court of law.

WHEREAS noise pollution is a hazard to public health, welfare, safety, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS a substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise pollution may be measured and abated; and

WHEREAS people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise pollution that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Watertown that Title IX, Chapter 95 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, inclusive of all sections, is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety with a new Chapter 95 as follows:

95.01 Statement of Purpose

- A. Noise pollution is a serious hazard to public health, welfare, safety, and quality of life. A substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise may be measured and substantially abated, and the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety, or degrade their quality of life. This chapter serves to address persistent noise pollution.

95.02 Definitions:

- A. Construction and demolition: Any site preparation, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration, destruction, or similar action for public or private rights of way, structures, utilities, or similar property, and also the use of any equipment for any processing of any material
- B. Emergency: Any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical hazard or property damage which demands immediate action
- C. Emergency work: Any work performed to prevent or alleviate the physical hazard or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency
- D. Noise pollution: A noise source which increases noise level above ambient to the level prescribed in 95.03 (A), or the level prescribed in 95.03 (B) in the case of tonal noise
- E. A-weighted decibels (dBA): The A-weighted sound-pressure level expressed in decibels
- F. Ambient noise level: The sound level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources excluding the alleged offensive noise, at the location and approximate time at which a comparison with the alleged offensive noise is to be made
- G. Plainly audible: any sound that is detectable and distinguishable from ambient or background noise at a specified location, such that the sound's source or character can be reasonably identified under ordinary conditions. A determination of plainly audible sound may be made by direct observation
- H. Tonal noise: any noise that is judged by a listener to have the characteristics of a pure tone, whine, hum, or buzz

95.03 Prohibition of Noise Pollution

- A. Any activity, other than those exempted by 95.03(C) below, which creates or produces sound measured at 10 dBA above ambient noise level at any of the following locations shall be deemed a violation of this section:
 - 1. The property line of any property
 - 2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if on any publicly accessible space within a private property
- B. When a tonal noise, as defined in 95.02 (H) above, is emitted, the creation or production of noise measured at 5 dBA above ambient noise level at any of the following locations shall be deemed a violation of this section:
 - 1. The property line of any property
 - 2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if on any publicly accessible space within a private property
- C. Noise emanating from the operation of the following is exempt from the application of this section 95.03:
 - 1. Motor vehicles on a public highway
 - 2. Equipment used for construction and demolition
 - 3. Equipment used in domestic or commercial maintenance
 - 4. Noncommercial public speaking and public assembly as protected by state and federal constitutions
 - 5. An emergency or emergency work
 - 6. City-sponsored events
- D. No person owning, leasing or controlling a source of noise shall cause, suffer, allow or permit unnecessary emissions from said source of noise that causes noise pollution.

95.04 Construction and Demolition

- A. All devices employed in construction or demolition which are plainly audible shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and during the hours of 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays. All such devices shall be prohibited outside of such hours on Monday through Friday and Saturdays, and at any time on Sundays and legal holidays.
- B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit noise emanating from vehicles used in construction or demolition for the purposes of safety such as backup alarms on a vehicle.

95.05 Domestic and Commercial Maintenance

- A. All devices employed in domestic lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Monday through Friday, and from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. All such devices which are plainly audible are prohibited outside of such hours.
- B. All devices employed in commercial lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible shall be permitted for use during the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday through

Friday, and from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. All such devices which are plainly audible are prohibited outside of such hours.

95.06 Waiver

- A. The Director of Public Health or their designee may grant a waiver for any activity otherwise forbidden by the provisions of this chapter upon a determination that compliance in the conduct of such activity would cause undue hardship on the person or persons conducting such activity or on the community, taking into account the extent of noise pollution caused by not requiring such compliance and whether reasonable efforts have been made to abate the noise. The Director of Public Health shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such waivers, including such hearings as they deem appropriate. The Director of Public Health may seek the input of the Director of Public Works in waiver requests related to construction or demolition. In granting any such waiver, the Director of Public Health may impose such appropriate conditions as they deem necessary pursuant to this section. Copies of all such waivers shall be filed with the City Clerk and sent to all City Councilors.

95.07 Enforcement

- A. The provisions of this chapter may be enforced by the Director of Public Health or their designee. The provisions of this chapter may also be enforced by the Chief of Police or their designee, the Fire Chief or their designee, and the Building Inspector or their designee.

95.08 Penalty

- A. Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 21D of Massachusetts General Law and the City's non-criminal disposition ordinance, any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be issued a written and verbal warning for the first offense, then fined as follows:
 - 1. \$100 for the second offense
 - 2. \$200 for the third offense
 - 3. \$300 for the fourth offense and each subsequent offense
- B. Each subsequent day or part thereof on which a violation occurs, whether continuous or intermittent, shall be considered a separate and succeeding offense.
- C. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the use of other lawful methods of abating violations of this section, including but not limited to application for equitable relief from a court of law.

Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Thank you for placing your Legal Notice in The Boston Globe.

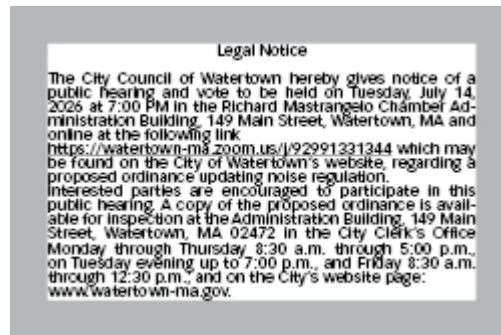
Your order information and a preview of your notice are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1314 or email legals@globe.com.

Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the notice must be communicated to us in writing prior to the deadline specified in the Advertising Specs + Deadlines page located at <https://www.bostonglobemedia.com/specs-deadlines>.

Thank you,
Boston Globe Classified Sales

617-929-1314
Monday – Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
legals@globe.com

Order Number	768866	Order Price	\$456.02
Sales Rep.	Jackson Kocak	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	Invoice
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	07/02/2026	Last Run Date	07/02/2026
Payment Type	Invoice		

AD PREVIEW:


CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to amend the Admin Code as presented



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Clerical Correction to Administrative Code – Licensing Board Appointment Date

During a recent review of the newly approved Administrative Code, staff identified a clerical error affecting the Licensing Board appointment date. Historically, the appointment date has been February 15; however, during the editing process, the numeral “5” was inadvertently omitted, resulting in the date being incorrectly listed as February 1 in the final document.

Following consultation with the City Attorney, it is recommended that the City Council vote to approve a clerical correction to restore the Licensing Board appointment date to February 15. A Council vote authorizing this correction will fully remedy the error.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the City Council vote to approve this clerical correction at its July 14, 2026 meeting.

Thank you for your consideration and action on this matter

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$360,000 from various FY26 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the FY26 ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 77

2026 – R – 77

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 ESCO CAPITAL PROJECT STABILIZATION FUND

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$360,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding a request for the transfer of funds in the amount of \$360,000 for Fiscal Year 2026 ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR *ML*
DATE: JUNE 30, 2026
RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Attached please find a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$360,000 to Fiscal Year 2026 ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund from various departmental expenditure accounts. The ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund was established to place rebates, grants, and funds from departmental energy savings. This energy stabilization fund will be used to pay the debt service on the energy efficiency projects incurred under the ESCO agreement.

I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 14, 2026, City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT \$360,000

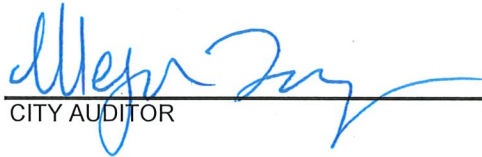
FROM: FY 26 PUBLIC BUILDINGS GAS 0119552-520213	\$ 140,000
FY 26 PUBLIC BUILDINGS ELECTRICITY 0194000-520211	\$ 110,000
FY 26 BB&N FIELD LIGHTS 0194000-596821	\$ 15,000
FY 26 SCHOOL VICTORY FIELD LIGHTS 0194000-590977	\$ 35,000
FY26 STREET LIGHTING 0142452-520210	\$ 50,000
FY26 SCHOOL USE OF RINK 0194000-590969	\$ 10,000
TO: FY 26 TRANSFER TO ESCO CAP. PROJECT STAB FUND 0194000-596805	\$ 360,000

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

DATE

6/30/26

CITY AUDITOR



**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$850,000 from various FY26 City Health Insurance account and the FY26 School Health Insurance account to the FY26 Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 78

2026 – R – 78

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 CITY HEALTH INSURANCE AND FISCAL YEAR 2026 SCHOOL HEALTH INSURANCE ACCOUNTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRANSFER TO OPEB TRUST FUND

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$850,000 from the Fiscal Year 2026 City Health Insurance and the 2026 School Health Insurance Accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 7 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding a request for the transfer of funds in the amount of \$850,000 to the OPEB Trust Fund.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR 
DATE: JUNE 30, 2026
RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Attached, please find a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$850,000 to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund from various Insurance & Employee Benefits accounts.

The OPEB Trust Fund was established to enable the City to achieve long-term financial stability, meet the City's obligations to its employees and retirees, and to maintain favorable bond ratings. While the City is on target to fully fund OPEB by Fiscal Year 2031, the City is committed to continuing to look for opportunities to make transfers to this fund in an effort to achieve a fully funded status.

Therefore, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 14, 2026, City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT \$850,000

FROM: FY 26 CITY HEALTH INSURANCE \$ 450,000
0191200-510180

FY 26 SCHOOL HEALTH INSURANCE \$ 400,000
0191200-510181

TO: FY 26 TRANSFER TO OPEB TRUST FUND \$ 850,000
0191159-590972

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy
and appropriate fiscal year.

6/30/26
DATE


CITY AUDITOR

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$18,800 from the FY26 City Manager Salary Adjustment account to various FY26 Personnel accounts



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 79

2026 – R – 79

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 CITY MANAGER SALARY ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT TO VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERSONNEL ACCOUNTS

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$18,800 from the Fiscal Year 2026 City Manager Salary Adjustment account to various Fiscal Year 2026 Personnel accounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding a request for the transfer of funds in the amount of \$18,800 to various personnel accounts to fund vacation buyback.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR *ML*
DATE: JUNE 30, 2026
RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$18,800 from the City Manager Salary Adjustment line item to various personnel accounts.

As you are aware, the option to buy back vacation time was approved for a handful of departments which were fully staffed throughout the fiscal year and therefore did not have the additional budget available to pay out the vacation.

As such, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 14, 2026, City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT \$18,800

FROM: FY 26 MANAGER SALARY ADJUSTMENT
0112351-510150

\$ 18,800

TO: FY 26 IT FULL TIME SALARIES
011551-510111

\$ 13,000

FY 26 PROCUREMENT FULL TIME SALARIES
0113851-510111

\$ 2,300

FY 26 ASSESSING FULL TIME SALARIES
0114151-510111

\$ 3,500

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy
and appropriate fiscal year.

6/30/26

DATE


CITY AUDITOR

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,250,200 from various FY26 Departmental Personnel accounts to various FY26 Capital Improvement accounts



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 80

2026 – R – 80

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL ACCOUNTS TO VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNTS

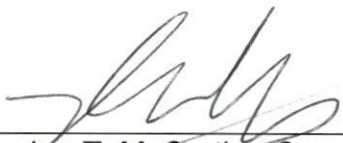
BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,250,200 from the various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Personnel accounts to various Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement accounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding the proposed transfer of \$1,250,200 from various Fiscal Year 2026 departmental personnel accounts to various Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects accounts. The transfer will support ADA upgrades, replacement of the Police Department's mobile data terminal system, design work for DPW garage MAU replacement, the purchase of an electric vehicle for the Department of Public Buildings, and skating rink flooring replacement.

These funds will advance essential infrastructure improvements and enhance the functionality, safety, and efficiency of key city facilities.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR 

DATE: JUNE 30, 2026

RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$1,250,200 from various departmental personnel accounts to various capital improvements accounts.

As you recall, on January 27, 2026, the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and the City Council Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process.

The Council's Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight met several times thereafter to review the proposed CIP and to develop conceptual recommendations for presentation to the Honorable City Council for their review and adoption. On March 10, 2026, the Honorable City Council adopted thirty-six (36) conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 CIP.

While the original intent was to fund these projects through FY27 loan orders, current surplus personnel funds allow the City to cash-fund several of these priorities immediately. Specifically, this transfer will allocate \$250,000 for General ADA Upgrades per the KMA Audit (Recommendation #18d), \$170,200 for the Police Department's Mobile Data Terminal System Replacement (Recommendation #22), and \$70,000 for the DPW Garage MAU Replacement Design (Recommendation #23c).

Additionally, this transfer includes \$60,000 to purchase a new Electric Vehicle van for the Department of Public Buildings. Director Denise Moroney requested these funds to support her team, which recently took on additional staff members previously housed under the School Department, creating an immediate need for expanded fleet capacity.

The remaining \$700,000 will be allocated to the Rink Flooring Replacement Project to address a projected funding gap. While the Council approved an initial \$1,250,000 at the close of FY25, preliminary design contracts have estimated total construction costs at \$1,885,000, inclusive of design fees and an extended service allowance. This additional funding will bridge the gap and keep the project on schedule to begin design this month.

Utilizing unspent personnel monies for capital acquisitions directly aligns with the City Council's Ongoing Budget Policy Guideline, which targets annual capital expenditures at 7.5% to 8% of the operating budget to maintain infrastructure. Furthermore, funding these items with cash reduces our permanent borrowing requirements, reinforcing the very strong

debt profile that Standard & Poor's Rating Services explicitly cited when recently affirming the City's AAA Bond Rating.

As such, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 14, 2026 City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT \$1,250,200

FROM: FY 26 MANAGER SALARY ADJUSTMENT 0112351-510150	\$ 50,000
FY 26 CITY AUDITOR FULL TIME SALARY 0113551-510111	\$ 15,000
FY 26 CITY AUDITOR OVERTIME 0113551-510130	\$ 5,000
FY 26 TREASURER/COLLECTOR FULL TIME SALARY 0114551-510111	\$ 16,000
FY 26 HUMAN RESOURCES PART TIME SALARY 0115251-510112	\$ 10,000
FY 26 CLERK FULL TIME SALARY 0116151-510111	\$ 75,000
FY 26 ELECTIONS TEMP PART TIME SALARY 0116251-510121	\$ 40,000
FY 26 PUBLIC BUILDINGS OVERTIME SALARY 0119551-510130	\$ 4,000
FY 26 PUBLIC BUILDINGS PART TIME SALARY 0119551-510112	\$ 45,000
FY 26 PUBLIC BUILDINGS CPR STIPEND SALARY 0119551-510146	\$ 3,000
FY 26 POLICE OVERTIME SALARY 0121051-510130	\$ 130,000
FY 26 POLICE PART TIME SALARY 0121051-510112	\$ 12,000
FY 26 POLICE SPECIALIST PAY 0121051-510122	\$ 20,000
FY 26 POLICE SHIFT DIFF 0121051-510141	\$ 10,000
FY 26 POLICE HOLIDAY 0121051-510142	\$ 100,000
FY 26 POLICE CAREER INCENTIVE 0121051-510191	\$ 50,000
FY 26 POLICE CONTRACTUAL STIPEND 0121051-510152	\$ 50,200
FY 26 FIRE FULL TIME SALARY 0122051-510111	\$ 20,000
FY 26 FIRE OVERTIME SALARY 0122051-510130	\$ 50,000
FY 26 FIRE HOLIDAY PAY 0122051-510142	\$ 5,000
FY 26 FIRE EMT COMP 0122051-510144	\$ 5,000
FY 26 FIRE CAREER INCENTIVE 0122051-510191	\$ 5,000
FY 26 DPW ADMIN LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS 0140151-510145	\$ 5,000
FY 26 DPW ENGINEERING FULL TIME SALARY 0140351-510111	\$ 50,000
FY 26 DPW ENGINEERING OVERTIME SALARY 0140351-510130	\$ 5,000
FY 26 DPW FLEET OVERTIME 0140551-510130	\$ 15,000
FY 26 DPW ST. LIGHTING & WIRING FULL TIME SALARU 0142451-510111	\$ 5,000
FY 26 DPW CEMETERY FULL TIME SALARY 0149151-510111	\$ 5,000

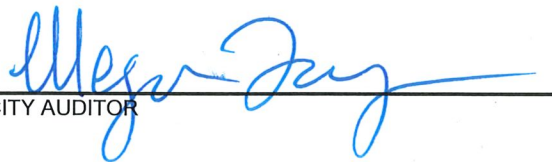
FY 26 DPW TRAFFIC CONTROL OVERTIME 0149251-510130	\$ 5,000
FY 26 DPW FORESTRY FULL TIME SALARY 0149451-510111	\$ 20,000
FY 26 DPW FORESTRY OVERTIME SALARY 0149451-510130	\$ 5,000
FY 26 DPW PARKS FULL TIME SALARY 0149551-510111	\$ 25,000
FY 26 DPW PARKS PART TIME SALARY 0149551-510112	\$ 15,000
FY 26 HEALTH FULL TIME SALARY 0151051-510111	\$ 25,000
FY 26 HEALTH PART TIME SALARY 0151051-510112	\$ 15,000
FY 26 HUMAN SERVICES FULL TIME SALARY 0153051-510111	\$ 40,000
FY 26 HUMAN SERVICES PART TIME SALARY 0153051-510112	\$ 5,000
FY 26 SENIOR SERVICES FULL TIME SALARY 0154151-510111	\$ 10,000
FY 26 SENIOR SERVICES PART TIME SALARY 0154151-510112	\$ 5,000
FY 26 LIBRARY FULL TIME SALARY 0161051-510111	\$ 10,000
FY 26 LIBRARY PART TIME SALARY 0161051-510112	\$ 100,000
FY 26 SKATING RINK PART TIME SALARY 0163151-510112	\$ 15,000
FY 26 MEDICARE CONTRIBUTION 0191200-510178	\$ 150,000
TO: FY 26 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS/PUBLIC BUILDINGS 0194000-596509	\$ 60,000
FY 26 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS/CITY 0193059-596502	\$ 870,200
FY 26 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS/PUB. BUILDINGS 0193059-596502	\$ 320,000

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

DATE

6/30/26

CITY AUDITOR



**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$200,000 from various FY26 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the FY26 Transfer to Capital Projects – Public Buildings account



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

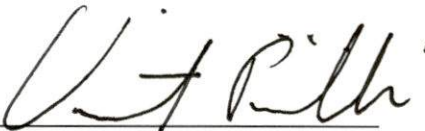
RESOLUTION # 81

2026 – R – 81

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS – PUBLIC BUILDINGS ACCOUNT

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$200,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Departmental Expenditure accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects – Public Buildings account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding the proposed transfer of \$200,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 departmental expenditure accounts to Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects/Public Buildings account. The proposed transfer designates \$100,000 for the roof repair/replacement of the Phillips Building and \$100,000 for the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR 

DATE: JUNE 30, 2026

RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$200,000 from various departmental expenditure accounts to transfer to capital projects – public buildings.

As you recall, on January 27, 2026, the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and the City Council Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process.

The Council's Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight met several times thereafter to review the proposed CIP and to develop conceptual recommendations for presentation to the Honorable City Council for their review and adoption. On March 10, 2026, the Honorable City Council adopted thirty-six (36) conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 CIP.

While the original intent was to fund these projects through FY27 loan orders, current surplus expenditure funds allow the City to cash-fund two of these priorities immediately. Specifically, this transfer will allocate \$100,000 for the Roof Repair/Replacement of the Phillips Building (Recommendation #18c), and \$100,000 for the Addition of EV Stations (Recommendation #23b).

Utilizing unspent personnel monies for capital acquisitions directly aligns with the City Council's Ongoing Budget Policy Guideline, which targets annual capital expenditures at 7.5% to 8% of the operating budget to maintain infrastructure. Furthermore, funding these items with cash reduces our permanent borrowing requirements, reinforcing the very strong debt profile that Standard & Poor's Rating Services explicitly cited when recently affirming the City's AAA Bond Rating.

As such, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 14, 2026 City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT: \$ 200,000

FROM: FY 2026 PROCUREMENT COMMUNICATIONS - POSTAGE 0113852-530342	\$ 50,000
FY 2026 ELECTIONS OFFICE EQUIP MAIN 0116252-520240	\$ 5,000
FY 2026 CONSTITUENT SERV. CONTRACTED SERVICES 0118552-530303	\$ 5,000
FY 2026 CONSTITUENT SERV. STAFF DEV. 0118552-570787	\$ 5,000
FY 2026 PARKING LOT & METERS PARKING TICKET PROCESSING 0119352-530338	\$ 5,000
FY 2026 POLICE OFFICE EQUIP MAINT 0121052-520240	\$ 30,000
FY 2026 POLICE STAFF DEVELOPMENT 0121052-570787	\$ 10,000
FY 2026 POLICE COMMUNICATION - TEEPHONE 0121052-5530341	\$ 5,000
FY 2026 FIRE MEDICAL TESTING 012052-530315	\$ 50,000
FY 2026 FIRE MEDICAL SUPPLIES 012052-550500	\$ 20,000
FY 2026 DPW ENGINEERING TOOLS 0140358-540432	\$ 5,000
FY 2026 DPW ST & SIDEWALKS RENTAL OF EQUIP. 0142252-520271	\$ 5,000
FY 2026 DPW URBAN FORESTRY DUES & SUBS. 0149452-570730	\$ 5,000
TO: FY 2026 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS/PUBLIC BUILDINGS 0193059-596509	\$ 200,000

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

6/30/26
DATE

Mesa Ry
CITY AUDITOR

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$690,000 from various FY26 Waste Disposal accounts to the FY26 Transfer to Capital Projects – City account



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 82

2026 – R – 82

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 WASTE DISPOSAL ACCOUNTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS – CITY ACCOUNT

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$690,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Waste Disposal accounts to the Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects –City account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding the proposed transfer of \$690,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 water disposal accounts to Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects/City account. The transfer would fund the following capital purchases:

- \$100,000 for the Animal Control Vehicle #120
- \$95,000 for the Fleet Pickup Truck #CS
- \$130,000 for the Cemetery Dump Truck #70
- \$95,000 for the Cemetery Utility Vehicle #C7
- \$170,000 for the Parks & Forestry 4x4 Landscape Dump Truck #78
- \$100,000 for the Adaptive Traffic Management

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR 

DATE: JUNE 30, 2026

RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$690,000 from various waste disposal accounts to transfer to capital projects – city.

As you recall, on January 27, 2026, the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and the City Council Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process.

The Council's Committee on Budget and Fiscal Oversight met several times thereafter to review the proposed CIP and to develop conceptual recommendations for presentation to the Honorable City Council for their review and adoption. On March 10, 2026, the Honorable City Council adopted thirty-six (36) conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 CIP.

While the original intent was to fund these projects through FY27 loan orders, current surplus expenditure funds within the Waste Disposal Division of DPW due to the trash strike early on in FY26 allows the City to cash-fund six of these DPW priorities immediately. Specifically, this transfer will allocate:

- \$100,000 for the Animal Control Vehicle #120 (Recommendation #25a)
- \$95,000 for the Fleet Pickup Truck #C5 (Recommendation #25b)
- \$130,000 for the Cemetery Dump Truck #70 (Recommendation #25e)
- \$95,000 for the Cemetery Utility Vehicle #C7 (Recommendation #25f)
- \$170,000 for the Parks & Forestry 4x4 Landscape Dump Truck #78 (Recommendation #25g)
- \$100,000 for the Adaptive Traffic Management (Recommendation #26c)

Utilizing unspent personnel monies for capital acquisitions directly aligns with the City Council's Ongoing Budget Policy Guideline, which targets annual capital expenditures at 7.5% to 8% of the operating budget to maintain infrastructure. Furthermore, funding these items with cash reduces our permanent borrowing requirements, reinforcing the very strong debt profile that Standard & Poor's Rating Services explicitly cited when recently affirming the City's AAA Bond Rating.

As such, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 14, 2026 City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT: \$ 690,000

FROM: FY 2026 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL 0143352-520290	\$ 200,000
FY 2026 RECYCLING EXPENSE 0144352-520292	\$ 220,000
FY 2026 ORGANICS/COMPOSTING PROGRAM 0144352-520293	\$ 20,000
FY 2026 SOLID WASTE CONT. SERVICES 0143352-520303	\$ 90,000
FY 2026 RECYCLING CENTER 0143352-530391	\$ 95,000
FY 2026 BULK PLASTICS 0143352-530392	\$ 60,000
FY 2026 YARD WASTE 0143352-530393	\$ 5,000
TO: FY 2026 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS/CITY 0193059-596502	\$ 690,000

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

6/30/26
DATE


CITY AUDITOR

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$22,000 from the FY27 City Council Reserve to various FY27 City Manager Personnel accounts



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 83

2026 – R – 83

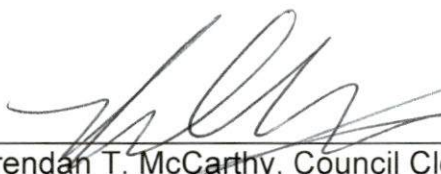
RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE TO VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2027 CITY MANAGER PERSONNEL ACCOUNTS

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$22,000 from the Fiscal Year 2027 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2027 City Manager Personnel accounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan outlining the proposed transfer of \$22,000 from the FY27 City Council Reserve to the City Manager personnel accounts to support the Employment Agreement effective August 15, 2026.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR *ML*
DATE: JULY 8, 2026
RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$22,000 from the FY27 City Council Reserve line item to various FY27 City Manager personnel accounts for the purpose of funding the Employment Agreement between the City of Watertown and The City Manager effective August 15, 2026.

I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 14, 2026, City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT: \$ 22,000

FROM: FY 2027 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE \$ 22,000
0111152-570780

TO: FY 2027 CITY MANAGER FULL TIME SALARIES \$ 10,000
0112351-510111

FY 2027 CITY MANAGER CAR ALLOWANCE \$ 500
0112351-510118

FY 2027 CITY MANAGER OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS \$ 11,500
0112351-510168

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

1/8/26
DATE


CITY AUDITOR

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,700,000 from various FY26 Debt Services accounts and the FY26 City Council Reserve to various FY26 Stabilization accounts



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

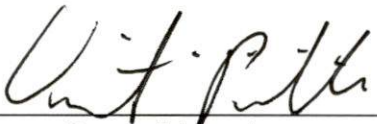
RESOLUTION # 84

2026 – R – 84

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 DEBT SERVICES ACCOUNTS AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE TO VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 STABILIZATION ACCOUNTS

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,700,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Debt Services accounts and the Fiscal Year 2026 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2026 Stabilization accounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 7 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: July 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan outlining the proposed transfer of \$1,700,000 from various FY26 debt service accounts and Council Reserve to various stabilization accounts.

The City Administration is requesting three financial actions to support ongoing and future capital projects. First, a transfer of \$550,000 into the Watertown Square Stabilization Fund to maintain planned borrowing levels for the implementation of the Watertown Square plan. Second, the establishment of a new Senior Center Project Stabilization Fund, along with an initial transfer of \$550,000, consistent with City Council's capital planning guidance. Third, a transfer of \$600,000 to the ESCO Stabilization Fund to offset declining annual energy savings and ensure sufficient funding for future ESCO-related debt service.

These actions will strengthen long-term financial stability, support major capital initiatives, and maintain borrowing levels consistent with the City's adopted CIP.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled for July 14, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR *ML*
DATE: JUNE 30, 2026
RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$1,700,000 from various debt service accounts and Council Reserve to various stabilization accounts.

As you are aware, on October 24, 2023 the Honorable City Council approved a budget amendment establishing a Watertown Square Stabilization Fund. As you know, this stabilization fund will be used to support the implementation of the plan endorsed by the City Council. In an effort to keep the total borrowing for this project consistent with the CIP, we continue to look for opportunities to make transfer to this Stabilization Fund. As such, we are requesting \$550,000 be transferred.

Additionally, as noted in your January 27, 2026 FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program memo to the City Council, the Honorable City Council provided guidance that directed City Administration to develop a budgetary plan, subject to the confines of Proposition 2 1/2, for five major capital items including a Senior Center/Recreation Center. Similar to above, in an effort to keep the total borrowing for this project consistent with the CIP, we are seeking to establish a Stabilization Fund for the Senior Center Project with this transfer request of \$550,000.

Finally, the ESCO Stabilization Fund was established to place rebates, grants, and funds from departmental energy savings. However, as was anticipated when the fund was established, the departmental energy savings are becoming smaller annually. As such, we are requesting \$600,000 be transferred to help offset the savings to ensure we are able to continue to cover the debt service expenses related to ESCO in the coming years.

Therefore, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the July 08, 2025, City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT: \$ 1,700,000

FROM:	FY 2026 PLANNED DEBT 0171000-590927	\$ 8,660
	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED/UNISSUED DEBT 0171000-590926	\$ 1,596,340
	FY 2026 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE 0111152-570780	\$ 95,000
TO:	FY 2026 TRANSFER TO WATERTOWN SQUARE STABILIZATION 0194000-596810	\$ 550,000
	FY 2026 TRANSFER TO SENIOR CENTER STABILIZATION 0194000-596812	\$ 550,000
	FY 2026 TRANSFER TO ESCO STABILIZATION 0194000-596805	\$ 600,000

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy and appropriate fiscal year.

6/30/26
DATE

Megan Jay
CITY AUDITOR

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve the acceptance and expenditure of a gift of funds in the amount of \$2,583.10 from the Armenian Memorial Church



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 85

2026 – R – 85

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF GIFT FROM THE WATERTOWN ARMENIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH

WHEREAS, the Armenian Memorial Church has donated \$2,483.10 in memory of two community members who tragically died in a December 2025 motor vehicle accident; and

WHEREAS, the Church has designated these funds for the Watertown Fire and Police Departments; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department will use its share to purchase equipment that improves response capabilities during motor vehicle accidents and vehicle fires; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department will use its share to support the annual National Night Out event.; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, the expenditure of gifted funds requires the approval of both the City Manager and the City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the expenditure of gifts totaling \$2,483.10 from the Armenian Memorial Church and authorizes the expenditure of these funds for the purposes stated above.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mark S. Sideris,
Council President**

**John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor**

**Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor**

**Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large**

**Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor**



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: July 14, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures

I am pleased to forward correspondence from Fire Chief Ryan Nicholson regarding a generous \$2,483.10 donation from the Armenian Memorial Church, given in memory of two community members who lost their lives in the December 2025 motor vehicle accident on Bigelow Avenue. The Church has designated the funds for the Watertown Fire and Police Departments. The Fire Department will use its portion to purchase equipment that enhances response capabilities for motor vehicle accidents and vehicle fires, and the Police Department will use its share to support the annual National Night Out event.

In accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53A, expenditures of gifted funds require approval by the City Manager and City Council. I respectfully request placement of the attached resolution on the July 14, 2026 agenda.

Thank you for your consideration and action on this matter



WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Fire Department Headquarters, 99 Main Street

Watertown, Massachusetts 02472-4410

Tel. (617) 972-6512 • Fax (617) 972-6575

www.fire.watertown-ma.gov



RYAN A. NICHOLSON

Chief of Department

Memorandum

To: City Manager George Proakis
From: Chief Ryan A. Nicholson
Date: June 29, 2026
Subject: Acceptance of gift

In May of this year, the Armenian Memorial Church held its annual fair. Each year, the Fair Committee selects a local group or organization to receive a donation equal to ten percent of the fair's proceeds.

This year, following the tragic motor vehicle accident on Bigelow Avenue last December that claimed the lives of two members of their community, the Armenian Memorial Church elected to donate those proceeds to the Watertown Fire and Police Departments.

Accordingly, I respectfully request acceptance of a gift in the amount of \$2,483.10, to be divided equally between the Fire and Police Departments.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Armenian Memorial Church, their spokesperson Jose Tavarez, and Fair Committee Chair Michelle Orchanian for their generosity and support of our departments and community.

If accepted, the Fire Department pledges to use its share of these funds to purchase equipment that will enhance our response capabilities during future motor vehicle accidents and vehicle fire incidents.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional information.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve employee exemption under 20b



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable City Council

From: Ernest Thebado, Recreation Director

Date: 6.23.26

RE: Chapter 268, Section 20b exemption

Enclosed for consideration is a Chapter 286A, Section 20b disclosure for Anthony Corvini, an Instructional Assistant at Watertown Middle School, who will be working for our Pequotsette Summer Program. We appreciate your consideration in approving Anthony, as he will assist Watertown Recreation in providing a memorable summer experience for the children of Watertown.

**DISCLOSURE BY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE
OF FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MUNICIPAL CONTRACT
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 20(b)**

	MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of municipal employee:	Anthony Corvini
Title/ Position	Head Counselor
Fill in this box if it applies to you.	If you are a municipal employee because a municipal agency has contracted with your company or organization, please provide the name and address of the company or organization.
Agency/ Department	City of Watertown - Recreation Department
Agency Address	149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472
Office phone:	617-972-6494
Office e-mail:	recreation@watertown-ma.gov
	Check one: ☐ Elected or ☒ Non-elected
Starting date as a municipal employee.	June 26, 2025
BOX # 1 Select either STATEMENT #1 or STATEMENT #2. Write an X beside your financial interest.	ELECTED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE I am an elected municipal employee. ___ STATEMENT #1: I had one of the following financial interests in a contract made by a municipal agency before I was elected to my municipal employee position. I will continue to have this financial interest in a municipal contract. OR ___ STATEMENT #2: I will have a new financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency. My financial interest in a municipal contract is: ___ I have a non-elected, compensated municipal employee position. ___ A municipal agency has a contract with me. ___ I have a financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or an entity, such as a company or organization. ___ I work for a company or organization that has a contract with a municipal agency, and I am a "key employee" because the contract identifies me by name or it is otherwise clear that the city or town has contracted for my services in particular.
BOX # 2 Select either STATEMENT #1 or STATEMENT #2.	NON-ELECTED, COMPENSATED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE I am a non-elected municipal employee. ___ STATEMENT #1: I had one of the following financial interests in a contract made by a municipal agency before I took a position as a non-elected municipal employee. I will continue to have this financial interest in a municipal contract.

Write an X beside your financial interest.	My financial interest in a municipal contract is: ☐ A municipal agency has a contract with me, but not an employment contract. ☐ I have a financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or an entity, such as a company or organization. -- OR -- ☐ STATEMENT # 2: I will have a new financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency. My financial interest in a municipal contract is: ☒ I have a non-elected, compensated municipal employee position. ☐ A municipal agency has a contract with me. ☐ I have a financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or an entity, such as a company or organization. ☐ I work for a company or organization that has a contract with a municipal agency, and I am a "key employee" because the contract identifies me by name or it is otherwise clear that the city or town has contracted for my services in particular.
FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MUNICIPAL CONTRACT	
Name and address of municipal agency that made the contract	City of Watertown 149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472
Please put in an X to confirm these facts.	"My Municipal Agency" is the municipal agency that I serve as a municipal employee. The "contracting agency" is the municipal agency that made the contract. ☐ My Municipal Agency is not the contracting agency. ☐ My Municipal Agency does not regulate the activities of the contracting agency. ☒ In my work for my Municipal Agency, I do not participate in or have official responsibility for any of the activities of the contracting agency. ☐ The contract was made after public notice or through competitive bidding.
FILL IN THIS BOX OR THE BOX BELOW	ANSWER THE QUESTION IN THIS BOX IF THE CONTRACT IS BETWEEN THE CITY OR TOWN AND YOU. - Please explain what the contract is for. 2nd Position with the Recreation Department
FILL IN THIS BOX OR THE BOX ABOVE	ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THIS BOX IF THE CONTRACT IS BETWEEN THE CITY OR TOWN AND ANOTHER PERSON OR ENTITY. - Please identify the person or entity that has the contract with the municipal agency. - What is your relationship to the person or entity? - What is the contract for?

What is your financial interest in the municipal contract?	- Please explain the financial interest and include the dollar amount if you know it.
Date when you acquired a financial interest	
What is the financial interest of your immediate family?	- Please explain the financial interest and include the dollar amount if you know it.
Date when your immediate family acquired a financial interest	
Write an X to confirm each statement.	FOR A CONTRACT FOR PERSONAL SERVICES – Answer the questions in this box ONLY if you will have a contract for personal services with a municipal agency (i.e., you will do work directly for the contracting agency). I will have a contract with a municipal agency to provide personal services. ☐X_ The services will be provided outside my normal working hours as a municipal employee. ☐X_ The services are not required as part of my regular duties as a municipal employee. ☐X_ For these services, I will be compensated for not more than 500 hours during a calendar year.
Employee signature:	
Date:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.

NOT A PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT -- File disclosure with the city or town clerk.

SEE CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS, BELOW.

FOR CONTRACTS FOR PERSONAL SERVICES ONLY:

If you are disclosing a financial interest in a contract for personal services with a municipal agency, you must file the Certification below signed by the head of the contracting agency, and you must get approval of the exemption from the city council, board of aldermen, board of selectmen or town council.

CERTIFICATION BY HEAD OF CONTRACTING AGENCY

	INFORMATION ABOUT HEAD OF CONTRACTING AGENCY
Name:	George Proakis
Title/ Position	City Manager
Municipal Agency:	City of Watertown
Agency Address:	149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472
Office Phone:	617-972-6465
	CERTIFICATION
	I have received a disclosure under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b) from a municipal employee who seeks to provide personal services to my municipal agency, identified above. I certify that no employee of my agency is available to perform the services described above as part of his or her regular duties.
Signature:	
Date:	

**APPROVAL BY CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF ALDERMEN,
BOARD OF SELECTMEN OR TOWN COUNCIL**

	INFORMATION ABOUT APPROVING BODY
Name:	
Title/ Position	
Agency Address:	149 Main Street Watertown, MA 02472
Office Phone:	617-972-6470
	APPROVAL
	I have received a disclosure under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b) from a municipal employee who seeks to provide personal services to a municipal agency, identified above. The exemption under § 20(b) is approved.
Signature:	On behalf of the Council or Board, I sign this approval.
Date:	

**Attach additional pages if necessary.
File disclosure, Certification and Approval with the city or town clerk.**

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to accept the Committee on Human Services Report from 26-06-23

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve the first action item of the Committee on Human Services Report from
26-06-23

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	__X__	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	__X__	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	__X (zoom)_____	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	__X (zoom)_____	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	__X__	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	__X__	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	__X__	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	__X__	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	__X__	_____	_____

Motion to approve the second action item of the Committee on Human Services Report from 26-06-23



Watertown City Council

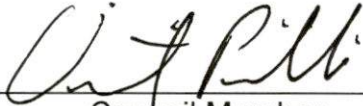
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 86

2026 - R - 86

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF PHYLLIS PERRON TO THE COUNCIL ON AGING

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Phyllis Perron to the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

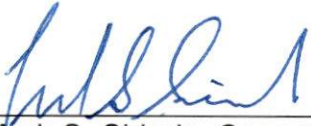


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 92

2026 - R - 92

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RYAN NICHOLSON TO THE COUNCIL ON AGING

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of Ryan Nicholson to the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

Signed by:

Vincent Piccirilli

C268CB86EE71428...

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



**Watertown City Council
Committee on Human Services**

Councilor Palomba-Chair, Councilor Bays-Vice Chair, Councilor Izzo- Secretary

**Committee Report of June 23, 2026 Meeting
Presented to the City Council on July 14, 2026**

The Committee on Human Services convened on Tuesday, June 23 at 5:30 PM in the City Council office. Present were Councilor Anthony Palomba, Chair, Councilor Caroline Bays, Vice Chair, and Councilor Emily Izzo, Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews for the Council on Aging.

Phyllis Perrone- The Committee interviewed Phyllis Perrone for appointment as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

Ms. Perrone is a frequent user of the Watertown Senior Center and expressed strong interest in expanding programming and opportunities for seniors. She has visited other senior centers to gather ideas and noted that Watertown's center offers many strong programs. She is particularly interested in increasing male participation through targeted programs (e.g., a men's group) and exploring models like Belmont's focus on transportation, social services, and meals rather than trips.

As a former teacher with a background in the humanities, she emphasized the importance of intergenerational interaction and programming that serves the full range of seniors (60+). She highlighted the need to better engage younger seniors, who may be more computer-literate, and suggested using focus groups for input. She also shared thoughts on the new senior center, envisioning it as "a center for active living" with a gym, activities, ample parking, and classes.

Councilor Bays made the following motion:

The Committee on Human Services recommends that the City Council appoint Phyllis Perrone as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

The motion was seconded by Council Izzo and passed 3-0.

Ryan Nicholson- The Committee interviewed Ryan Nicholson for reappointment as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

Mr. Nicholson (appearing as a resident, not in his capacity as Fire Chief) discussed his positive experience on the Council, including collaboration with the Fire Department, planning events, and building connections in the senior community. He expressed excitement about the new senior center planning process and the opportunity to

incorporate senior feedback on location, size, parking, and accessibility. He noted the importance of exploring serving both elder seniors and attracting younger seniors.

Councilor Bays made the following motion:

The Committee on Human Services recommends that the City Council reappoint Ryan Nicholson as a member of the Council on Aging for a term expiring May 15, 2029.

The motion was seconded by Council Izzo and passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM. Report prepared by Councilor Izzo.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	__X__	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	__X__	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	__X (zoom)__	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	__X (zoom)__	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	__X__	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	__X__	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	__X__	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	__X__	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	__X__	_____	_____

Motion to accept the Committee on Education and School System Matters Report from 26-06-23

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	__X__	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	__X__	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	__X (zoom)____	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	__X (zoom)____	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	__X__	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	__X__	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	__X__	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	__X__	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	__X__	_____	_____

Motion to approve the first action item of the Committee on Education and School System
Matters Report from 26-06-23

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve the second action item of the Committee on Education and School System Matters Report from 26-06-23



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 87

2026 - R - 87

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ADRIENNE ROBERTS TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Adrienne Roberts to the Watertown Cable Access – Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 88

2026 – R - 88

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LINDSAY GRAHAM TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Lindsay Graham to the Watertown Cable Access – Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2029.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
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Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council
Committee on Education and School System Matters
June 23, 2026 Meeting

The Committee convened on June 23rd, 2026 at 6:20PM. Present were Emily Izzo, Chair; John Gannon, Vice Chair; and Theo Offei, Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews for appointments to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors.

Adrienne Roberts

Ms. Roberts is the Stewardship Manager for Major and Planned Giving at Pine Street Inn in Boston, a role she has held since January 2022. In an internal writing and project management role on the major gifts team, she writes reports and proposals for donors, hosts small donor engagement events, and manages volunteers. Before Pine Street Inn, she spent four years at Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, advancing from Development Associate to Stewardship Officer to Development Officer, and previously worked as a part-time grant writer for Food Link in Arlington. She holds a Master of Science in Food and Agricultural Policy from the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

She brings an extensive background in nonprofit fundraising and development. Amongst those:

- Creating and leading the execution of a major and planned giving donor stewardship calendar at Pine Street Inn, partnering with gift officers on gift proposals, reports, and other written materials and mailings.
- Implementing a new Board member welcome package and outgoing Board member recognition gifts, and managing gift acknowledgments for major donors.
- Co-managing InnCouncil, a group of long-time volunteers, to develop engagement strategies including regular volunteer opportunities and events.
- Co-chairing three restricted giving teams at Perkins School for the Blind tasked with developing compelling messaging, engaging new prospects, and increasing revenue, and cultivating and soliciting an assigned portfolio of institutional donors.
- Managing budget and financial report development from early stage to final product, and writing persuasive grant proposals and reports to institutional donors.

Ms. Roberts applied after receiving a letter from the City Manager inviting her to apply. While she has no prior familiarity with the Cable Access Corporation Board, she indicated she would be happy to contribute her expertise in fundraising to further the mission of Watertown Cable Access. She is a member of the Watertown Rapid Response Network.

Councilor Gannon made a motion seconded by Councilor Offei to appoint Adrienne Roberts to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors, filling the unexpired term of Christopher McKenzie, with a term expiring September 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0.

Lindsay Graham

Ms. Graham is the Assistant Director of Athletic Communications at Stonehill College, where she serves as the primary media contact for the Division I men's basketball program and several other varsity sports. She brings nearly a decade of experience in athletic communications, marketing, and media production, including four years as Director of Marketing, Promotions & Athletic Communications at Simmons University and two stints in athletic communications at Harvard University. She also serves the City of Watertown directly as Program Coordinator of the Watertown Men's Summer Basketball League for the Recreation Department. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Studies from McDaniel College and is completing a Master of Science in Sport Leadership at Northeastern University (anticipated 2026).

She brings an extensive background in media, communications, and community programming. Amongst those:

- Securing increased regional and national exposure for Stonehill's Skyhawks with games on linear regional network NESN and ESPN+, and coordinating with Bridgewater TV (BTV), a regional award-winning community cable access station, to broadcast athletic events on NESN, ESPN+, and NEC Front Row.
- Serving as Program Coordinator for the Watertown Men's Summer Basketball League, overseeing the budget, supervising and training a staff of ten scorekeepers, expanding the league, and raising money for the Watertown Boys & Girls Club.
- Directing all internal and external athletic communications, marketing, and promotion for eleven varsity programs at Simmons University, increasing social media presence and engagement by over 100% and leading the athletic website platform transition.
- Serving on the WHS Digital Media Pathway Program Committee since October 2024, as well as volunteering as photographer for the Watertown Boys & Girls Club annual golf tournament, 5K road race, and 50th Anniversary Gala.

Ms. Graham is familiar with the Cable Access Corporation Board, having read meeting minutes, attended meetings in person or virtually, and watched cable access recordings. She indicated she is passionate about engaging the community and promoting all the great things the City of Watertown is doing, and wants to increase continued participation.

Councilor Gannon made a motion seconded by Councilor Offei to appoint Lindsay Graham to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors with a term expiring September 15, 2029. The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43PM

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to accept the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report from 26-06-22

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	__X__	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	__X__	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	__X (zoom)__	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	__X (zoom)__	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	__X__	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	__X__	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	__X__	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	__X__	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	__X__	_____	_____

Motion to approve the first action item of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report from 26-06-22

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	__X__	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	__X__	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	__X (zoom)__	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	__X (zoom)__	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	__X__	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	__X__	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	__X__	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	__X__	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	__X__	_____	_____

Motion to approve the second action item of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report from 26-06-22

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X (zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve the third action item of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report from 26-06-22



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 89

2026 - R - 89

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF SIMONE WORSDALE TO THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Simon Worsdale to the Cultural Council for a term expiring May 15, 2027.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 90

2026 – R - 90

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF PHYLLIS PERRON TO THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of Phyllis Perron to the Cultural Council for a term expiring May 15, 2029.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
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Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 91

2026 – R - 91

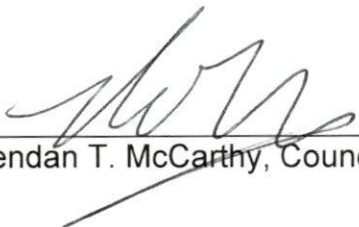
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN LEE TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Kevin Lee to the Historical Commission for a term expiring October 1, 2026.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on July 14, 2026



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Report of the Committee on Economic Development & Planning Meeting Date: June 22, 2026

The Committee convened on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 5:01 pm in the Council Office. Present were John Gannon, chair; Vincent Piccirilli, vice chair; and Lisa Feltner, secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct confirmation interviews with the following residents:

Simone Worsdale grew up immersed in the arts through theater, visual art, and craft, which shaped a lasting appreciation for creative expression, and she is interested in cultural initiatives that strengthen community engagement. She holds a Master of Science degree in Global Strategic Communications and has studied at the Harvard Business School. Simone moved to Watertown about five years ago while working for the Harvard Kennedy School in digital marketing and strategy, and her experience in outreach and stakeholder alignment will contribute to thoughtful review of applications received by the Watertown Cultural Council. Simone has also served as a mentor for The Arboretum (Sprout Social's "The Arb") community platform, Harvard Women in Tech network, and Big Brothers Big Sisters programs.

Motion by Feltner, seconded by Piccirilli to recommend City Council confirm Simone Worsdale as an appointed member of the Cultural Council to May 15, 2027, to fulfill the unexpired term of Nick Haddad; approved 3-0.

Kevin Lee has lived in Watertown for almost 10 years. He holds a Master in Architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and has over 16 years of experience in the architecture profession, which has encompassed small-scale public art projects to large-scale mixed-use developments. His involvement on 212 Stuart Street is an example of successfully connecting Boston's historic Bay Village neighborhood with the modern high-rises in Back Bay. In the 2010s, Kevin served on the Fenway CDC which was a vital community pillar in that area's redevelopment. He is passionate about discovering the historical significance of places and believes in stewardship of Watertown resources as a resident. Kevin feels open collaboration is key to successful placemaking and improving the public realm, while preservation is ideally an act of preserving memories as well as places.

Motion by Feltner, seconded by Piccirilli to recommend City Council confirm Kevin Lee as an appointed member of the Historical Commission to October 1, 2026, to fulfill the unexpired term of Marilynne Roach; approved 3-0.

Phyllis Perrone has served on the Cultural Council for 4 years and is eager to continue her involvement. Although her resume is "tech heavy" as a senior project management professional, the arts have always been a passion of hers; she paints, draws, and participates in events at the Senior Center, and she has led many teams for projects with teenagers, because she mostly enjoys the community aspect of arts and culture. The Cultural Council is ramping up for the Arts Market on August 8 at Arsenal Park, and they have become more active on social media platforms to engage volunteers to match their ambitions.

Motion by Feltner, seconded by Piccirilli to recommend City Council confirm Phyllis Perrone for reappointment to the Cultural Council for a term to May 15, 2029; approved 3-0.

At 5:57 p.m. Feltner made a motion to adjourn by Feltner, seconded by Piccirilli, approved 3-0.
Respectfully submitted, Lisa Feltner

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: JULY 14, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	__X__	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	__X__	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	__X (zoom)____	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	__X (zoom)____	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	__X__	_____	_____
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	__X__	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	__X__	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	__X__	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	__X__	_____	_____

Motion to adjourn

The First Parish of Watertown
Unitarian Universalist
35 Church Street
Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 924-6143
office@fpwatertown.org

July 13, 2026

Dear Council President Sideris, City Councilors, and City Manager Proakis,

Thank you for this opportunity to share initial thoughts from the First Parish of Watertown (FPW) on the proposed Demonstration Project in Watertown Square. This project is an important effort to revitalize the downtown area of Watertown. As a longstanding congregation and community institution directly abutting the Demonstration Project, FPW has a substantial interest in the proposed redevelopment and its potential impacts. We look forward to working closely with you as this project unfolds.

Established in 1630, the same year as the town, FPW has long been part of the Watertown community. In 1836, the sixth meeting house was built at the corner of Church and Summer Streets. In 1889, the current structure was built as a social hall and became the church's home in 1975 when the older and larger meeting house was demolished.

With 140 members, FPW is a very active member of the community. Beyond Sunday church services, the building and grounds are used for many activities. Evening events are common, including those sponsored by the church, by community organizations and recovery programs, and by other individuals and groups. In addition, the church is home to the Russell Cooperative Preschool which occupies classroom space and the playground during the day.

The church also maintains active outdoor spaces that are open to and enjoyed by the public. The spacious front lawn, the only green space on Church St., serves as a welcoming place of rest, reflection, and other gatherings, such as this year's Porchfest, which welcomed over 100 attendees. Recently developed, a memorial garden on the south side of the property creates a peaceful setting for pollinator-friendly meadows, trees and sun-loving plantings, quiet contemplation and outdoor activities.

The comments that follow are based on feedback received at an open congregational meeting after a church service in June and a follow-up survey of First Parish members and friends.

General Concerns – The proximity of the two main structures – parking garage and mixed-use residential building – pose several direct and significant concerns, which also relate to the overall design of the project.

- Both buildings pose significant constraints on *visual sight lines due to overall massing*, leading to a ‘boxed-in’ feeling at the church.
- *Shadows* cast by the new structures could negatively impact plantings in our memorial garden, which was designed for full sun. Building shadows might also limit our ability to install solar panels on the church building or grounds in the future.
- *Privacy and safety* concerns arise from the proximity of the proposed mixed-use residential development to the existing preschool and church playground.
- *Noise and air pollution* are concerns, particularly during construction, along with possible *structural damage* to our historic building during construction.
- There is general concern that the *large size of the proposed structures and car focus* of the project detract from creating a welcoming, friendly, and affordable setting.

Recommendations: Parking Garage

- We recommend an *updated parking study/analysis* to assess the *size and need* for parking in this location.
- There is strong *opposition to a five-level garage* and significant support for *no garage* at all. If constructed, support is for *three or fewer levels*.
- The project design should *maximize the setback distance* between the FPW property line and garage, with the inclusion of plantings and bike and walking paths, rather than a roadway.
- *Survey Comments*:
 - “The prioritization of parking makes the project look like the vision for Watertown is very car-centered rather than people-centered.”
 - “The garage has impacts of shadow and pollution as well as out-of-scale massing.”

Recommendations: Mixed-Use Residential Building

- The project design should *increase the setback* of the building to more than 10 feet from the church property line, adding plantings and possibly a well-lit walkway extending from Summer Street to the green space within the project.
- Additional changes are needed to *modify the design of the building* through tiered construction or other means, beginning at floors 2 or 3, to reduce massing on the west side, thus buffering the visual impact of the building on First Parish, allowing more sun exposure on church property, and increasing privacy.

- *Survey Comments:*
 - “Is there a housing plan that would be more welcoming and affordable for families as well as for singles and couples with no children?”
 - “The contractor never took note of the fact that there is a preschool and church school playground nearby.”
 - “My concerns over the proposed building relate to the impact of shadows, privacy, and the out-of-scale massing of the building.”

Other Recommendations

- The plan should include protection and augmentation of *trees and landscaping* as buffers near property lines, and we recommend *more open space, including family-friendly options, which might include a playground*.
- Monitoring is important during construction to *identify and address structural damage* that might result on FPW property, with a clear plan for mitigation, should any problems arise.
- There is support for *more affordable housing* in the project plan.
- The plan should *better accommodate pedestrians* while being *ADA compliant*.

Opportunities for FPW

- New, nearby residents and more visitors to the area bring *greater awareness of the church* and its role in the community.

The goal of this project – to revitalize Watertown Square with additional housing, commercial opportunities, and amenities – is important for Watertown. We look forward to your response to our recommendations and to participating in this community dialogue. We would also welcome an opportunity to meet with the project design team.

Sincerely,

Parish Committee
(FPW’s governing board)
 John Portz (chair)
 Virginia Rice (vice-chair)
 Sue Sours
 Justin Gordon
 Debi King
 Missy Shay
 Alyssa Lawson

Demonstration Project Working Group
 John Portz
 Jamie Gordon
 Will Twombly
 David Morrison
 Missy Shay



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Megan Langan, City Auditor *ML*

DATE: August 3, 2026

RE: Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Process

WHEREAS: Article 5 of the Watertown Home Rule Charter sets out a process for the development and adoption of the annual operating budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: The City Council wishes to establish a timeline, consistent with the Charter, by which it will provide policy guidance to the City Manager on the development of the budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: Such a timeline will also give city residents notice of their opportunity to offer input on these important financial matters;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown establishes the following timeline for the development of the Fiscal Year 2028 operating budget and capital improvement program:

1. The Fiscal Year 2028 Preliminary Budget Overview will be presented to the City Council by October 13, 2026.
2. The City Council will adopt its Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Policy Guidelines by November 24, 2026.
3. The proposed Fiscal Year 2028-2032 Capital Improvement Program will be presented to the City Council by January 26, 2027.
4. The City Council will adopt its conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2028-2032 Capital Improvement Program by February 23, 2027, subject to the availability of funds.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDINANCE #

2026 – O –

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY AUDITOR SALARY

WHEREAS, Section 2-7(e) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter provides that the City Council may, by ordinance, provide an annual salary for the City Auditor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby establishes the City Auditor's Salary as follows:

Effective July 1st, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026), \$151,525 per annum

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Ordinance was adopted by a vote of ___ for, ___ against, and ___ present on August 11, 2026.

Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

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Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the notice must be communicated to us in writing prior to the deadline specified in the Advertising Specs + Deadlines page located at <https://www.bostonglobemedia.com/specs-deadlines>.

Thank you,
Boston Globe Classified Sales

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Order Number	769930	Order Price	\$884.91
Sales Rep.	Jackson Kocak	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	08/01/2026	Last Run Date	08/01/2026
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:

LEGAL NOTICE
The City Council of the City of Watertown hereby gives notice of a public hearing and vote to be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in Meeting Room 2E, Parker Annex Building, 124 Watertown Street, Watertown, MA and online at the following link: https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344 which may be found on the City of Watertown's website, on a proposed ordinance to adjust the Council Clerk's salary and a proposed ordinance to adjust the City Auditor's salary: WHEREAS, Section 2-7(e) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter provides that the City Council may, by ordinance, provide a salary for the Clerk of the Council; NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby establishes the Clerk of the Council Salary as follows: Effective July 1, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026) the salary for the Clerk of the Council shall be set at \$31.50 per hour WHEREAS, Section 2-7(e) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter provides that the City Council may, by ordinance, provide an annual salary for the City Auditor; NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby establishes the City Auditor's Salary as follows: Effective July 1, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026) the salary for the City Auditor shall be set at \$151,525 per annum. Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this public hearing. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection at the Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472 in the City Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday evening up to 7:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.; and on the City's website page: www.watertown-ma.gov.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDINANCE #

2026 – O –

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL SALARY

WHEREAS, Section 2-7(e) of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter provides that the City Council may, by ordinance, provide a salary for the Clerk of the Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Council hereby establishes the Clerk of the Council Salary as follows:
Effective July 1, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2026) the salary for the Clerk of the Council shall be set at \$31.50 per hour.

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Ordinance was adopted by a vote of ___ for, ___ against, and ___ present on August 11, 2026.

Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Lisa J. Feltner
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Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

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Thank you,
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DRAFT - FY 2026 CPA FUNDING RECOMMENDATION-3

Submitted to the City Council
by the Community Preservation Committee

June 24, 2026



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Community Preservation Committee

Bob DiRico, Chair
Dennis J. Duff
Allison Eck
Allen Gallagher
Abigail Hammett
Marissa Mayo
Amy Plovnick
Marilyn Salvas
Matthew Walter

Date: June 24, 2026

To: The Honorable City Council

At its May 21, 2026, meeting, the Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend to the City Council a total expenditure of \$990,000 in CPA funds for the second phase of the Walker Pond project. The CPC had previously determined that this outdoor recreation project would meet the goals expressed in the Community Preservation Plan, provide a public benefit, address a need, and demonstrate ability to leverage non-CPA funds, among other factors.

If approved by the City Council, the Department of Community Development and Planning must comply with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement with the CPC and submit regular progress and budget reports. Additional specific conditions are listed as applicable to this project.

CPA FY 2025 PROJECT RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY				
CPA CATEGORY	RECOMMENDED SOURCES	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT	RESERVE STARTING BALANCE	RESERVE BALANCE (less recommendation)
Outdoor Recreation	Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Reserve	\$738,750	\$738,750	\$0
	Undesignated or Budgeted Reserve	\$251,250	\$1,463,125	\$1,211,875

Category Reserves are used to fund one of three eligible CPA spending purposes. 10% of CPA total annual revenue was allocated to each category reserve in FY2026. The **Budgeted Reserve**, to which 65% of CPA annual revenue was allocated in FY 2026, is available for any CPA spending purpose. The **CPA Fund Balance** is available for appropriation for any CPA spending purpose. At the end of the year all unspent funds, including administrative funds (5% allocated) and the budgeted reserve funds drop to the CPA fund balance. At the time of this recommendation, the CPA Fund balance is \$15,931,191. There is \$1,699,637 in the Historic Preservation Reserve and \$0 in the Community Housing Reserve.

PROJECT TITLE:	Walker Pond Conceptual Design
PROJECT LOCATION:	Walker Pond, Parcel 807 1B 1A
APPLICANT/ORGANIZATION:	Department of Community Development & Planning
PROJECT MANAGER:	Michelle Moon
CPA CATEGORY:	Open Space and Outdoor Recreation
CPC RECOMMENDED FUNDING AMOUNT:	\$990,000
CPC RECOMMENDED FUNDING SOURCE:	Open Space and Outdoor Recreation and Undesignated or Budgeted Reserve

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Department of Community Development and Planning requests \$990,000 for the second phase of this multi-phased project to create a new park at Walker Pond. This second phase entails hiring a landscape architecture and engineering team to:

- Complete design development
- Produce construction drawings
- Prepare cost estimates
- Perform environmental services
- Subcontract a licensed site professional (LSP)
- Carry out conservation and wetland permitting
- Conduct bid services
- Perform community outreach and coordination and abutters and City stakeholders.

In the previous phase funded with CPA and other city funds, the Warner Larson (now IMEG) architecture team developed a conceptual design through a robust community engagement process. Additionally, the team conducted feasibility and ecological studies.

RECOMMENDED FUNDING

On May 21, 2026, by a 9-0 vote, the Community Preservation Committee recommended appropriation of \$990,000 for the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Agreement and the overall purposes summarized in this document.

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN 2021-2025

The project would align with the guiding principles and priorities outlined in the Community Preservation Plan as well as the following community historic preservation goals:

- Demonstrates support from municipal bodies, the City Manager, as well as the Charles River Watershed Association, the Boston Jewish Community Day School, and individual community members.
- Expand, preserve, and restore existing open space for improved benefit and use, particularly along ponds.
- Preserve or restore wild and natural areas, native species, and wildlife habitats.
- Improve connectivity, access, safety, and function of recreational resources...that serve residents of all ages, interests, and needs.

PROJECT OUTCOME

Creating this new park is also consistent with the goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which states “create a network of high-quality parks, recreation, and open spaces that are accessible to all Watertown residents.” This project will increase neighborhood connectivity to the Greenway and Charles River, add passive recreation space for residents in western Watertown, and ongoing protection and celebration of natural resources such as the Pond and bordering wetlands along with the wildlife habitat.

STANDARD FUNDING CONDITIONS

- Prior to disbursement of any CPA funds, the grantee shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the CPC for the project as set out in the grantee’s application.
- Notification of Community Preservation Coordinator about key events of project implementation such as project kick-off events, initial site meetings with contractors, initial plan reviews, and site visits when construction milestones are reached.
- No disbursements of funds may occur until the project has received all necessary governmental and third-party approvals, the project budget has been approved by the CPC, and all other sources of funds have been committed, as necessary, to complete the project.
- Any CPA funds appropriated but not used for the stated purposes of this project must be returned to the Watertown Community Preservation Fund.
- Other conditions as deemed necessary and defined within the Memorandum of Agreement.

SPECIFIC FUNDING CONDITIONS

- Ensure the architecture team selection process reaches out to a wide array of firms and factors design quality into the selection process.
- The grantee shall report to the CPC periodically throughout the design progress.
- Update the CPC on the non-CPA funding sources available for construction by December 31, 2026, including anticipated grant award amounts, grant application deadlines, and expected notification dates by grantors.

APPLICANT’S PROPOSED TIMELINE

Date	Task
Fall 2026 - 2027	Design Development, Construction Drawings and Cost Estimates
	Licensed Site Profession Services
	Ecological and Environmental Services
	Conservation and Wetland Permitting
	Construction Bid Services
	Host 2-3 community meetings.
	Meet with abutters and city stakeholders.
Winter 2027	File with Conservation Commission for wetland permits.
Spring – Summer 2027	Seek non-CPA funding.
	Align construction timeline with ecological consideration for site.

PROJECT BUDGET

Item	Other Sources	CPA Request
Landscape Design, Engineering and Environmental Services		\$990,000
Project Management and Support Department of Community Development and Planning Recreation Department Department of Public Works	\$15,000 (estimated contribution based on projected hours)	
TOTAL	\$1,005,000	\$990,000

Note: The project team used the industry standard of 10% of the estimated construction budget to determine its request. The project landscape architect (IMEG, formerly Warner Larson) who produced the conceptual design and their subcontractor (PM&G) estimated a cost of \$8-10 million for the concept they designed. Based on the middle figure of \$9 million, DCDP added a 10% contingency of \$90,000 for a total request of \$990,000.

This phase of the project involves significant technical expertise in engineering to assess the viability of using the existing structure on the site, to develop the boardwalk as well as permitting in two municipalities, soil management plan. In addition, the project will require Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection review processes and further ecological study. Given the complexity and required expertise, the CPC considers the figure reasonable.

Following approval of this request, the City will release a Request for Qualifications for the tasks outlined and require the consulting team to submit a line-item budget for each task in the process. The CPC requires an updated budget with line item detail as part of its

The full proposal is available at: <https://watertownma.viewpointcloud.com/records/372162>



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

Please find attached correspondence from Denise Moroney, Director of Public Buildings, requesting an increase in the borrowing authorization for the Electric Vehicle Charging Platform project from \$300,000 to \$439,580. This request is submitted alongside a separate loan order for Electric Vehicle Charger scheduled for the August 11, 2026 City Council agenda.

I respectfully request that the revised loan order be placed on the August 11, 2026 City Council agenda for First Reading.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
p: 617-345-9000 f: 617-345-9020
hinckleyallen.com

Kris Moussette
(617) 378-4194
kmoussette@hinckleyallen.com

August 5, 2026

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order (Amendment) – Electric Vehicle Charging Platform Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order to approve the borrowing of additional funds to pay costs of the mobile electric vehicle charging platform for the police station:

ORDERED: That Order No. 2026-O-11 of the City Council passed February 10, 2026 authorizing a borrowing in the amount of \$300,000 for the Electric Vehicle Charging Platform project is hereby amended to increase the authorized borrowing amount for such project to \$439,580, which amended order shall read as follows in its entirety: "ORDERED: That the sum of \$439,580 is appropriated to pay costs of purchasing a SparkCharge Level 3 mobile electric vehicle charging platform for the police station, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the amount of borrowing authorized by this order shall be reduced by any grant amount received for this purpose."

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

Sincerely,

Kris A. Moussette



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

To: George Proakis, City Manager

From: Denise Moroney, Director of Public Buildings

Date: July 17, 2026

Re: EV Charging Funding Request

The Department of Public Buildings is seeking additional funding to support two EV Charging projects including a portable charging unit and Level 3 EV charging infrastructure at the Police Station to support our growing fleet of electric vehicles.

Original Project Scope

The original request for funding for Level 3 EV Charging at the Police Station was included in the FY26 CIP for \$1,585,000. We requested a loan order in the amount of \$900,404 based on a quote at the January 27, 2026 City Council meeting which was authorized by the Honorable City Council on February 10, 2026. We have now officially bid the project, which has been awarded at \$892,242 (see attached proposal). As is custom with construction projects, we are requesting to add a 15% contingency of \$133,836 to this project for a total adjusted funding request of \$1,026,078. As such, we are now requesting that the City Council re-authorize the loan order at this revised amount.

We have also bid out the portable charging unit which we originally requested a loan order in the amount \$300,000 at the January 27, 2026 City Council meeting, based on a quote from Spark Charge, which was also authorized by the Honorable City Council on February 10, 2026. Working with the Purchasing Department, we have received pricing proposals and the package that meets our needs came in at \$439,580 with Verdek for a FLEXX 420 Gen 2 by ChargeRigs (see attached proposal). Again, we would like to request the City Council re-authorize this loan order to cover the additional \$139,580 in funds needed to support this purchase.

Please note, we are still under the original CIP placeholder of \$1,585,000 with the two above projects totaling \$1,465,658 which is under the original budget.

Please contact me with any questions, and thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

Please find attached correspondence from Denise Moroney, Director of Public Buildings, requesting an increase in the borrowing authorization for Level 3 EV chargers at the police station from \$900,404 to \$1,026,078. This request is submitted alongside a separate loan order for Electric Vehicle Charging Platform scheduled for the August 11, 2026 City Council agenda.

I respectfully request that the revised loan order be placed on the August 11, 2026 City Council agenda for First Reading.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



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August 5, 2026

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order (Amendment) – Electric Vehicle Charger Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order to approve the borrowing of additional funds to pay costs acquiring three Level 3 electric vehicle chargers for the police station:

ORDERED: That Order No. 2026-O-12 of the City Council passed February 10, 2026 authorizing a borrowing in the amount of \$900,404 for the Level 3 electric vehicle chargers for the police station project is hereby amended to increase the authorized borrowing amount for such project to \$1,026,078, which amended order shall read as follows in its entirety: "ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,026,078 is appropriated to pay costs of purchasing three Level 3 electric vehicle chargers for the police station, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the amount of borrowing authorized by this order shall be reduced by any grant amount received for this purpose."

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

Sincerely,

Kris A. Moussette



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

To: George Proakis, City Manager

From: Denise Moroney, Director of Public Buildings

Date: July 17, 2026

Re: EV Charging Funding Request

The Department of Public Buildings is seeking additional funding to support two EV Charging projects including a portable charging unit and Level 3 EV charging infrastructure at the Police Station to support our growing fleet of electric vehicles.

Original Project Scope

The original request for funding for Level 3 EV Charging at the Police Station was included in the FY26 CIP for \$1,585,000. We requested a loan order in the amount of \$900,404 based on a quote at the January 27, 2026 City Council meeting which was authorized by the Honorable City Council on February 10, 2026. We have now officially bid the project, which has been awarded at \$892,242 (see attached proposal). As is custom with construction projects, we are requesting to add a 15% contingency of \$133,836 to this project for a total adjusted funding request of \$1,026,078. As such, we are now requesting that the City Council re-authorize the loan order at this revised amount.

We have also bid out the portable charging unit which we originally requested a loan order in the amount \$300,000 at the January 27, 2026 City Council meeting, based on a quote from Spark Charge, which was also authorized by the Honorable City Council on February 10, 2026. Working with the Purchasing Department, we have received pricing proposals and the package that meets our needs came in at \$439,580 with Verdek for a FLEXX 420 Gen 2 by ChargeRigs (see attached proposal). Again, we would like to request the City Council re-authorize this loan order to cover the additional \$139,580 in funds needed to support this purchase.

Please note, we are still under the original CIP placeholder of \$1,585,000 with the two above projects totaling \$1,465,658 which is under the original budget.

Please contact me with any questions, and thank you for your consideration.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: August 7, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures

I am pleased to share correspondence from Events Manager Tammy McKenna regarding a donation to the Watertown Food Pantry. On August 2, the City hosted the third annual Watertown Wheels event at the Commander's Mansion, featuring more than 100 classic cars. The event supported the Food Pantry by collecting nonperishable items and donating 50% of registration fees, totaling \$545.

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, any expenditure of gifted funds requires the approval of the City Manager and City Council.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the attached resolution approving these gift expenditures be placed on the City Council agenda for August 11, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration and action on this matter

Resolution No. 2026-**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF GIFTS TO THE WATERTOWN FOOD PANTRY**

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown gratefully acknowledges the generosity of individuals, organizations, and partners who support the Watertown Food Pantry; and

WHEREAS, the third annual Watertown Wheels event, held on August 2, 2026, collected nonperishable items and contributed 50% of registration fees, resulting in a donation of \$545.00 to the Watertown Food Pantry; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, the expenditure of gifted funds requires the approval of both the City Manager and the City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the expenditure of the \$545.00 donation for the benefit of the Watertown Food Pantry, as outlined in correspondence submitted by the Events Manager.

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of ____ for ____ against and ____ present on August 11, 2026.

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark Sideris, Council President

Hand, JoAnna

From: Fernandez-McKenna, Tammy
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2026 10:57 PM
To: Langan, Megan; Hand, JoAnna
Cc: Barenholtz, Tracey
Subject: donation/Council

Hello ladies -

We brought in a cash deposit of \$1090.00 from Waterton Wheels this past weekend. We would like to donate and transfer \$545.00 to the Watertown Food Pantry please from the City Event budget.

JoAnna - please let me know if this works for George.

Thank you both!

On Sunday, August 2nd the City hosted the third annual Watertown Wheels event at the Commander's Mansion. This year over 100 classic cars were showcased around the property.

The event was promoted to support the Watertown Food Pantry by helping to fill a truck with nonperishable items and donating 50% of the car registration fee. And with its success, the event would like to donate \$545.00 to the Watertown Food Pantry.

Watertown Wheels was a coordinated effort between the City Events Team, Lenny Malone from DPW and Kathy Cunningham from the Watertown Food Pantry.

Tammy F. McKenna

Events Manager | Commander's Mansion & City Events
City of Watertown, Massachusetts

440 Talcott Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472
617-926-7755 ext. 18101

tmckenna@watertown-ma.gov

Watertown-ma.gov | CommandersMansion.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

The Committee on Public Safety met on July 9, 2026 in the Lower Hearing Room to discuss the Watertown Police Department's proposed First Responder Drone Program.

Present were Nicole Gardner, Chair, Vincent ("Vinnie") Piccirilli, Vice Chair, and Emily Izzo, Secretary. Also present were Councilor Tony Palomba; Police Chief Justin Hanrahan; Captain Ken Swift; Captain Dan Unsworth; Wilson Riendeau of Paladin Drones; various residents including Josh Geller and Lei Ma, and by zoom, residents Joan Gumbleton, Linda Scott, Angeline Kounelis, Tom Dickie, David Gavran, Maddie Nicole, Robin Page, Madeline Clay, and Kate Early

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

At the outset of the meeting, Chair Gardner explained that she and Councilor Sideris have been in discussions with representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which is currently developing model guidance regarding police drone programs. She stated that the Committee would not be taking any votes or making recommendations on the proposal at this meeting and anticipated reconvening in the fall after the ACLU guidance has been released so that the Committee can consider the issue with additional information.

Police Chief Justin Hanrahan then presented the proposed Watertown Police First Responder Drone Program. Chief Hanrahan explained that the primary goals of the program are to improve public safety, enhance first responder safety, and provide responding officers with real-time information during emergency incidents. He emphasized that the proposed program is intended to function as a first responder tool rather than a surveillance program. The autonomous drone would deploy in response to certain emergency calls and, in many cases, arrive at the scene before responding officers, allowing dispatch and first responders to better assess conditions before arriving on scene.

Chief Hanrahan discussed several examples of how drone technology has been successfully utilized by other law enforcement agencies, including locating missing or endangered persons, assisting with search and rescue operations, documenting accident and crime scenes, evaluating hazardous situations, and improving officer and community safety. He noted that obtaining aerial information early in an incident may reduce unnecessary ground searches, improve deployment decisions, and allow responders to determine whether additional police, fire, or EMS resources are needed before arriving at a scene.

Wilson Riendeau of Paladin Drones provided an overview of the proposed system and answered technical questions from the Committee. He explained that Paladin currently works with approximately 150 public safety agencies and described the autonomous deployment capabilities of the system. Chief Hanrahan stated that he became familiar with the technology after attending a chiefs' conference and believed it offered capabilities that distinguish it from traditional manually operated drones.

The Committee devoted a substantial portion of the meeting to discussing privacy protections, data management, and oversight of the proposed program. Chief Hanrahan explained that the Police Department intends to adopt a written policy governing the operation of the drone program, including limitations on authorized uses, supervisory approval requirements, operator training. The Department also plans to establish a public transparency portal documenting drone deployments. Committee members discussed data retention policies, the circumstances under which footage could be shared with outside agencies, and safeguards to prevent misuse of the technology. Representatives from Paladin explained that the system records video only, not audio, that transmissions are encrypted, and that the Department would maintain control over recorded data. They further stated that the company has implemented security measures designed to protect information and prevent unauthorized access.

Committee members also discussed operational considerations, including FAA compliance, weather limitations, battery life, flight altitude, expected service life, supervisor approval, operator training, liability, maintenance, insurance coverage, and contract terms. Paladin representatives explained that the proposed agreement includes maintenance, repairs, replacement drones during servicing, and liability coverage through the vendor. Regarding contract terms, the vendor includes "Exhibit C" in their contract, in which the City can insert the terms and conditions that are vital to Watertown. The Committee also discussed whether the Fire Department currently

utilizes drone technology and expressed interest in learning more about its existing program and how the two departments might coordinate their use of drones.

The financial aspects of the proposal were also reviewed. Chief Hanrahan stated that the drone would be purchased using drug forfeiture funds rather than local tax revenue. The Committee discussed the estimated one-time purchase cost of approximately \$24,000, annual software and service costs of approximately \$50,000, and the proposed one-year agreement with options to renew. The annual renewal rate is around \$50,000.

Throughout the discussion, Committee members and residents raised questions regarding transparency, data retention, potential mission creep, sharing of information with outside agencies, including federal agencies, and the need to establish clear performance measures to evaluate whether the program achieves its stated public safety objectives. Committee members emphasized the importance of balancing the operational benefits of the technology with appropriate safeguards protecting privacy and civil liberties.

The Committee identified several issues for further review prior to taking any action on the proposal, including:

- Review of the forthcoming ACLU guidance concerning police drone programs,
- Additional discussion with the Fire Department regarding its current drone usage,
- Development of measurable performance indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, and
- Consideration of the frequency with which the Committee should receive updates following implementation, should the program move forward.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Councilor Izzo moved to continue the matter to a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Piccirilli and passed unanimously by a vote of 3-0.

The meeting concluded at 8:35pm. Report prepared by Emily Izzo.

Watertown Police Department

Watertown Police First Responder Drone Program

Public safety tool. Clear guardrails. Operational flexibility.

GOAL

- IMPROVE FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY
- IMPROVE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

This is not a surveillance program.

It is a public safety response tool.

Faster

information during active incidents

Better

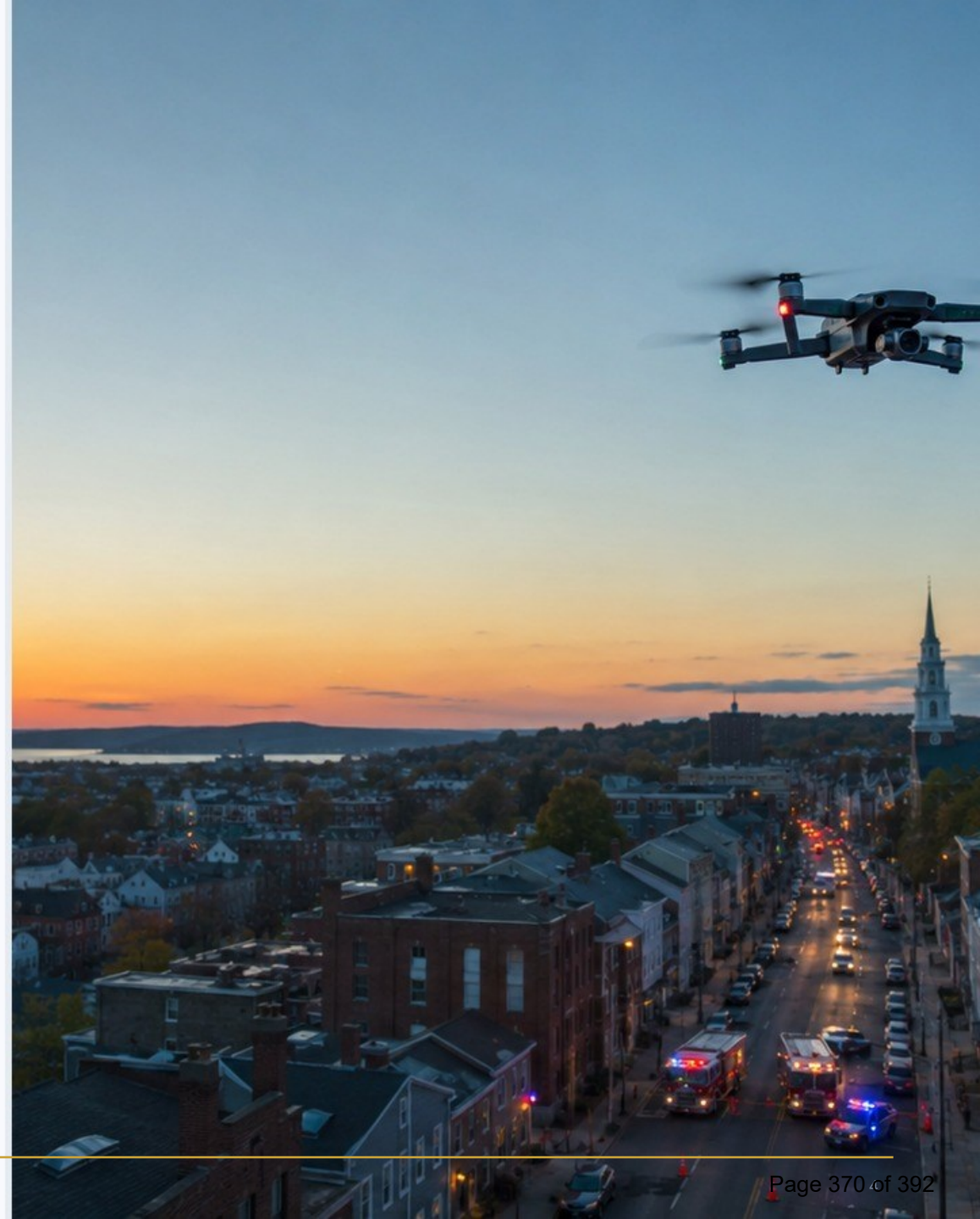
decisions by police, fire, EMS & dispatch

Safer

outcomes for residents and responders

Why This Matters

- The **first few minutes** often shape the outcome.
- A drone can get **eyes on a scene before officers arrive.**
- Early aerial information can **reduce guesswork, over-response, and unnecessary contact/interactions.**
- It can help determine whether to slow down, stage, call Fire/EMS, contain, or clear.



Public Safety Uses

Missing / endangered persons

Search & rescue, vulnerable residents, children, dementia cases

Crashes, fires & hazards

Traffic closures, fire spread, hazmat, blocked access

Active threats & serious calls

Safer staging, containment, locate fleeing or hiding suspects

Scene documentation

Crash reconstruction, crime scenes, official aerial perspective

Medical support

Locate patient, assess scene safety, guide responders

Training & readiness

Keep pilots current and safe under FAA / policy rules



Why It Can Be Less Intrusive

- A limited aerial view can **reduce unnecessary ground searches.**
- It may **avoid** officers **entering yards, knocking on multiple doors,** or **flooding an area with personnel.**
- It can help officers **slow down** and **avoid escalating** when the scene is not as reported.
- The goal is **better information** with **less disruption.**



Guardrails Already in the Works

Operational controls

- Trained and authorized personnel only
FAA / COA / Part 107 compliance
- **Supervisory approval** and pilot safety authority
- All use if documented – **transparency portal**
- Warrant required where law requires it, unless exigent circumstances apply

Clear prohibitions

- No random surveillance
- No targeting protected classes
- No harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or personal use
- No weaponization
- No civil ICE enforcement

Why Flexibility Matters

Guardrails should be stable. Procedures must be adaptable.

Real calls do not fit neat categories

Weather, location, threat, airspace, staffing, and call details change quickly.

We will learn from actual use

Some uses will be more valuable than expected; others may be limited.

Policy must evolve safely

FAA rules, vendor systems, training, and operating procedures will change.

Reported Resident Concerns:

Mission creep	Use written limits, logging, transparency, periodic review.
Protests / events	No political monitoring. Use only for genuine public safety incidents.
Mental health calls	Not because of mental illness alone. Use only where risk, location, search, or safety justifies it.
In-Transit recording	No intentional transit surveillance; minimize incidental capture and restrict use.
Outside sharing	No routine outside access; share only for lawful public safety or legal reasons.
Data retention	Limit non-evidentiary retention; preserve evidence, legal holds, training, accountability.

Implementation plan

**Start carefully. Be transparent. Keep clear limits.
Preserve operational flexibility.**

"Let us evaluate actual use, not just hypothetical misuse."

Hello,

My name is Madeleine and I have lived in Watertown for several years. I am writing to express my concern and share that I do not support WPD's proposed purchase and use of a Paladin drone. These sort of police "toys" do nothing to make people in Watertown, or anywhere, safer and they gravely risk people's right to privacy. And in an era of rapidly expanding state surveillance infrastructure and state violence towards vulnerable people, it is dangerous to support and invest in surveillance tools such as this drone. I urge the city council committee to listen to constituents' calls to oppose WPD's use and purchase of this drone.

Thank you.

.....

Dear City Council,

We concerned residents are writing of the meeting on July 9th regarding the Police Department's proposed Paladin drone procurement. We think there are still some things to explore and consider before WPD potentially buys a drone.

We think there are very valid uses of drones in an emergency response context, but it is important to keep in mind the potential for mission creep once you have purchased this technology. For example, without restrictions, it's very easy for a drone to become a general purpose mass surveillance tool, which probably many residents would not appreciate.

First, there are some questions the Committee should ask of themselves and the police

Questions

1. Should we allow Watertown police to use drones to surveil large events? [BPD](#) recently deployed dozens of drones to surveil local festivals. However, the presence of police drones and peaceful events can cause tension between the residents and the police. In particular, drone presence in politically charged events like peaceful protests could endanger activists should their information be leaked.

2. Will Watertown PD be sharing this single drone with other PD or borrowing drones from other departments (potentially from different vendors)?
3. Will there be a periodic evaluation of the efficacy of the drone? What is the rubric for a successful use of the drone that Watertown PD could not have accomplished in another way?
4. What are the “red lines” and how will the drone technology be rescinded should it no longer service the public?

We would ask the Council collaborate with local committees to **draft an SOP** and includes at a minimum:

- **Permitted uses:** For example, accident and fire response, environmental hazards, searches for missing persons, terrorist incidents -> probably don't need a warrant.
- **Prohibited uses:** For example, surveillance of protests, demonstrations, or their parking and staging areas. 911 calls that are primarily a mental health crisis. Personal use.
- **Warrant requirement:** For any use that is not a genuine emergency, with exigent-circumstance uses reported to the Council within a set number of days.
- **No incidental/in-transit surveillance:** An auditable guarantee that the drone records only at its destination and not while traveling to a scene.
- **Data retention:** How long footage is kept, who may access it, and an explicit prohibition on sharing with outside agencies or fusion centers absent a warrant or legal mandate.
- **Weaponization:** An absolute prohibition on weaponization of any kind.
- **Enforcement:** How will the commitment to the SOP be enforced? Who will audit the drone records periodically to ensure the drone isn't misused?

For additional reading

Cambridge last year debated on the use of drones for their police department. ([Cambridge Day](#)) The matter is currently still working through the committees as policies need to be written.

Cambridge has a [Surveillance Technology](#) ordinance to regulate the use of surveillance technology acquisition which requires a surveillance tech impact report (STIR) for each new technology. Watertown should consider such an ordinance in the future.

There's a (pretty much dead) house bill that has some language on police use of drones that has informed some of this email. ([H.4546](#), relevant text below)

"...use of UASs or UAVs by law enforcement for observational or surveillance purposes is permitted:

- (i) if the law enforcement agency first obtains a search warrant authorizing the use of a UAS or UAV;

- (ii) to counter the risk of a terrorist incident if the United States Secretary for Homeland Security or the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security determines credible intelligence exists indicating the risk of a terrorist incident;

- (iii) if the law enforcement agency possesses reasonable suspicion under the circumstances that use of a UAS or UAV is necessary to prevent imminent danger to life, to conduct a pursuit of an escapee or suspect, or to facilitate a search for a missing person; or

- (iv) to document a crime scene or crash scene for investigative, evidentiary, or crash reconstruction purposes.

- (f)(1) Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, a law enforcement agency in possession of images, footage, data, or recordings captured from the use of a UAS or UAV shall permanently erase or destroy or cause to be destroyed all images, footage, data, or recordings captured from a UAS or UAV not later than 120 days following the date on which the images, footage, data, or recordings were captured.

- (2) The law enforcement agency may retain said UAS or UAV images, footage, data, or recordings beyond 120 days if such information contains evidence of a crime or is relevant to an ongoing investigation or judicial proceeding.

- (g) If any part of this section is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, preempted, or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this section."

Thanks for listening! :)

-Lei & Brenten

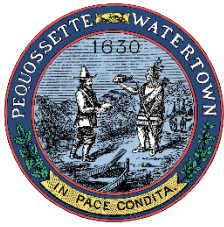
.....
Hello,

My name is Madeline Nicole, and I am a Watertown resident. I am writing to express concern about the \$50,000 Paladin drone that the Watertown Police Department is hoping to purchase. The Watertown community has already expressed deep opposition to the expansion of surveillance infrastructure in Watertown, as we saw earlier this year when the WPD tried to install Flock cameras. While Flock had a particularly horrendous slew of PR nightmares to draw on, it remains true that the root of the concern with Flock was an erosion of privacy and an increase in state-run surveillance. Chief Hanrahan and other officers who spoke earlier this year at the “Tech Talk” about Flock cameras and other police technology demonstrated to the public that they had not done their research before asking to purchase the Flock cameras. Chief Hanrahan also responded to the numerous news stories and reports about the dangers of Flock by doubling down on his confidence in the technology, instead of listening to his constituents. I do not see a reason to trust that there was any more of a vigorous research process into this Paladin drone, and I also do not trust that the WPD understands the dangers of bolstering state surveillance infrastructure in a time when many people across the country are being targeted because of their political beliefs, immigration status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, etc. Also, spending nearly \$50,000 for a device that would increase response time by 2 minutes, in a city where most incidents that police respond to are related to larceny from the Arsenal Mall, does not seem like a good use of tax dollars. Public safety comes from citizens having their basic needs met and from neighbors getting to know neighbors. I would much rather see money go towards, for example, keeping the library open for extended hours during a heat emergency like we saw last week. I do not support any tax dollars being spent on the expansion of state surveillance infrastructure like a Paladin drone.

Thank you.

Madeline Nicole

Watertown, MA



Watertown City Council

Committee on Parks and Recreation

Councilor Offei, Chair, Councilor Gardner, Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba, Secretary

Committee Report of July 14, 2026

Presented to the City Council on August 11, 2026

The Committee on Parks and Recreation met on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the City Council office. Presenter were Councilor Offei, Chair and Councilor Palomba, Secretary. Council Gardner, Vice Chair, was unable to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview Erica Holm, Ian Edwards-Clancy, and Rachel Slater for appointment to the Conservation Commission. The Committee was informed that Ms. Holm had removed herself from consideration.

Ian Edwards-Clancy Interview

Mr. Edwards-Clancy has lived in Watertown since 2024 when he moved from Fort Collins, Colorado. There he attended Colorado State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticultural Science. He presently works as a Data Analyst at Nutrien, an international company providing chemical products to farmers throughout the world. Mr. Edwards-Clancy is currently completing a certificate program with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners and is an active member of the Society for Ecological Restoration and the Soil Science Society of America.

When asked why he is interested in joining the Conservation Commission, he said he believes he can make a positive contribution to the Commission because of his background in horticulture and soil studies. He also feels joining the Commission is a good way to give back to his community. He is particularly interested in protecting Watertown's open space and the Charles River. He also wants to use his ability to listen carefully to what others have to offer while simultaneously sharing best practices on meeting protocol. He is excited about the possibility of serving as a member of the Commission.

Action Item

Councilor Palomba made the following motion –

The Committee on Parks and Recreation recommends that the City Council approve the appointment of Ian Edwards-Clancy to the Conservation Commission to a term ending February 15, 2027.

Councilor Offei seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

Rachel Slater Interview

Ms. Slater joined the meeting on zoom. Ms. Slater graduated from Smith College where she majored in Biological Sciences as well as Environmental Science and Policy. She presently works for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an Environmental Protection Specialist in the office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation. There she works to ensure that granted-funded projects are compliant with federal environmental and historic preservation laws and executive orders. She was drawn to public service because of her interest in protecting communities that are impacted by environmental disasters.

She feels that her present work focused on environmental protection and historic preservation as well as her academic background make her an ideal candidate to serve on the Conservation Commission. She has particular interest in Commission's stewardship of the City's wetlands and its responsibility to ensure our woodland trails are protected and accessible.

Ms. Slater has attended Commission meetings, listened to recordings of meetings, and read meeting minutes, thus demonstrating her strong interest in serving on the Commission. She is eager to share her experience and talent to help the Commission achieve its mission.

Action Item

Councilor Palomba made the following motion –

The Committee on Parks and Recreation recommends that the City Council approve the appointment of Rachel Slater to the Conservation Commission to a term ending February 15, 2027.

Councilor Offei seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

Councilor Palomba made the motion to adjourn. Councilor Offei seconded the motion and it passed 2-0. The meeting ended at approximately 6:15 PM.



**Watertown City Council
Committee on Human Services**

Councilor Palomba-Chair, Councilor Bays-Vice Chair, Councilor Izzo- Secretary

**Committee Report of July 15, 2026 Meeting
Presented to the City Council on August 11, 2026**

The Committee on Health and Human Services convened on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Office. Present were Councilor Anthony Palomba, Chair, Councilor Caroline Bays, Vice Chair, and Councilor Emily Izzo, Secretary.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct reappointment interviews for the Watertown Affordable Housing Trust and the Council on Aging.

Cliff Cook Interview

Mr. Cook has served as Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust for the past four years. He identified the development of the Trust's publication of the Watertown Housing Plan as one of its most significant accomplishments, explaining that it provides a roadmap for many of the initiatives the Trust has undertaken. He also highlighted the Trust's financial support of the Willow Park project and emphasized the hands-on role the Trust plays throughout the affordable housing development process. Rather than simply reviewing completed proposals, the Trust works collaboratively with staff and developers from the earliest stages of projects. Mr. Cook noted that the Trust benefits from members with extensive experience in development, design, construction, and planning.

Looking ahead, Mr. Cook stated that he expects the City to see a proposal for new affordable family housing in the near future. He also discussed the possibility of incorporating affordable housing into future projects, including the new Senior Center and a potential library expansion. He expressed interest in developing a stronger relationship with a commercial real estate broker to assist the Trust in identifying additional opportunities. Mr. Cook also described the Trust's efforts to preserve existing affordable housing through partnerships with organizations such as Metro West Collaborative Development. He referenced work involving Saint Joseph Hall, including elevator improvements, and ongoing collaboration regarding a Belmont Street property with stormwater concerns. He also discussed the use of HOME funds and the Trust's assistance to the Watertown Housing Authority in identifying opportunities to utilize ARPA funding.

Mr. Cook stated that the Trust is well represented by members with diverse professional

backgrounds and believes the group works effectively together. He expressed that he has greatly enjoyed serving on the Trust.

Action Item

Councilor Izzo made the following motion –

The Committee on Human Services recommends that the City Council approve the reappointment of Cliff Cook as a member of the Watertown Affordable Housing Trust to a term expiring June 30, 2029.

Councilor Bays seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

James O'Connor Interview

Mr. O'Connor stated that serving on the Council on Aging has been a rewarding experience. He described the Council as a dedicated group with members from a variety of backgrounds who take their responsibilities seriously and are committed to planning for the future needs of Watertown's older adult population. Mr. O'Connor said he hopes the City will establish a clear direction regarding the future of the Senior Center, whether through a new facility or renovations to the existing space. He noted that parking remains an important concern and expressed his desire to see progress toward addressing those challenges. Long term, he believes it would be beneficial for the Council to have a permanent facility that better serves the community. Mr. O'Connor also discussed expanding programming to attract younger seniors and praised Director of Senior Services, Lydia McCoy, for significantly increasing and diversifying programming. He expressed interest in offering additional outdoor activities as well as expanding in-house programming opportunities.

Action Item

Councilor Izzo made the following motion –

The Committee on Human Services recommends that the City Council approve the reappointment of James O'Connor as a member of the Council on Aging to a term expiring May 15, 2029.

Councilor Bays seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Helen Oliver Interview

Ms. Oliver identified the Watertown Affordable Housing Trust's policy work over the past several years as one of its greatest accomplishments. She highlighted the completion of the Watertown Housing Plan and policy updates, noting that the current membership worked collaboratively to develop and refine those documents. She stated that she particularly enjoys participating in policy discussions and helping shape the Trust's long-term direction.

Looking ahead, Ms. Oliver expressed enthusiasm about the opportunities created by changing real estate conditions and the Trust's ability to support future affordable housing developments. She noted that the Trust was pleased to provide financial support for the Willow Park project and hopes to continue building on that momentum as additional housing proposals move forward. When asked whether the Trust has any gaps in

expertise, Ms. Oliver stated that the membership is exceptionally well qualified and includes professionals with a broad range of knowledge and experience. She also discussed the importance of preserving existing affordable housing and suggested that additional local funding sources, including Community Preservation Committee predevelopment funding, could strengthen future affordable housing initiatives.

Action Item

Councilor Izzo made the following motion

The Committee on Human Services recommends that the City Council approve the reappointment of Helen Oliver as a member of the Watertown Affordable Housing Trust to a term expiring June 30, 2029.

Councilor Bays seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Councilor Bays made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Izzo and passed 3-0. The meeting ended at approximately 6:30 PM. The minutes were written by Councilor Izzo.



City of Watertown
Conservation Commission
Administration Building
149 Main St.
Watertown, MA 02472

Leo Martin, Chair
Rachel Danford, Member
Marilyn Salvas, Member
Marie-Sophie Rohwaeder, Member

To: Council President Sideris
CC: Climate and Energy Subcommittee (Councilors Palomba, Bays, and Offei), City Manager Proakis,
Kennan Rhyne, Katherine Swan, Susan Jenness, Conservation Commission Members
From: Leo Martin, Chair, Conservation Commission
Date: July 28, 2026
RE: Carbon Storage Assessment at Whitney Hill Park

In our June Conservation Commission meeting, the Minerva Action Group, LLC (MAG) gave a presentation on the benefits of having a tree canopy and urban forests in our community. The mission of the MAG is to develop and make available to schools and other interested parties hands-on teaching exercises that explore and illustrate fundamental processes involved in, or resulting from, climate change, (for example, carbon sequestration by trees, solar cells and electric vehicles, and the presence of micro-particles in sources of drinking water) to better understand some of the key public policy issues.

Three of their members (Bob West, Ronald Whitfield, and Bob Leverett) made a zoom presentation regarding what they do as a non-profit and their findings of their study of carbon storage in urban forest at Whitney Hill Park. As a non-profit, they focus on climate change and they work with high school students to enlighten them and teach them the benefits of ecological efforts.

Mr. Leverett discussed the background of the study of Whitney Hill, their evaluation, and their findings. He explained that they worked with Patrick Fairbairn on the data that Fairbairn collected between 2015 and 2021 from the sample plots established on Whitney Hill. Those plots were established in 2015 by Mr. Fairbairn with the assistance of students from Watertown High School who developed the original data. Subsequently, Mr. Fairbairn and other volunteers developed follow-up readings that allowed the MAG to model the total amount of biomass and total carbon stored in the trees. The analysis was based on 519 trees included in the test plots and scaled up to determine the evaluation of the entire park. The MAG uses a US Forest Service model to estimate biomass and total carbon storage. The model breaks down where carbon was stored in the biomass, (i.e. above or below ground (root system)). Based on their modeling, the study estimated that 32,000 pounds of carbon are stored annually, and that between 2015 and Spring 2026 a total estimated 2,414,000 pounds of carbon were stored in the Whitney Hill Park.

During the Q&A, there was a question as to the benefit of larger/older trees with regard to carbon storage. Mr. Leverett explained that as trees grow larger for a period of decades, they increase the amount of CO₂ removed and taper off as they age. He continued by adding that it takes a long time to replace the carbon storage lost when removing larger trees.

The Minerva Action Group members indicated that they would be interested in discussing how they could coordinate with the high school in the further studies at Whitney Hill, as well as present their findings to the City Council.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: August 3, 2026

RE: Request for Confirmation –Appointment to the Board of Election
Commissioners

In accordance with the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, I am submitting a request for appointment to the Board of Election Commissioners.

- Antonio Molle – Appointment as a member of the Board of Election Commissioners to a term expiring April 1, 2030

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to the Memorialization Committee

In accordance with the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, I request Council confirmation of reappointment to the Memorialization Committee. This candidate was appointed in April 2026, and the committee has not yet met. The first Memorialization Committee meeting is scheduled for September 2026.

- Ani Aroyian - Reappointment as a member of the Memorialization Committee to a term expiring September 15, 2029

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors

In accordance with the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, I request Council confirmation of reappointment to the Watertown Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors.

- Elaine Mello - Reappointment as a member of the Watertown Cable Access Corporation – Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2029

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee

In accordance with the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, I request Council confirmation of appointment to the Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee

- Andrew Luutu- Appointment as a member of the Watertown Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2029

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: August 6, 2026

RE: Request for Confirmation – Appointments to the Historic District Commission

In accordance with the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, I request Council confirmation of appointments to the Historic District Commission. The appointment of Tom Acitelli will be to fill the unexpired term of James Bensinger.

- Tom Acitelli - Appointment as a member of the Historic District Commission to a term expiring November 15, 2027
- Lauren Mills – Appointment as a member of the Historic District Commission to a term expiring November 15, 2029

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.