



Office of the Town Manager
Judson Rex

Warrenton Town Council

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STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date:	July 14 th , 2026
Agenda Title:	Adoption of 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan
Requested Action:	Adopt the 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan
Department / Agency Lead:	Town Manager's Office/Emergency Management
Staff Lead:	Timothy M. Carter, Chief of Police

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Warrenton participated in the development of the 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan, which identifies natural hazards, assesses community risks, and establishes strategies to improve resilience and reduce future disaster impacts.

FEMA requires participating jurisdictions to formally adopt the Plan to maintain eligibility for federal hazard mitigation grant programs. Adoption does not commit the Town to funding or implementing specific projects but preserves access to future grant opportunities and supports coordinated regional resilience planning.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Warrenton has participated with the Rappahannock-Rapidan region in the development and periodic update of a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The updated 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations found in 44 CFR Part 201. The 2025 update expands its focus to include resilience measures as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) program.

The Plan was developed through a collaborative process involving the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC), member localities, emergency management personnel, state agencies, and other stakeholders. The Town of Warrenton participated in the planning process by providing local data, reviewing draft materials, identifying hazards and vulnerabilities, and developing mitigation strategies specific to the Town.

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan identifies the region's natural hazards, assesses the potential impact of these hazards, and outlines long-term strategies to protect people and property. This updated plan meets the requirements of the 2000 Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA), ensuring participating localities remain eligible for federal assistance through FEMA programs such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) initiative.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Town Council adopt the attached Resolution approving the 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan for the Town of Warrenton.

Adoption will:

- Satisfy FEMA's local adoption requirement;
- Maintain eligibility for federal hazard mitigation grant funding;
- Support coordinated regional planning;
- Advance the Town's efforts to improve long-term resilience to natural hazards; and
- Provide a framework for prioritizing future mitigation and resilience initiatives.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

Implementation of the 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan will require ongoing coordination among multiple Town departments to integrate hazard mitigation and resilience strategies into existing planning, capital improvement, infrastructure, emergency management, and public works activities. The Plan is intended to inform future decision-making rather than create new operational responsibilities or regulatory requirements.

The Town's Emergency Management Coordinator, Community Development Department, Public Works and Utilities Department, and other applicable departments will collaborate to evaluate mitigation opportunities, pursue grant funding, and incorporate applicable recommendations into departmental plans and projects as resources allow. Staff will also continue to coordinate with the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, Fauquier County, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and other regional and state partners.

Adoption of the Plan does not impose new enforcement responsibilities or require immediate implementation of specific projects. Instead, it provides a coordinated framework to guide future resilience initiatives and strengthens the Town's ability to pursue external funding for hazard mitigation projects.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

The 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan is consistent with the goals and objectives of Plan Warrenton 2040, particularly the Open Space, Parks & Environment policies P-1.1 through P-1.5, which promote protection of floodplains and natural resources, green infrastructure, nature-based stormwater management, and environmental resilience. The Plan also supports the Comprehensive Plan's Community Facilities and Transportation goals by promoting the protection of critical infrastructure, incorporation of hazard mitigation into capital planning, and enhancement of emergency preparedness. Adoption of the Plan provides an implementation framework that advances the Town's long-term vision for a safe, sustainable, and resilient community while preserving eligibility for federal hazard mitigation funding.

P-1: Preserve, enhance, and protect the environmental, scenic, and natural quality of the Town.

P-1.1: Create an environmental resources map that includes floodplains, wetlands, perennial streams, steep slopes, soils, Heritage trees, tree cover, and viewsheds. Consider adopting performance measures into the Zoning Ordinance to protect these features.

P-1.2: Incorporate green infrastructure and low impact development into new open space and park development and improvements to existing open spaces.

P-1.3: Use a nature-based systems approach in development to mitigate stormwater and improve habitat within the Town's open spaces.

P-1.4: Protect and enhance environmental features that honor the natural beauty of the Town's rolling hills, water features and springs, viewsheds, and native flora and fauna through policies and development regulations.

P-1.5: Minimize the loss of existing tree cover and promote the addition of new trees in the development process to realize air, noise, and water quality benefits as well as habitat preservation, reduced stormwater management costs, carbon sequestration, and energy conservation.

T-1: Improve Multimodal Capacity and Safety that encourages trips by walking, bicycling, and transit.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with adoption of the Plan.

Adoption preserves the Town's eligibility to compete for federal and state hazard mitigation grant funding that may significantly offset future costs associated with hazard mitigation projects and disaster recovery efforts.

Legal Impact

Adoption of the 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan satisfies FEMA's requirement for local adoption under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and 44 C.F.R. Part 201, maintaining the Town's eligibility for certain federal hazard mitigation grant programs. Adoption of the Plan does not create a legal obligation to implement any specific mitigation project or expend Town funds.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution Adopting the 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan
2. 2025 Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan