

10 – COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP

PLANNING TEAM AND PARTICIPATION

Name	Title	Participation
Tyler Badaracco	OEM Coordinator	Primary Point of Contact, Municipal Workshop #1, Municipal Workshop #2
Kathleen Capristo	Township Administrator	Reviewer
Louis Bader	Director of Public Works	Reviewer

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Overview

Colts Neck Township is located in central Monmouth County. The community is defined by large, rural residential estates, preserved farmland, open space, and equestrian farms. The Township is bisected by State Highway 34 and traversed by State Routes 34 & 18, and County Routes 520 & 537.

The landside portion of Naval Weapons Station Earle is in Colts Neck and occupies approximately a quarter of the township's land area at 11,134 acres. A Joint Land Use Study was conducted in 2017 and identified that the land around NWS Earle was primarily zoned for residential uses. As a result, the study recommends that Colts Neck share proposed land development with station officials, recognize a 3,000-foot buffer from NWS Earle boundaries in planning documents, and cooperate in the purchasing of land that could be utilized as an open space buffer. These strategies protect community water supply, conserved farmlands, and increases recreational areas.

Colts Neck is currently working on updating its Open Space Plan, and its Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. An environmental resource inventory is also underway. Colts Neck established a Green Team Advisory Committee in 2021. It has an active Shade Tree Advisory Committee, as well as a Farmland and Open Space Committee.

Land Use, Development, & Growth

Colt's Neck consists of substantial land dedicated to residential use, along with several acres of land being put to farming or designated as forested land or wetlands. As a result, in 2020, urban or developed land accounted for nearly 39 percent of the Borough's total area, while wetlands, barren land and agricultural land accounted for 25 percent, 18 percent and 15 percent respectively. From 2015 to 2020, there was negligible change in the land use composition of the community, apart from marginal decreases in agricultural and forested land and wetlands, and a negligible increase of 1 percent or 46 acres in developed land.

Land Use Type	Total Acres (2015)	Total Acres (2020)	Percent Change
Agriculture	2977.6	2954.8	-1%
Barren Land	32.0	44.9	40%
Forest	3745.2	3717.7	-1%
Urban	7847.0	7893.0	1%
Water	626.7	628.0	>0%
Wetlands	5097.5	5087.7	>0%

Source: NJDEP Land Use/Land Cover data, 2015-2020

Recent Major Development and Infrastructure from 2020 to Present

In 2020, the Township amended its Housing Element and Fair Share Housing Plan to enable the development of a 360-unit apartment complex, 72 of which will be affordable housing units. The site plan was approved by the Colts Neck Planning Board in 2021 and County Development Review Committee in 2023. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection formally adopted the amendment to the sewer service area required for this project in March of 2024.

Known or Anticipated Major Development and Infrastructure in the Next Five (5) Years

A high-density housing program is going in right across from the high school. This development is approximately 350 condo units. It will be about 12 buildings with three floors. These condos will be completed in 2026 and lie within the medium wildfire zone.

Demographics & Vulnerable Populations

This plan analyzed census-derived data on population trends and population age distributions to help illustrate potential vulnerability within the township. A population increase or decrease can illustrate potential hazard vulnerability through development pressures on the built environment, or through physical and social impacts of marked population loss. A community with a large share of population under age five may indicate vulnerabilities in hazard response, resource allocation, and evacuation – FEMA identifies that the pediatric population is disproportionately affected during disasters, and requires special consideration in categories of anatomy and physiology, psychological, and education vulnerabilities (FEMA, 2022, NLM, 2022). Individuals over age 65 are a growing share of the country's population and often represent the greatest share of deaths from extreme weather events and other natural disasters. A larger share of population over 65 may indicate local vulnerabilities to hazard events both before and after a disaster occurs – these populations may have mobility needs, uneven access to resources, and limited social networks that makes pre-disaster engagement challenging (FEMA, 2023).

Colts Neck Township has an estimated total population of 9,969 as of the 2018-2022 ACS survey period, a negligible 0.49% population decline since the estimate during the 2013-2017 ACS survey. This population is estimated to be 3.4% under age 5, and 17.8% over age 65. With nearly one-fifth of township population aged over 65, vulnerabilities specific to an aging population may be identified in pre-hazard planning and post-disaster recovery efforts.

There is one block group within Colts Neck which is identified as potentially vulnerable due to overburden (OBC), meeting criteria for *Low Income* populations. This block group is along the Township's southeast border. The Township also has one tract meeting criteria for vulnerability based on CEJST categories of *Local Energy, Housing, and Legacy Pollution*.

Demographics Summary	
Total Population (2018-2022 ACS 5-year Estimates)	9,969
Population Change since 2017	-0.5%
Percent of Population Age < 5	3.4%
Percent of Population > 65	17.8%

Source: 2018-2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

One of the first steps in developing a risk assessment is for participating municipalities to review and prioritize the hazards that can affect them. This was done based on how often a hazard has occurred, how significant effects have been in the past, the difficulty and cost of recovering from such events. Jurisdictions ranked the list of hazards as either high, medium, low, or no concern. The following include the Borough's hazard ranking. The full risk assessment for each hazard is located in Section 4.0.

Hazard Ranking

High	Medium	Low
Natural Hazards		
Dam Failure	Extreme Temperature	Tornado
Hurricane/Tropical Storm	Extreme Wind	Drought
Flood	Nor'easter	Earthquake
	Winter Storm	
	Wildfire	
	Lightning	
Human-made Hazards		
	Cyber Attack	Civil Unrest
	Economic Disruption	
	Power Failure	
	Terrorism	
	Pandemic	

The Township ranked Coastal Erosion, Landslide, Storm Surge, and Wave Action as N/A.

Hazard Ranking Explanation

Dam failure moved from low in the last HMP update to medium. This is due to the Township having a high-hazard potential dam (Swimming River Reservoir). There is also a significant hazard dam (Bucks Mill Dam). However, the probability of failure is low, keeping it at medium risk rather than high. Flood was lowered from high to medium as there were no significant flood events or damage in the past five years. Wildfires remained at medium. While there have been a few fires in the past year alone, they were all relatively contained and resulted in no damage. Power failure moved from low to medium in this plan update as the infrastructure is aging and high winds have caused outages. Coastal erosion, landslide, storm surge, and wave action are all not applicable due to the Township's general topography and geography.

Significant Hazard Events Since Last Plan Update

In December 2023, Colts Neck experienced significant power outages, with a total of 396 outages within the Township. There have been a few wildfires, but they were mostly contained to under 20 acres. One fire on October 9, 2024, in the southeast corner of town, was contained to five acres. Additionally, there were a few events in the past five years where the Township had to open the heating and cooling centers.

Climate Change Impacts on Extent and Magnitude of Hazards

Climate change is expected to significantly impact the risks and hazards faced by Colts Neck Township. As global temperatures rise, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, tropical storms, and extreme temperatures are likely to increase. This will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities in the Township, particularly in areas prone to flooding and power outages. For instance, the aging infrastructure that has already led to power failures could be further strained by more frequent and severe storms, leading to prolonged outages and increased recovery costs. Additionally, higher temperatures and prolonged heatwaves could increase the risk of wildfires, which, although currently contained, could become more frequent and harder to manage.

Moreover, climate change is expected to lead to increased flooding associated with heavy rain events, resulting in significant flooding in low-lying areas and overwhelmed drainage systems.

RISK ASSESSMENT

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) statistics

Colts Neck Township	
Initial FIRM	4/15/1982
Effective FIRM	9/25/2009
Number of Policies In-Force:	26
Total Losses:	41
Total Payments:	\$560,231.52
Number of RL Properties:	2
Number of Mitigated RL Properties:	0
RL – Total Losses:	6
RL – Total Paid:	\$39,613.11
Number of SRL Properties:	0
Number of Mitigated SRL Properties:	0
SRL – Total Losses:	0
SRL – Total Paid:	\$0

Source: FEMA Policy and Loss Data, August 2024

Vulnerability of the Built Environment

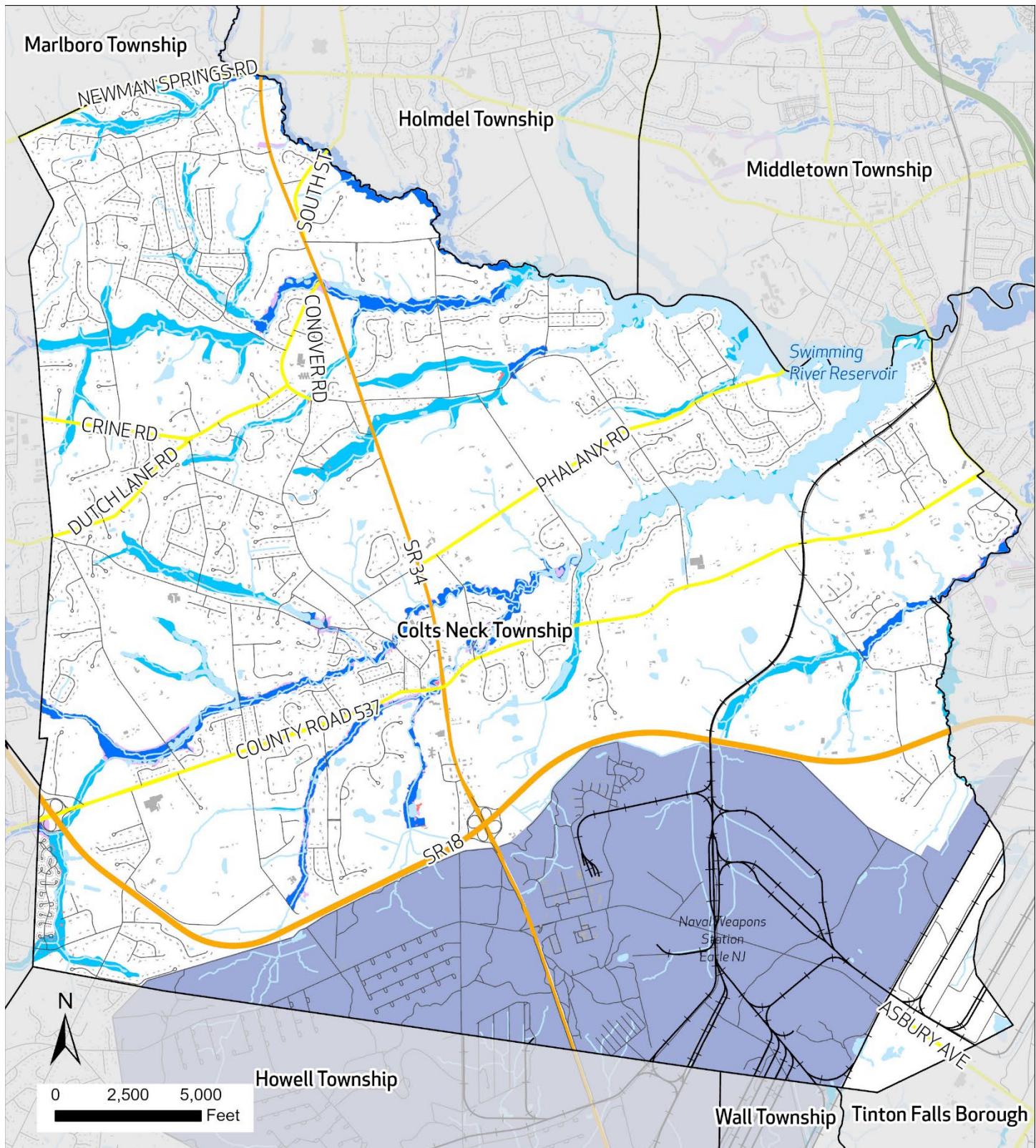
The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) in Colts Neck Township is primarily located adjacent to the waterbodies of the borough: the Swimming River Reservoir and the many small creeks which flow into the reservoir. Approximately 7.9 percent of the total area of Colts Neck lies within the 1% annual chance flood zone as defined by FEMA. An additional 0.3 percent of the area of the municipality is in the 0.2% annual chance flood zone.

About 77.4 percent of Colts Neck is considered developed. Of the developed parcels of the town, 17.4 percent fall within the 1% annual chance flood zone and 0.4 percent are within the 0.2% annual chance flood zone. This illustrates that development in the municipality has generally occurred in areas that are more prone to flooding

	Percentage in the 1% Floodplain	Percentage in the 0.2% Floodplain	5 feet of Sea Level Rise
Developed Parcels	17.4%	0.4%	NA
Community Lifelines and Critical Facilities	20.0%	0.0%	NA
Exposed Land Area	7.9%	0.3%	NA

During the planning process, Colts Neck identified critical facilities which function as community lifelines. These facilities provide the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function. The municipality identified 30 total facilities. Of these facilities, six percent are located within the floodplain. All six are considered Water Systems community lifelines. Examples of the Water Systems lifeline type includes dams or pump stations.

Community Lifeline Type	Number in the 1% Floodplain	Number in the 0.2% Floodplain	Number within 5 feet of Sea Level Rise
Water Systems	6	-	NA



Flood Risk

Colts Neck Township

FEMA Flood Zone

- 0.2% Annual Chance
- A (1%)
- AE (1%)

Garden State Parkway

State Hwy

Interstate Highways

State Routes

County Routes

Local Roads

Rail Lines

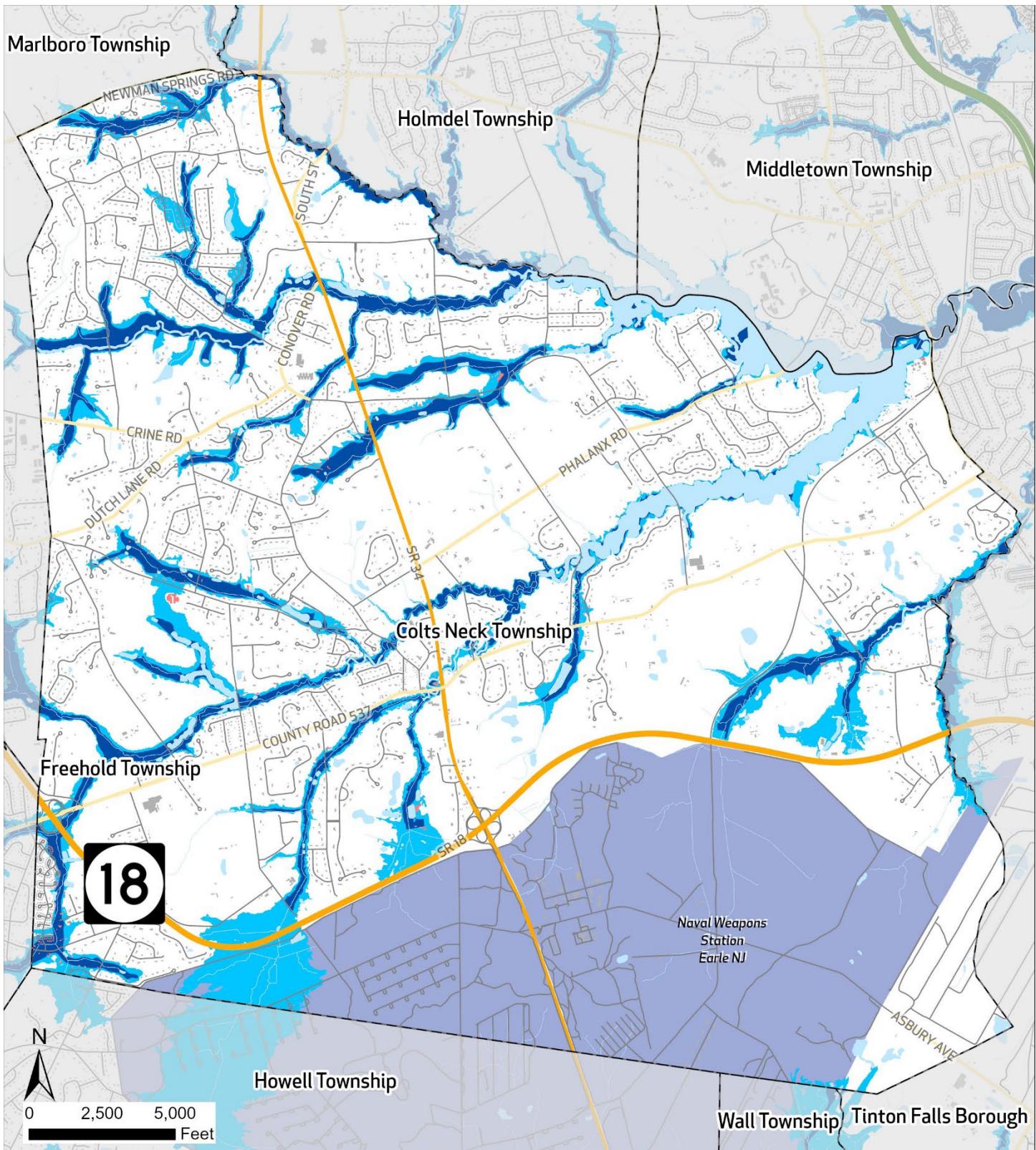
Municipal Boundaries

Building Footprints

Building Footprints within Floodplain

Water

Source: FEMA NJDEP, NJOIT, NJTransit



NJ Inland Design Flood Elevation

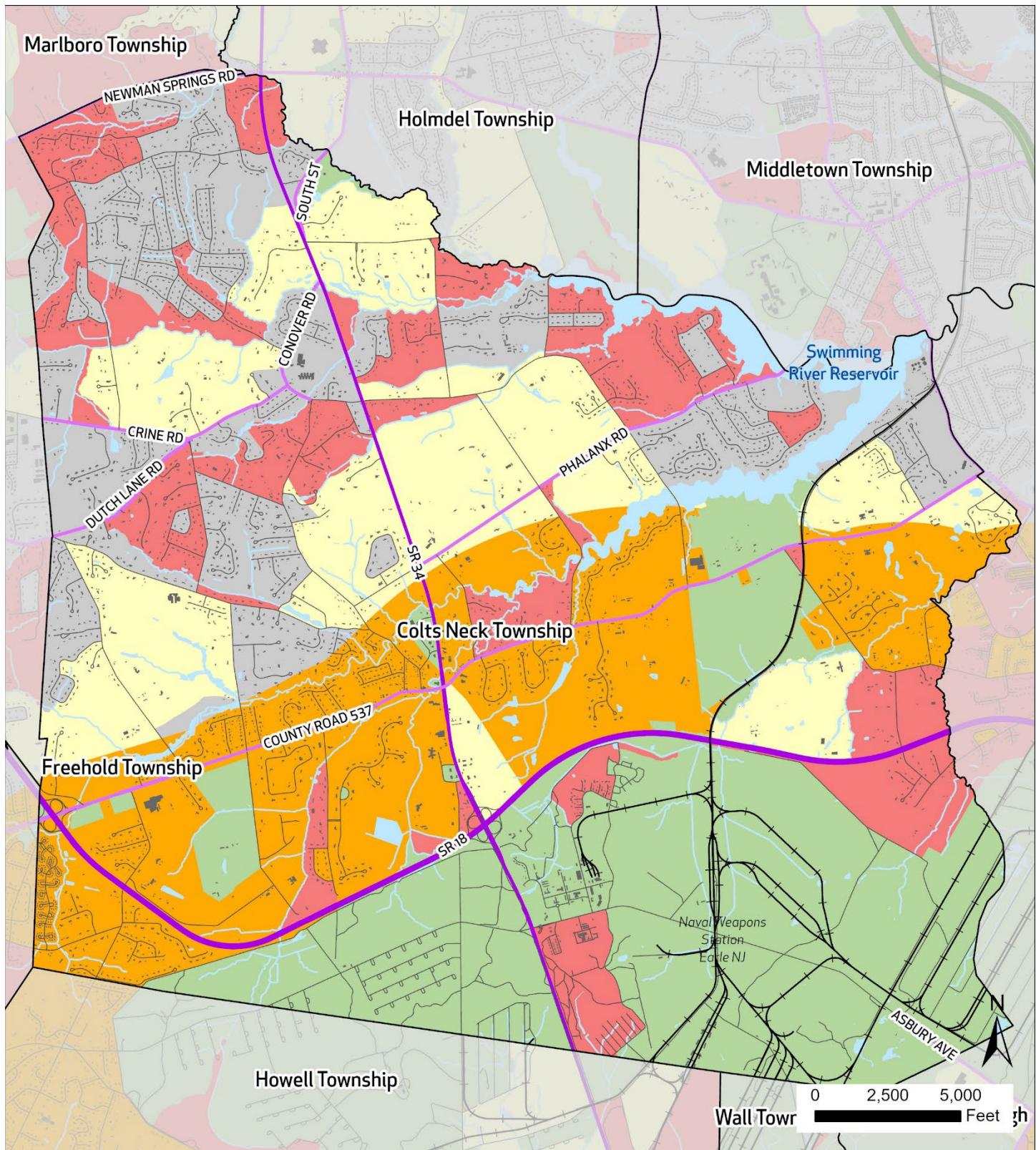
Colts Neck Township

FEMA Flood Zone
 Current Base Flood Elevation (1%)
 NJ Inland Design Flood Elevation
 FEMA BFE (1%) plus 3 Feet

— Interstate Highways
— State Routes
— County Routes
— Local Roads
— State Hwy
— Garden State Parkway

— Municipal Boundaries
 Water
 Department of Defense Land
 Building Footprints
 Building Footprints within IDFE

Source: FEMA, Rutgers University, NJDEP, NJOIT, NJTransit



Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Classification

Colts Neck Township

- Interface
- Intermix
- High or Medium Density Housing
- Low or Very Low Density Housing
- No Housing

- Garden State Parkway
- State Hwy
- Interstate Highways
- State Routes
- County Routes
- Local Roads
- Rail Lines

- Municipal Boundaries
- Building Footprint
- Water

Source: USFS, NJDEP, NJOIT, NJTransit

CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

Planning & Regulatory Capabilities

Colts Neck Township has the following additional Planning & Regulatory capabilities:

Plan and Regulation	Yes	No	Date of last update	How does this capability support hazard mitigation?
Master Plan	X			
Capital Improvement Plan	X		March 2024	
Local Emergency Operations Plan/Continuity of Operations Plan	X		December 2024	
Floodplain Development Ordinance		X		
Floodplain Management Plan	X			
Stormwater Management Ordinance	X			
Stormwater Management Plan	X			
Watershed Management Plan	X			
Sheltering Plan	X		December 2024	
Evacuation Plan	X		December 2024	
Substantial Damage/Improved Structures Response		X		
Repetitive Loss Plan	X			
Disaster Debris Management Plan	X			
Tracking elevation certificates and/or Letter of Map Change	X			
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	X			
Current/recent redevelopment plans or studies	X			
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	X			
Climate Adaptation Plan	X			
Other Plans that discusses hazard mitigation	X			Next Steps to Compatibility Planning Study, Monmouth County, New Jersey (2022) encourages compatible development within the NWS Earle's Military Influence Area. Among the environmental constraints are natural hazards including wildfire, flooding, and storm surge.
Other ordinance and regulation that mitigate the impacts of natural hazards				

Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Colts Neck Township has the following Administrative and Technical capabilities:

Position	Yes	No	Explanation
Floodplain Administrator		X	
Grant Writer	X		Third Party organization to help facilitate any potential grant opportunities
Staff trained to support mitigation	X		
Existing mutual aid or technical assistance agreements to support hazard mitigation projects	X		Monmouth county office of emergency management
Non-governmental organizations/other partners that work with the municipality on mitigation projects			

Position	Yes	No	Explanation
Organizations that work with socially vulnerable or underserved populations			

Education and Outreach Capabilities

Colts Neck Township has the following Education and Outreach capabilities:

Education & Outreach Capability	Yes	No	Explanation
Communicate natural and human-based hazards to the public	X		Swift 911 has been used to communicate any potential hazards to the community as well as postings on the township website
StormReady			
Firewise USA			
Severe Weather Awareness Week	X		Swift 911 has been used to communicate any potential hazards to the community as well as postings on the township website
Community Rating System (CRS)			

Financial Capabilities

Within the last five years, Colts Neck Township has used the following financial capabilities to implement hazard mitigation activities:

Financial Capability	Yes	No	Explanation
FEMA BRIC	X		
FEMA FMA	X		
FEMA Public Assistance	X		
FEMA HMGP	X		
Non-FEMA Federal Funding Programs	X		
Other FEMA resources	X		
NJ Infrastructure Bank	X		
Other state municipal assistance or grant programs	X		
Evaluation process on the prioritization of risk reduction projects against other local activities	X		
Other ongoing efforts to build additional financial capabilities	x		

Additional Capability Assessment Information:

- Sustainable Jersey Participation Status:** Bronze

MITIGATION STRATEGY

Overview and Progress Since Last Plan Update

Colts Neck Township has been and continues to actively seek proactive planning to better serve the township with regards to natural disasters that may hinder the daily operations of the township and its residents. Since 2021, the township has collaborated with shared service opportunities, both public and private, to mitigate future disasters around the township. This has been an ongoing process and continues to be assessed on a quarterly basis (LEPC). Colts Neck Township will continue to develop its planning with for future potential hazards with the highest concerns for public safety and awareness.

Completed or Removed Actions

Action	Name	Description	Hazards Addressed	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding	Cost Estimate	Time-line	Action Status	Notes
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Colts Neck Township does not have any completed or withdrawn actions from the previous plan.

New and Ongoing Actions

Action	Name	Description	Hazards Addressed	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding	Cost Estimate	Timeline	Action Status	Notes
Action 10-1	Create the Ability to Drill New Water Wells at Public Buildings to Maintain Operational Wells During a Power Outage or Drought	Drill replacement wells for residents on a case-by-case basis.	Drought, Nor'easter, Hurricane and Tropical Storm	Medium	Health Officer and Township Administrator	Homeland Security grants, Municipal budget	\$60,000	2 years	Ongoing	One of the wells has been completed. A new facility has been put in. The funding was through the Township's capital improvement programs. Access to running water during a natural disaster can be had for residents.
Action 10-2	Acquire, elevate, or relocate buildings and infrastructure in flood prone areas, with a focus on Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties	Elevate, acquire, or floodproof flood-prone structures, specifically RL/SRL properties.	Flood, Nor'easter, Hurricane and Tropical Storm	High	Individual homeowner	FEMA HMA	\$150K	3 years	Ongoing	Always ongoing as new repetitive loss properties could pop-up.
Action 10-3	Protect Community Center from Wind and Flood Events, and Purchase and Install Generators	Protect exterior of the Township's shelter, the Community Center, by covering windows, stacking sandbags around potential flood prone areas, and	All Hazards	High	Local OEM	Township funding, FEMA HMA	\$150K	2 years	Ongoing	Ongoing.

Action	Name	Description	Hazards Addressed	Priority	Responsible Party	Potential Funding	Cost Estimate	Timeline	Action Status	Notes
		providing additional embankments. Additionally, the Community Center, DPW, Municipal Complex, and Cedar Drive								
Action 10-4	Develop a Tree Trimming Program	Trim tree branches or remove trees and/or other structures that may cause an interruption of electrical power and removing obstruction of vehicle movement on public streets.	Extreme Wind, Nor'easter, Hurricane and Tropical Storm	Medium	Local OEM/Public Works	Municipal budget	\$500K	5 + years	Ongoing	Extensive tree trimming and removal has been ongoing and will continue. This will help mitigate power loss and road closures around the township.
Action 10-5	Develop a Safety and Public Health Outreach Program	Develop a safety and public health outreach program that assists residents prepare and mitigate disasters. Develop an educational program to educate the public about hazard mitigation techniques and promote disaster-resistant development.	All Hazards	High	Local OEM	Local Budget, Grants	\$20,000	5 + years	Ongoing	This is ongoing. A lot more residents have moved into the Township in the last two years. It is an ongoing process continuing to try to get everyone signed up. This will help public outreach to all residents in the event of a major and minor event within the township
Action 10-6	Increase Cyber Security for the Township	Take measures to increase cyber security at Township buildings.	Cyber Attack	Medium	Township	Homeland Security grants	TBD	1 year	Ongoing	Ongoing. IT staffing has been implemented into the township.
Action 10-7	Upgrade the Swimming River Reservoir Dam to increase the level of protection	Upgrade the Swimming River Reservoir Dam, a High-Hazard Potential Dam, located along Robins Swamp Brook.	Dam Failure	High	New Jersey-American Water Company	Municipal budget, NJDEP, FEMA HMA	TBD	3 years	New	Ongoing.