

## Plan for Resilience with the FloodReady.gov Website

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In Vermont, the most common and costly disaster is flooding; but flooding does not need to be a disaster!

As communities update their municipal plans they are adding a new section on flood resilience. This section identifies how the community will avoid making problems worse, will take specific steps to direct new development to safer places, will improve the reliability of our roads, and prepare for flood emergencies.

What needs to be done? Municipal plans look comprehensively at all of the needs in the community and attempt to set priorities. For most places this is the first time that communities have considered their plans in the light of hazards and flood resilience.

On the new Flood Ready Vermont website [www.floodready.vermont.gov](http://www.floodready.vermont.gov) there is useful information about watersheds, forests, river corridors and floodplains. These landscape features control how much water arrives how fast.

The community reports on the website summarize information on buildings already in the floodplain and how many have insurance. Some communities have critical facilities like fire stations and schools in the hazard area and government offices that won't function when we need them most.

Funding sources are identified too. Over thirty percent of Vermont communities now have access to grants through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program to help with culvert improvements, elevating buildings, and removing flood-prone buildings.

After a disaster the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) is an important source of funding to help municipalities recover from their losses. For disasters after October 23, 2014 there will be substantially more support from the State of Vermont for communities that are taking specific steps to reduce future flood damage. Find out what your community can do now!

The process of improving our roads and redirecting our future growth will take time and we have a lot to learn from each other. Flood Ready Vermont can help us find others making it happen, upcoming trainings, grant opportunities and a listserve where community leaders can share questions, resources and ideas. Here is a meeting place for everyone working toward a flood ready Vermont!