

Section I - Introduction

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Hazard Mitigation Plan is to give the County and its municipalities an integrated strategy and direction for planning and development of future hazard mitigation projects. The goals and objectives set forth in this plan, and the actions to be taken have been cooperatively determined and agreed upon by all governing bodies within Yates County. It is understood that this is not a response plan, but a plan to guide future projects with the express goal of protecting lives and decreasing or eliminating damages to property and infrastructure caused by natural and man-made hazards that affect our communities.

B. Scope

This is a multi-jurisdiction, all hazards mitigation plan. It addresses the risks, vulnerabilities and strategies for mitigating all hazards in Yates County and each of its nine towns and three of four villages, which have participated in development and approval of the plan. The fourth village, Rushville, is located in both Yates and Ontario Counties and is included in the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The plan is intended to meet hazard mitigation planning requirements established by federal law in the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*, (DMA 2000), Public Law 106-390.

C. Background

Figure 1-1 New York State



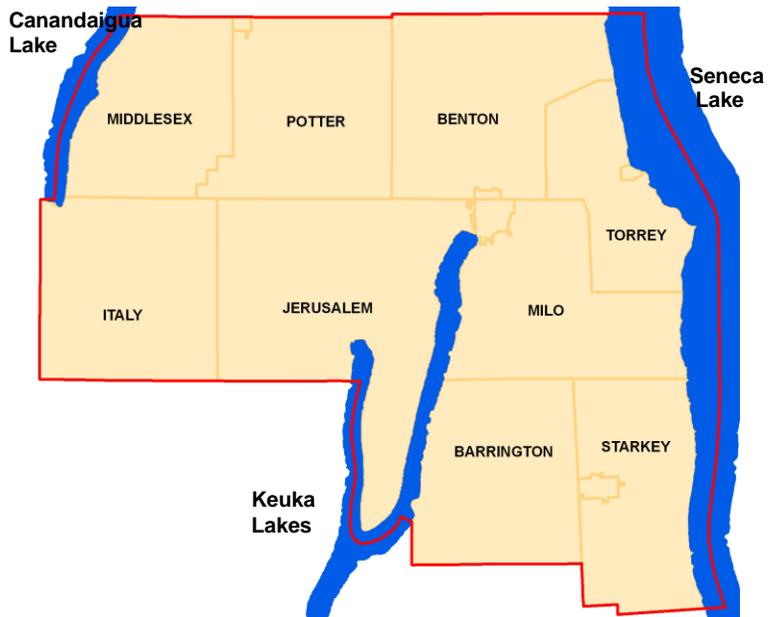
Yates County is located in the Finger Lakes Region of New York with Seneca Lake forming its eastern border and Canandaigua and Keuka Lakes forming the majority of the western border.

Yates County is 338 square miles in area and had a population of 25,348 in 2010.

This was a 3% population increase since 2000. There are nine towns and four villages located within the County.

Yates County was established in 1823 from Ontario County and was named for New York State Governor Joseph Yates who signed the act establishing Yates County. In 1826, a portion of Steuben County was annexed but sections were lost to Seneca and Tompkins counties in 1828. In 1946, the boundaries changed again when parts of Seneca Lake were gained from Seneca and Schuyler counties.

Figure 1-2 Yates County Local Jurisdictions



Elevations range from 445 feet above sea level at the Seneca Lake shoreline to over 2,140 feet in the Town of Italy. According to the 2010 census, the total population of Yates County had grown from 19,009 (in 1830) to 25,348.

Over 750 jobs in Yates County are directly related to the tourism industry, the other dominant economic activity is agriculture. Notable historical figures include Jemima Wilkinson in the late 1700's, Marcus Whitman in the early 1800's and Robert Green Ingersoll in the mid 1800's. Yates County is home to one of the largest Wenger Mennonite communities in the country.

Yates County also has three public school districts, a private college, several home school programs and 28 Mennonite schools.

In 1972, due to unequal representation based on population, the Yates County Legislature became the county governing body, replacing the nine-member Board of Supervisors that governed the county since it was formed 149 years ago. Yates County's nine towns are divided into four legislative districts represented by 14 legislators who are elected for two-year terms. The local law creating the legislature contains a provision that any elected town supervisor, town councilman, village mayor or village trustee may also be elected as a county legislator. In 2010, there is one elected town supervisor and two town councilman who also serve as legislators.

Yates County is one of the smallest counties in New York State, but it is noted for its strong sense of community, rural pride, small town friendliness and independent character. The community’s diversity enhances the county’s agri-tourism focus, from cattle and cash crop farming to the ever-growing vineyard/winery industry. Yates County is the home of forested pines and sloping open spaces with dynamic vistas that stretch for miles over Keuka, Seneca and Canandaigua Lakes.

Based on the topography and community profile, Yates County is prone to several natural and man-made hazards. In the past, the county and its municipalities have worked cooperatively to identify hazards, plan and accomplish mitigation projects and respond to emergencies. Elected officials acknowledge the importance of mitigation planning and improvements, and have shown their commitment to hazard mitigation programs for many years. With implementation of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 and 44 CFR part 201, which requires communities to have written mitigation plans to qualify for mitigation project grants, the local emphasis on adopting a formal written multi-jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan for Yates County has been a high priority. The County and its municipalities have worked cooperatively to identify hazards that are most likely to affect our communities, have agreed to the hazard mitigation goals and objectives to be accomplished in this plan, and agree to review and maintain this plan in the future. It is understood that this plan will be the consolidated county and local strategy for continuing hazard mitigation activities in Yates County.

Table 1-1 Yates County Demographics

Source: U.S. Census	Yates County New York State	
Population, 2010	25,348	19,378,102
Population, percent change, 2000 to 2010	3.0%	2.1%
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2009	6.0%	6.3%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2009	23.5%	22.6%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2009	16.6%	13.4%
Language other than English spoken at home age 25+ 2009	11.3%	28.5%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	4,406	3,606,147
Housing units, 2009	12,539	8,017,881
Homeownership rate, 2009	76.8 %	55.7%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2009	13.0%	50.5%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2009	\$110,900	\$300,600
Households, 2009	9,112	7,137,013
Persons per household, 2009	2.52	2.64
Median household income, 2009	\$43,140	\$54,554
Per capita money income, 2009	\$22,408	\$30,634
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009	13.8%	14.2%
Building permits, 2009	56	18,344
Land area, (square miles)	338.24	47,213.79
Persons per square mile, 2010	74.9	401.4

D. Participating Jurisdictions

Table 1-2 Jurisdiction Statistics

Town of Barrington

2010 Population 1681
 Pop. change from 2000 + 20.0%
 Area 37 square miles
 Total Housing Units 1108

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	6,615	28%
Residential	7,294	31%
Vacant Land	4,929	20%
Commercial	434	2%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Town of Benton

2010 Population 2836
 Pop. change from 2000 + 7.4%
 Area 44.4 square miles
 Total Housing Units 1093

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	21,056	75%
Residential	3,301	12%
Vacant Land	873	3%
Commercial	222	1%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Town of Italy

2010 Population 1141
 Pop. change from 2000 + 5.0%
 Area 40.3 square miles
 Total Housing Units 714

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	2,619	10%
Residential	9,629	37%
Vacant Land	5,526	21%
Commercial	46	0.2%
Conservation	6,966	27%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Town of Jerusalem

2010 Population 4469
 (Seasonal increase to over 6,000 in summer)
 Pop. change from 2000 - 1.2%
 Area 65.4 square miles
 Total Housing Units 2742

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	13,514	32%
Residential	12,903	31%
Vacant Land	5,560	13%
Commercial	74	0.2%
Conservation	1,402	3%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

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Table 1-2 Jurisdiction Statistics (continued)

Town of Middlesex

2010 Population 1495
 Pop. change from 2000 + 11.1%
 Area 34.1 square miles
 Total Housing Units 989

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	3,559	16%
Residential	7,700	35%
Vacant Land	5,269	24%
Commercial	289	1%
Conservation	708	3%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Town of Milo

2010 Population 7006
 Pop. change from 2000 - 0.3%
 Area 44.3 square miles
 Total Housing Units 3619

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	13,633	50%
Residential	4,445	16%
Vacant Land	2,210	8%
Commercial	155	1%
Conservation	326	1%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Town of Potter

2010 Population 1865
 Pop. change from 2000 + 1.9%
 Area 37.2 square miles
 Total Housing Units 688

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	15,855	67%
Residential	3,693	16%
Vacant Land	2,469	10%
Commercial	93	0.4%
Conservation	132	1%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Town of Starkey

2010 Population 3573
 Pop. change from 2000 + 3.1%
 Area 39.3 square miles
 Total Housing Units 1773

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	10,704	44%
Residential	5,729	23%
Vacant Land	2,108	8%
Commercial	486	2%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

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Table 1-2 Jurisdiction Statistics (continued)

Town of Torrey

2010 Population 1282
 Pop. change from 2000 - 2.0%
 Area 33.7 square miles
 Total Housing Units 765

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	10,639	50%
Residential	1,190	6%
Vacant Land	505	2%
Commercial	205	1%
Recreational	585	3%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Village of Dresden

2010 Population 302
 Pop. change from 2000 - 1.7%
 Area 3.0 square miles
 Total Housing Units 139

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	0	0%
Residential	60	30%
Vacant Land	13	7%
Commercial	3	2%
Recreational	1	1%
Community Service	10	5%
Industrial	9	5%
Conservation	2	1%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Village of Dundee

2010 Population 1619
 Pop. change from 2000 - 4.4%
 Area 1.1 square miles
 Total Housing Units 728

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	58	8%
Residential	275	40%
Vacant Land	109	16%
Commercial	45	7%
Community Services	105	15%
Industrial	14	2%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes

Village of Penn Yan

2010 Population 5159
 Pop. change from 2000 - 2.1%
 Area 2.3 square miles
 Total Housing Units 2299

Land Type	Acres	% of Land*
Agricultural	7	1%
Residential	560	42%
Vacant Land	160	12%
Commercial	191	14%
Recreational	38	3%
Community Service	160	12%
Industrial	64	5%
Public Service	35	3%
Conservation	7	1%

* Other uses are 1% or less, or water areas of the Finger Lakes