

### **Mitigation**

#### ***Summary of Changes***

The project management team reviewed this section of the plan as part of the plan update and agreed upon the following items. The description of the action goals was agreed upon to still be valid therefore remains in the plan. In regards to action development, the project management team decided it would be a good idea to incorporate new projects into the plan on a quarterly basis. The biggest portion of work for this section was addressing the existing mitigation actions and incorporating new ones. All of the mitigation actions from the original plan were reviewed and updated by the project management team. Most of these updates involved changing timelines and project scopes for specific projects. The various capability assessments were updated according to current budgets.

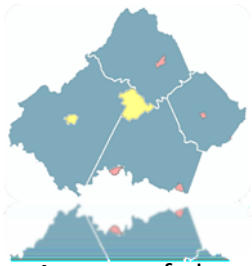
#### ***Purpose of Mitigation***

There are many reasons why mitigation is important. The number one reason is for the assurance that the jurisdictions remain eligible for FEMA funding programs in the likelihood that the communities are involved in a disaster. The second reason to participate is to design and develop mitigation projects to be completed within the community. Hazard damage amounts substantially decrease when communities have mitigation projects and strategies in place. By becoming involved in the process it allows the communities to focus their efforts on specific hazard areas by incorporating and setting priorities for mitigation planning efforts.

#### ***Vision and Goals***

The mitigation methods that were used for the Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update mirror the Commonwealth of Virginia's plan. The project management team reviewed the methods used and determined that they are still valid and therefore remain unchanged. As part of the 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, the Project Management Team reviewed the goals from the original Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Project Management Team determined that all of the goals were still valid and therefore remained unchanged in the Plan Update. The Project Management Team also discussed the need to identify and describe progress towards achieving the goals since the release of the original Plan.

The vision for the Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is to lessen the impacts from natural and manmade hazards, prepare the region to respond to future events, and encourage regional collaboration by pursuing funding and promoting mitigation actions focusing on structural projects, education, information and data development, and policy and planning.



As part of the update process, the project management team reviewed the goals from the original plan and determined they are still valid and therefore remain unchanged. The goals identified below will be periodically reviewed as part of the Plan maintenance and any additional objectives or modifications will be incorporated into the next scheduled update.

These four goals define the four basic action categories for mitigation strategies:

Table 6.1 Description of action goals

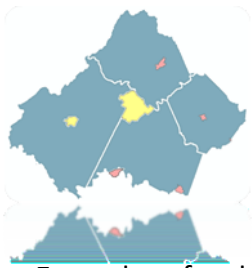
Goal	Description
I. Structural Mitigation Projects	Identify and implement physical projects that will directly reduce impacts from hazards.
II. Policy and Planning	Incorporate mitigation concepts and objectives into existing and future policies, plans, regulations and laws in the Commonwealth.
III. Information and Data Development	Build capacity with information and data development to refine hazard identification and assessment, mitigation targeting and funding identification.
IV. Education and Outreach Activities	Through education and training, increase awareness of hazards and potential mitigation strategies.

### ***Action Development***

In the original plan, mitigation actions were developed using the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment results, problem spot maps provided by local officials as well as from public input. General actions were developed for the region as a whole and further sculpted into region specific actions at the individual community action meetings.

During the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 meeting for the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, the project management team was asked to review these mitigation actions and determined that the items were still valid and therefore should not be changed. “Proposed Mitigation Action” packets were also posted to the project website so that members of the project management team could gather suggestions from other voices in their jurisdictions, including planners and trained emergency response personnel. Responses will be processed by Region 2000 Staff and included into the plan on a quarterly basis.

For the original plan creation, the project management team members were responsible for inviting local stakeholders to attend the action meetings and provide input to the plan.

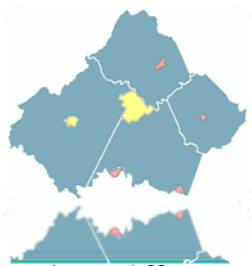


Examples of stakeholders that were invited include emergency responders, zoning officials, and planners. Response and input from the stakeholders was invaluable to this section of the plan. Their feedback helped to mold the actions for their communities and provide information on what types of mitigation is currently being completed. The appendix for this section details the attendance at each of these meetings. The feedback gathered at these meetings was presented to the project management team for the 2011 Update and the team agreed that the feedback still represents the general feelings of the public officials and citizens in their jurisdictions and was therefore not changed.

The “Proposed Mitigation Action” worksheets include a cover page that details the goal type, action name, reference number, and hazards addressed the pages after the table provides detailed information on the action. An example of the action form (Figure 6.1) contains information regarding the communities involved in implementing the action, type of action, hazards addressed, project description, responsible organization, potential funding sources and timeframe for action completion. Additional mitigation actions will be added to the plan as additional action forms are completed. The project management team did not add any projects to the current list of actions from the original plan. This section of the hazard mitigation plan has an update on the current state of mitigation actions from the original plan.

Figure 6.1 Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan: Proposed Mitigation Actions Worksheet

Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan: Proposed Mitigation Actions									
<b>Title of Action:</b> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Communities Involved:</b> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Types of Action:</b> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Structural Mitigation</td> <td>Information &amp; Data Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Policy &amp; Planning</td> <td>Education &amp; Outreach</td> </tr> </table>		Structural Mitigation	Information & Data Development	Policy & Planning	Education & Outreach				
Structural Mitigation	Information & Data Development								
Policy & Planning	Education & Outreach								
<b>Hazards Addressed in Action:</b> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Severe Winter Weather</td> <td>Wildfire</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flood</td> <td>Landslide/Land Subsidence</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drought</td> <td>Terrorism</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind</td> <td>Earthquake</td> </tr> </table>		Severe Winter Weather	Wildfire	Flood	Landslide/Land Subsidence	Drought	Terrorism	Wind	Earthquake
Severe Winter Weather	Wildfire								
Flood	Landslide/Land Subsidence								
Drought	Terrorism								
Wind	Earthquake								
<b>Action Description:</b> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>HIRA Reference include section number(s):</b> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Responsible Organizations/Communities:</b> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Action Timeline:</b> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Estimated Cost to Complete Action:</b> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Potential Funding Sources:</b> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Potential Contacts:</b> <hr/> <hr/>									
<b>Reference Links:</b> <hr/> <hr/>									



Three different types of actions were developed for the region. The different types of actions were based on the region's and communities needs and capacities for completing the various actions. Mitigation Actions detail the actions that were proposed in the "Proposed Mitigation Action" worksheets handed out to the project management team. During the initial jurisdictional meetings for the original Hazard Mitigation Plan, action packets—similar to the one showed in Figure 6.1) were fleshed out to determine what projects the communities thought were applicable to their regions. The complete "Proposed Mitigation Action" worksheet is available in the appendix. No additional action items were presented by the steering committee in the hazard mitigation plan update.

The second type of action is denoted under the "Regional Actions" section. Regional Actions are the projects that all of the participating jurisdictions are involved in, with Region 2000 often taking the lead on the project.

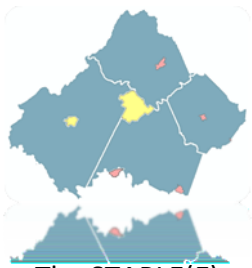
Jurisdictional Actions are specific to the jurisdiction. These projects were independently proposed by the jurisdictions because of a specific need in their community. Multiple communities may have suggested the same action; these will be completed by the community depending on constraints of available resources.

### ***Mitigation Actions***

#### **Community Ranking**

For the original Hazard Mitigation Plan, public meetings were held for the participating jurisdictions (see Section 4 on the Planning Process). These meetings led to in-depth discussions about local concerns and ways to address them. Each community prioritized the actions by ability and ease to implement the action, political will, action benefits versus the cost, community need and availability of various funding sources. The STAPLE(E) method listed below was also utilized during prioritization. The general actions were changed and expanded to detail the community specific needs, using the framework developed in 2006.

The public input for the 2011 plan update took place by placing inquiries in the regional newspapers and libraries asking for input on this section. Public input in this section is pivotal in establishing mitigation actions that will have an effective impact on pre disaster planning. The complete advertisement and public awareness material is in the Appendix. No jurisdictional action items were added to the plan update since none were received at the time of this plan being published. Action items will be added to the plan on a quarterly basis or as necessary.



The STAPLE(E) prioritization method takes into account seven criteria:

1. Socially Acceptable
2. Technically feasible
3. Administrative support
4. Politically acceptable
5. Legal
6. Economically justifiable
7. Environmentally responsive

Other considerations when prioritizing will be how well the project reduces future losses, how they further the goals and objectives put forth in this plan, and the cost versus the benefit of the project.

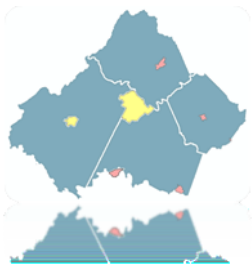
### **Regional Actions**

Once the jurisdictional action meetings were held, the Project Management Team met again to solidify the regional goals that were developed. Most of the regional actions include all of the communities in Region 2000. Outlined below is the listing of the regional goals and what jurisdictions are represented in them. The Appendix outlines the complete action plan. Stakeholders from each of the communities will be involved in the planning and implementation of the regional actions. Region 2000 staff will take the lead role on a number of the regional activities. The Regional Water System Action was ranked high by all of the participating jurisdictions and remained a priority throughout the update process. This action is in the beginning stages, with feasibility studies underway. With the completion of this project, the region will be more capable of dealing with high hazard events such as droughts.

- Regional Water System

### **Jurisdictional Actions**

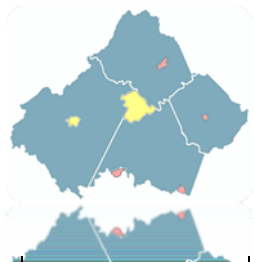
Community specific actions have been separated based on the scope of the activity. During the project management team meetings, the stakeholders elaborated on what they wanted or felt could be accomplished within their communities' capability. Outlined below are examples of community specific actions. It should be noted that the following projects are in addition to the projects that were developed and ranked in the Community Ranking section. The Appendix for section 6 contains the complete description for all action items and initiatives



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Table 6.2 Jurisdictional actions and update status

Action		Status
Amherst County	GIS System	<b>Completed.</b> A fully interactive parcel map is available through the county website.
	Promoting development of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	<b>Completed.</b> The LEPC Committee Chair can be reached at (434)-946-9307.
Appomattox County	Well site feasibility, scoping and cost for installation	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Public works department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	911 questionnaire	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Planning/Emergency Services department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	GIS System	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Planning department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	Promoting development of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	<b>New action.</b> Awaiting staff support. Planning/Emergency Services department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
Bedford County	Economic development assessment of James and Roanoke River Interconnectivity	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Economic Development department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	Promoting development of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Planning/Emergency Services department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	Identify and prioritize road maintenance and development	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Metropolitan Planning Organization/Planning department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	Smith Mountain Lake debris removal maintenance	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Planning department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
Campbell County	No additional actions proposed	
	Promoting development of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	<b>Completed.</b> The LEPC Committee Chair can be reached at (804)-946-9307.
Bedford City	Maintaining water sharing zone understanding	<b>Ongoing.</b> The City does this on a yearly basis.
	Promoting development of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	<b>New action.</b> Awaiting staff support. Planning/Emergency Services department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
City of Lynchburg	Update snow removal plan.	<b>Completed/Ongoing.</b> Updated 4/5/2010. Public works and



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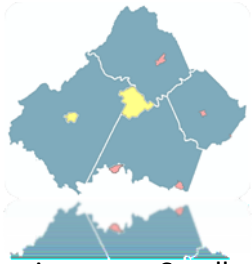
		Emergency Service's departments are responsible.
	Promoting development of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	<b>Completed.</b> The LEPC Committee Chair can be reached at (434) 455-4285.
Town of Altavista	No additional actions proposed	
Town of Amherst	Relocate water intake	<b>Completed.</b> Authorization to install a raw water intake structure with debris deflector was passed on December 6, 2011.
Town of Appomattox	Well site feasibility, scoping and installation	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Public works/planning department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	911 questionnaire	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Planning/emergency services department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
Town of Brookneal	No additional actions proposed	
Town of Pamplin City	Well site feasibility, scoping and installation	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Planning/public works department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.
	911 questionnaire	<b>No action taken</b> --lack of staff resources. Planning/emergency services department would be responsible. Completion date dependent on staff resources.

### Mitigation Strategy for Localities with Repetitive Loss Properties

The Counties of Amherst, Bedford, and Appomattox as well as the Town of Amherst and the City of Lynchburg have repetitive loss properties within them defined by FEMA and the NFIP (See Table 5.10a and 5.10b). The project management team agreed that locating the hard addresses of these properties and sending Hazard Mitigation Grant Program information to the property owners on an annual basis would be an adequate action item. The letters will be sent out each February.

### Capability Assessment

The capability assessment is a way to quantify the ability of the communities and Region 2000 to carry out actions that have been proposed in the hazard identification and risk assessment and the mitigation actions sections. Some of the jurisdictions already have in place mitigation items that work hand in hand with their ability to respond to event, or help to lessen their



impacts. Smaller jurisdictions, such as Appomattox County, Town of Appomattox, Town of Pamplin City, Amherst and the Town of Amherst, have more of a challenge. These challenges will be explained through the localities capability assessment and their reliance on Region 2000 for additional support. Mitigation actions that already are in place include actions 1-1 Weather Relater Education; 3-3 Drought Mitigation with Voluntary Restrictions; 4-4 Drought Mitigation with Agriculture Watering Locations; and 2 File for Life Forms/911 Questionnaires. Some regional actions are currently in the scoping and assessment phase of development; including Regional Water System – Creating a Secondary Water Supply and the National Weather Service Storm Ready Program. [See the Appendix for this section for complete descriptions on Action Items] With the advancement of proposed actions, (e.g., GIS systems) their governments will increase their ability to mitigate and respond. The availability of state and federal funds will directly drive the capability of the jurisdictions in Region 2000.

This section should serve as a guide to the communities on their limitations in preparedness, current capabilities, and what areas they need to improve to be able to successfully mitigate and recover from disasters that can impact their regions.

Local capability serves as the foundation for designing an effective hazard mitigation plan and action items. It not only helps establish the goals and objectives, but assures that those actions are realistically achievable under given local governing and capability. The jurisdictional assessment should detect any existing gaps, shortfalls, or weaknesses within existing governmental activities that could exacerbate a community's vulnerability. The assessment also will highlight the positive measures already in place or being completed at the local level, which should continue to be supported and enhanced, if possible, through future mitigation efforts.

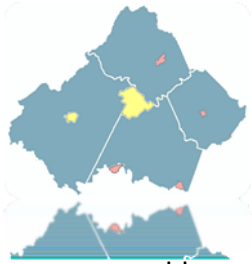
Assessment was completed on six main areas for Region 2000, similar to the factors involved in the STAPLE(E) ranking criteria. These areas of capability being the following:

- Administrative Capability,
- Technical Capability,
- Fiscal Capability,
- Planning Capability,
- Legal Capability

### ***Administrative Capability***

There are three types of jurisdictions included in this Hazard Mitigation Plan: cities, counties, and towns. Cities are independent local government entities from any surrounding counties or





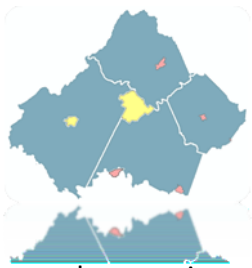
towns and have their own governing councils, constitutional officers, and administrative staffs. Counties also are independent local government entities similar to cities, but may contain incorporated towns within their boundaries. Incorporated towns are semi-independent local government entities, with taxing authority and other limited authority in addition to the surrounding county.

All of the counties in Region 2000 operate under a Traditional Form of government within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Under this form of government, an elected Board holds responsibility for the general legislative and administrative affairs of the jurisdiction. In the counties, a Board of Supervisors is elected, containing five to seven members from different districts within the county with a Chair and Vice Chair. The cities and towns in Region 2000 use a Mayor-Council Form of government. For cities, a City Council are elected, with council members being at large or representing specific wards or regions. Towns have a similar organization with a Town Council, with election of a Mayor and Council members.

For cities and counties, these forms of government also require election of other officers, known as Constitutional Officers, who are responsible for the administration of certain specific aspects of community affairs. This usually includes the clerk of the court, commissioner of revenue, commonwealth's attorney, sheriff, and treasurer. The elected boards can also hire an administrator who oversees daily operations of the community and community staff. In counties, this is the county administrator, while in cities and town this is the city or town manager. In counties and cities, the Board is responsible for establishing community policy via passage of resolutions and ordinances within limitations established by the General Assembly, approving an annual operating budget, setting tax rates, and making appointments to various boards and committees. The Board also approves land use plans and any subsequent amendments via re-zonings. Business is conducted in public meetings, though the Board may elect to enter into a Closed Session to discuss issues that are exempt from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including personnel or legal issues.

The incorporated towns must have an elected governing body. Under the Mayor Council Form of government, the powers of government are vested in a Town Council. The Town Council is responsible for developing an annual Town budget, amending the Town Code, and developing policy to guide the activities of the Town. Council also has taxing authority and sets tax rates that are in addition to the County's rates for those citizens who live within the Town limits. A Mayor, not considered a member of Town Council, is also elected by all voters within the Town. The Mayor's duties include presiding over Council meetings and voting only in the event of a tie. The Mayor and Council Members are each elected to two-year terms.

The Town Council can choose to employ a Town Manager who is charged with overseeing the daily operations of the Town and carrying out the policy set forth by Council. Other functions of the Town Manager include communicating with the public and media, setting Council agendas

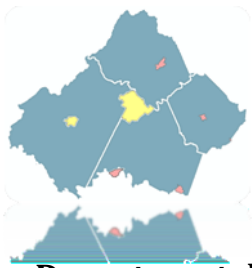


and preparing associated materials, and assisting Council as needed. The Town Manager represents Council at many local, regional, and state functions and directs that activities of various departments. Towns have zoning and planning authority though they may choose to use the county planning commission as their town planning commission. Towns have the ability to issue general obligation and revenue bonds. In addition, towns of over 5,000 may appoint an emergency services director and exercise emergency powers separate from the county.

Under the County Administrator or the City or Town Manager, each jurisdiction has numerous departments and boards that are responsible for the various functions of local government. Table 6.3 highlights the departments in each jurisdiction that could facilitate the implementation of this hazard mitigation plan.

Table 6.3 Region 2000 Key Departments by Jurisdiction

Region 2000 Key Departments by Jurisdiction		
Jurisdiction	Departments	
Amherst County	Emergency Services	Parks and Recreation
	Economic Development	Planning and Zoning
	Information Technology	Public Safety
	Inspections	Service Authority
	Maintenance	
Appomattox County	Parks and Recreation	County Planner
	County Sheriff	Building Inspector/Official
	Emergency Services	Health Inspector
	County Attorney	Social Services
Bedford County	Building Inspections	Parks and Recreation
	Fire and Rescue Services	Planning
	GIS	Utilities (PSA)
	Natural Resources	
Campbell County	Community Development	GIS
	Building Inspector/Official	Public Safety
	Emergency Services	Parks and Recreation
	Fire Chief	Zoning
	Economic Development	Utility and Service Authority
	Real Estate and Mapping	
City of Lynchburg	Community Planning and Development	Information Technology
	Economic Development	Parks and Recreation
	Emergency Services	Zoning
	Fire and EMS	Public Works
Bedford City	Electric	Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries
	Emergency Services	Planning and Community Development
	Fire Chief	Public Services
Town of Altavista	Public Works	Fire Chief
	Zoning	
Town of Amherst	Planning	Fire Chief
Town of Appomattox	Clerk	
Town of Brookneal	Fire Chief	Public Works
Town of Pamplin City	Fire Chief	Public Utilities



### Departmental Descriptions

Project management team members have been involved in the development of this mitigation plan in order to identify gaps, weaknesses or opportunities for enhancement with existing mitigation programs. Representatives of these departments have been involved in the development of this mitigation plan in order to identify gaps, weaknesses or opportunities for enhancement in existing mitigation programs. Although exact responsibilities differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the general duties of the departments highlighted in Table 6.4 are described below.

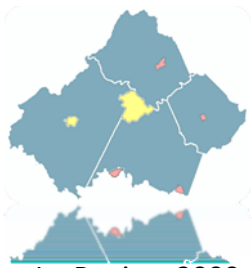
The Building Inspections office or department enforces the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC). This code includes many floodplain management considerations as it impacts site construction.

Community Development departments are typically responsible for managing grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These grant programs include the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Program. Community Development departments also may develop residential and commercial revitalization plans for older areas, serve as a resource on housing and community development issues and undertake special redevelopment projects.

Economic Development departments concentrate on ensuring the growth and prosperity of existing businesses. These departments often administer small business loan programs, state economic development programs, and workforce training programs. They also may recruit new businesses.

Emergency Management or Services departments are responsible for the mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations that deal with both natural and man-made disaster events. Often, these functions may be included in a department of Public Safety that encompasses building inspections, emergency management, and fire safety. Fire/EMS departments provide medical aid and fire suppression at the scene of accidents and emergencies. These departments are often responsible for responding to hazardous materials incidents.

Parks and Recreation departments may be responsible for open space programs. If acquisition projects are undertaken, coordination with this department becomes critical. The Planning Department (or Department of Development) addresses land use planning. This department, depending on the jurisdiction, may enforce the National Flood Insurance Program requirements and other applicable local codes. See the Planning Capability Floodplain Management Section for the specific department that is responsible for enforcing the National Flood Insurance Program.

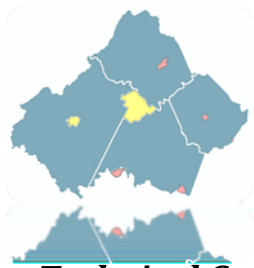


In Region 2000, the Public Utilities Department oversees the maintenance of infrastructure including roadways, sewer and stormwater facilities, and the community's electric, gas, wastewater and water treatment facilities. Depending on the jurisdiction, the Department of Public Works may enforce the National Flood Insurance Program requirements. See the Planning Capability Floodplain Management Section for the specific department that is responsible for enforcing the National Flood Insurance Program.

Hazard Mitigation cuts across all of these disciplines. For a successful mitigation program, it is necessary to have a broad range of people involved with diverse backgrounds. These people include planners, engineers, building inspectors, zoning administrators, floodplain managers, and people familiar with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It is also important that mitigation be assigned a specific responsibility to a department or person. Table 6.4 provides information on each jurisdiction's current staff and organizational capabilities in key areas related to mitigation.

Table 6.4 Region 2000 Administrative Capability

Region 2000 Administrative Capability <sup>3</sup>							
Jurisdiction	Land Use Planners	GIS Staff	Emergency Planners	Intergovernmental & Regional Cooperation	Building Inspectors	Fire Departments	Overall Administrative Capabilities
Amherst County	Yes	No	Yes (Emergency Services Director) –Works with Volunteer Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes and Volunteer	Medium
Amherst, Town of	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Full Time Chief and Volunteer	Low
Appomattox County	Yes	No	No - Volunteer Rescue Squad	Yes	Yes	Volunteer	Medium
Appomattox, Town of	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No – Through Appomattox County	Low
Pamplin City, Town of	No	No	No	Yes	No	Full Time Chief and Volunteer	Low
Bedford City	Yes	No	Yes (Emergency Services Director)	Yes	Yes	Full Time Chief and Volunteer	High
Bedford County	Yes	Yes	Yes (Emergency Services Director)	Yes	Yes	Yes and Volunteer	Medium
Campbell County	Yes	Yes	Yes (Emergency Services Director) – Public Safety works with Volunteer Organizations	Yes	Yes	Full Time Chief and Volunteer	High
Altavista, Town of	Yes	No	No – Planning through Campbell County with Volunteer EMS	Yes	No	Full Time Chief and Volunteer	Medium
Brookneal, Town of	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Full Time Chief and Volunteer	Low
Lynchburg City	Yes	Yes	Yes – Working with Fire & EMS Department	Yes	Yes	Yes	High



### ***Technical Capability***

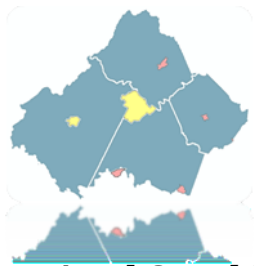
Technical capability, in this plan, refers to the technology available to the jurisdictions to support mitigation programs and projects. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is critical in identifying potential vulnerable areas and for managing spatial information. Internet sites can be a powerful way to communicate with community members. Public education is an important element of a successful mitigation program.

GIS systems can best be described as a set of tools (hardware, software and people) used to collect, manage, analyze and display spatially-referenced data. Many local governments are now incorporating GIS systems into their existing planning and management operations. GIS is invaluable in identifying areas vulnerable to hazards. Access to the Internet can facilitate plan development, public outreach, and project implementation.

Table 6.5 summarizes the technical capabilities of the jurisdictions. Most of the jurisdictions have GIS capabilities. A majority of the jurisdictions have government websites that could be utilized to promote hazard mitigation.

Table 6.5 Region 2000 Technical Capabilities

Region 2000 Technical Capabilities			
Jurisdiction	GIS Capabilities	Website	Overall Technical Capability
Amherst County	Yes	Yes	High
Appomattox County	Consultant	Yes	Low
Bedford County	Yes	Yes	Medium
Campbell County	Yes	Yes	High
Bedford City	Consultant	Yes	High
City of Lynchburg	Yes	Yes	High
Town of Altavista	Through Campbell County	Yes	Medium
Town of Amherst	Through Amherst County	Yes	Low
Town of Appomattox	Through Region 2000	Yes	Low
Town of Brookneal	Through Campbell County	Yes	Low
Town of Pamplin City	None	No, partial with county site	Low



### ***Fiscal Capability***

The local jurisdictions in the planning area receive most of their revenue through state and local sales tax, local services, and through restricted intergovernmental contributions (federal and state pass through dollars). It is unlikely that any of the communities could easily afford to provide the local match for the existing hazard mitigation grant programs. This is a significant and growing concern considering the current budget deficits at both the state and local government level in Virginia, combined with the apparent increased reliance on local accountability by the federal government.

Under DMA 2000, FEMA has made special accommodations for "small and impoverished communities," who will be eligible for a 90% federal share, 10% non-Federal cost share for projects funded through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program. The definition is restricted to "communities of 3,000 or fewer individuals that is identified by the State as a rural community." According to the current Interim Final Rule for Section 322 of the Act, none of the counties and cities in the planning area will qualify as a small and impoverished community.

Table 6.6 indicates the fiscal capabilities by jurisdiction in Region 2000. The overall and non-education budget for each community is listed. For cities and counties, educational funding usually makes up at least half of the overall budget. For town, educational funding is covered by the surrounding county.

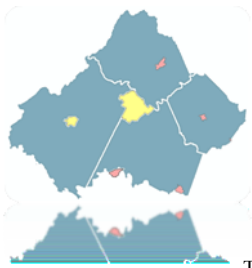


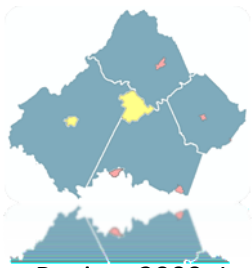
Table 6.6 Region 2000 Jurisdictions' Fiscal Capabilities according to Approved FY2012 Budgets

Region 2000 Jurisdictions' Budgets (FY2012)			
Jurisdiction	General Fund	Education	Overall Fiscal Capability
Amherst County	\$35,191,627	\$47,045,916	Medium
Appomattox County	\$37,889,429	\$20,432,122	Medium
Bedford County	\$84,070,649	\$92,162,092	High
Campbell County	\$10,518,284	\$72,735,390	High
City of Lynchburg	\$25,717,427	\$31,828,499	High
Bedford City	\$16,474,154	n/a	Medium
Town of Altavista	\$4,654,600	n/a	Low
Town of Amherst	\$1,705,514	n/a	Low
Town of Appomattox	\$1,214,108	n/a	Low
Town of Brookneal	\$579,469	n/a	Low
Town of Pamplin City	\$74,000	n/a	Low

Source: Jurisdiction websites

### ***Floodplain Management***

Communities that regulate development in floodplains are able participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In return, the NFIP makes federally-backed flood insurance policies available for properties in the community. Table 6.7 shows when each of the jurisdictions began participating in NFIP. All of the jurisdictions in Region 2000 meet NFIP requirements. The table also provides the date of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) in effect in each community. These maps were developed by FEMA or its predecessor and show the boundaries of the 100 year and 500 year flood. As the table shows, seven of the eleven FIRMs in effect in the planning area are over twenty-five years old, three are over twenty years old, and one is thirteen years old. Much of the planning area has experienced dramatic growth over the past two decades that is not reflected in the FIRM. This difference may mean that the actual floodplain varies from that depicted on the map.



Region 2000 Jurisdictions are incorporating a range of techniques to reduce exposure and increase awareness to protect their citizens from flood hazards. Additionally, high-risk properties such as FEMA's Repetitive Loss Properties will be routinely targeted for outreach and education opportunities and the property owners will be aware of potential mitigation options that are available to reduce future damages from flooding. This annual awareness campaign will take place in February of each year. Notices will be sent to the addresses of the severe repetitive loss properties with information regarding potential mitigation options.

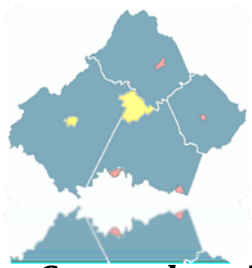
Table 6.7 NFIP Compliance and Flood Insurance Policy Information by Jurisdiction, Source: Department of Conservation and Recreation

Jurisdictions	Entry in NFIP	FIRM Current Effective Date	Flood Insurance Policies	Insured Value	Claims	Total Value in Losses Paid
Lynchburg	9/1/1978	6/6/2010	96	\$29,150,600.00	80	\$3,247,935.56
Bedford	6/1/1978	9/29/2010	2	\$78,000.00	0	\$0.00
Amherst County	7/17/1978	9/19/2007	46	\$9,848,800.00	38	\$9,848,800.00
Campbell County	10/17/1978	8/28/2008	28	\$7,078,900.00	12	\$7,078,900.00
Bedford County	9/29/1978	9/29/2010	145	\$36,887,300.00	20	\$206,583.05
Appomattox County	7/17/1978	1/2/2008	10	\$1,839,200.00	8	\$253,216.06
Town of Amherst	11/2/1977	9/19/2007	2	\$450,800.00	29	\$128,029.19
Town of Pamplin City	2/12/1976	1/2/2008	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Town of Appomattox	5/25/1984	1/2/2008	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Town of Brookneal	3/1/1978	8/28/2008	3	\$589,400.00	0	\$0.00
Town of Altavista	8/1/1978	8/28/2008	12	\$2,688,800.00	5	\$79,561.38

Virginia statutes provide cities and counties the land use authority. In particular, issues such as floodwater control, are empowered through §15.2-2223 and §15.2-2280. All of the jurisdictions in the planning area have adopted a local floodplain ordinance as a requirement of participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 as a program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. Residents of communities that participate in CRS receive a reduction in the flood insurance premium. There are ten CRS classes: class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the largest premium reduction; class 10 receives no premium reduction. None of the jurisdictions in this hazard mitigation plan are members of the CRS.





### ***Comprehensive Plans***

A community's comprehensive plan provides the future vision for the community regarding growth and development. Hazard mitigation planning is not specifically addressed as a goal or objective in any of the comprehensive plans in the study area. Only one comprehensive plan includes a hazard mitigation strategy. However, many of the plans include land use or environmental protection goals that could support future mitigation efforts. These goals generally address flood-prone areas. There also may be opportunities to include hazard mitigation in revisions to the comprehensive plans and to link to existing goals. For example, limiting development in the floodplain (which can be considered mitigation) also may help meet open space goals laid out in a plan. Table 6.8 provides details on those sections of the community plans that relate to Hazard Mitigation.

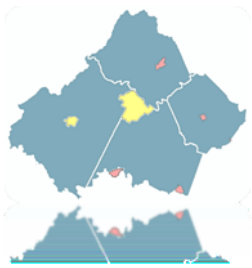
### ***Stormwater Management Plans***

Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency is requiring localities to update their stormwater regulations to meet new and heightened standards. This process will require significant funding to clean up existing and future sources of water runoff. The plan will be updated with new regulations when they become available.

### ***Emergency Operations Plans***

A comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) typically predetermines actions to be taken by government agencies and private organizations in response to an emergency or disaster event. The plan describes the jurisdiction's capabilities to respond to emergencies and establishes the responsibilities and procedures for responding effectively to the actual occurrence of a disaster. Hazard mitigation is incorporated into the various operational phases of these plans.

Hazard mitigation is included as a functional annex to the Emergency Operations Plans developed by many jurisdictions. Generally, the annex describes the responsibilities of various departments and agencies, private businesses, and the public. The annex outlines a concept of operations that explains what activities will be undertaken before and after a disaster. Specific tasks are assigned to the Board of Supervisors/City Council (or other local governing body), Department of Emergency Services, Department of Health, Building Officials/County Engineer/Planning and Zoning, Law Enforcement, Fire Department and Emergency Crew, Superintendent of Schools, and Public Information Officer. Table 6.8 provides details on those sections of the community plans that relate to Hazard Mitigation.

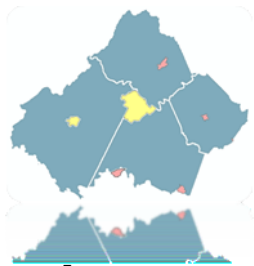


## Region 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Table 6.8 Region 2000 Community Plans Related to Hazard Mitigation

Region 2000 Community Plans Related to Hazard Mitigation <sup>5</sup>				
Jurisdiction	Comprehensive Plan	Stormwater Management Plan	Emergency Operations Plan	Planning Capability
Amherst County	Yes – New version currently under development; Chapters related to Hazard Mitigation will include Environment, Community Facilities and Services, and Land Use. When plan is complete it will be posted to the County's website (tentative 5/2006).	No – Amherst County Code of Ordinances has adopted the and incorporated the State Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations	Yes	Medium
Amherst, Town of	N/A – Hazard Mitigation items covered in Amherst County Plan	No- Amherst County Code of Ordinances has adopted the and incorporated the State Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations	No – Emergency Services planning provided by Amherst County	Low
Appomattox County	Yes – Community Development Plan (AKA Comprehensive Plan) has chapters related to Hazard Mitigation including Natural Environment and Resources, Community Facilities and Services, Growth Management, and Information Technology	No	Yes	Medium
Appomattox, Town of	N/A – Hazard Mitigation items covered in Appomattox County Plan	No	No – Emergency Services planning provided by Appomattox County	Low
Pamplin City, Town of	N/A – Hazard Mitigation items covered in Appomattox County Plan	No	No – Emergency Services planning provided by Appomattox County	Low
Bedford City	Yes - Chapters related to Hazard Mitigation include Community Facilities and Services, Environment, and Existing Land Use	No	Yes	Medium
Bedford County	Yes – Chapters related to Hazard Mitigation include Environmental Factors, Utilities, and Land Use	No	Yes – New Master Plan for Fire & Rescue Services currently under development	Medium
Campbell County	Yes – New version currently under development; Chapters related to Hazard Mitigation include Forest Land Assessment, Infrastructure Development, Land Use, and Natural Environment	No – Chapter 8 of the Campbell County Code of 1988 details Erosions and Sedimentation Control and Stormwater Management	Yes – Includes Chapters on Hazard Mitigation and Human-Caused Hazards	High
Altavista, Town of	Yes - – Chapters related to Hazard Mitigation include Natural Environment, Community Facilities and Services, and Land Use	Yes – Addresses new state and federal environmental laws and regulations, floodplain management issues, design methods, and engineering practices.	No – Emergency Services planning provided by Campbell County	Medium
Brookneal, Town of	N/A – Hazard Mitigation items covered in Campbell County Plan	No	No – Emergency Services planning provided by Campbell County	Low
Lynchburg City	Yes – Chapters related to Hazard Mitigation include Citywide Land use and Development, Downtown and Riverfront Master Plan, Natural Systems, Parks & Recreation, Public Utilities, and Public Facilities	Yes – Stormwater issues addressed in Combined Sewer Overflow Project and Stormwater Management Ordinance	Yes – Includes Annex on Human Caused Hazards	High

Based on information from community websites, available through [www.region2000.org](http://www.region2000.org)



### ***Plan Incorporation***

#### **Amherst County (including the Town of Amherst)**

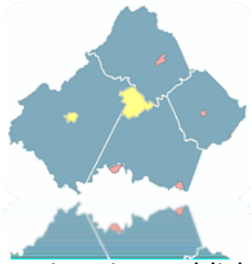
The Planning and Zoning department is responsible for updating and amending the Amherst County Comprehensive Plan. The plan covers, to varying degrees, all aspects of the cultural and physical landscape in Amherst County. The plan addresses land use types, roads, sewer and water services, public safety, public education, environmental issues, recreation, and even aesthetic issues. The plan has legal standing, in fact is required by Virginia law, but is used only to guide or influence actual courses of action by county government. Implementation of the plan usually takes the form of policy or law.

Through the Code of the County of Amherst, Virginia General Ordinances of the County (1987, codified through Ord. of April 19, 2005) Amherst County has adopted the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and the State Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations. The purpose of these codes and regulations is to prevent the loss of property and life, health and safety hazards, the disruption of commerce and governmental services, the extraordinary and unnecessary expenditure of public funds for flood protection and relief, and the impairment of the tax base by:

- Regulating uses, activities, and development which, acting alone or in combination with other existing or future uses, activities and development, will cause unacceptable increases in flood heights, velocities and frequencies.
- Restricting or prohibiting certain uses, activities, and development from locating within areas subject to flooding.
- Requiring all those uses, activities, and developments that do occur in flood proofed against flooding and flood damage.
- Protecting individuals from buying lands and structures which are unsuited for intended purposes because of flood hazards.

#### **Appomattox County (including Town of Appomattox and Town of Pamplin City)**

The local government staff along with the Joint Appomattox Planning Commission is responsible for updating and amending the community development plan. The Natural Environment section of the plan details objectives to minimize risks to personal safety and property from natural hazards as well as protect environmentally sensitive and/or scenic areas of the County. The Zoning Ordinances in Appomattox County include floodplain regulations. The purposes of the plan include:



- First, it establishes government policy used to help guide public and private activities as they relate to land use and resource utilization.
- Second, it is the basis for land development regulations and decisions (i.e. re-zonings and conditional use permits), capital improvement programming (i.e. public projects such as schools, parks and libraries), transportation, environmental and historical resource protection initiatives, new County programs and decisions concerning the distribution of County budget dollars to a multitude of programs and agencies.
- Most importantly, it serves as the community's guide for future development and as the vision for what the County should look like in twenty years.

Appomattox County along with its towns works with a variety of different agencies and organizations, one being Region 2000. Region 2000 is focused on providing economic competitiveness on a regional basis, reducing redundancy in government, improving efficiency, enhancing services, and improving implementation time for regional projects. This organization provides a forum for innovative and creative interaction in the effort to address quality of life issues on a regional basis and offers a variety of technical and program services to its member localities, particularly in the areas of grant applications and administration and geographic information systems (GIS).

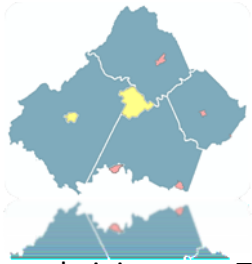
### **Bedford City**

Bedford City goals include protecting and promoting sound development and growth practices that take into account environmental factors (i.e. flooding, fire, drought). The Department of Planning and Community Development includes planning, economic development, the building department, and code enforcement. This department reviews site plans and plat surveys, works with businesses looking to relocate or establish themselves in Bedford, works with the community to develop and update the Comprehensive Plan, administers the Land Development Regulations and Zoning and enforces the City Code as well as the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). The Zoning Ordinances in Bedford City include floodplain regulations.

For the purpose of planning, the City of Bedford Land Development Regulations was divided into different types of districts. The intent of Flood Hazard District FH is to preserve and protect lives and property in the flood plains of the City and to satisfy the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the State Water Control Board requirements for full entry into the National Flood Insurance Program, upon adoption of the Official Flood Hazard District Map from an engineering study.

### **Bedford County**

The Bedford County Department of Planning is responsible for updating the Comprehensive Plan for the County. The County administrator or his designee serves as the zoning

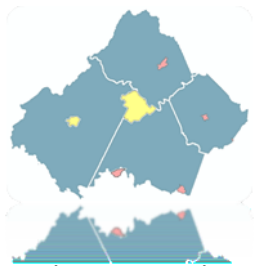


administrator. The zoning administrator is responsible for the enforcement of the zoning ordinance. The zoning ordinance in Bedford County includes floodplain regulations.

The zoning regulations and districts set forth in this ordinance are for the general purpose of implementing the comprehensive plan of Bedford County. The Zoning Ordinances in Bedford County include floodplain regulations. They are designed to achieve the general purposes of promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, and of further accomplishing the objectives of Section 15.2-2200 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. To these ends, this ordinance is designed to give reasonable consideration to each of the following purposes:

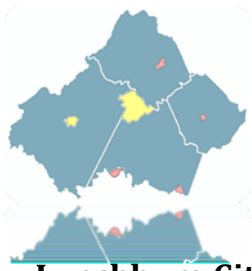
- Provide for adequate light, air, convenience of access, and safety from fire, flood and other dangers;
- Reduce or prevent congestion in the public streets;
- Facilitate the creation of a convenient, attractive, and harmonious community;
- Facilitate the provision of adequate police, fire protection, disaster evacuation, civil defense, transportation, water, sewer, flood protection, schools, parks, forests, playgrounds, recreational facilities, airports, and other public requirements;
- Protect against destruction of, or encroachment upon, historic buildings or areas;
- Protect against one or more of the following: overcrowding of land, undue density of population in relation to the community facilities existing or available, obstruction of light or air, hazards and congestion in travel and transportation, or loss of life, health, or property from fire, flood, panic, or other hazards;
- Encourage economic development activities that provide desirable employment and enlarge the tax base;
- Provide for the preservation of agricultural and forested lands;
- Protect approach slopes and other safety areas of licensed airports, and;
- Protect surface and groundwater resources<sup>9</sup>.

Campbell County (including Town of Altavista and Town of Brookneal) Campbell County Community Development staffs, with the input of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and citizens are responsible for updating the Comprehensive Plan.



The County has adopted and incorporated the State Erosion and Sedimentation Regulations. The Campbell County Code of 1988 includes a chapter on Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Stormwater Management. The Zoning Ordinances in Campbell County include floodplain regulations. The purpose of this zoning ordinance is to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the public and for the accomplishment of the above stated objectives. To these ends, this ordinance has been designed to give reasonable consideration to each of the following purposes, where applicable:

- To provide for adequate light, air, convenience of access, and safety from fire, flood, crime and other dangers;
- To facilitate the provision of adequate police and fire protection, disaster evacuation, civil defense, transportation, water, sewerage, flood protection, schools, parks, forests, playgrounds, recreational facilities, airports and other public requirements;
- To protect against one or more of the following: overcrowding of land, undue density of population in relation to the community facilities existing or available, obstruction of light and air, danger and congestion in travel and transportation, or loss of life, health or property from fire, flood, panic and other dangers;
- To encourage economic development activities that provide desirable employment and enlarge the tax base;
- To provide for the preservation of agricultural and forestall lands and other lands of significance for the protection of the natural environment;
- To protect approach slopes and other safety areas of licensed airports, including United States government and military air facilities;
- To promote the creation and preservation of affordable housing suitable for meeting the current and future needs of the County as well as a reasonable proportion of the current and future needs of the planning district within which Campbell County is situated;
- To make reasonable provisions, not inconsistent with applicable state water quality standards, to protect surface water and ground water as defined in VA. CODE ANN. § 62.1-255 (Repl. Vol. 2001).



### **Lynchburg City**

The vision of Lynchburg City is to take pride in being a sustainable community; one that protects and manages its limited natural, historical, and cultural resources in such a way that the community environment, which its residents value and which sustains us today will sustain future generations. In order to achieve its Vision for the future, the City of Lynchburg has adopted a number of goals for the city government, citizens, organizations, and businesses to work toward. These goals outline broad policies for future action that address the various elements of the City's character that its citizens wish to protect, improve, and enhance. In the Comprehensive Plan, they are used to frame more detailed objectives and strategies, the latter outlining the specific actions that the City and its partners can take to achieve the goals and realize its Vision for the future.

Community Planning and Development Department is responsible for updating the Lynchburg City Comprehensive Plan. Many City officials, boards, and commissions are responsible for implementation of the plan. They include the Planning Commission, the project management team, and City Staff. The Zoning Ordinances in Lynchburg City include floodplain regulations.

### ***Legal Capability***

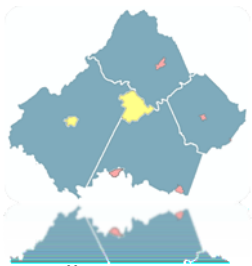
This section will detail different legal considerations and their impact on local capability. In general, all Region 2000 jurisdictions operate within the same legal environment, so there are no major differences in legal capability among the jurisdictions.

### **Dillon Rule**

The Commonwealth of Virginia is considered a Dillon Rule state, one of only five remaining in the nation along with Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. The Dillon Rule, named for John Forest Dillon, chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court in the late 1800's, is used to interpret state law when there is a question of whether or not a local government has a certain power. Under the Dillon Rule, should reasonable doubt exist as to whether or not a power has been granted to a local government, then the power has not been granted. Therefore, a local government can exercise no power or authority not expressly conferred on the locality by the Virginia General Assembly via the Code of Virginia or the local charter.

Local governments in Virginia have a wide range of tools available to them for implementing mitigation programs, policies and actions. A hazard mitigation program can utilize any or all of the four broad types of government powers granted by the State of Virginia, which are: (a) regulation, (b) acquisition, (c) taxation, and (d) spending. The scope of this local authority is subject to constraints; however, as all of Virginia's political subdivisions must not act without proper delegation from the state. All power is vested in the state and can only be exercised by local governments to the extent it is delegated. Thus, this portion of the capabilities assessment





will summarize Virginia's enabling legislation which grants the four types of government powers listed above within the context of available hazard mitigation tools and techniques.

### **Regulation**

Virginia local governments have been granted broad regulatory powers in their jurisdictions. Virginia State Statutes bestow the general police power on local governments, allowing them to enact and enforce ordinances which define, prohibit, regulate or abate acts, omissions, or conditions detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the people, and to define and abate nuisances (including public health nuisances). Since hazard mitigation can be included under the police power (as protection of public health, safety and welfare), towns, cities and counties may include requirements for hazard mitigation in local ordinances. Local governments also may use their ordinance-making power to abate "nuisances," which could include, by local definition, any activity or condition making people or property more vulnerable to any hazard.

### **Land Use**

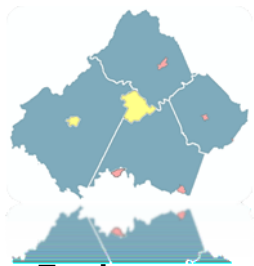
Regulatory powers granted by the state to local governments are the most basic manner in which a local government can control the use of land within its jurisdiction. Through various land use regulatory powers, a local government can control the amount, timing, density, quality, and location of new development. All these characteristics of growth can determine the level of vulnerability of the community in the event of a natural hazard. Land use regulatory powers include the power to engage in planning, enact and enforce zoning ordinances, floodplain ordinances, and subdivision controls. Each local community possesses great power to prevent unsuitable development in hazard-prone areas.

### **Planning**

According to State Statutes, local governments in Virginia may create or designate a planning agency. The planning agency may perform a number of duties, including make studies of the area, determine objectives, prepare and adopt plans for achieving objectives, develop and recommend policies, ordinances, and administrative means to implements plans, and perform other related duties.

The importance of the planning powers of local governments is illustrated by the requirement that zoning regulations be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan. While the ordinance itself may provide evidence that zoning is being conducted "in accordance with a plan," the existence of a separate planning document ensures that the government is developing regulations and ordinances that are consistent with the overall goals of the community.





### **Zoning**

Zoning is the traditional and most common tool available to local governments to control the use of land. Broad enabling authority is granted for municipalities and counties in Virginia to engage in zoning. Land “uses” controlled by zoning include the type of use (e.g., residential, commercial, and industrial) as well as minimum specifications that control height and bulk such as lot size, building height and setbacks, and density of population. Local governments are authorized to divide their territorial jurisdiction into districts, and to regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or use of buildings, structures, or land within those districts. Districts may include general use districts, overlay districts, and special use or conditional use districts. Zoning ordinances consist of maps and written text.

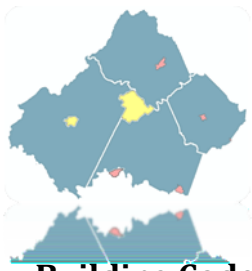
Every locality in the state that enacts a zoning ordinance is required to also establish a board of zoning appeals. The responsibilities of the Board of Zoning Appeals include the ability to hear and decide appeals of decisions made by the Zoning Administrator; the ability to grant variances to provisions of the Zoning Ordinance based on strict guidelines; and the ability to provide interpretations for zoning district boundaries where uncertainty exists. The Board of Zoning Appeals does not have the authority to rezone property or to rule upon or revoke conditional use permits, powers reserved for the Board of Supervisors. Decisions of the Board of Zoning Appeals made be appealed to Circuit Court.

### **Subdivision Regulation**

Subdivision regulations control the division of land into parcels for the purpose of building development or sale. Flood-related subdivision controls typically require that sub-dividers install adequate drainage facilities and design water and sewer systems to minimize flood damage and contamination. They also may prohibit the subdivision of land subject to flooding unless flood hazards are overcome through filling or other measures, and they prohibit filling of floodway areas.

### **Floodplain Regulation**

All of the communities in the study area have adopted floodplain regulations that meet the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. All of the communities have chosen to implement the floodplain ordinance as a zoning district (regular or overlay) including restrictions on manufactured homes. See the Planning Capability Floodplain Management Section for the specific details on how the jurisdictions implement their floodplain ordinance. These restrictions include the need for manufactured homes to be elevated and/or anchored to a permanent foundation.



### **Building Codes and Building Inspection**

Many structural mitigation measures involve constructing and retrofitting homes, businesses and other structures according to standards designed to make the buildings more resilient to the impacts of natural hazards. Many of these standards are imposed through building codes. All of the jurisdictions have adopted the Uniform Virginia Statewide Building Code.

Local governments in Virginia also are empowered to carry out building inspections. It empowers cities and counties to create an inspection department, and enumerates their duties and responsibilities, which include enforcing state and local laws relating to the construction of buildings, installation of plumbing, electrical, and heating systems; building maintenance; and other matters. Most of the jurisdictions in the planning area have established a Building Inspections Office or have designated a Building Official to carry out building inspections.

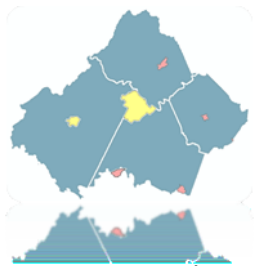
### **Acquisition**

The power of acquisition can be a useful tool for pursuing local mitigation goals. Local governments may find the most effective method for completely “hazard-proofing” a particular piece of property or area is to acquire the property (either in fee simple or a lesser interest, such as an easement), thus removing the property from the private market and eliminating or reducing the possibility of inappropriate development occurring. Virginia legislation empowers cities, towns, and counties to acquire property for public purpose by gift, grant, devise, bequest, exchange, purchase, lease or eminent domain. Acquisition has not been used by any of the communities in the planning area though it has been used successfully in other parts of Virginia.

### **Taxation**

The power to levy taxes and special assessments is an important tool delegated to local governments by Virginia law. The power of taxation extends beyond merely the collection of revenue, and can have a profound impact on the pattern of development in the community. Communities have the power to set preferential tax rates for areas which are more suitable for development in order to discourage development in otherwise hazardous areas. Local units of government also have the authority to levy special assessments on property owners for all or part of the costs of acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, extending or otherwise building or improving flood protection works within a designated area. This can serve to increase the cost of building in such areas, thereby discouraging development.

Because the usual methods of apportionment seem mechanical and arbitrary, and because the tax burden on a particular piece of property is often quite large, the major constraint in using special assessments is political. Special assessments seem to offer little in terms of control over land use in developing areas. They can, however, be used to finance the provision of necessary



services within municipal or county boundaries. In addition, they are useful in distributing to the new property owners the costs of the infrastructure required by new development.

Localities in Virginia collect a 1% sales tax. In addition, all of the jurisdictions in the planning area levy property taxes.

### Spending

The fourth major power that has been delegated from the Virginia General Assembly to local governments is the power to make expenditures in the public interest. Hazard mitigation principles should be made a routine part of all spending decisions made by the local government, including the adoption of annual budgets and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

A CIP is a schedule for the provision of municipal or county services over a specified period of time. Capital programming, by itself, can be used as a growth management technique, with a view to hazard mitigation. By tentatively committing itself to a timetable for the provision of capital to extend services, a community can control growth to some extent, especially in areas where the provision of on-site sewage disposal and water supply are unusually expensive.

In addition to formulating a timetable for the provision of services, a local community can regulate the extension of and access to services. A CIP that is coordinated with extension and access policies can provide a significant degree of control over the location and timing of growth. These tools can also influence the cost of growth. If the CIP is effective in directing growth away from environmentally sensitive or high hazard areas, for example, it can reduce environmental costs.

### Summary

Table 6.8 provides a summary of the overall capabilities, by jurisdiction. As seen in the table, three of the jurisdictions are indicated as having a high overall capability.

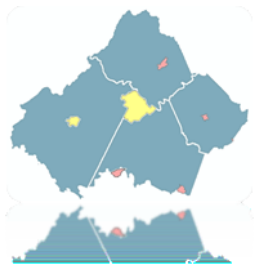


Table 6.8 Region 2000 Jurisdictions' Overall Capability Assessment

Region 2000 Overall Capability Assessment					
Jurisdiction	Administrative Capability	Technical Capability	Fiscal Capability	Planning Capability	Overall Capability
Amherst County	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	<b>Medium</b>
Amherst, Town of	Low	Low	Low	Low	<b>Low</b>
Appomattox County	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	<b>Medium</b>
Appomattox, Town of	Low	Low	Low	Low	<b>Low</b>
Pamplin City, Town of	Low	Low	Low	Low	<b>Low</b>
Bedford City	High	High	Medium	Medium	<b>High</b>
Bedford County	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	<b>Medium</b>
Campbell County	High	High	High	High	<b>High</b>
Altavista, Town of	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	<b>Medium</b>
Brookneal, Town of	Low	Low	Low	Low	<b>Low</b>
Lynchburg City	High	High	High	High	<b>High</b>

Each locality has a range of departments responsible for varying actions. Each locality has determined that their capability for the proposed and ongoing actions adequate relays what can be completed in their localities. Most localities in the region rely on their Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) to implement mitigation actions. Localities that do not currently have an active LEPC have shown an interest in reconvening their organizations (see Section VI for Jurisdictional Actions).