

Community Stakeholder Survey for Arlington's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard mitigation is sustained action that reduces the long-term impacts of natural hazards on our community including people, buildings, environmental systems, and other infrastructure. Natural hazards include ice, snow, high winds, extreme heat, extreme cold, drought, landslides, flash flooding, erosion, high water, wildfire, invasive species, infectious disease outbreaks, and hail.

This survey is on public perceptions and opinions about natural hazards in your town. In addition, we would like information about the methods and techniques you prefer for reducing the risks and losses associated with these hazards. The questionnaire should be completed by an adult, preferably the head of household. The information you provide will be used to help improve public/private coordination, mitigation, and risk reduction efforts in your county. The survey should take less than 30 minutes to complete.

This is a public opinion survey. The results will inform local natural hazard mitigation planning. Your returned, completed survey indicates your willingness to take part in the study. Participation in this study is voluntary.

Section I. Hazard Mitigation Plan

Tell us about yourself and your knowledge of the Arlington 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

1. Your Name (optional): _____

2. Email address (if you would like to be contacted for follow-up):

3. Town of Residence (required): _____

4. Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware of your town's hazard mitigation plan?

- Yes
- No

5. The previous Hazard Mitigation Plan for Arlington was adopted in 2019. The Mitigation Goals that were identified are:

1. Reduce injury and loss of life resulting from natural disasters.
2. Reduce damage to public infrastructure, minimize disruption to the road network and maintain both normal and emergency access.
3. Establish and manage a program to proactively implement mitigation projects for roads, bridges, culverts, water supply systems, and other municipal facilities to ensure that community infrastructure is not significantly damaged by natural hazard events.
4. Design and implement mitigation measures so as to minimize impacts to rivers, water bodies and other natural features, historic structures, and neighborhood character.

5. Increase the economic resiliency of Arlington by reducing the economic impacts incurred by municipal, residential, agricultural and commercial establishments due to disasters.
6. Incorporate hazard mitigation planning into other community planning projects, such as Town Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and Town Local Emergency Management Plan.
7. Ensure that members of the General Public continue to be engaged in the hazard mitigation planning process.

How do you think your community's priorities have changed since the last plan was adopted?

Section 2. Natural Hazard Information

Tell us about your experiences with natural hazards.

6. Have you ever experienced a natural disaster? If so, what type and where?

7. How concerned are you about the following hazard events?

(1=Not concerned to 5= Very concerned)

	1 (Not concerned)	2 (Not Very Concerned)	3 (Neutral)	4 (Somewhat Concerned)	5 (Very Concerned)
Flooding & Fluvial Erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter Storm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Wind Event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe Heat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe Cold	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drought	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earthquake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Landslide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous Materials Spill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infectious Disease Outbreak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Where do you turn for information during an emergency? (Please specify name of newspaper, TV channel, radio station, Front Porch Forum, social media, VT-Alert, etc.):

Section 3. Community Vulnerabilities and Hazard Mitigation Strategies

To assess community risk, we need to understand which community assets may be vulnerable to natural hazards in the region. Vulnerable assets are those community features, characteristics or resources that may be impacted by natural hazards (e.g., populations with functional needs, economic components, environmental resources, etc.). The next set of questions will focus on vulnerable assets in your community. It will also cover your preferred strategies to mitigate risk to those assets.

Community assets are features, characteristics or resources that either make a community unique or allow the community to function. For the following categories, what do you see as vulnerable in your community? Write a short description for each.

9. Human – Are there any areas in your community where there is an increased chance of loss of life and/or injury due to a natural hazard?

10. Economic – What business closures or job losses could occur as a result of a natural hazard?

11. Infrastructure – What important infrastructure (bridges, utilities, schools, etc.) could be damaged or destroyed due to a natural hazard?

12. Cultural/Historic – What important cultural or historic landmarks (libraries, museums, fairgrounds, etc.) could be damaged or destroyed due to a natural hazard?

13. Environmental – What environmental assets (forests, waterways, etc.) could be damaged or destroyed due to a natural hazard?

14. Governance – How would the town’s ability to maintain order and/or provide public amenities and services be impacted by natural hazards?

15. Next, we would like to know what specific types of community assets are most important to you. Please choose “Not Applicable” if the asset is not found in your community.

(1 = Least important to 5 = Most important)

	1 (Least Important)	2 (Slightly Important)	3 (Somewhat Important)	4 (Very Important)	5 (Most Important)
Schools (K-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major Bridges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire/Rescue Squad Stations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Museums/Historic Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major Employers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. Other community assets and their level of importance may be listed here:

17. Which types of mitigation projects do you believe local, state, and federal government agencies should focus on to reduce disruptions of services and to strengthen the community?

Check ALL that apply:

- Retrofit and strengthen essential facilities such as the town hall, etc.
- Install or improve protective structures, such as floodwalls, levees or overflow facilities
- Inform property owners of ways they can mitigate damage to their property(s)

- Replace inadequate or vulnerable bridges and culverts
- Buyout flood prone properties and maintain as open space
- Improve local emergency shelter facilities
- Retrofit infrastructure by, for example, elevating roadways and improving drainage systems
- Strengthen codes, ordinances and plans to require higher hazard risk management standards
- Stabilize riverbanks
- Work on improving the damage resistance of utilities (electricity, communications, water/wastewater facilities, etc.)
- Other:

18. How would you rate the importance of the following actions to protect yourself and your community: (1=Least Important to 5= Most Important)

	1 (Least Important)	2 (Slightly Important)	3 (Somewhat Important)	4 (Very Important)	5 (Most Important)
Strengthening emergency services (police, fire, ambulance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting private property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting utilities (phone/ internet/power/water/wastewater)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting and reducing damage to utility infrastructure (power/water/wastewater)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting transportation infrastructure (roads/bridges)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting natural environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting historical/cultural landmarks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting cooperation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preventing development in hazard areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 4. General Household Information

Finally, we would appreciate any information you are willing to share with us about your household. This information will remain confidential and is for survey comparison only.

19. How long have you lived in the state?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10-19 years
- 20 or more years

20. Do you own or rent your home?

- Own
- Rent
- Other: _____

21. Do you own/rent a:

- Single-family home
- Duplex
- Apartment (3-4 units in structure)
- Apartment (5 or more units in structure)
- Condominium/townhouse
- Manufactured home
- Other: _____

Completed surveys are due back to the Arlington Town Office by November 21, 2024. Please drop off surveys during business hours Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm or mail back to the Arlington Town Office at P.O. Box 304, Arlington, VT 05250. Electronic copies of the completed survey may be emailed to dzink@bcrvt.org.