# **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program 2018 Towns of Conway and Ashfield Report Summary** Facilitated by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments A State-Certified MVP Provider

2) Identify





5) ACTION!

Energy Zoning Board EMD Committee of Appeals

Park Commission FRCOG

(Facilitator)

Infrastructural Societa

Environmental

water back-up for people on private wells.

There is a need for greater participation in the TRIAD program for the elderly. The plan for residents requiring extra assistance during emergencies needs to be formalized. There is a need for cooling centers and for air conditioning in the schools. Ashfield and Conway are both very rural and many residents live in isolated populations with unreliable cell phone and internet service.

Along the South River, there is a need for habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, and flood mitigation. Much of the infrastructure in the town is located on the South River, within the 100-year floodplain and mapperd river corridor. There are also concerns about invasive species.



## Breakdown of Conway and Ashfield's Top Vulnerabilities:



Workshop participants discussed a number of hazards that impact Conway and Ashfield, deliberating on how frequent, how intense and how widespread each hazard has been and could potentially be in the future. The top hazards identified for Conway and Ashfield:

The Ashfield Lake Dam in Ashfield is a concern to residents of both Towns as it is classified by the state as a high-hazard potential dam. The Conway Highway Garage and other Conway Town buildings are vulnerable to flooding. There is a lack of emergency drinking

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Most essential municipal buildings and the shelter at Sanderson Academy have back-up power. The Town water system in Ashfield is gravity-fed with a large storage tank and generator for pumps. Sinclair Waterworks in Ashfield is an inactive drinking water supply that may be able to be brought back into operation.



Ashfield has an emergency siren to warn residents in emergency situation and both Towns have active fire and ambulance volunteers. Active, informal neighborhood groups in Ashfield and Conway increase connectivity and resilience. Some food is produced locally and many residents care about their local food system and pollinators.



Both towns are designated Green Communities and support energy efficiency and renewable energy production. Residents care about their rural assets including wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and the absence of light and noise pollution.

□ Integrate MVP findings into Hazard Mitigation Plan and **Open Space and Recreation** Plan updates.

5) ACTION!

- □ Endorse MVP Plans to become MVP Communities
- □ Apply for MVP Action Grants —



Hydrology, infrastructure and food were common themes in many of the recommendations to emerge from the workshop, all aimed at increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The top five highest priorities are shown below.

## Conway and Ashfield's Highest Priority Recommendations

Seek funding to repair the Ashfield Lake Dam

Install pond Install solar hydrants or technology dry hydrants in Conway

Complete a community farm and food assessment for food security



### **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program 2018 Towns of Conway and Ashfield Report Map** Facilitated by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments A State-Certified MVP Provider frcog



The Ashfield Lake Dam is a major concern to residents of both towns. Dam failure would lead to catastrophic flooding and the dam is currently classified by the State as a high-hazard potential. Seeking funding to repair the Ashfield Lake Dam is a top priority recommendation of this plan.



Sanderson Academy in Ashfield serves as an emergency shelter and is outfitted with a back up power generator. The site is located next to the newer Ashfield DPW facility.





A strength for both towns is their excellent fire and ambulance services made possible thanks to active volunteers and staff. Building on this strength, a recommendation of this plan is to install pond fire hydrants due to a rise in extreme heat events and the potential for more fires.



The 2016 South River Corridor Management Plan includes mapping of the river corridor and makes recommendations for habitat restoration, bank stabilization, and flood mitigation projects in both towns, which taken together, can reduce vulnerability to flooding and erosion. A portion of the corridor mapping in Ashfield and a restoration project in Conway are shown below:



A portion of the corridor mapping in Ashfield highlights areas of the South River prone to meandering and erosion.



Bank stabilization using rock deflectors and a boulder supported log jam can reduce erosion of the South River where it meanders alongside Natural Roots Farm.