

**TOWN OF WOLCOTT
NATURAL HAZARD PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN**

CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY REGION

**MARCH 2008
REVISED MAY 2008**

MMI #2937-01

Prepared For:

**Council of Governments
Central Naugatuck Valley**



Under a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	ES-1
INTRODUCTION	1.0
Background and Purpose	1.1
Hazard Mitigation Goals	1.2
Identification of Hazards and Document Overview	1.3
Discussion of STAPLEE Ranking Method	1.4
Documentation of the Planning Process	1.5
COMMUNITY PROFILE	2.0
Physical Setting	2.1
Existing Land Use	2.2
Geology	2.3
Climate	2.4
Drainage Basins and Hydrology	2.5
Population and Demographic Setting	2.6
Governmental Structure	2.7
Development Trends	2.8
Critical Facilities and Sheltering Capacity	2.9
INLAND FLOODING	3.0
Setting.....	3.1
Hazard Assessment	3.2
Historic Record	3.3
Existing Programs, Policies and Mitigation Measures	3.4
Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment	3.5
Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives	3.6
Summary of Recommended Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives	3.7
HURRICANES	4.0
Setting.....	4.1
Hazard Assessment	4.2
Historic Record	4.3
Existing Programs, Policies, and Mitigation Measures	4.4
Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment	4.5
Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives	4.6
Summary of Recommended Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives	4.7

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

5.0	SUMMER STORMS & TORNADOES	
5.1	Setting.....	5.1
5.2	Hazard Assessment.....	5.2
5.3	Historic Record.....	5.3
5.4	Existing Programs, Policies, and Mitigation Measures.....	5.4
5.5	Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment.....	5.5
5.6	Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives.....	5.6
5.7	Summary of Recommended Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives.....	5.7
6.0	WINTER STORMS	
6.1	Setting.....	6.1
6.2	Hazard Assessment.....	6.2
6.3	Historic Record.....	6.3
6.4	Existing Programs, Policies and Mitigation Measures.....	6.4
6.5	Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment.....	6.5
6.6	Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives.....	6.6
6.7	Summary of Recommended Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives.....	6.7
7.0	EARTHQUAKES	
7.1	Setting.....	7.1
7.2	Hazard Assessment.....	7.2
7.3	Historic Record.....	7.3
7.4	Existing Programs, Policies, and Mitigation Measures.....	7.4
7.5	Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment.....	7.5
7.6	Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives.....	7.6
8.0	DAM FAILURE	
8.1	Setting.....	8.1
8.2	Hazard Assessment.....	8.2
8.3	Historic Record.....	8.3
8.4	Existing Programs, Policies, and Mitigation Measures.....	8.4
8.5	Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment.....	8.5
8.6	Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives.....	8.6

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

9.0	WILDFIRES	
9.1	Setting.....	9-1
9.2	Hazard Assessment.....	9-1
9.3	Historic Record.....	9-3
9.4	Existing Programs, Policies, and Mitigation Measures.....	9-4
9.5	Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment.....	9-5
9.6	Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives.....	9-8
10.0	RECOMMENDATIONS	
10.1	Additional Recommendations.....	10-1
10.2	Summary of Specific Recommendations.....	10-2
10.3	Sources of Funding.....	10-7
11.0	PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	
11.1	Implementation Strategy and Schedule.....	11-1
11.2	Progress Monitoring and Public Participation.....	11-2
11.3	Updating the Plan.....	11-3
11.4	Technical and Financial Resources.....	11-4
12.0	REFERENCES.....	12-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

TABLES

2-4	Land Use by Area	Table 2-1
2-17	Population Density by Municipality, Region, and State, 2000	Table 2-2
2-23	Critical Facilities in Wolcott	Table 2-3
3-5	FIRM Zone Descriptions	Table 3-1
4-5	Hurricane Characteristics	Table 4-1
5-2	Fujita Scale	Table 5-1
5-3	Enhanced Fujita Scale	Table 5-2
5-6	Tornado Events in New Haven County Since 1950	Table 5-3
5-8	NOAA Weather Watches	Table 5-4
5-9	NOAA Weather Warnings	Table 5-5
6-3	NESIS Categories	Table 6-1
8-2	Dams Registered with the DEP in the Town of Wolcott	Table 8-1
8-7	Dams Damaged Due to Flooding from October 2005 Storms	Table 8-2

FIGURES

2-2	Location Map	Figure 2-1
2-3	Region Map	Figure 2-2
2-5	Generalized Land Use	Figure 2-3
2-7	Bedrock Geology	Figure 2-4
2-10	Surficial Geology	Figure 2-5
2-19	Elderly Population	Figure 2-6
2-20	Linguistically Isolated Households	Figure 2-7
2-21	Disabilities Map	Figure 2-8
2-24	Critical Facilities	Figure 2-9
3-4	FEMA Flood Zones	Figure 3-1
3-15	Townline Road Study Area	Figure 3-2
3-17	Lindsley Brook Study Area	Figure 3-3
8-4	High Hazard Dams in Wolcott (Scovill Reservoir)	Figure 8-1
8-5	High Hazard Dams in Wolcott (New Britain Reservoir)	Figure 8-2
8-6	High Hazard Dams in Wolcott (Hitchcock Lake)	Figure 8-3
9-2	Wolcott Wildfire Risk Areas	Figure 9-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

APPENDED TABLES

Appended Table 1 Hazard Event Ranking
Appended Table 2 Hazard Effect Ranking

APPENDICES

Appendix A STAPLEE Matrix
Appendix B Documentation of Plan Development
Appendix C Record of Municipal Adoptions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Town of Wolcott Natural Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

1. Background

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local communities to have a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible to apply for and receive post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program project grant funds.

The primary goal of this hazard mitigation plan is to reduce the loss of or damage to life, property, infrastructure, and natural, cultural and economic resources from natural disasters.

Developing, adopting, and implementing this hazard mitigation plan is expected to: increase access to and awareness of funding sources for hazard mitigation projects; identify mitigation initiatives to be implemented if and when funding becomes available; and connect hazard mitigation planning to other community planning efforts.

2. Existing Conditions

The four major watershed areas in Wolcott are the Eight Mile River, Hancock Brook, the Ten Mile River, and the Mad River. The Town has three additional smaller watersheds: the Pequabuck River, the Naugatuck River, and Beaver Pond Brook. The hydrology of the Town of Wolcott is dominated by the Mad River watershed and spotted with several lakes and ponds and numerous streams, most of which are unnamed.



Flooding is the most common natural hazard event requiring mitigation. According to the FEMA FIRMS, 1,208 acres of land in Wolcott are located within a 100-year flood boundary. In addition, indirect flooding occurs near streams and rivers throughout Wolcott due to inadequate drainage and other factors. Only a few of the stream corridors are prone to chronic flooding because of the large impoundments that exist in the watershed and because the floodplains and channels have been less developed in this residential town than in neighboring communities.

5. *Flooding*

The Town's fire houses are not considered as shelters, but serve as important emergency supply distribution centers. The police and fire departments staff the shelters. In case of a power outage, it is anticipated that 10-20% of the population would relocate, although not all of those relocating would necessarily utilize the shelter facilities.

4. *Shelters*

The Town considers its police, fire, governmental, and major transportation facilities to be its most important critical facilities, for these are needed to ensure that emergencies are addressed while day-to-day management of Wolcott continues. The Town of Wolcott has designated three emergency shelters (all schools) and agreements are in place to use additional facilities, such as the VFW Hall, on an as-needed basis. Critical facilities are not regularly impacted by flooding in the Town of Wolcott, but some areas of egress are impacted. See Section 3.5 for specific sites.

3. *Critical Facilities*

Most of the chronic flooding problems in Wolcott are located within the Mad River drainage basin or areas of stratified drift geologic deposits. The frequency of flooding in Wolcott is considered likely to highly likely depending on the cause of the flooding, but flood damage only has a limited effect. To reduce the impact of a local or nuisance flood event, the Town can take measures that reduce the exposure of existing development to flood risk, and actions to preserve and restore natural resources. For site plan and subdivision regulations, these include:

1. Requirements that every lot have a buildable area above the flood level;
2. Construction and location standards for the infrastructure, including roads, sidewalks, utility lines, storm sewers, and drainage ways; and
3. A requirement that developers dedicate open space and flood flow, drainage, and maintenance easements.

The Town should consider joining FEMA's Community Rating System to reduce the cost of flood insurance for its residents, and should consider using Town topographic maps to develop a more accurate regulatory flood-hazard map using the published FEMA Flood elevations. The use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology would greatly aid this mapping and the mapping of problem areas. Other prevention techniques include educating citizens, property owners, developers, and local officials to a higher state of awareness of natural hazards and the provision of technical assistance for local officials. A reference checklist to streamline and aid applicants through the local permitting process should be developed that cross-references the bylaws, regulations, and codes related to flood damage prevention.

Steps should be taken to protect existing public and private properties. Structural flood protection techniques applicable to property protection include the construction of barriers, dry floodproofing, and wet floodproofing techniques.

Emergency services that would be appropriate mitigation measures for inland flooding include:

1. Forecasting systems to provide information on the time of occurrence and magnitude of flooding;

2. Emergency protective measures, such as an Emergency Operations Plan outlining procedures for the mobilization and position of staff, equipment, and resources to facilitate evacuations and emergency flood-water control; and

3. Implementing an emergency notification system that combines database and GIS mapping technologies to deliver outbound emergency notifications to geographic areas; or specific groups of people, such as emergency responder teams. Wolcott is exploring this alternative.

Specific *natural resource protection mitigation measures* are recommended to help prevent damage from inland and nuisance flooding, including pursuing the acquisition of additional municipal open space properties such as the Boundline open space area, and continuing to regulate development in protected and sensitive areas such as steep slopes, wetlands, and floodplains.

Some *structural mitigation measures* recommended for the prevention of damage from inland and nuisance flooding include:

1. Investigate incidences of roadway flooding in the vicinity of Cedar Swamp Pond and clear or resize drainage systems as appropriate to maintain access;
2. Raise the level of Central Avenue near Todd Lake above the highest recorded flood level;

3. Repair the bridge spanning Lily Brook at Todd Road;
4. Enlarge the culvert passing Lily Brook under Woodtick Road and elevate the road if necessary;

There are five Class C dams and one Class B dam in Wolcott, at least three of which are owned by the Town. Their failure would mean the loss of life and extensive property damage with Class C indicating the potential for more costly damages. Some of these dams may not have emergency operation plans in place.

8. Dams

Winter storms are considered highly likely to occur each year, and the hazards that result (nor'easter winds, snow, and blizzard conditions) are expected to have a significant effect over a large area of the Town.

7. Winter Storms

The Town of Wolcott is less vulnerable to hurricane damage than coastal towns in Connecticut because it is not impacted by storm surge. The Town remains vulnerable to hurricane damage from wind and flooding, and from any tornadoes accompanying the storm. The public should be made aware of evacuation routes and available shelters, and tree limb maintenance and inspections should be increased, especially along Route 322, Route 69, and other evacuation routes.

6. Hurricanes

- 5. Perform a feasibility analysis to address the flooding conditions in the Town Line Road area; and
- 6. Replace the twin culverts underneath Town Line Road and Nutmeg Valley Road with box culverts capable of passing at least the 50-year flood event;

- Informing and educating the public about how to protect themselves and their property from natural hazards is essential to any successful hazard mitigation strategy;
- The implementation of an emergency notification system to warn residents of an impending hazard;

11. Specific Recommendations Include:

The Town of Wolcott has limited public water service available for fire fighting. To aid in fighting fires, the Town of Wolcott should continue the excavation of fire ponds throughout the Town to ensure an adequate supply of firefighting water, and continue to identify and upgrade those portions of the public water supply systems that are substandard from the standpoint of adequate pressure and volume for fire-fighting purposes.

10. Firefighting

The most common causes of wildfires are arson, lightning strikes, and fires started from anywhere and at any time in both undeveloped and lightly developed areas, but most wildfires in Connecticut are relatively small. It is important for the Wolcott Fire Department to be prepared to assist the special populations such as elderly and disabled during a wildfire or any emergency.

9. Wildfires

- Petitioning FEMA to more critically evaluate LOMA and LOMC applications that are received such that redevelopments do not potentially cause increased flooding to other properties;
- Encouraging residents to move personal property out of the 100-year flood plain, especially in the Woodtick Road area south of Garthwait Road;
- Designing new buildings to shunt drainage away from the building.
- Using the Town two-foot contour maps to develop more exact regulatory flood-hazard maps and data using FEMA flood elevations;
- Raising the level of Central Avenue near Todd Lake above the highest recorded flood level to prevent the road from being flooded in the future;
- Repairing the bridge spanning Lily Brook at Todd Road;
- Enlarging the culvert passing Lily Brook under Woodtick Road and elevating the road if necessary;
- Performing a feasibility analysis to determine the best way to address the flooding conditions in the Town Line Road area;
- Replacing the twin culverts underneath Town Line Road and Nutmeg Valley Road with box culverts capable of passing at least the 50-year flood event;
- Considering an extension of the road from the existing baseball fields off Nichols Road southwest through the utility easement to Tosun Road Extension or Nutmeg Valley Road to provide emergency or permanent access to the area;
- Repairing the eroding hillside at Tosun Road Extension above Old Tannery Brook and install curbing to prevent further erosion and a possible washout;
- Increasing the size of the culvert that passes the Mad River under Mad River Road. The road may need to be raised to accommodate the larger culvert;
- Performing a feasibility analysis considering ways to reduce flooding damages along the Lindsley Brook corridor from Lindsley Drive to south of Center Street / Route 322;
- Increasing the size of the Grove Street / Maple Avenue culvert to prevent backyard flooding, and petition the state to restore a 24-inch or larger culvert to Route 322 nearby;



- Investigating ways to reduce the occurrence of flooding nearby along Meriden Road;
- Performing an engineering analysis of the culverts in the Longmeadow Drive Extension area to evaluate their conveyance capacities and resize as appropriate to prevent the flooding of nearby yards;
- Posting a list of Town snow-blowing routes and sheltering facilities in the Town Hall and on the Town's website so residents can best plan how to access to critical facilities during a winter storm event, and
- Encouraging two modes of egress into every neighborhood by the creation of through streets.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose

The term *hazard* refers to an extreme natural event that poses a risk to people, infrastructure, or resources. In the context of natural disasters, pre-disaster hazard mitigation is commonly defined as any sustained action that permanently reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people, property, and resources from natural hazards and their effects.

The primary purpose of a pre-disaster hazard mitigation plan (HMP) is to identify natural hazards and risks, existing capabilities, and activities that can be undertaken by a community or group of communities to prevent loss of life and reduce property damages associated with the identified hazards. This HMP is prepared specifically to identify hazards in the Town of Wolcott, Connecticut ("Wolcott" or "Town"). The HMP is relevant not only in emergency management situations, but also should be used within the Town of Wolcott's land use, environmental, and capital improvement frameworks.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act amendments, was approved by Congress and signed into law in October 2000, creating Public Law 106-390. The purposes of the DMA are to establish a national program for pre-disaster mitigation and streamline administration of disaster relief.

The DMA requires local communities to have a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved mitigation plan in order to be eligible to receive post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program project grant funds. Once a community has a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan, the community is then eligible to apply for PDM project funds for mitigation activities.

The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The HMGP provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. A key purpose of the HMGP is to ensure that any opportunities to take critical mitigation measures to protect life and property from future disasters are not "lost" during the recovery and reconstruction process following a disaster.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program was authorized by Part 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5133. The PDM program provides funds to states, territories, tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and implementation of mitigation projects prior to disasters, providing an opportunity to reduce the nation's disaster losses through pre-disaster mitigation planning and the implementation of feasible, effective, and cost-efficient mitigation measures. Funding of pre-disaster plans and projects is meant to reduce overall risks to populations and facilities. PDM funds should be used primarily to support mitigation activities that address natural hazards. In addition to providing a vehicle for funding, the PDM program provides an opportunity to raise risk awareness within communities.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program

The subject pre-disaster hazard mitigation plan was developed to be consistent with the requirements of the HMGP, PDM, and Flood Management Assistance (FMA) programs. These programs are briefly described below.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

The FMA program was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act (NFIRA) of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 4101) with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA provides FMA funds to assist States and communities with implementing measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. The long-term goal of FMA is to reduce or eliminate claims under the NFIP through mitigation activities. Three types of grants are available under FMA. These are Planning, Project, and Technical Assistance grants.

1.2

Hazard Mitigation Goals

The primary goal of this hazard mitigation plan is to *reduce the loss of or damage to life, property, infrastructure, and natural, cultural and economic resources from natural disasters*. This includes the reduction of public and private damage costs. Limiting losses of and damage to life and property will also reduce the social, emotional, and economic disruption associated with a natural disaster.

Developing, adopting, and implementing this hazard mitigation plan is expected to:

- *Increase access to and awareness of funding sources for hazard mitigation projects*. Certain funding sources, such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, will be available if the hazard mitigation plan is in place and approved.

- *Identify mitigation initiatives to be implemented if and when funding becomes available*. This HMP will identify a number of mitigation recommendations, which can then be prioritized and acted upon as funding allows.

- Connect hazard mitigation planning to other community planning efforts.* This HMP can be used to guide Wolcott's development through inter-departmental and inter-municipal coordination.
- Improve the mechanisms for pre- and post-disaster decision making efforts.* This plan emphasizes actions that can be taken now to reduce or prevent future disaster damages. If the actions identified in this plan are implemented, damage from future hazard events can be minimized, thereby easing recovery and reducing the cost of repairs and reconstruction.
- Improve the ability to implement post-disaster recovery projects through development of a list of mitigation alternatives ready to be implemented.*
- Enhance and preserve natural resource systems.* Natural resources, such as wetlands and floodplains, provide protection against disasters such as floods and hurricanes. Proper planning and protection of natural resources can provide hazard mitigation at substantially reduced costs.
- Educate residents and policy makers about natural hazard risk and vulnerability.* Education is an important tool to ensure that people make informed decisions that complement the Town's ability to implement and maintain mitigation strategies.
- Complete future Community Rating System efforts.* Implementation of certain mitigation measures may increase a community's rating, and thus the benefits that it derives from FEMA. The Town of Wolcott has never participated in the Community Rating System.

1.3 Identification of Hazards and Document Overview

As stated in Section 1.1, the term *hazard* refers to an extreme natural event that poses a risk to people, infrastructure, or resources. Based on a review of the Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and correspondence with local officials, the following have been identified as natural hazards that can potentially affect the Town of Wolcott:

- Inland Flooding
- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Summer Storms (including lightning, hail, and heavy winds) and Tornadoes
- Winter Storms
- Earthquakes
- Dam Failure
- Wildfires

This document has been prepared with the understanding that a single *hazard effect* may be caused by multiple *hazard events*. For example, flooding may occur as a result of frequent heavy rains, a hurricane, or a winter storm. Thus, Appended Tables 1 and 2 provide summaries of the hazard events and hazard effects that impact the Town of Wolcott, and include criteria for characterizing the locations impacted by the hazard, the frequency of occurrence of the hazards, and the magnitude or severity of the hazards. Despite the causes, the effects of several hazards are persistent and demand high expenditures from the Town. In order to better identify current vulnerabilities and potential mitigation strategies associated with other hazards, each hazard has been individually discussed in a separate chapter.

This document begins with a general discussion of Wolcott's community profile, including the physical setting, demographics, development trends, governmental structure, and sheltering capacity. Next, each chapter of this Plan is broken down into six

or seven different parts. These are *Setting*; *Hazard Assessment*; *Historic Record*; *Existing Programs, Policies, and Mitigation Measures*; *Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment*; and *Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives*, and if necessary, a *Summary of Recommendations*. These are described below.

Setting addresses the general areas that are at risk from the hazard. General land uses are identified.

Hazard Assessment describes the specifics of a given hazard, including general characteristics, and associated effects. Also defined are associated return intervals, probability and risk, and relative magnitude.

Historic Record is a discussion of past occurrences of the hazard, and associated damages when available.

Existing Programs, Policies, and Mitigation Measures gives an overview of the measures that the Town of Wolcott is currently undertaking to mitigate the given hazard. These may take the form of ordinances and codes, structural measures such as dams, or public outreach initiatives.

Vulnerabilities and Risk Assessment focuses on the specific areas at risk to the hazard. Specific land uses in the given areas are identified. Critical buildings and infrastructure that would be affected by the hazard are identified.

Potential Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives identifies mitigation alternatives, including those that may be the least cost effective or inappropriate for Wolcott.

- Legal:** Is Wolcott authorized to implement the proposed strategy? Is there a clear legal basis or precedent for this activity?
- Political:** Is the strategy politically acceptable? Is there public support both to implement and maintain the project?
- Administrative:** Can Wolcott implement the strategy? Is there someone to coordinate and lead the effort?
- Technical:** Will the proposed strategy work? Will it create more problems than it will solve?
- Social:** Is the proposed strategy socially acceptable to Wolcott? Is there any equity issues involved that would mean that one segment of Wolcott could be treated unfairly?

To prioritize recommended mitigation measures, it is necessary to determine how effective each measure will be in reducing or preventing damage. A set of criteria commonly used by public administration officials and planners was applied to each proposed strategy. The method, called STAPLEE, stands for the "Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Economic and Environmental" criteria for making planning decisions. The following questions were asked about the proposed mitigation strategies:

1.4 Discussion of STAPLEE Ranking Method

- Summary of Recommended Mitigation Measures, Strategies, and Alternatives** provides a summary of the recommended courses of action for Wolcott that is included in the STAPLEE analysis described below.
- This document concludes with a strategy for implementation of the Hazard Management Plan, including a schedule, a program for monitoring and updating the plan, and a discussion of technical and financial resources.

The following individuals from the Town of Wolcott provided information, data, studies, reports, and observations; and were involved in the development of the Plan:
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The following individuals from the Town of Wolcott provided information, data, studies, reports, and observations; and were involved in the development of the Plan:

Ms. Virginia Mason of the COGCVN coordinated the development of this Hazard Mitigation Plan. The COGCVN applied for the grant from FEMA through the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The adoption of this plan in the Town of Wolcott will also be coordinated by the COGCVN.
The Town of Wolcott is a member of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCVN), the responsible regional planning body for Wolcott and twelve other member municipalities: Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, Cheshire, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Prospect, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, and Woodbury. The municipalities of Oxford, Watertown, and Woodbury have existing mitigation plans, and hazard mitigation plans are being concurrently developed for the municipalities of Cheshire, Waterbury, and Prospect.

1.5 Documentation of the Planning Process

Each proposed mitigation strategy presented in this plan was evaluated and assigned a score (Good = 3, Average = 2, Poor = 1) based on the above criteria. An evaluation matrix with the total scores from each strategy can be found in Appendix A. After each strategy is evaluated using the STAPLEB method, it is possible to prioritize the strategies according to the final score. The highest scores are determined to be of more importance, economically, socially, environmentally and politically and hence, prioritized over those with lower scores.

- Economic:** What are the costs and benefits of this strategy? Does the cost seem reasonable for the size of the problem and the likely benefits?
- Environmental:** How will the strategy impact the environment? Will the strategy need environmental regulatory approvals?

□ *Field inspections were performed on October 28, 2006.* Observations were made of flooding and problem areas within the Town.

□ *A project meeting with Town officials was held August 9, 2006.* Necessary documentation was collected, and problem areas within the Town were discussed.

□ *A project initiation meeting was held June 26, 2006.* This meeting addressed the scope of services necessary to develop this HMP. Initial input was provided by the project team.

□ *Field inspections were performed on June 7, 2006.* Observations were made of flooding and problem areas within the Town.

□ *Field inspections were performed on May 16, 2006.* Observations were made of flooding and problem areas within the Town.

An extensive data collection, evaluation, and outreach program was undertaken to compile information about existing hazards and mitigation in the Town, as well as to identify areas that should be prioritized for hazard mitigation. The following is a list of meetings that were held to develop this Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Mr. Thomas Dunn, Mayor
- Mr. Chester Sergey, Chairman, Wolcott Local Emergency Planning Commission
- Mr. Paul Scirpo, Police Chief / Emergency Response Plan Coordinator
- Mr. Peter Parks, Building Department
- Mr. David Kalinowski, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Department of Public Works
- Mr. Dennis Dean, Assistant Fire Chief

- Wolcott Chamber of Commerce;
- Democratic and Republican Town Committees;
- Local AARP;
- Wolcott Grange;
- Knights of Columbus;
- Lion's Club;
- Exchange Club;
- Four athletic organizations;
- Friends of the Library;
- Wolcott Landowners' Protective;
- Wolcott Land Conversation Trust;
- Hitchcock Lake Association;
- Junior Women's Club of Wolcott;
- Farmingbury Women's Club;
- Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance;
- VFW Post 1979;
- Wolcott Education Foundation, Inc.;
- Wolcott Historical Society;
- Ehdn Lebanese American Club; and

included the following:

While residents were invited to the public information meeting via newspaper, only two residents attended. Similarly, 28 community and civic organizations were invited via a mailed copy of the press release that announced the public information meeting. These

Preliminary findings were presented and public comments solicited.

- A public information meeting was held October 23, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. Preliminary findings were presented to Town personnel. No members of the public attended.
- A second public information meeting was held November 28, 2006 at 7:30 P.M.

□ Four places of worship.

Residents were also encouraged to contact the COG with comments via newspaper articles.

As another direct gauge of public interest, a thorough review of Public Works

Department complaint files was undertaken to document problems of public concern. Finally, the Connecticut DEP was routinely briefed and consulted throughout the development process.

It is important to note that COGCVN manages the Central Naugatuck Valley Emergency Planning Committee. This committee has begun coordinating emergency services in the region. Fire, Police, EMS, Red Cross, emergency management directors, and other departments participate in these efforts. In June 2004, over 120 responders participated in the region's first tabletop exercise on biological terrorism. Area health directors, hospitals, and other health care professionals also meet monthly with the Health and Medical Subcommittee to share information, protocols, and training. Thus, local knowledge and experience gained through the Emergency Planning Committee activities has been transferred by the COGCVN to the pre-disaster mitigation planning process.

Additional opportunities for the public to review the Plan will be implemented in advance of the public hearing to adopt this plan, tentatively scheduled for spring 2008, contingent on receiving conditional approval from FEMA. The draft that is sent for FEMA review will be posted on the Town website and the COGCVN website to provide opportunities for public review and comment. Such comments will be incorporated into the final draft when applicable. Upon receiving conditional approval from FEMA, the public hearing will be scheduled, at which time any remaining comments can be addressed. Notification of the opportunity to review the Plan on the websites and the public information meeting will be placed on the websites and placed in local newspapers.

If any final plan modifications result from the comment period leading up to and including the public hearing to adopt the plan, these will be submitted to FEMA as page revisions with a cover letter explaining the changes. It is not anticipated that any major modifications will occur at this phase of the project.

Appendix B contains copies of meeting minutes, field notes and observations, the public information meeting presentation, and other records that document the development of this Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

2.1 Physical Setting

The Town of Wolcott is located in New Haven County. It is bordered by Waterbury to the west and southwest, Plymouth and Bristol to the north, Southington to the east, and Cheshire to the south. Refer to Figure 2-1 for a location schematic and Figure 2-2 for a location map. Wolcott is the fourth-most developed community in the Central Naugatuck Valley Region.

Wolcott is located within the eastern part of the crystalline uplands, or Western Highlands, of western Connecticut. This geologic feature consists of three belts of metamorphic rocks bounded to the west by the sediments and low-rank metamorphic rocks of the Hudson River valley and on the east by the Triassic sediments of the Connecticut River valley. The topography of the Town ranges from gently rolling terrain in the river valleys to steep hilly terrain in several upland areas. Elevations range from 460 feet in the southwestern part of Town to 1,050 feet above sea level near Lindsley Hill in the northern part of Town, based on the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929. The hilly terrain of Wolcott makes it particularly vulnerable to an array of natural hazards.

2.2 Existing Land Use

Wolcott is characterized by its hills and steep slopes which limit development in much of the town. A compact commercial district is located in the center of the town at the intersection of Wolcott Road and Center Street with additional commercial sites along Wolcott Road to the north and south. The commercial areas are surrounded by low-density residential districts interspersed with agricultural operations.

Figure 2-1: Wolcott Location Map

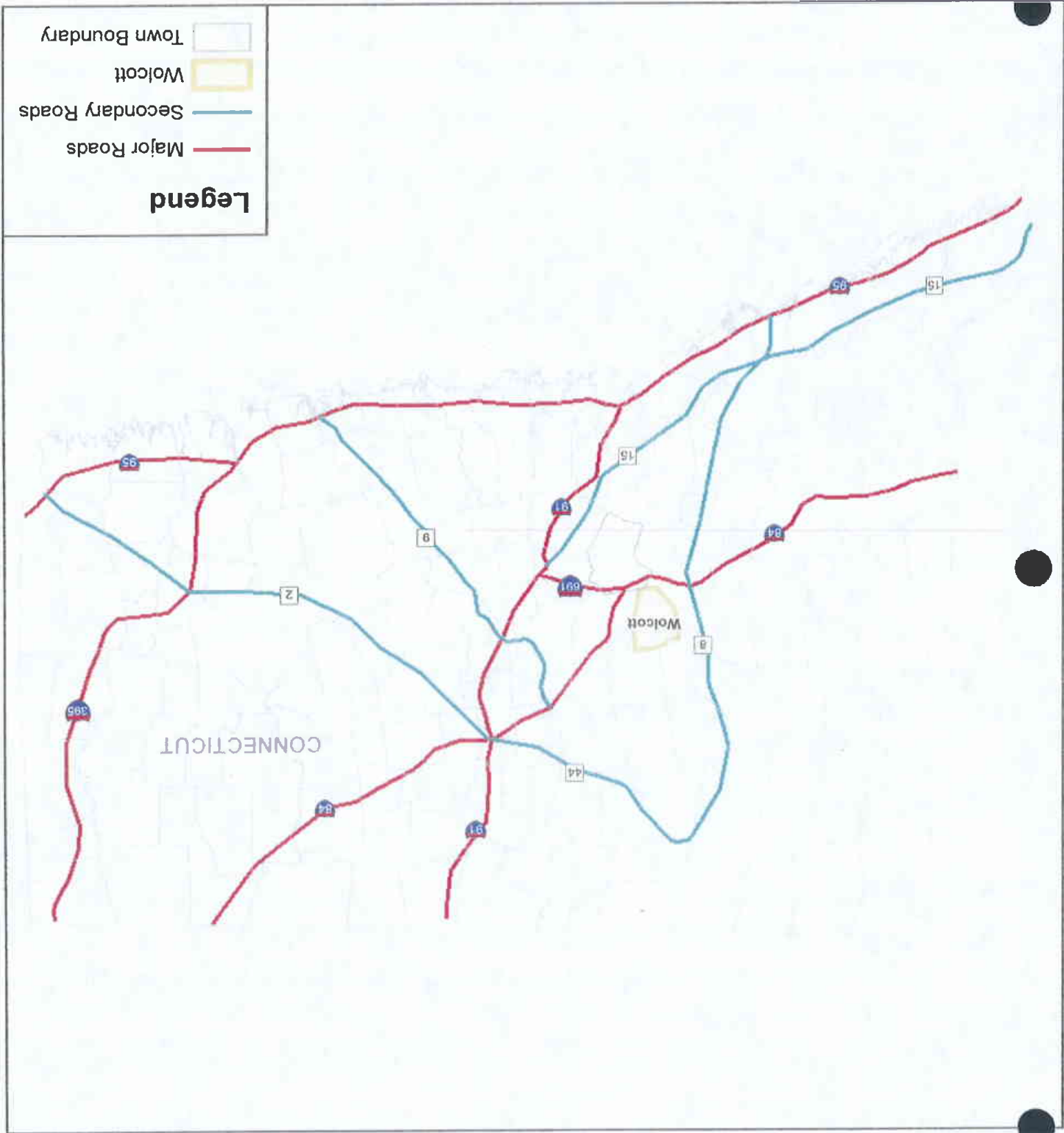
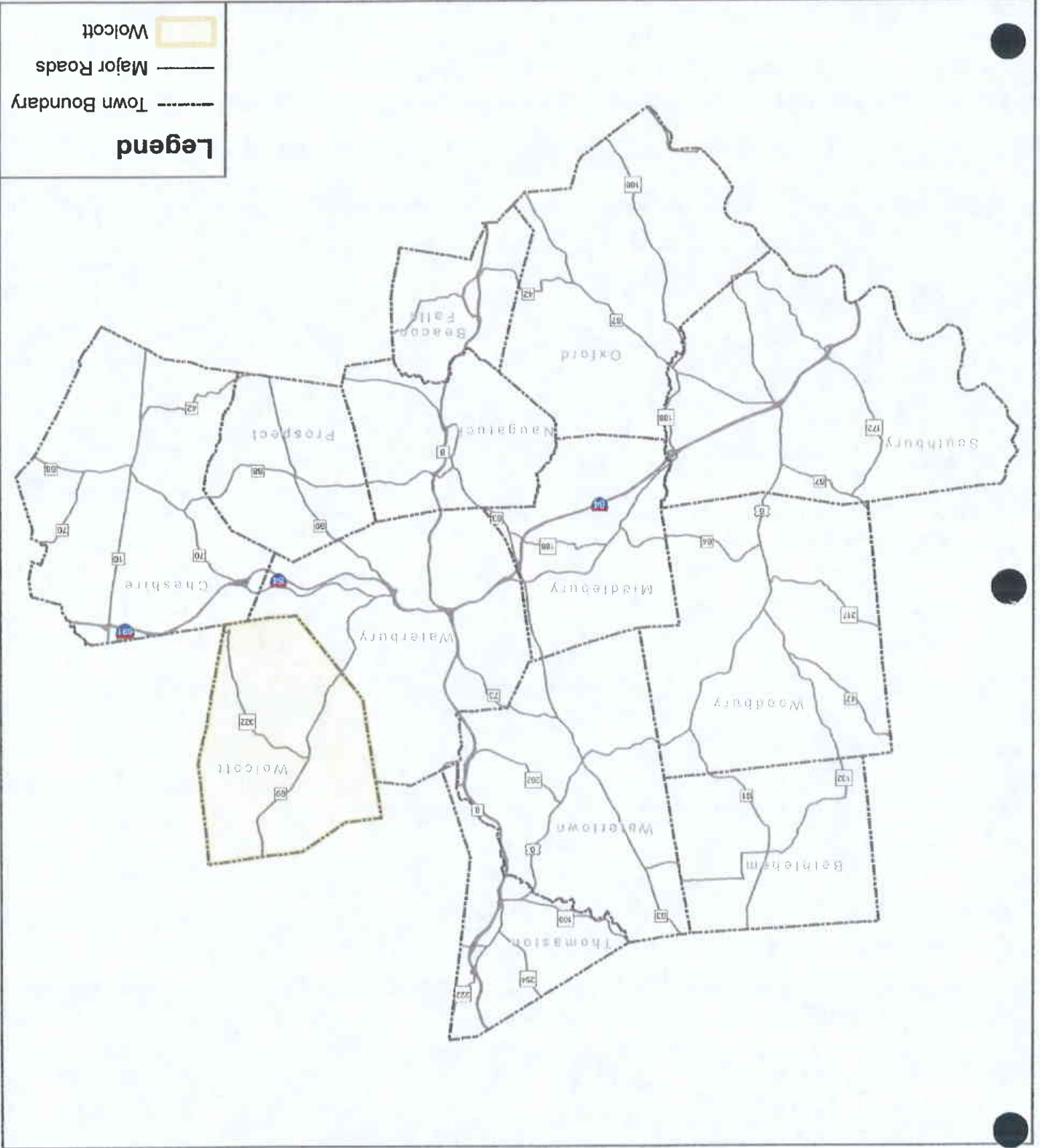


Figure 2-2: Wolcott in the CNVR



2.3 Geology

Geology is important to the occurrence and relative effects of natural hazards such as earthquakes. Thus, it is important to understand the geologic setting and variation of bedrock and surficial formations in Wolcott. The following discussion highlights Wolcott's geology at several regional scales.

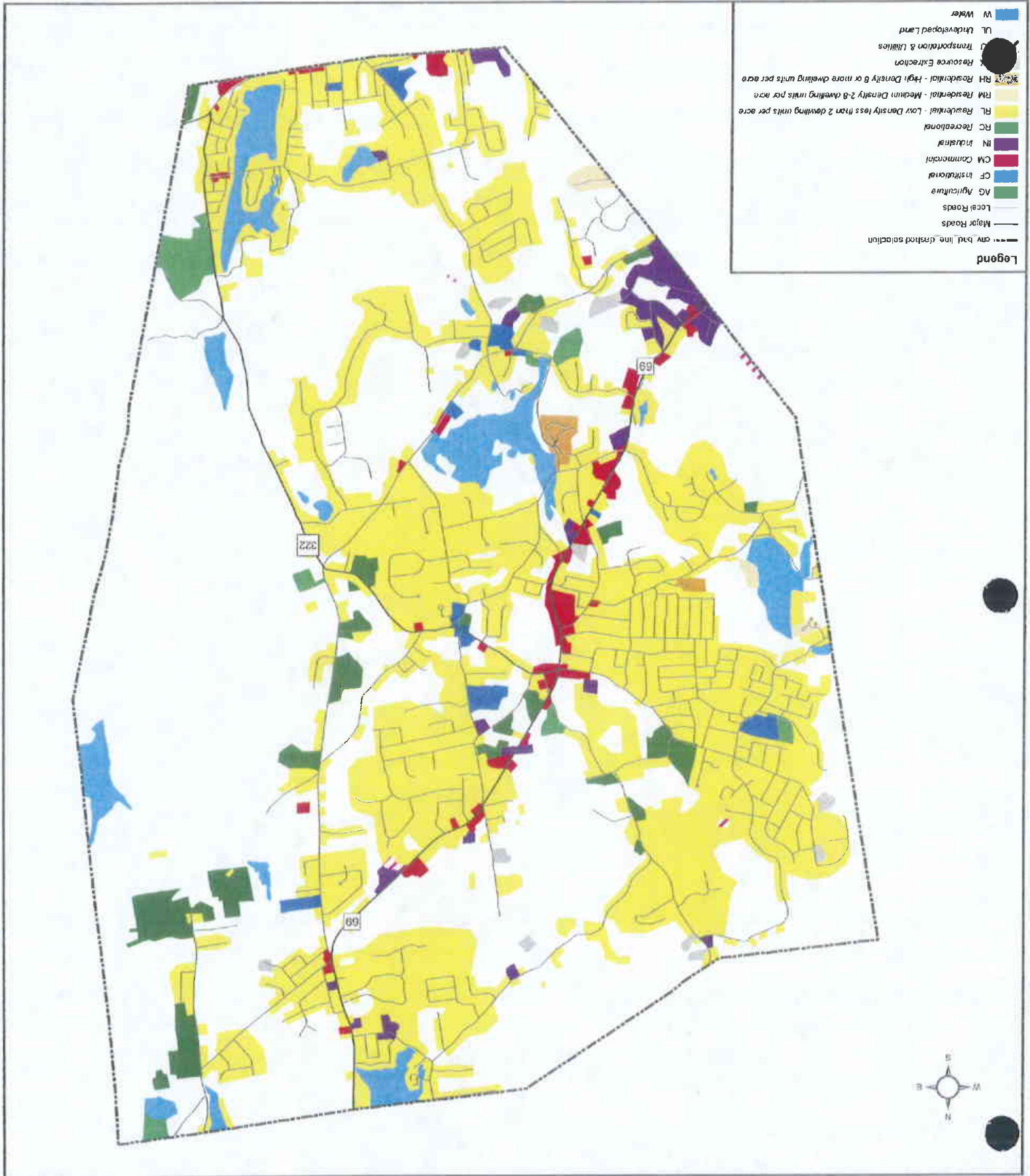
Source: Council of Governments Central Naugatuck Valley, 2000

Land Use	Area (acres)	Pct.
Vacant	7,666	56.6
Residential - Low Density	4,427	32.7
Water	497	3.7
Agricultural	294	2.2
Commercial	160	1.2
Industrial	157	1.2
Recreational	112	0.8
Institutional	95	0.7
Mining	47	0.3
Residential - High Density	36	0.3
Residential - Medium Density	34	0.3
Utilities/Transportation	11	0.1

Table 2-1
Land Use by Area

The largest concentration of industrial land uses is located in the southwest corner of Wolcott along Wolcott Road at the Waterbury city line. Slopes and water features limit development at the east and west borders of the town. The Town of Wolcott encompasses 20.43 square miles. Table 2-1 provides a summary of land use in Wolcott by area. In addition, refer to Figure 2-3 for a map of generalized land use in the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region.

Figure 2-3: Wolcott Generalized Land Use



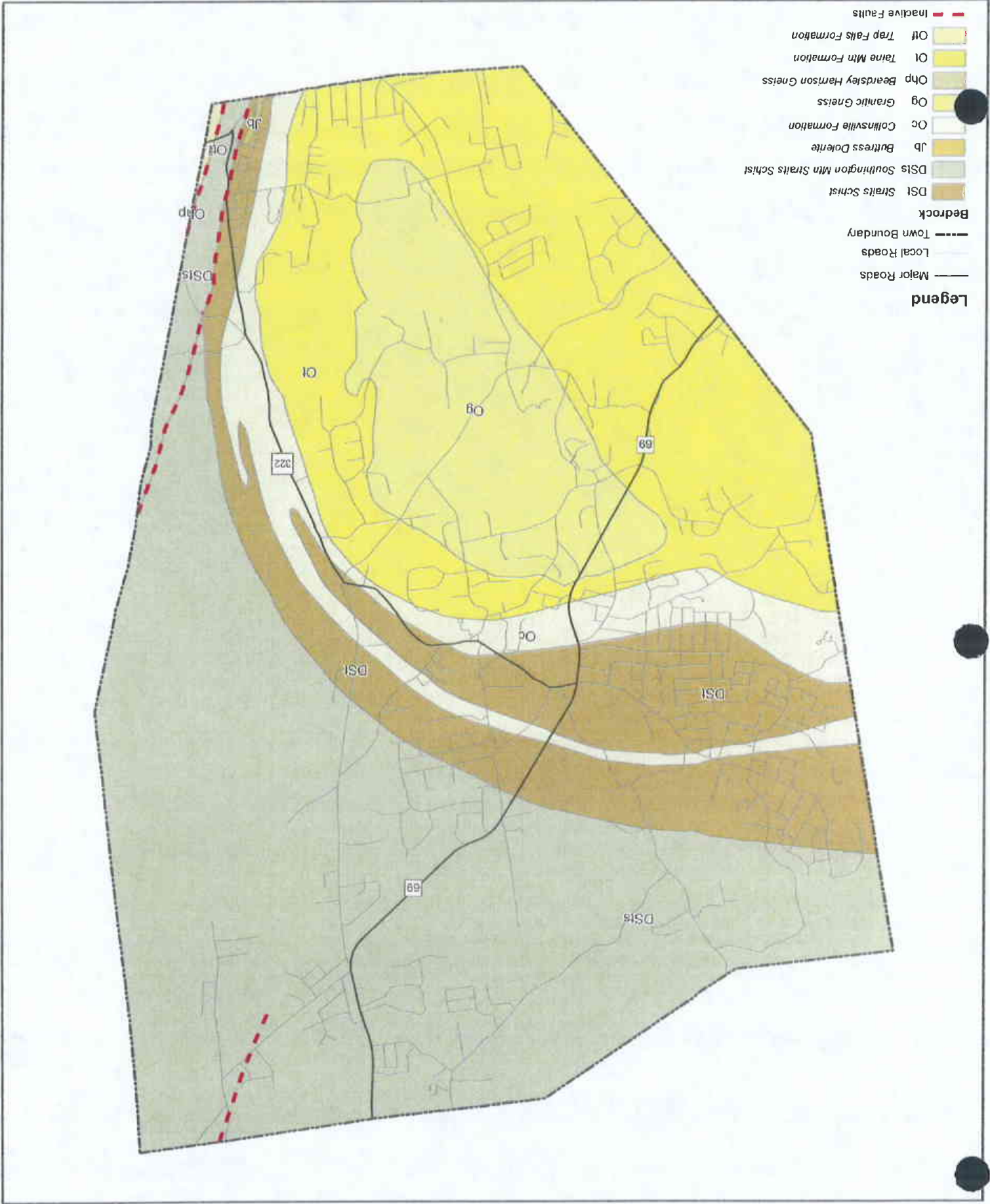
In terms of North American bedrock geology, the Town of Wolcott is located in the northeastern part of the Appalachian Orogenic Belt, also known as the Appalachian Highlands. The Appalachian Highlands extend from Maine south into Mississippi and Alabama and were formed during the orogeny that occurred when the super-continent Pangea assembled during the late Paleozoic era. The region is generally characterized by deformed sedimentary rocks cut through by numerous thrust faults.

Regionally, in terms of New England bedrock geology the Town of Wolcott lies within the Eugeosyncline Sequence. Bedrock belonging to the Eugeosyncline Sequence are typically deformed, metamorphosed, and intruded by small to large igneous plutons. Connecticut bedrock geology is comprised of several "terrane." Terranes are geologic regions that reflect the role of plate tectonics in Connecticut's natural history. The bedrock beneath the Town of Wolcott is part of the Iapetus Terrane, comprised of remnants of the Iapetus Ocean that existed before Pangea was formed. This terrane formed when Pangea was consolidated and its boundaries are coincident with the Eugeosyncline Sequence geologic province described above.

The Town of Wolcott's bedrock consists of three general lithologies: volcanic and intrusive igneous siltic gneisses, metamorphic granofels, and metasedimentary and metaigneous schists. The bedrock alignment trends northwest-southeast through the Town. Refer to Figure 2-4 for a depiction of the bedrock geology in the Town of Wolcott.

The five primary bedrock formations in the Town (from north to south) are Southington Mountain Member of the Straits Schist, The Straits Schist, Collinsville Formation, Taine Mountain Formation, and a granitic gneiss formation believed to be from the Ordovician period:

Figure 2-4: Wolcott Bedrock Geology



Source: "Roads", GDT
 "Town Boundary", "Bedrock Geology", DGP
 For general planning purposes only. Delineations may not be exact.
 January 2007

Bedrock outcrops are difficult to find in Wolcott due to the forested nature of the Town, although outcrops can be found at higher elevations and on hilltops. Figure 2-4 also depicts the location of known fault lines in the Town of Wolcott.

Faults are active.

Highlands and stretches from Milford northwards into Massachusetts. None of these Western Border Fault is a large fault extending along the eastern edge of the Western Jurassic period and converge with the Western Border Fault outside of Wolcott. The Beecher Road area north-northeast into the City of Bristol. All of these faults trace to the boundary of Town before passing into Southington. The third fault extends from the these faults run parallel to each other along Southington Mountain on the southeastern Three major high-angle faults exist in the eastern portion of Town, all unnamed. Two of

dolerite, extends into Wolcott from the northwest corner of Cheshire.

- An intrusion of Butress Dolerite, a basalt-like dark-gray, brown- to gray-weathering schist, and
- The Trap Falls Formation, a gray to silvery, partly rusty-weathering, medium-grained

Town:

In addition, two other small areas of bedrock exist in the southeastern corner of the

- The Ordovician granitic gneiss is composed of light-colored, foliated granitic gneiss. granofels, and
- The Taine Mountain Formation consists of gray, medium-grained, well-laminated and dark, fine- to medium-grained amphibolite and hornblende gneiss.
- The Collinsville Formation is a gray and silvery, medium- to coarse-grained schist
- The Straits Schist is a silvery to gray, coarse-grained schist.
- The Southington Mountain Member of the Straits Schist is a gray to silvery, medium-grained schist and granofels.
- The Southington Mountain Member of the Straits Schist is a gray to silvery, medium

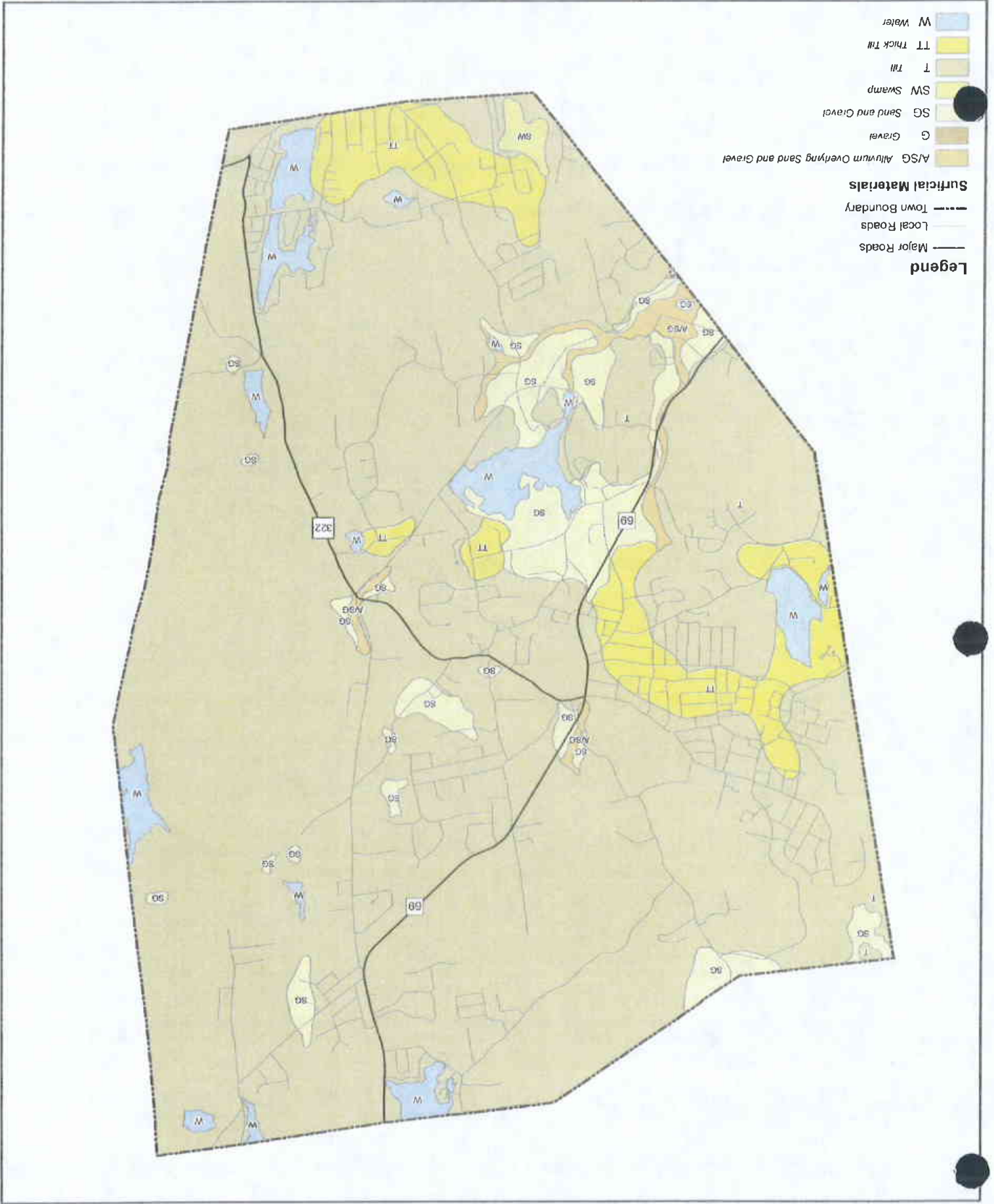
At least twice in the late Pleistocene, continental ice sheets moved across Connecticut. As a result, surficial geology of the Town is characteristic of the depositional environments that occurred during glacial and postglacial periods. Refer to Figure 2-5 for a depiction of surficial geology.

A vast area of the Town is covered by glacial till. Tills contain an unsorted mixture of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders deposited by glaciers as a ground moraine. This area includes nearly all of Wolcott with the exception of the river valleys associated with the Mad River and its tributary streams. Stratified sand and gravel ("stratified drift") areas are associated with the major rivers and brooks throughout the Town. These deposits accumulated by glacial meltwater streams during the outwash period following the latest glacial recession.

With regard to soil types, approximately 76% of the Town falls within the Canton and Chariton soils (3,449 acres), Chariton-Chatfield complex (2,491 acres), Sutton fine sandy loam (1,714 acres), Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman soils (1,399 acres), and Hollis-Chatfield rock outcrop complex (1,236 acres). The remainder of the Town has soil types of consisting primarily of various fine to gravely sandy loams, swamps, water, and Udothents (disturbed soils underlying urban and built up lands where the original soil type is no longer easily identified). The following soil descriptions are taken in part from the official series descriptions from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) website.

□ The Canton and Chariton soils consists of very deep, well-drained soils formed in a loamy mantle underlain by sandy till with stones and boulders often present. The soils are found on nearly level to steep glaciated plains, hills, and ridges. Slope ranges from zero to 35 percent. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high in the solum and high or very high in the substratum.

Figure 2-5: Wolcott Surficial Geology



The amount of stratified drift present in the Town is important for several reasons. The stratified drift could be used in the future to provide drinking water via pumping wells. With regard to inland flooding, areas of stratified materials are generally coincident with inland floodplains. This is because these materials were deposited at lower elevations by glacial streams, and these valleys later were inherited by the larger of our present-day

bedrock ranges from ten to 40 inches with outcrops present. The Hollis-Chatfield rock outcrop complex consists of shallow, well-drained and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in a thin mantle of till derived mainly from gneiss, schist, and granite. They are nearly level to very steep upland soils on bedrock-controlled hills and ridges. Slope ranges from three to 45 percent. Depth to bedrock ranges from ten to 40 inches with outcrops present.

□ Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman soils consist of somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, nearly level or gently sloping soils formed in compact glacial till. These soils occupy wet, low-lying areas. Slope ranges from zero to 3 percent. Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil but is slow or very slow to moderately rapid in the substratum.

□ The Sutton series consists of very deep, moderately well drained loamy soils formed in till. They are nearly level to strongly sloping soils on plains, low ridges, and hills. Slope ranges from zero to 15 percent. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high to high.

□ The Charlton-Chatfield series consists of moderately deep to deep, well-drained, and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in glacial till. They are very nearly level to very steep soils on glaciated plains, hills, and ridges. The soil is often stony or very stony. Slope ranges from three to 45 percent. Crystalline bedrock is at depths of 20 to 40 inches. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high to high in the mineral soil.

The hydrology of the town of Wolcott is dominated by the Mad River watershed and spotted with several lakes and ponds and numerous streams, most of which are unnamed. Only a few of the stream corridors are prone to chronic flooding because of the large

2.5 Drainage Basins and Hydrology

By comparison, average annual state-wide precipitation based on more than 100 years of record is nearly the same, at 45 inches. However, average annual precipitation in Connecticut has been increasing by 0.95 inches per decade since the end of the 19th century (Miller et. al., 2002; NCDC, 2005). Likewise, total annual precipitation in the Town has increased over time. The continued increase in precipitation only heightens the need for hazard mitigation planning, as the occurrence of floods may change in accordance with the greater precipitation.

Wolcott has an agreeable climate, characterized by moderate but distinct seasons. The average mean temperature is approximately 48 degrees, with summer temperatures in the mid-80s and winter temperatures in the upper 20's to mid-30s, Fahrenheit. Extreme conditions raise summer temperatures to near 100 degrees and winter temperatures to below zero. Median snowfall is just less than 42 inches per year as measured at Wolcott Reservoir weather station in Wolcott (NCDC, 2007). Median annual precipitation is 44 inches, spread evenly over the course of a year.

2.4 Climate

streams and rivers. However, smaller glacial till watercourses can also cause flooding, such as those in northern, central, and southern Wolcott. The amount of stratified drift also has bearing on the relative intensity of earthquakes and the likelihood of soil subsidence in areas of fill. These topics will be discussed in later sections.

Most of the northeastern section of Wolcott (3.43 square miles) lies within the Eight Mile River basin. The Eight Mile River basin is comprised of 14.75 square miles in Wolcott, Bristol, and Southington. Its headwaters are located in southeastern Bristol near Redstone Hill, and it flows in a southern direction across Southington through Gramis Pond before emptying into the Quinnipiac River near the Village of Plantsville in Southington.

Eight Mile River

The unnamed brooks leaving these two ponds join together and flow northeast into Bristol, joining the Pequabuck River near the High School after draining a total of 2.18 square miles. The Pequabuck River then flows east into Farmington to join the Farmington River, draining a total of 57.77 square miles across the towns of Farmington, Plainville, Bristol, Wolcott, Plymouth, Harwinton, and Burlington.

A very small portion (69.29 acres, 0.11 square miles) of the Pequabuck River basin lies within the Town of Wolcott at the northeastern edge of the town. This drainage basin makes up 0.51% of Wolcott's land area and drains into either Dunham Millpond on the border of Wolcott and the City of Bristol, or to an unnamed pond just northeast of Cedar Swamp Pond in Bristol. Both of these ponds are impounded by dams.

Pequabuck River

The Town lies within seven major drainage basins corresponding to the Pequabuck River, the Eight Mile River, the Ten Mile River, the Naugatuck River, Hancock Brook, Beaver Pond Brook, and the Mad River. These are described below.

impoundments that exist in the watershed, and the fact that the floodplains and channels have been less developed in this residential town than in neighboring communities.

While the majority of the land area in Wolcott drains into the Naugatuck River, only a small portion (35.73 acres, 0.05 square miles) drains directly to the Naugatuck River

Naugatuck River

The Ten Mile River has its source in the Town of Prospect as the outflow of the Cheshire Reservoir at the Cheshire Reservoir Dam. The Ten Mile River flows north and northeast into and across Cheshire through several impoundments before being joined by Judd Brook and then empties into the Quimipiac River near Milldale. In total, the Ten Mile River drains 20,261 square miles across Prospect, Waterbury, Cheshire, Wolcott, and Southington.

A small portion (1.70 square miles) of the Ten Mile River basin lies within the southeastern boundary of Wolcott, and this section is drained by Harwinton Brook. Harwinton Brook drains into the Southington Reservoir in southeastern Wolcott. The outflow becomes Judd Brook. Judd Brook joins the Ten Mile River just above its confluence with the Quimipiac River, and drains a total of 5.53 square miles making up 8.06% of Wolcott's land area.

Ten Mile River

The Eight Mile River basin comprises 16.26% of the land area of Wolcott, and there are several streams in the town which drain into the major tributaries of the Eight Mile River. These streams include the North and South Branches of Hamlin Brook, which flow east into Southington and Dayton Brook; Roaring Brook, which flows southeast through two impoundments (Beecher Road Pond and the Wolcott Reservoir) before entering Southington and joining Dayton Brook; and Cussgutter Brook, which flows east into Southington and then into the Eight Mile River. Most of the lakes and ponds within this drainage basin are impounded by dams, and the majority of the stream corridor is undeveloped.

Two very small portions (31.89 total acres, 0.05 total square miles) of the drainage basin of Beaver Pond Brook lie within the town boundary of southern Wolcott. This combined area comprises only 0.24% of the land area of Wolcott, and is primarily residential.

Beaver Pond Brook

Hancock Brook flows southwest through Plymouth before entering the northern part of Waterbury, eventually joining with the Naugatuck River above Steele Brook. The brook drains 12.34 square miles before entering Waterbury, and its total basin area is 15.39 square miles. The Hancock Pond Dam, the Lake Wegunapauset Dam, and the Reidville Industrial Park Dam all impound waters in the basin of Hancock Brook in Plymouth.

The relatively undeveloped northwestern corner of Wolcott drains into Hancock Brook, which has its headwaters in the City of Bristol. The area draining to Hancock Brook in Wolcott measures one square mile, comprising 4.75% of the Wolcott's land area, and draining into unnamed streams that flow northwest into the Town of Plymouth.

Hancock Brook

history:
within the boundaries of the state. The Naugatuck River is well-known for its industrial 31.16 square miles. It is the only major river in Connecticut that has its headwaters miles to meet the Housatonic River in the City of Derby, giving it a total basin area of The Naugatuck River originates near the City of Torrington and winds south almost 40 area of Great Brook is 3.33 square miles, and most of this brook is in urban Waterbury. joining the Naugatuck River just above the mouth of the Mad River. The total drainage Brook flows southwest from the reservoir and through several impoundments before of the land area in Wolcott, and draining into Great Brook Reservoir in Waterbury. Great basin. This area is in the western part of the town near Chestnut Hill, comprising 0.26%

Beaver Pond Brook has its headwaters in a swamp near Milloy Road in the southwestern corner of Cheshire. It flows in a westerly direction into the southeastern part of Waterbury, eventually discharging into the Mad River. The total drainage area of Beaver Pond Brook is 5.58 square miles, encompassing parts of Wolcott, Cheshire, Prospect, and Waterbury. While there are no dams of note along the reach of Beaver Pond Brook, there are dams on its tributaries: Waterbury Reservoir Dam #2 on the Waterbury / Prospect Reservoir in Prospect above Turkey Hill Brook; the East Mountain Reservoir Dam above East Mountain Brook; and Daigle / DeBishop Pond Dam on Daigle / DeBishop Pond that also outlets into East Mountain Brook.

Mad River

The majority of the land area in Wolcott (14.79 square miles, 69.93% of total land area) lies within the Mad River drainage basin. The majority of Wolcott is only lightly developed, but there are many dams present in the town that serve flood control and recreational purposes.

The Mad River drains a total of 0.48 square miles in Bristol before entering Wolcott at Cedar Swamp Pond and has its headwaters at the Cedar Swamp Pond Dam. Several unnamed streams and Break Hill Brook drain to the Mad River upstream of the Scovill Reservoir. The Mad River is joined by Lindsley Brook in the Scovill Reservoir before passing through the Scovill Reservoir Dams and being joined by Lily Brook. Downstream of the confluence of Lily Brook and the Mad River, the river flows southwest to the Waterbury city line where it is joined by Old Tannery Brook. The Mad River drains a total area of 15.8 square miles at the confluence of the Mad River and Old Tannery Brook near the Waterbury city line.

The Mad River continues in a westerly direction through the City of Waterbury, eventually discharging into the Naugatuck River. In total, the Mad River drains 25.93

square miles across Bristol, Cheshire, Plymouth, Prospect, Waterbury, and Wolcott. The river is heavily impounded with 25 registered dams within its drainage basin, and 18 of these are located in the Town of Wolcott.

2.6 Population and Demographic Setting

The total CNV Region population as indicated in the 2000 Census is 272,594 persons. The total land area is 309 square miles, for a regional population density of 882 persons per square mile. Wolcott has a population density of 745 individuals per square mile. By comparison, Waterbury has the highest population density in the region with 3,757 individuals per square mile; and Bethlehem has the lowest population density in the region with 177 individuals per square mile (Table 2-2).

Table 2-2
Population Density by Municipality, Region and State, 2000

Municipality	Total Population	Land Area (square miles)	Population Density
Beacon Falls	5,246	9.77	537
Bethlehem	3,422	19.36	177
Cheshire	28,543	32.90	868
Middlebury	6,451	17.75	363
Naugatuck	30,989	16.39	1,891
Oxford	9,821	32.88	299
Prospect	8,707	14.32	608
Southbury	18,567	39.05	475
Thomaston	7,503	12.01	625
Waterbury	107,271	28.55	3,757
Watertown	21,661	29.15	743
Wolcott	15,215	20.43	745
Woodbury	9,198	36.46	252
CNV Region	272,594	309.02	882
Connecticut	3,405,565	4844.80	703

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1

In addition to Town Council and the Mayor, there are boards, commissions and committees providing input and direction to Town Council and Town administrators. Also, town departments provide municipal services and day-to-day administration. Many of these commissions and departments play a role in hazard mitigation, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Civil Preparedness and Local Emergency Planning Commission, the Building Official, the Fire Department and the Police Department and the Public Works and Engineering Department.

The Town of Wolcott is governed by a Mayor-Council form of government with nine council members elected at large from the three voting districts. The Town Council serves as the legislative body of the Town, responsible for policy, ordinances, and the general operating and capital budgets.

Governmental Structure

2.7

Wolcott has populations of people who are elderly, linguistically isolated, and/or disabled. These are depicted by census block on Figures 2-6, 2-7, and 2-8. The populations with these characteristics have numerous implications for hazard mitigation, as they may require special assistance or different means of notification before disasters occur. These will be addressed as needed in subsequent sections.

Wolcott is 71st out of 169 municipalities in Connecticut in terms of population, with an estimated population of 15,215 in 2000. The town is the 56th most densely populated municipality in the state. The population of Wolcott increased by 41% between 1960 and 1970, while growth dropped to 4% from 1970-80 and rose again to 11% from 1990-2000. According to the 2000 Census of Population and Housing from the United States Census Bureau, the median value of owner-occupied housing in the Town of Wolcott was \$143,400, which is lower than the statewide median value of \$166,900.

Figure 2-6: Wolcott Elderly Population

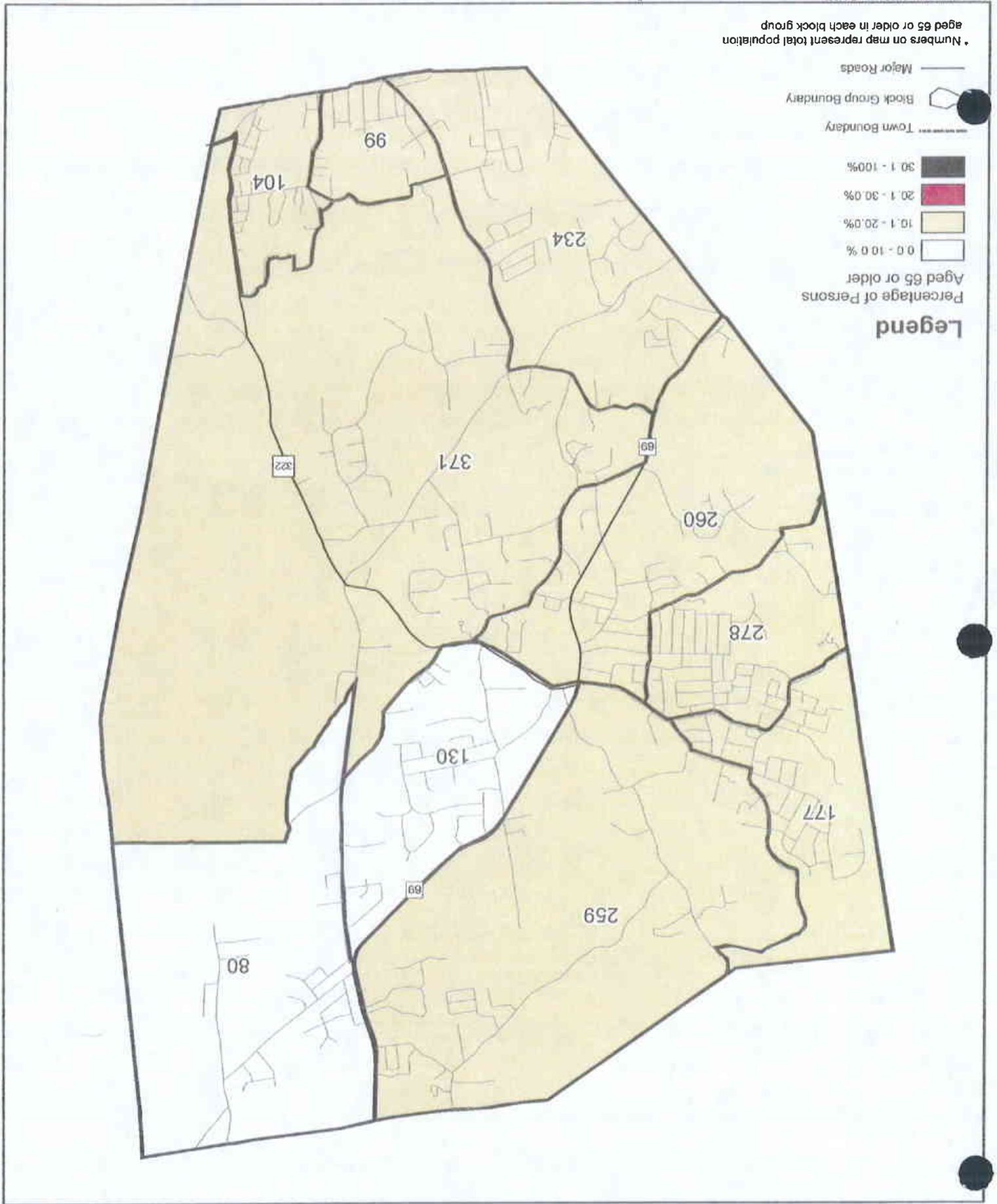


Figure 2-7: Wolcott Linguistically Isolated Households

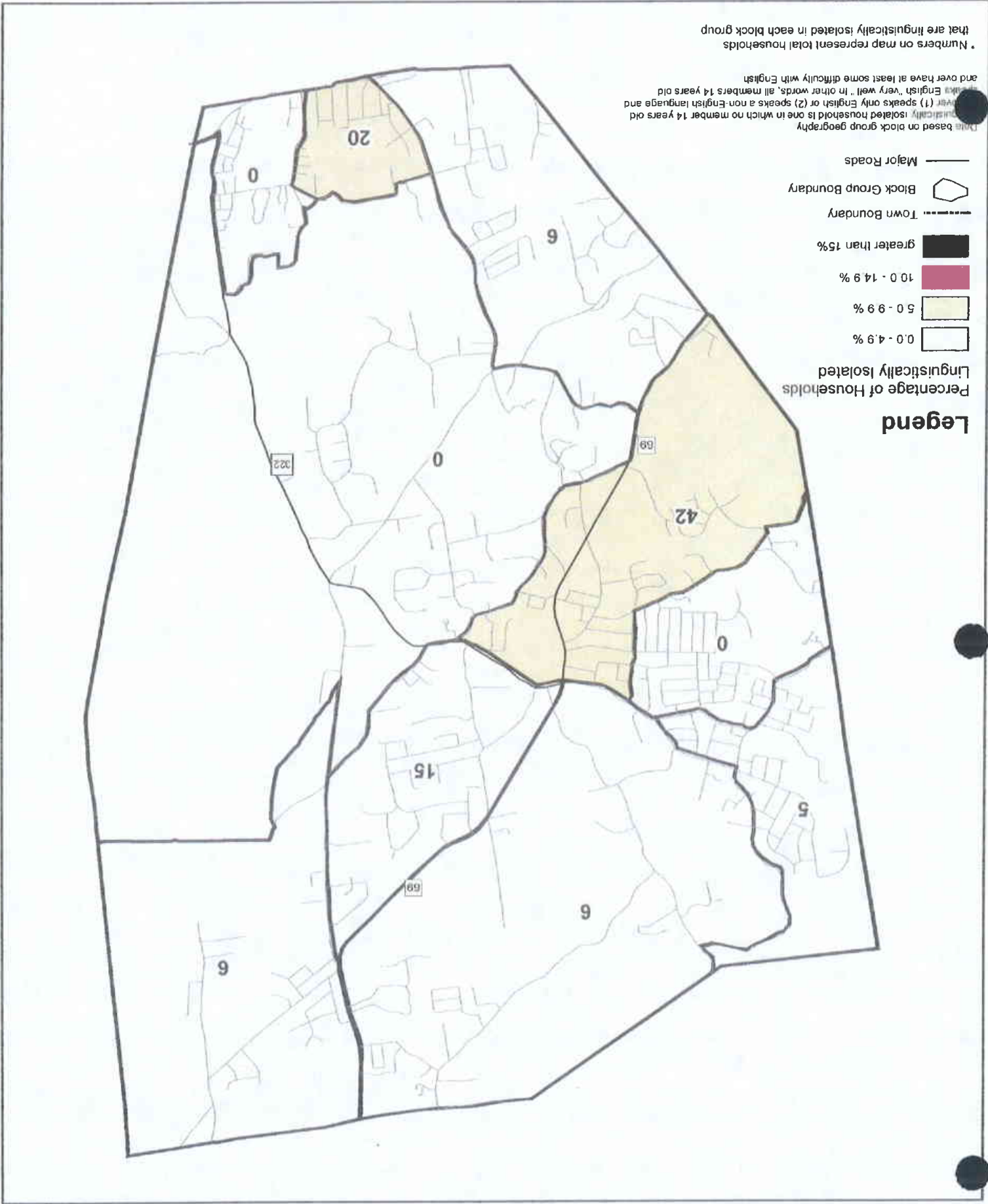
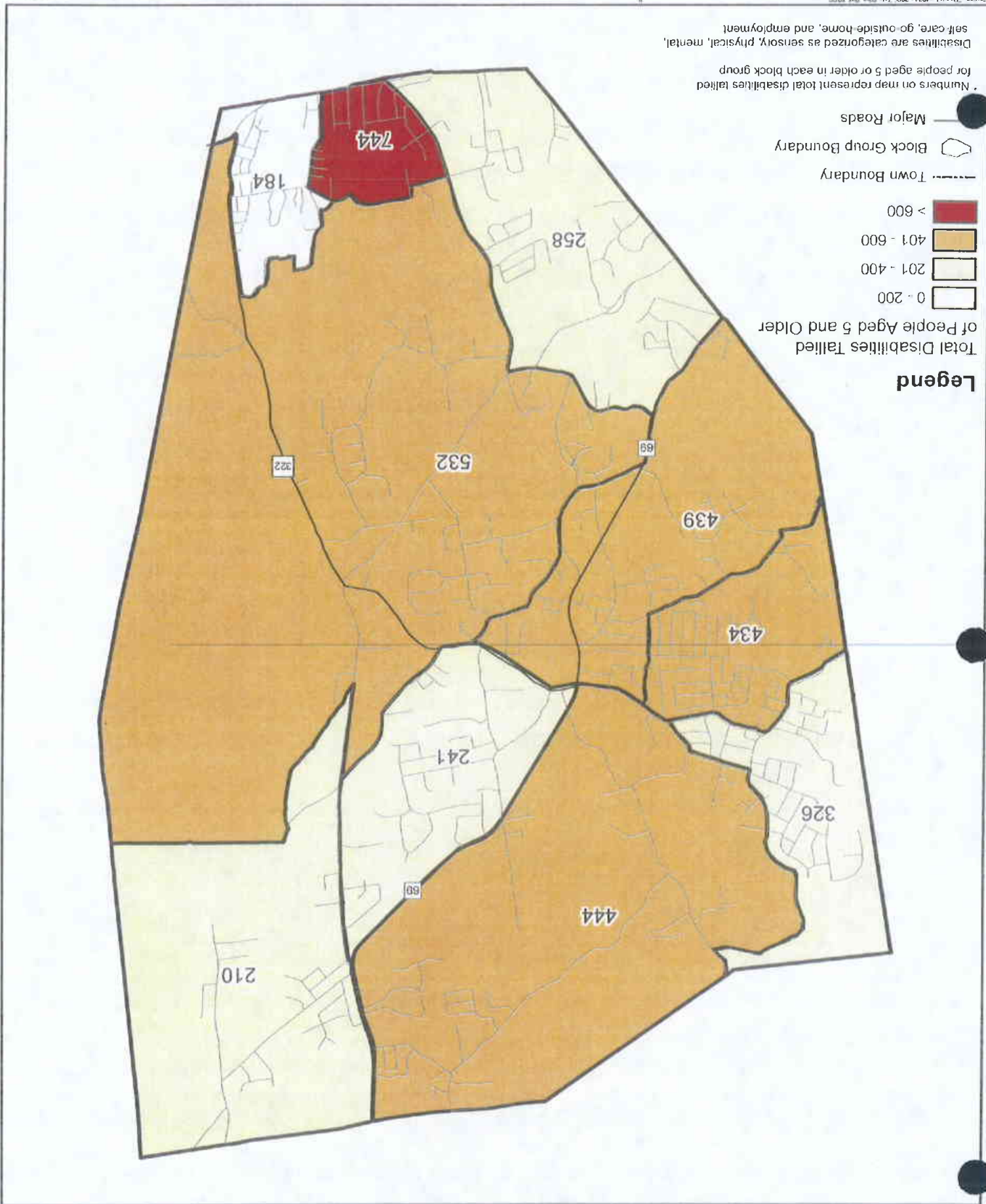


Figure 2-8: Wolcott Disabilities Map



Complaints related to Town maintenance issues are routed to Zoning or the Department of Public Works. These complaints are usually received via phone, fax, mail, or email and are recorded in a book. The complaints are investigated as necessary until remediation surrounding the individual complaint is concluded.

2.8 Development Trends

Following its incorporation in 1796, limited industry in the form of mills and manufacturing developed in Wolcott. Agricultural production was largely limited to dairy farms due to Wolcott's steep terrain and gravelly soils. The first half of the 20th century saw increasing residential development with the improvement of the regional roadway network. Until 1933, the Waterbury & Middale Tramway provided transportation along the southern border of Wolcott between Southington and Waterbury. Suburbanization increased dramatically in the 1960s as Wolcott became a popular location for workers commuting to nearby employment centers.

Residential development has slowed in recent years as the available land is characterized by steep topography. From 1997-2005, an average of about 67 single-family permits were issued on an annual basis.

Cul-de-sacs in new developments are discouraged and connectivity of roads is encouraged. Subdivisions featuring cul-de-sacs offer a single access point for emergency services, lengthening emergency response times and rendering those residential areas vulnerable if access is cut off by flooding or downed tree limbs. The Town of Wolcott requires a 60-foot right of way at the end of dead end streets, and dead end streets can have only 12 homes or less. In addition, utilities serving new developments must be installed underground. Exceptions due to shallow bedrock are granted on a case-by-case basis.

The Town considers its police, fire, governmental, and major transportation facilities to be its most important critical facilities, for these are needed to ensure that emergencies are addressed while day-to-day management of Wolcott continues. Convalescent homes are included with critical facilities, as these house populations of individuals that would require special assistance during an emergency. Educational institutions are included in critical facilities as well, as these can be used as shelters. There are also two electric substations in Wolcott, one near Fritsbie Elementary School and the other on Route 69 near Mad River Road.

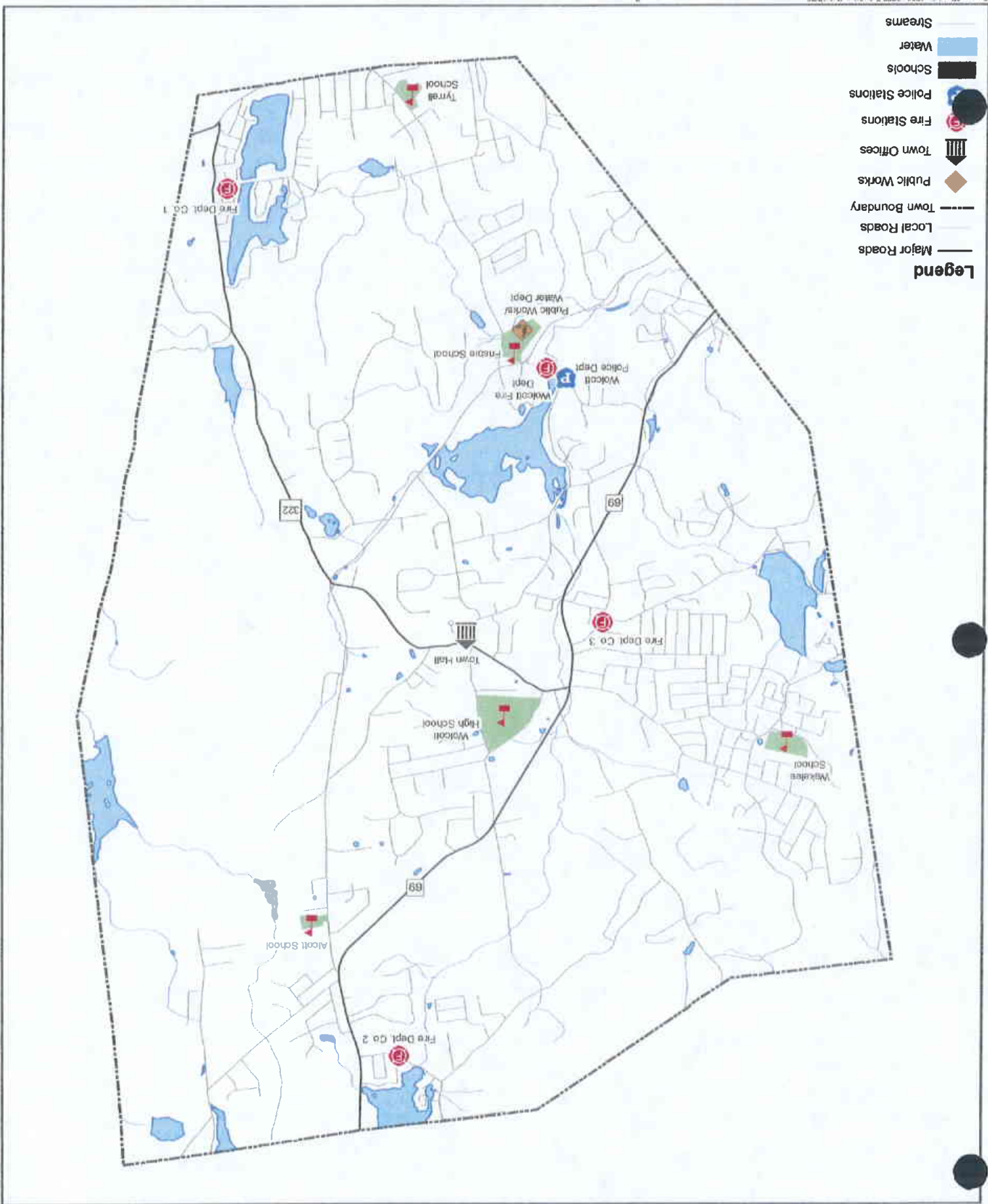
A map of critical facilities is shown in Figure 2-9, and the associated list of critical facilities is provided in Table 2-3. Shelters, transportation, communications, and the public water system are described in more detail below.

Table 2-3
Critical Facilities in Wolcott

Type	Name	Address	Located in Floodplain?
Convalescent Home	Wolcott View Manor	50 Beach Rd	No
Public Works	Public Works, Water Dept.	48 Todd Road	No
Fire Dept	Fire Department Company #1	395 Central Ave	No
Fire Dept	Fire Department Company #2	North St	No
Fire Dept	Fire Department Company #3	Lyman Rd	No
Fire Dept	Wolcott Fire Dept	225 Nichols Rd	No
Police Sta.	Wolcott Police Dept	225 Nichols Rd	No
School	Alcott School	1490 Woodtick Rd	No
School	Fritsbie School (tertiary shelter)	24 Todd Rd	No
School	Tyrell School (primary shelter)	500 Todd Rd	No
School	Wakelee School (secondary shelter)	12 Hemple Dr	No
School	Wolcott High School	457 Bound Line Rd	No
Town Office	Wolcott Town Offices	10 Kenea Ave	No

Source: Council of Governments Central Naugatuck Valley

Figure 2-9: Wolcott Critical Facilities



March 2008
 For general planning purposes only. Definitions may not be exact.
 "Critical Facilities: COGNAN"
 "Hydrography: Town Boundary: DEP"
 SOURCE: "TERRA" 1994 - 2000 "MAP ALTA" 1994 - 2000

