

HANCOCK COUNTY ME HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2018 UPDATE

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Hancock County, Maine, decided to complete a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan to include and incorporate each of its member towns. This is due to the fact that the majority of these communities are too small to complete such an undertaking on their own. This county-wide mitigation planning effort encouraged agencies at all levels, local residents, businesses, and the non-profit sector to participate in the mitigation planning and implementation process. This broader public participation enabled the development of mitigation measures that are supported by these various stakeholders and reflects the needs of the county-wide community.

The Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team decided to review only natural hazards at this time. The Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan includes the following sections:

- Plan Adoption
- Planning Process
- Risk Assessment
- Mitigation Strategy
- Plan Maintenance

Geographic Features

Hancock County, covering 2,351 square miles, has 67.5% land cover or 1,588 square miles and 32.5% water cover. Forests cover approximately 70% of the land area. It boasts the longest coastline of any Maine county, 952.7 miles. The major routes connecting Hancock County to its neighboring Counties of Penobscot to the north, Washington to the east and Waldo to the west are State Routes 15 & 3, and US routes 1 and 1A. The boundary to the south is the Atlantic Ocean, especially for the towns of Penobscot, Blue Hill and Frenchman Bay. The Penobscot and the Union Rivers flow through Hancock County the ocean.

Topographical features identified by the US Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, lists Hancock County as having the following: 35 beaches, 270 named ponds and lakes, and 235 named hills and mountains. The most notable of the mountains is Cadillac Mountain which is located in Acadia National Park, the only national park in Maine and the entire New England region. Cadillac Mountain is the highest point in Maine's coastal region. The park attracts an estimated 2.5 million visitors from spring to fall each year. Many of the County's 270 lakes and ponds are reached only by tote roads or by hiking trails.

Hancock County is made up of thirty-six towns, one city (Ellsworth), and a portion of the State's Unorganized Territory (UT) which contains fifteen Unorganized Townships. The State of Maine and Hancock County Commissioners are responsible for the governance of the UT.

County Government

The Hancock County Seat is located in Ellsworth, Maine. The County Government consists of County Sheriff's Department and County Jail, County Administrator's Office, County Treasurer's, Registrar of Deeds, Registrar of Probate, District Attorney and the Emergency Management Agency. The municipalities are responsible for tax collection, road maintenance and snow removal, refuse collection, land use planning, code enforcement, animal control, fire protection, and cemetery maintenance.

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Local Units of Government

The structure and function of local town government is somewhat unique to Maine. It has been shaped by governments in its parent, Massachusetts, and has been further modified to reflect its population density.

Cities. All cities in Maine have local charters granted by the Maine Legislature that provide for a representative form of government - meaning they have a city council that serves as the legislative body. The city council is elected by and answerable to the citizens. The office of mayor varies considerably from city to city, with only a few acting as chief executive officer. Some mayors are elected by the vote of the people, while others are elected by a vote of their fellow councilors. Ellsworth is the only city in Hancock County.

Towns remain the cornerstone of local government. A Maine community becomes a town when it is incorporated by a special act of the legislature. At that time, it is given certain privileges and responsibilities. Under Home Rule, towns may take any action or change their form of government in any way not denied or precluded by state or federal law. The voters of the town constitute its legislative body. Day-to-day governance of towns has expanded from the original board of selectmen to include town managers, town councils, budget committees, municipal departments and various professional managers. In a small number of mostly larger towns, the council exerts legislative control without a town meeting. In others, a ballot vote is used to approve the budget rather than the open town meeting.

Townships/Unorganized Territory have no local government. They are grouped together in the Unorganized Territory. Provision of services and property tax administration for the UT is shared among various State and County agencies. Law enforcement and public road maintenance is the County's responsibility. Taxes are paid to the State Property Tax Division. The State's Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) is the planning and zoning authority for the UTs. Some services are provided by contract with nearby towns and school districts.

A map of towns, plantations and the Unorganized Territory is shown on the last page of Section 1.

Industries/Major Employers

The majority of the coastal communities rely heavily on both the fishery and tourist industries. Agriculture, of which the blueberry industry is prominent, and forestry also contribute to the economy. The largest employers in the County are Jackson Lab, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, Mt. Desert Island Hospital and Hinckley Company. Jackson Laboratory and MDI Biological Lab are noted research facilities and are located in Bar Harbor with an additional lab site coming to Ellsworth by repurposing a former "big box" store. There are two notable institutions of higher education, Maine Maritime Academy, located in the center of Town of Castine and the College of the Atlantic, located in the Town of Bar Harbor.

Population

As shown in Table 1, below, Hancock County has a small population which has grown at a rate faster than the state rate over the past 50+ years. Between 1970 and 1980, the County's population grew by 21%. From 1980 to 1990, the County grew by 12%. The rate of growth declined by 10% and 5%, respectively, over the next two decades, but in each decade, the County's growth rate exceeded that of the State.

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Table 1 Population of Hancock County and Maine 1960 - 2010		
Year	Hancock County	Maine
1960	32,293	970,689
1970	34,590	992,048
1980	41,781	1,124,660
1990	46,948	1,227,928
2000	51,791	1,274,923
2010	54,418	1,328,361
1970-80 change	21%	13%
1980-90 change	12%	9%
1990-00 change	10%	4%
2000-10 change	5%	4%

As shown in Table 2, of the 37 communities that are profiled in this plan, 16 of them have year round populations of less than 1,000. Only four towns have more than 2,500 year round residents including Bar Harbor (5,235), Blue Hill (2,686), Bucksport (4,924) and Ellsworth (7,741). The overall density of the County is 34.3 persons per square mile which is less than half the national density of 87.4 persons per square mile.

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**Table 2
Population of Hancock County Municipalities -2010**

Town	Year-Round Population	Median Age	Density/ sq. mile	Total Homes	Occupied Homes	Household Size
Amherst	265	47.4	6.7	174	121	2.22
Aurora	114	39.3	3.0	105	46	2.53
Bar Harbor	5,235	45.3	123.9	3,495	2,427	2.28
Blue Hill	2,686	49.5	43.0	1,936	1,279	2.18
Brooklin	824	52.9	46.0	874	397	2.09
Brooksville	934	53.0	30.0	934	437	2.15
Bucksport	4,924	43.3	95.5	2,551	2,135	2.44
Castine	1,366	22.2	175.6	704	380	2.16
Cranberry Isles	141	47.7	44.5	375	70	2.05
Dedham	1,681	46.2	42.7	1,254	702	2.43
Deer Isle	1,975	51.6	66.5	1,936	929	2.19
Eastbrook	423	46.8	12.7	504	186	2.28
Ellsworth	7,741	41.9	97.6	4,240	3,305	2.44
Franklin	1,483	44.6	40.7	1,043	652	2.25
Frenchboro	61	27.2	12.7	76	21	2.82
Gouldsboro	1,737	50.3	37.6	1,442	773	2.24
Great Pond	58	50.3	1.5	85	26	2.09
Hancock	2,394	44.0	79.7	1,437	1,044	2.26
Lamoine	1,602	48.0	89.9	994	712	2.27
Mariaville	513	43.5	13.3	416	208	2.47
Mount Desert	2,053	50.7	55.7	2,287	984	2.17
Orland	2,225	47.3	47.3	1,470	976	2.26
Osborn	67	48.5	1.9	122	29	2.37
Otis	672	47.1	27.1	744	299	2.3
Penobscot	1,263	51.9	31.7	883	593	2.11
Sedgwick	1,196	45.9	44.3	800	529	2.31
Sorrento	274	52.5	68.7	314	141	1.87
Southwest Harbor	1,764	47.2	130.6	1,484	835	2.21
Stonington	1,043	50.7	106.3	993	515	2.08
Sullivan	1,236	44.7	46.3	806	528	2.32
Surry	1,466	49.0	39.7	1,119	673	2.17
Swans Island	332	46.3	26.8	483	146	2.39
Tremont	1,563	48.5	92.9	1,260	723	2.24
Trenton	1,481	45.8	81.5	1,021	663	2.33
Verona Island	544	47.3	87.2	292	238	2.28
Waltham	353	47.2	11.9	206	150	2.35
Winter Harbor	516	51.1	35.9	519	255	2.09
Unorganized	213	-	0.5	806	94	-
Total Hancock Co.	54,418	46.3	34.3	40,184	24,221	2.28

Source: U.S. Census 2010

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Table 3 shows key demographic characteristics for Hancock County, the State of Maine and the U.S. Note that Hancock County's population is older than that of Maine and the U.S., as indicated by median age (46.3 years, compared to 42.7 and 37.2, respectively), and the percentage of persons age 65 and older (18.3%, compared to 15.9% and 13.0%). The median household income in Hancock County (\$47,030) is less than that of the State (\$49,331) and U.S. (\$53,889).

Table 3 Demographic Summary			
Measure	Hancock County - 2010	Maine - 2010	USA - 2010
Population			
Total Population	54,418	1,328,361	308,745,538
% White	98.0	96.7	74.8
% Black	0.7	1.6	13.6
% American Indian	1.0	1.4	1.7
% Asian	1.1	1.4	5.6
% Hispanic Origin	1.1	1.3	16.3
Households			
Total Households	24,221	553,284	116,926,305
Family Households	14,834	350,621	77,538,296
Average Household Size	2.20	2.34	2.64
Income			
American Community Survey 2011-2015:			
Median Household Income (\$)	\$47,030	\$49,331	\$53,889
Persons below poverty, %	11.5	13.4	13.5
Sex and Age			
Median Age, Total Population	46.3	42.7	37.2
% Female	51.0	51.1	50.8
% Male	49.0	48.9	49.2
% Under 5 Years	4.8	5.2	6.5
% 18 Years and over	81.7	79.3	76.0
% 65 Years and over	18.3	15.9	13.0
Population Density (persons/sq. mi.)	34.3	43.1	87.4

Source: U.S. Census 2010 Table DP-1 and American Community Survey 2011-2015

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COUNTY MAP

Political Subdivisions and Major Routes

Hancock County, Maine

