

Resilience Priorities Guide

For many communities completing the MVP 2.0 process, it has been approximately five years since your community developed your original MVP 1.0 priorities. In that time, your community resilience priorities have likely evolved, based on progress towards those priorities, new information, or additional planning efforts. In particular, as you continue to get input from the wider community, and specifically from people who will be most impacted by climate change, it is likely that your community priorities may *need to evolve* to meet community resilience needs. It will be critical that your community resilience priorities reflect what you are hearing from Environmental Justice (EJ) and other priority populations in your community or region.

Using this tool, you will **1) reflect on your findings** from the Uncovering Social Resilience process and the significant factors that create vulnerability and resilience for people in your community, **2) reflect on your resilience priorities** that were identified as part of the MVP 1.0 process, **3) reset your priorities**, given the additional insight you have gathered from the community and any changes or progress since your priorities were last set, and **4) vet the priorities** with the community. Resetting your priorities may include adding new priorities, removing old priorities, or revising or expanding upon existing priorities. The “Resilience Priorities Guide” below is what you’ll use to document your process.

For more guidance on revisiting your resilience priorities, see Step 5 in the MVP 2.0 Process Guide.

What makes a good priority?

Community resilience priorities make your community’s intentions explicit. They build transparency in what the community is working towards, which allows for tracking progress towards those aims and adjusting those aims when needed.

In the context of the MVP Program, a community resilience priority should fall between a big picture goal and a very specific project or project phase. It needs to be specific enough to be actionable, while still providing longer-term direction. It may take a number of years and a number of projects to fully meet your priority. If you have gathered specific action ideas from the community, feel free to list them as possibilities underneath the priority. You will use your priorities to flesh out a specific project in the next step of the MVP 2.0 process – Selecting a Seed Project. Consider the examples below:

Example Community Resilience Priorities	
Too broad:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Address flooding caused by heavy rain events ● Reduce impacts from extreme heat ● Expand food justice and food security
Too narrow:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create design plans to upgrade the culvert on North Street ● Plant trees near the bus stops on Main Street
Right level of focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority 1: Reduce flood risk in the Eastside Neighborhood through policies, projects, and initiatives with residents that increase flood resilience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Actions could include regulatory changes, dam removal, an education and home retrofit program with homeowners and renters. ● Priority 2: Expand tree canopy within targeted areas prioritized by EJ and other priority populations. ● Priority 3: Improve access to healthy and affordable food through expanding food access points and payment options and reducing transportation barriers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Actions could include expanding farmers market locations, introducing a bike share program, working with vendors to accept SNAP payments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority 4: Expand carbon neutral, resilient, and affordable housing options in the community or region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Actions could include doing an assessment of vacant properties, establishing a program to implement resilience upgrades to affordable housing. ● Priority 5: Integrate trainings, education, and awareness around equity and climate justice within local government, organizations, and school curricula. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Actions could include working with the school board to integrate climate resilience curricula into K-8 schools, requiring equity and climate justice trainings for all municipal staff.
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Reflecting on Community Findings

Spend some time reviewing and reflecting on what you heard and learned through the Uncovering Social Resilience process (i.e., MVP 2.0 Step 4). Use your findings from each of the sections in Part B of the Social Resilience Roadmap to fill out the table below. As you identify priorities, consider:

- What are some of the assets or existing resources that already support community resilience? How could those be supported, expanded, or strengthened?
- What are some of the key factors that contribute to vulnerability for people who live and work in your community or region? What would it take to address that vulnerability?
- How would you describe what community resilience could look like for your community? What would be needed to get there?
- What do these answers tell you about priorities for building resilience in your community?

What will be needed to build community resilience?

	List one to three priorities	What needs further investigation to understand better?
Community	Please see attached document with annotated 1.0 priorities.	
Food + Water		
Housing		
Health		

Jobs + Economy		
Ecosystems		
Transportation		
Infrastructure		

Resetting Community Resilience Priorities

What were your community's resilience priorities from MVP 1.0? If your community has since updated your community resilience priorities in another planning process, use your most recent community resilience priorities instead.

Please see attached document with annotated 1.0 priorities.

How well do the priorities listed directly above align with what you heard through the Uncovering Social Resilience process (i.e., MVP 2.0 Step 4)? What changes should be made, given the additional insight you have gathered from the community and any changes or progress since your priorities were last set? More specifically...

Are there any that no longer feel like priorities? Why?

Please see below for document with annotated 1.0 priorities.

Are there any that should be modified or updated? Why?

Please see below for document with annotated 1.0 priorities.

Are there any that should be added? Why?

Please see below for document with annotated 1.0 priorities.

List your set of updated community resilience priorities below, given the changes you identified.

Who stands to benefit most from addressing each of these priorities? If the answer is “everyone,” how might that continue to reinforce the way that climate change affects certain populations more than others? How could the priorities be updated to make sure they specifically address the needs of people who will be most affected, and help to reduce the disproportionate impacts of climate change?

Communications

- Individuals who are most disconnected from government and local services could benefit most. People who may be least likely to access services and opportunities may be those who benefit and remain connected for future planning and projects.

Cooling

- The full community would benefit from cooling options, though especially EJ communities experiencing the heat island effect.
- Additionally, residents who can't afford to purchase fans or A/Cs, or run them and pay electricity bills, would benefit from expanded cooling center hours.
- Folks with disabilities or complex medical needs are particularly vulnerable to extreme heat days as well.

Housing

- Residents who have limited incomes would benefit if this priority were addressed because there would be more housing options. This includes residents-to-be who may be able to join the community given additional options for a range of incomes.
- Residents across South Hadley would benefit from increased affordable housing because there would be a greater diversity across their population. Additionally, if the town were to hit the threshold for a minimum number of affordable units, all residents would benefit even further.

Is there any risk that these priorities could negatively impact EJ or other priority populations? For example, could the priorities reduce the affordability of living in your community? What steps could be incorporated to mitigate that risk?

Not forecasted at this moment because priorities were chosen to focus on EJ/priority communities.

Vetting the Community Resilience Priorities

Use the Engagement Plan tool to design an approach for sharing and vetting the updated community resilience priorities (and identifying your community's top 10) with community members who will be most impacted by climate change, and specifically those who were involved in the Uncovering Social Resilience process. Attach any documentation or notes from your engagement activities to the end of this document.

What feedback did you hear? Outline any modifications to your community resilience priorities below.

1: Communications

- Suggested an app potentially to address any concern about resources becoming obsolete quickly, since things shift so fast.

2: Trees

- Wondering if Condo associations can apply to have a pocket forest? Or, connect with the Grow Wild South Hadley initiative to promote growing native species. Then, maybe condos could have a pocket plot of land with native species?

3: Housing

- Without housing, people can't consider other things like the climate. If South Hadley can meet residents' basic needs, they may have more time/energy/brain space to join more of these efforts.

Updated Community Resilience Priorities

Based on all the questions in this guide and community feedback, list your final updated community resilience priorities below. If you have more than 10, please list your priority 10 first:

a. Housing

- i. Cost is a significant burden among those we heard from. Housing costs are a burden, not to mention utilities, food, etc. that are also connected to the overall price of staying safe and housed.
- ii. A much smaller group of respondents noted the conditions of housing and the need to ensure options are safe, up to code,


- and accessible.
- iii. Priority: developing ways to make housing more affordable, especially for those with limited incomes.
- b. Extreme Heat
 - i. Concerns about the ongoing impacts of extreme heat and the need for cooling options
 - 1. Especially for residents with limited income
 - 2. South Hadley has cooling centers but they're only open during 'normal' business hours and to shift that would require union negotiations. Residents lifted up that the evenings, past 5-6 pm, can often remain quite hot.
 - ii. Priority: broadening the range of cooling options and ensure infrastructure is there for the inevitable uptick in extreme heat days. Ensure folks without consistent transportation and residents with limited income are considered in any plans.
- c. Communication Needs
 - i. Need for multiple pathways to address a variety of opportunities for improvement
 - 1. Town to resident: Town can effectively get information out to all residents, even without power.
 - 2. Resident to town: in case of emergency, or even under 'normal' circumstances, residents are able to communicate to the appropriate bodies if/when they need something.
 - 3. Resident to resident: opportunities to build community. Especially helpful in case of emergency so if one neighbor doesn't hear about an evacuation route, for example, their neighbors can share the necessary information with them.
 - ii. Priority: develop a way to message what opportunities are available related to clean energy and green initiatives. A central location from a trusted source is needed. Additionally, if residents build skills to search for information using the Town website, that capacity building would help them related to most other topics of future interest.

Documentation of Engagement Activities

Document your outreach and engagement activities that you used to vet your community resilience priorities in the tables below. Feel free to copy and paste the table as many times as needed if you used more than two activities.

Activity 1	
Name of activity:	Community Event
Date(s) of activity:	5/15/24
Brief description of the activity. Who were the participants?	A community event was held with food and gift card incentives to attend.
Add a link to a folder with documentation of the activity (e.g., notes, photos, etc.)	Photos here: 📁 South Hadley 5/15 comm engagement documentation
How successful was this engagement activity? Consider your engagement goals and use the metrics or evaluation approach you outlined in your Engagement Plan to answer this question.	Residents liked the event. We would've liked more attendees, of course. One resident said she didn't expect to like the event but really appreciated that she learned so much and was heard.

Activity 2	
Name of activity:	Community Survey
Date(s) of activity:	March-April
Brief description of the activity. Who were the participants?	Almost 50 hard copy surveys were collected. These were done by Community Liaisons and staff in a variety of ways: friend/neighbor connections, at the Library, at public housing buildings, and at convenings with local groups (like the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee or a local place of worship).

	Additionally, online surveys were attempted but bots/AI generated responses flooded the link.
Add a link to a folder with documentation of the activity (e.g., notes, photos, etc.)	Surveys entered: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TGByVbavOfQHNR8X_JOVrkbyoYp7Npb2aXw_4-BUoX0/edit?usp=sharing Summary of survey can be found in this slide deck from a community event:  MVP Community Event 5.15.pptx
How successful was this engagement activity? Consider your engagement goals and use the metrics or evaluation approach you outlined in your Engagement Plan to answer this question.	Very successful—residents were engaged who had never participated in any previous planning processes or town initiatives. Many respondents shared information and declined the gift card—they just wanted their voice to be added to the process.

Activity 3	
Name of activity:	Community Event
Date(s) of activity:	6/4/24
Brief description of the activity. Who were the participants?	There was an open call for participation. The notice went out widely across the town, and the Community Liaisons did targeted outreach as well.
Add a link to a folder with documentation of the activity (e.g., notes, photos, etc.)	Community meeting photos: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gyIRrYv-YK6ZTGhFC-p9Db9XCwj6yPPR?usp=sharing
How successful was this engagement activity? Consider your engagement goals and use the metrics or evaluation approach you outlined in your Engagement	Residents really appreciated the opportunity to have the conversations and weigh in. There was a sentiment among attendees that this was a great start to a conversation and there need to be more spaces to continue these discussions on an ongoing basis.

Plan to answer this question.	
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Revisited Resilience Priorities: aggregated notes from community discussion and input

MVP 1.0 Community Priorities – May 2020

The following Priorities were pulled from the MVP 1.0 Community Resilience Plan completed in May 2020, and organized based on the 8 topics in the MVP 2.0 Community Resilience Roadmap.

Orientation notes–please read

- Document annotated in blue based on 5/15/24 Community Engagement meeting feedback and comments from small group discussions.
- Under each priority number, "YES" indicates it is still a priority as indicated by the community feedback
- Yellow highlights indicate it was selected as a top priority by a small group assigned to a chunk of priorities

GROUP 1	COMMUNITY	Target Area
1 YES	Develop a neighbor-to-neighbor program to facilitate identification of and support for vulnerable populations and promote assistance between neighbors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage neighbors to create neighborhood specific / not town-wide system 	Communication Vulnerable Populations
2 not a business priority	Develop partnerships with local businesses to distribute information and help facilitate outreach efforts, particularly to vulnerable populations such as senior residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce Council on aging, public library, churches 	Communication Vulnerable Populations
3 YES	The Town operates a CivicReady system that can be used to share information relevant to short-term hazards or expected long-term hazards. The Town also operates an Emergency Operations Center out of Town Hall – NO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police, fire, DFW, Public Health • Encourage enrollment in CivicReady 	Communications Emergency Notification
4 COMPLETE	Conduct a feasibility study for relocation of the Emergency Operations Center outside of the flood zone, potentially to another municipal facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PD training room, FD#1, FD#1 (need a generator) • three locations exist - American Red Cross certified 	Emergency Response
5 YES	There are several emergency shelters in place and additional options available at local institutions. The Town also has short-term heating and cooling centers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools Red Cross certified, medical reserve corps • Explore staffing for expanded hours 	Emergency Response
6	Develop a comprehensive strategy for sheltering that evaluates strengths and vulnerabilities of existing shelters and recommends tangible steps for improvements. Include a plan for communication to residents about shelter	Emergency Response

COMPLET E	locations, amenities, and availability. Train additional personnel to open the Town's shelters and enact a Community Sheltering Plan. Ensure that all shelters are carbon monoxide compliant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MESMS is a backup regional shelter 	Communication
7 COMPLET E	Communicate with St. Theresa's Parish on the possibility of using their facility as an emergency shelter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We already have several shelters 	Emergency Response
8 YES, mostly been done	Coordinate across departments and organizations to develop an emergency plan that includes both fire districts and water districts, the Town, Mount Holyoke College, and any other relevant parties. Share information regarding available resources, such as vehicles or sheltering options, including those offered by the Council on Aging. Organize information on evacuation routes and emergency communications equipment so that local organizations are well-informed and can help keep residents out of hazard areas.	Emergency Response Communication
9 COMPLET E	Develop a Citizen Response Team of trained volunteers to staff shelters during hazard events and emergencies to relieve the burden on emergency personnel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Reserve Corps in place, UMass nursing students 	Emergency Response
10 YES	Conduct robust education and outreach to build awareness of Town resources and make Town residents aware of the many planning efforts, sources of emergency information, mutual aid agreements, shelters, evacuation routes, etc. which are focused on making the Town more resilient to climate change impacts. Ensure that all residents have transportation options and know how to access these resources when they are needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOH has MOU with PVRTA and commercial bus line MHC has transportation for students 	Communication Emergency Response
11 YES	Continue exploring options for regional dispatch with Granby or neighboring communities.	Emergency Response
12 COMPLET E	Develop an Alternate Emergency Staffing Plan to ensure that essential roles are covered during an emergency, and reduce dependency on volunteers. Provide training so that Town employees in non-essential roles could be redirected to provide support during emergencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuity of Operations Plan in place. 	Emergency Response
13 lower priority	Distribute an emergency kit list to all citizens to encourage self-preparedness for hazard events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already mostly available 	Emergency Response

Priorities to add:

- Backup generators needed in emergency operation areas
- Encourage use of Civic Ready
- Staffing for cooling and heating shelters outside of regular hours
- Participation/education/conversation with students in schools

Top 3 priorities:

- Getting information out to residents
- neighbor to neighbor communication during emergencies
- Civic Ready utilization

GROUP 2		HOUSING	
14 second priority	Continue education and outreach to residents living in flood-prone areas to ensure that all individuals and families residing in these areas are aware of the potential risks, as well as mechanisms, such as flood insurance, to reduce their risk exposure. Ensure that outreach targets renters as well as property owners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does continue education mean? • Need to update flood-prone areas often - update map from feds • And how we pay for it 	Flood Protection	
15 third priority	Develop a resiliency audit program, modeled off of existing energy audit programs to assess individual properties for potential impacts of changing temperature and precipitation patterns that will result from climate change and how this will impact storm readiness and overall resiliency of homes.	Climate Change Audit	
16	Develop educational resources and how-to guides for residents interested in implementing Green Infrastructure at their homes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not if state or companies already have this 	Education	
17 first priority	Assess the feasibility of developing a regional or Town-specific clearinghouse that tracks and educates residents on town, state, and federal programs and incentives to ensure that residents have up-to-date information on all available resources, particularly funding/subsidy programs, including appropriate information on deadlines, applications, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood insurance 	Education	
		JOBS + ECONOMY	
18	Incorporate resiliency into economic development planning in the Falls to support local businesses and make the business community more resilient. [Identify business development opportunities where impacts from climate hazards can be easily avoided or mitigated (e.g., by encouraging resilient building or areas of known drainage-related flooding).]--hard for these businesses to survive	South Hadley Falls	
19	Assess old industrial and automobile sites, specifically in the Gaylord Street and Bridge Street areas and areas near the Connecticut River, for flooding risk and potential contaminants. Remediation is anticipated to be necessary at some of these sites; explore funding options for required cleanup. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield?; Conservation Commission oversight w/in 200' of wetlands so maybe in their purview – CT river beyond this intersection 	Brownfields South Hadley Falls	

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Top priorities: 14, 15, 17; Didn't feel jobs/economy was w/in the purview, but #18 1st sentence very important

Additional ideas: Educate homeowners about flood insurance; tree removal needs to be curtailed; permeable concrete; broaden from Individual home strategies to include neighborhood solutions (eg. underground springs and how to funnel out of area); long-term power out strategies for households "backup"; flow of information during power outage

GROUP 3	TRANSPORTATION	
20 YES	Develop transportation planning for vulnerable populations during hazard events to ensure that vulnerable groups, notably seniors, will be able to get to shelters, obtain food and medications, or receive emergency services. Focus should be on identifying vulnerable populations and providing aid during all types of climate-induced risks. Transportation should not depend on emergency services personnel, as is currently the case. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need communication plan as well (town→resident AND how do residents alert in case of emergency?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Idea of magnets with emergency numbers; plan; shelter locations for each residence 	Emergency Transportation
	INFRASTRUCTURE	
21 YES	Assess feasibility of using pervious paving in new road or parking lot construction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the barriers? Do it! 	Roads
22 YES	Accelerate upgrades of the Town's sewer and water infrastructure. Prioritize ongoing efforts to replace piping at the wastewater treatment plant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also thinking about access points like water fountains in schools - check for lead 	Water & Sewer
23 YES	Perform a risk assessment of the wastewater treatment plant and pump stations and establish priority actions for reducing flooding impacts, including consideration of nature-based solutions or Green Infrastructure approaches. Explore options to increase flooding resiliency of the wastewater treatment plant. Establish emergency back-up plans for the plant and pump stations.	Wastewater Treatment
24 YES	Educate owners of private septic systems about the importance of having systems pumped out and keeping them in good working condition in order to prevent risks to public health and the environment from systems that become overwhelmed during periods of heavy precipitation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate and prepare people for the cost of a failed system • What percent of people are on Town water or sewer? 	Septic Systems Education
25 YES	SHELD engages in proactive tree trimming and removal to protect power lines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why aren't we planning for underground lines? even Justin vulnerable areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "This is great but just housekeeping" 	Tree Stewardship Electric System
26 YES	Conduct feasibility studies for the redesign or rebuild of outdated municipal buildings, especially those within the floodplain, such as the Town Hall (home to the Emergency Operations Center).	Municipal Buildings Energy Efficiency

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall someone employed to access buildings. has there been a report from him? Can Town Hall be turned into condos and build a smaller town hall? Seed money could be used for a feasibility study 	
27 YES	Pursue public facilities upgrades that would increase resiliency, including actions to make facilities more resilient to power outages, water supply problems, floods, etc. "do it"	Municipal Buildings
28 YES	Assess shelters and other critical facilities in Town for storm resiliency (e.g., hurricane resistance). Review building codes as needed. If necessary, pursue funding sources for upgrades.	Emergency Shelters
29 YES	Provide more resilient storage facilities for vital information, including birth, death, and marriage records, voter registration data, and associated equipment. Coordinate with the Town Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, and Planning Board to assess all vulnerable records information and ensure that the Town protects critical data.	Municipal Buildings
30 YES	Conduct dam assessments, identify privately-owned dams, and study feasibility of dam removals where other aging, public or privately-owned dams may pose a threat of failure and flooding, or where removal may have significant positive impacts on stream habitat and aquatic organism passage or for increasing flood storage and flood control possibilities. Identify owners of private dams throughout Town. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's unsure about scope of problems with dams does South Hadley have mapping of migration routes to inform this work 	Dams
31 YES	Evaluate opportunities to provide improvements at critical facilities, especially emergency backup power, including feasibility of green power and battery storage, to protect public buildings and infrastructure from freezing and improve services for residents who may lose power during emergencies or hazard events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for regionalization? 	Critical Facilities
32 YES	Continue exploring options for funding the rebuild/retrofit of Mosier Elementary School, including the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) grant.	Schools

Misc. comments:

- Old library was supposed to be housing—what happened?
- Can the seed money be used to educate junior high students on climate change since they will bear the brunt?

Residents prioritized feasibility studies for town buildings (26) , transportation planning (20), and assessing shelters for resiliency (28). In particular, they thought the latter 2 should be done in tandem— "we can't plan to transport residents to shelters that can't withstand climate change!"

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GROUP 4	FOOD + WATER	
33 YES	Institute appropriate regulations to protect the Dry Brook Aquifer, including continuing to pursue creation of a Holyoke Range Resource Area to protect the natural resources in the Town's most undeveloped watershed and facilitate sustainable future development practices that take climate change impacts and long-term water quality into consideration.	Public Water Supply
34 YES	Conduct strategic planning to support regional agriculture in the face of climate change. All of the identified hazards (flooding, ice and snow, drought and extreme precipitation, and extreme weather events) have the potential to significantly impact agricultural production, with corresponding threats to livelihoods and food availability. Planning should address hazard resiliency and approaches to connect growers with local buyers to shorten supply chains. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers get flooded 	Local Agriculture
	HEALTH	
35 YES	Assess options to address excessively hot days in schools. This may include implementing plans to install air conditioning in schools, including necessary upgrades to the electrical infrastructure to allow for the additional capacity required to run air conditioning systems. Explore nature-based solutions such as pavement removal or tree-plantings. - natural cooling	Schools
36 YES	Increase public awareness programs related to vector-borne diseases, such as EEE, West Nile, and Lyme Disease, to educate residents on the risks and warning signs of these diseases. This should include programs targeted at residents to increase awareness of new diseases and encourage early testing. Develop local funding and resources to make it easier for residents to have ticks tested when a bite is found. BOH ongoing efforts	Vector-borne Diseases
37 YES	Assess additional mosquito/pest control options, including establishment of buffers between developed and undeveloped areas, determination of future risks due to increase in type and quantity of pests/disease vectors due to climate change, and development of an education and outreach program. enrolled in mosquito mgmt district	Vector-borne Diseases
	ECOSYSTEMS	
38 YES, expand to wildlife	Develop a beaver management plan to mitigate against unpredictable flooding/impoundment impacts. Establish creative engineering solutions, identify suitable areas for beaver relocation or where beaver activity may be	Beavers

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	creating flood storage that contributes to resiliency, and consider the development of special legislation to give the Town authority to address problematic beaver dams on private property. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand to wildlife—best practices for bear/bobcat management 	
39 YES	Evaluate opportunities for improved watershed protections to preserve or improve water quality in the Town's reservoirs and waterways, including those on the Mount Holyoke College campus.	Water Quality
40 YES	Seek to establish resilient natural infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly through the ongoing preservation, maintenance and planting of trees, and, through forest stewardship, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> and public shade tree maintenance 	Trees & Forest Stewardship
41 YES	Explore upstream stormwater retention options to improve conditions at Black Stevens Pond, including assessing feasibility of subsurface retention under the ballfield at Plains Elementary School to reduce stormwater runoff to Newton Smith Brook and ultimately reduce flooding downstream at Buttery Brook. Develop an overall watershed restoration plan that begins with Black Stevens and proceeds downstream along the Buttery Brook corridor to the Connecticut River. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress 	Black Stevens Pond Buttery Brook Watershed
42 YES	Pursue funding to update the floodplain mapping for the Town using data that incorporates projections for changing precipitation patterns as a result of climate change. Consider partnering with neighboring communities for a regional approach. Develop a duplicate effective model and request official map revision from FEMA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEMA maps being updated 	Floodplain Mapping FEMA
43 YES	Promote bio-blitzes and citizen science through continued efforts of the Conservation Commission and other initiatives with the goal of increasing resiliency throughout Town. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> and education and research 	Education

Priorities to add

- Schools as cooling centers
- Organic management for vector-borne diseases
- Development pressures on animal habitats
- Mild winter impacts on Wildlife behavior and seasonality
- Development changes on hydrology

Top 3 priorities

- Development changes on hydrology