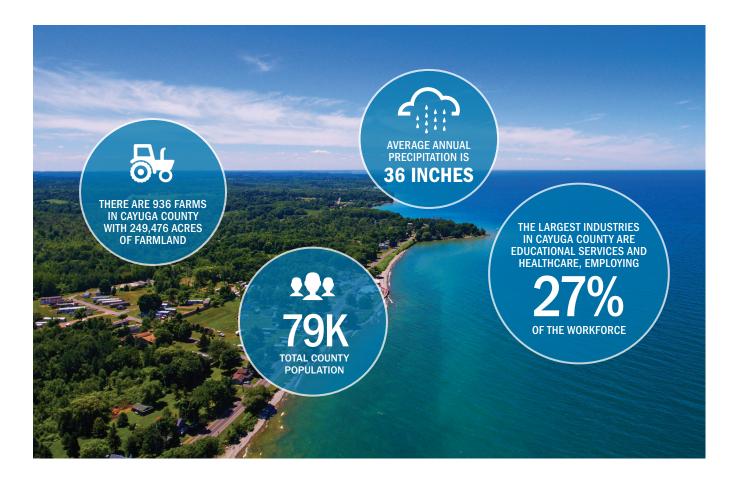
# CAYUGA COUNTY, NY: PROFILE

Cayuga County is located on Lake Ontario, which spans across 193 miles and includes four watersheds: Chaumont-Perch, Black River, St. Lawrence River, and Salmon-Sandy.



#### **COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS**

The Region II Office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), revised the preliminary flood hazard risk information for the Great Lakes Region of New York State.

Communities within Cayuga County focused their mitigation strategy on the development of animal management plans, elevation certificate acquisition and archiving, participation of floodplain administrators in the Hazard Mitigation Plan process, stream bank stabilization, mitigation

of floodprone properties (buyouts, elevations, acquisitions), and compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

#### FLOODPLAIN STATISTICS SNAPSHOT:

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) DATE: 8/2/2007

FIRM STATUS: N/A NFIP PARTICIPATION: YES

NFIP POLICIES: 11

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS) RATING: N/A LAST COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE VISIT (CAV): N/A LAST COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CONTACT (CAC): N/A



# CAYUGA COUNTY: DEMOGRAPHICS

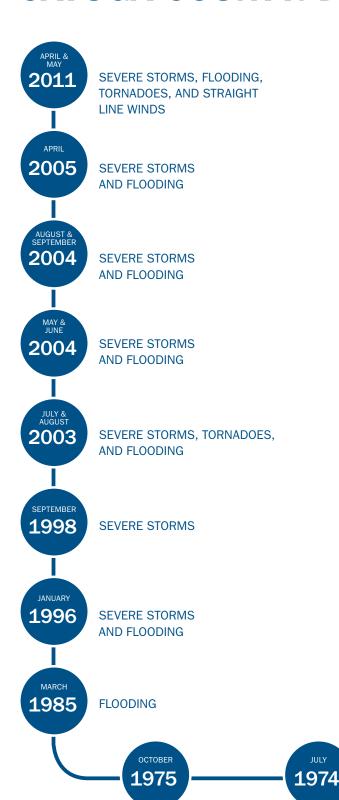
	COUNTY	STATE
DEMOGRAPHICS		
People	79,173	19,378,102
65+ years or older	15.30%	7.90%
Poverty rate	12.00%	15.70%
Unemployment rate	7.30%	5.20%
Median household income	\$52,082	\$59,269
HOUSING		
Housing Units	36,405	8,171,725
Homes with mortgage (%)	59.30%	63.20%
Mortgage holders considered housing cost burdened (%)*	26.60%	38.20%
% of homes build before 1980	72.30%	78.70%
Owner occupied	71.10%	53.30%
Renter occupied	28.90%	46.70%
Median home value	\$113,600	\$283,400
Vacant	14.90%	9.70%

Source: United States Census Bureau. 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.



<sup>\*</sup>According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, households who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

### **CAYUGA COUNTY**: DECLARED DISASTERS



SEVERE STORMS,

AND FLOODING

HEAVY RAIN, LANDSLIDES,

Local and State governments share responsibility for protecting their citizens and helping them recover after a disaster strikes. In some cases, disasters are beyond the capabilities of local, State, and tribal governments. In 1988, the Stafford Act was enacted to support local, State, and tribal governments and their citizens when disasters overwhelm and exhaust their resources. This law, as amended, established the process for requesting and obtaining a Presidential Emergency or Disaster Declaration, defined the type and scope of assistance available from the Federal Government. and set the conditions for obtaining assistance.

Like much of the eastern United States, one of the most frequent, widespread, and damaging natural disasters affecting this watershed is flooding from rainfall events, especially tropical systems tracking inland from the Atlantic Seaboard. With full records beginning in the 1950s, the watershed has been subjected repeatedly to flooding from tropical storms, hurricanes, and other non-cyclonic events: most recently Hurricane Irene and a remnant of Tropical Storm Lee, which struck the area in August and September 2011, respectively.

MARCH

1973

HIGH WINDS.

WAVE ACTION,

AND FLOODING

SEVERE STORMS

AND FLOODING



JUNE

1972

TROPICAL

STORM AGNES

# CAYUGA COUNTY: SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY	POPULATION	NFIP POLICIES	NFIP CLAIMS	FEMA CLAIMS PAID	CAV/CAC DATES	HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
VILLAGE OF FAIR HAVEN	745	9	N/A	\$0	CAV: 10/13/2016 CAC: N/A	Approved*
TOWN OF STERLING	3,040	2	N/A	\$0	CAV: N/A CAC: 5/13/1994	Approved*

<sup>\*</sup>Plan set to expire in 2019

COMMUNITY	HOUSING INDICATORS	SOCIAL INDICATORS		
VILLAGE OF FAIR HAVEN	54% of homes in Fair Haven have a mortgage, but 31% are housing cost burdened.*	25% of residents are 65 or older.		
TOWN OF STERLING	56% of homes in Sterling have a mortgage, but 43% are housing cost burdened.*	The unemployment rate in Fair Haven is 9.4%.		

<sup>\*</sup>Households spending 30% or more of income on housing costs



## CAYUGA COUNTY |

### HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION

### **COMMUNITY NEEDS IDENTIFIED DURING DISCOVERY**

FEMA works closely with communities to better understand local flood local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and other topics and spark watershed-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding. The Discovery process of FEMA's Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, and Planning) program helps communities identify areas at risk for flooding and solutions for reducing that risk. Discovery Meetings with communities in watersheds along Lake Ontario were initiated in 2013. The discussions, materials covered, and local input during the meetings were captured in Discovery Reports for each of the watersheds. For this area, the report showed:

- · Flooding produced by heavy rain, flash floods, landslides, and/or snowmelt has caused road closures, evacuations, and millions of dollars in property damage in Cayuga County communities since 1972.
- · Lake Ontario should have an updated, detailed study due to the high rate of coastal erosion.

Hazard Mitigation Process: All but one jurisdiction in Cayuga County actively participated in the county's multi-hazard mitigation plan. The counties took part in the planning process with the intent to implement strategies that would reduce vulnerability to hazards identified in the plan. All participating municipalities made an effort to promote public review and input. Numerous agencies and stakeholders were contacted and some participated in providing expertise and input into Cayuga County's mitigation planning efforts. The resulting plan included the following proposed mitigation actions:

- Stormwater drainage systems will be improved.
- · Multiple municipalities aim to conduct and facilitate community education outreach.
- Multiple municipalities plan to purchase, relocate, or elevate more structures in hazard-prone areas.
- Continue to meet and/or exceed NFIP standards and criteria through ordinances and zoning restrictions to control development in hazard areas.
- Bank stabilization, gravel bar removal, debris clearing, and erosion control measures will be put in place to combat wave/wind action on the coast and debris jams in creeks.



## **CAYUGA COUNTY: MEDIA COVERAGE**

### **SUMMARY (AS OF JULY 2017)**

- In May 2017, media coverage for Cayuga County emphasized the urgency of responding to flooding. The primary focus was on the two affected townships: the Village of Fair Haven and the Town of Sterling.
- The Village of Fair Haven was hit the hardest from flooding. In May, Cayuga County deployed 90,000 sandbags because the water levels in the county rose a total of 15-18 inches in May as compared to normal.
- References to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were neutral, stating that Neil Rivenburg contacted FEMA to request emergency support for preventative measures. In response and through the collective effort by FEMA, Cayuga County, and the Village of Fair Haven, sandbags were filled and distributed to shoreline residents. The Red Cross set up shelters for residents who needed to relocate due to flooding.

