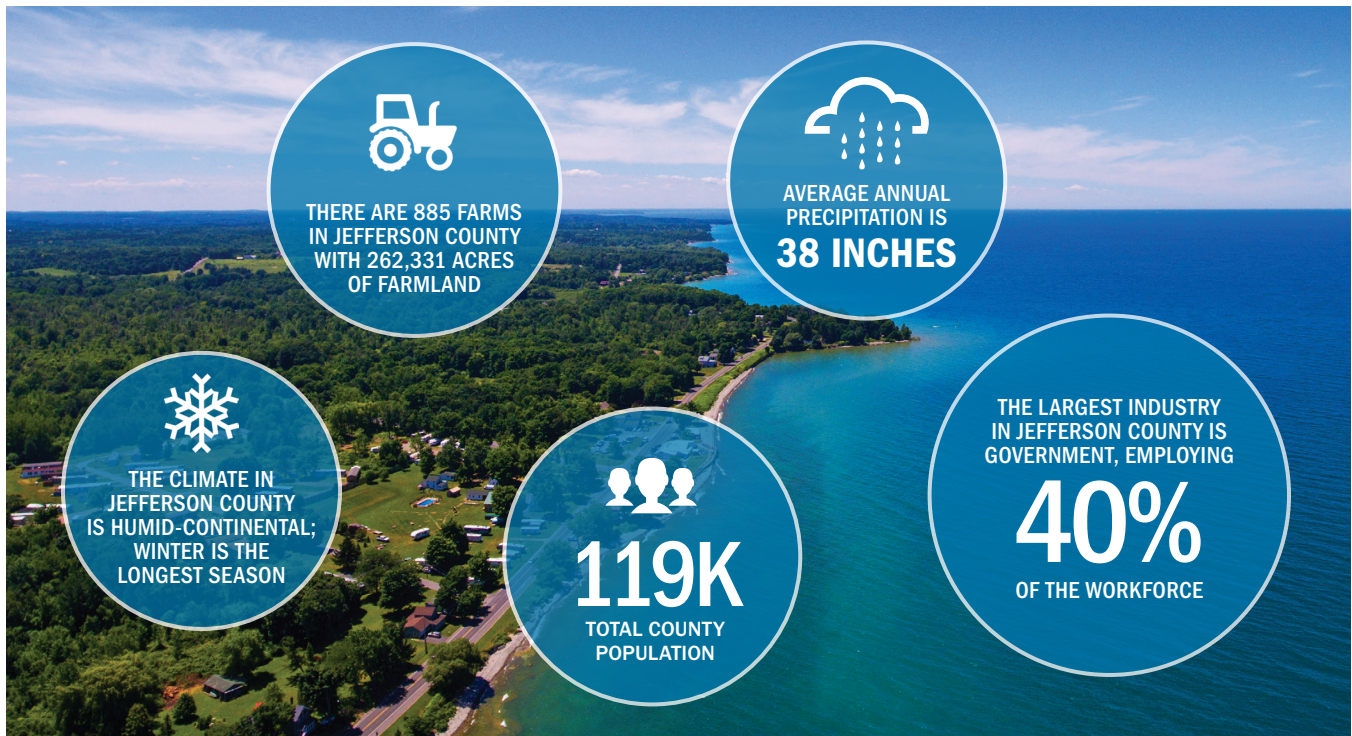


JEFFERSON COUNTY, NY: PROFILE

Jefferson 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. Jefferson County is part of the Watertown-Fort Drum Metropolitan Statistical Area.



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.

While no Jefferson County communities currently participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) program, many communities already have activities built into their Hazard Mitigation Plans that would qualify for CRS credits. These activities include a diverse mitigation strategy for expanding GIS capabilities, storm sewer maintenance, public notification for hazard events, and public

education. The Discovery Report noted the lack of misinformation around the CRS program, as well as a lack of digital products, that made floodplain management and mitigation difficult in Jefferson County.

FLOODPLAIN STATISTICS SNAPSHOT:

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) DATE:

January 8, 2014 (1977-2002)

FIRM STATUS: Partial Effective

NFIP PARTICIPATION: YES

NFIP POLICIES: 217

CRS RATING: N/A

LAST COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE VISIT (CAV): N/A

LAST COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CONTACT (CAC): N/A

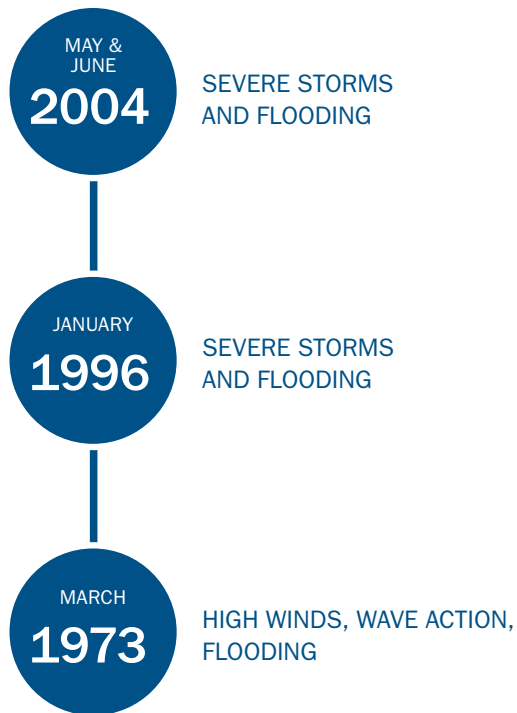
JEFFERSON COUNTY: DEMOGRAPHICS

	COUNTY	STATE
DEMOGRAPHICS		
People	118,947	19,378,102
65+ years or older	11.20%	7.90%
Poverty rate	15.10%	15.70%
Unemployment rate	5.60%	5.20%
Median household income	\$49,505	\$59,269
HOUSING		
Housing Units	58,536	8,171,725
Homes with mortgage (%)	61.30%	63.20%
Mortgage holders considered housing cost burdened (%)*	28.70%	38.20%
% of homes build before 1980	62.60%	78.70%
Owner occupied	55.50%	53.30%
Renter occupied	44.50%	46.70%
Median home value	\$141,000	\$283,400
Vacant	24.30%	9.70%

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

*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.

JEFFERSON COUNTY: DECLARED DISASTERS



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.

JEFFERSON COUNTY: SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY	POPULATION	NFIP POLICIES	NFIP CLAIMS	FEMA CLAIMS PAID	CAV/CAC DATES	HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA	2,983	17	7	\$12,973.76	CAV: 8/6/2015 CAC: 11/19/2004	Expired
TOWN OF BROWNVILLE	3,632	23	6	\$284,056.09	CAV: 9/17/2009 CAC: 3/25/1996	Expired
TOWN OF CAPE VINCENT	2,051	18	4	\$10,691.73	CAV: 12/18/2001 CAC: 10/21/2015	Expired
TOWN OF CLAYTON	3,175	9	5	\$6,855.00	CAV: 6/25/2004 CAC: 1/28/1992	Expired
TOWN OF ELLISBURG	2,876	8	4	\$36,331.68	CAV: 10/1/2015 CAC: N/A	Expired
TOWN OF HENDERSON	1,360	30	14	\$15,177.00	CAV: 2/8/2012 CAC: 12/20/2006	Expired
TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD	2,016	8	N/A	\$0	CAV: N/A CAC: 3/27/1996	Expired
TOWN OF LYME	1,561	48	1	\$3,924.56	CAV: 9/15/2009 CAC: 3/14/2011	Expired
TOWN OF ORLEANS	2,789	16	4	\$3,661.00	CAV: 8/6/2015 CAC: 11/19/2014	Expired
VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA BAY	1,078	17	2	\$4,534.03	CAV: 8/6/2015 CAC: 11/19/2014	Expired
VILLAGE OF CAPE VINCENT	726	3	3	\$7,528.00	CAV: N/A CAC: 10/28/2015	Expired
VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT	624	4	4	\$7,659.11	CAV: 5/13/2003 CAC: 11/16/2015	Expired
VILLAGE OF CLAYTON	1,978	12	4	\$18,121.31	CAV: 6/25/2004 CAC: N/A	Expired
VILLAGE OF SACKETS HARBOR	2,586	8	1	\$1,115.00	CAV: N/A CAC: 12/20/2006	Expired

*Plan set to expire in 2019

JEFFERSON COUNTY: SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY	HOUSING INDICATORS	SOCIAL INDICATORS
TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA	<p>43% of homes in Alexandria have no mortgage.</p> <p>35% of homes with mortgages are housing cost burdened*, the fourth highest rate in the county</p>	<p>The unemployment rate in Alexandria is 20.8%.</p> <p>The poverty rate in Alexandria is 11.9%.</p> <p>18% of residents are 65 or older.</p>
TOWN OF BROWNVILLE	<p>34% of homes in Brownville have no mortgage.</p> <p>The median home value in Brownville is \$131,000.</p>	<p>The poverty rate in Brownville is 9.5%.</p>
TOWN OF CAPE VINCENT	<p>65% of homes in Cape Vincent are vacant, the highest rate in Jefferson County.</p> <p>46% of homes in Cape Vincent have no mortgage.</p>	<p>19% of residents are 65 or older.</p> <p>The unemployment rate in Cape Vincent is 11.5%.</p> <p>3% of residents speak English less than very well.</p>
TOWN OF CLAYTON	<p>32% of homes in Clayton have no mortgage.</p> <p>43% of homes in Clayton are vacant.</p> <p>33% of homeowners with mortgages are housing cost burdened*, the fifth highest rate in the county.</p>	<p>The poverty rate is 13.2%.</p>
TOWN OF ELLISBURG	<p>43% of homes in Ellisburg have no mortgage.</p>	<p>The poverty rate in Ellisburg is 13.5%.</p> <p>The unemployment rate in Ellisburg is 9.9%.</p>
TOWN OF HENDERSON	<p>60% of homes in Henderson are vacant, the second highest rate in the county.</p> <p>48% of homes in Henderson have no mortgage.</p>	<p>31% of residents are 65 or older.</p>
TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD	<p>The median home value in Henderson is \$190,000, the highest in Jefferson County.</p>	<p>The poverty rate in Hounsfield is 14.9%.</p> <p>13% of residents are 65 or older.</p>
TOWN OF LYME	<p>39% of homes in Lyme have no mortgage.</p> <p>45% of homeowners with mortgages are housing cost burdened*, the highest rate in the county.</p>	<p>19% of residents are 65 or older.</p> <p>The poverty rate in Lyme is 12.8%.</p>
TOWN OF ORLEANS	<p>36% of homes in Orleans have no mortgage.</p> <p>54% of homes in Orleans are vacant.</p>	<p>22% of residents are 65 or older.</p> <p>The poverty rate in Orleans is 9.6%.</p>
VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA BAY	<p>Only 51% of occupied housing is owner occupied, the second lowest percentage in Jefferson County.</p> <p>41% of homes in Alexandria Bay Village have no mortgage.</p>	<p>The unemployment rate in the Village of Alexandria Bay is 21.3%.</p> <p>17.2% of residents are 65 or older.</p>

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JEFFERSON COUNTY: SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY	HOUSING INDICATORS	SOCIAL INDICATORS
VILLAGE OF CAPE VINCENT	<p>40% of homes in Cape Vincent Village have no mortgage.</p> <p>82% of the homes in Cape Vincent Village were built before 1980.</p>	<p>The unemployment rate in the Village of Cape Vincent is 18.3%.</p> <p>24% of residents are 65 or older.</p>
VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT	<p>55% of homes in Chaumont Village have no mortgage, the highest rate in the county.</p> <p>The median home value in Chaumont Village is \$132,300.</p>	<p>18% of residents are 65 or older.</p> <p>The unemployment rate in the Village of Chaumont is 12.6%.</p>
VILLAGE OF CLAYTON	<p>Only 48% of occupied housing is owner occupied, the lowest percentage in Jefferson County.</p> <p>40% of homes in Clayton Village have no mortgage.</p> <p>40% of homeowners with mortgages are housing cost burdened*, the second highest rate in the county.</p>	<p>18% of residents are 65 or older.</p> <p>The poverty rate in Village of Clayton is 11.5%.</p>
VILLAGE OF SACKETS HARBOR	<p>56.1% of housing is renter occupied.</p> <p>19% of homes in the Village of Sackets Harbor are vacant.</p>	<p>15.1% of residents are 65 or older.</p>

*Plan set to expire in 2019

COMMUNITY NEEDS IDENTIFIED DURING DISCOVERY

FEMA works closely with communities to better understand 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.

Most communities in Jefferson County do not have digital floodplain products and the current paper maps have no Base Flood Elevation (BFE) established. Jefferson County is currently experiencing an increased rate of development, especially waterfront development. The current paper FIRMs are not usable for interpretation and determinations have limited legibility. At a minimum, digital products would assist the communities with their floodplain management.

The NYSDEC community file notes that the current BFE for an area designated as a Coastal Erosion Hazard Area is 249.0 feet referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD) while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coast flood level report notes it as significantly higher. A restudy with wind and wave runoff, or a coastal study, is needed.

Hazard Mitigation Process: The 2011

Jefferson County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan expired in January 2016. The plan had a low participation rate, and of the 17 shore communities along Lake Ontario, only three participated. A FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan is a requirement for eligibility to receive certain non-emergency assistance. In Jefferson County, no jurisdictions are currently eligible for federal, non-emergency assistance, because the plan is not current. Natural disasters cannot be prevented from occurring; however, undertaking the planning process to develop and implement mitigation strategies based on an updated hazard mitigation plan will gradually lessen the impacts associated with hazard events.

For the communities that did participate in the mitigation plan, the following mitigation actions were proposed:

- Multiple municipalities need to review existing local codes and ordinances to determine if amendments are needed to address hazards. Needed modifications to codes and/or ordinances are to be made as applicable.
- Sewage treatment plants and critical low-lift water facilities must be protected.
- Develop and implement stormwater management plan and update drainage capacity to mitigate flooding aggravated by runoff.
- 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.

JEFFERSON COUNTY: MEDIA COVERAGE

SUMMARY (AS OF JULY 2017)

- Media coverage from January 2017 to the present about Jefferson County flooding was informative and urgent—it clearly communicated the distress of residents in the affected area and townships. Many articles focused specifically on the rising water levels of Lake Ontario.
- It is important to note the state of emergency declared by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, which included Jefferson County, on May 2, 2017. There were 50,000 sandbags deployed in the region. A Lake Ontario Flood Assistance Hotline was established to provide residents with information about the county's flooding.
- A Spectrum News article published on May 24, 2017, notes that 138 people have water surrounding their seasonal homes. Due to leach field concerns and flooded roads, the homes must remain vacant for the time being.