

ORLEANS COUNTY, NY: PROFILE

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



COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

The Region II office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), carried out Discovery in the Lake Ontario watersheds. The Discovery process for Lake Ontario involved significant basin-wide data collection and outreach efforts with Lake Ontario stakeholders using several methods, including individual phone calls, webinars, and in-person meetings. During the

outreach process, the emphasis was placed on opportunities for stakeholders to provide their comments and concerns and have input into future mapping projects. Conversations during the meetings were focused on the types of existing data sources that could be used as part of a Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, and Planning) project, community mapping needs, and mitigation assistance requirements.

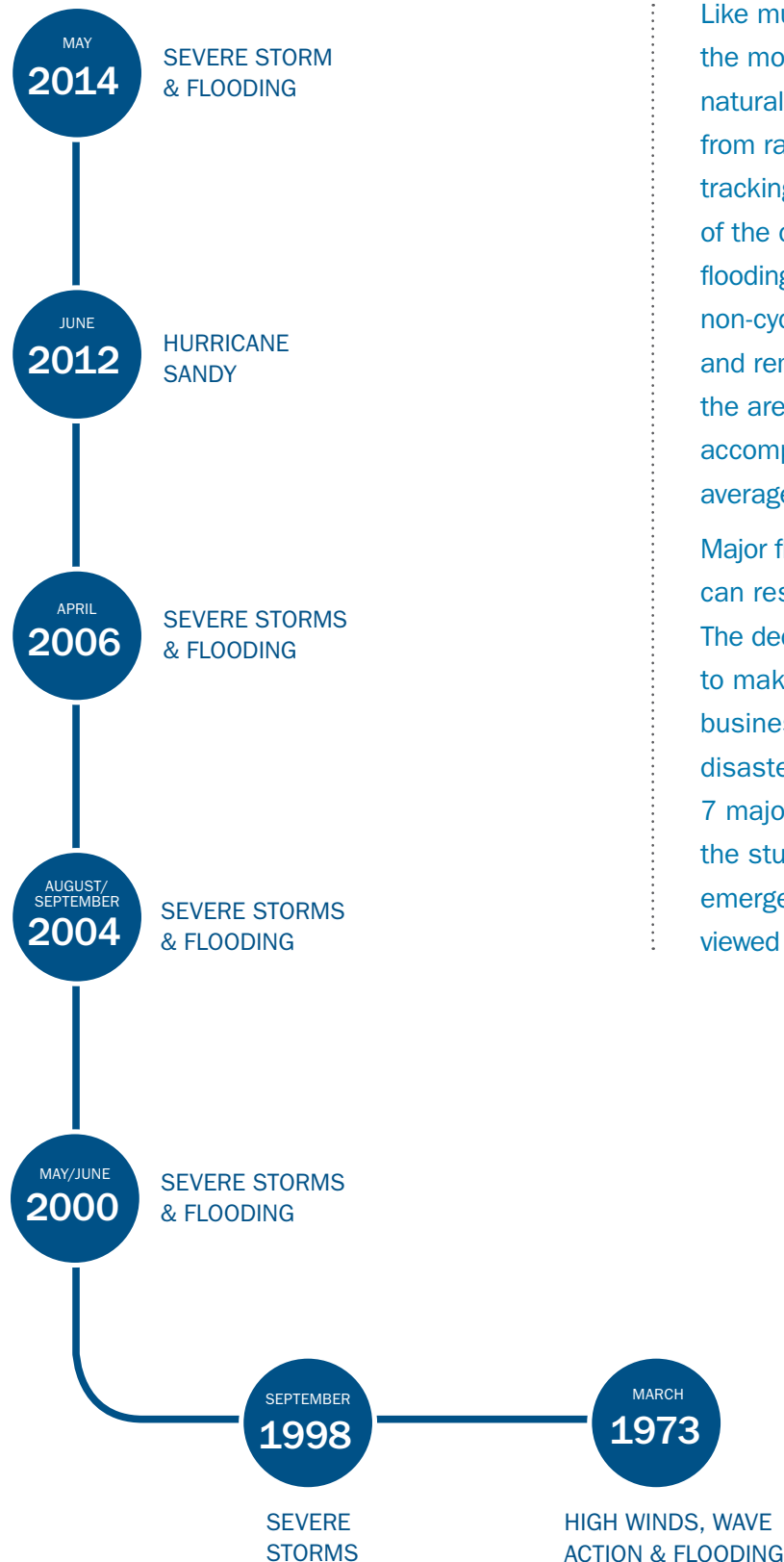
ORLEANS COUNTY: DEMOGRAPHICS

	COUNTY	STATE
DEMOGRAPHICS		
People	42,204	19,378,102
65+ years or older	14.40%	7.90%
Poverty rate	15.70%	15.70%
Unemployment rate	5.00%	5.20%
Median household income	\$46,359	\$59,269
HOUSING		
Housing Units	18,498	8,171,725
Homes with mortgage (%)	61.20%	63.20%
Mortgage holders considered housing cost burdened (%)*	29.80%	38.20%
% of homes built before 1980	76.50%	78.70%
Owner-occupied	75.60%	53.30%
Renter-occupied	24.40%	46.70%
Median home value	\$91,300	\$283,400
Vacant	13.40%	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.

ORLEANS COUNTY: DECLARED DISASTERS



Like much of the eastern United States, one of the most frequent, widespread, and damaging natural disasters affecting the county is flooding from rainfall events, especially tropical systems tracking inland from the Atlantic Seaboard. Parts of the county have repeatedly been subject to flooding from tropical storms, hurricanes, and other non-cyclonic events, such as Hurricane Irene and remnants of Irene in 2011. In early 2017, the area experienced unprecedented lake levels accompanied by times of high winds and above-average rainfall, causing flooding along shorelines.

Major flooding events that meet certain thresholds can result in a presidentially declared disaster. The declaration allows for the Federal government to make funding available for homeowners, businesses, and local communities to aid in disaster relief and recovery. There have been 7 major flood-related disaster declarations for the study area. FEMA's disaster declarations and emergency declarations disaster history can be viewed at FEMA's website: www.fema.gov/disasters.

ORLEANS COUNTY: SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY	POPULATION	NFIP POLICIES	NFIP CLAIMS	NFIP PREMIUMS	CAV/CAC* DATES	HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
TOWN OF CARLTON	2,957	24	10	\$17,489	CAV: 8/10/2007 CAC: N/A	Expired
TOWN OF KENDALL	2,693	17	8	\$11,751	CAV: 5/29/2008 CAC: N/A	Expired
TOWN OF YATES	2,532	10	4	\$9,370	CAV: 8/1/2011 CAC: N/A	Expired

*COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE VISITS (CAV)/ COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CONTACTS (CAC)

COMMUNITY	HOUSING INDICATORS	SOCIAL INDICATORS
TOWN OF CARLTON	34% of the homes in the Town of Carlton are vacant. The median home value in the Town of Carlton is \$102,000.	20% of residents in the Town of Carlton are 65 years or older.
TOWN OF KENDALL	20% of the homes in the Town of Kendall are renter-occupied. The median home value in the Town of Kendall is \$116,700.	The poverty rate in the Town of Kendall is 15%.
TOWN OF YATES	35% of the homes in the Town of Yates are vacant. The median home value in the Town of Yates is \$92,100.	The poverty rate in the Town of Yates is 10%.

ORLEANS COUNTY | HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION

FEMA works closely with communities to better understand local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and other flood-related topics. The Discovery process of FEMA's Risk MAP program helps communities identify areas at risk for flooding and solutions for reducing that risk. The process also sparks watershed-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding. 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.

Orleans County communities used a range of mitigation strategies for drainage improvements. Specifically, the Town of Yates, Carlton, and Kendall will participate in a countywide drainage district and work with the County Soil and Water Conservation District to identify and remediate drainage problem sites. Other examples of mitigation strategies applied by communities were: using GIS capabilities for modeling inundation and identifying local flood risks; joining the Community Rating System (CRS); and arranging the buyout of homes that experienced repeat flooding.