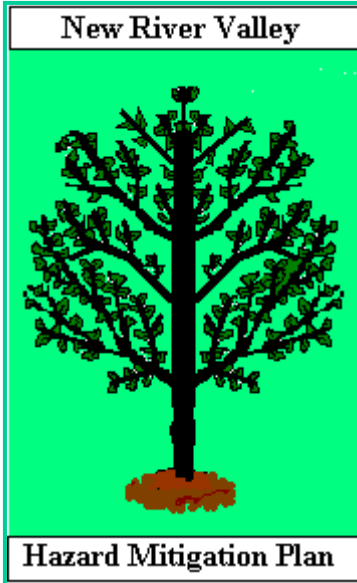


# NEW RIVER VALLEY NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



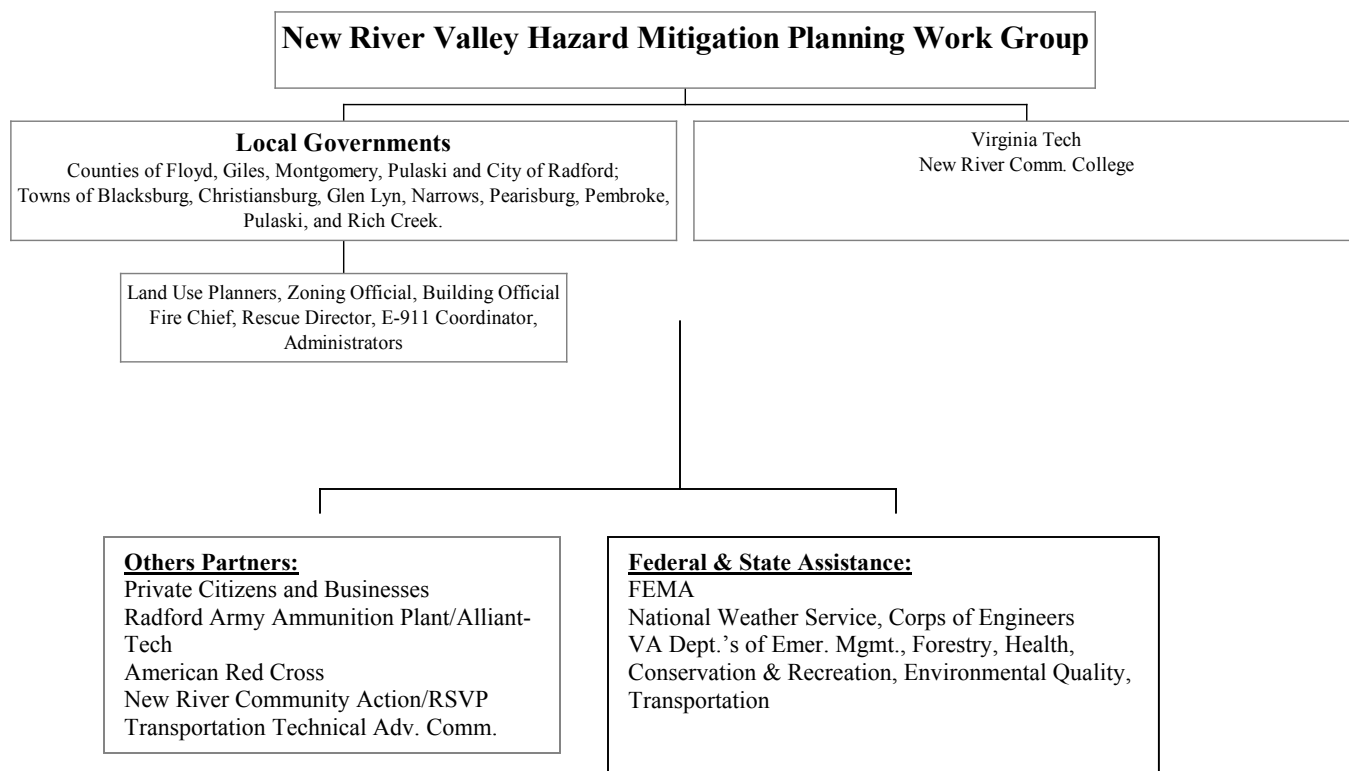
In recognizing some of the NRV's natural hazards and risks, partners from around the region came together with the simple mission of learning how to minimize the loss of life and property to natural hazards. Through a regional planning process, this work has yielded several specific goals. Moreover, assessment of individual hazard events, past mitigation efforts, and high-risk areas has yielded useful history and proposals for the future. Lastly, practical links between hazard mitigation and overall livability, sustainability and long-term planning are identified.

## The Planning Process

This planning process was driven by multiple jurisdictions and informed by input from numerous state and federal entities, as well as private citizens. Regional meetings were held monthly to assess specific hazards, risks and mitigation measures. Guest speakers included professors from Virginia Tech, and state and federal agency representatives (see next page for detail). The process was promoted through local and regional media, and all meetings were open to the public. Information and meeting invitations were shared with neighboring planning districts. Also, two special community input meetings were held in high-risk communities, and two central community input meetings were held to review the findings, priorities, and final plan. During this review process, a regional forum for planners and local government managers' meeting were held. On the next two pages the partners and process are diagrammed.



## Figure 10. Planning Partners



*Note that Alliant-Tech, the Army contractor at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, and a major NRV employer participated in this process. Other private employers participated in community meetings in Pulaski and Pembroke (downtown business owners), and were invited to participate in the central meetings, but declined. Also note that the other towns in the region and Radford University were invited to attend and participate, but did not. Sign-in sheets for each meeting are included in Appendix D.*

Additionally, the neighboring planning districts (3 and 5, Mount Rogers and Roanoke-Allegheny, respectively) were kept abreast of planning activities through newsletters and a draft plan. They were also invited to participate once they began their hazard mitigation planning activities. Similarly, the involvement of state and federal agencies helped assure that concerns beyond the NRV boundaries were considered.

**TABLE 9  
NRV Hazard Mitigation Planning Process Timeline**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting Level</i>	<i>Topic/Speaker(s)</i>
June, 2002	Regional	Introduction/Background on Hazards; PDC staff
June, 2002	Pulaski Town	Public Input/Pulaski Committee; Committee & staff
July, 2002	Regional	Flood Mitigation/Pulaski Plan; Town & PDC staff
August, 2002	Regional	Flood Mitigation/Pembroke Flood; Town & PDC
September, 2002	Regional	Wildfire Hazards & Mitigation; VA Forester & PDC
October, 2002	Regional	Drought Hazards & Mitigation; DCR stormwater rep, private Rainwater Catchment consultant & PDC
October, 2002	Pembroke	Public Input/Pembroke Planning Commission; staff
November, 2002	Regional	Karst & Sinkholes; DCR Karst rep & J. Richardson, Jr., Land Use Law professor from VT
January, 2003	Regional	Severe Weather; National Weather Service Mitigation Resources; PDC staff
January, 2003	Regional	Land Use Disturbance Permitting workshop; DEQ, DCR and US Army Corps of Engineers
February, 2003	Regional	Earthquakes; Martin Chapman, seismologist from VT
April, 2003	Regional	Summary to-date and Review; PDC staff
May, 2003	Regional	Public Input session of info to-date
May, 2003	Regional	Regional Planners meeting; PDC staff
June-July, 2003	Regional	Two interns from the Water Center at Virginia Tech assisted in risk assessment and mapping.
June/July/August/Sept	Regional	Swift Water Rescue meetings; PDC staff
October, 2003	Regional	County Administrators & Town managers; staff
November, 2003	Regional	NRV Hazard Mitigation presentation at GIS-World Planning Day conference with attendees from surrounding regions; PDC staff.
February, 2004	Regional	Central public input session; advertised in Roanoke Times.
March-April, 2004	Local	Separate presentations to Blacksburg Town Council, and the following local planning commissions: Giles County, Montgomery County, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd-Floyd County, and Town of Pulaski; staff

**NOTE: APPENDIX D contains newspaper articles and sign-in sheets for meetings.**

## Goals

The NRV Hazard Mitigation planning task force focused on developing practical, realistic goals in relation to the overarching mission. The mission and goals are stated below.

**Mission: Minimize the loss of life and property caused by natural hazards by focusing on likely events, high-risk areas, and cost-effective mitigation opportunities.**

### Regional goals:

- ⇒ Minimize flood losses to existing and future structures, especially critical facilities and repetitive loss properties.
- ⇒ Minimize wildfire losses in the "urban wildland interface" areas.
- ⇒ Minimize economic losses and health risks during drought.
- ⇒ Minimize structural damage due to landslides.
- ⇒ Recognize that earthquakes, new sinkholes, and severe winds are possible in the NRV.
- ⇒ Encourage personal safety given that severe winter weather, lightning and large hail are relatively frequent occurrences in the NRV.
- ⇒ Capitalize on available mitigation information, services and funding from various local, regional, state, federal and non-profit agencies for mitigation planning and implementation.
- ⇒ Use regional coordination and cooperation, as needed, to enhance mitigation activities.
- ⇒ Develop more information related to hazards and damages.
- ⇒ Weigh the interactions of all natural hazards before acting to address one.
- ⇒ Give highest priority to projects which achieve multiple goals.

The information and analysis that generated these goals as well as more specific strategies follow. This plan then includes a more comprehensive Goals, Objectives and Strategies section, and specific local plans with prioritized strategies or projects.