

# Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program & Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)

## WHY IS OXFORD GOING THROUGH THIS PROCESS?

### Oxford's last Hazard Mitigation Plan published in 2016, needs updating

- The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that cities and towns adopt and **update** a Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible for FEMA mitigation grants
- Current plan expired in 2021

### MVP planning process

- State grant program to support cities and towns to begin the process of planning for climate resiliency.
- MVP Designation = eligible for MVP Action Grants

## WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

- To permanently reduce or prevent losses of life, injuries and property damage by using long-term strategies
- What preventive actions are being taken **NOW** to reduce future risks and damages?
- What additional actions can be taken in the **FUTURE**?
- According to a 2019 report by the National Institute of Building Sciences, every \$1 spent on federal mitigation grants saves society \$6 in response costs

## COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING (CRB)

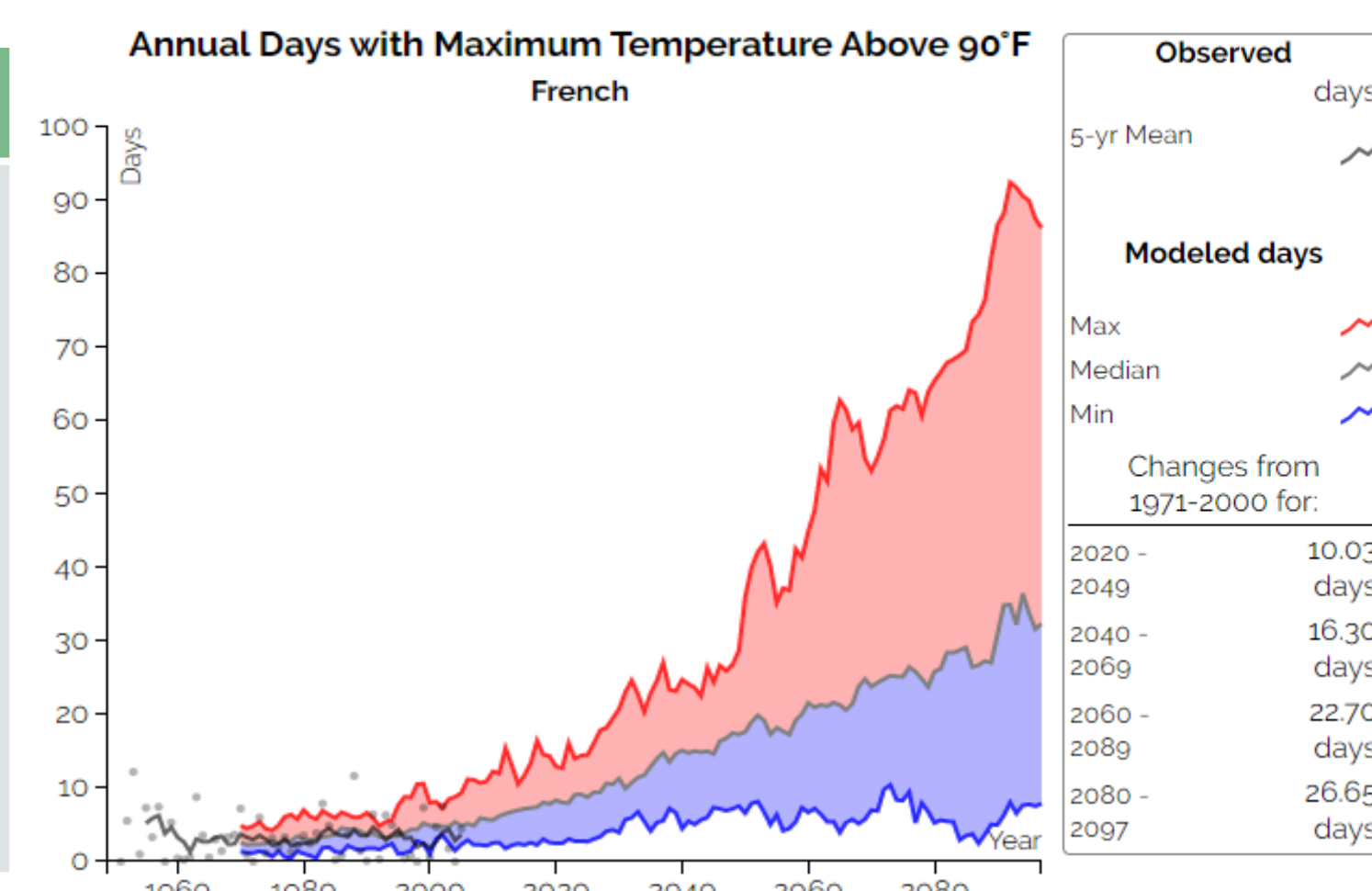
- Community-driven process led by the project coordinator (Jared Duval) with a core team of Town officials and Department Heads
- Oxford's 4-member Core Team has met 3 times in October and November
- Invitation-only workshop was held virtually on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>
- 18 attendees, including local officials, board and committee members, and local businesses



## RIISING TEMPERATURES

### What to expect

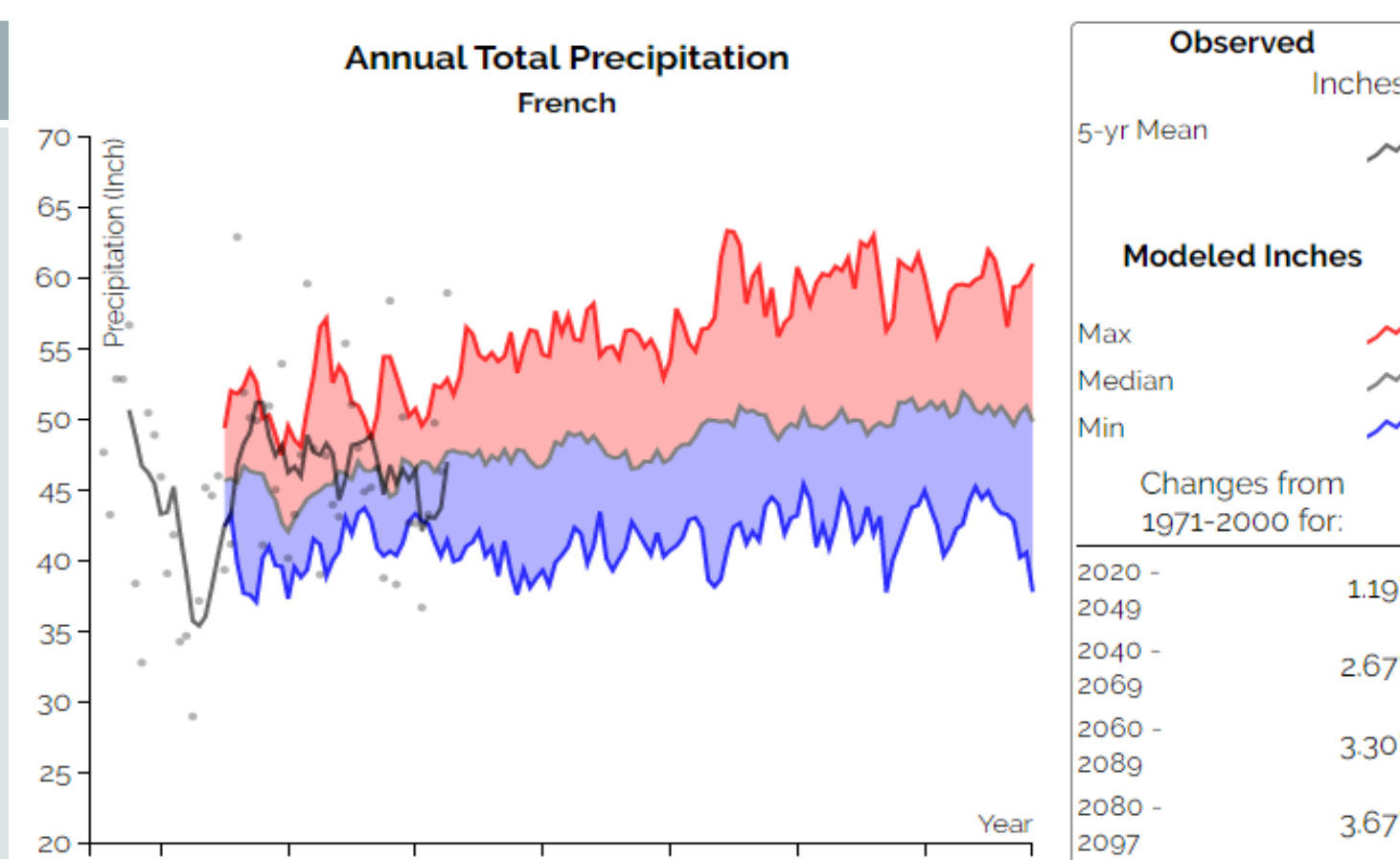
- Warmer summers
- Less distinct seasons



## CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION

### What to expect

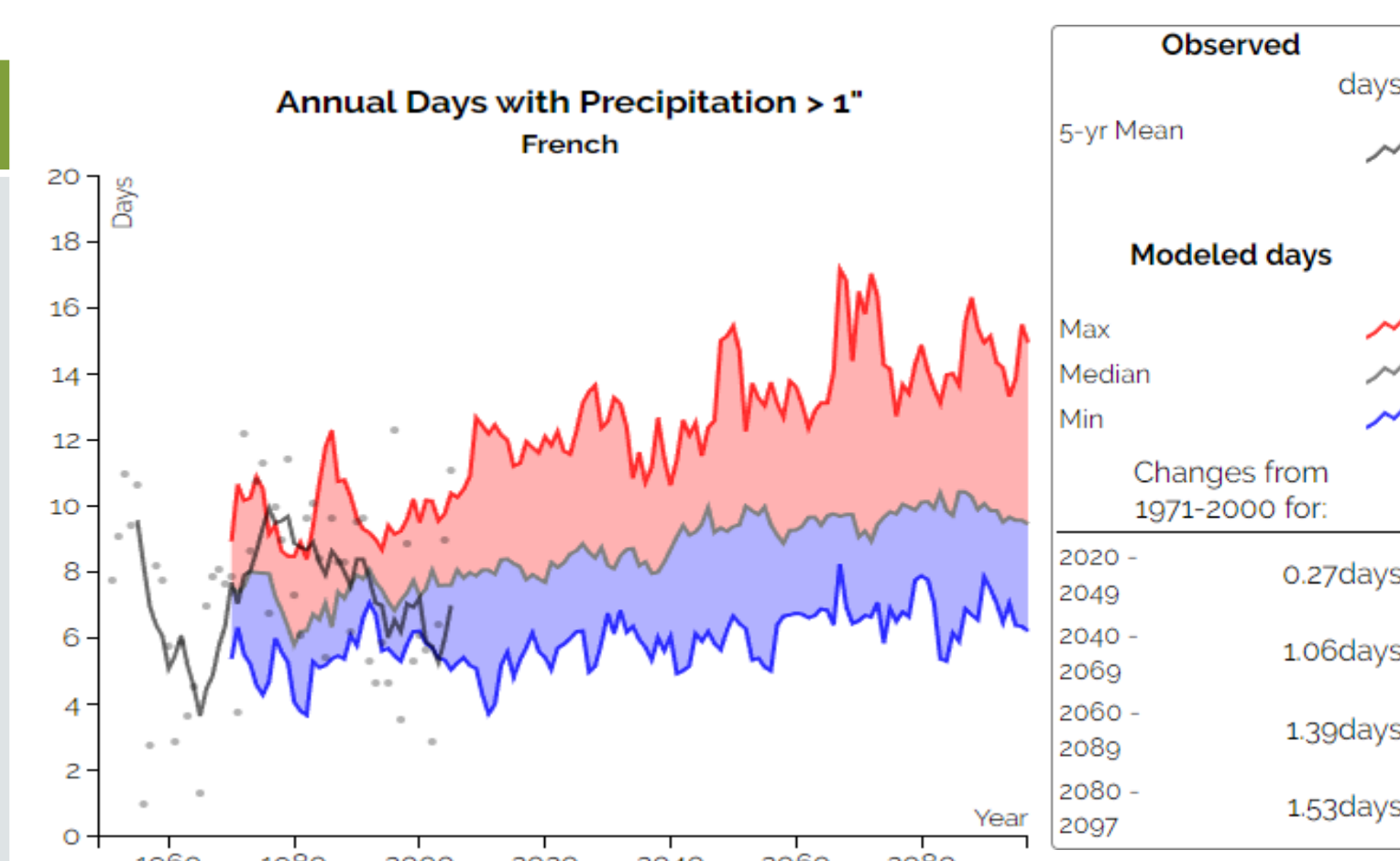
- More annual precipitation
- More rainfall
- Less snowfall



## EXTREME WEATHER

### What to expect

- More frequent heavy downpours
- More frequent extreme weather events
- More intense extreme weather events



## ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

### Concerns

- French River flooding & lack of watershed organization
- Tree health/damage
- Water quality issues in streams and ponds
- PFAS chemicals
- Pollinator health
- Invasive species
- Brushfires
- Greenfield solar development
- Septic leakage

### Strengths

- French River as recreational area
- Wetlands
- Aquarion water supply
- Upcoming OSRP process
- Midstate Trail

## INFRASTRUCTURE FINDINGS

### Concerns

- Stormwater flooding
- Dams
- Tree damage and power lines
- Water supply
- Waste collection
- Connections with neighboring towns

### Strengths

- Hodges Village Dam
- Updated stormwater bylaw
- Public sewer lines
- High school as emergency shelter

## SOCIETAL FINDINGS

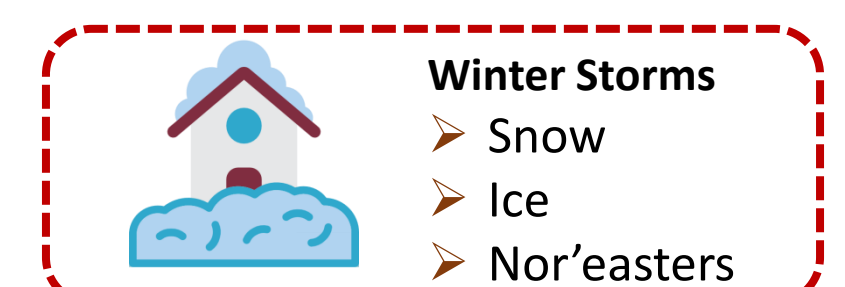
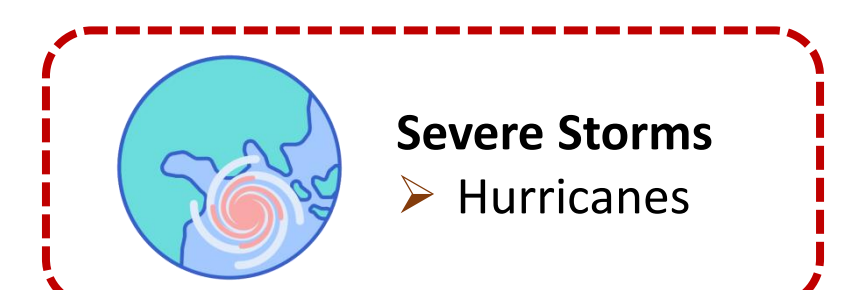
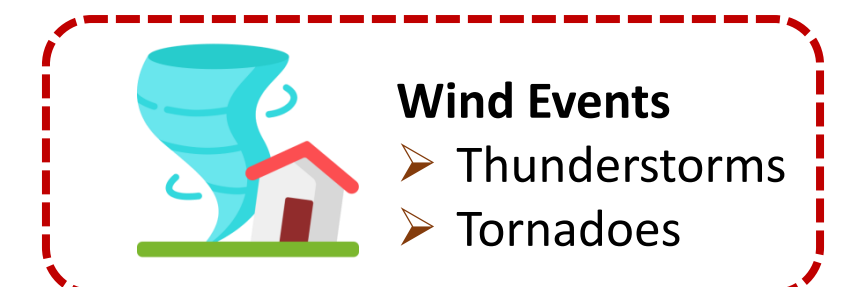
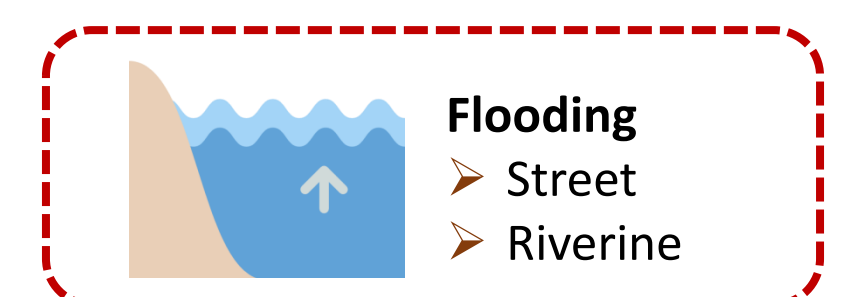
### Concerns

- Isolation of Orchard Hill Apartments
- Declining community volunteerism and participation in government
- Financial strain on tax base
- Changing demographics, need for broad outreach
- Vulnerability of low-income and senior housing

### Strengths

- Churches
- Food Shelf Food Pantry
- Local community organizations
- Senior Center
- Housing Authority
- Large Businesses
- Potential sewer line extension

## HAZARD IDENTIFICATION



### Flooding (changes since last plan)

- RT 12 Flooding (676 Main)
- RT 12 Icing & Flooding (near Worcester Gears and Racks)
- Main St Flooding at Jackson Ct
- W. Industrial Drive Culvert Issues and Road Washout
- Backyard Flooding (near Sneade Drive and Grassy Pond)
- Old Webster Rd/Robins Rd Culvert
- Main St S. of Pratt Ave

### Hurricanes (changes since last plan)

- Roof on Fire Station #2
- Worcester Gears and Racks Chimney
- Buffumville Mill Chimney
- Barton St. Building Structural Issues

### Snow Storms (changes since last plan)

- Oxford Community Center Undersized Generator

### Wildfire (changes since last plan)

- Brushfire in Greenbriar Recreation Area, off of Rocky Hill Road

## HMP/MVP ACTION PLAN

### Objectives:

1. Remedy known stormwater drainage issues to address existing flooding
2. Prepare for future increases in precipitation caused by climate change
3. Reduce the vulnerability of dams to natural hazards and climate change
4. Prevent water impairments by mitigating septic system failures and addressing the lack of public sewage
5. Ensure drought resilience of Oxford's water supply
6. Remove potential barriers to natural hazard mitigation or community resilience
7. Protect critical infrastructure and ensure emergency preparedness
8. Reduce power outages caused by falling trees, and encourage climate-resilient tree canopy
9. Mitigate wildfire risk
10. Support resilience of vulnerable community members
11. Support resilience of the natural environment, and encourage sustainable behaviors



National Night Out at Orchard Hill  
Town of Oxford

