

Village and Town of Arcade Flood Mitigation Action Plan

1. - Introduction

The Village and Town of Arcade have experienced several floods in the past, resulting in severe damage to residential, commercial, and public property as well as risks to the safety of residents and others. Beginning in October 1997, meetings to discuss flooding problems and streambank erosion issues in the Village and Town of Arcade have been held and attended by a number of local, regional, state and national agencies.

From these discussions the Arcade Flood Mitigation Planning Committee was formed (hereafter referred to as the Committee). The village, as lead agency on behalf of the town and village, applied for and was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Mitigation Assistance - Planning Grant from the New York State Emergency Management Office.

The Committee expanded its membership to review flood risks and hazards, encourage public involvement, develop mitigation activities, and recommend action steps to alleviate flood-related problems in the Village and Town of Arcade. This plan describes and summarizes the Committee's process, findings, and recommendations.

2. - Background

The Village and Town of Arcade are located in the southwest corner of Wyoming County in western New York with Erie County to the west and Cattaraugus County to the south. The Holland Land Company purchased the land on which the Village and Town of Arcade now rest in 1792.

Originally part of the Town of Batavia in Genesee County, the area underwent three separate name changes until it was renamed Arcade in 1866. In 1871 the Village was incorporated. Presently, the Town covers an area of approximately 47.1 square miles of which the Village occupies 2.5 square miles.

This section is meant to provide an overview of the characteristics of Arcade's residents, housing, and businesses, the sources of the flooding problems, and a brief history of past floods in the village and town.

2.1 - Population, Housing, and Socioeconomic Characteristics

The 1990 census showed that 2,082 people lived within the village limits with an additional 1,857 people living in the Town of Arcade. Therefore, the total population for the study area was 3,938 in 1990.