



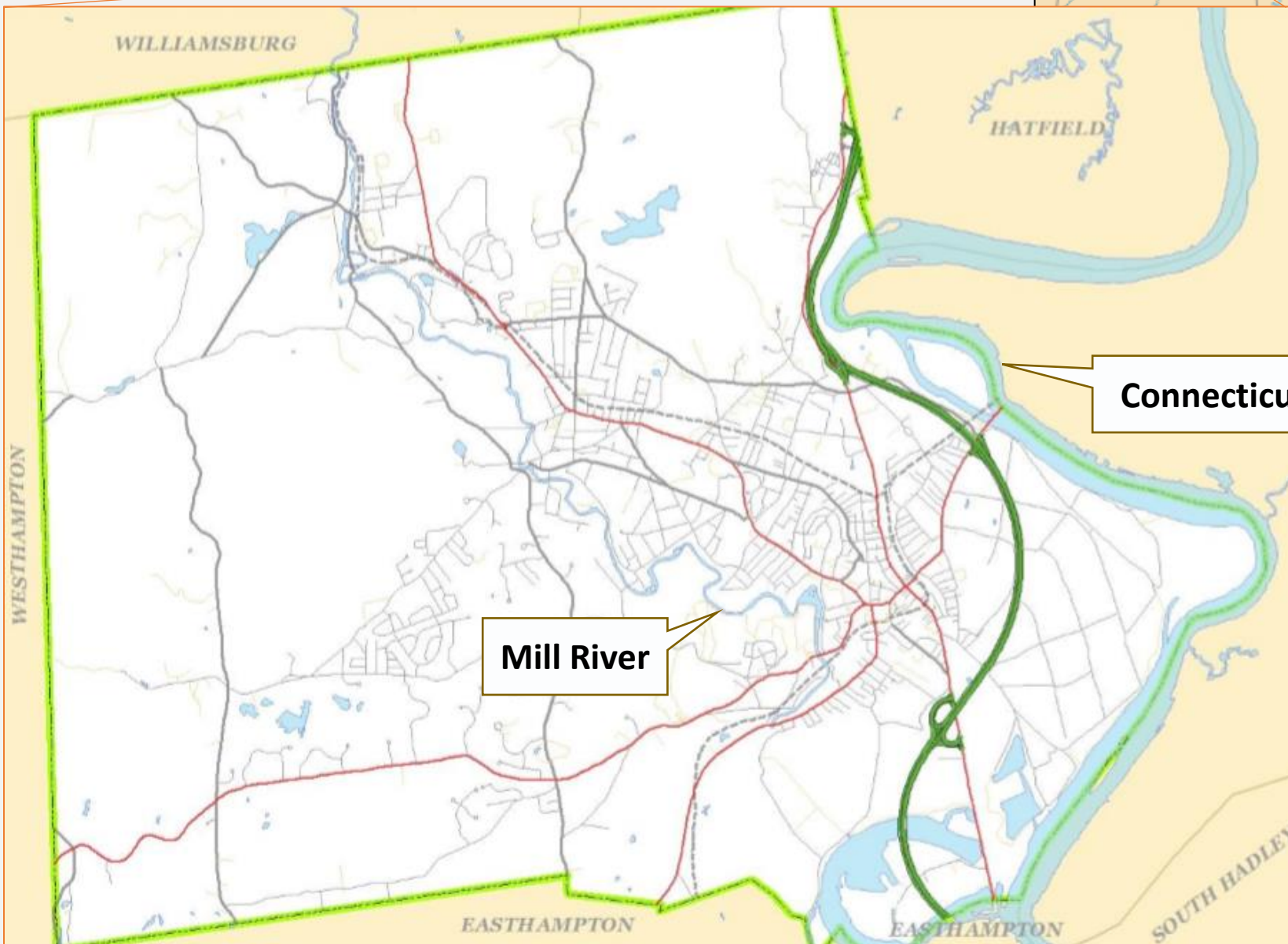
# Northampton, MA

## Stormwater & Flood Control Utility

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NHDES Coastal Program & Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

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**Connecticut River**

**Mill River**



# Federal Flood Control Mandates

- US Army Corps of Engineers built levees for the City in 1940 along the Connecticut River and Mill River
- City is required to maintain levees and flood control pump stations



# Need for a Reliable Funding Solution

Complying with federal mandates on levees  
+  
Need to address existing stormwater challenges  
+  
Complying with expected federal mandates on stormwater (MS4)

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**= \$1M Funding Gap**



# Public Process

1. Held two public meetings on stormwater challenges
2. Created a stormwater task force
3. Gave presentations on task force recommendations

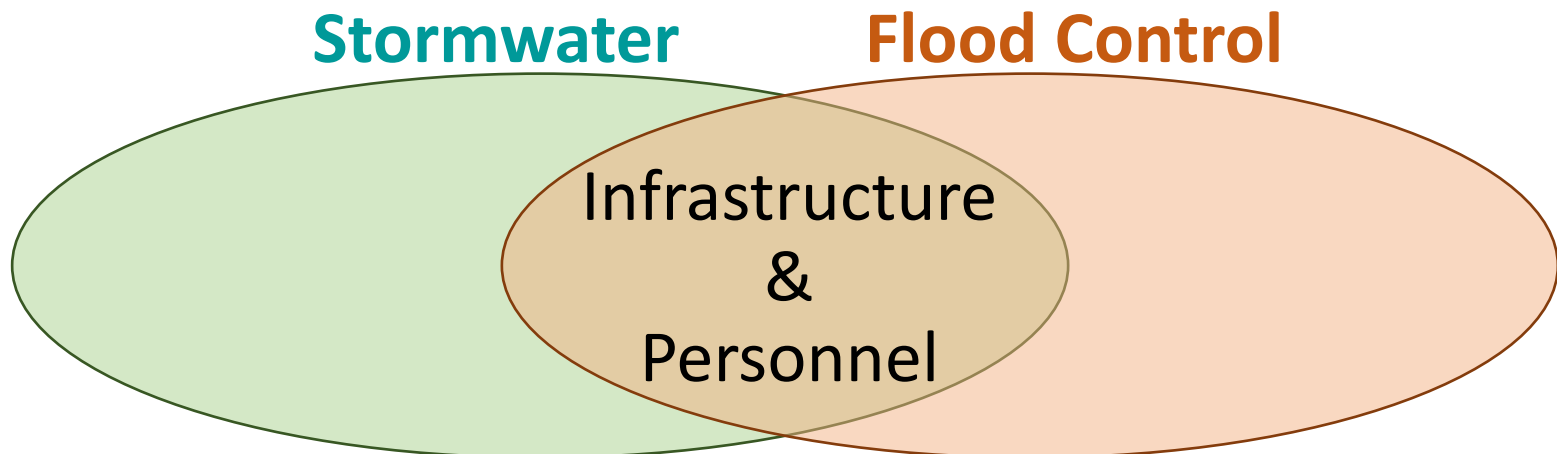


*“This process has been, I think, a paragon for the community. The citizen involvement was in fact unparalleled.”*

– Bill Dwight, City Council President

# Solution!

## Dual Purpose Utility Fee





# Life After Adopting the Utility

More Work In-House = Saving Money = Ability To Do More

**Stormwater** & **Flood Control** capital projects completed in FY 2018:



Culvert reconstruction



Pump station evaluation study



Drain system reconstruction



Emergency Flood Action Plan




Installed new drainage to increase system capacity



Replaced pump station fuel tank

# Lessons Learned

- Not perfect and not without some disagreement
  - Contentious considerations need to be discussed
    - Who is actually benefiting?
    - Should the City pay for its runoff?
  - Most Important Lesson: **Transparency**
    - Property owners included in discussions
    - City continues to keep property owners informed
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# Relating to NH Communities

- NH communities are facing similar stormwater challenges
- Need for on-the-ground flood adaptation projects is increasing
- Unlikely state or federal government will build flood protection structures for your community
- Northampton's story is about being more self-reliant

# Thank You!



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