



Runoff
flooding can
happen
anywhere at
anytime

What is Runoff?

Runoff occurs when heavy rain falls faster than the ground can absorb it, causing water to flow over streets, driveways, fields, and rooftops.

It can overwhelm drainage systems, flood roads, damage property, and carry pollutants into nearby streams and lakes. Unlike river or coastal flooding, runoff flooding doesn't require a nearby body of water—just intense rain, impervious surfaces, and poor drainage.



How the Thriving Communities Program is addressing flooding in NH and VT:

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) was awarded a 1.2-million-dollar grant from the US Department of Transportation for the TCP Regional Pilot.

TCP provides technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to nine towns in New Hampshire (Acworth, Charlestown, Enfield, Goshen, Lebanon, Lempster, Newport, Orford, Plainfield) through UVLSRPC and six VT towns (Bethel, Hancock, Hartford, Hartland, Granville, and Hancock) with the Two River-Ottawquechee Regional Commission (TRORC).



**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**
PROGRAM

Contact Us!

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FLOODING:

We've Seen the Damage— Now Let's Build Resilience

Understand runoff,
protect your home,
and learn about
local solutions.



Provided by the Upper
Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning
Commission

How can my town be resilient?

1. Plan!

- Update the Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Avoid new development in floodplains
- Adopt floodplain regulations, stormwater management rules, or design standards that reduce runoff.

2. Use Nature to Protect

- Preserve and Restore Floodplains
- Restore Riverbanks & Wetlands
- Install Green Infrastructure: Rain gardens and permeable pavements on municipal land

3. Invest in Infrastructure

- Upgrade Drainage Systems: Bigger, better culverts and storm drains reduce localized flooding.
- Elevate, Armor, Relocate Roads & Utilities

4. Support Preparedness

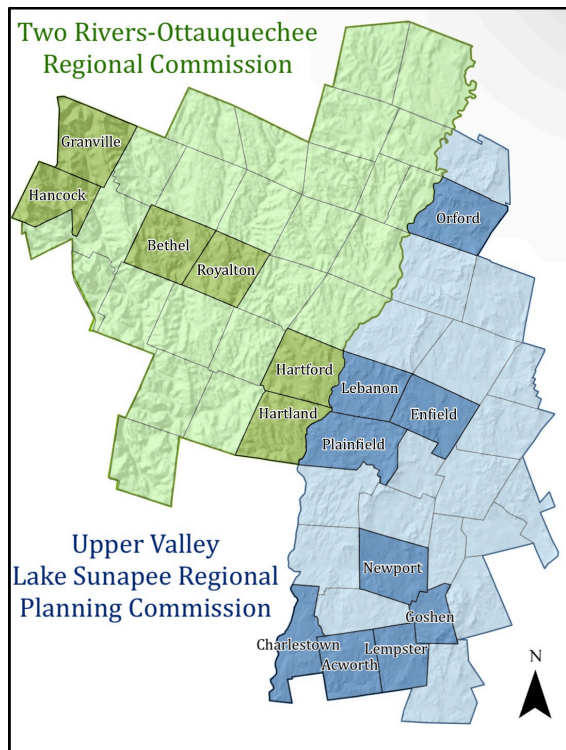
- Emergency Operation Plans
- Adopt Alert Systems: Quickly notify residents of impending floods

5. Engage the community

- Community Education
- Volunteer Initiatives: Clear debris in waterways



Acworth, NH



WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

1. Redirect Downspouts

- Aim them onto lawns or gardens, not driveways or sidewalks.

2. Install a Rain Garden

- A shallow, planted depression that captures and filters runoff.

3. Use Rain Barrels

- Collect and store rainwater for watering gardens or lawns.

4. Limit Lawn Chemicals

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and follow label directions.

5. Scoop the Poop

- Pet waste contains harmful bacteria—bag it and trash it.

6. Go Native

- Plant native species that need less water and prevent erosion.

7. Permeable Surfaces

- Use gravel, pavers, or permeable concrete to reduce runoff.

8. Maintain your driveways

- Reduce sediment runoff

9. Maintain Your Septic System

- Regular inspections help prevent leaks that pollute groundwater.

Together, Small Actions Make a Big Impact!