

TOWN OF PARSKLEY

TOWN PROFILE

Parksley is located in central Accomack County, and it was originally a planned development that was founded in 1885 along the railroad. It became incorporated in 1904 and in 1906 became the first town on the Eastern Shore to have electricity. Parksley was Virginia's only Civil Air Patrol base during World War II and operated from April 16, 1942 to August 31, 1943. The railroad defined the town's growth and prosperity. Even today it remains a prominent feature of activity (*Town of Parksley Comprehensive Plan, 2006*).



Figure 1: Parksley Context and Boundary Maps

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Part of assessing hazards in relation to their risk is understanding the people affected. Not all people are affected equally. Some are affected by the factors that relating to their ability to understand risks posed by hazards, and some by their ability to remove themselves from harm’s way. Those factors include age, mobility, income and the languages individuals speak and the languages in which individuals are able to access information.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Parksley’s population has remained relatively stable between 1960 and 2014 with the population reaching a high of 1,072 in 2013 and a low of 837 in 2000 (U.S. Census, 2000; U.S. Census, 2010; American Community Survey 2009 – 2013). The 2014 American Community Survey 2010 – 2014 prediction has the population at 941. As reflected in Table 1 below, the median age for residents in Parksley in 2014 was 32.9 years, signifying a younger population. This demographic shift could be as a reflection of an increase in young migrant families with multiple children taking up residence in the Town. Typically younger adult residents are less of a high risk population in times of hazards, however families with young children can also need assistance in the case of an emergency situation.

Table 1: Parksley Demographic Information

	2014***	2013**	2010*	2000****
Population	941	1,072	842	837
Median Age	32.9	31.6	40.1	40.6
Disability	81	68		
Income				
Median Household Income	\$50,000	\$42,917	\$43,625	\$35,313
Poverty Level	11.4%	16.2%	14.1%	NA
Language				
Only English	83.7%	82.6%	83.7%	NA
Other	16.3%	17.4%	16.3%	NA
Spanish	11.4%	14.5%	10.1%	NA
Indo-Euro	4.9%	2.9%	2.0%	NA
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	NA

* U.S. Census 2010, ** American Community Survey 2009 – 2013, *** Annual Estimates of the Residential Population: 2010 – 2014, **** U.S. Census 2000

The household income reflected by the American Community Survey data in Table 1 is estimated to be a significantly higher than the true value (Mayor J. Eichelberger, personal communication, January 14, 2016). This overestimate masks the ability of the Town to rebound in the event of disaster.

WORKFORCE

Employment patterns are important to examine for two reasons. They can help to identify concentrations of people for hazard information dissemination or hazard rescue and evacuation. They can also identify where disruptions in employment and income might occur in the aftermath of a disaster.

Table 2: Parksley Local Workforce

Civilian Employed Population								
Industry	2014*		2012*		2010*		2000**	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent

Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

Agriculture, forestry, fishing/hunting, or mining	31	6.6%	31	6.1%	44	8.1%	7	1.7%
Construction	34	7.2%	38	7.5%	36	6.6%	36	8.9%
Manufacturing	70	14.9%	70	13.7%	64	11.8%	74	18.3%
Wholesale trade	22	4.7%	27	5.3%	22	4.1%	12	3.0%
Retail trade	61	13.0%	57	11.2%	57	10.5%	63	15.6%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	22	4.7%	30	5.9%	7	1.3%	12	3.0%
Information	8	1.7%	7	1.4%	8	1.5%	0	0.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rentals	26	5.5%	4	0.8%	3	0.6%	19	4.7%
Professional, scientific, waste management	8	1.7%	9	1.8%	21	3.9%	27	6.7%
Educational and health care services	87	18.5%	98	19.2%	81	14.9%	76	18.8%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, food	43	9.1%	73	14.3%	82	15.1%	28	6.9%
Public Admin	29	6.2%	29	5.7%	80	14.7%	30	7.4%
Other	29	6.2%	37	7.3%	38	7.0%	21	5.2%
TOTAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION	470	-	510	-	543	-	405	-

Source: *ACS, 2010 – 2014, ** U.S. Census 2000

One of the largest employers of residents of the Town is the manufacturing industry, shown in Table 2, which is most likely dominated by poultry processing positions. These companies often have policies in place to mitigate the economic impact for both the company and the employees, however, long-term closures would have strong negative impacts on the Town. There would be a ‘domino effect’ from such a closure, as employees of in that industry wouldn’t have spending dollars for rent, local shops, nor family necessities, and other dependent agricultural businesses would be at a loss as well.

BUSINESSES

Business data provide basic information used in projecting potential economic losses from business and employment disruption, along with wage losses to employees. They can also serve as an indicator of community recovery resources. Finally, data can help to prioritize restoration of utility and infrastructure functions following a high-intensity hazard.

Table 3 reveals a loss of eleven business establishments in Parksley since 2009. The Town is largely retail due to the historic downtown area supporting many small local shops and restaurants, but in the last several year, has seen businesses such as Fresh Pride, Shay Refrigeration, Shore Bank, Lunch Box, What’s Your Fancy either close or move out of the Town. Remaining businesses, such as Jaxon’s Hardware, are still open, but employ fewer employees do to economic challenges. There are also some health services and construction businesses located within Parksley. The county library board recently voted to relocate the library’s main branch to Parksley in the former Fresh Pride grocery store that would be repurposed and expanded. The library will bring more clients to small businesses and restaurants in the Town, and make the Town more attractive for potential residents.

Table 3: Parksley Business Establishment Types

Industry Code Description	Total Establishments		
	2013	2011	2009
Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1	1	1

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Construction	5	7	8
Manufacturing	1	1	1
Wholesale Trade	1	1	1
Retail Trade	13	15	14
Transportation and Warehousing	1	1	2
Information	1	1	1
Finance and Leisure	1	1	1
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1	2	1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2	3	5
Administrative and Support and Waste Management Remediation Services	2	3	3
Health Care and Social Assistance	4	4	7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1	1	0
Accommodation and Food Services	3	3	3
Other Services (Except Public Admin)	8	10	8
Total, All Establishments	45	54	56
Total Employees	295	405	461

Source: Census Zip Code Business Pattern, 2013, 2011, 2009

The number of employees working in Parksley, provided in Table 3 above, give a good indication of the number of people present in the Town during workweek business hours. During an emergency event it is important to know the approximate number and distribution or location of people, so that their presence is known and they may be more efficiently assisted.

BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing units, community facilities, and transportation are all important factors when considering hazard resiliency. They provide the social services necessary during hazardous scenarios, safe cover for those wanting to stay, and a way to leave towards safety.

HOUSING UNITS

Knowledge of a community's housing base contributes to hazard and vulnerability analysis by identifying how many homes are at risk.

Parksley's housing has remained relatively stable over the last decade. Although the American Community Survey data shown in Table 4 below would indicate with a 16.5% increase in housing development from 2000 to 2014, Census data from 2010 refute that estimate, as do local town representatives according to billing records (Mayor J. Eichelberger, personal communications, January 14, 2016). It is believed that the actual number of vacant housing units is closer to 30 rather than 58 or 108, which is important, as often unoccupied homes pose more of a hazard during hazards due to lack of maintenance or unsecured yard debris.

Table 4: Parksley Housing

	2014*	2010**	2000***
Total Housing Units	485	407	405
Occupied	380	349	363
Vacant	105	58	42
Owner-Occupied	255	240	256
Renter-Occupied	125	109	107

Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

Median Housing Value	\$131,900	NA	NA
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* American Community Survey, 2010-2014, **U.S. Census 2010, *** U.S. Census 2000

TRANSPORTATION

Parksley is served by an adequate road system, with State Route 316 providing north-south access for the Town. Route 176 is located east of Parksley and intersects Route 13, the major north-south transportation corridor that bisects the Eastern Shore. The streets are maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation and are in primarily good condition, although due to resurfacing, some are now believed to be too high. Alleys are maintained and owned by the Town. Sidewalks in the town are owned and maintained by either VDOT or private property owners (Mayor J. Eichelberger, personal communications, January 14, 2016). With the library moving into town, an improvement in the Town’s walkability is a high priority.

The railroad runs directly through Town, and although it does not have a stop within Town limits, it poses a potential hazard risk as it transports propane or could serve as an aid in evacuating residents during or following an emergency. The number of vehicles per household, Table 5 below, seems to be approximately the same in 2014 as it was in 2000. The 2010 data presented is thought to be an over estimate (Mayor J. Eichelberger, personal communication, January 14, 2016). The measure of vehicles available to households is one indicator of a household’s ability to evacuate when necessary. The number of households with no vehicle is relatively low, and there is a Star Transit stop at the Farmer’s Market, easily accessible for Town residents.

Table 5: Parksley Resident Vehicles

Vehicles Available	2014*	2010*	2000**
None	17	17	20
One	160	204	168
Two	141	212	114
Three or more	62	58	61

* American Community Survey, 2010 – 2014, ** U.S. Census 2000

COMMERCIAL AREAS

The central business district is located near the center of town along the railroad tracks. It contains a variety of retail stores, services, eating establishments, and professional offices. The business district went under extensive revitalization in 1986 which included improvements on the storefronts, expansion of existing retail areas and services, drainage improvements, extensive landscaping, and the installation of parking lots, sidewalks, a Farmer’s Market Pavilion, street lights, benches, and trash receptacles.

On Bennett Street, Goring Company, a machine shop is the only industrial facility in the Town. Just south of Parksley there is an active Industrial Agriculture facility that could affect the Town in the case of hazard at that location and also could have impacts on the economy.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities are facilities required to support the services and functions provided by the Town government or in coordination with other public and private entities. These facilities enhance the overall quality of life for the Town and its citizens. It’s important to note what facilities are available in case of a hazard, and it’s important to make an inventory of facilities that could be affected by a hazard. Community facilities in Parksley include Parksley Police Department, Fire Department, the Town Office, and a Farmer’s Market.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Town of Parksley

Police protection is provided by the Parksley Police Department, stationed at the Municipal Building on Dunne Avenue. The Town employs three police officers and three police cars. Fire protection and ambulance services for the Town and surrounding area, approximately 7,500 people, are provided by the Parksley Volunteer Fire Department, located on Dunne Avenue and shown in Figure 2. The Fire Department operates three ambulances, two engines, one tanker, one air trailer, one brush truck, one utility vehicle and one rehab vehicle (*Parksley Comprehensive Plan, 2006*). The Fire Department is the designated emergency staging area and the Pavilion is the area for dispensing emergency supplies (e.g. food, medicines, etc.) (*Parksley Comprehensive Plan, 2006*).



Figure 2: Parksley Fire Department

WATER SUPPLY & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Town operates a public water supply system with ground water wells. There are two deep production wells operated on a regular basis, with a third well available for emergency backup operations and Fire Department use. Water is chlorinated at the well site and then pumped to a 75,000 gallon elevated storage tank for distribution. There are several wellhead protection measures in place, such as fencing and locked well caps (*Parksley Comprehensive Plan, 2006*).

Parksley's potable water supply is obtained from ground water through a municipal supply system. Parksley is located in Wellhead Protection Area C- Perdue Area. Major water withdrawers in this area are Perdue, the towns of Onancock and Parksley, and Riverside Shore Rehabilitation Center. Additional large withdrawals could have an impact on water quality from salt water intrusion and deterioration of water quality.



Figure 3: Parksley Water Tower. Photo by Curt Smith

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The Town provides solid waste collection services with the Town-owned collect truck on a weekly basis for Parksley residents and twice a week for commercial establishments through use of a Town-owned garbage truck. Solid waste is hauled to the Accomack County Landfill for disposal (*Parksley Comprehensive Plan, 2006*).

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parksley Town Park is equipped with playground equipment, tennis courts, benches, and an athletic field. The Town also owns the Parksley Scout House, located adjacent to the Town Park. Across the street from the Park is the Parksley Middle School, with an athletic field that provides additional recreational opportunities. Parksley is also home to the Eastern Shore Railway Museum (*Parksley Comprehensive Plan, 2006*).

DRAINAGE DITCHES

Maintenance of drainage ditches and storm drains in Town is the responsibility of VDOT. Stormwater drains are located in the commercial area along Dunne Avenue, Bennett Street, and at the Town Park. Drainage is satisfactory except during periods of heavy rain (*Parksley Town Plan, 2006*).

SCHOOLS

Metompkin Elementary School has grades K-5, and is located just southeast of the Town limit on Bennett Street.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Parksley lies within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The elevation ranges from 30 to 43 feet above sea level, with slopes from 0 – 6%. The Town itself is relatively flat. Parksley is not located within the 100-year floodplain. The soils are a major limiting factor on development due to their unsuitability for septic tanks.

LAND USE LAND COVER

Parksley has a land area of 0.625 square miles or 400 acres. Approximately 30% (Figure 4) of land in Parksley is developed (see Definitions and Acronyms at the beginning of the document for definitions of land use types), with residential land use being the predominant land use category and this being concentrated in the southeast portion of the Town, as seen in Figure 3. Commercial land uses are clustered throughout the Town. Agricultural land use is comprised of three large tracts of farmland located in the outlying areas of town. A substantial portion of agricultural land contains soil types which would allow on-site septic systems, which offers an opportunity for future development. The vacant land present in Town can be developed with alternative (above ground) septic systems (*Parksley Town Plan, 2006*).

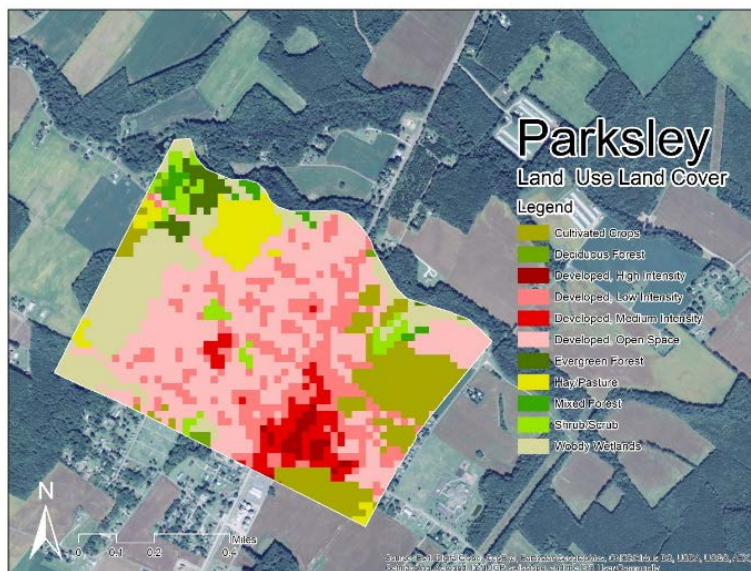


Figure 4: Parksley Land Use Land Cover Map

Town of Parksley

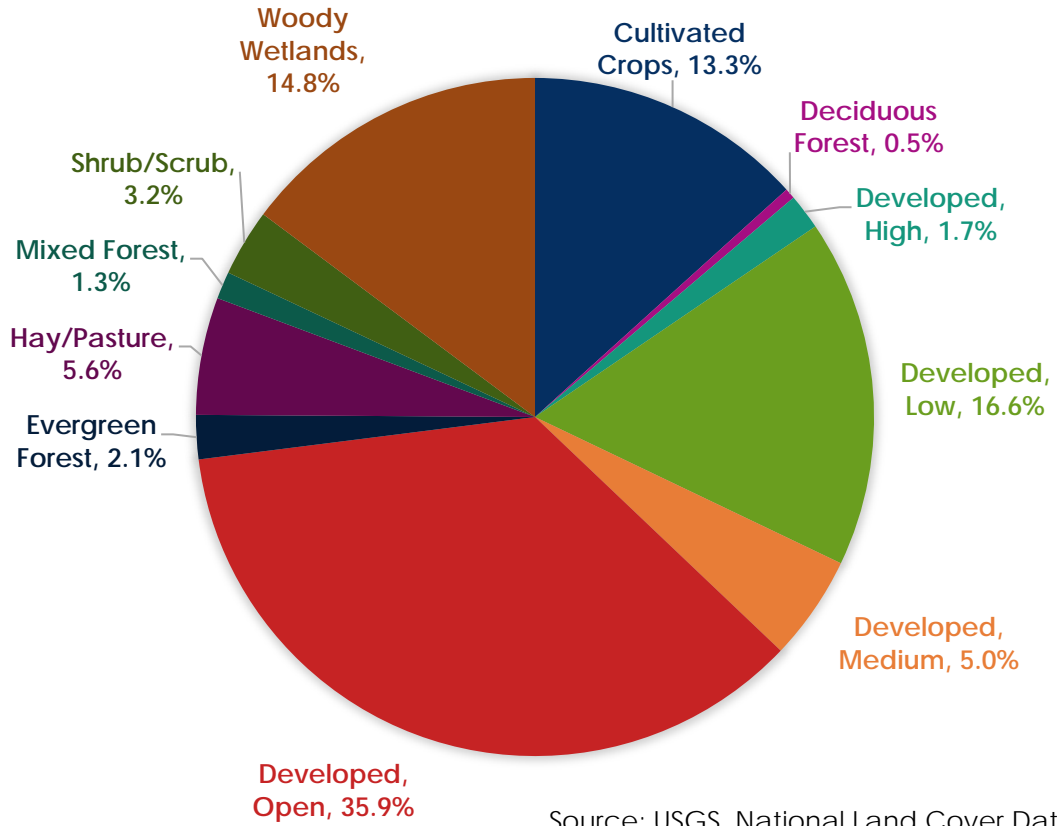


Figure 5: Parksley Land use Land Cover Percentages

HAZARD PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNITY CAPABILITIES

PREVIOUS HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Parksley has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. The Town’s primary risk is associated with storm water flooding.

Table 6 : Town of Parksley Hazard Mitigation Resources

	Ordinances, Plans, & Publications													Resources, Committees						
Authority	Building Code	Chesapeake Bay Act	SWMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan	Comprehensive Plan	Ordinance	Storm Water Regulations	Transportation Infrastructure Inundation Vulnerability Report	All Hazards Preparedness	Emergency Operations Plans	Mutual Aid	Agreements/Documents	Neighborhood Emergency Help	Virginia Hurricane Evacuation	Oil & HazMat Response Plan; HazMat Commodity Flow	Ground Water Committee	Navigable Waterways Committee	Climate Adaptation Working Group	ES Disaster Preparedness Coalition	
Local					*	*														
County	*		*																	
Regional				*				*	*	*				*		*	*	*	*	
State		*					*						*							
Federal		*																		

NATIONAL FLOODING INSURANCE PROGRAM & HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

NFIP

The Town joined the NFIP on December 22, 2008. The Town has 2 NFIP policies totaling \$630,000 in coverage. Neither policies are located in a flood zone, nor have there been any claims filed in the Town (FEMA NFIP Insurance Report, January 2016). This may indicate potential storm water flooding issues within the Town.

HMGP

Parksley has not participated in the HMGP.

HAZARDS PROFILE

Stormwater flooding has the greatest and most frequent impact on the Town.

WIND

No parts of the Town lie in the wind borne debris hazard area. This area extends 1-mile inland from the coast. The Town lies in the 110 – 120 mph design wind zone (Accomack County Building Code).

Most of the residential areas are older and have mature trees in and around the homes. Falling branches or trees may cause damage to structures during a high wind event.

In September 1985, Hurricane Gloria damaged and up-rooted 23 mature trees in Town. Downed trees are hazardous to power lines and can cause extensive power outages. Hurricane Sandy wreaked similar havoc, as seen in Figure 6.

The Parksley Water Tower, Figure 3, is the water source for the Town residents. Wind is the greatest hazard threatening the structure.



Figure 6: Uprooted tree during Hurricane Sandy. Photo by Denise Bernard

COASTAL EROSION

No structures are at immediate risk to coastal erosion.

COASTAL FLOODING

No portions of the Town lie within a Special Flood Hazard Area or within the X zone, which is the 500-year floodplain. The threat of coastal flooding within the Town is considered to be minimal.

STORM WATER FLOODING

Stormwater flooding has the greatest and most frequent impact on the Town. The Town is underlain by some soils that are unsuitable for drainage and rainwater. The *Parksley Comprehensive Plan* indicates that the Town’s hydric soils are located along Katy Young Branch to the north and in the western portion of the Town. A secondary hazard from stand water is the potential for mosquito-borne diseases that could impact the health of residents.

The Town maintains the main drainage ditches within the Town limits. Drainage issues are commonly experienced along the boundaries of the Town where the ditches are not maintained as regularly.

A large thunderstorm struck Parksley on September 3, 2003, just prior to Hurricane Isabel. It brought heavy rains that back flooded several homes along Bennett Street on the west side of Town and several stores along Bennett and Dunne streets in the center of Town. It was suspected that clogged ditches and hydric soils in the area were the main factors in the flooding that occurred. Town officials have indicated that the storm water culverts around the Downtown Business District are undersized and have not historically been able to handle heavy rains. Rains from northeasters and hurricanes have historically impacted the Town.

Table 7: Parksley Identified Flooding Locations, Causes, & affected Critical Facilities

	HMP 2006	HMP 2011	HMP 2016
Where is the flooding?	NA	Katy Young Branch to the north and western portion of the Town	Dunn & Adelaide; In front of Jaxon’s, Perennial ditch on south side
Cause of Hazard	NA	Significant rain events and inadequately maintained storm water ditches	
Critical Facilities Identified	NA	Downtown Business District	



Figure 7: Parksley Downtown Business District. Photo by Curt Smith

The Downtown Business District, Figure 6, in Parksley is regularly flooded during large rain events because the drainage pipes in this area are undersized. Rainwater commonly becomes backed-up as a result causing flooding in the streets and storefronts.

HAZARDS OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION

The Town faces a threat of ground water contamination from several sources including failed septic systems within the Town, leaks and spills of petroleum based products from underground storage tanks, and major industrial facilities within the area. In Parksley, all residential treatment of wastewater and sewage is done through approximately 341 on-site septic systems within the Town limits. The Town has a central sewer system that was constructed in 2009 that provides wastewater and sewage treatment service to the Downtown Business District. The public water supply and central sewer systems have a secondary power supply in the event of a power outage.

Major ground water withdrawers in the area are Perdue, Byrd Foods, and the Towns of Onancock and Parksley, and Accomack County Nursing Home. Large withdrawals of ground water in the vicinity increase the possibility of well interference, salt water intrusion, and a deterioration of water quality (*Parksley Comprehensive Plan, 2006*).

ICE & SNOW STORMS

A large ice storm impacted the Town in the late 1990s. The ice storm downed tree limbs and power lines and also force local businesses to close for several days. Residents had no electricity for several days.

DROUGHTS

As a result of historic droughts impacting the Town, Parksley has adopted an ordinance regulating water usage during droughts to conserve the Town's water supply.

TORNADOES

Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

Tornadoes have not historically hit within Town limits, but they have occurred on the outskirts of Town and are a relevant concern.

CRITICAL FACILITIES

The following table lists the critical facilities and their relative importance to the Town.

Table 8: Parksley Critical Facilities

Facility	HMP 2006	HMP 2011	HMP 2016	Hazards	No of People Affected	Loss potential	Relocation Potential	Retrofit Potential
Town-owned Facilities								
Parksley Town Office	-	X	X	Wind Stormwater Fire	842	Major Disruption	Yes	Yes
Parksley Public Water Supply and Sewer System	-	X	X	Wind Stormwater	842	Devastating	No	Yes
Parksley Town Park	-	X	X	Trees Wind	842	Inconvenience	No	Yes
Parksley Pavilion (also staging area, recreational area, & farmers market)	-	-	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	842+	Major Disruption	No	Yes
Parksley Police Department	-	X	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	842+	Major Disruption	Yes	Yes
Town garbage truck	-	X	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	842+	Major Disruption	No	Yes
Town Parking Area	-	X	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	842+	Major Disruption	No	Yes
Other Facilities								
Eastern Shore Railway Museum	-	X	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	None, impact would be to economy	Inconvenience	No	Yes
Parksley Fire & Rescue Department	-	X	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	7500+	Devastating	No	Yes
U.S. Post Office	-	-	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	842+	Major Disruption	Yes	Yes
Gas Station	-	-	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	842+	Major Disruption	Yes	Yes
Railroad	-	-	X	Wind Fire Stormwater	842+	Major Disruption	Yes	Yes

FINDINGS

1. The hazards expected to have the greatest impact on the Town are stormwater flooding and high wind events, which have been experienced throughout the Town's history. Other hazards facing the Town are groundwater contamination, ice storms, drought, tornadoes, and mosquito-borne disease.
2. Although no part of the Town lies within any flood zone, due to soil types, topography, and inadequate drainage system, stormwater flooding is the most common hazard experienced by the Town and there are two flood insurance policies in the Town.
3. The Town has identified undersized drainage pipes and repeatedly paved over and thus raised road levels, particularly Dunne Avenue, in the Downtown Business District as the cause of increasing effects of stormwater damages on adjacent buildings and vehicles.
4. Older construction and mature trees in residential areas increase risk from damages from wind and snow events, as branches are likely to come down causing secondary wind/snow damages and power outages.