

RESILIENT NORTHEASTERN NEW JERSEY

FLOOD RESILIENCE TOOLBOX

FLOOD RESILIENCE TOOLBOX

There are many possible solutions that can be implemented to address flooding. Resilient NENJ developed a toolbox that included physical and nature-based solutions, policy and governance solutions, and individual and community-based actions. Physical and nature-based solutions include infrastructure projects and things that change the built environment. Policy and governance related solutions are solutions that affect what decisions related to flooding are made, how, and by whom. Individual and community-based solutions are solutions that increase the social resilience of a community. The toolbox summarizes key information about each solution including:

- Types of hazards the solution addresses
- The types of areas in which the solution could be applied
- Scale of the intervention (individual site, multiple sites, etc.)
- Possible co-benefits (benefits other than reduced flooding)
- Level of potential disruption from construction or implementation
- Other constraints and considerations

The toolbox also groups solutions into three approaches to resilience: Protecting from the water, Adapting to the water, and Moving away from the water. These approaches are described further in the following pages.



(RESILIENCE GOALS INFORM ADAPTATION STRATEGIES)

The toolbox is not intended to be inclusive of all possible solutions but was a helpful starting point to identify solutions and outline the decisionmaking process for selecting a specific solution for an area. The Action Plan built on examples from this toolbox, integrating community feedback, other engagement, and technical analyses. The decision tree on page 2 outlines an example process that could be used to select flood risk reduction solutions. Note that based on feedback, the Resilient NENJ Action Plan includes five types of solution categories rather than the three included herein, and also addresses other climate-related hazards (see the Climate Hazards Assessment and associated toolbox). The goals of the toolbox are to:

- Communicate the types and range of solutions possible, as well as when they might be appropriate and their limitations
- Provide a framing tool for both the technical team and stakeholders, to help us begin from similar places of understanding, about the technical considerations that often guide these types of decisions



COASTAL STORMS

WHERE IS THE SITE LOCATED WITHIN THE WATERSHED?

(LOCATE SITE ON WATERSHED MAP)

COASTAL

RIVERINE

UPLAND

DECISION TREE

WHAT TYPE OF FLOOD HAZARD(S) IS THE SITE EXPOSED TO?







RIVERINE FLOODING STORMWATER FLOODING

SEA LEVEL RISE







Solutions that protect from water keep flood waters out. They prevent water from flooding our neighborhoods with physical barriers. These solutions can be permanent, like a berm or levee, or can be deployed for specific flood events.



LEVEL OF POTENTIAL DISRUPTION

CONSTRUCTION TIME	+		
IMPACT TO PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE	+	•	



CONSTRUCTABILITY

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OPEN

SPAC

6000

BERMS & LEVEES



- - - -

DEPLOYABLE **FLOODGATES**

HAZARDS ADDRESSED



DEPLOYABLE **TIDE GATES**

HAZARDS ADDRESSED



SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



RESILIENT NORTHEASTERN NJ / FLOOD RESILIENCE TOOLBOX

INFA

SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



Berms and levees are raised earthen structures erected to protect from flooding. They can be integrated with recreational boardwalks, walkways and bike paths. Their natural sloped sides can be populated with recreational features.





Deployable floodgates are mobile elements, integrated into static flood barriers, that are closed during flood events to fill gaps in protective barriers and prevent floodwater intrusion.





Tide gates are deployed along drainage and waterways to keep out floodwaters during high tides. They control water levels within urban systems and areas, come in several forms and are usually self-regulating.

CO-BENEFITS

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ECONOMIC

CONSTRUCTION TIME

IMPACT TO PUBLIC

ACCESS AND USE



RESILIENT NORTHEASTERN NJ / FLOOD RESILIENCE TOOLBOX 4







IINFAR

Physical and Nature Based Solutions ADAPT TO PRESENCE OF WATER

RESILIENT NORTHEASTERN NJ / FLOOD RESILIENCE TOOLBOX 6

ADAPT TO PRESENCE OF WATER





ADAPT TO PRESENCE OF WATER

BLUE ROOF

STORM DRAIN PIPE



Right-of-way bioswales are vegetated drainage courses located in sidewalks to capture, detain, and infiltrate runoff from streets, allowing any excess rain water to enter the piped stormwater system.

A green roof is a layer of growing medium for vegetation installed over a waterproofing

system, slowing down runoff by retaining rainwater and gradually releasing it back into the

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UPLAND

CONSTRUCTABILITY

atmosphere through condensation and transpiration. Blue roofs provide temporary water

storage systems that allow for the gradual release or evaporation of stored water.

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APPLICABLE AREAS

APPLICABLE AREAS

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CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

URBAN SUBURBAN





IMPROVE & EXPAND DRAINAGE SYSTEM

HAZARDS ADDRESSED



SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



ELEVATE STRUCTURES **ABOVE DFE**





RAISE CRITICAL SYSTEMS



SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



GREEN ROOF & BLUE ROOF



WATER

SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



GREEN ROO









SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION





Retention ponds are artificial basins used to manage stormwater runoff and promote infiltration. Capturing runoff, they can reduce downstream or localized flooding and enable groundwater recharge.

CO-BENEFITS

CO-BENEFITS

CONSTRUCTION

IMPACT TO PUBLIC

ACCESS AND USE

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ECONOMIC EDUCATIONAL RECREATIONAL ECOLOGICAL

LEVEL OF POTENTIAL DISRUPTION

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LEVEL OF POTENTIAL DISRUPTION



APPLICABLE AREAS \bigcirc \bigcirc

UPLAND SUBURBAN

CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS







Overwhelmed drainage systems are frequently the root cause of rainfall flooding. Combined sewer and stormwater systems also lead to environmental pollutants being released into waterways during rainfall events at CSO points. By separating and expanding the drainage capacity of these systems we can mitigate both stormwater flooding and CSO pollution.



Physically raising structures above flood levels protects these structures during flood events. Structures can be kept relatively intact during the raising process. Ground level can be used for storage, parking and other temporary uses.





FIRST FLOOR LE

RAISED ABOVE DE

Relocating critical systems to higher floors within structures reduces the impacts of flooding on critical services and reduces recovery times. This tool increases the resilience of essential services to homes and businesses.

CO-BENEFITS

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ECONOMIC

CONSTRUCTION TIME

IMPACT TO PUBLI

ACCESS AND USE







By physically raising land above flood levels a whole site can be protected from regular flooding. Raising land protects the full footprint of important sites like utilities and other public assets. This tool does displace risk to surrounding areas and is susceptible to subsidence. This should be applied only when there is enough space and risks to surrounding areas are considered.



DRYPROOF LEVELS **BELOW FLOOD LEVEL**



SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



SYSTEMS









HAZARDS ADDRESSED



SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



CREATE REDUNDANT EMERGENCY ROUTES



SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION

HAZARDS ADDRESSED

SCALE OF IMPLEMENTATION



WETPROOF LEVELS

BELOW FLOOD LEVEL



By creating redundant routes, residents and emergency services can have mobility options when other, more susceptible routes are impassible. This tool applies to instances where critical emergency routes are often compromised by floodwaters.









Wetproofing of floors below grade involves sealing susceptible levels to water infiltration. This allows for flood water to move into and through these levels while limiting infiltration to the rest of the structure.



 \bigcirc ECONOMIC

 \bigcirc

TIME

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ECONOMIC RECREATIONAL

LEVEL OF POTENTIAL DISRUPTION







CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS





WETPROOF FLOORS BELOW DEF

FLOODWATERS FLOW THROUG

THE WETPROOFED LEVELS

11



Dryproofing below flood levels involves fully blocking out floodwaters with both permanent and deployable structures. This tool retains usability of floors below grade for permanent and temporary uses. Allows for assets and utilities to remain below DFE with a lessened chance of flooding.



CREATE REDUNDANT



Creating redundant systems is an essential element of resilience. For example, the reliable delivery of electricity is crucial for daily life and to post-disaster recovery. By creating decentralized and redundant energy generators and developing micro-grid systems we ensure the functioning and recovery of critical systems in case of failure within the wider network.









By acquiring and consolidating land, particularly along coasts and shorlines, for preservation, natural edges can be restored and enhanced in order to add inundation and erosion protection as well as sea level rise and wave mitigation.





CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS









Resilience Hubs are community serving facilities that support residents through coordination resource distribution and services before, during, and/or after a natural hazard event.

Hubs can be used year-round as neighborhood centers and are intended to be supported by local government by led and managed by community members, community-based organization and/or faith-based groups

COMMUNITY **STEWARDSHIP OF GREEN SPACES**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

NJHealth

Prepare and Maintain an Emergency Kit Prepare y mantenga al día Equipo para Emergencias



Emergency preparedness efforts include the dissemination of emergency alerts and guidance to residents and community leaders and supporting community-based emergency preparedness programs through partnerships with community organizations and faith-based institutions.

Outreach in multiple languages and through trusted local leaders is key.

More info from the New Jersey Department of Health's Office of Disaster Resilience

https://www.state.nj.us/health/er/

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



HE EASY WAY TO PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS FOR THE UNEXPECTED.

Outreach and technical assistance to businesses and industries is another key element of emergency preparedness. This includes providing resources and guidance on developing emergency plans and how to navigate recovery programs.

More info from the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management

http://ready.nj.gov/plan-prepare/business-industry.shtml

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESILIENCY INFRASTRUCTURE



One way to build adaptive capacity is to work in close collaboration with neighborhood residents and community-based organizations to identify community needs and develop strategies for improving access to necessary resources. This could include improving access to open space, improving community mobility and connectivity, or addressing food deserts—all things that help a community adapt to changing climate hazards and thrive every day.



Community co-creation and stewardship of green spaces is a way to partner with community-based organizations to maintain green spaces that support community resilience while supporting education, job training, and providing volunteer opportunities.

Ex. United Parks for One in Newark



Creating a Clean, Green Newark!

Job training programs focused on green infrastructure or other resiliency projects help direct investment in infrastructure projects to community and develop the necessary workforce to implement planned projects.

Example: Newark Green Works.

More info from New Jersey Water Works: https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/ wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Newark-Local-Hire-Report-November-2020.pdf

Partnerships with developers can be used to incorporate resiliency improvements, such as barriers like berms or floodwalls, or on-site stormwater improvements, into redevelopment plans.

Ex. Crescent Park Redevelopment in Jersey City



Moving away from the water includes relocation or setting back from flood areas. This approach keeps people and infrastructure out of areas of high flood risk. The NJDEP Blue Acres program is an example program that allows communities to buyout homes in high risk areas. Discussions about moving away from water can be challenging because of how this can disrupt communities. Resilient NENJ has heard from residents that they value keeping their communities intact.



LINEAR

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY ROLES

FEDERAL AGENCIES & PROGRAMS

Policy and Governance

FEMA	 Creates maps of current flood risk and sets national floodplain construction standards Administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), through which people in participating municipalities can purchase flood insurance. Reduced rates are available for municipalities that adopt higher construction standards through the Community Rating System (CRS). Provides hazard mitigation and disaster recovery funding to governments, businesses, and individuals. To be eligible for hazard mitigation funds, states and local entities must have developed a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).
US Army Corps of Engineers	 Conducts flood risk reduction studies Implements flood risk reduction projects Coordinates with NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on hazard mitigation and disaster recovery funding efforts
NOAA	Manages the federal Coastal Zone Management Program

STATE AGENCIES & PROGRAMS

DEP	 Coordinates federal, state and local floodplain management programs. These include statewide floodplain management standards and model local ordinances
	 Leading developing of statement climate resilience planning initiatives, including NJPACT and Resilient NJ. Relatedly, oversees the Site Remediation Program and sets requirements for combined sewer systems / LTCPs.
DCA	 Enforces construction codes Administers CBDG funds received by the State for Superstorm Sandy assistance
BPU	 Regulates utilities, including water supply and wastewater management
DEM	Coordinates with FEMA on hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and disaster recovery funding

COUNTY, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL AGENCIES & PROGRAMS

unty, ounty	 Responsible for managing county roads, infrastructure, parks Can adopt site plan and subdivision standards as development impacts their assets Maintain County Hazard Mitigation Plans
l ders C etc.)	 Responsible for wastewater conveyance and treatment and development of Long-Term Control Plans to mitigate impacts on water quality Advanced internal planning for climate risks and implementation of flood mitigation projects
City, oken, onne	 As a home rule state, land use, zoning, development regulation rest in local decision makers Required to have Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances and Municipal Separate Storm System (MS4) "Stormwater Management" plans Must adopt a Master Plan that meets statewide requirements Develop hazard mitigation plans and capital improvement programs to address infrastructure and flood protection needs Submit grant applications to support funding Raise funding through property taxes, municipal bonds, and improvements associated with redevelopment projects



POTENTIAL ACTIONS

Strategy	Examples	Hazards Addressed	Co-Benefits
Increasing floodplain construction standards	 Higher freeboard Disclosure laws for sale of land in the floodplain Require dry access Non-conversion agreements Prohibit new critical facilities in high hazard areas 	All	Flood insurance savings
Increasing standards for on-site stormwater management	 Maximum lot coverage standards Prohibit encroachments on drainage ways 	Stormwater	 Water quality improvements Creation of community green space
Land use planning and zoning	 Plan for growth in areas of lower risk and reduce growth in high hazard areas Improve access to resources and necessities Remove zoning barriers to resilient design Set elevation requirements of buildings, yards, and esplanades Erosion prevention requirements Setbacks 	All	 Economic development Quality of life Environmental benefits
Incorporating resiliency in Capital Infrastructure Planning	 Align Capital Infrastructure Plan with land use plans and hazard mitigation plans Create resiliency design standards Prioritize investments based on risk reduction 	All	 Improved efficiency of capita spending
Adapting governance structures to advance resiliency	 Resilience District to fund, implement, and maintain community-scale resiliency infrastructure Task forces and working groups across agencies and jurisdictions to advance 	All	 Improved governance and accountability

CASE STUDY: WATSON-CRAMPTON **NEIGHBORHOOD** (WOODBRIDGE, NJ)



OVERLAY ZONE (JERSEY CITY)

CASE STUDY: RESILIENT BUILDING DESIGN GUIDELINES (HOBOKEN)

Building entrance is	2 Foundation	3 Floor area is	Critical systems
odified.	reinforced and basement reduced to crawl space.	relocated within the building	relocated above DFE.
asement door and sidewalk			Utility connections, meters,
eaway are filled in to sidewalk ade.	Footings and foundation are reinfosced.	gs and foundation are A new 3rd floor is constructed reed. on top of the existing structure	
na below flood elevation inversed for storage use only.	Floor of basement is raised to match or exceed lowest adjacent	within the permitted building envelope	from the basement and rear yate to above DPE.
	grade.	rade. Non compliant living space	A samp pump with emergency
	Flood vents are introduced at front and rear facade walls making the area below DFE	below DFE is relocated to an upper floor retaining the original floor area.	battery backup is installed in th new crawispace.





CASE STUDY: FLOOD



- After Hurricane Sandy, Woodbridge worked with the New Jersey Blue Acres Program (managed by NJDEP) for funding for voluntary buy-outs of homes severely damaged by Sandy.
- Woodbridge rezoned the area to an Open Space Conservation / Resiliency zone, which:
 - Prohibits new development
- Renovation, reconstruction, sale, or change in tenancy require properties to be elevated one foot above federal requirements
 Woodbridge is working with Rutgers University to plan for the restoration of bought-out properties to serve as a flood buffer.
 Due to these efforts, Woodbridge has been designated a class 6 community through the Community Rating System, which allows residents to earn discount on flood insurance premiums.
- Woodbridge worked closely with residents and the Land Conservancy of New Jersey to educate residents about the program.

- The Jersey City Flood Overlay Zone Ordinance applies to all properties located in the current 1% annual chance floodplain.
- Includes requirements for green infrastructure and resilient site design depending on location in the AE or VE zone (VE zone is portion of floodplain where there are wave hazards).
- Strategies such as vegetated walls, green roof, permeable pavement, bioretention, WaterSense fixtures, etc., can be used to meet these requirements.



SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT & RETROFIT STRATEGY

- Provides an overview of the laws and regulations that apply to construction in the floodplain.
- Provides guidance on strategies to reduce flood insurance premiums. Recommendation for how to design buildings to be resilient as well enhance the character of a dense, urban city with pedestrian-friendly streets.

