

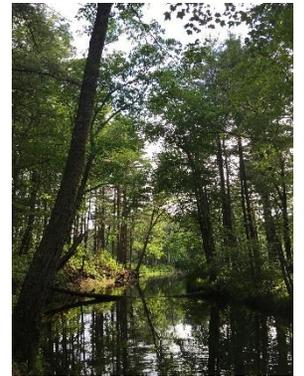
Five Simple Actions That Improve Community Resilience



1. Take Advantage of Nature

Nature offers numerous free ecosystem services such as air and water quality improvements that communities can take advantage of.

- Protect existing natural areas, especially along streams, to reduce erosion and flooding and improve water quality
- Protect floodplain areas that absorb flood waters
- Plant diverse species of native trees that improve air quality
- Maintain natural hydrology and try to direct stormwater back into the ground to improve groundwater supply and reduce flooding



2. Be Smart with Regulations and Bylaws

Review your regulations and bylaws to make sure they work together and encourage the type of development that you want to see in your community.

- Allow open space residential design of subdivisions by right (vs. by special permit)
- Make sure your bylaws allow for and encourage low impact development, including zoning and subdivision regs
- Update precipitation amounts for design standards using recent data (NOAA Atlas 14)
- Go on a road diet – reduce width and length of roads, and reduce parking requirements

3. Think Ahead and Plan

Taking time to make a plan is hard to fit into our busy schedules, but plans can help your community get funding for projects and to be ready for action when needed.

- Create a Hazard Mitigation Plan and include increasing culvert size upon replacement if needed
- Know what risks you face and where vulnerable populations are
- Create a master plan for your community and stick to it – identify priorities for growth and conservation



4. Be Opportunistic

Take advantage of a variety of perspectives and opportunities when they arise – work together and get more done.

- When already doing work, think about ways to reduce impervious surfaces, improve culverts, or plant trees
- Look for “multiple benefits” from LID type practices
- Look for partners, don’t reinvent the wheel
- Have multidisciplinary staff meetings – learn together and share resources

5. Look Around

Keep an eye out for these easy fixes and be proactive instead of reactive.

- Remove old or abandoned tires (prime mosquito habitat)
- Trim vulnerable trees near powerlines and control invasive vines that can pull lines down
- Get to know your emergency response departments and plans; be prepared
- Learn about the resources available to you and take advantage of them (like RTWN!)
- Host and attend events such as block parties, community plantings, or river walks – these can help create strong social networks, safer neighborhoods, committed citizens, and overall enhanced community resilience



*This fact sheet was created by the **Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTNW)***

Learn more about RTWN at spredd.org/rtnw

