# Plainville, MA



# Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) and Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop Summary of Findings

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# **Submitted by:**











# **Table of Contents**

Overview	3
Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas	6
Areas of Concern	7
Current Strengths and Assets	13
Top Recommendations to Improve Resilience	16
Citation	19
Acknowledgements	19
Appendices	20
Appendix A: Strengths and Vulnerabilities Map	21
Appendix B: Digitized Risk Matrices	24
Appendix C: CRB Workshop Participants	46
Appendix D: Workshop Presentation Slides	47

# **Overview**

Located in Bristol County, Massachusetts, the town of Plainville covers 11.6 square miles of land and supports a population of 8,264 residents (as of the 2010 US census). Plainville sits on the Massachusetts-Rhode Island state border, at the northeast corner of Rhode Island. Located within the Providence, RI, and Boston, MA, metropolitan areas, Plainville is facing residential development pressure for its convenient location and ease of commute between both cities. It straddles three watersheds—the Blackstone, Ten Mile, and Taunton River watersheds divide the town from west to east, but all are sub-basins of the larger Narragansett Bay watershed.

A low-density farming community in its early years, scattered development throughout the twentieth century has altered the character of Plainville. Between 1950 and 2000, following the construction of Interstate 495, Plainville's population increased 268%, from 2,088 to 7,683, at a higher rate than the regional average. Today, 36.5% of the town is developed while 63.5% remains open space, 8.6% of which is permanently protected from development and 1.92% of which is considered undevelopable wetlands (according to 2005 MassGIS land use data). Twenty percent of the town's forest has been lost to development since 1990 alone, however, and the remainder of Plainville's unprotected open space is continually threatened by increasing demands for residential development.

Plainville's Master Plan identifies its town assets: "a strong sense of community, attractive town character, open space, convenient access, and extensive wetlands and streams that serve as a resource for the town." Addressing the vulnerabilities of these important resources to the stress of development and climate change impacts, like **severe storms**, **wind**, and more severe **flood/drought cycles** in particular, is a priority for the town. Local residents see collaborative planning as an effective way to ensure a resilient community and sustain critical shared resources, now and into the future.

The town is already facing challenges from climate change impacts. Trees are under stress from longer periods of drought and increasing prevalence of pests like gypsy moths, and are falling more frequently during intense storms with high winds. Downed power lines leave the town's vulnerable residents without power during extreme weather and cut off the water supply for those that rely on private wells. Downed trees and flooding cut off traffic and create bottlenecks along key evacuation routes. Lack of public transportation and long-term sheltering options leave vulnerable populations in danger during severe storms. The town recognizes the importance of nature in alleviating the issues of flooding, water quality impairments, and water scarcity; however much of the town's open space is unprotected from future development.

To support the community in considering and prioritizing actions to address these vulnerabilities and improve its climate resilience, the Town of Plainville applied for and received a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to become a Designated Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community. Core members of the Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN) were tasked with coordinating MVP planning workshops, specifically the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD), who acted as Plainville's Certified MVP Provider. Staff from The Nature Conservancy, Manomet, and Mass Audubon supported the Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshop process as Certified MVP Providers and members of RTWN. These planning workshops took place on two consecutive Tuesdays, January 14 and 21, 2020 at the Plainville Town Hall.

Stakeholders from Plainville were present as workshop participants, including representatives from many of Plainville's municipal boards and departments. Also in attendance were representatives from Plainville's schools, police and fire department, as well as town residents (see Appendix C for full list). Attendees were divided into two distinct groups that remained consistent in both workshops. Each group identified features in Plainville visually with a map (Appendix A), and verbally on a matrix (Appendix B). Each feature was related to hazards that the town is concerned about and participants determined whether a particular feature was considered vulnerable to those hazards or a strength that helps Plainville mitigate them. Each item listed on a group's matrix was numbered, and corresponded to a numbered dot they placed on their map. Three colors used on the map visually represent the different feature categories of infrastructural (red), environmental (green), and societal (yellow in group 1 and blue in group 2).

Through facilitated discussion, workshop attendees:

- Defined top local natural and climate-related hazards of concern;
- Identified existing and future strengths and vulnerabilities;
- Developed prioritized actions for the community, and;
- Identified immediate opportunities to collaboratively advance actions to increase resilience.

Several recurring themes emerged from the discussion, particularly the need to **prevent power outages** through more proactive tree management and installing back-up generators, **protect drinking water quantity and quality** through management of existing water sources and surrounding lands, and **establish a community center** that could serve as a center for sharing information and providing shelter during emergencies. **Public education**, through better homeowner outreach regarding tree management and private well and sewer management, as well as general emergency preparedness

communication both before and during emergency events, was also identified as imperative to achieving community resiliency.



# **Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas**

Participants discussed past impacts from natural hazards that they have experienced, and came to consensus on the top three concerns to their community, which were identified as:

- Wind
- Severe storms
- Flood/drought cycles

**Wind** is a primary driver of power outages in Plainville during storms. The town has a history of prolonged outages due to slow response times from National Grid. This is particularly concerning for residents on the west side of town who get their water from private wells, which cannot pump when the power is out. While downed trees from strong winds are the direct cause of the outages, it is also important to address issues that impact tree health and root systems, such as gypsy moth infestation and prolonged drought, that weaken the trees and make them more susceptible to wind.

**Severe Storms** are a primary concern because flooding and downed trees can cause traffic bottlenecks or cut off access altogether along important thoroughfares, particularly Route 106. Plainville also does not currently have the capacity to support all of its residents during prolonged severe weather. The current shelter at Jackson Elementary School is not large enough to support the entire town, nor does it have the capacity to provide food or overnight accommodations. Additional concerns during severe storms for the town include lack of transportation options to get vulnerable populations out of their homes in an emergency, and lack of heating and cooling centers that can serve residents during power outages.

Flood/Drought Cycle describes the threat to Plainville's roads, forests, and water management infrastructure posed by large precipitation events and more frequent, longer-lasting droughts. Floods directly damage infrastructure and can disrupt traffic, while also destabilizing sediment that can result in tree falls and water quality impairments. Prolonged droughts can weaken trees and their root systems, which makes them more vulnerable to wind damage and falling on power lines. Droughts also threaten Plainville's drinking water supply, drawing down water levels in reservoirs and well fields. The stresses resulting from a more volatile flood/drought cycle affect all residents, businesses, and institutions in Plainville.

## **Areas of Concern**

Several locations in town were identified as important strengths or notable vulnerabilities, and some, because of their complex nature, were considered to be both strengths *and* vulnerabilities. The top three natural hazards identified by Plainville workshop attendees were **wind**, **severe storms**, and **flood/drought cycles**. The town's identified strengths and vulnerabilities to each of these hazards, as well as potential actions that can be taken to address areas of concern, are outlined in the following sections. Prioritization (high, medium, low) and time anticipated to complete each action are indicated in the digitized matrices (Appendix B).

**Infrastructural** concerns centered around public utilities and vulnerabilities resulting from power outages during intense storms. In particular, more frequent power outages due to increased tree fall, and lack of backup generators to power public centers and private water wells, and strengthening the town's water supply system in general, were cited as high priority concerns.

#### **Power Lines and Outages**

Plainville recognizes the value of its abundance of trees for the environmental and economic benefits and unique community character they provide. The Department of Public Works' Tree Management Program undertakes the important task of monitoring Plainville's tree health. A 2018 tree health survey recognized declining tree health in the town's roadside trees from pests, such as gypsy moths and hemlock wooly adelgids, and droughts. Weaker trees are more vulnerable to falling down or losing limbs in strong winds, and more frequent storms are increasing the frequency of downed trees that block roads and traffic movement, and take down power lines, causing power outages. When the power goes out, response times from National Grid are typically slow. Parts of town have been without power for as long as seven days. Outages are of particular concern to residents on the west side of town who rely on private wells and sewer systems that cannot pump without power. Not only are many homeowners without generators, but the town does not have reliable generators for important public centers, such as the senior center, either. This means that during emergency events many residents will also have no source of power for heat and A/C, or for powering communication devices.

More proactive tree management and homeowner education on appropriate tree planting and care, and on how to spot potential hazards to power lines, were identified as important measures to take to reduce tree fall. The town could reduce power outage risks by acquiring its own bucket truck and trimming trees immediately as needs arise (rather than having to go through the process of hiring an outside bidder to do the work each time) and

meeting with National Grid to plan for future response and strategize ways to reduce response time.

#### **Water Supply and Management**

Quality and quantity of the public drinking water supply is a major concern to both town officials and residents in Plainville. Much of the town has access to the public water supply; however, a portion of the west side of the town does rely on private wells. For these residents, having an alternative source of power and/or water will be crucial for emergency preparedness into the future. The town's public system currently relies on three operating wells, which do not fulfill the town's needs, so additional water is purchased from the neighboring city of North Attleborough. Falling water levels resulting from prolonged droughts, as well as potential contamination sources nearby (the capped landfill, the uranium storage site at the old Engelhard Industries, and septic systems surrounding Lake Mirimichi) pose significant threats to the future water supply. The town will need to take steps to secure the existing wells in operation, and explore options to reopen or drill new wells to meet the growing population's needs. Aging infrastructure across the town's water system is an additional vulnerability, particularly in the center of town where infiltration into old clay sewer pipes has been discovered and unnecessarily drives up water treatment costs. Continuing to update aging infrastructure across the town's water and sewer system will be essential for the town to meet the demands of a growing population and ensure resiliency of its water system as future precipitation patterns and water availability become less certain.

Essential action the town recognizes it needs to take to secure its water supply includes performing a risk and resilience assessment on the municipal water system to identify how the town can continue to meet its residents' needs. Additionally, the town needs to look into getting five existing inoperable public wells back on line and drilling additional wells to meet growing water needs. The town should also continue monitoring water quality, with careful attention paid to the capped landfill and Engelhard site to make sure contaminants are not leaching into the water supply.

#### Transportation (Traffic Patterns, Infrastructure, and Public Transit)

The town identified several spots where localized flooding or tree fall can cause severe traffic bottlenecks or cut off access altogether. Route 106 in particular is an important thoroughfare that provides access from the town center to Route 152 and the neighboring town of Foxborough, for which reason it was also identified as a key infrastructural strength; however, a lack of alternative routes is problematic when this road becomes blocked. Widespread flooding is not an existing concern for the town; however, the town did identify certain areas where localized flooding and/or sewer overflow during excessive rainfall cause disruptions, including: Shepard Street, West Bacon Street, Lakeside Drive,

Branch Avenue, South Street, and the senior center parking lot. Another town-wide concern is the lack of public transportation, particularly in an emergency event and for vulnerable populations that may not have access to their own transportation. The Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) does operate buses through Plainville, but the town does not have its own transportation in place to evacuate vulnerable residents, should the need arise.

The town needs to address potentially dangerous traffic bottlenecks by ensuring adequate alternative access routes through the town, or where alternatives do not exist, maintaining roadside trees to avoid future blockages. One action that could facilitate travel to and from the west side of town is widening Fuller Street to allow additional access as an alternative to West Bacon Street when it floods. The town also requires an assessment of vulnerable infrastructure across the town, including dams (including Shepard Street, Wetherells Pond, and Lake Mirimichi), culverts (including West Bacon Street), bridges (including Mirimichi Street and Fuller Street), and the stormwater system, to ensure safety to the town and its infrastructure during future storm and precipitation events. Additionally, providing public transportation options to make the town less reliant on cars will help to mitigate carbon emission impacts, and could provide emergency evacuation options for residents without cars.

**Environmental** concerns focused on water quantity and quality, with a desire to protect groundwater recharge areas for the town's wells. Additionally, growing prevalence of vector borne disease and associated threats to forest health from invasive species such as gypsy moth, as well as public health threats from mosquitoes and ticks, were high priorities.

#### **Open Space Protection**

Workshop participants identified the value of Plainville's existing open space network, some of which is already protected from development (i.e. town-owned lands in the center of town, the recently purchased Hawkins Woods, and some privately-owned Chapter 61 lands, though these Chapter 61 lands are only temporarily preserved). These natural areas play important roles in removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it underground in plant roots and the soil, and additionally capture and filter rainfall and return it to ground and surface waters. Identifying high value open space and taking immediate action to manage what is already protected and acquire additional lands that are not protected (i.e. unprotected lands adjacent to Hawkins Woods, lands surrounding Turnpike Lake and Lake Mirimichi, and permanent preservation of Chapter 61 lands or other privately owned areas), are high priority actions that will protect the town's water resources, including the Ten Mile Watershed and wellhead recharge areas, and improve general climate resiliency.

Recreation is also an important service provided by Plainville's open space, which increases its value to the town and its residents, in support of additional protection measures. Completing a trail inventory and creating a map of all recreational trails open to the public will be a valuable asset for the town and allow residents and visitors to enjoy this land in a responsible way, while allowing these green areas to continue supporting watershed and groundwater quality.

#### **Wellhead Protection**

Drinking water quantity and quality concerns topped the list of environmental vulnerabilities and are a high priority for action. There are three wellfields that supply the town's water: West Bacon Street, Turnpike Lake, and Lake Mirimichi. The groundwaters that recharge these wellfields are protected in the town's Groundwater Protection District. Only three of the town's eight wells are currently operating, however. The Lake Mirimichi wellfield is no longer operational because the well was overdrawn and the water too contaminated, and the Lake itself is vulnerable to further contamination from road runoff and potential leaching from the nearby capped landfill. The well underneath Turnpike Lake still supplies water to the town; however, this Lake is also vulnerable to contamination from runoff and is being overdrawn as water levels in the Lake continue to drop. The town's Conservation Land A tract in the center of town, the groundwater source that feeds the West Bacon Street Wellfield, is also becoming increasingly dry each year and care will need to be taken to avoid overdrawing on this water source.

Protecting the land in these groundwater recharge zones is essential to ensuring that adequate drinking water resources will be available to serve the town and its growing population. Healthy, native vegetation on this land removes pollutants from stormwater, protecting groundwater quality. Maintaining existing open space is also important for groundwater recharge, because impervious surfaces convey rainfall away from groundwater and into storm drains. Protecting and managing this open space and implementing nature-based solutions that capture and treat stormwater naturally and allow for groundwater recharge will ensure both quantity and quality of Plainville's groundwater resources. Furthermore, creating a wellhead protection plan and reviewing and updating town bylaws and regulations that govern land use in these areas will ensure proper management into the future. Since much of the water system's infrastructure is aging, an audit of the existing system should be conducted and ways to improve efficiency and "green" technology should be included in the wellhead protection plan.

#### **Surface Water Quality**

The town identified high priority surface water resources for protection: the Ten Mile River and its watershed, Turnpike Lake, Lake Mirimichi, and Fuller Pond. All of these bodies of

water are experiencing water quality degradation due to pollutant loading from contaminated stormwater and septic systems, flow disruptions from invasive plant overgrowth and sedimentation, and algae blooms. Furthermore, there are a few local sources of contamination where potential leakage would further impact these water bodies (i.e. capped landfill near Lake Mirimichi and uranium storage at old Engelhard Industries site near Turnpike Lake).

Assessments of water quality and stormwater runoff from major roads such as Route 1 and Interstate 495 will help to understand how sediment and other pollutants from these roads are impacting neighboring water bodies. Nature-based solutions to address these threats to water quality can then be identified and prioritized for optimal impact. Invasive species monitoring and management will also improve water quality, in Lake Mirimichi in particular. Monitoring water quality and managing algal blooms in Fuller Pond was also noted as a high priority for surface water quality protection. Ongoing education and outreach with homeowners will also be necessary to help landowners understand what actions improve or harm water quality. Lastly, the town identified a need for management plans for these high priority water bodies, and for updating the existing Ten Mile Watershed Management Plan in particular, which would synthesize these concerns and actions into a guide for the town to implement.

#### **Vector Borne Diseases**

The non-native gypsy moth has deeply degraded local tree health and worsened the impacts of other stressors associated with climate change. The resulting increase in tree fall has impacted roads and power lines in significant ways, straining local capacity to respond and proactively manage for the future. Human disease is also on the rise as ticks carrying Lyme disease and mosquitoes carrying EEE have become more prevalent in Plainville recently. Future climate impacts in the town will only exacerbate these problems and the town needs to take proactive action to manage these threats.

Implementing a forestry management plan will help the town in maintaining tree and forest health. Public education campaigns will help landowners monitor tree health on their own properties, and also help the public protect themselves from ticks and mosquitoes. Further action should also be taken in the town to address mosquito populations by reducing standing water as much as possible. A town-wide assessment and hydrologic study could help to understand and improve water flow throughout the town and identify and eliminate potential mosquito breeding habitat.

**Societal** vulnerabilities revolved around emergency preparedness and how best to serve vulnerable populations in the case of an emergency. Identifying where these vulnerable

populations live and preparing an emergency preparedness plan for the town were identified as high priority actions to secure Plainville's resilience well into the future.

#### **Vulnerable Populations**

Certain populations throughout the town were identified as more vulnerable and in need of specialized support in the case of an emergency. Plainville's senior population comprises one third of the town and continues to grow. There are several large mobile home communities that are more vulnerable to extreme storms. Several group homes house the functional needs population. Each of these communities will need special attention during emergencies to ensure they are getting important messages and that, should the need for evacuation occur, they have access to transportation to a safe place. Furthermore, families with young kids struggle with a lack of child care when schools close because of extreme weather, and residents on the west side of town who rely on private wells for their water supply are also vulnerable during extended power outages when they lose the ability to pump water from their wells. Understanding where throughout the town each of these populations is located and identifying a plan for how to make sure each is getting the support necessary to stay safe during emergencies is essential, and should be included in an updated emergency preparedness plan.

Lack of affordable housing options for vulnerable and low income populations, particularly seniors, was also identified as a weakness in Plainville. Creating more diverse housing options will allow older residents to remain in the town, rather than being forced to relocate for more affordable options elsewhere. Creating dedicated elderly housing communities can also help the town more effectively serve this community during an emergency, as those in need of assistance could be reached simultaneously in one central location.

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Communications**

While the town has a local emergency planning council and has in the past participated in a regional emergency planning council, local emergency preparedness plans are outdated and do not fully address the climate associated disasters that the town will likely experience in the future, nor do they address how the town will ensure the safety of vulnerable populations during emergencies. The Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Board of Health Emergency Management Plan (BOHEMP) need to be integrated into one plan that will fully address the town's needs and improve communication methods to reach everyone.

The town can better prepare its residents for future emergencies by expanding emergency preparedness trainings; improving communications systems that quickly get important messages out to the entire town; giving town departmental staff website editing access so

that they can share important emergency messages; creating a streamlined emergency webpage on the town website that residents can go to for the most up-to-date information; and improving general awareness among residents regarding emergency procedures and encouraging more people to take advantage of the sheltering resources the town has to offer.

#### **Community Shelter Options**

Plainville currently uses Jackson Elementary School as an emergency shelter; however, underutilization has led the town to send residents to larger regional shelters instead. In the case of an extreme weather event in which the town would need high shelter capacity, the existing shelter is not large enough to support the entire town and does not have bed capacity or food availability to operate as a 24-hour shelter. In fact, there are no centers in town capable of operating as 24-hour shelters or of supporting the entire town, if needed. Constructing just such a community center has been a high priority for the town for some time. If the town had a large community center, it would improve the community's resilience to future climate stressors by serving as a source of heat, air conditioning, shelter, food, and/or water during extreme weather; it could be reinforced with a back-up power source so that it could remain open during extended power outages; and it could serve as an important center for information and support to the community during emergencies.

# **Current Strengths and Assets**

Plainville is well acquainted with the many strengths it leverages to manage the risks that natural hazards pose. Supporting and enhancing existing strengths and assets into the future will complement strategies identified to address current vulnerabilities, further helping to build local resilience. The following strengths and assets were identified as essential for adapting to the impacts of **wind**, **severe storms**, and **flood/drought cycles**:

## **Infrastructural Strengths**

- Route 106 was identified as a strength to the town, connecting it with other
  major transit routes and the neighboring town of Foxborough. Lack of
  alternative east-west routes through the town, however, is a vulnerability. The
  town will need to maintain safe access along this route, particularly focusing on
  proactive management of roadside trees to avoid traffic blockages.
- The **newly constructed town center**, consisting of new fire and police stations, a library and town offices, are a strength of the town, and maintaining this critical infrastructure is a high priority to the town.

- Plainville's Senior Center was identified as a highly utilized resource for the
  town's growing elderly population, providing heating, cooling and a kitchen. It
  also has the potential to be used more broadly as a center of communication and
  shelter in an emergency; however, it does not have a back-up generator for
  power. The parking lot also has limited parking and often floods, further limiting
  emergency access options. This center could be strengthened by securing a
  generator for back-up power during emergencies and installing green
  infrastructure to address flooding.
- The town's closed and capped landfill continues to serve as a source of revenue for the town, now hosting solar arrays in its retirement. Close attention should continue to be paid to the landfill and surrounding lands and waterways, particularly Lake Mirimichi, for potential leaching.
- Three large **mobile home parks** serve as important housing options for lower income residents in the town. As these homes are more vulnerable to wind and storm damage, however, the town should continue to prioritize checking in with these communities during extreme weather to ensure all are safe and well.
- Workshop participants identified certain regional assets that the town has the
  option to tap into when needed: the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit
  Authority (GATRA), Attleboro's larger 24-hour emergency shelter, and
  Wrentham's school system as an emergency sheltering option. Plainville wishes
  to plan with these neighboring communities to better prepare for how to share
  resources in future emergencies, while also strengthening its local
  transportation and shelter options.
- The town's **dams** were noted as an infrastructural strength for managing water flow; however, continued monitoring and assessment of dam infrastructure is integral to their maintenance.
- The town has already undertaken several planning efforts to promote community resiliency: Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan, Tree Management Program, Open Space and Recreation Plan, town-wide water assessment and protection efforts, a local emergency planning council and emergency preparedness training for residents. The town will need to continue seeking out funds to operate these programs and update plans as needed. Additionally, the town would like to see further green community initiatives, including transitioning to electric vehicles and renewable energy to further improve climate resiliency.

## **Environmental Strengths**

• Plainville's existing network of **open space**, both protected and unprotected, is a valuable asset, providing water resource protection and recreation. Acquiring

- and protecting as much of this network as possible and formalizing recreational opportunities that do not impede the land's ability to sequester carbon and capture and treat stormwater, will further enhance this asset.
- Plainville's trees, an important aspect of the town's open space network, are themselves a unique strength to the town. Trees provide a multitude of benefits, from removing carbon from the atmosphere to cooling buildings, and effectively managing the town's tree population will improve resiliency in the face of increasing temperatures and more intense storms, while improving tree health and thus reducing the frequency of tree falls disrupting power service.
- Plainville's existing **regulations on private sewer development** were identified as a strength to the town because they hold developers to a higher standard than the state and help protect water quality.

### **Societal Strengths**

- Plainville's **senior center** was again identified as a strength for the services it provides to the town's elderly population. Providing a backup generator for the center will enable it to serve the broader population during an emergency.
- Local emergency preparedness efforts have already been undertaken in the town, through the Local Emergency Planning Council, Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), and Board of Health Emergency Management Plan (BOHEMP). Both plans need updating, however, and could be integrated into one town-wide plan that would need to include better plans for servicing vulnerable populations during an emergency. Public education programs could also be expanded upon to increase awareness of what to do during an emergency and what resources the town has to offer.
- Local **civic support groups**, including the Boy Scouts, the Lions Club and local churches are already providing support to residents in need. Further supporting these organizations will enable them to serve the town during future emergencies. The Boy Scouts in particular could assist the town during an emergency given their location next to the senior center. Their facilities could be hooked up to the same backup generator that the town hopes to provide for the senior center, so that both buildings could operate during a power outage.
- The **regional Bristol-Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** that Plainville shares with Plainville, Attleboro, Foxboro, Mansfield, North Attleborough, Norton, Rehoboth, and Seekonk is an important resource that the town can rely on during an emergency. Supporting recruitment efforts for this volunteer medical response program is essential as the town will likely need to tap into this resource more frequently in future extreme weather events.

The town has an agreement with the owner of a private electronic billboard
on Route 1 to display emergency messages when needed. Continuing this
agreement, and exploring additional options to secure its own electronic signs to
display messages elsewhere in town are important for the town's ability to
communicate with its residents during future emergencies.

# **Top Recommendations to Improve Resilience**

After strengths and vulnerabilities to climate change impacts were discussed in the first workshop, the second workshop focused on identifying and prioritizing actions that participants agreed would address identified concerns and/or reinforce identified strengths. Once actions were generated related to the list of strengths and vulnerabilities, facilitators led each group in deciding the top priority actions for each of the feature categories (infrastructural, environmental, and societal). Then all attendees came together to share their priority actions and discuss emergent themes. Facilitators led the group in a verbal vote to select the top three priorities for bolstering Plainville's resilience.

Participants were encouraged to consider action items that mitigate hazards through strengthening natural systems and processes and complement technological or built fixes. An action that limits damage of natural hazards through conserving existing lands, integrating benefits of nature where they are critically needed (i.e. flood storage, water quality improvement), or restoring an ecosystem where it has been disrupted is referred to as a **nature-based solution**. Nature-based solutions (NBS) are a category of emerging strategies in climate adaptation and their exploration is of interest to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a national leader in comprehensive hazard mitigation planning. Effective implementation of NBS means designing community features where the functions of built infrastructure and the natural environment are mutually reinforcing in providing protections and benefits for residents.

The workshops' top emergent themes for priority actions included **forestry management**, protecting the **public drinking water supply**, and **emergency preparedness**.

## **Proactive Forestry Management**

Promote general tree health throughout the town

• Expand town's tree health survey to include a full tree inventory that identifies locations of the town's vulnerable trees.

- Develop a Forest Management Plan to promote the health of the town's forests and trees, so that they may continue to capture and treat stormwater, mitigate carbon emissions, and provide other economic benefits to the community.
- Develop a Pest Management Plan, either alongside or included in the Forest Management Plan, that addresses stressors to tree health from pests such as gypsy moths.
- Educate homeowners on how to monitor tree health on their property and how to identify and treat common issues, particularly gypsy moth infestation.

#### Reduce treefall impacts on infrastructure

- Through the town tree inventory and Forestry Management Plan, identify where trees pose the greatest threats to roadways and electrical lines and prioritize monitoring and management that prevents disruptions in power and travel.
- Purchase equipment the town can use to proactively trim and remove injured or dying trees as needs arise.
- Meet with National Grid to explore ways to reduce response time to power outages.
- Educate homeowners on proper planting strategies to reduce risks to electrical lines, and on how to identify and prevent potential hazards to infrastructure.

## **Improve Public Drinking Water Supply**

Protecting surface and ground water quality

- Develop a Wellhead Protection Plan that prioritizes groundwater recharge and protects water quality.
- Conduct water quality and stormwater assessments to identify and prevent sources of contamination to surface and groundwater.
- Remove invasive species from water bodies that impact water flow and quality.
- Continuously monitor water quality in surface waters and potential sources of contamination (i.e. from capped landfill and Engelhard Industries site).
- Work with neighboring towns to update the Ten Mile River Management Plan and seek funding to implement.
- Partner with local land trusts and others to protect high priority land within Groundwater Protection Districts and surrounding sensitive water bodies (through land acquisition and/or conservation restrictions with private landowners); ensure proactive management of protected land to enhance ecological function.
- Consider low impact development and nature-based solutions that can work in tandem with traditional infrastructure to capture and treat stormwater while allowing for maximum groundwater recharge.

#### *Increase town well output*

- Explore options and secure funding to bring at least one more well online to increase town water supply.
- Conduct an audit of water system infrastructure to identify upgrade needs and ways to improve efficiency of both output and energy use.
- Increase education with homeowners on private wells about how to monitor and protect well water quality, and what to do when they lose power.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

#### **Emergency communications**

- Purchase one or more electronic signs that the town can use to display important messages at strategic locations throughout the town.
- Update and integrate Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Board of Health Emergency Management Plan (BOHEMP) to formalize emergency procedures and communicate these plans to the town.
- Identify strategies to reach vulnerable populations throughout town with important emergency messages and secure transportation for evacuation, when necessary.
- Implement an effective Reverse 911 system to get emergency messages out to the entire town.
- Increase public awareness of what to do in case of an emergency through outreach and distribution of educational materials.

#### Community resources

- Build a community center, capable of supporting the entire town during extreme weather or other emergency events, that can serve as a heating and cooling center, a 24-hour emergency shelter, and a source of food, water, communication and power during extended power outages.
- Formalize agreements with neighboring towns to arrange for emergency shelter options for town, until the town has a community center capable of supporting its residents.
- Explore local public transportation options for assisting vulnerable populations during emergencies.
- Until local transportation options are in place, form an agreement with the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) to assist vulnerable populations in case of evacuation.
- Secure backup generator for senior center so that it can operate during power outages, until a community center is built that meets the town's needs.

Additional priorities the group identified that did not make the top three but are notable for their high importance include **preventing vector borne diseases** and **proactive infrastructure management** to secure the town's dams, bridges and culverts.

#### **Preventing Vector Borne Diseases**

Ticks and Lyme Disease

- Increase public outreach regarding the dangers of ticks and Lyme disease.
- Educate the public on ways to reduce contact with ticks and how to handle bites.
- Increase informational signage on trails and around outdoor recreational areas.

#### Mosquitoes and EEE

- Town-wide hydrological study to identify and address areas of standing water.
- Increase public education on how to avoid contact with mosquitoes and the importance of reducing standing water on private property.

#### **Proactive Infrastructure Management**

- Assess all of the town's dams and develop plans to repair and restore those that are more vulnerable to structural failure.
- Conduct a vulnerability assessment of the town's bridges and culverts and identify those in need of repair or upgrades.

In making these recommendations, this cohort generated an array of potential actions that related back to the identified top priority hazards and how they impact Plainville's infrastructure, environment, and society. A complete list of actions generated by the groups, along with their prioritization (high, medium, low) and time-frame (short-term, long-term, or ongoing) can be found in Appendix B.

# **Citation**

Town of Plainville (2020) Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings. Resilient Taunton Watershed Network. Plainville, MA

# **Acknowledgements**

The Plainville Core Team and Facilitation Team would like to thank the following for their contributions to the MVP Workshop process: the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, EEA,

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program for their funding support for these workshops, and; all of those who participated in the workshops and contributed to the plan resulting from these workshops.

# **Appendices**

**Appendices A & B** show different methods of recording the same vulnerabilities and strengths named by workshop participants through mapping and prioritized lists. Small groups recorded infrastructural, environmental, and societal features in Plainville and which hazard(s) they relate to. Each feature category (infrastructure, environment, society) was documented on a separate matrix (see Appendix B complete lists). On these short lists, or matrices, action items were identified corresponding to each feature that was named. Each action was then assigned a high, medium, or low priority value and expected short-term, long-term, or ongoing time frame to complete.

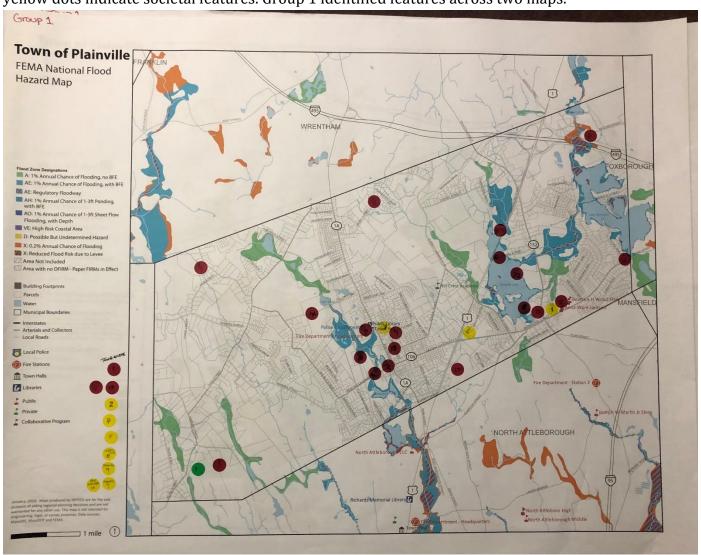
To account for spatial relationships between features, participants simultaneously placed points on a map that corresponded to items they named on the different matrices (Appendix A). Infrastructural features are indicated with a red point, environmental with a green point, and societal with a blue or yellow point. Items on the map are also labeled for what they represent from the written list, but do not represent prioritization or associated action(s).

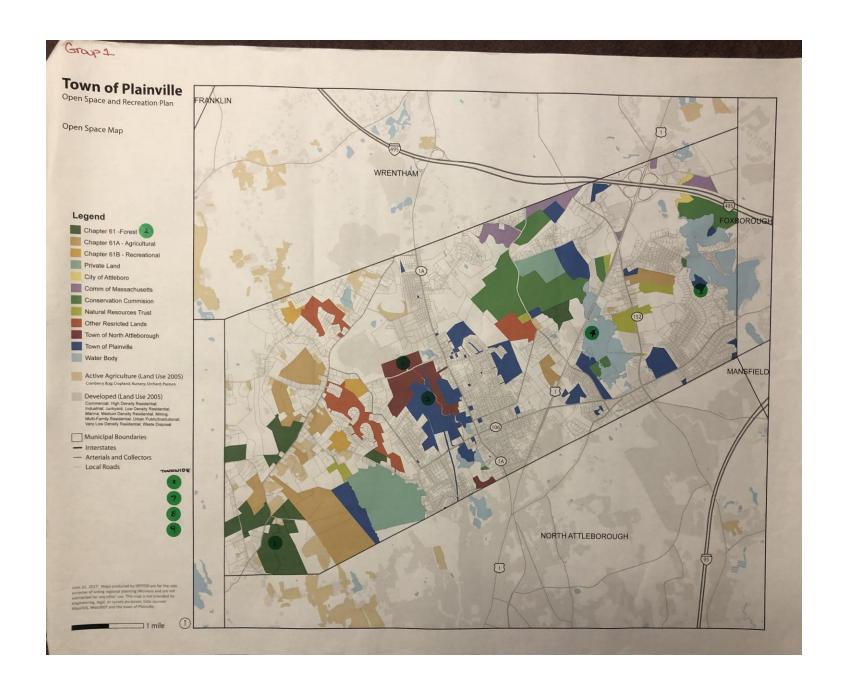
**Appendix C** lists all the participants that attended both workshops and their respective affiliations with the town. Most participants were present for both sessions; however, some on the list were only available to attend one workshop or the other.

**Appendix D** includes the presentation facilitators shared with workshop participants at the start of day one to introduce them to the MVP and CRB processes.

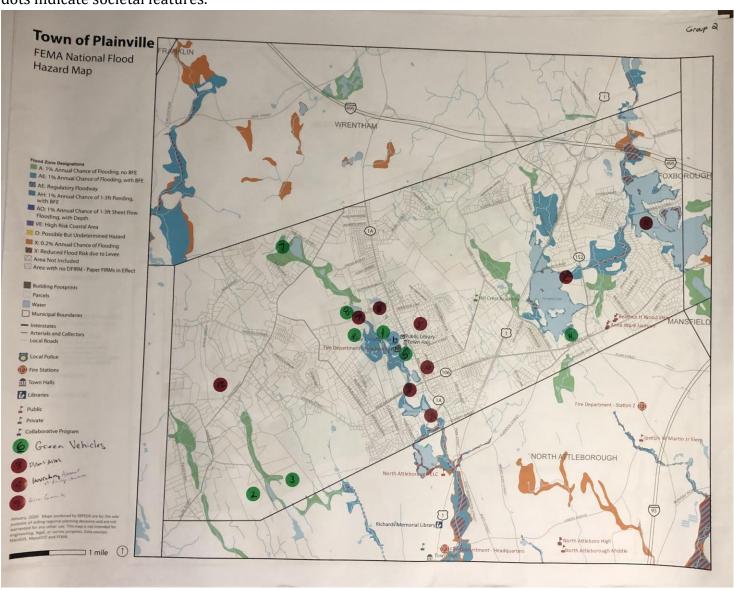
# **Appendix A: Strengths and Vulnerabilities Map**

**Maps of Plainville, group 1.** Red dots indicate infrastructural features, green dots indicate environmental features, and yellow dots indicate societal features. Group 1 identified features across two maps.





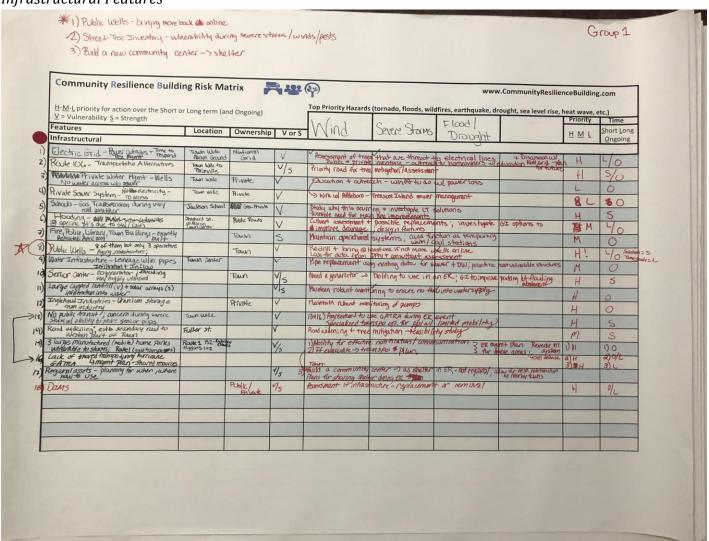
**Map of Plainville, group 2.** Red dots indicate infrastructural features, green dots indicate environmental features, and blue dots indicate societal features.



## **Appendix B: Digitized Risk Matrices**

## **Group 1 - Matrix Photographs**

Infrastructural Features



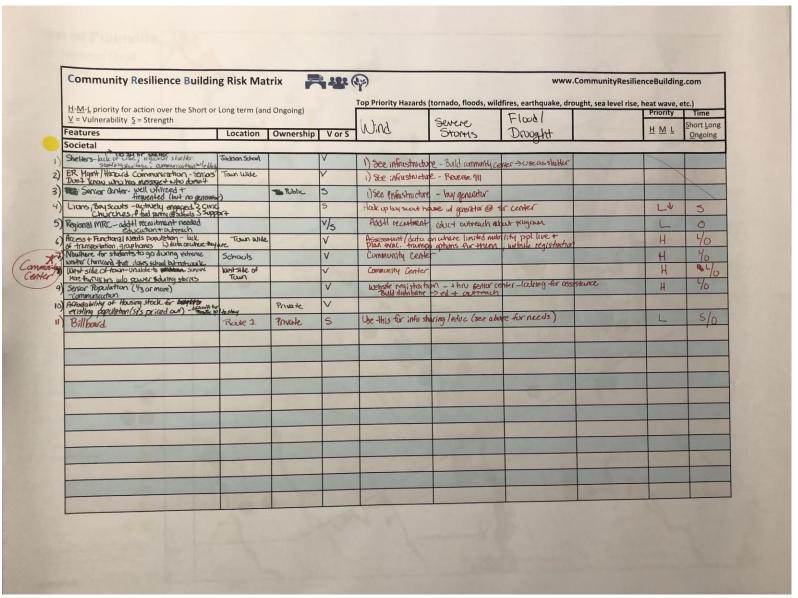
<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

## Environmental Features

Ommunity Resilience Buildin			155	The state of the s		www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com				
$-M-L$ priority for action over the Short or = Vulnerability $\underline{S}$ = Strength	Long term (and	d Ongoing)		Nind	Severe	fires, earthquake, dre	ought, sea level rise, l	Priority Time		
atures	Location	Ownership	VorS	Muse	storm	Drought		HML	Short Long Ongoing	
vironmental					J. C.	-		-	Oligonia	
contly purchased protected land-open space	Hawkins woods	Town	5	D Pohntial on Chusho	wl land trusts to	place CP's -a lead				
lot of green space is privately awared risk of development	Town Wide	Private	V/3	3 + Maintain protection	n flan	Place CKS on wild		H	0	
charge acros for nells	Clustered Town	Town + Attleborough	<b>1</b> / <sub>5</sub>	Well head protection plan	to ensure GW red	rage		Н	L	
nvasire growth, Town well culdrawn, Sw runoff -> water qual i zame A)	Turnpike	Town	V	Bullin Kevien		9		Total Control of the	0	
whe Manmichi - lack of water, down many men the landfill; well-moved his been overproped	take Stake		ż	The species removed the sp	nost from Roule 1 -> G	I to mitigate toxins;	nwater	1)L 2)H	3/0	
in the landfill; well-mores has been overproped the Quality- backene; concern whalgod blooms	Lake on /Fulle	Hebray.	, V		sment -determine so	No.C. c. II. t. at.	Mora and Broy. Chan Co.	L	0	
psy Hoths - Loss of trees around town	-	Roblic + Prushe			AND RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF		- Mywall pather wy Alleborough	Н	5/0	
	Town Wide	PUBLICATIONE	V	Education + outrea	and the same of th	Higher Plan for pests -	ulneable	H	40	
Ks-increase in Lyme Disease	Townwide		V	unchase education		nd+ Marketters		m	0	
Need to increase water movement I hydrology	Town wide		V	Town wide assessment	of standing whiter (+	ires, clogged culverts) —	restricted access to	M	40	
wate sever development requires @ Hirimum Zacres — Athate management	Town Wide		5	1,0000 10 3000 311	191000 00011 11000		nacce comping			
eet Tree Management - where planting was to reduce vulnarability during storms	Town wide	Public	\$ V/5	See Infrastructure 7	2010					
1013 + care to reduce vulnarability during shorts			13	4 Illucations 1	~~~					
					Contract of the Contract of th					
		-	1100	Wind to the last of the last o						
			-							
		-	-		-		Name and Address of the Owner, where			
				THE PERSON NAMED IN	THE RESERVE					
							The state of the s	a Charmen	A Section 1	

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

#### Societal Features



<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

# **Group 1 - Digitized Matrices**

Action ID (no specific order)	<u>Feature</u>	Location	Ownership	V or S	<u>Wind</u>	Severe Storms	Flood/Drought	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Time</u>
		Ir	nfrastructi	ural F	eatures			H, M, L (high, med, low)	S, L, O (short- term, long- term, ongoing)
	Electric grid - power					rees that are threa	,		
1	outages + time to	Townwide,			•	inventory - outread			
	' '	above	National		_	Discussion w/ Nat'l	•		
		ground	Grid	V	future			Н	L/O
	Route 106 -								
2		Townwide				,			
		to Plainville		V/S	Priority road for	tree mitigation/as	sessment	Н	S/O
	Private water mgmt								
3	- wells; no water								
	access w/o power	Townwide	Private	V	Education + out	reach - what to do	w/ power loss	L	0
	Private sewer								
4	system - no								
	electricity - no				_	boro- Treasure Isla	nd sewer		
		Townwide	Private	V	management			L	0
_	Schools - gas								
5	transmission during		Gas -			s occurring + invest	_		
	very cold weather	School	private	V	possible need for	or main line improv	ements	Н	S

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

		Shepher St.;					
6	Flooding - @	W. Bacon;			Culvert assessment + possible replacements;		
	specific pts due to	Town	Public		investigate GI options to improve drainage; design		
	SW/rain	Center	roads	V	features	M	L/O
	Fire, police, library,						
	town buildings -						
7	recently built.						
	Dedicated: April				Maintain operational systems; could function as		
	2019		Town	S	temporary warm/cool stations	M	0
	Public wells - 8 of						L/O
8*	them but only 3						(solution =
	operative; aging				Redrill + bring @ least one if not more wells on line;		S, timescale
	infrastructure		Town	V	Look for data from DPW + consultant assessment	H!	= L)
	Water						
9	infrastructure -						
	leakage w/in pipes;	Town			Pipe replacement using existing data for sewer + DW;		
	infiltration + inflow	Center		V	prioritize most vulnerable structures	M	0
	Senior Center - no						
10	generator; flooding;				Need a generator + building to use in an ER; GI to		
	very highly utilized		Town	V/S	improve parking lot flooding abatement	Н	S
	Large capped						
	landfill (v) + solar						
11	arrays (s);						
	infiltration into				Maintain robust monitoring to ensure no flow into		
	water			V/S	water supply	Н	0
	Inglehand						
12	Industries - uranium						
12	storage from						
	industry		Private	V	Maintain robust monitoring of pumps	Н	0

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

	No public transit;								
	concern during								
13	severe storm w/								
	ability to move				13+16) Agreeme	ent to use GATRA o	luring ER event;		
	senior pops	Townwide		V	specialized trans	spo op. for ppl w/ l	imited mobility	Н	S
	Road widening; est.								
14	a secondary road to								
14	western part of								
	town	Fuller St.		V	Road widening +	tree mitigation -	feasibility study	М	S
					1) Ability for effe	ective notification/	communication	1) H	1) O
	3 large				2)If evacuate>	transpo plan		2) H	2) O/L
	manufactured	Route 1;			3)Town: Build a	community center	- as shelter in ER,	3) H	3) L
15	(mobile) home	152 -			not regional; allo	ow for recip. relati	onship w/ nearby		
	parks vulnerable to	Killarney			towns; plans for	sharing shelter du	ring ER; ER mgmt		
	storms; Route 1	Estates;			+ plan for these	areas; Reverse 913	L system, civil		
	(good transpo)	Higgins 1+2		V/S	defense				
	Lack of shared								
	transpo during								
16	hurricane; mgmt								
	plan - shared								
	resources; GATRA								
	Regional assets -								
17	planning for when,								
	where, how to use			V/S					
10			Public/priv		Assessment of i	nfrastructures - rep	lacement or		
18	Dams		ate	V/S	removal			Н	O/L

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

Action ID (no specific order)	<u>Feature</u>	Location	Ownership	V or S	<u>Wind</u>	Severe Storms	Flood/Drought	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Time</u>
		E	nvironme	ntal F	eatures			H, M, L (high, med, low)	S, L, O (short- term, long- term, ongoing)
1	Recently purchased protected land - open space	Hawkins Woods	Town	S	Potential partne	ership w/ land trust	s to place CR's on	н	0
2	A lot of green space is privately owned - risk of development	Townwide	Private	v/s	land + maintain	protection		Н	0
3	Recharge areas for wells	Clustered town center	Town + N Attleborou gh	V/S	Wellhead prote Bylaw review	ction plan to ensur	e GW recharge;	н	L
4	Invasive growth (lack of flow); Town well w/drawn, SW runoff> water qual; (Zone A)	Turnpike Lake	Town	V	1 .	ies removal + mana of SW runoff from R in water	-	1) L 2) H	1)O 2) S/O
5	Lake Mirimichi - lack of water, invasives down from the landfill; well has been overpumped	Lake Mirimichi	Attleborou gh	V	Invasives remov	al + mgmt in NE co	rner	L	0

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

6	Water quality - bacteria; concern w/ algal blooms	Lake on Fuller St. (Fuller's Pond)	N. Attleborou gh	V	Water quality assessment - determine source for pollutants - partner w/ N. Attleborough	Н	s/O
7	Gypsy moths - loss of trees around town	Townwide	Public + private	V	Education + outreach to residents; Mgmt plan for pests - tree inventory of most vulnerable	н	L/O
8	Ticks - increase in lyme disease	Townwide		V	More signage around trails/conservation land; increase education	М	0
9	eee - high risk; a lot of swamp areas in town need to increase water movement/hydrolo gy	Townwide		v	Townwide assessment of standing water (tires, clogged culverts) - restricted access to reduce dumping; Hydrologic study> improve water flows	M	L/O
10	Private sewer development requires a minimum of 2 acres - nitrate management	Townwide		S			
11*	Street tree management - where planting occurs + care to reduce vulnerability during storms	Townwide	Public	V/S	See infrastructure page		

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

Action ID (no specific order)	<u>Feature</u>	Location	Ownership	V or S	<u>Wind</u>	Severe Storms	Flood/Drought	Priority	<u>Time</u>
			Societal	l Feat	ures			H, M, L (high, med, low)	S, L, O (short- term, long- term, ongoing)
1	Shelters - lack of use (no 24 hour shelter); regional shelter staffing shortage; communication w/ elderly	Jackson School		V	1) see infrastruduse as shelter	cture - Build commu	unity center>		
2	ER mgmt/Hazard communication - seniors don't know who has message + who doesn't	Townwide		V	1) see infrastrud	cture - Reverse 911			
3	Senior Center - well utilized + frequented (but no generator)		Public	S	1) see infrastrud	cture - buy generato	or		
4	Civic support: Lions, Boy Scouts - actively engaged; churches, food pantry @ schools			S	Hook up Boy Scout house w/ generator @ sr center			L	S

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

	Regional MRC -				Add'I		
_	add'l recruitment				recruitment,		
5	needed, education				edu + outreach		
	+ outreach			V/S	about program	L	0
	Access + functional						
	needs population						
6	(lack data on where						
	they are) - lack of				Assessment/data on where limited mobility ppl live +		
	transportation,				plan evac. transpo options for them; website		
	group homes	Townwide		V	registration	Н	L/O
	Nowhere for						
	students to go						
	during extreme						
7*	weather						
	(hurricanes) that						
	closes school but						
	not work	Schools		V	Community center	Н	L/O
	West side of town -						
	unable to survive						
8	more than ~48						
	hours w/o power	West side					
	during storms	of town		V	Community center	Н	L/O
	Senior population						
9	(1/3 or more) -				Website registration - thru senior center - looking for		
	communication			V	assistance; Build database> ed + outreach	Н	L/O
	Affordability of						
10	housing stock for						
10	existing population						
	(srs priced out) -		Private	V			

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

11	Billboard	Route 1	Private	S	Use this for info	sharing/educ (see	above for needs)	L	S/O
	Plainville ppl to stay								
	difficult for								

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

# **Group 2 - Matrix Photos**

Infrastructural Features

	D Forestry D Well Assess tie 3 Sign & Com Community Resilience Building	ng Rick Ma								
	The second secon			4-185	\$12)		www.	CommunityResilien	ceBuilding.co	om
	$\underline{\underline{H}}$ - $\underline{\underline{M}}$ - $\underline{\underline{L}}$ priority for action over the Short o $\underline{\underline{V}}$ = Vulnerability $\underline{\underline{S}}$ = Strength	r Long term (an	d Ongoing)	3	Top Priority Hazards (t	tornado, floods, wildf	ires, earthquake, dro	ught, sea level rise, h	eat wave, etc	,
		Location	Ownership		Ward	Sure	Flood/		Priority	Time Short Long
D	Infrastructural Wetherell Pord Down	Alethous ST		THE PARTY NAMED IN		011012	dioret			Ongoing Ongoing
2)	Shephard St. Dom	Place.	Town	V	Remove loose	material & bon	custnation		H	5
3)	Assessment of all Town.	sourie	Town	V	work with BAS	F to repair day	n and restore lot		Н	S
	owned dame	Vocasos	Taun	V	Conduct on as	pessment of do	rus is develop pla	no to reposi/restre	H	5
4)	Inventory and Assessment		and the last				The Republican			
	of the stormwater system	Varios	Town	V	Do GIS mago	air of drawinge	system & outo	les (MS4)	m	0
(3)	Drainage / Sump Pumps ->	Town Center	Variono	V	Sit - people and	sites identifica	D Mi TAT	rate des	m	0
	Inflow a Juliltration problems				Tix From Char	Sites look que	y on your	The go	111	
9	stormwater management on	Fuller St.	Vorinio	V	Do an assess,	nent of all dr	unice commi	noto Faller	m/L	0
	Fuller St.	Frank Park								
	Bridge / headwall on Fulen	Fuller St.		V	Do deoign & on	gaverniz for	repair and as	parade	H	2
	(collapsed headwall)			1		1 11	h the steered	10.04	-	0
3	Culvert on W. Breon St.	W. Bocon St		V	Sak funding	to implement	y the granues	repair .	m	0
	Green Community / Suprovenment	Various	Town	3		-		-		
ı	Plan			V	Francisco to	move whook up	peristive ruero	eta; funding in	add trained an	uto O
>	Gamestons for the Service Ctr.		Town	V	Fundaday 10	asy on alterna	other for the	tourst of wasten	opten L/n	n o
	Lack of severing @ Mirimidui	u	Not'l Grid	V	Plan de G	manity Ctr/Shel	Her you extende	d disruptions	m	5/0
	Power disraption during intense	vouvio	1001 1 6110	V	The state of the s					0/4
	Storma / porticularly West Side		VALISTIC	5/V	Seek fander	to complete	the focotry 1	naragenest plan	n H	5/0
	Forestry Management Plan	Vousio	Partico	-/-						0
и	needs resource to complete	dui.	Hercois	VIS	Conduct on	aneesment in	order to create	a plan/progra	nn III	
1	Debris Assessment Plan michiganic potential regorial	Vouois	Varies	11/2	to address of	1. Luis manacom	ent.			

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

## Environmental Features

Community Resilience Buildin  H-M-L priority for action over the Short or  Y = Vulnerability S = Strength		-	48	This Delivers to Manager	(tornado, floods, wi	www.	CommunityResilie		MC CAN
Features	Location	De Course	of vois				agire, sea rever rise, i	Priority	Time
Environmental (Update mulas to 1915)	Location	Ownership	VorS					H M L	Short Long Ongoing
atoma motors for water of		Town	11/	(d).					
Dewor to be "greener"/ellicuent		10000	1	Clonk a Gran	Commanitud	prent to determine	specs/wedo	1	0
Acquire land around Hawkins	11	Pariote	V						
Its retain intact habitat/repillings		Private	-	continue dis	CUDDIONO W/ land	downers; goal io	to protect	L	0
blocks		Frivace	-	watershed and	l water supply	Agustity .			
Turnpike Lake long acquisition	11	Private	1/	0 1: 1:				I GHE	
for wellhead protection	200	Pouvade	V	Continue disc	motor with lone	downer (BETA)	tudy)	m/H	0
Need resources necessary to	14	-	chi	2 .					
complete trails inventory /map	Various	Town	5/1	Seek glunding	to dwelop only	ine and hard copy	mops	1	D
			-						
Need green vehicles/feet to	-	Trask	/	Assess what we	have and how a	ed where we can im	prove	L	6
reduce climate impacts fudure									
to meet these needs							PH PH PARTY		
Veed to update the old ten		Various	V	Work with our	neighbors (Affle	tro, North Attaboro	to appete the	L	0
mile River Management Plan				existing Plan -	sack fundais		, company		
Need to adduce encion a sed mailed	150n 11	Tron	1/			ent of the sproblem		m	
@ Faller Pond				n	1) - wy c war as file	of the spisbless	or twentood	m	0
leed recovered to better address		Varias/Town	1/	We need man	oducational a	aterials/resource;	1. A = OCA	- 11	
the imposits of vector borne diseases		10000 1000	V	700 1100 17000	enasione me	aevals/resources;	divelop PSAs	m/H	0
to treat-people									
0 7/0-0-5-90									

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

#### Societal Features

-	mmunity Resilience Buildin	g Risk Ma	trix 📮	185 (				CommunityResilie		
<u>H-N</u>	1-L priority for action over the Short or Vulnerability S = Strength	Long term (an	d Ongoing)		Top Priority Hazards (	ornado, floods, wi	ildfires, earthquake, dro	ught, sea level rise,	Priority  H M L	Time Short Long Ongoing
Feat		Location	Ownership	VorS						Ongoing
Soci				,			1 . 1 . 1 . 1		H	0
-0	mprove our smergoncy			S/V	Continue to	implement the	existing plan	approces;		
B	oponoe Communication escup				seek gundw	g for educati	ronal motorials - E	rochundi mognes	21	
	ieds assessment				PSAS, "estab	lish a good 74	eighbor systam "-fr	sefety ducks		11
-An	clude wateste in the			5/1	n	/I	II.	11	h	"
6	RC Assessment (above)				add a "211"	component				1/2
01	sessment of our ability		P 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	S/V	Plan In and	develope Con	mmunity Ctr/Sh	elter to	m	50
43	meet sheltenis needs		A LONG	1	provide Lant	u community	during extended	power dispreparion	2	
70	ng-term u pets) / regional >			Part of the last	and water 8 hot					
(1	ethiote RESPEC									
res	idivod new PO				Course the	COMUCED NO	assaul to comple	te an		
W	e need the resource to			5/V	comment of	reded to Your	assay to comple	In plans / witer	rated	1
upd	all and approade the CEMP			10/V		1		1		
avo	L BOHEMP and withgrade How				plane					
(0	merginery northes is valuetable			,	Course He w	Cenderia to	puroliane orgino	1/10/10	H/m	40
Po	menguen revises a volunation providence)  2 table electronic original			V	Seave the					
10	post necessary weents		10.62.13							
	ad work, amergencies, etc.)	The state of the s						0.200		
Cre	and mid ) and direction									
1000										
	The same of the sa	100		FRES						
		State of the last								
				The state of the s						

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

#### **Group 2 - Digitized Matrices**

Action ID (no specific order)	<u>Features</u>	Location	<u>Ownership</u>	<u>V or S</u>	Flood - Drought cycle	Heavy Precip	High Winds	Extreme Temps	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Time</u>
			Inf	rastru	ıctural Featu	ures			H, M, L (high, med, low)	S, L, O (short- term, long- term, ongoing)
1*	Wetherell	Wetherell								
1"	Pond Dam	Place	Town	V	Remove loose	material + bank	restoration		Н	S
2	Shephard St.	Wetherell								
2	Dam	Place	Town	V	Work with BAS	F to repair dam	and restore lake		Н	S
3	Assessment of all Town-owned dams	various	Town	V	Conduct an ass	sessment of dam	s + develop plans		Н	S
4	Inventory and assessment of the stormwater system	various	Town	V	Do GIS mappin	g of drainage sys	stem + outfalls (N	1S4)	М	0
5	Drainage/su mp pumps → inflow + infiltration	Town Center area	various	V	Fix problems/s	ites identified in	I&I study		M	0

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

	problems						
6	Stormwater managemen t on Fuller St. Bridge/head wall on	Fuller St.	various	V	Do an assessment of all drainage coming into Fuller	M/L	0
7	Fuller St. (collapsed headwall)	Fuller St.		V	Do design + engineering for repair and upgrade	н	S
8	Culvert on W. Bacon St.	W. Bacon St	Town	V	Seek funding to implement the planned repair	M	0
9	Green Community/ Improvemen t Plan	various	Town	S			
10	Generators for the Senior Center		Town	V	Funding to move + hook up existing generator; funding for additional units	М	0
11	Lack of sewering @ Mirimichi	various	various	V	Feasibility study on alternatives for treatment of wastewater	L/M	0
12	Power disruption during	various	Nat'l Grid	V	Plan for a Community Center/Shelter for extended disruptions	M	s/o

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

	intense storms/parti cularly West Side						
13*	Foresty Managemen t Plan needs resources to complete	various	various	S/V	Seek funding to complete the forestry management plan	Н	s/O
14	Debris Assessment/ Plan including potential regional partnerships and equipment needs	various	various	V/S	Conduct an assessment in order to create a plan/program to address debris management	M	0
15	Water system vulnerability	various		V	Perform a Risk and Resilience assessment on the municipal water system	н	S/O

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

Action ID (no specific order)	<u>Features</u>	Location	<u>Ownership</u>	V or S	Flood - Drought cycle	Heavy Precip	High Winds	Extreme Temps	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Time</u>
			En	vironi	mental Featı	ures			H, M, L (high, med, low)	S, L, O (short- term, long- term, ongoing)
1*	Update motors for water + sewer to be "greener"/ef ficient		Town	V		udit of our equip Communities)	ment to determii	ne specs/needs	L	0
2/3	Need to acquire land around Hawkins to retain intact habitat/resili ency blocks	11	Private	v	Continue discuand water sup		wners; goal to pro	otect watershed	L	0
4*	Turnpike Lake land acquisition for wellhead/pr otection	11	Private	v	Continue discu	ıssion with lando	wner (BETA stud	у)	M/H	0

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

	Need						
	resources						
	necessary to						
5	complete						
	trails						
	inventory/m						
	ар	various	Town	S/V	Seek funding to develop online and hard copy maps	L	О
	Need green						
	vehicles/flee						
	t to reduce						
	climate						
	impacts/red						
6	uce energy						
	needs/impro						
	ve						
	infrastructur						
	e to meet						
	these needs		Town	V	Assess what we have and how and when we can improve	L	0
	Need to						
	update the						
7	old Ten Mile						
,	River						
	Managemen				Work with our neighbors (Attleboro, North Attleborough) to		
	t Plan		various	V	update the existing Plan - seek funding	L	0
	Need to						
	address						
8	erosion +						
	sedimentati						
	on @ Fuller	"	Town	V	Seek funding for an assessment of the problems at Fuller Pond	M	0

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

	Pond					
	Need					
	resources to					
	better					
	address the					
9	impacts of					
	vector borne					
	diseases to					
	trees +	various/To				
	people	wn	V	We need more educational materials/resources; develop PSAs	M/H	0

Action ID (no specific order)	<u>Features</u>	Location	<u>Ownership</u>	V or S	Flood - Drought cycle	Heavy Precip	High Winds	Extreme Temps	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Time</u>
				Socia	stal Footure	_			<u>H, M, L</u>	S, L, O (short-
				SOCIE	etal Features	S			(high, med, low)	term, long- term, ongoing)
1	Improve our emergency response communicati				Continue to im	anlement the evi	sting plan/approa	ach: sook		
	on issues/needs			S/V	funding for ed	ucational materi	als - brochures, m tem" for safety ch	nagnets, PSAs,	Н	0

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

	assessment				
	Include				
	website in				
2	the ERC				
	Assessment				
	(above)	S/V	same as above; add a "211" component	Н	О
	Assessment				
	of our ability				
	to meet				
	sheltering				
3	needs (long-				
3	term &				
	pets)/region				
	al>		Plan for and develop a Community Center/Shelter to provide for		
	reactivate		the community during extended power disruptions and water		
	REPC	S/V	shortages	М	S/O
	We need the				
	resources to				
	update and				
	upgrade the				
4	CEMP and				
4	ВОНЕМР				
	and				
	integrate				
	them		Secure the resources necessary to complete an assessment		
	(emergency	S/V	needed to form the basis of both plans/integrate plans		

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

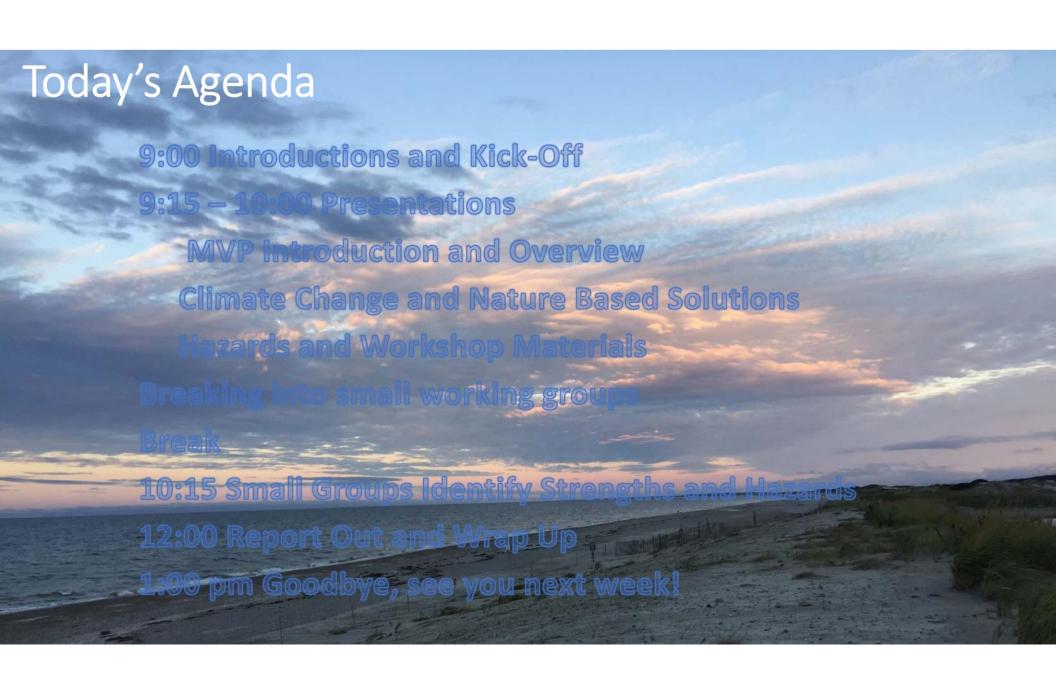
	routes & vulnerable populations)					
5*	Portable electronic signs to post necessary events (road work, emergencies					
	, etc.)		V	Secure the funding to purchase signs	H/M	S/O

<sup>\*</sup> indicates top priorities for group

#### **Appendix C: CRB Workshop Participants**

<u>Name</u>	Affiliation
Bob Stone	Schools
Michael Stauss	Fire Department
Chris Yarworth	Town
Stephen Nunnery	DPW
Deb Revelle	Board of Health
Judy DePue	Resident
Maggie Clarke	Resident
Tom Lamonte	Resident
Jim Alfred	Police Department
Dave Raiche	Schools
Kelly Pawluczonek	Board of Health
Jim Floyd	Police Department
Donna DiFiore	Resident

#### **Appendix D: Workshop Presentation Slides**





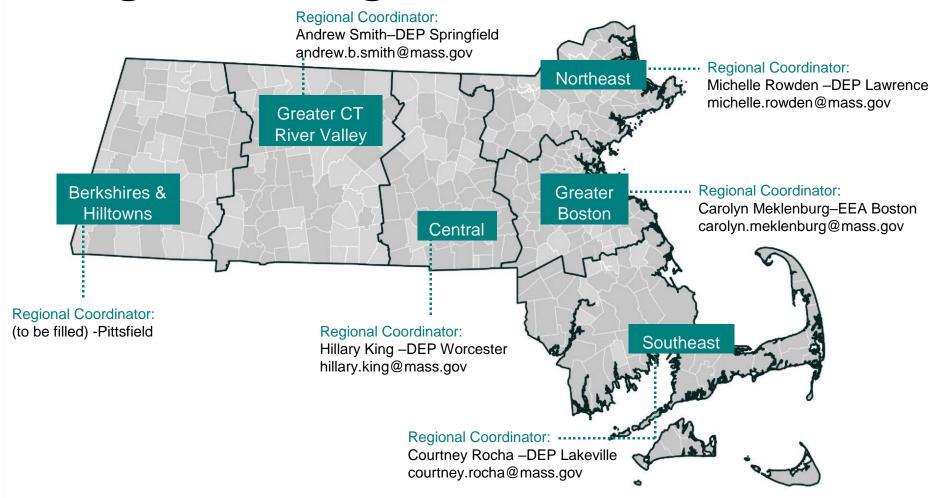
### Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

Carolyn Meklenburg

MVP Regional Coordinator for Greater Boston

MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

#### **MVP Regions & Regional Coordinators**



# Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) - September 2018



Acknowledges that climate change is already worsening natural hazards, integrating information and planning elements for 14 natural hazards that affect the Commonwealth

Uses **best scientific data and projections** to assess risk and vulnerability

Evaluates the Commonwealth's existing capabilities to implement **agency-specific and statewide activities** to reduce risk and increase resilience



#### MA 2050 Decarbonizatio Plan



EEAs conducting an 80x50 Study to identify the strategies, policies, and implementation pathways for MA to achieve at least 80% Greenhous Gas reductions by 2050.

Theresultsof that researchwill be published in a 2050Roadmap reportand will inform the setting of a 2030GHGemission in and the development of the Clean Energy and Climate Planfor 2030

More information and opportunities to get involved: <a href="https://www.mass.gov2050Roadmap">www.mass.gov2050Roadmap</a>



Next Steps: Climate Change & the Commonwealth

#### **Bill S.10:**

### An Act for Climate Change Adaptation Infrastructure Investments in the Commonwealth

- Building on success of existing programs like MVP: Proposed new source of revenue for loans, grants, and technical assistance to municipalities and regional partnerships for priority adaptation projects
- Proposed deeds excise increase → est.
   \$137M annually (\$1B in ten years)
- Recurring, long-term revenue stream for multi-year project feasibility



#### **MVP Principles**

#### A community-led, accessible process that

- Employs local knowledge and buy-in
- Utilizes **partnerships** and leverages existing efforts
- Is based in best available climate projections and data
- Incorporates principles of nature-based solutions
- Demonstrates pilot potential and is proactive
- Reaches and responds to risks faced by EJ communities and vulnerable populations

#### Why nature-based?

Where appropriate, naturebased solutions can be more cost-effective, protect water quality and quantity, sustain lands that provide food and recreation opportunities, reduce erosion, and minimize temperature increases associated with developed areas and climate change.

#### **MVP Process/ Grant Types**

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE BUILDING
WORKSHOP(S)

Define and characterize hazards using latest science and data

Identify existing and future community vulnerabilities and strengths

Develop and prioritize community adaptation actions

Determine overall priority actions

Receive MVP designation

MVP Planning Grant

#### **MVP Action Grant**

Implement priority adaptation actions identified through planning process



# Three Years of MVP

#### **MVP Designations**

71% of theCommonwealth249 communities

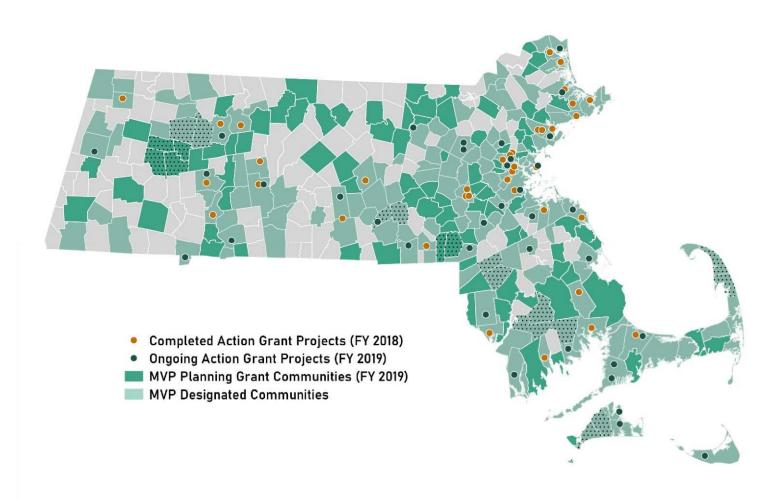
## Action Grant Projects

FY 18: **37** 

FY 19: **36** 

#### **Total Awards**

**\$17M+** in planning and action grants to date



# **MVP Action Grants: Project Types**

- Detailed Vulnerability and Risk Assessment\*
- Community Outreach and Education
- Local Bylaws, Ordinances, Plans, and Other Management Measures
- Redesigns and Retrofits\*\*\*
- Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Mitigation, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques\*\*
- Nature-Based, Infrastructure and Technology Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality



\* Most common project type

\*\* Second-most common

project type

\*\*\* Third-most common project
type

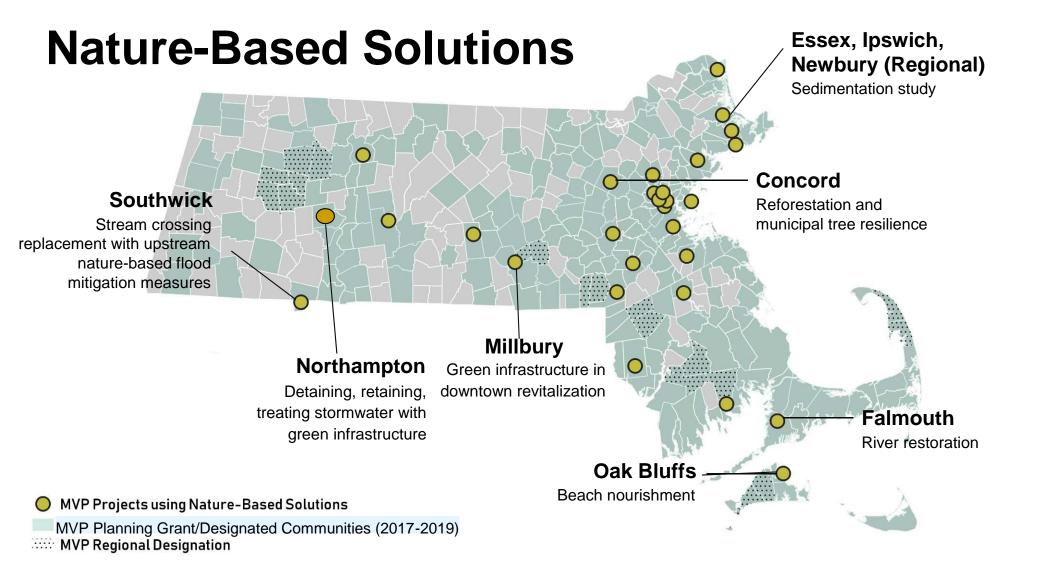
#### **MVP Action Grants: Project Types (cont.)**



- Nature-Based Solutions to Reduce
   Vulnerability to other Climate Change Impacts
- Ecological Restoration and Habitat
   Management to Increase Resiliency

#### **NEW IN 2019**

- Energy Resilience
- Chemical Safety
- Land Acquisition for Resilience
- Subsidized Low-Income Housing Resilience Strategies
- Mosquito Control Districts
- + Expanded eligibility of project location



#### **Example Action Grant Projects**

Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Prevention, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques

#### **Millbury**

Utilizing green infrastructure like stormwater planters,

bioretention bump outs, rain gardens, and other measures like porous pavers and pervious pavement to reduce heat island effects and stormwater runoff into the Blackstone River.



**Nature-based solutions** 

#### **Example Action Grant Projects**

Local Bylaws, Ordinances, Plans, and Other Management Redesigns and Retrofits

#### **Boston**



Developing its first ever resilient building code so that development in the future floodplain is prepared for at least three feet of sea level rise, the likely scenario by late century.

Retrofitting a major waterfront park into a legacy park that uses nature-based solutions to address climate vulnerabilities while providing important access to recreation for residents.





#### **FY18 Action Grant Projects**

Detailed Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Further Planning

#### Holyoke



Conducted a detailed **demographic analysis** of individuals who arrived in Holyoke from Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria and develop recommendations for **planning for future climate change migrants** in Holyoke

Informational graphics from Holyoke's final report

Table 12

How did the Holyoke municipal government respond to your needs? Was the response	Freq.	Percent
Helpful	26	63.4
Edon't know	7	17.1
Neither helpful nor unhelpful	2	4.9
There was no response from this resource	6	14.6
Total	41	100

#### Hampden County's Puerto Rican Population, 2017

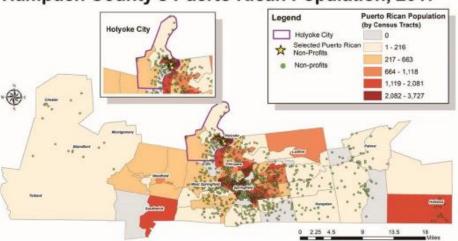


Image credits: Town of Holyoke, Hunter College CUNY, El Instituto UCONN





#### carolyn.meklenburg@mass.gov

https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerabilitypreparednessprogram



#### **Facilitation Team**



#### Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN)







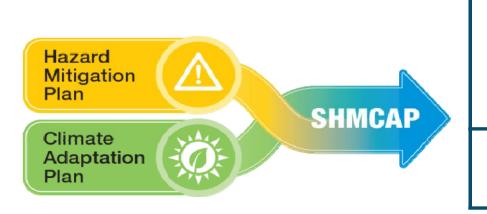


# MVP approach is a fluid process that:

- Is locally led and collaborative
- Accessible
- Utilizes partnerships
- Mainstreams climate change
- Informs local planning efforts and promotes local innovation
- Positions municipalities for funding opportunities in a coordinated statewide effort



# Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) - September 2018



Acknowledges that climate change is already worsening natural hazards, integrating information and planning elements for 14 natural hazards that affect the Commonwealth

Uses best scientific data and projections to assess risk and vulnerability

Evaluates the Commonwealth's existing capabilities to implement agency-specific and statewide activities to reduce risk and increase resilience

#### Climate Change in







Maps Data Documents

weer's for secon error.



#### **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness**

The Faker-Folds: As minist afficie. Municipal Vulnerability Secure necessivity program modes apper to siles. ex man expedite from named his chedly direde. the great work in a printine carried at large and both in annally ediency

Finding in the Authoris of tools approach to state and tool seeme ships. The MVF program exceeds manifications with two linguanties but also provide concupred accommod yelect desing processors.



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   the of years in a faire or mortly after a filler end den flis
   "ende peerly durifer and new acting and of bester with a block flish bester en

Curses mainly-fly has comprehently a grown beyone a sessible for bit we not fairly, a purhorise, intenting MVP educages is sensitive to be able to the grant of purhorises.

#### Resources for MVP Communities



Regional laws (MVF) pargram







Free ring Surpey Weliners -Massachusells, Minicipal Not beretik if y Proponetoros (MuP) Propones Tirá Roc



Messechusetts Climete Change Projections - Statewide and for Major Diainage Dasina

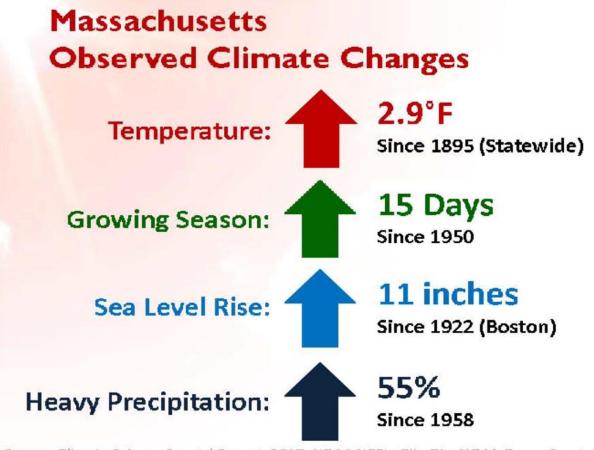


Massachusatts Municipal Vuonerability Precarachecs (VIVP) program recourses



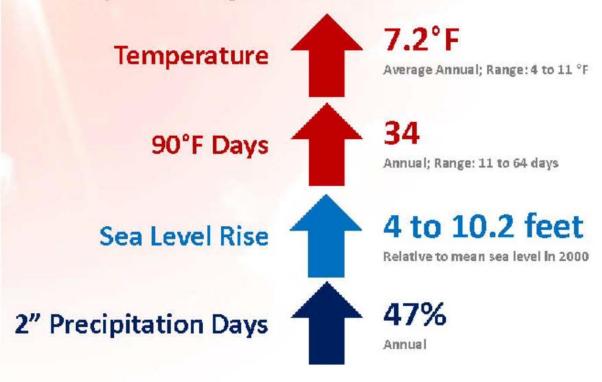


- Showcased Recourage
- . How do I become an MVD community?
- . Do you like in an MVD community?
- Runding Opportunities for MI/F Communities



Source: Climate Science Special Report, 2017; NOAA NCEI nClimDiv; NOAA Ocean Service

#### Massachusetts Climate Changes Projected by the 2090s



Source: Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center

#### **Changing Energy Use and Demand**

More Warm Winter Days, Less Heating Demand

(based on annual Heating Degree-Days, base 65)



26.2%

by the 2090s

1971-2000 Average:

6839 Heating Degree-days

More Warm Summer Days, More Cooling Demand
(based on annual Cooling Degree-Days, base 65)



178% by the 2090s

1971-2000 Average: 457 Cooling Degree-days

Photo © Daniel Brown

Source: Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, ResilientMA.org, accessed 2018.

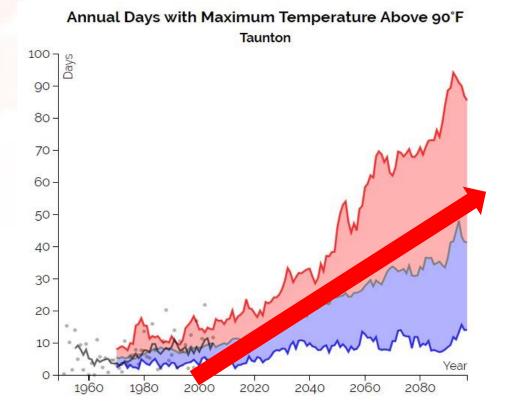
# Future climate change impacts in Taunton Watershed

#### Days above 90°F

Current:10

2050: 19

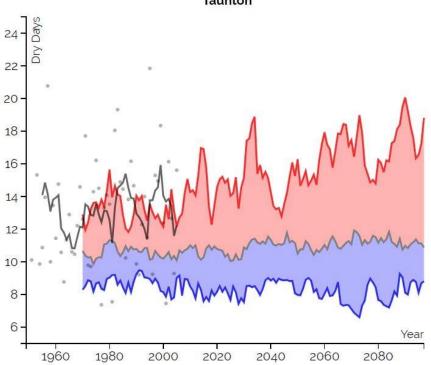
2100: 30



SourceResilientMA.org

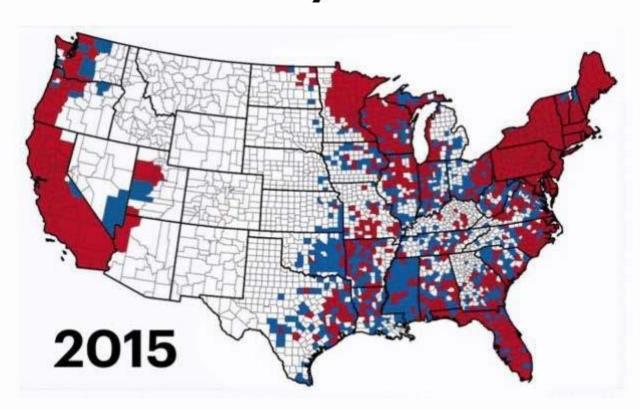
#### Future climate change impacts in Taunton watershed

#### Summer Consecutive Dry Days Taunton



Source ResilientMA.org

## Public Health: Ticks and Lyme Disease



#### **Nature-based Solutions**

**Nature-Based Solutions** *use* natural systems, *mimic* natural processes, or *work in tandem with* traditional approaches to address natural hazards like flooding, erosion, drought, and heat islands.



Green Infrastructure



Low Impact
Development (LID)

#### Nature based solutions at every scale

#### Rural, suburban, or urban

Conserve available Integrate concepts into open space providing new development at

ecosystem services



neighborhood scales

Restore resilience in urban areas at site specific scale







#### **Benefits:**

- Contribute to watershedscale approach to addressing water balance, water quality and flooding concerns
- Maximize the utility of local conservation planning

#### How to link:

- Comprehensive plans
- Open space residential development
- Transfer of development rights
- Water resource protection overlay districts
- Floodplain management
- Wetland protection districts and bylaws
- Open space plans

#### **Baker Administration's Support**

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary

Grant Announcement

Commbuys Bid # BD-18-1042-ENV-ENV01-25921

Request for Responses (RFR) ENV 18 POL 03

Dated: April 13, 2018

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAM (MVP)
IMMEDIATE NEEDS ROUND FY 18

MVP ACTION GRANT

"Projects that propose natures of sective designation from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) at a Climate Change Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community ("MVP solutions or strategies that office Vo Office Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) at a Climate Change Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community ("MVP solutions or strategies that office Vo Office Office Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) at a Climate Change Municipal Vulnerability as sessment and action planning that has led to infrastructure or conservation and

B. Overview and Goals: The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program supports enhancement of natural systems of the Stabilishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the complete and implement community-driven climate change vulnerability assessments and incomplete and implement community-driven climate change vulnerability assessments and incomplete and implement community resilience Building (CRB) Workshop Guide (community Resilience Building Org). The MVP program is split into Planning Grants, which result in a completed CRB process and MVP plan, leading to designation as an "MVP Community," and MVP Action Grants (outlined through this opportunity), which seek to implement key priorities and projects identified through the MVP Planning Grants.

C. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Funding is to advance priority climate adaptation actions identified by

C. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Funding is to advance priority climate adaptation actions identified by "MVP Communities" to address climate change impacts resulting from extreme weather, sea level rise, inland and coastal flooding, severe heat, and other climate impacts. (See further detail on eligible projects in Section 2B.). Projects that propose nature-based solutions or strategies that rely on green infrastructure or conservation and enhancement of natural systems to improve community resilience will receive higher scores.

#### **Funding**

# **Certified MVP Communities Receive Priority Ranking**

- Action grants are only available to MVP certified communities
- MA Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (CWSRF)
- MA Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
- MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
- MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
- MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Mass Environmental Trust (MET)
- MA DCS LAND and PARC Grants





#### MVP Action Grants: Project Types

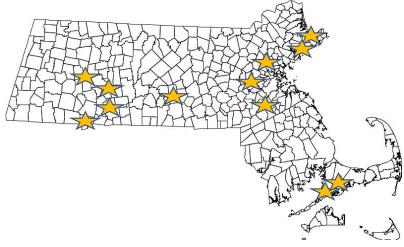
- Detailed Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
- Community Outreach and Education
- Local Bylaws, Ordinances, Plans, and Other Management Measures
- Redesigns and Retrofits
- Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Mitigation, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques
- Nature-Based, Infrastructure and Technology Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality
- Nature-Based Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability to other Climate Change Impacts
- Ecological Restoration and Habitat Management to Increase Resiliency

#### MVP Action Grants: Project Types (cont.)

#### **NEW IN 2019**

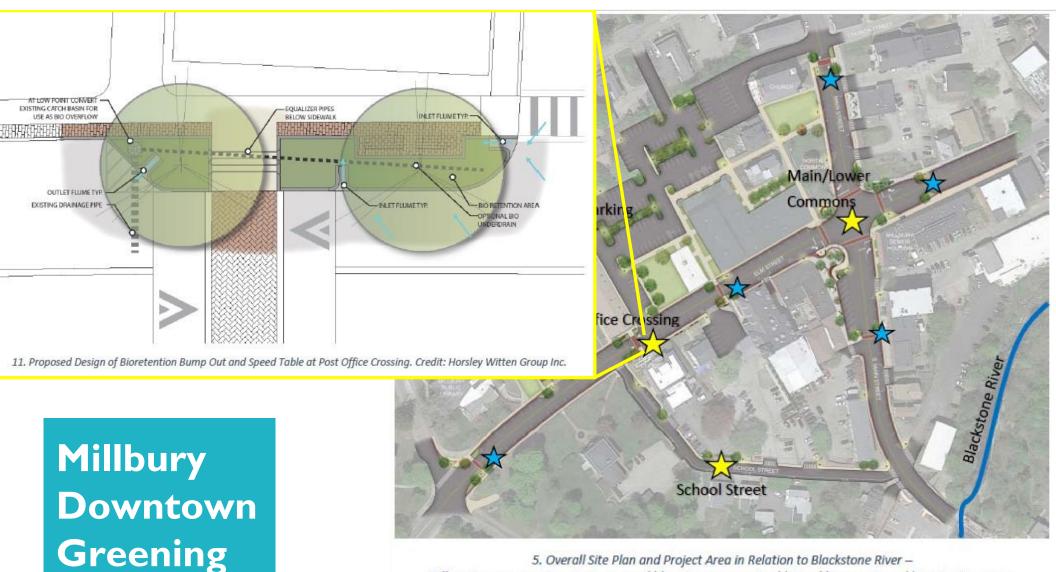
- Energy Resilience
- Chemical Safety
- Land Acquisition for Resilience
- Subsidized Low-Income Housing Resilience Strategies
- Mosquito Control Districts





# **Example Nature Based Solutions for Resilience**

- Living Shoreline
   Feasibility Cranberry Bog
   restoration
  - Watershed Land Protection
  - Salt Marsh Restoration
  - Brook Stabilization
- Tree Planting for Heat Island and reduced runoff
  - Design with Nature for Flood
  - -Nature Based Road Stream Crossing
  - Floodplain Restoration
  - Green Infrastructure
- Forestry for Emergency Management and Environmental Conditions



5. Overall Site Plan and Project Area in Relation to Blackstone River —
Yellow stars represent project areas and blue stars represent additional bump outs and bioretention areas.

Credit: Weston & Sampson

# So, what do we do next? Next... We Plan!!!

## Overview of the Process (Steps & Tasks)

- Prepare for the Workshop
- Characterize Hazards
- Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths

- Establish a core team with goals.
- Engage stakeholders.
- (3) Prepare materials for workshop.
- (4) Decide on participant arrangements.
- Identify past, current, and future impacts.
- Determine the highest-priority hazards.
- Identify infrastructural vulnerabilities and strengths.
- Identify societal vulnerabilities and strengths.
- Identify environmental vulnerabilities and strengths.
- Identify and prioritize infrastructural actions.
- Identify and prioritize societal actions.
- Identify and prioritize environmental actions.
- Identify highest-priority actions.
- Further define urgency and timing.
- Generate final workshop products.

Continue community outreach and engagement.

- Secure additional data and information.
- (3) Inform existing planning and project activities.

Community Components



Infrastructural



Societal



Environmental

**SHOP** Part 2: Jan. 21

Part 1. Today

Identify and Prioritize Community Actions

Determine the Overall Priority Actions

Put It All Together

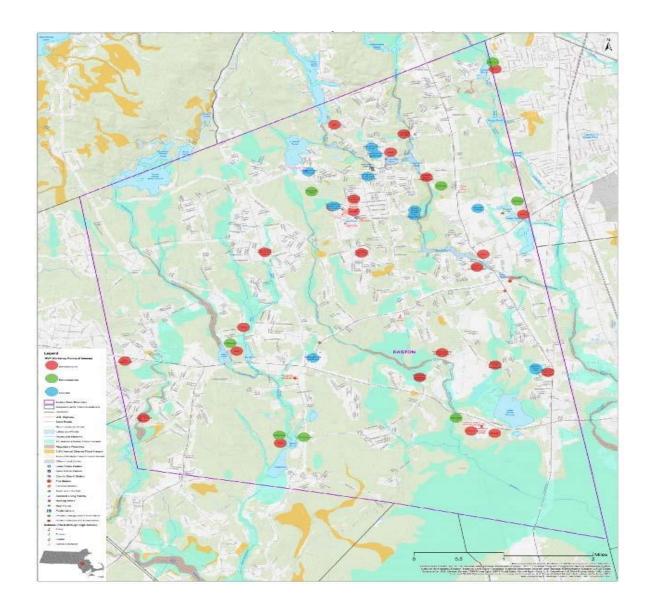
Move Forward

DURING WOR

Community Resilience B	uilding Risk Matrix	4	P		www.Commun	ityResilienceBu	ilding.co	m	
H-M-L priority for action over the Sho	ort or <b>L</b> ong term (and <u>U</u> ngoin	g)	Top Priority Hazard	s (tornado, floods, wildfin	e, hurricanes, earthqua	ke, drought, sea level	rise, heat w		
<u>V</u> = Vulnerability <u>S</u> = Strength	Location	Ownership V o	-6				H-W-L		
Features Infrastructural	Location	Ownership v o	3					<u>Q</u> ngoing	
1									
Societal									
	3 a								
Environmental			•		•				
	2 d 4 d								

Community Resilience Build	mg KISK IVI	atrix	485	(eh:)		www	.CommunityResilier	nceBuilding	g.com
$-M-L$ priority for action over the Short of $=$ Vulnerability $\underline{S} =$ Strength	or Long term (a	nd Ongoing)		Top Priority Hazards	(tornado, floods, wil	dfires, earthquake, dro	ought, sea level rise, h	eat wave, e	etc.)
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### Thank You!

