Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Community Resilience Partnership

Round 7

Series Overview

- Supports communities preparing for Community Action Grants
- Highlight real-world CRP-funded projects from peer communities
- Connect participants with state resources, tools, and technical support
- Offers tips to help communities prepare strong grant applications

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Series Schedule

- March 25: Mobilizing Volunteers for Resilience Projects (video available)
- April 1: Waste Diversion & Circular Economy
- April 15: Flood Resilience & Vulnerability Assessments
- April 29: Powering Resilient Communities
- *New* May 11: Wildfire-Ready Communities: Trends, Planning, & Resources

Visit the CRP Website to Register and for Zoom Recordings

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Round 7 Updates

Up to $5.25 million available in this grant round

Community Action Grants

- **Application Deadline:** June 5, 2026, 5 P.M. EST

Service Provider Grants

- **Next Application Deadline:** May 15, 2026, 5 P.M. EST

New opportunity!

Nature-based Design TA Opportunity

- **Application Deadline:** June 19, 2026, 5 P.M. EST

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Speakers: Community Vulnerability Assessments and Flood Resilience

- **Gretchen Anderson**, Sustainability Program Coordinator and **Sara Mills-Knapp,** Director of Sustainability, Greater Portland Council of Governments
- **Paul Styslinger,** Natural Hazards Planner, Maine Emergency Management Agency
- **Sue Baker,** Program Coordinator, Floodplain Management Program

Webinar Reminders

Please remain muted during the presentations

Use the Q&A box to submit questions throughout the session

We’ll address questions during the Q&A portion at the end

This webinar is being recorded and will be shared with participants afterward

Speakers: Community Vulnerability Assessments and Flood Resilience

- **Gretchen Anderson**, Sustainability Program Coordinator and **Sara Mills-Knapp,** Director of Sustainability, Greater Portland Council of Governments

GPCOG
Vulnerability Assessments

CRP Lunch and Learn

April 15, 2026

GPCOG
GREATER PORTLAND
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Agenda

1. **Background:** How does GPCOG approach the project
2. **Process:** What resources are we assessing and how are we doing it
3. **Results:** What are example outputs
4. **Input:** What are residents saying
5. **Actions:** Recommendations for moving forward

Reminder!

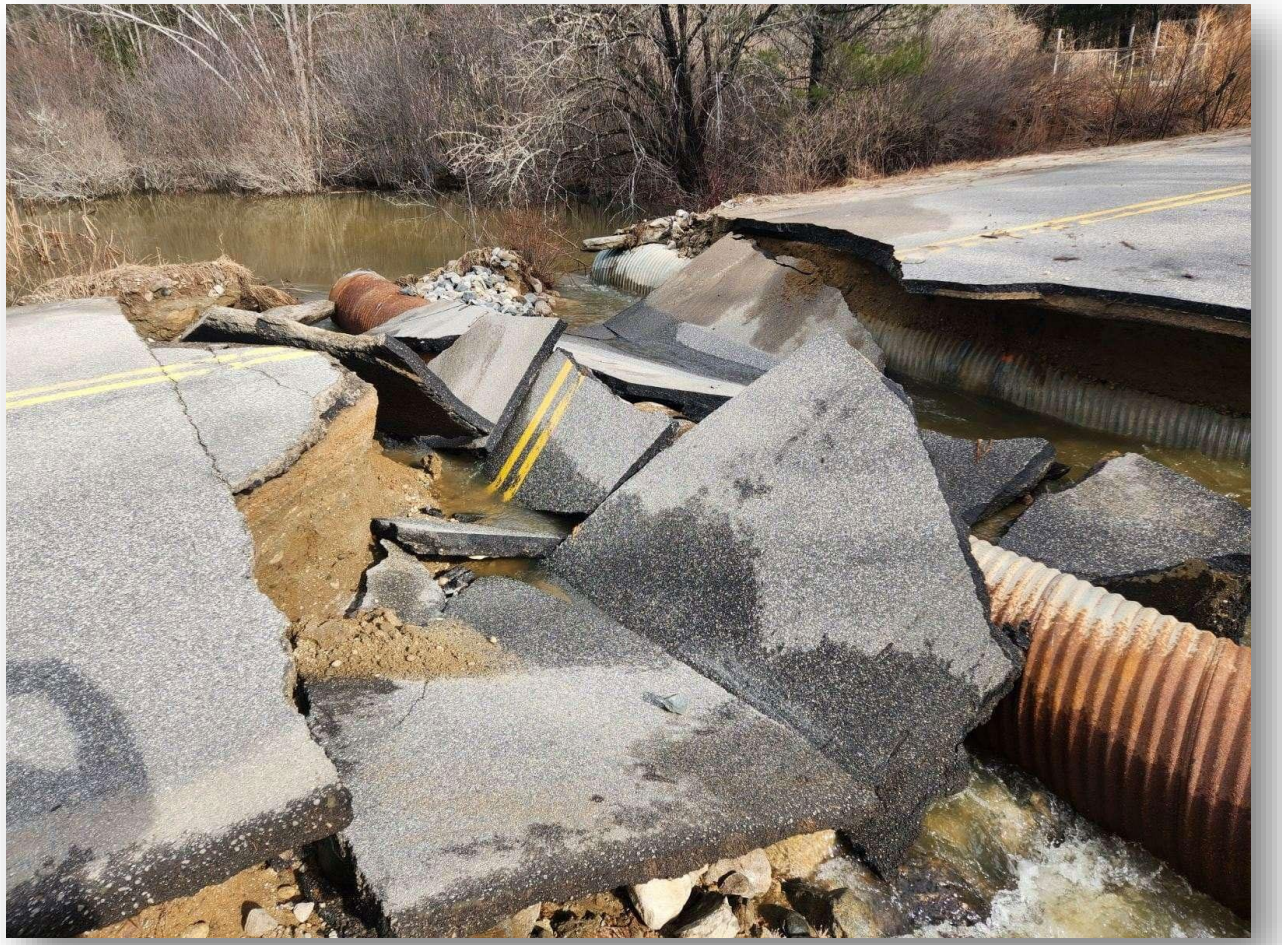
This reflects GPCOG's approach to vulnerability assessments.

There are many valid ways to structure depending on community needs, capacity, and goals.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Objective

- Assess areas most at risk of impacts from climate hazards
- Identify resources which need additional research or assessment
- Prioritize areas of action (funding, resources, time, capacity)
- Build resilience



Climate Vulnerability Assessment

GPCOG Approach

- Data driven
  - Community engagement light
  - Technical report
- Organized by resource type to highlight connective and cumulative impacts across hazards
- Follows existing process we developed during climate action planning
- Living document

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Project Overview

Data Collection

Mapping and Analysis

Recommendations and Reporting

Community and Municipal Engagement

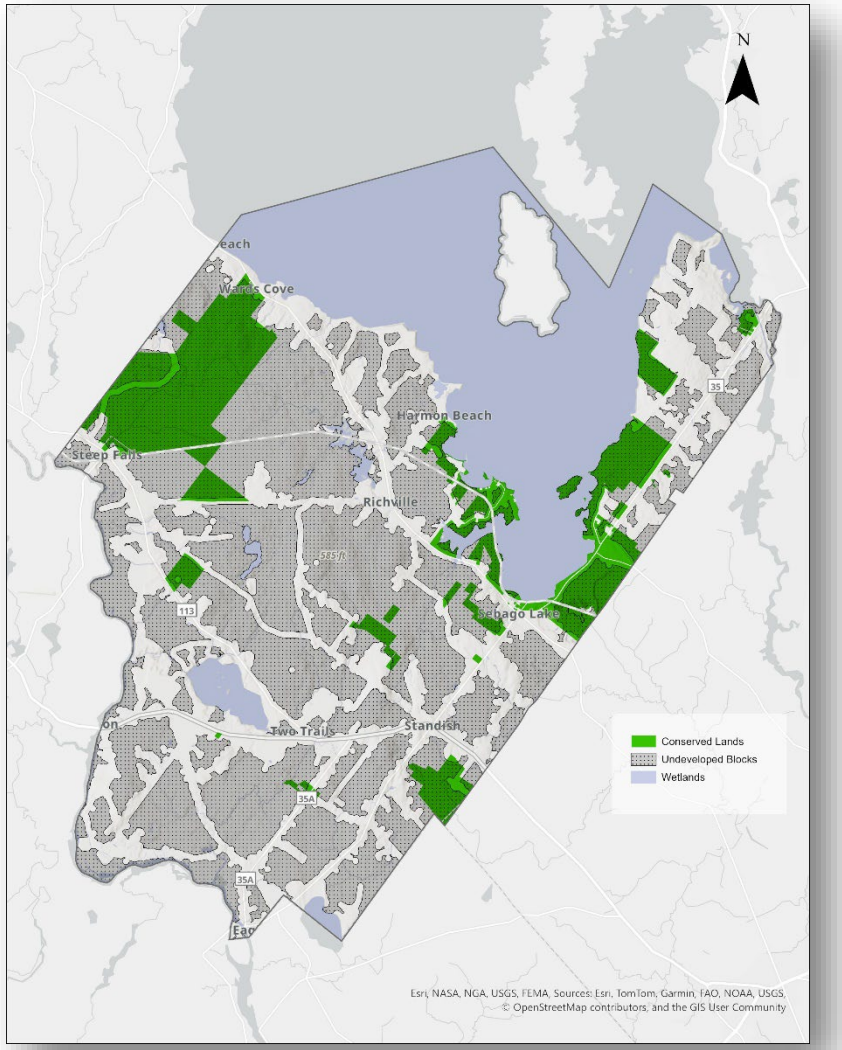
Grant Assessment

Outline and Content

1. **Climate hazards**
   - Broad and regional in focus

2. **Municipal specific resources and impacts**
   - Infrastructure, Community Resources, People, Natural Resources
   - Explain why a resource is relevant to climate change
   - Town specific impacts (as available)

3. **Recommendations**
   - Broad in scope
   - Developed with staff input
   - Start to prioritize (low – medium – high)
   - Incorporate public feedback, where available

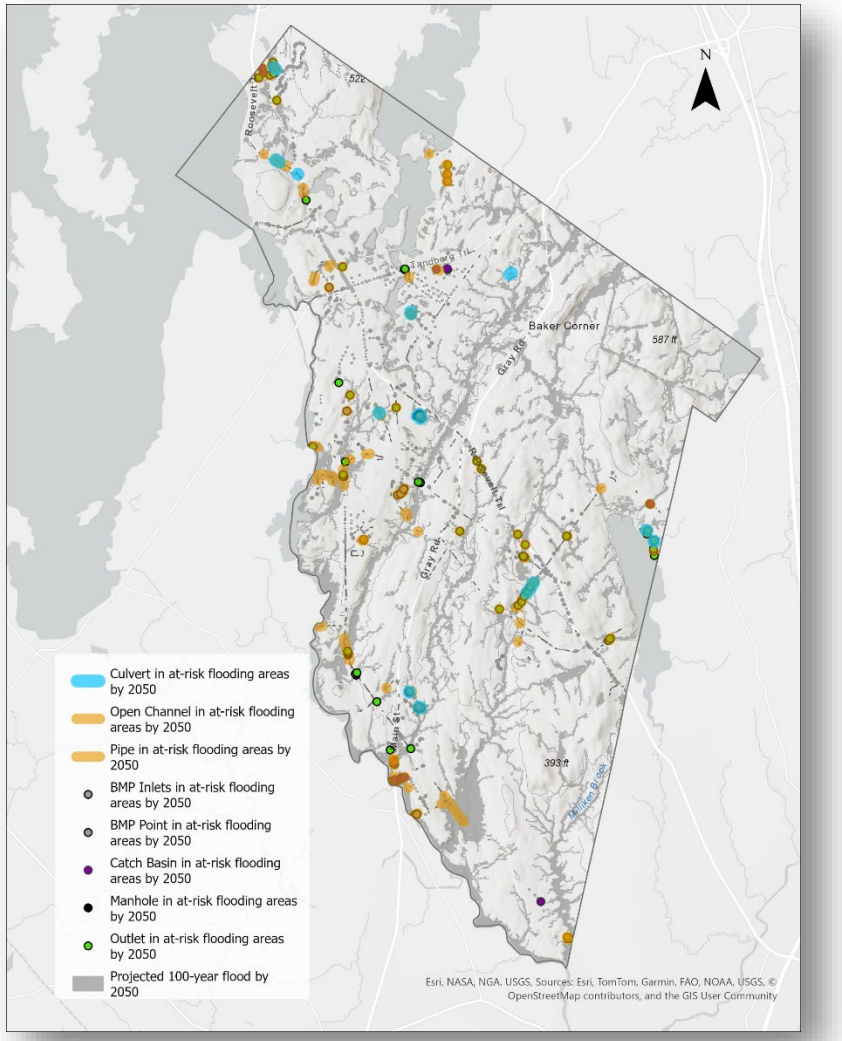


Resources Analyzed

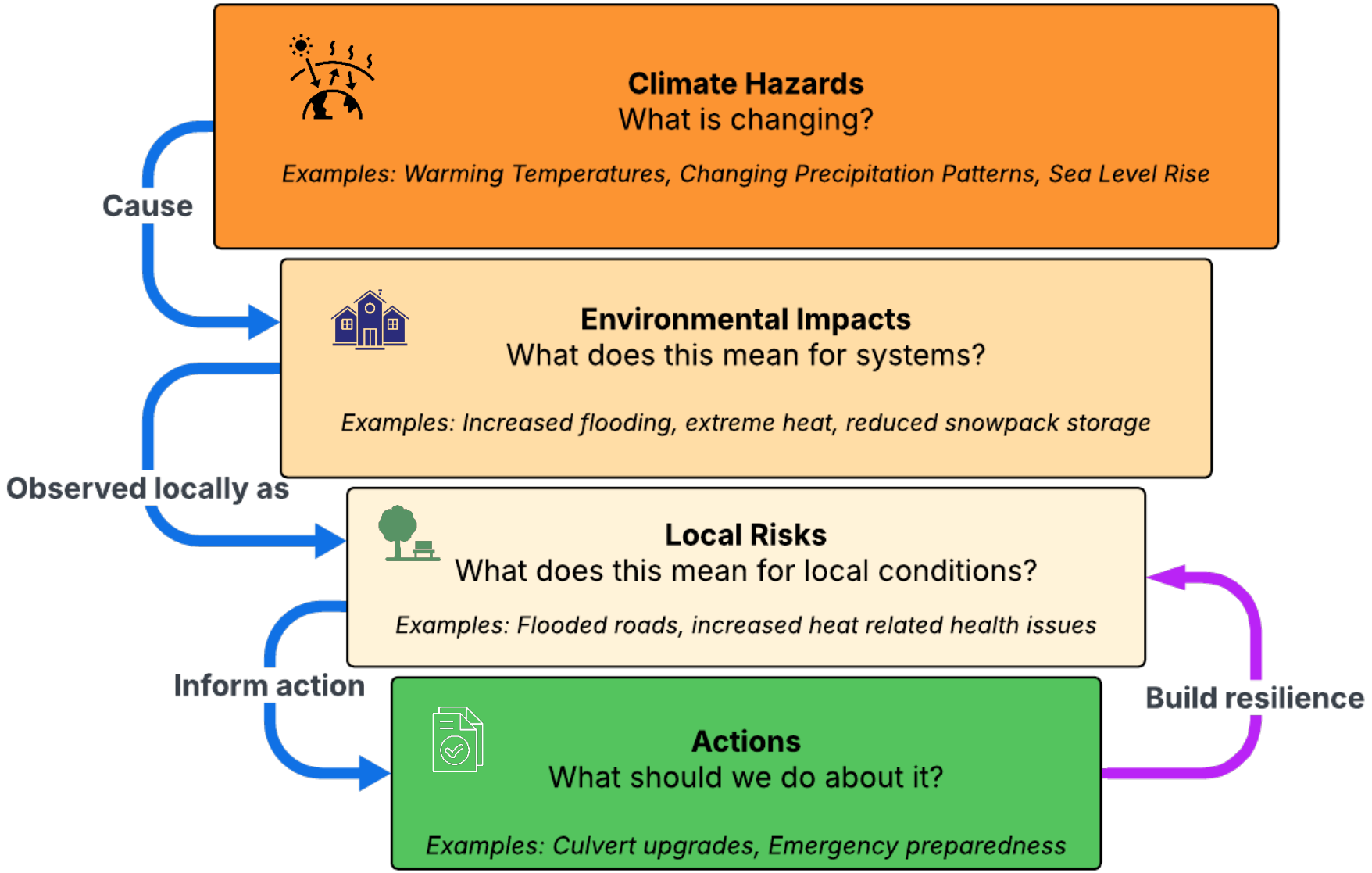
Infrastructure	Natural Resources	Community Resources	People
Transportation	Ecosystems	Economy	Demographics
Buildings	Open Space and Conserved Lands	Essential Services	Socioeconomic
Water Utilities	Water Resources	Social Services	Housing
Power and Communications	Erosion	Agriculture and Food Systems	Public Health
	Land Use, Forests, Carbon Sinks	Trails, Parks and Recreation	
	Tidal Marshes	Archeological and Historic Sites	

Data

- Regional, state, national
  - First Street Foundation – Flood Factor (vs FEMA)
  - MGS – Sea level rise
  - Beginning with Habitat
  - Maine Climate Change Institute
  - EPA
- Municipal
  - Available GIS layers from municipality
  - Surveys and community engagement
  - Local organizations



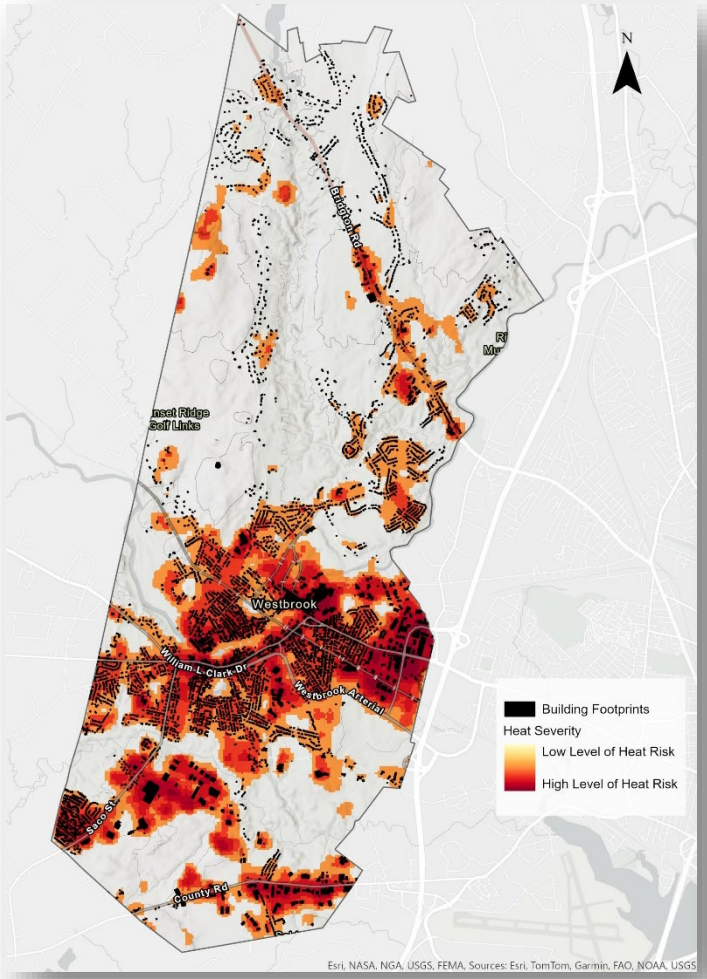
Process


Climate Hazards
What is changing?
Examples: Warming Temperatures, Changing Precipitation Patterns, Sea Level Rise
Cause
Environmental Impacts
What does this mean for systems?
Examples: Increased flooding, extreme heat, reduced snowpack storage
Observed locally as
Local Risks
What does this mean for local conditions?
Examples: Flooded roads, increased heat related health issues
Inform action
Actions
What should we do about it?
Examples: Culvert upgrades, Emergency preparedness
Build resilience

What this looks like

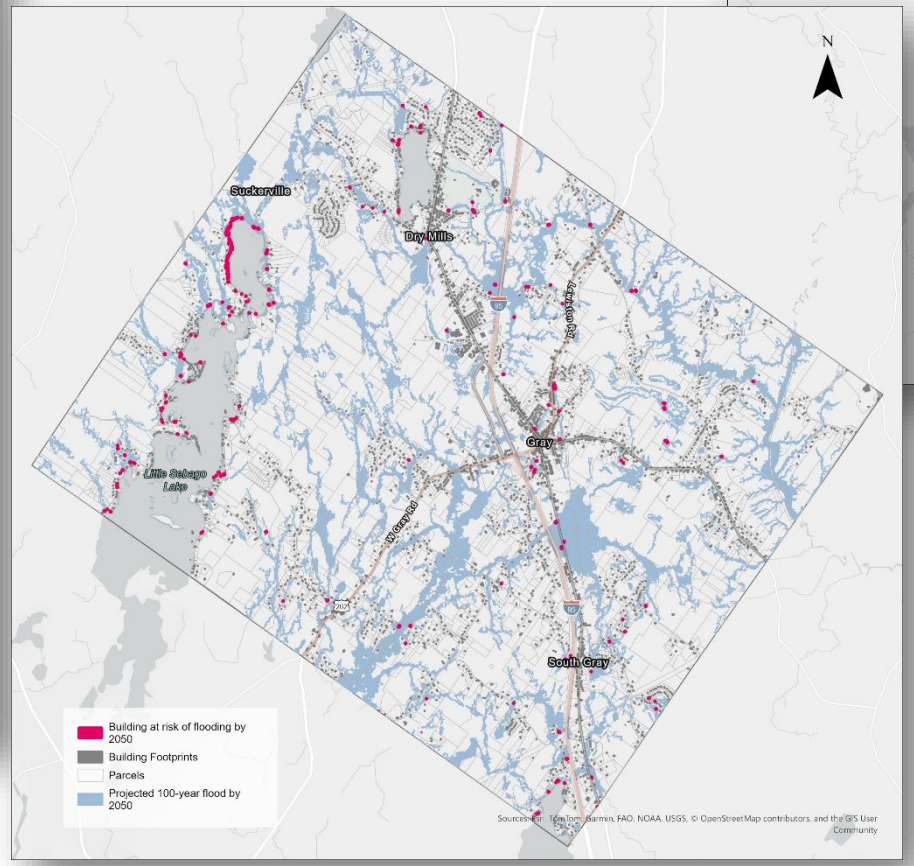
Resource	Hazard	Impacts	Local Risks	Actions
Roadways	Warming Temperatures Changing Precipitation	Shortens lifespan, increases cost of repairs, inundated with water, limits access	Bridgton: 8 miles in at-risk areas	Develop an alternative access route plan for emergency services during flood events, in coordination with MaineDOT and regional partners
Waterways	Warming Temperatures Changing Precipitation	Lower dissolved oxygen levels, fosters algal blooms, increased stormwater runoff	Windham: No impaired waterways. Highland Lake = “MS4 Priority Water, Watch List, Sensitive”	Restore riparian buffers using native vegetation consistent with Maine’s Shoreland Zoning and DEP permitting

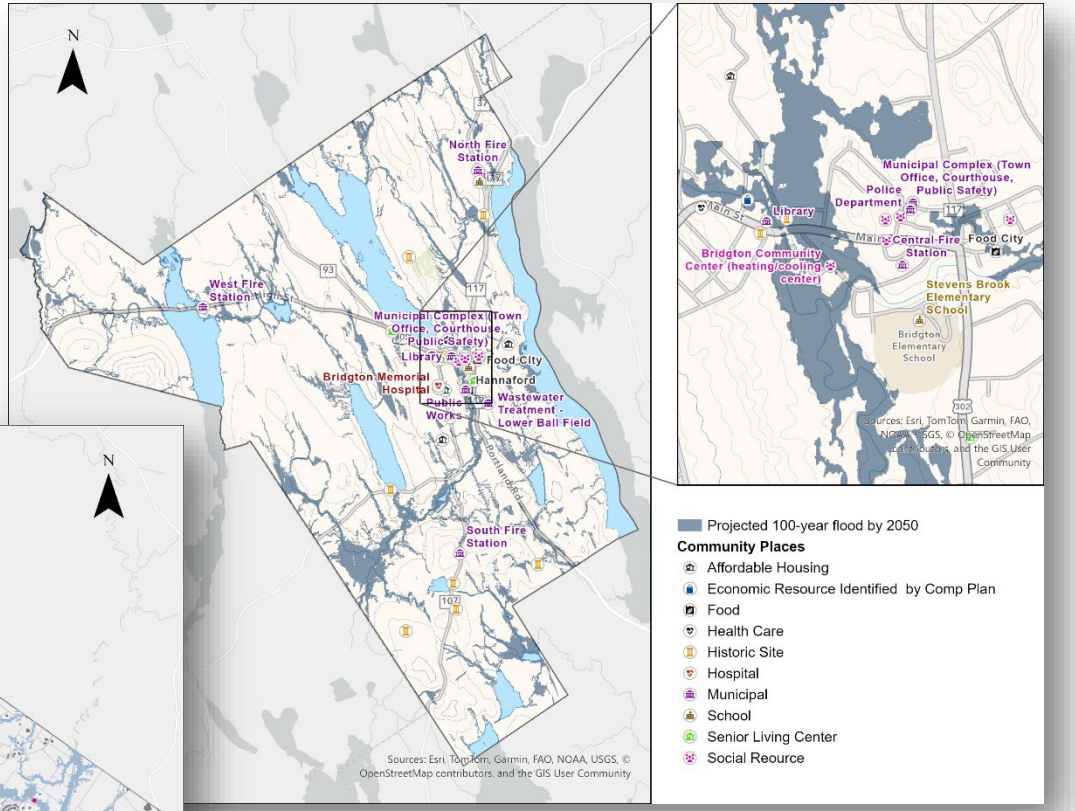
Results and Output



Heat Severity in Westbrook

Building impacts in Gray





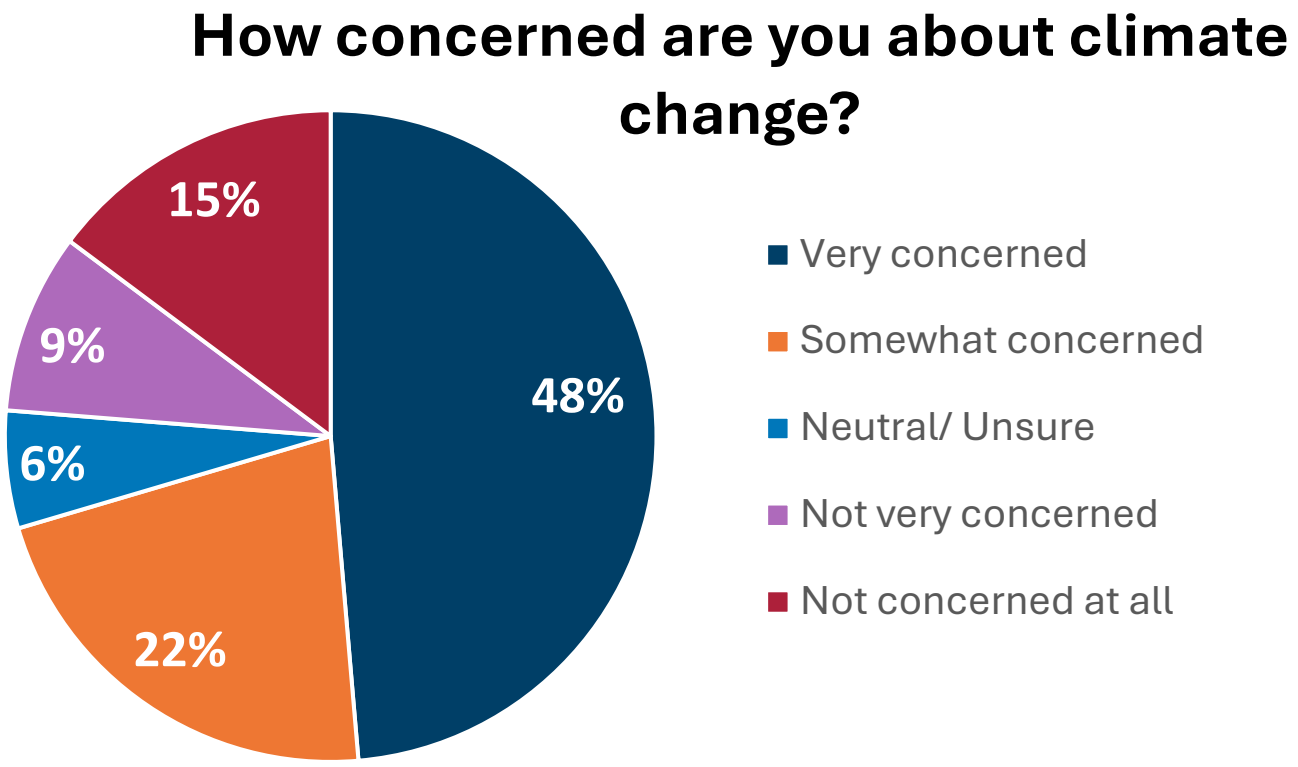
Community Services in Bridgton

Public Input

- Desire for community input (and how to get input) varies by community
- Scale-able based on grant and community needs
  - Surveys
  - Public workshops
  - Staff interviews
  - Stakeholder groups
  - Pop-ups

Public Input

- Adjust language to match town's priorities
- Public input is strongest when advertised and encouraged through town and local channels
- Most respondents want municipalities to take action to address climate change
- There is often a vocal contingent that expresses economic concern or distrust of the changing climate



Actions and Recommendations

What is GPCOG doing?

- Applying for regional grants
- Conducting system-wide transportation vulnerability assessment
- Developing templates for municipal use
- Continue building connections and partnerships externally

Thank you!

Speakers: Community Vulnerability Assessments and Flood Resilience

- **Paul Styslinger,** Natural Hazards Planner, Maine Emergency Management Agency

Resilience and Community Vulnerability Assessments

Best Practices from MEMA

Paul Styslinger

Natural Hazards Planner

4/15/2026

About MEMA (Natural Hazards)

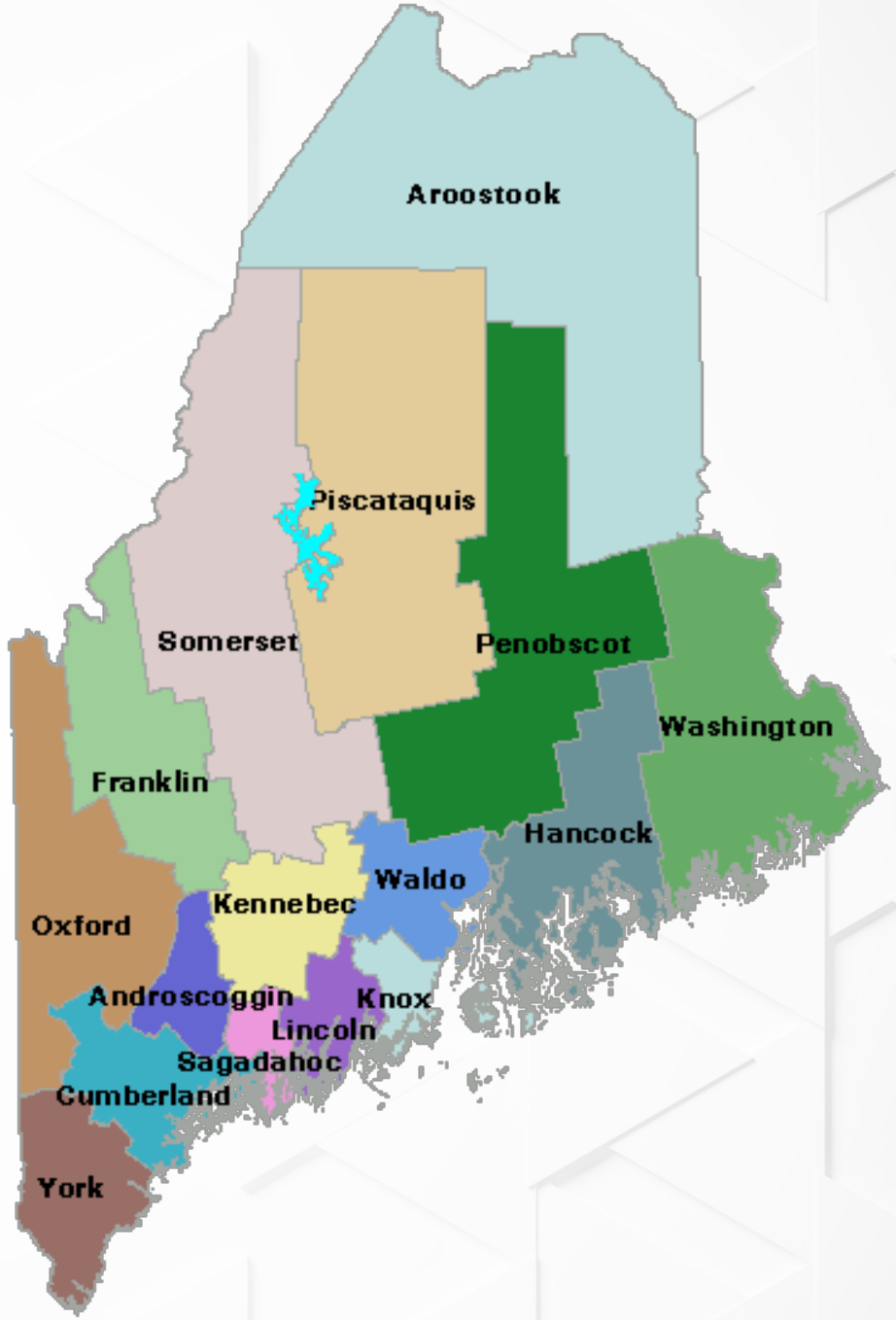
- State coordinator for hazard mitigation planning (all 16 counties)
- Assist with FEMA Mitigation & Recovery Funding
- Update State Hazard Mitigation Plan as well as County and local plans
- Help manage Maine's streamgage network, coastal flood monitoring network, the River Flow Advisory Commission, Drought Task Force, Cooperative Snow Survey, and similar initiatives

Key Takeaways

- MEMA would love to provide data and technical resources to support any funded mitigation project – just ask!
- With a few best practices, you can use CRP (or other) funded mitigation/vulnerability assessment projects to set your jurisdiction(s) up for other state and federal funding

Best Practice #1: Join Forces

- Regional partnerships are the best way to address regional problems – and CRP incentivizes this!
- Engage with County EMAs, who may have done substantial work for you already
- Consider adopting an existing county plan



Best Practice #2: Maximize Gatherings

- Getting stakeholders together is the hardest part. Make the most of it!
- Full hazard assessment, Emergency Operations Plans, and THIRA assessments can all be updated in tandem if done correctly
- CRP funds everything from smaller programs to full plans
- Same applies to passing resolutions (easier to do just once)

Source: Kennebec County EMA

Best Practice #3: If the Funding Fits…

- FEMA funding is uncertain at best, and requires lots of planning and compliance capacity, but can be great for specific projects if available
- BRIC now focused on shovel-ready capital projects (no longer funds planning or more general work)
- CRP funding is the best avenue today for foundational planning work, among many other categories
- Also see MaineDOT's MIAF program (now open) for shovel-ready infrastructure projects, along with Maine Office of Community Affairs' Funding Finder

Source: The Nature Conservancy

Best Practice #4: Leverage Existing Resources

- Starting from scratch should be **rare**
- County/Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plans, State Hazard Mitigation Plans, the upcoming Climate Vulnerability Assessment, and many other documents are great starting points
- Contact me! It is my job to connect you to resources. Paul.Styslinger@maine.gov

For example…

- Maine State Hazard Mitigation Plan
- County/Tribal Mitigation Plans
- FEMA's National Risk Index + RAPT
- Maine Dry Well Survey
- Maine Risk Map
- Maine Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Maine Floodplain Management Model
- Online Risk Data Hub
- Maine Flood Resilience Checklist
- Living Shorelines
- Maine Coastal Bluff Erosion Maps
- Maine Hurricane Evacuation Study
- NOAA Digital Coast
- …and many more!

Contact paul.styslinger@maine.gov

Best Practice #5: Prepare for Plan Updates

- Update plans annually and alongside similar work.
- Keep the threshold low. A solid plan is a good baseline that can serve for years to come, with low-lift revisions.
- Document new projects and project status updates.
- Think (and write) about how to “improve” the plan, not just “maintain” or “continue” it

Best Practice #6: Community Stories = Valuable Data

- Supplement technical tools with community stories and local knowledge
- Prioritize collection of these during vulnerability assessments (and updates)
- This is critical for improving real-life scientific models

Source: USGS

Best Practice #7: Don’t Miss These Mitigation Actions

- FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans require a “comprehensive analysis” of potential solutions, defined by five categories: property protection, **land use planning/codes**, **natural systems protection**, structural projects, and education/awareness programs.
- In other words: don’t default to just structural solutions

Source: NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Best Practice #8: Invite Everyone (Directly)

- FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans require you to invite representatives from the following stakeholder groups, at a minimum: local/regional agencies, **development regulatory agencies**, neighboring communities, **businesses/academia**, and nonprofits
- Don’t just do a Facebook post inviting those who happen to be following your page. Make a list and reach out directly via email.

Source: USGS

Best Practice #9: Engage Special Districts

- Special districts (sewer, water, utility, schools, etc.) are now viewed by FEMA as their own jurisdictions for mitigation planning.
- They can no longer apply under a town/city/tribal government umbrella and do not automatically fall under county plans.
- Invite them to participate as well!

Source: Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District

Best Practice #10: Document Everything

- …but make it easy on yourself!
- Record virtual calls, set up sign-in sheets, and sort emails in a folder for later use and future grant cycles.
- Build a digital paper trail that proves you did the work well, and you will be able to leave those County Hazard Mitigation Planning meetings early :)

Kennebec	Hallowell	2	Union Street at Central Street	$65,000	Long Term	(Drainage): Upsize 300' x 24" underground pipe. Add (10) catch basins.	Director of Public Works	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.31552	-69.83100
Kennebec	Hallowell	3	Chestnut Street	$30,000	Long Term	Chestnut Street (Drainage): Upsize 200' x 18" underground pipe. Add (4) catch basins.	Director of Public Works	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.28523	-69.79510
Kennebec	Hallowell	4	Academy Street	$110,000	Long Term	Academy Street (Drainage): Upsize 1,000' x 24" underground pipe. Add (10) catch basins.	Director of Public Works	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.28449	-69.79290
Kennebec	Hallowell	5	Central Street	$100,000	Long Term	Central Street: Upsize culvert 30' x 6'.	Director of Public Works	New	44.28402	-69.79430
Kennebec	Hallowell	6	Lincoln Street from Hubbard Lane to Second Street	$100,000	Long Term	Lincoln Street from Hubbard Lane to Second Street (Drainage): Upsize 2,000' x 18" underground pipe. Add (6) catch basins.	Director of Public Works	New	44.36337	-69.86930
Kennebec	Hallowell	6	Lincoln Street from Hubbard Lane to Second Street	$100,000	Long Term	Lincoln Street from Hubbard Lane to Second Street (Drainage): Upsize 2,000' x 18" underground pipe. Add (6) catch basins.	Director of Public Works	New	44.36337	-69.86930
Kennebec	Hallowell	7	High Street from Central Street to Mayflower Road	$65,000	Long Term	High Street from Central Street to Mayflower Road (Drainage): Upsize 500' x 18" underground pipe. Add (5) catch basins.	Director of Public Works	New	44.17679	-69.94060
Kennebec	Hallowell	8	Page Street from Pleasant Street to Second Street	$85,000	Long Term	Page Street from Pleasant Street to Second Street (Drainage): Upsize 1,500' x 18" underground pipe. Add (6) catch basins.	Director of Public Works	New	44.35902	-69.84970
Kennebec	Hallowell		Winter Street	$69,000	Long Term	Winter Street (Drainage): Upsize 400' x 36" underground pipe. Add (4) catch basins.		Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.27807	-70.05119
Kennebec	Litchfield	1	Hallowell/Litchfield Road	$28,000	Short Term	Hallowell/Litchfield Road: Build retaining wall 4' x 50' to protect road from Tacoma Lake overspill.	Director of Public Works	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.23024	-69.98140
Kennebec	Manchester		Foye Road	$50,000	Medium Term	Foye Road: Ditch and line 5,000'.		Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.31542	-69.83110
Kennebec	Manchester		Prescott Road	$60,000	Medium Term	Prescott Road: Ditch 6,500', stabilize shoulders.		Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.35884	-69.84959
Kennebec	Manchester		Scribner Hill Road	$60,000	Short Term	Scribner Hill Road: Ditch 4,000', stabilize shoulder, install geosynthetics to fix spring under roadway.		Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.27806	-70.05112
Kennebec	Manchester		Summer Haven Road	$80,000	Long Term	Summer Haven Road: Ditch and line 7,000' and upsize culverts as needed.		Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.37026	-69.83372
Kennebec	Monmouth	1	Wilson Pond Road (Site 1)	$4,000	Long Term	Wilson Pond Road (Site 1): Add 36" x 40' HDPE overflow culvert and riprap intake and outlet.	Town Manager/Road Commissioner	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.13747	-69.67870
Kennebec	Monmouth	2	Sandborn Road	$5,000	Long Term	Sandborn Road: Add 36" x 50' HDPE overflow culvert and riprap intake and outlet.	Town Manager/Road Commissioner	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.55490	-69.70950
Kennebec	Monmouth	3	Placard Road (Site 1)	$15,000	Short Term	Placard Road (Site 1): Ditch and stone line 1,500' and add check dams as needed.	Town Manager/Road Commissioner	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.48731	-69.93750
Kennebec	Monmouth	4	Placard Road (Site 2)	$6,000	Short Term	Placard Road (Site 2): Add (2) 30" x 40' HDPE cross culverts and riprap intake and outlets.	Town Manager/Road Commissioner	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.44327	-69.99050
Kennebec	Monmouth	5	Wilson Pond Road (Site 2)	$4,000	Short Term	Wilson Pond Road (Site 2): Add 36" x 40' HDPE overflow culvert and riprap intake and outlet.	Town Manager/Road Commissioner	Deferred/Lack of Funds	44.22708	-69.71590

Thank You!

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Speakers: Community Vulnerability Assessments and Flood Resilience

- **Sue Baker,** Program Coordinator Floodplain Management Program

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
&
Flood Mitigation Resources

Sue Baker, CFM
State NFIP Coordinator
Floodplain Management Program

MAINE OFFICE OF
Community Affairs

NFIP Overview

- Flood Insurance Rate Maps
  - FEMA maps 1% annual chance
  - Zone A and V
  - Foundation for local permitting
- Regulations
  - Via local ordinance adoption (land us
  - Minimum standards for floodplain de
- Flood Insurance
  - Federally backed
  - Can be purchased in participating communities
  - It can be found in private market. Not priced the same.

There are NO future conditions included in the NFIP regulations or on FEMA flood maps!

How can we be more flood resilient?

Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) Actions

F10: Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Benefits of Participation in the NFIP

- **Federally backed flood insurance availability.**
- **Flood Insurance is mandatory as a condition of federally backed financing (mortgage/equity loan).**
- **Mandatory for some grants and low interest loans.**
- **Eligibility for hazard mitigation grant funding (through MEMA).**
- **Cost to Administer NFIP: Only the time it takes to administer and enforce the local FPM ordinance.**
- **Presidentially declared disaster, access to additional forms of disaster assistance.**

Participation in the NFIP

98% of Maine Communities participate in the NFIP.
LUPC participates on behalf of all the unorganized territories.

NON-PARTICIPATING

Athens	Atkinson	Charleston
Columbia Falls	Crawford	Cutler
Dyer Brook	Frye Island	Gilead
Hersey	Lagrange	Marshfield
Moose River	Northfield	Parkman
Prospect	Shirley	Springfield
Talmadge	Vanceboro	Waldo
Wesley	Weston	Whiting
Whitneyville		
Tribal Governments		

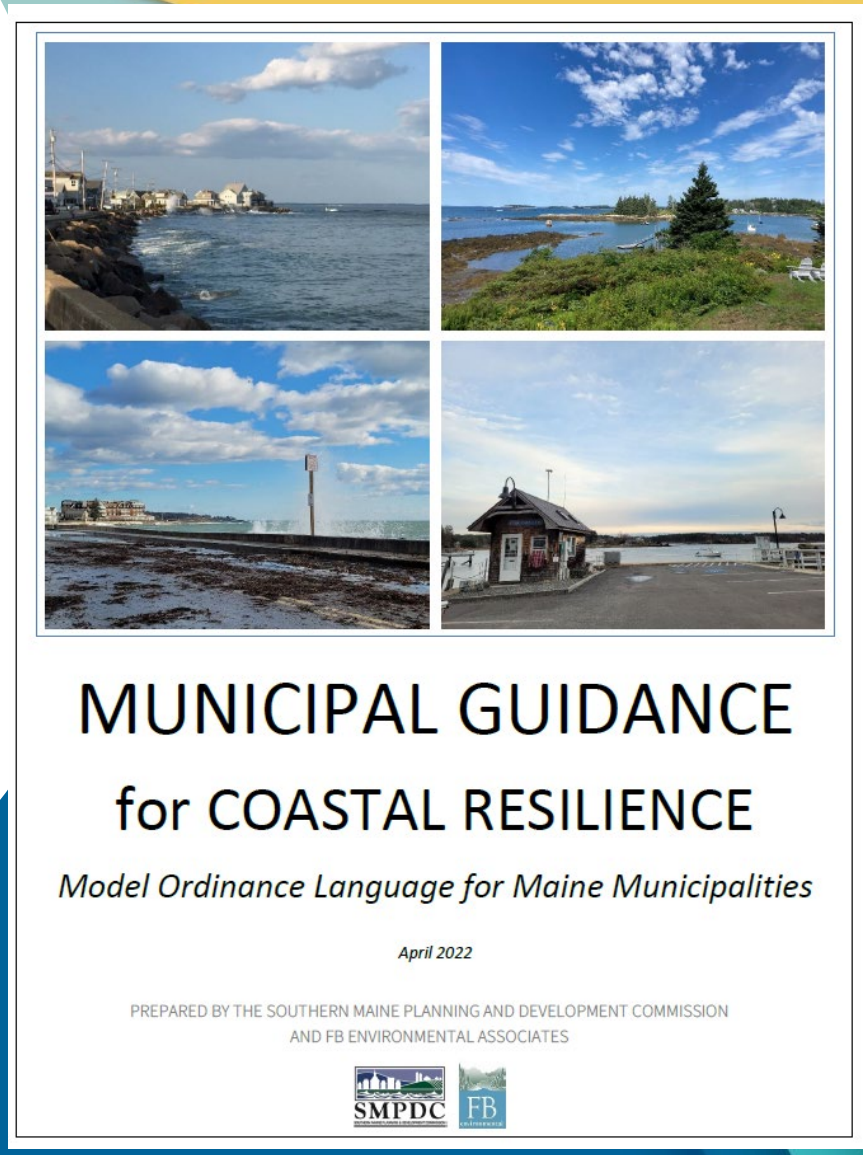
CRP Actions

B12: Support regular professional development training for code officers

- **Floodplain management is under Land Use certification.**
- **Critical to understanding the requirements of the Program**
- **We provide training to local code officials.**
- **ASFPM www.floods.org**
- **FEMA National Disaster & Emergency Management University (NDEMU) Classroom Courses https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/training/courses.**

CRP Actions

F15	Adopt freeboard requirements in the special flood hazard area and higher freeboard critical infrastructure and long-lifespan assets.
F17	Adopt model ordinances that protect the environment and reduce risks from flooding and other natural hazards.



Municipal Guide for Coastal Resilience (SMPDC)

Shoreland Zoning – Subdivision & Site Plan Review - Zoning

CRP Actions Related to Community Rating System (CRS)

E2	Develop a plan to identify high priority parcels and meet open space and conservation goals.

E10	Identify and protect open space in the floodplain to increase flood buffers and community resilience.

F11	Enroll in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) at Class 9 or better, reducing flood insurance premiums for community residents.
F12	Achieve Community Rating System Class 6 or better, maximizing flood insurance savings for community residents.

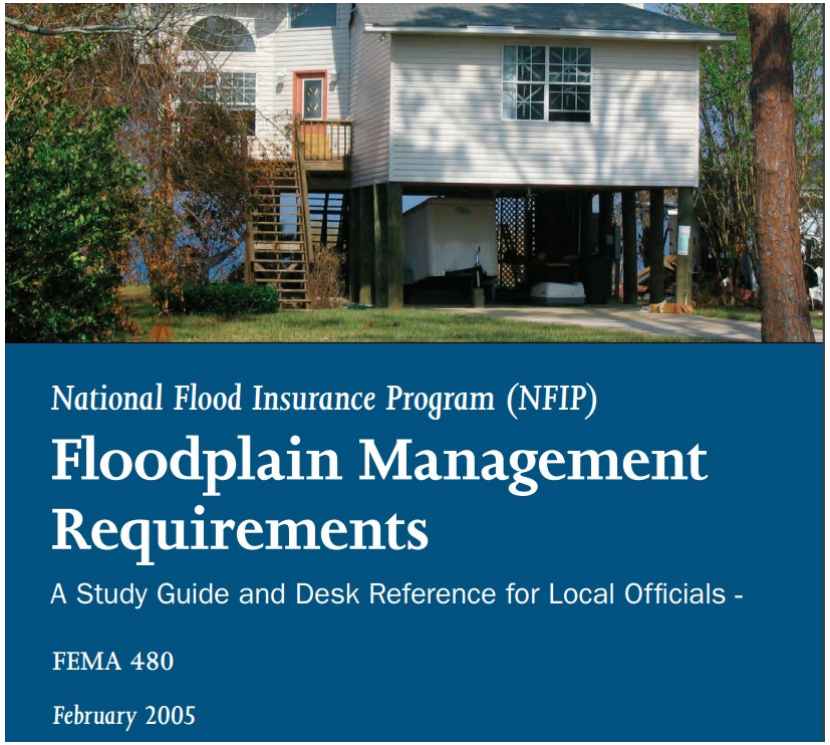
- **Pause on CRS**
- **Contract with FEMA's service provider, Verisk has lapsed.**
- **Future will depend on Federal Administration priorities.**
- **Put on this on the back burner for now.**

Two Online Mapping Resources Available to All

- Maine Floodplain Management Program's Flood Hazard Map Application
  http://www.maine.gov/dacf/flood/mapping.shtml

- FEMA's Map Service Center
  https://msc.fema.gov/portal

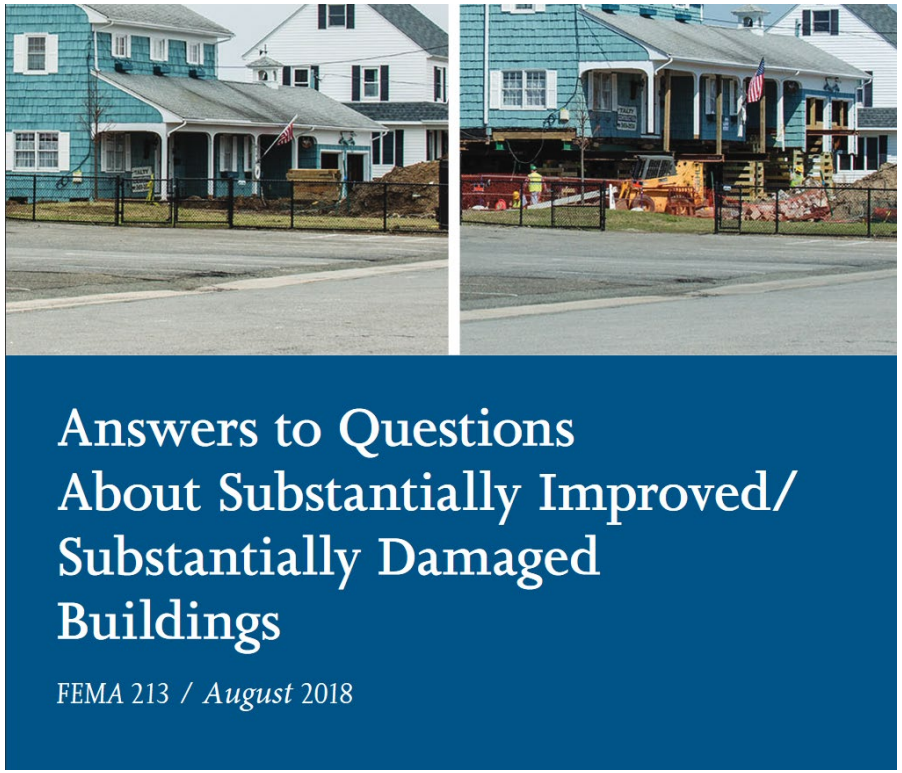
FEMA PUBLICATIONS



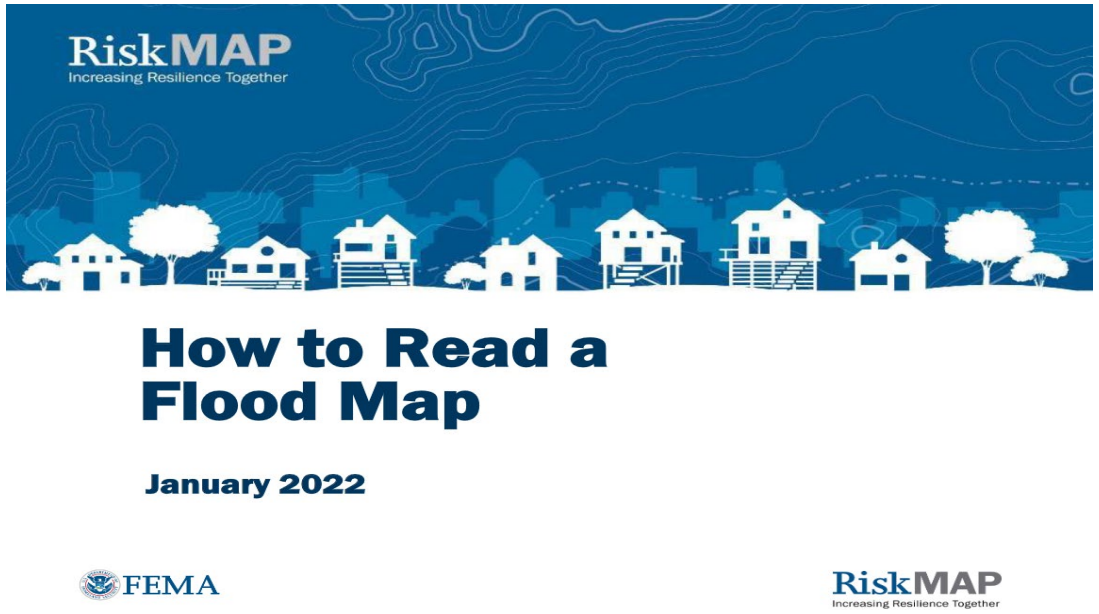
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema-480_floodplain-management-study-guide_local-officials.pdf

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_p_758_complete_r3_0.pdf

FEMA PUBLICATIONS



- https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_p213_08232018.pdf



- https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/how-to-read-flood-insurance-rate-map-tutorial.pdf

Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting

Six Ways to Protect Your Home From Flooding

FEMA P-312, 3rd Edition / June 2014

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_homeowners-guide-to-retrofitting_guide.pdf

- **Elevate Utilities:** Raise electrical panels, sockets, wiring, and HVAC systems above potential flood levels.
- **Install Flood Vents:** Install openings in foundation walls, garages, and crawlspaces to allow water to flow through, reducing pressure on walls.
- **Sump Pump Installation:** Install a sump pump with a battery backup to remove water that enters basements.
- **Dry/Wet Floodproofing:** Apply waterproof coatings to foundations or use water-resistant materials (e.g., tile, concrete) for flooring, especially below the base flood elevation (BFE).
- **Install Backflow Valves:** Install valves on pipes to stop sewage from backing up into the building.

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_protect-your-home-from-flooding-brochure_2020.pdf

Contact Us

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Thank you!

Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Community Resilience Partnership

Round 7