



MEMORANDUM
Town of Nags Head
Planning & Development Department

To: Planning Board
From: Holly B. White, Principal Planner
Kate Jones, Senior Environmental Planner
Date: March 11, 2022
Subject: Update on Resilient Coastal Communities Program

***Items in red indicate updates.

BACKGROUND

Earlier in the year, the Town was notified that it was accepted into the [North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program](#), a technical assistance program under the Division of Coastal Management that endeavors to “allow communities to develop an in depth understanding of their risk to coastal hazards. As a result, communities will be better prepared to take advantage of various future implementation funding opportunities.”

The objectives of the N.C. Resilient Coastal Communities Program include:

- Address barriers to coastal resilience in North Carolina at the local level, such as limited capacity, economic constraints, and social inequities.
- Assist communities with risk and vulnerability assessments and developing a portfolio of planned and prioritized projects.
- Advance coastal resilience projects to shovel-readiness, or ready for implementation; and
- Link communities to funding streams for project implementation.

The North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program Planning Handbook is available [HERE](#) and describes the Phases of the program.

VHB has been assigned as the Town’s consultant under this Program, and the Town’s efforts under the development of the [VCAPS Report](#), [Comprehensive Plan](#), and [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) have been recognized as satisfying the many of the initial requirements of the program.

PROJECT UPDATE

Candice Andre, Senior Project Manager with VHB, will be virtually attending the Planning Board meeting to give an update on the RCCP project as well as seek feedback from the Planning Board. The project team continues to meet with Town staff and project teams from other Town efforts and initiatives that relate to resiliency.

Ms. Andre has compiled the feedback from staff and the planning board into a revised vision and goals for resilience. The Planning Board is asked to review the draft, revised vision and goals (attached) and be prepared to make any final modifications at the

meeting. In order to conduct the vulnerability analysis, buy in on the vision and goals is needed to proceed.

The team has also developed an interactive map of critical assets and natural infrastructure in the Town. Ms. Andre will share the interactive Critical Assets and Natural Infrastructure Map at the meeting to get feedback from the Planning Board. Attached is a list of critical assets that have been included on the interactive map. Staff would like the Planning Board to review the list and determine if there are other critical assets that should be added to the list. During discussion of the interactive map, the Planning Board can share any feedback on additions or modifications to the mapping.

The team is planning for virtual community engagement in March – April that includes a survey. The community engagement opportunity will be advertised through Town social media and posted on the Town’s website. Attached are the draft survey questions that will be posed during the online survey. The team requests that the Planning Board review the draft questions and suggest any modifications or additions to the survey during discussion.

Project materials can be viewed on the Town’s website [HERE](#).

Staff and the consultant will be available to answer any questions or discuss concerns.

Resilient Strategy Vision

The resilient strategy vision was developed using the Town's vision adopted in the Comprehensive Plan, the vision for resiliency defined as part of the VCAPS report, and feedback from staff and the Planning Board.

A resilient Nags Head is a place where our community, economy, and ecosystems are better able to rebound, positively adapt, and thrive amid changing conditions and challenges. We strive to preserve and protect the Nags Head character, environment, economy, and sense of place in order to ensure a high quality of life for residents and visitors for present and future generations.

Resilient Strategy Goals

These goals are the goals adopted as part of and identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

- *Preserve our community's distinctive heritage and unique lifestyle.*
- *Protect our critical natural resources and coastal ecosystem.*
- *Build and promote a sustainable economy that supports residents and visitors.*
- *Plan for orderly and sustainable growth and redevelopment.*
- *Maintain a well-run and efficient government that provides high quality and cost-effective services.*

List of Critical Assets & Natural Infrastructure

- Buildings
- Roads/Bridges
- Airports
- Historic properties (National Register)
- Public Libraries
- Schools
- Fire Stations
- Police Stations
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Surface Water Supply, Intake, Tanks, Pumps, Sources
- Water Treatment Facilities
- Sewer Treatment Plants
- Water quality
- State-owned land
- Federally-owned land
- Conservation Tax Credit Property
- Wetlands (including estuarine shorelines)
- Frontal dunes
- Topography

List of Hazards

- Flood hazard areas
- Sea level rise
- Storm events (hurricanes, nor'easters, tropical storms)
- Erosion rates
- Crash History (Vehicle, Pedestrian)
- Hazardous Waste sites
- Wildfire

Draft Community Survey

In 2021, Nags Head was chosen as to participate in the NC Division of Coastal Management's (DCM) Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP). This new program addresses the need to advance coastal resilience for municipalities in the 20 coastal counties in North Carolina. This program provides funding and technical assistance to Nags Head for developing resilience strategies and associated project engineering, design, and implementation, and incentivizes innovative solutions (natural and nature-based).

The overall goal of the RCCP is to involve the community in setting coastal resilience goals, assessing the existing conditions and needed capacity, and identifying and prioritizing projects that will enhance Nags Head's resilience and response to coastal hazards. This process will eventually result in a Resilience Strategy for the Town of Nags Head.

We hope that you will participate in this short survey to share your thoughts on how Nags Head can be more resilient. For more information, visit the Town's website [HERE](#).

1. Please complete the sentence with all options that apply:

I _____ in the Town of Nags Head.

- Live
- Own property
- Visit

2. Have you ever experienced or been impacted by a disaster caused by a natural hazard? (hurricane, nor' easter, flood, erosion, storm surge)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

3. If yes, which types of natural hazards have you experienced or been impacted by (Check all that apply)

- a. Flooding caused by storm surge
- b. Flooding caused by heavy rainfall
- c. Hurricanes
- d. Nor' Easters
- e. Erosion
- f. Wildfire
- g. Extreme Heat
- h. Other

4. What type of coastal or climate hazard concerns you the most in the community?
 - a. Flooding
 - b. Beach or Estuarine Erosion
 - c. Extreme Heat
 - d. Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
 - e. Severe Weather (thunderstorms, lighting, heavy rainfall)
 - f. Wildfires
 - g. Rising groundwater table
 - h. Other

5. Which of the following community assets are most susceptible to natural hazards in your community from MOST vulnerable to LEAST vulnerable?
 - a. People
 - b. Infrastructure (ex. roads, bridges, etc.)
 - c. Environmental (ex. ocean and estuarine shorelines, wetlands, etc.)
 - d. Economic (ex. local businesses)
 - e. Community (ex. Schools, churches, small business, etc.)
 - f. Cultural/Historical (ex. state parks, local landmarks, etc.)
 - g. Municipal (ex. Parks, bike paths, municipal buildings)
 - h. Medical/Emergency Recourses (ex. Hospital, nursing home)

6. How important are the following statements? (not important, somewhat important, neutral, very important, extremely important)
 - a. Protecting critical facilities (fire and police station, hospital, etc.)
 - b. Managing development in areas known to flood
 - c. Protecting and reducing damage to utilities
 - d. Strengthening emergency services
 - e. Protecting private property
 - f. Enhancing the function of natural resources to aid in property protection while reserving habitat
 - g. Protecting historic and cultural landmarks
 - h. Protecting small businesses
 - i. Community education on hazard awareness, mitigation, and resiliency
 - j. Conducting Town projects to manage stormwater

8. Rank the following community assets from MOST IMPORTANT to LEAST IMPORTANT:
 - a. Emergency Medical Services
 - b. Fire Stations
 - c. Bridges
 - d. Town Municipal Administration Building/Police Department
 - e. Medical Facilities (Doctor Offices, Hospital)
 - f. Small Businesses
 - g. School
 - h. Elder Care Facility
 - i. Parks/Town Recreation Facilities
 - j. Cultural Landmarks
 - k. Pharmacies
 - l. Gas Stations
 - m. Grocery Stores
 - n. Day Care Facilities

9. A changing climate and the frequency of increased storm events concerns me most when it impacts...

10. Rank the places you are most interested in protection from MOST IMPORTANT to LEAST IMPORTANT:

- a. Home/Neighborhood
- b. Emergency Services
- c. Utilities
- d. Business/Work
- e. School
- f. Places of Worship
- g. Community Facilities

11. What types of projects or efforts does the Town need to be more resilient to natural hazards?

- Infrastructure & Nature-based measures
Example- stormwater improvements, living shoreline project, rain garden projects, beach nourishment
- Local Policy & Regulations
Example- explore policies, regulations, or incentives to promote resiliency
- Local & Regional Plans
Example- stormwater infrastructure plan, emergency operations plan
- Education, Awareness, & Incentive Programs
Example- development of an education and outreach program for stormwater management, water quality, hazard awareness (including sea level rise, coastal storms, erosion), mitigation for individual properties, and estuarine shorelines/nature-based solutions.
- Other

12. How important do you think each of these community-wide activities is for your community to consider pursuing?

- a. Prevention/Planning
- b. Emergency Services
- c. Natural Resource Protection
- d. Structural Projects
- e. Infrastructure Projects
- f. Public Education and Awareness
- g. Property Protection
- h. Historic Preservation

13. We would like to understand your thoughts on existing projects or programs that you would like to see continued or further enhanced in the future.

14. Is there anything else that you feel may help the Town to be more resilient?