



Hazard Mitigation Updated Goals & Actions

Goal 1: Reduce risks and increase resilience from natural hazards in North Kingstown.

Action 1.1: Open Space Acquisition of lands within SFHA areas with a priority on the protection of open space landward of sensitive features to help create a buffer to storm surge drainage and erosion.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Department of Planning and Development

Partnerships: North Kingstown Land Conservancy, Narrow River Land

Trust, Town Council, Conservation Commission, and RIDEM, CRMC Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Program/Trust, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Planning Mitigation, Public safety

Cost: TBD dependent of specifics of each lot

Status: Continued and enhanced action from 2005 Plan

2023 CRS Status Action 1.1: The town continues to look for opportunities to protect land in the SFHA. No new lands were protected in the SFHA in 2023. The town is currently considering the acquisition of property in the northern section of town a portion of which contain lands in the SFHA.

Action 1.2: Continue to enforce Building Code Compliance for land uses and structures in SFHA and those prone to other potential hazards to residents in accordance with updated legislation, ordinances and State Building Code requirements as part of the building permitting process to reduce risk to structures and facilities.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Building Department

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Public Safety & Property Protection

Cost: Part of Permit Review Process, Cost will vary depending on action needs (elevation of structures outside of BFE)

Status: Continued and enhanced action from 2005 Plan

2023 CRS Status Action 1.2: The town continues to enforce building code compliance for land uses and structures in SFHA and those prone to hazards consistent with state building code. The town continues to adhere to the new definition for building height adopted in 2020. That definition addresses the base flood elevation as well as freeboard. The town is contemplating a change to our zoning ordinance regarding maximum building height allowances in the SFHA.

Action 1.3: Educate and promote awareness to homeowners of the benefit of elevating or otherwise storm-proofing coastal structures to reduce losses and protect public health, safety and welfare through mailings and through the town's website.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Planning Department & Building Department

Time Frame: short term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Public Safety & Property Protection

Cost: \$1,000 per year in flyers in addition to staff time to update website data

Status: Continued and enhanced goal from previous plan.

2023 CRS Status Action 1.3: The town continues to provide information on our web site that provides property owners with information related to protecting people and property from hazards, insuring your property, and building responsibly. The web site can be viewed at northkingstown.org/212/Flooding-Flood-Insurance-and-Community-R. The town also created a hazard mitigation page with links to the local plan as well as the state hazard mitigation plan northkingstown.org/835/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan. In addition, staff created a CRS page as a resource on this program northkingstown.org/841/Community-Rating-System. Informational brochures are also available in the Building and Planning Departments as well as the North Kingstown Free Library. These brochures are updated and supplemented as needed. The town also distributes information about where residents can access information about flooding and the impacts of flooding in one of the quarterly "Puddle" publications that is distributed in the water bills that are mailed to all water customers. This has been the most efficient way to send direct communication to residents across town. The Planning Department also had a table and display at the Wickford Art festival to provide information and resources to attendees. This included mapping of the SFHA and evacuation maps.

Action 1.4: Identify the "design life" of critical facilities at the time of construction and maintain data to allow for clear planning horizons to be defined for the development of phasing plans for implementation and prioritizing funding from federal and state grants and through the municipal CIP by utilizing the STORMTOOLS mapping program to reduce future risk.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Building Department & DPW

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Public Safety and Property Protection

Cost: staff time and expenses

Status: New Action

2023 CRS Status Action 1.4: As new municipal facilities are planned and constructed, the design life will be incorporated into the plan. As new residential applications are received for new construction or substantial improvements in the SFHA, more emphasis will be placed on utilizing the STORMTOOLS program to help property owners determine what the best design life for these structures should be. This will continue to be a focus for all coastal applications. URI is also considering a similar mapping application for inland areas that will be beneficial to the town.

Action 1.5: Create policy to direct development away from areas subject to erosion and flooding from gale-force winds, storm surge and sea level rise.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Planning Department, Building Department & DPW

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: New action

2023 CRS Status Action 1.5: As in previous years, no major land development projects have taken place within the SFHA or areas prone to erosion and flooding. While few in number, there have been some single-family homes that have been constructed or reconstructed within these areas however they have been built to meet flood zone standards and as required installed erosion controls or other best management practices as necessary. The town continues to protect lands subject to flooding and erosion in order to direct development away from these hazardous areas.

Action 1.6: The town should utilize the municipal web site and direct mailings as outreach to North Kingstown's Historic District (HD) property owners and residents in Wickford located within the SFHA to educate and assist these homeowners with the long-term management of their property to balance the preservation of the structure's historic integrity with protection of the property from future flood damage.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Planning Department, Building Department & DPW

Time Frame: short term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning

Cost: \$1,000 in staff time and mailings

Status: New action

2023 CRS Status Action 1.6: The Planning Department continues to work with property owners in the historic district through the Historic District Commission (HDC) application process to assist them in balancing preservation of historic integrity and protecting their property from flood damage. A large majority of the district is in the SFHA. The HDC members are aware of the need to not only to preserve the historic qualities of the structures but also protect the properties from flooding. The HDC realizes the need balance these issues and strongly considers both when reviewing the design. The town has a link to the *Floodplain Management Bulletin for Historic Structures* on the flooding page of the municipal website <https://www.northkingstownri.gov/223/Protect-Your-Property-From-the-Hazard>. This bulletin explains how the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) treats historic structures and identifies mitigation measures that can be taken to protect historic structures from floods. We have also developed a draft standard operating procedure for reviewing properties in both the historic district and the SFHA.

Action 1.7: Complete database updates of: 1) building permits and elevation certificates issued within the SFHA 2) parcels within the HDC, the SFHA and projected sea level rise areas 3) open space parcels and public parks to help identify trends and patterns and to protect assets in the town.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Planning Department, Building Department & DPW

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees, requires adequate GIS updates

Status: Continued and expanded action

2023 CRS Status Action 1.7: The town continues to maintain the same databases as noted in previous years. The town has a digital repository of all elevation certificates (ECs) by year. All ECs are scanned and entered by year into a separate folder. The ECs are also scanned and added to the individual assessor's lot folder. As part of the yearly CRS recertification, the building permits issued in the SFHA are

tabulated as well. The building permit software program has specific language related to the SFHA in order to better track the type of activity in the SFHA each year. In addition, the town maintains a database of the open space parcels utilizing the GIS mapping program. The protected open space parcels within the SFHA are also housed in a digital format and updated as new parcels are added. As new open space is protected it is added to the database. The town's open space map is updated as new parcels are protected.

Action 1.8: Plan and Raise awareness via the municipal web site and CodeRED for the Safe Evacuation of Tourist, Residents & Business Owners during Hazard Events.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works & Planning Dept.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and consolidated action

2023 CRS Status Action 1.8: The CodeRed® Emergency Telephone Calling System is still utilized as needed by the town. CodeRed is a high-speed telephone communication service available for emergency notifications utilizing an internet mapping capability for geographic targeting of calls, coupled with a high-speed telephone calling system capable of delivering customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses at the rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour. More information on CodeRed is available on the Police Department's web page along with links to the FIRM and evacuation route mapping northkingstown.org/386/Sign-Up-for-Code-Red. Planning staff also added Code Red and a link to the evacuation map to the flood information page northkingstown.org/220/Protect-People-From-the-Hazard. The flood information page also has a link to the RIEMA web site where the evacuation maps and other helpful information on preparedness and response can be found.

Goal 2: Ensure public safety from natural hazards.

Action 2.1: Complete an assessment of municipal structures located in SFHA that are utilized by vulnerable populations.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Building Dept. & Planning Dept.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and consolidated action

2023 CRS Status Action 2.1: No new municipal structures have been constructed in the SFHA. There are no schools located in the SFHA. The North Kingstown Senior Services building is located in the SFHA however it was built to flood standards. The historic town hall building was recently renovated however it is located outside of the SFHA. Improvements are proposed to the current municipal office building however it too is located outside of the SFHA.

Action 2.2: Provide information via direct mailings to schools and day-care facilities located in the flood zone in order to educate children and day care providers on natural hazard preparedness to raise awareness and improve response.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Planning Department, Police Department, Schools and Day-Care Centers

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Public Safety

Cost: Staff time

Status: Continued and merged action from previous plan

2023 CRS Status Action 2.2: The North Kingstown Department of Senior/Human services distributes information about flooding and hurricane preparedness to their clients. They also serve as one of our local repositories of information for flood related information. This information is available to any and all visitors to the senior center. They will continue this in 2024. There are currently no childcare providers or schools located in the flood zone nor are any proposed.

Goal 3: Maintain emergency services during an event.

Action 3.1: Identify all evacuation routes serving coastal hazard areas that will be inundated with future sea level rise scenarios. Identify strategies for upgrades to the segments identified for evacuation routes. Publish and make these available to educate and raise awareness to those citizens impacted.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Planning Department, Police Department, Schools and Day-Care Centers

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Public safety

Cost: Staff time

Status: Continued and merged action from previous plan

2023 CRS Status Action 3.1: The town continues to utilize the inundation mapping completed by the University of Rhode Island, RI Sea Grant and the Coastal Resources Center for the Town of North Kingstown. The mapping identifies various inundation scenarios including a 1', 3' and 5' sea level rise and how those scenarios will impact not only evacuation routes but also local infrastructure as well as private property. There is an additional tool available online called STORMTOOLS. STORMTOOLS is intended to illustrate the predicted level of inundation due to storm surge and sea level rise. You can assess whether evacuation routes will also be inundated under these scenarios. The town added a link to STORMTOOLS to our flood information page <http://northkingstown.org/217/Know-Your-Flood-Hazard> . URI is also working on a similar application for inland properties that the town will utilize once available.

Action 3.2: Continue to maintain viable evacuation routes through the implementation of the Town's Tree Maintenance Plan which prioritizes maintaining those trees running along evacuation routes and roads offering single access to coastal and flood prone neighborhoods and encourage routine inspections for trees that are a potential storm threat.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning & Public Safety

Cost: Staff time

Status: Continued and merged action from previous plan

2023 CRS Status Action 3.2: The town has a tree maintenance program for all local roads. The state continues to maintain trees along state roadways as part of their tree maintenance program. Many evacuation routes run along these state roadways. The town will continue to work with the state to ensure that the trees along these roadways are pruned and maintained as needed to ensure a clear and clear pathway along the evacuation routes. Extensive power outages from downed trees on utility lines has emphasized the need for this maintenance. The town also participated in the Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) in 2022 and the need to better maintain trees along roadways rose to the top as high priority. The North Kingstown Tree Board is also planning an update to our existing street tree inventory. Health of the trees and need for trimming are some of the characteristics that will be inventoried in the update.

Action 3.3: Coordinate Evacuation Plans with Neighboring Towns to ensure each Town's evacuation routes are compatible.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works & Police Department

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued action

2023 CRS Status Action 3.3: The town has and will continue to coordinate with neighboring towns to ensure that evacuation routes are compatible. Many evacuation routes connecting to adjacent towns are state roads. The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) states that the town will coordinate with the RIEMA on evacuations as necessary. There are several activities in the EOP with regard to evacuation routes in terms of preparedness and response as well. Neighboring towns also have the opportunity to review the HMP of other abutting communities as they are updated every five years so this coordination will continue.

Action 3.4: Evaluate shelter sites (existing and potential) on an annual basis.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and merged action from previous plan

2023 CRS Status Action 3.4: The town will continue to ensure that there are shelters available as needed in an emergency. The Town of North Kingstown, The Town of Narragansett, and the Town of South Kingstown utilize the South Kingstown High School as a regional shelter. The North Kingstown Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) addresses the need for shelter both locally and regionally. The EOP was updated in 2021.

Action 3.5: The Town will research feasibility of a recovery and reconstruction ordinance that will expedite rebuilding after a natural hazard event.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Building Dept. & Planning/Zoning Dept.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Property Protection

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and enhanced action

2023 CRS Status Action 3.5: The town has not yet adopted a recovery and reconstruction ordinance. The town continues to administer expedited review of building permits after a natural hazard event. The CRMC has procedures and protocols in place to prioritize applications for reconstruction post-storm event as well.

Goal 4: Retrofit hazard prone facilities.

Action 4.1: Maintain a database with record of flood impacts on municipal properties and structures to better plan for improvements and protect the town's assets.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Building Depart. & Planning Depart.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future property protection

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and Updated Action.

2023 CRS Status Action 4.1: The town has not developed a database to record flood impacts to municipal properties and structures. This is a long-term goal of the HMP and the town will begin the process of developing this database in the next 2-3 years. There have been minimal impacts to municipal properties and structures from flood events in the recent years.

Action 4.2: Retrofit municipal structures in SFHA.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, Building Dept. & Planning Dept.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning, Property Protection & Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and Updated Action.

2023 CRS Status Action 4.2: The town can utilize available mapping such as STORMTOOLS to identify what impacts the various inundation scenarios will have on municipal structures. The municipal offices building is located outside of the SFHA. The Senior Center and Cold Spring Community Center are located in the SFHA, however the Senior Center was built to flood standards. There are no plans to retrofit the community center however the need to construct a new community center has been discussed. Any new community center will either be located outside the SFHA or constructed to flood zone standards. The town did complete renovations to the existing bathroom facilities at the town beach. The schools and library structure are outside the SFHA.

Action 4.3: Develop a cooperative strategy for municipal officials/facilities.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Building Dept. & Department of Public Works

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and Updated Action.

2023 CRS Status Action 4.3: This is a long-term goal of the HMP. The town departments have good working relationships and coordinate regularly on a variety of issues. These departments will continue to work together to protect municipal facilities. The town's Technical Review Committee (TRC) provides good opportunity for such coordination. The 2024 update to the hazard mitigation plan was recently on the TRC agenda to notify departments of the need for their input on the update. Strategizing on our municipal facilities can be another discussion item for the TRC. The Asset Management Commission is also another resource that could serve as a host for these discussions.

Goal 5: Reduce the vulnerability of the town's infrastructure and utilities, cultural resources and recreational resources to natural hazards.

Action 5.1: Evaluate new technologies promoting "green infrastructure" solutions that are available and could be applied to increase stormwater infiltration upstream and reduce runoff.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, Planning Dept. & Building Dept.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and Updated Action.

2023 CRS Status Action 5.1: The town continues to follow the state stormwater management and low impact development regulations in our review of land development applications. We are utilizing the results of the Green and Resilient Infrastructure Implementation Project (GRIP) to implement projects with green infrastructure components. The town has finalized the design for the Wickford Waterfront Project and received permits from the regulatory agencies. This project has a goal of making the waterfront more resilient. One component of this project is to implement low impact stormwater management with enhanced green infrastructure to mitigate storm water runoff and high tide flooding. The town is preparing to publish a request for proposals to select a contractor to install all of the improvements including the green infrastructure and resilient components. In addition, the town is working with CRMC and Save the Bay on a shoreline adaptation project at the end of the Roger Williams Drive right of way to incorporate green infrastructure as a means of addressing stormwater management. The town has finalized the design and received permits for this project and construction is anticipated in the Spring 2024. The town participated in a training with the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) focused on building understanding of stormwater management techniques and capacity to develop solutions to identified stormwater problems. Green infrastructure components were a central theme throughout this training. The town's target site for the stormwater improvements was a direct outfall at the town beach. Preliminary design plans were created as part of the training. This design included subsurface infiltration and a bioretention area. We anticipate applying for grant funding to install the green infrastructure design developed during this training. The town is also looking to amend our subdivision regulations to better address low impacts development standards, including green infrastructure.

Action 5.2: Promote OWTS upgrades in accordance with the Cesspool Phase-out Act, 2007 through potential grants and determine feasibility of sewerizing neighborhoods and commercial centers in SFHA with storm surge and sea level rise impacts.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: DEM, Department of Public Works, Planning Dept. & Building Dept.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and Updated Action.

2023 CRS Status Action 5.2: The town continues to adhere to the cesspool phase out act through the building permit process. Since 2007, any property with a cesspool within 200 feet of the coastal feature must be upgraded to an engineered onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS). This act was amended in 2015 to now require that if a property subject to sale or transfer has a cesspool, that cesspool must be removed from service within one year of the closing date. In North Kingstown, when the property owners for these parcels apply for a building permit, the building official's office requires the cesspools be upgraded before the permit is granted. In addition, the town has installed sewers along the Route 1 corridor and within a portion of Wickford village. The large majority of Wickford is located in the SFHA. Several cesspools were removed with the installation of sewers in Wickford. In addition, the town received grant funding from the SNEP and USEPA to upgrade decentralized wastewater systems to improve coastal water quality and mitigate pollution from traditional septic systems outside of the Wickford village area. The town will provide funding to 30 properties across four coastal neighborhoods to upgrade their cesspools and conventional OWTS to innovative, nitrogen reducing systems.

Action 5.3: Continue to monitor, update and evaluate town owned and private dams in accordance with Emergency Action Plan (EAP) with a view to implementing preventative actions in the event of a dam failure. This should be reviewed with an update occurring annually.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, RIDEM, Water Department

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety, Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued and Updated Action.

2023 CRS Status Action 5.3: North Kingstown has a total of 22 dams as per the 2022 RIDEM Dam Safety Annual Report. Of these, six (6) are high hazard, three (3) are significant hazard and thirteen (13) are low hazard. Nine dams in North Kingstown have Emergency Action Plans (EAP). Priority for future repairs should be given to those dams in high hazard areas, with regular inspections to all dams to keep an up-to-date data base. The Silver Spring dam was inspected in 2013. The RIDEM owns the dam. In 2020, DEM's Division of Planning and Development (P&D) applied to the Dam Safety Program to repair the dam, which was approved in 2021. Repair work began in the spring of 2022 and has been completed. The Slocum Road Upper dam was inspected in 2020, and the RIDEM issued a notice to the owners in August 2021. The owners are actively working to resolve the issue. In December 2023, the town also partnered with Save the Bay to submit a pre-proposal application to the Rhode Island Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Fund to examine dam removal alternatives at the Rodman Mill Dam. The privately owned

dam was considered a high hazard dam when most recently assessed by RIDEM in 2020. The application was selected to advance to the full application stage. The Department of Public Works will continue to help monitor dams to prevent dam failure.

Action 5.4: Inspect municipally owned bridges and work with the RIDOT via the State Transportation Improvement Program to inspect state-owned bridges for structural integrity to determine their individual vulnerability to damage in a hazard event. Records will be maintained to allow for the prioritization of funds for bridges which may have to be retrofitted to prevent failure.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, RIDOT

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued Action

2023 CRS Status Action 5.4: The town will continue to inspect municipally owned bridges and work with the RIDOT on inspection and needed repairs to local bridges on state roads. The RIDOT TIP includes several NK bridge reconstruction projects. The Gilbert Stuart and Silver Spring bridges are the most recently rehabilitated bridges in North Kingstown. The Potowomut, Stony Lane, Sandhill, Hamilton Mill, and Babbit Farm are on the TIP for current funding as well. The bridge on Brown Street in Wickford Bridge is listed in the TIP for improvement starting in 2028 to address transportation and resiliency needs.

Action 5.5: Create an emergency response plan in the event of bridge collapse. Hussey Bridge, Brown Street Bridge, Babbit Farm Bridge over Cocomscusso Brook and the Hamilton Mill Bridge on Boston Neck.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, RIDOT

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued Action

2023 CRS Status Action 5.5: The town updated the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in 2021. The EOP will be followed during an event such as a bridge collapse. The EOP also addresses damage assessment and calls for a public infrastructure team that will be utilized to document damage to infrastructure including bridges. The Department of Public Works will also work with the RIDOT as needed to achieve the timely shut down of gas lines in state owned bridges.

Action 5.6: Continue to Protect the town water supply from contamination and drought through the increased monitoring and review of activities allowed in Groundwater Overlay Areas and through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to direct development outside of the GW Overlay zones.

Priority: High

Lead Departments: Water Department, Department of Public Works, RIDOT

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

<p>Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees Status: Continued Action</p>
<p>2023 CRS Status Action 5.6: The town continues to implement the regulations outlined in our groundwater recharge and wellhead protection overlay district. This provides protection for our town water supply from contamination associated with certain land uses. The groundwater ordinance was updated in 2022 to address such things as density and land uses allowed the groundwater area. The RIDEM has published new groundwater wellhead and recharge area mapping that was adopted in the new ordinance update. The town will continue to identify properties for the potential purchase of development rights or fee simple purchase in the groundwater protection area. The town is currently considering the acquisition of a parcel in the northern portion of town within the wellhead protection area. The town also adheres to an odd-even watering schedule to address excessive lawn watering.</p>
<p>Action 5.7: Move utility lines underground for public safety by prioritizing lines in coastal areas and requiring that all utilities for new residential development to be installed underground.</p>
<p>Priority: Medium Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, RIDOT Time Frame: Long Term Benefit: Future Public Safety Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees Status: Continued Action</p>
<p>2023 CRS Status Action 5.7: The town continues to require underground utilities in new subdivisions. The town engaged with National Grid in the past to discuss the potential for either undergrounding utilities or moving the utilities to one side of the road along the Post Road Corridor. There are no plans to underground or relocate the utility lines at this time.</p>
<p>Action 5.8 Retrofit flood prone homes located within the historic district and other historical buildings and structures in town. As ownership changes and improvements are proposed to these structures, over time properties will be upgraded to meet flood standards. Historic homeowners should be directed to resources that will assist them in a self-inspection of their properties to determine how vulnerable their structures are to storm damage.</p>
<p>Priority: Medium Lead Departments: Planning Department & Building Department Time Frame: Long Term Benefit: Mitigation Planning & Property protection Cost: Staff time Status: Continued Action</p>
<p>2023 CRS Status Action 5.8: The Planning Department continues to work with property owners in the historic district through the Historic District Commission application process as well as meetings in our department to assist them in balancing preservation of historic integrity and protecting their property from flood damage. The property owners within the historic district are directed to resources available on the town's web site as well as information available in our offices to assist them in assessing their property's vulnerability and ensuring the structures are being built to flood standard. This includes the mapping completed by the University of Rhode Island, RI Sea Grant and the Coastal Resources Center.</p>

The Building Official's office also provides information to homeowners in the historic district on the code requirements for structures in the flood zone. In 2023, the town also met with representative of the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss their coastal storm risk management feasibility study. The Wickford Historic District is one of their study areas. The project is aimed at helping reduce future flooding risks and understanding how mitigation measures impact historic properties. The study is ongoing.

Action 5.9 Continue to implement the Storm Preparedness Plan to mitigate the effect of storms on boats, marina, infrastructure and docks and by preparing harbor and shoreline areas for storm events.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Harbor Commission

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued Action

2023 CRS Status Action 5.9: The town continues to implement the Storm Preparedness Plan that has been prepared as part of the Harbor Management Plan. The HMP was amended and adopted locally in 2017 and by the RI Coastal Resources Management Council in November 2020. The plan has a goal to prevent the loss of life and property by properly preparing harbor and shoreline areas for storm events; having a completed and enforceable response and recovery plan; working in cooperation with harbor and shoreline users to ensure that a coordinated approach is applied to hazard mitigation; integrating harbor hazard mitigation activities with other, ongoing, local hazard mitigation programs; and identifying and completing long-term actions to redirect, interact with, or avoid the hazard. The Harbor Division, in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard, will coordinate all harbor activities related to preparation, response and recovery. This will be done in coordination with the emergency management officer and other department heads. The Town of North Kingstown will activate preparedness, response and recovery plan 72 hours prior to a severe storm event or as necessary for unpredictable events.

Action 5.10 Maintain town beaches and work with CRMC to re-nourish local beaches to help prevent erosion and protect coastal properties. The Town should also research the possibility of establishment of new beaches.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, CRMS & Planning Department

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued Action

2023 CRS Status Action 5.10: This is a long-term priority of the HMP. At this time, there has not been extensive work completed on the maintenance and re-nourishment of the local beaches or the establishment of new beaches. The town will coordinate with CRMC on this effort.

Action 5.11 Perform actions to provide adequate access to forested parcels and a local source of water.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, Planning Department, Fire Dept., Water Dept.

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety and forest protection

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued Action

2023 CRS Status Action 5.11: North Kingstown is considered a low fire danger class, however as needed in periods of dry weather, the larger forested areas across town will be monitored. Access to these areas will be ensured. The EOP references emergency fire powers as it relates to forest fires under R.I. Gen. Laws Section 2-12-15. In addition, outdoor burning of any kind is not permitted in spring (April/May) due to the high risk of brush fires. Burn permits are typically not issued during these months.

Goal 6 Maintain essential services at Quonset Point.

Action 6.1 Work with the Quonset Development Corporation to ensure new and existing development at Quonset Point meets State Building Code requirements.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: State Building Official

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued & Merged Action

2023 CRS Status Action 6.1: The Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) continues to solely review all building permit applications for activities within the park. The town participates in the monthly technical review committee meeting with QDC and is made aware of proposed development in the park.

Action 6.2: Coordinate closely with RI Airport Corporation and the Army National Guard through the master planning process to assess the need for improvements at Quonset airport to prevent or mitigate flood damage from coastal storms.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, RIDOT

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: Continued Action

2023 CRS Status Action 6.2: The town participated in the preparation of the Quonset Airport Master Plan. The seawall was assessed as part of the master plan. Recommendations for repair were also included. This should help to protect the airport from flood damage. The town will work with the RIANG as the master plan is implemented and updated in the future. RIAC completed a Strategic Business Plan in 2022 on which the town had an opportunity to comment. One of the comments given was our support for the seawall improvements.

Action 6.3: Actively involve flood prone businesses in Quonset Point in the outreach process to inform of natural hazards, primarily hurricanes and protection of their property and employees.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Department of Public Works, RIDOT

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety, Mitigation Planning, Protection of Property

<p>Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees Status: Continued Action</p>
<p>2023 CRS Status Action 6.3: The Quonset Development Corporation coordinates outreach and communication with the tenants inside the park. They will continue to be charged with this task.</p>
<p>Goal 7: Improve CRS classification.</p>
<p>Action 7.1: Update CRS application and earn a class 7 rating.</p>
<p>Priority: Medium Lead Departments: Planning Dept, Building Official, Department of Public Works Time Frame: Long Term Benefit: Future Public Safety Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees Status: New Action</p>
<p>2023 CRS Status Action 7.1: The town has an opportunity to elevate in CRS rating every year and at the 5-year verification visit. One of the activities that provides a good opportunity to gain significant points is through the preservation of land in the SFHA. The town continues to pursue these preservation opportunities that will garner additional CRS points. Other activities the town continues to participate in include maintenance of our drainage system through our stormwater management standard operating procedure; higher regulatory standards with the flood hazard overlay area and require stormwater management and soil erosion and sediment control in all development projects; and public outreach via the town's web site, library, the <i>Puddle</i> and local newspapers to inform residents about flood insurance and their vulnerability to flood damage. With all of these and new efforts to come, the town hopes to upgrade in CRS class at the next verification visit. The town is due for a 5 year cycle verification in 2024.</p>
<p>Goal 8 Increase resilience towards coastal hazards and climate change.</p>
<p>Action 8.1 Inform citizens and business owners of impacts from storm surges and rising sea levels through the municipal web site, local information sessions and dissemination of information at the town hall, libraries and chamber of commerce.</p>
<p>Priority: Medium Lead Departments: Planning Dept., URICRC & RISG, RIDOT, Building Dept. & DPW Time Frame: Long Term Benefit: Future Public Safety, Mitigation Planning and Property Protection Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees Status: New Action</p>
<p>2023 CRS Status Action 8.1: We will continue to utilize the town's web site as well as the library to better inform residents and business owners regarding storm surge and sea level rise as well as evacuation routes into and out of neighborhoods. The web site is updated as needed, adding new information and maps related to the hazard mitigation plan and CRS. The town will also continue to provide informational brochures on these subjects in our Planning, Public Works and Building Official departments, Chamber of Commerce and Senior Services building. The town will look to adopt new outreach activities as well such as surveys, community signage and outreach to vulnerable neighborhoods and businesses. The town also partnered with USGS to install a new tide gage in Wickford</p>

Harbor. The gage records the water level every ten minutes. Data for this gage is available on the USGS website https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=413413071270400&legacy=1 . A link to this data will be added to the town's web site to provide easy access to such information such as current temperature and height.

Action 8.2: Implement recommendations based on the findings of the climate adaptation strategies at the local level to help North Kingstown make informed decisions and build an increased resilience to coastal hazards and climate change.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Planning Department

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: New Action

2023 CRS Status Action 8.2: The town incorporated many of the recommendations from the climate adaption report prepared by the University of RI, the RI Sea Grant and the Coastal Resources Center into our comprehensive plan re-write and hazard mitigation plan. The comprehensive plan re-write was adopted in 2019. A 5-year check-in for the comprehensive plan is due in 2024. This update will include an update on our climate and natural hazards element. Incorporation of these HMP actions into the comprehensive plan is an important step in getting these strategies implemented. Preserving open space in the SFHA is one of these actions and will continue to be a focus of the town's efforts. Notifying property owners of their risk is also an action the town will target in 2024.

Action 8.3: Implement projects using the TIP and CIP funds.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Planning Department

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety & Mitigation Planning

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: New Action

2023 CRS Status Action 8.3: During the preparation of the TIP and CIP, resiliency to storm surge events and projected seal level rise scenarios are being considered. The projects listed on the TIP for Federal Fiscal Year 2023-2031 are for bridges repairs, resurfacing, drainage improvements, safety and sidewalks. Some of the listed projects, including the Wickford Village Sidewalk and Resiliency Enhancements as well as the Curbing and Sidewalks along West Main Street, including drainage improvements, will address mitigation and resiliency.

Action 8.4: Continue to coordinate with state agencies and educational institutions to identify new or innovative strategies that have been successfully implemented in other locations to address emerging problems.

Priority: Medium

Lead Departments: Planning Department, Building Department

Time Frame: Long Term

Benefit: Future Public Safety

Cost: Staff time, Consultant fees

Status: New Action

2023 CRS Status Action 8.4: The town has a long-standing relationship with the Statewide Planning Program, RI Department of Environmental Management and the RI Department of Transportation as well as with the University of Rhode Island and the RI School of Design in addressing emerging problems such as sea level rise, climate adaptation and green infrastructure. The town is implementing a project that was an outcome of an effort by the CRMC and Save the Bay on shoreline adaptation. We have designed and received the permits for the project at the end of the Roger Williams Drive right of way to incorporate green infrastructure as a means of addressing stormwater management. The town anticipates constructing the improvements in early 2024. The town also participated in a project with Envision Resilience who is partnering with Syracuse University on a student project to reimagine at-risk sites in Wickford and provide solutions that are adaptive in the face of sea level rise. The town can refer to the findings of this project for ideas on making Wickford more resilient. We will continue to foster these relationships and develop innovative strategies to address these issues into the future.