



Creating Healthy, Resilient Communities Through Green Infrastructure

Day I Key Takeaways and Resource

Session I: Identifying Local Assets and Vulnerabilities

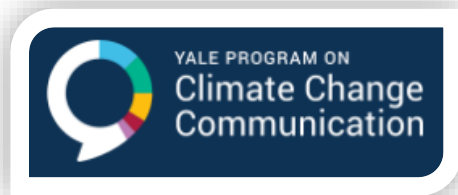
Takeaways:

We can find common ground to address climate change and utilize green infrastructure if we:

- *Protect our natural resources for future generations and public health.*
- *Responsibly manage our natural and fiscal resources.*
- *Use our sense of place to encourage people to invest locally and overcome challenges.*

Preparing for climate change through low-impact development satisfies each of those values.

Resources:



Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

This project can help us identify common ground on the challenges of climate change, understand the range of perceptions, and build public awareness in our own communities.

<http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/>



Frameworks Institute

The Frameworks Institute has worked with communities, practitioners, and educational partners to identify reliable ways for building support for sound environmental practices.

<http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/>

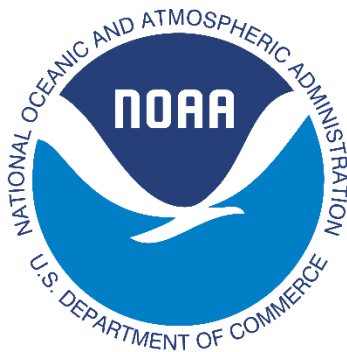


Session 2: Climate Change Impacts in Eastern Massachusetts

Takeaways:

- Annual precipitation will likely continue to increase, though its seasonal form and distribution may change as well.
- Extreme precipitation is becoming more frequent and more severe.
- Coastal flooding will become more frequent and more severe, driven by rising sea levels.
- Outdated assessments, despite being rigorous, no longer capture the changes occurring in our climate, or the associated vulnerabilities.

Resources:



NOAA Atlas 14 and NRCC (Cornell) Precipitation Tools:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides the recurrence intervals (return periods) of threshold design storms at range of scales and magnitudes. Updated from much older analyses, the data is available through an accessible map interface.

<http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/>

The Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) at Cornell and partners provide a similar utility that differs slightly in methodology. <http://precip.eas.cornell.edu>



Climate Central's Surging Seas:

Built on publically available data from NOAA and other sources, Climate Central offers a tool that provides analysis, comparisons, downloadable data, interactive maps, and local reports to evaluate the risk of coastal floods and sea level rise to people, property and infrastructure.

<http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/>



The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit



The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit is as close to a one stop shop as you can find for tools to prepare for climate change. Case studies, reports, interactive tools, scientific research, and planning guidance is all available in a database searchable by region and by topic. While it serves a broad audience, its focus is on helping community leaders.

<http://toolkit.climate.gov>

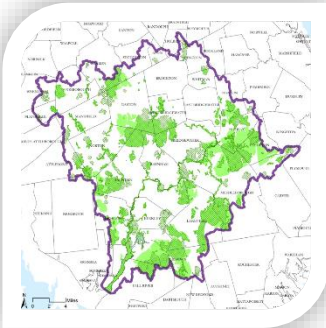


Session 3: Taunton Green Infrastructure Network Overview

Takeaways:

- Climate change will exacerbate flooding, water quality and water balance issues in the Taunton watershed.
- Protection and restoration of green infrastructure provides multiple benefits as compared to gray infrastructure solutions and in many instances is a lower cost approach.
- The Taunton green infrastructure network is designed to address concerns including freshwater flooding, sea level rise, storm surge flooding, nonpoint source water pollution, and support of biodiversity.

Resources:



Taunton Watershed GIS Resources

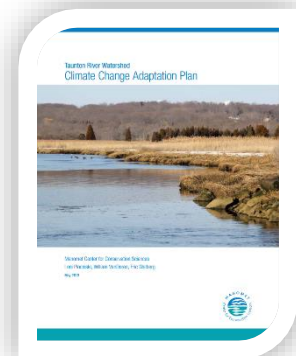
Manomet has developed GIS files, images and maps of the green infrastructure network in the Taunton River Watershed. These maps can help develop community strategies for utilizing green infrastructure to improve community resilience and connectivity of natural areas.

Available from Manomet. Visit manomet.org.

Taunton River Watershed Climate Change Adaptation Plan

A comprehensive document that discusses climate change in New England, ecosystem services, climate change adaptation strategies, and provides recommendations for adaptation actions in the watershed.

bit.ly/TRW-CCAP



Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters

Philadelphia's plan with an ultimate goal of reducing stormwater pollution to waterways by 85%.

bit.ly/PhillyGIP





Creating Healthy, Resilient Communities Through Green Infrastructure

Day 2 Key Takeaways and Resources

Session 4: Resilience Solutions: Green Infrastructure, Planning, and LID

Takeaways:

- Natural green infrastructure provides numerous free services and it's easy to find where to conserve.
- Low-Impact Development and Green Infrastructure offer numerous benefits and are often the most cost effective strategy.
- Resources are available! Communities across the country have been working to implement Green Infrastructure in various ways for decades.

Key Resources:



Mass Audubon LID Fact Sheets

This series of five fact sheets help community officials and residents navigate the many aspects of Low Impact Design and put them to use.

massaudubon.org/LIDcost

Mass Audubon's MAPPR Tool

Mapping and Prioritizing Parcels for Resilience (MAPPR) allows land conservationists to identify parcels of land for protection based on habitat quality, climate change resilience, and other factors.

massaudubon.org/MAPPR



Massachusetts Watershed-Based-Plan Tool

A tool from the Department of Environmental Protection that organizes information to help communities restore the function and benefits of watersheds across Massachusetts.

prj.geosyntec.com/massdepwbp

EEA's Smart Growth Toolkit

This Toolkit provides the information needed to understand, customize, and apply smart growth techniques to suit local circumstances.

mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit/