

## CRS Activity 510

### Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Date this Report was Prepared: February 19, 2025

Name of Community: Newport, Rhode Island

Name of Plan: Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date of Adoption of Plan: November 9, 2022

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: February 1, 2026

#### 1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:

The Newport Hazard Mitigation plan is available in Newport City Hall and on the [City of Newport website](#).

#### 2. Describe how this annual progress report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

The progress report was prepared by the Department of Planning and Development in coordination with other city departments. The report is available on the City's website (linked above). This progress report was emailed to the City Council on February 20, 2025 as a communication. The City's Communications Officer emailed this report to several local media outlets, including Newport This Week, The Newport Daily News, and Newport Buzz.

#### 3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

The following table includes ongoing and incomplete action items. Action items, which were completed prior to the current February 1, 2024-February 1, 2025 reporting period were excluded from this table.

	Action	Status	Notes
1	Creation of evacuation service and support mechanisms for citizens unable to self-evacuate.	Ongoing	Working in conjunction with the towns of Portsmouth and Middletown on a Transportation Plan to evacuate people in low-lying areas to regional shelters.
2	Evaluate expected shelter demand and existing capacity to assure need will be met.	Ongoing	Capacity of shelters is known however how many people would use the shelters is unclear. Estimate 10% of population. Requires ongoing evaluation.
3	Implement education & outreach workshops focusing on hazard mitigation readiness and preparedness	Ongoing	Ongoing efforts as part of CRS requirements.
4	Development and implementation of a plan to protect historic structures, collections, and public records	Ongoing	Hunter House furniture is shipped out when floods are anticipated. Digitizing historical records is a challenge. Climate controlled storage

			has been procured for permanent Planning and Zoning records. A grant has been received to address the failed HVAC equipment at the Brick Market. Construction contracts are under consideration.
5	Mitigate structures most likely to be damaged during a hazard event	Ongoing	Utility Department has been proactively floodproofing City buildings. National Grid is making investments in their infrastructure. The Historic District Commission allows for and has developed <a href="#">design guidelines for elevating historic structures within flood zones</a> .
6	Create a High Water Table	Ongoing	The City's Technical Review Committee reviews larger development plans and stormwater management methods.
7	Perform study to develop actions which will reduce fire spread potential in urban fire zone	Incomplete	Not a current priority as brushfire risk level is low.
8	Use result of regional study to develop and implement mitigation actions to reduce vulnerability	Ongoing	Utilities Department consults on development projects that are within 200 feet of a reservoir. The city has partnered with the Town of Middletown, Town of Portsmouth, and Naval Station Newport to create an island-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan and was recently awarded a grant to fund the effort. Addressing drinking water security will be part of that work.
9	Develop guidelines for waterfront redevelopment post disaster	Incomplete	The city has partnered with the Town of Middletown, Town of Portsmouth, and Naval Station Newport to create an island-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan and was recently awarded a grant to fund the effort. Developing a disaster recovery plan will be part of the regional planning work.
10	Create a buyout program to allow for acquisition of local at-risk residential structures	Incomplete	City may be more interested in riverine buyouts than coastal. Planning Department staff recently attended an RI Climate Resilience Learning Network workshop on how to develop managed retreat plants and buyout programs.
11	Develop a Disaster Recovery Plan	Incomplete	The city has partnered with the Town of Middletown, Town of Portsmouth, and Naval Station Newport to create

			an island-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan and was recently awarded a grant to fund the effort. Developing a disaster recovery plan will be part of the regional planning work.
12	Develop additional local sheltering capacity to support year-round and seasonal population	Incomplete	There is a regional shelter in Middletown. Newport shelters are not certified by The Red Cross.
13	Special projects for critical roads to be used during evacuation to ensure overall readiness	Ongoing	City-owned roads are maintained in satisfactory order. Major roads are maintained by the state.
14	Maintain roadside trees to facilitate quicker roadway clearing	Ongoing	No known issues.
15	Maintain debris management plan and exercise plan to assure resources are in place for rapid debris removal from essential roadways	Ongoing	City staff is regularly trained to use road clearing equipment and assigned routes. City collaborates with the state for major weather events.
16	Create a Stormwater Management Overlay District.	Incomplete	Utilities Department is consistently assessing stormwater impacts and infrastructure needs
17	Create a High Water Table Limitations Overlay District.	Incomplete	Utilities Department is consistently assessing stormwater impacts and infrastructure needs
18	Improve Elizabeth Brook flooding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. "Daylight" Elizabeth Brook.</li> <li>b. Create deep stormwater storage green areas along the brook.</li> <li>c. Construct a flood gate or storm surge gate where Elizabeth Brook flows into Coaster's Harbor north of Admiral Kalbfus Road.</li> </ul>	Incomplete	City staff is actively involved in a working group to develop a feasibility plan and secure funding for the project.
19	Improve Stormwater Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue Adopt-a-Catch Basin initiative which encourages residents to help keep the city's storm drains and catchbasins clear of leaves.</li> <li>b. Continue public education on how tide gates and tides interact during a storm. Teach adaptation, let the waters recede.</li> <li>c. Educate residents and builders on the effects of buildout, sea level rise, and stormwater connections. Promote adaptation to rising sea levels.</li> <li>d. Educate residents on the damaging effects of phosphorus loading.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Utilities Department promotes the <a href="#">Adopt-a-Catch-Basin initiative</a>.</li> <li>b. The city communicates tide information and flooding impacts through its online and <a href="#">social media platforms</a>.</li> <li>c. The City's Technical Review Committee reviews larger development plans and stormwater management methods and advises property owners of adaptation methods. The Utilities Department held multiple <a href="#">public workshops</a> and developed a <a href="#">Homeowners Guide to Stormwater Management</a> and</li> </ul>

			<p>created a demonstration site in Braga Park.</p> <p>d. The Utilities Department communicates the damaging effects of phosphorus loading on the City's <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
20	Require the use of the CRMC Coastal Hazards Analysis Worksheet for all development and redevelopment.	Incomplete	Staff encourages use of the worksheet prior to permitting. It has not been made a requirement.
21	Evaluate evacuation routes/timing for Coasters Island.	Complete	Coasters Island is the base of operations for the U.S. Navy Newport Training Station and the U.S. Naval War College. Naval Postgraduate School Evacuation Study evaluating evacuation routes and timing was completed.
22	Mitigate Goat Island Causeway at Newport Harbor to protect from sea level rise. RIDOT to assess for major rehabilitation work, superstructure, and/or total bridge replacement.	Ongoing	Contingent on state action. RI DOT conducting an infrastructure resiliency study that includes the Goat Island Causeway.
23	Evaluate flooding frequency and magnitude of the roads near the WWTF outfall at Coddington Point.	Ongoing	The roadways on Navy-owned property used to access the outfall may be compromised due to flooding. Stress from development on the North End has exacerbated the flooding issue.
24	Implement solutions to natural gas resiliency on Aquidneck Island.	Ongoing	The City supports the development of wind and solar energy. The Historic District Commission adopted a <a href="#">guidance document on solar installations in historic areas</a> .
25	Upgrade Police Department radio systems (including portables).	Complete	Radio systems have been updated.
26	Monitor available upgrades for mobile communications in Police cruisers	Ongoing	Currently in progress. Updates are anticipated in every two years.
27	Design and construction as per results of the second round of the Easton Pond Dam study.	Incomplete	The Utilities Department has used the study to apply for grant funding.
28	<p>New generator for the EOC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Perform a study on building needs</li> <li>b. Purchase and install a generator at Innovate Newport/Emergency Operations Center (EOC)</li> </ul>	Incomplete	City staff is in the process of identifying the most optimum generator to meet the emergency power needs of the facility. Once the preferred type of emergency generator is determined, steps will be made to procure and make necessary installation modifications to the facility housing the EOC.
29	Relocate Fire Station 1 out of the floodplain.	Ongoing	The City identified the need to relocate the station in its <a href="#">North End</a>

			<a href="#">Urban Plan</a> . The City needs to secure a site and funding for relocation. City has recently passed a bond that will cover the cost of site acquisition.
30	Formally organize the current Emergency Management volunteers into a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT).	Incomplete	Inactive goal.
31	Improved Public Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Education on storm drain road flooding- wait it out.</li> <li>b. Better guidance on 72-hour shelter in place.</li> <li>c. Effects of buildout on sea level rise and stormwater connections.</li> <li>d. Climate change adaptation</li> </ul>	Ongoing	The city communicates storm information through its online and <a href="#">social media platforms</a> .

#### 4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

Actions #1, #9-12, #16-18, #27-28 and #29 require significant staff time, finances, and political support to conduct further study and coordinate action plan development.

Actions #3-5, #14-15, #19, #23, #26 and #31 are ongoing by nature. These actions should be rephrased in future plans to better enable progress evaluation.

Actions #2, #7, #20 and #30 were deemed low priority due to low risk or interest/need and resources were focused on other actions.

Action #6, relocation of Fire Station 1 is a long-term goal. The city is in the process of identifying a feasible relocation site.

Action #8 The city has partnered with the Town of Middletown, Town of Portsmouth, and Naval Station Newport to create an island-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan and was awarded a grant to fund the effort. The development of the new Hazard Mitigation Plan is ongoing.

Action #10 is contingent on state-level action or significant local funding mechanism, which has not yet gained local political and community interest. Action #22 is also contingent on state action and resources.

Action #13 has not been implemented as the city has not experienced any major events during the reporting period.

Action #24, implementing solutions to natural gas resiliency, is an ongoing effort. The City has been supporting the development of alternative power sources to reduce reliance on natural gas.

#### 5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

The City is reevaluating the feasibility to reconstruct Easton's Beach facilities in the light of recent storm surges. Mitigating hazards to the drinking water reservoir located next to the beach

and planning for closures of Memorial Blvd, one of the city's evacuation routes, should be given priority.