

FAQS – NANTUCKET CRP

What is the Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan?

The Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan (the “Nantucket CRP” or “CRP”) is a critical step in the Town and County of Nantucket’s process of preparing for and adapting to the effects of climate change, which include increasingly intense and frequent coastal flooding, erosion, and future sea level rise. The CRP will analyze risks to the Town’s homes and businesses, public infrastructure, economy, civic spaces, and historic and natural resources, and will propose location-specific interventions for reducing long-term risks and increasing resilience, as well as a recommended implementation roadmap. The process will build on prior and ongoing studies led by the Town.

The CRP will provide a long-term adaptation plan for the entire island, along with detailed feasibility and implementation guidance for near-term projects over the next 10 years. The CRP planning process will involve an examination of a range of flood protection options and provide recommendations for new policies and investments in nature-based and grey infrastructure. The project team will work in close partnership with the Nantucket community and other groups to develop the CRP.

The process for developing this plan combines:

- Climate science
- Robust community engagement
- Engineering and technical analysis
- Urban and landscape planning and design
- Implementation planning

For more information, visit <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/2030/Coastal-Resilience-Plan>.

What is resilience?

In a context where coastal risks are increasing and evolving, resilience refers to our ability to change, adapt, and respond to these risks. Creating a resilient Nantucket requires intentional, proactive action to put in place systems, capacities, and redundancies that reduce risk, enable quicker recovery, and have the ability to transform with evolving conditions over time. We work to make Nantucket more resilient by investing in physical and policy changes that will reduce flood damage, while building strong civic and governance systems that support inclusive decision-making.

Who is involved in the Nantucket CRP?

The Town of Nantucket is leading the Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan. Town staff will also help advise on and lead community engagement throughout the project, ensuring the consultant team is engaging the community in an inclusive and accessible manner. Working closely with the consultant team, Town staff will also direct contact with state and federal agencies, and inter-regional entities, as well as potential funders and implementing agencies.

The Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan will draw on climate science, engineering and technical analysis, urban and landscape planning and design, implementation planning, and community engagement to make the project successful. To support this work, an interdisciplinary team of consultants led by Dutch engineering firm [Arcadis](#) and including [One Architecture](#), [Stoss](#), and [The Craig Group](#), will work directly with Town staff in developing the CRP. Arcadis is an engineering

company founded in the Netherlands in 1888 to deal with land reclamation and flooding. Today it is a global engineering company with substantial experience in Massachusetts.

The Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) serves as the citizen steering committee for the project to help vet preliminary findings and input, share detailed information, provide a testing ground for concepts before they are published, build consensus around decisions, and serve as champions of and ambassadors for the project.

To read more about the CRAC, visit <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/1391/Coastal-Resiliency-Advisory-Committee>.

What are the hazards Nantucket faces?

A range of coastal hazards will affect Nantucket of the coming decades, including flooding from coastal storms, high tide flooding, and coastal erosion. Each of these coastal hazards will be exacerbated by projected sea level rise. These hazards will have different effects across the island, including:

- Coastal flooding and high tide flooding, most notably in the Downtown area, Brant Point, Madaket, Polpis Harbor
- Coastal erosion, particularly on the south and east shores.

What factors drive Sea Level Rise?

Climate change is primarily driven by greenhouse gas emissions, which causes global warming. Global warming is causing Arctic and Antarctic ice sheets to melt and oceans to thermally expand, both of which drive rising sea levels, in addition to other factors such as subsidence (the gradual settling of land). Sea level rise will make coastal flooding and erosion worse over time.

Why is the Nantucket CRP necessary?

Coastal flooding and erosion are as old as the island itself. These forces have shaped the island into the familiar form we see today. Due to sea level rise, this constant and progressive shaping of land by water is accelerating, altering the shorelines in ways that we are not prepared for and threatening built and natural environments across the island, from roads and docks, to private residences and businesses, to the shape of our beaches. We cannot maintain the island in perpetuity, but we can take steps to reduce the impacts of these risks and to improve the resilience of our community over time. The CRP will outline recommended steps for reducing risk and improving resilience through investments in new infrastructure, restoration and enhancement of natural systems, and changes to policies and regulations.

Will the Nantucket CRP impact me?

The short answer is yes, because of the reasons below, among others:

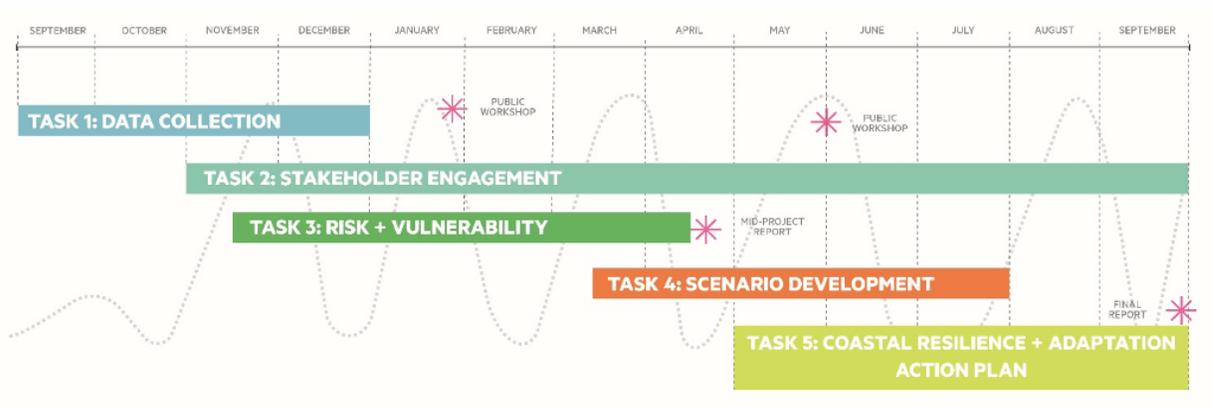
- If you live or work in Nantucket, you have been affected by flooding or know someone who has. Without implementing a coastal resilience strategy, you and people you know are more than likely to be affected by flooding in the future.
- Making Nantucket more resilient means identifying and implementing changes to our neighborhoods, waterfronts, and open spaces in ways that protect the community for generations, while preserving the island's unique environment and character.

- If you live or work on Nantucket, decisions made or not made as part of this project will affect your life and your community because these decisions will likely change the way some of the spaces in your community look and function over time.

This is why it is important that you be involved in the planning process to let your concerns, perspectives, and feedback be heard. Public participation is integral to the development of a CRP that has broad support for implementation.

What's the timeline for this project?

The plan will be completed in Fall 2021 and involve four phases of public outreach and engagement to help inform the community and refine and finalize the proposed solutions, as summarized in our [Community Engagement Plan](#). Public health and safety will be a priority throughout the process, and we will look for creative ways to engage the community while adhering to COVID-19 guidance and restrictions.



What are the expected outcomes of the CRP?

The CRP will result in a final report with recommended actions and an implementation roadmap. The planning process will result in the following:

- Community engagement
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Conceptual designs for coastal resilience infrastructure
- Implementation prioritization and planning, including project necessity assessment for each proposed project
- Cost estimates and cost effectiveness for proposed projects
- Toolkit for private property owners
- Recommend bylaw changes, policy changes, and guidelines for future town development with respect to wetland management and sea level rise

How does the CRP relate to other resilience initiative on Nantucket?

The CRP is one of several recent and ongoing initiatives focused on coastal resilience on Nantucket. The CRP will build on the work undertaken for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019) and the Coastal Risk Assessment and Resiliency Strategies Report (2020), as well as other prior plans and

studies. The CRP will also be undertaken in coordination with ongoing efforts, such as Resilient Nantucket and the Envision Resilience Nantucket initiative.

How can I get involved?

[Sign-up](#) for updates and more opportunities to get involved as we advance the Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan.

Download the Irys App, a tool to help facilitate two-way engagement as we move forward with the development of the Coastal Resilience Plan. Using the Irys App, you will be able to:

- **Provide Input:** Provide feedback throughout the development of the Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan. Users can choose from providing input by location, providing input by category, and responding to survey questions.
- **Find Events:** Find opportunities to participate in future Nantucket Coastal Resilience Plan events!
- **View Project Updates:** Track project progress and view information about project developments.
- **Build Community:** Follow your feed! View community input and interact with other app users.

The Irys App is available for download now on iOS and Android devices.



Attend a Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee meeting, participate in one of the upcoming community engagement activities, or send us an email:

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