

# TOWN OF COLONIAL BEACH

## Resilience Action Checklist

The RAFT | Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool



### TOP PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS IN THE NEXT YEAR WITH SUPPORT FROM THE RAFT

#### BUILD A GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) PROGRAM AND STRATEGY

Create GIS maps of floodplain areas against infrastructure assets, properties at risk, vulnerable populations, historic resources, green infrastructure, old well-heads, and erosion to better understand overall risk to flooding events and to inform decision-making. Part of this effort will include creating a stormwater runoff analysis and planning for improved drainage. This effort will be supported by a full-time GIS staff member who is being hired to establish a GIS mapping program and strategy to help the town become more resilient to flooding.

#### IMPROVE EMERGENCY SERVICE RESILIENCE

Create a strategy to establish a new squad unit facility to service the town of Colonial Beach, relocate the existing facility outside of flood risk areas, and improve the volunteer service squad response time in collaboration with Westmoreland County.

#### INTEGRATE RESILIENCY INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Review the Comprehensive Plan to integrate resilience throughout, drawing on The RAFT core team's experience in local government policies from across the state. The RAFT team will review the draft comprehensive plan and provide recommendations for resilience language.

#### CREATE A COLONIAL BEACH RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Form a long-term Resilience Committee to ensure that attention to resilience continues into the future, beyond The RAFT. The Committee is asked to consider conducting an impact analysis of the effects of climate change on Colonial Beach's economy.

#### DEVELOP A RESILIENCE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Create a holistic communications strategy around flooding and hazardous weather emergencies. Establish communication protocols for the Town with other local, state, and federal entities, as well as with the general public. Communicate to the public about resilience broadly, including topics such as the National Flood Insurance Program and emergency evacuation. Target Code Red communications to the town's most vulnerable households using findings from the GIS system.

*This checklist was developed by community participants in the online Resilience Action Workshop, conducted and facilitated by The RAFT three-university Collaborative Team on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This document is intended to be static and record the outcomes*



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of that workshop. However, the checklist items and their details may evolve over the course of the year-long implementation of The RAFT in response to the changing circumstances and needs of the community.

## OTHER ATTENDEE-SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR FUTURE RESILIENCE EFFORTS

*Outside of the scope of the RAFT's implementation support*

### PRIORITIZED ACTIONS

- Hold regular meetings between county emergency managers, public safety officials, fire/rescue chiefs, and town staff.
- Create evacuation plans and shelter plans for seniors, low-income residents, and residents in vulnerable housing (trailers and older cottages).
- Reach out to non-profits to support information dissemination campaigns.
- Continue to pursue grants affiliated with shoreline fortification that tie into the town's living shoreline efforts.
- Assess evacuation routes and challenges to evacuation alongside VDEM and Westmoreland County. Address low points of flooding preventing access between Colonial Beach and the mainland along Route 205, especially for medical care, supplies and evacuation. Identify alternative forms of evacuation: boat, helicopter, etc.
- Address stormwater drainage issues, particularly in The Meadows/Classic Shores (potential for grant funding to support land acquisition).
- Address erosion issues, including along Monroe Bay Avenue and its impact on marina access, the upper Boardwalk area (Colonial Ave. North to Lincoln Ave.), and in southern Colonial Beach.
- Secure technical guidance to support the creation of a Tree Plan which would direct tree planting (with local groups' support) to benefit stormwater management, erosion reduction, shade provision, and beautification.
- Explore how to resolve ownership issues (cooperative effort or transfer property) in North Beach where there are large breakwaters and breakpoints in the beach line under private ownership.
- Document historic resources to provide for their protection and resilience:
  - Apply for Department of Historic Resources grants to survey historic resources and conduct shoreline archaeology.
  - List the Downtown Colonial Beach Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register.

### OTHER IDEAS IDENTIFIED

- Present on past disaster events to raise awareness.
- Discuss recent changes to flood insurance policies.
- Join a regional organization for the Northern Neck.
- Cap old well-heads.
- Create a living shoreline at Robin Grove Park.
- Conduct beach replenishment and protection at North Beach.
- Update the landscaping ordinance to include native species.



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- Discuss key historic resources and areas in the comprehensive plan, including mitigation and recovery priorities.
- Conduct stormwater infrastructure improvements (specifically to protect historic areas) and expand and maintain existing infrastructure.
- Develop an EOC appendix that supports the RAFT resilience process.
- Integrate the 2020 census initiative with resilience efforts.
- Re-establish a working relationship with the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Deepen Moore Bay Channel.

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For more information visit The RAFT website: [raft.ienvirginia.edu](http://raft.ienvirginia.edu)

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