FLOODING IN CAPE CHARLES



Cape Charles is a town located in Northampton County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Like many coastal areas, Cape Charles is experiencing more days of flooding. This increase is due to shallow coastal flooding and less drainage from streets and yards because of higher sea levels and heavy precipitation during storms.



at Kiptopeke State Park, show an increase since the 1970s.



On October 9, 2016, Hurricane Mathew caused flooding in Cape Charles near the community center with up to 10 inches of rain and gusts of wind. (Photo courtesy Eastern Shore News/delmarvanow.com)

On June 6, 2017, a fast moving storm with winds near 60 knots and several inches of rain combined with high tides to cause flooded streets. (Photo courtesy Cape Charles Mirror)

THE RAFT The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool

The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (The RAFT) was conceived and developed by an academic interdisciplinary collaborative core team, led by the University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation (IEN), the William & Mary Law School Virginia Coastal Policy Center (VCPC), and Old Dominion University/ Virginia Sea Grant (ODU) and funded by a Restoration and Community Stewardship grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).



Community leaders form Cape Charles met in June 2017 to develop a Resilience Action Checklist.



The RAFT features three key components, creating a "full service" tool for localities:

1. The Resilience Scorecard provides a comprehensive assessment of

- community resilience to flooding while remaining economically and socially relevant.
- 2. A workshop for community thought leaders to use the assessment to develop a Resilience Action Checklist for increasing community resilience.
- 3. Ongoing assistance during implementation of the Resilience Action Checklist, both in the form of technical assistance and assistance in finding funding.



ADAPTING TO FLOOD RISK

Coastal Virginia is experiencing one of the highest rates of sea level rise and flooding on the East Coast. To protect lives, property, and the future of the region, we need resilient communities that have planned for and are adapted to higher water levels. Residents need to understand their risk and take action on properties and in their community.



flood waters to freely flow through a crawlspace or garage.



Air conditioning and heat pump compressors can be elevated on

flooding

Join with your fellow citizens to provide input on the Town's emergency evacuation plan

Look out for your neighbors whose properties are subject to flooding; they may need assistance during heavy rain events

Landscaping and rain gardens can be designed to capture stormwater and allow it to slowly be absorbed by the plants and soil.



a platform to prevent flood damage.



Reduce stormwater runoff by planting a rain garden or installing rain barrels

Do not put trash or yard waste in drainage ditches, which can cause them to overflow

A flood shield for a door prevents flood waters from entering the building.

Work with your community to preserve native wetlands, which provide important flooding buffers

Cisterns and rain-barrels store stormwater which can be used for irrigation or even to wash your car. An inch of rainfall on a 300 sq. ft. section of roof can fill a 110 gallon barrel.

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