

CITY OF PETERSBURG

Resilience Action Checklist



The RAFT | Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool

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

Community Checklist Items

The Petersburg RAFT Implementation Team recognizes that all priority actions for increasing community resilience in Petersburg concern the social determinants of health of our residents. All of the decisions and activities pursued by this group will be informed by and will intend to improve social determinants of health.

INCORPORATE ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG INTO RESILIENCE PLANNING EFFORTS

Be intentional about incorporating all neighborhoods and residents in the City of Petersburg into an engaged resilience and comprehensive planning process that improves community health and well-being. Participation should include individuals from across diverse income and education backgrounds and also leverage perspectives from local businesses, university faculty, as well as regional experts.

DEVELOP LANDSCAPE PLANS AND STANDARDS TO PROTECT AND EXPAND URBAN GREEN SPACES WHILE MITIGATING THE WATER QUALITY, AIR QUALITY, AND HEAT IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT.

This effort will include initiatives to protect, manage, and expand green spaces throughout the City of Petersburg, including but not limited to areas along the Appomattox River or in large parks. Specific activities to achieve change might include developing new zoning codes or development standards that prioritize resilience for new or updated properties. Additionally, green infrastructure and stormwater management projects, greenfield development initiatives, and easements along tributaries will be explored as creative incentives to guide appropriate development.

DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMIC BASE FOR THE PETERSBURG COMMUNITY

Diversify the economic base for the community with multiple industries so that the workforce and tax base for the community remains stable as the larger global economy changes. This might include expanding outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities, redeveloping old warehouses for small businesses, and/or expanding telework options through broadband.

Specific activities and priority actions will be determined at first implementation team meetings.

CONNECT PEOPLE TO GOODS AND SERVICES, AS WELL AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH TRANSIT AND BROADBAND

Plan for pedestrian movement within the City of Petersburg to connect people to businesses, employment opportunities, recreation, and services downtown. This effort will also consider regional transportation planning and ways to foster greater connections between the City of Petersburg and nearby counties through regional transportation. Additionally, broadband connectivity and internet access for residents, government offices, schools, health care providers, and others will be considered as its own form of critical infrastructure providing connectivity. This checklist item is expected to be tied closely to the checklist item “Diversify the Economic Base for the Community.”

INCENTIVIZE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES

Specific activities and priority actions will be determined at first implementation team meetings.

This checklist was developed by community participants in the online Resilience Action Workshop, conducted and facilitated by The RAFT three-university Collaborative Team on February 14, 2023. This document is intended to be static and record the outcomes 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.

**The RAFT team recommends the creation of a Resilience Committee or similar mechanism as a potential way to create and sustain momentum to build resilience in the long term. We recognize, based on our experience with coastal communities in Virginia, and consistent with best practices in resilience planning and implementation, that communities benefit from more comprehensive and coordinated approach to building resilience. Establishing a Resilience Committee is key to establishing a foundation for sustained efforts in building resilience. The RAFT team has developed a [worksheet](#) to assist communities in establishing a Resilience Committee structure and framework, and if you decide this would benefit your community we can facilitate your discussion.

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For more information visit The RAFT website: raft.ienvirginia.edu

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