

TOWN OF WEST POINT

Resilience Action Checklist

The RAFT | Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool



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

HOST AN EVENT TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ON THE FIGHT THE FLOOD PROGRAM

A local Fight the Flood event can educate shoreline owners on the Fight the Flood program and its opportunities for grants and funding. An engagement plan for these events should recruit participants who can help identify the locations and needs of vulnerable populations. This event could be held in collaboration with King William County.

DEVELOP A PROCESS TO FOCUS ON FLOODING IN THE KIRBY STREET CORRIDOR

Kirby Street has been a challenge for the Town for a long time, with flooding from marshy areas along the riverfront common during tropical systems and nor'easters. A Kirby Street resilience design plan focused on this area will generate ideas for projects that both Commonwealth and federal programs could fund.

ASSESS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEAKNESSES AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO FIX THEM

A joint effort from the RAFT team, the Middle Peninsula PDC, and the Town of West Point would gather information about critical infrastructure and essential services impacts and lead to a plan for addressing these weaknesses. This includes understanding vulnerabilities and response plans for major employers, like the WestRock Paper Mill, whose operations are critical to the Town's recovery after a disaster.

PLAN TO DEVELOP A HOLISTIC RESILIENCE PLAN FOR WEST POINT

A holistic design process can identify long term opportunities for and feasibility of projects that work together to protect the entire town of West Point, like constructing breakwaters or levees, and developing recreation opportunities that link flood protection with green infrastructure. Such a plan would take more than a year to complete, but the first steps to initiate, plan, and fund the project can be accomplished.

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON RESILIENCE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS

Meeting people in the community where they are to educate on resilience and preparedness will take more than a single event. In addition to the Fight the Flood program above, West Point can plan to reach more who live and work in town by tabling at existing events, like the Crab Festival, and other public engagement opportunities.

This checklist was developed by community participants in the online Resilience Action Workshop, conducted and facilitated by The RAFT three-university Collaborative Team on January 28th, 2022. 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 as a 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.ien.virginia.edu

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