

**CRS Activity 510  
Annual Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan**

**Which Plan is this for (use separate templates for each credited Plan):**  
**Floodplain Management Plan (Hazard Mitigation Plan)**

Name of Community: **Scituate, MA**

Date this Annual Progress Report was prepared (not the date of adoption of the credited Plan):  
**04/20/2023**

Name of Plan: **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Date of Adoption of Plan: **6/28/2022**

*5 Year CRS Expiration Date: 5/1/2024*

1. How can a copy of the credited Plan be obtained:

By visiting the Town of Scituate website, selecting the Coastal Management and Floodplain Administration webpage, then selecting the 2022 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan from the document list  
[https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhliif3781/f/pages/scituate\\_ma\\_hazard\\_mitigation\\_plan\\_ad\\_opted.pdf](https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhliif3781/f/pages/scituate_ma_hazard_mitigation_plan_ad_opted.pdf) and downloading the PDF

2. Describe how **this annual progress report** (not the credited Plan) was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

This annual progress report was prepared by the CRS Coordinator (Scituate Coastal Management Officer) with assistance from the Town Building Commissioner and other key Department Heads. Upon reviewing the plan and projects completed/planned in the previous year, we updated this information and uploaded it to the Coastal Management and Floodplain Administration webpage with notification to the Select Board.

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS</b>
<b>Address the vulnerability of coastal business districts.</b>  <i>Implemented and On-going: The Cole Parkway Redevelopment Committee was formed in Dec. 2022 to develop plans to reduce the vulnerability of the Cole Parkway area including Front St. businesses</i>
<b>CRS participation.</b> <i>Implemented and On-going</i>

<p><b>Maintain and expand technical and financial assistance and communication and outreach to communities to support local efforts to address the challenges of erosion, flooding, storms, sea level rise, and other climate change impacts.</b></p> <p><i>Implemented and On-going: The Town in partnership with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency hosted a Home Elevation Workshop on 8/30/22 for the public that included information about flooding. Over 50 people attended</i></p>
<p><b>Implement Recommendations from the Coastal Community Assessment</b></p> <p><i>Implemented and On-going</i></p>
<p><b>Initiate a public outreach and marketing campaign with sense of urgency on climate change and resilience in Scituate.</b></p> <p><i>A formal “marketing campaign” has not been implemented at this time due to funding and personnel constraints although the Coastal Management Officer frequently provides education and public outreach to local schools about climate change and resilience in Scituate.</i></p>
<p><b>Develop and implement an annual Disaster Mitigation Workshop for businesses, industry, and shoreline users.</b></p> <p><i>A formal “Disaster Mitigation Workshop” has not been implemented at this time due to funding and personnel constraints however</i></p>
<p><b>PROPERTY PROTECTION</b></p>
<p><b>Elevate Vulnerable Structures.</b></p> <p><i>Implemented and On-going. One house was elevated this year.. Other eligible structures are pending FEMA funding. All new construction is required to be elevated to or above BFE.</i></p>
<p><b>NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION</b></p>
<p><b>Evaluate vulnerability to salt water intrusion for wells and aquifers near the coastline, and vulnerability of water pump stations to a 1% and a 0.2% Annual Chance Flood and prioritize infrastructure improvements that enhance resilience.</b></p> <p><i>Partially implemented through the 2020 Water Master Plan  <a href="https://www.scituatemagov/sites/g/files/vyhliif3781/f/uploads/water_master_plan_jan2021-report.pdf">https://www.scituatemagov/sites/g/files/vyhliif3781/f/uploads/water_master_plan_jan2021-report.pdf</a></i></p>
<p><b>Relocate or elevate well field pump houses that are in the flood zone in the future.</b></p> <p><i>Not yet implemented due to space and funding constraints</i></p>
<p><b>Revise Stormwater bylaw so all new and redevelopment captures at least first 1” of rain onsite, using Low Impact Development and other strategies, or evaluate the design standards that consider sea level rise and/or the 1% Annual Chance Flood.</b></p> <p><i>Partially Complete</i></p>
<p><b>Salt Marsh Restoration:</b></p> <p><b>(1) Contract a formal evaluation on salt marsh health/long-term monitoring/maintenance. (2) Initiate short-term marsh restoration techniques such as invasive removals. (3) Evaluate Wetlands Protection Act/land acquisition opportunities to plan for, protect, and/or acquire land for horizontal marsh migration. (4) Perform recommendations for salt marsh</b></p>

<p><b>restoration based upon formal evaluation. (5) Collaborate with the Town of Marshfield on salt marsh evaluation and restoration.</b></p> <p><i>Not yet implemented by the Town due to insufficient funding however, the North and South River Watershed Association conducts regular monitoring of Scituate marshes.</i></p>
<p><b>Protect Scituate's natural shoreline and coastal features and waters, which are a prime recreational and economic resource, and which give the Town its identity as a very appealing seaside community.</b></p> <p><i>Implemented and On-going</i></p>
<p><b>Enhance the natural beauty of the Town's landscape by protecting existing open space, while promoting appropriate use.</b></p> <p><i>Implemented and On-going</i></p>
<p><b>STRUCTURAL PROJECTS</b></p>
<p><b>For additional interim protection prior to raising critical infrastructure and residences, consider building soft shoreline protection features such as earthen berms with living shorelines to protect buildings located in low energy flood zones.</b></p> <p><i>Considered but not always feasible due to permitting, ownership, cost/benefit constraints.</i></p>
<p><b>Continue beach and dune nourishment.</b></p> <p><i>North Scituate Beach nourishment planned for construction in 2024</i></p>
<p><b>Install sacrificial dunes, sand fences, seawalls and other coastal infrastructure investments.</b></p> <p><i>Implemented and On-going. \$6,000,000 in seawall improvements are planned for construction in 2023</i></p>
<p><b>Implement Recommended Shore Protection Measures by Study Area.</b></p> <p><i>Partially implemented due to funding constraints. North Scituate beach nourishment is funded for \$2,000,000, seawall improvements funded for \$6,000,000</i></p>
<p><b>Implement resilience recommendations for Scituate Harbor.</b></p> <p><i>Partially implemented. The Cole Parkway Redevelopment Commission has formed and is pursuing engineering designs to increase resilience of the Cole Parkway area and reduce impacts from flooding.</i></p>
<p><b>Implement flood mitigation measures for pump stations and the Wastewater Treatment Plant: (1) Form a water/wastewater planning committee (2) Flood protection of pump stations. (3) Flood protection of WWTP/Enhance overflow capacity.</b></p> <p><i>Partially implemented due to funding constraints.</i></p>
<p><b>PLANNING AND PREVENTION</b></p>

<p><b>(1) . Increase public awareness of the importance of healthy coastal wetlands and natural coastal processes, and the need to protect these resources. (2) Use best available tools to understand the potential impact of storm surge on public and private property, sensitive infrastructure and natural resources, and to develop strategies and plans to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts.</b></p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>
<p><b>Establish and Maintain a Climate Resilience Task Force that works across departments and commissions for a comprehensive approach across sectors.</b></p> <p><i>The Coastal Advisory Commission has liaisons with the Conservation Commission as well as DPW, Fire, and Coastal Management Officials. This de facto group works together to develop climate resilient projects and recommendations.</i></p>
<p><b>Establish neighborhood Resilience Zones for specialized community-based participatory planning where residents, businesses, and neighborhood stakeholders create a shared vision of positive change/adaptation to current and future risks.</b></p> <p><i>Town residents have formed a number of neighborhood and community groups in different areas of Town.</i></p>
<p><b>Perform a community-based participatory visioning process for Scituate's Waterfront around Front Street.</b></p> <p><i>Completed. Links to the plans are here <a href="https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Scituate-Harbor-Master-Plan-8-07-20.pdf">https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Scituate-Harbor-Master-Plan-8-07-20.pdf</a> and <a href="https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhli3781/f/uploads/scituate_2070_coastal_vision_report_final.pdf">https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhli3781/f/uploads/scituate_2070_coastal_vision_report_final.pdf</a></i></p>
<p><b>Seek out new funding opportunities to implement climate resilience investments.</b></p> <p><i>On-going. Town staff regularly review grant and funding opportunities to help implement projects.</i></p>
<p><b>Consider establishing a Coastal Business Improvement District.</b></p> <p><i>Not implemented due to funding, staff, time constraints and possible interference with existing business districts in Town.</i></p>
<p><b>Evaluate culverts, bridges, river and stream crossings for effectiveness in water flow during floods. Use MA Stream Crossing Standards.</b></p> <p><i>On-going. Recent upgrades to culverts have been made along Bailey's Causeway</i></p>
<p><b>Create a municipal working group to inform design standards on raising roads in response to current and future coastal flooding. Also consider the implications for commercial, industrial, and residential egress.</b></p> <p><i>Not yet implemented due to time, staff and funding constraints. A previous effort to do this in Humarock was not successful due to private property concerns and constraints.</i></p>

**Support green building standards and energy use reduction for retrofits and new development. Incentivize when possible.**

*On-going. The Town is designated as a Green Community under the MA Dept. of Energy Resources and through this program has implemented hundreds of energy conservation measures at Town Facilities.*

**Support the implementation and study of pilot projects for innovative solutions and the encouragement of learning by doing and experimentation in shoreline management approaches.**

*Not implemented due to time, staff, and funding constraints*

**Establish programs and policies for buy-outs, land swaps, relocations, and transfers of development rights to allow for relocation.**

*Land-swaps, relocation and other measures were investigated at Peggotty Beach and considered infeasible or too costly under most circumstances.*

**4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:**

Several objectives were not implemented yet or only partially implemented due primarily to lack of available staff and funding. When possible, the Town applies for federal grants which can be difficult and time consuming to obtain. Many of the large-scale foreshore protection structures that were recommended in the Coastal Assessment such as raised seawalls and boulder dikes are costly to design and are faced with increasingly complex and stringent agency review and permit requirements. It is not unusual for design and permitting of projects such as those recommended in the Coastal Assessment to take 5 years or more. Construction of these extremely costly projects typically requires federal funding and therefore deed easements from homeowners must be granted as well in some areas. A project to elevate highly vulnerable road and nourish an eroding beach that is a critical evacuation route for many people was permanently put on hold by the Town because insufficient number of access easements were obtained by the Town.

Cost constraints have become even more severe as a result of COVID-19 related supply chain and labor shortages; therefore, grants and other supplemental funding required for the implementation of these projects has become even more critical.

**5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?**

The 2022 Update of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan has been completed and approved by FEMA. This plan builds on accumulated efforts from the previous planning mechanisms that align with the planning regulations set forth by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA). The Scituate Select Board adopted the plan on June 28, 2022.