

Two Rivers, One Future

New Jersey Fostering Regional Adaptation through Municipal Economic Scenarios (FRAMES)

The NJ FRAMES project is a regional and collaborative planning effort in the Two Rivers region of Monmouth County, New Jersey, that addresses future flood vulnerability. The resulting long-term Regional Resilience Plan will identify ways our communities can reduce coastal flood risks and impacts together.

Project Update: Look Back

Over the past year and a half, the project team has been working to meet the project's goals. In late **fall 2016**, we held a **kick off** meeting and invited municipal and county representatives; environmental, business and community leaders; and other organizations, such as local universities and their affiliates to learn about the project. Attendees contributed significantly by suggesting other people or organizations from the region that might want to join these meetings or be involved in another capacity throughout the project timeline. Feedback from this meeting informed the development of a [Community Engagement Framework](#) for the project, which includes a Steering Committee; Constituency and Technical Advisory Groups; and a Coordinating Agencies Group.



Members of the Constituent Advisory Group use diverse images to discuss goals for the project at the kick off.

After a few months of internal meetings and project development, the **Coordinating Agencies Group**, made up of federal, regional and state agencies, met in late **January 2017** and then held a public **open house** in **February 2017** at the Two River Theater in Red Bank, New Jersey. Both events provided the opportunity for more people to review the project goals; identify data, plans and ongoing or future projects in the region; and provide input.

 **njcoastalmanagement**
Red Bank, New Jersey



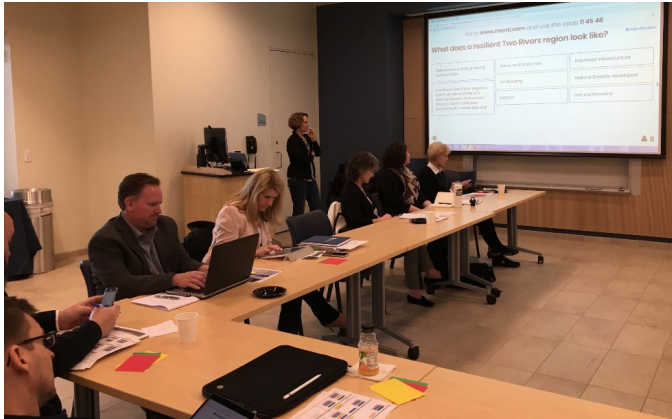
Project Team member Sarah Tomasello with Rutgers University assists with #MapWhatMatters at the 2017 Red Bank Community Block Party.

Since the kick off, members of the project team have stayed in touch with public officials and staff from the 15 municipalities in the project area to learn what flood resiliency planning and projects their towns had already completed or were undertaking, such as elevating buildings or moving them out of the floodplain. Towns were also encouraged to participate in [Getting to Resilience](#), a facilitated questionnaire that results in a renewed understanding of strengths in a town's planning efforts, locally significant assets (e.g. critical infrastructure, community facilities, etc.), and opportunities to improve efforts to mitigate hazards, such as flooding.

In **summer and fall 2017**, we set out to talk to as many community members as possible through our **#MapWhatMatters** campaign. The project team attended popular events in the region, such as farmers markets, block parties, concerts and fairs. You might have seen us at an event and stopped to tell us about places in your community that are important to you. Answers ranged from libraries, to ice cream parlors, to grocery stores, to beaches. We invite you to visit the [online map](#) to view the places identified.



Since completion of the #MapWhatMatters campaign, we held meetings with the local leaders that make up the **Constituency Advisory Group** and the municipal and county representatives that make up the **Steering Committee** in **Spring 2018**. These meetings helped us better understand the unique opportunities and challenges in the region, provided important data to consider, and allowed us to discuss a vision for a resilient Two Rivers region.



Project Team member Lisa Auermuller with JC NERR facilitates a meeting of the Steering Committee at Monmouth University.

Currently, the project team is conducting a **risk assessment**, which will use the information gathered through stakeholder and community engagement to develop ideas for actions the region can take.

What is: a Risk Assessment?

Typically, a risk assessment is used to make informed choices about action. People do this on a daily basis in very simple ways, such as making the choice to bring an umbrella to work based on the weather or, in more a complicated scenario, where to buy a house.

A risk assessment is currently underway for this project to provide an understanding of the region's current risk to flooding, as well as how this risk may change in the

future. To do this, the project team is using data analyzed and published by Rutgers University on [future water levels](#). This includes sea level rise and coastal storm projections. Data collected during meetings with regional, state and federal government agencies; local nonprofit organizations; municipal officials; and local citizens during the #MapWhatMatters campaign has also been included in the risk assessment. Together, these data illustrate where the water might intrude and what important regional assets could be impacted.

This information, in addition to upcoming community and stakeholder engagement, will inform the different adaptation options that the project team plans to present to the public later this year.

What's Next?

Meetings have been scheduled with the Steering Committee and Constituency and Technical Advisory Groups in **late August 2018** to review outcomes of the risk assessment and begin a discussion about actions the region can take to address risk. A webinar will be held with the Steering Committee in **early August 2018** to refine what is on their checklist for a resilient Two Rivers region.

For More Information:

To contact us, to learn more about the project and our partners, or to see project documents:

Visit: www.tworiversonefuture.nj.gov

Email: njframes@dep.nj.gov

Follow: [@njcoastalmanagement](https://www.instagram.com/njcoastalmanagement)

