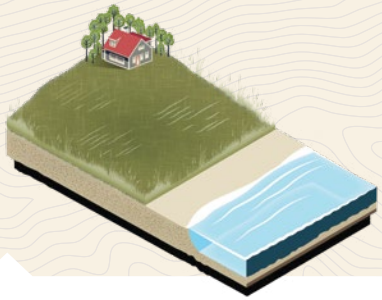
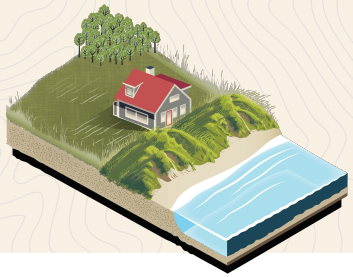
How can we protect our coastal floodplains?

The most effective way of protecting the coastal floodplain, and thereby protecting our homes and infrastructure, is to safeguard its natural floodplain features and functions wherever possible.

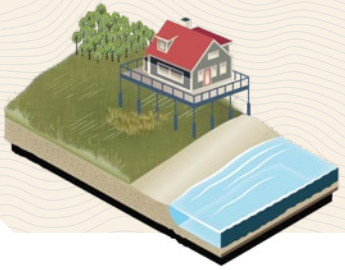
Where the coastal floodplain is already developed, measures to modify buildings when they are substantially repaired or improved to accommodate floodwaters are important. Elevating buildings on open piles and removing obstructions from the floodplain are two strategies for reducing risk from coastal flooding and storm damage. The Coastal Resilience Grant Program provides financial and technical support for public projects which enhance coastal resilience to storms and flooding. FEMA Grants are available to help elevate homes.



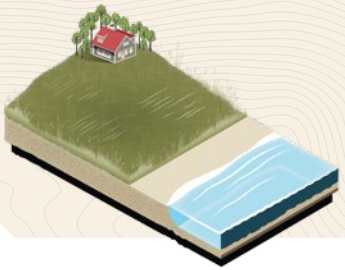
Avoid – Wherever possible, we should leave natural coastal floodplains undeveloped. These areas provide many important services and are also becoming likely to flood more frequently.



Protect – In developed areas, elevation of existing seawalls or flood control berms, under limited circumstances, or nature-based protection options, like deep-rooted vegetation plantings or dune planting, can help reduce erosion and dissipate storm energy.



Accommodate – Measures like elevating buildings on piles, removing obstructions (like fences and walls), and providing vegetated areas where coastal floodwater can infiltrate, all help to accommodate floodwaters in the coastal floodplain.



Retreat - Where possible, managed retreat from the coastal floodplain may be the best option. State Coastal Resilience Grants can help with managed retreat planning and FEMA Grants may help with government buyouts of vulnerable land in the coastal floodplain.

www.mass.gov/info-details/shores-of-change

MassDEP ResilientCoasts

Shores of Change

COASTAL FLOODPLAIN RESILIENCE

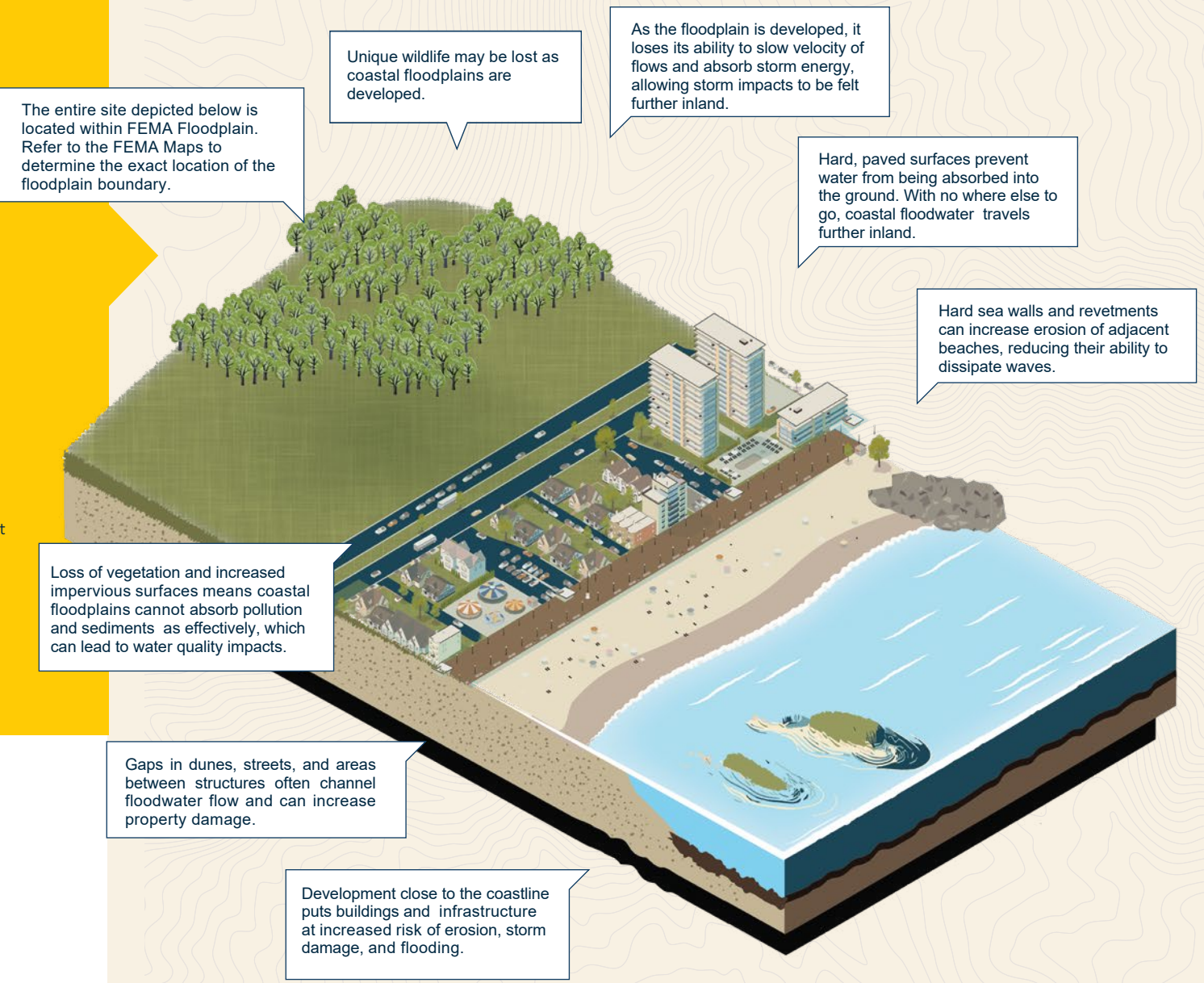
Coastal Floodplains Under Pressure

Why are coastal floodplains under pressure?

Many pressures are exerted on our coastal floodplains, from the land and from the sea.

As sea levels rise and coastal storms become stronger, coastal floodplains are becoming more frequently flooded.

At the same time, continued development on the coastal floodplain exacerbates the impact of the flood waters and increases erosion, loss of vegetation, and storm damage.



www.mass.gov/info-details/shores-of-change

This project was made possible in part by a Wetland Program Development Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region One), Section 104 (b)(3) of the Federal Clean Water Act.