



Norwood FY22 MVP Action Grant

# Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



**MVP Action Grant Pre-Request for Responses  
(RFR) Webinar for the FY26 Round**  
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



- # Agenda
- Overview of MVP Program
  - Details on FY26 Action Grant Round
  - Case Studies by Regional Coordinators
  - Q&A on Action Grants

Other notes:

- Recording
- Please use the Q&A box for questions



# Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program



A state and local partnership to build resilience to climate change by building capacity to respond to climate effects at the local level and pilot innovative adaptation practice.

## MVP Planning 1.0

99% participation  
349 communities

## MVP Planning 2.0

FY24 Pilot: 32  
municipalities & 1 Tribe

## Action Grant Projects

FY 18: 37

FY 19: 36

FY 20: 53

FY 21: 41

FY 22: 66

FY 23: 73

FY 24: 79

**FY 25: 71 (\$52.4M)**

## Total Awards

**Planning & Action**

**\$180M to date**

**Berkshires &  
Hilltowns Regional  
Coordinator:**

Emma Sass

**MVP Director:** Kara Runsten

**MVP Deputy Director:** Marissa Robertson

**MVP Program Coordinator:** Elder González Trejo

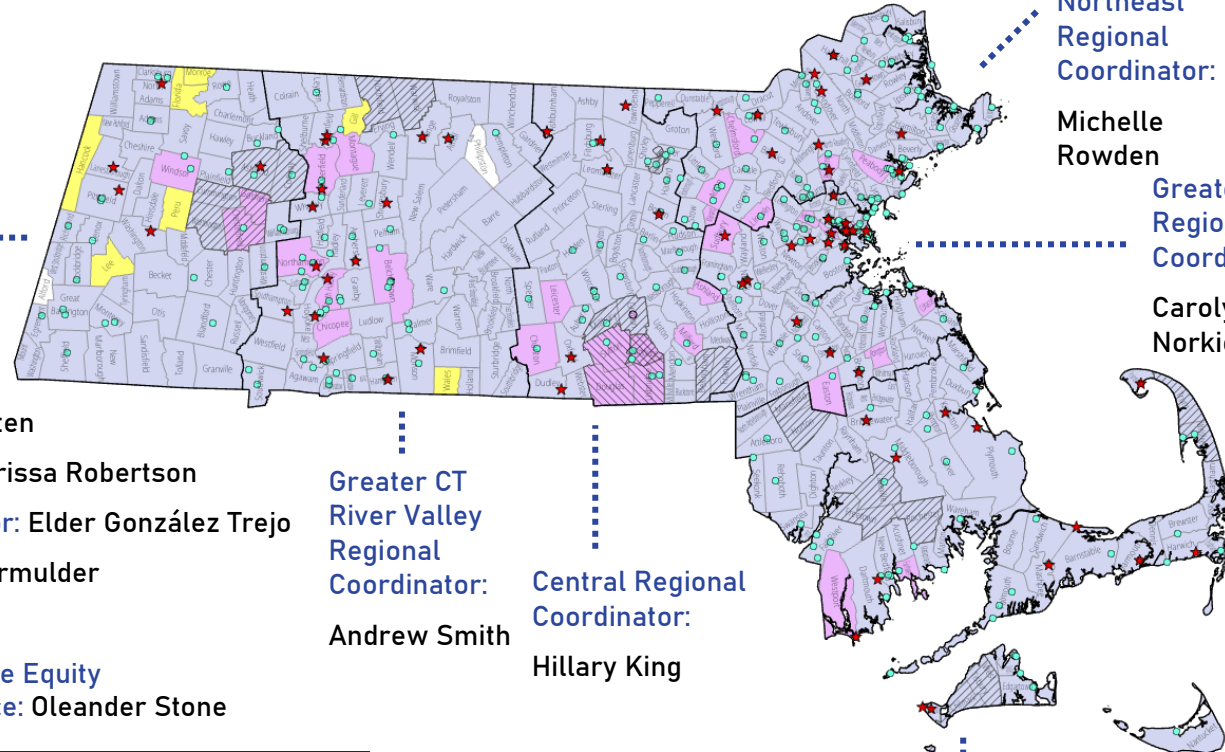
**GIS Specialist:** Sula Watermulder

**MVP Fellow:** Emily Murad

**Deputy Director of Climate Equity  
and Environmental Justice:** Oleander Stone

### **FY25 MVP Program Status (9/17/2024)**

Action Grant Project	MVP 2.0 Pilot Community
New Action Grant Project (FY25)	MVP 2.0 Tribe
Not yet part of the MVP Program	1.0 regional partnership
MVP 1.0 In-progress	2.0 regional partnership
MVP Designated Community	MVP Regions



**Northeast  
Regional  
Coordinator:**

Michelle  
Rowden

**Greater Boston  
Regional  
Coordinator:**

Carolyn  
Norkiewicz

**Greater CT  
River Valley  
Regional  
Coordinator:**

Andrew Smith

**Central Regional  
Coordinator:**

Hillary King

**Southeast Regional  
Coordinator:**

Courtney Rocha





Climate resilience is the ability of a community to address the needs of its built, social, and natural environment to anticipate, cope with, and rebound stronger from events and trends related to climate change hazards.

Resilient communities don't just recover—they *continuously build capacity* to reduce the impacts of future climate events.

# MVP Core Principles

A community-led project that:



Furtheres a community identified priority action to address climate change impacts.



Increasing equitable outcomes for Environmental Justice (EJ) and priority populations and addressing the root causes of social vulnerability.



Builds community capacity for climate resilience.



Conducts robust community engagement and supports strong partnerships with EJ and other priority populations.



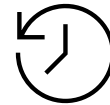
Utilizes climate change data for a proactive solution.



Employs Nature-based solutions (NBS).



Achieves broad and multiple community benefits.



Commits to monitoring project success and maintaining the project into the future.



Utilizes regional solutions for regional benefit.



Pursues innovative, transferable approaches.

**Statistics  
From Last  
Round  
(FY25)**

**136 applications**

**\$108 million requested**

**71 funded projects**

**Total funding \$52.3 million**

**Average grant size: ~\$738,000**

# FY26 Round Details and Timeline

- ▶ Max \$3M for individual; \$5M for regional projects
- ▶ 10% match required, with exceptions
- ▶ Reimbursement based

Submit applications  
by online form



- ▶ RFR release: Late February 2025
- ▶ RFR Q&A period ~2 weeks
- ▶ Applications due: Early April 2025
- ▶ Award announcement: June 2025
- ▶ Projects start: Anticipated September 2025 (please build project timeline w/ this in mind)
- ▶ Projects end: June 30, 2026 OR June 30, 2027 (make clear phases in each fiscal year)



# What's NEW in this FY 26 round?

## 1. Rural and Small Towns Set Aside

- This FY26 Action Grant round includes a set aside of approximately 30% of this round's funding for communities with [Rural and Small Town designation](#).
  - Match requirement for these communities will be waived.
  - Communities may also request to be considered to receive a portion of grant funding up-front based on demonstrated need (Attachment K).

## 2. Length and repetition in questions were reduced, including:

- “Climate Science and Data” is now called “[Climate Change Impacts and Data](#)”
  - Connects to the [Massachusetts Climate Assessment](#)
  - Provides updated guidance on when the Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool is required.
- “[Environmental Justice Populations and Priority Populations](#)” section has been simplified
  - Maximum points awarded for projects that are in, by, and for Environmental Justice and priority populations
  - Continues to involve these populations throughout the project in meaningful ways.



# What's NEW in this FY 26 round? (cont'd)

- “Public Involvement and Community Capacity” is now “[Community Engagement and Capacity Building](#)”
    - Consists of two questions that align with the MVP 2.0 process.
  - “Measurements of Success” has been removed.
  - Metrics for awarded projects will now be identified during the project's kick-off meeting with your regional coordinator.
3. Applicants who need technical assistance with the Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool for their application can reach out to the Office of Climate Science at [climatescience@mass.gov](mailto:climatescience@mass.gov).
  4. Accessibility Improvements: This RFR's font type, size, and formatting have been updated to comply with best practice accessibility recommendations.
  5. MBTA Communities Act: MVP will continue to take compliance with the MBTA Communities Act ([Section 3A of MGL c. 40A](#)) into account when making grant award recommendations.

# Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities who have received "MVP Community" designation from EEA by completing an MVP 1.0 plan through original MVP Planning Grant process or through designation for prior work.
  - Communities with MVP plans dated May 2018 and earlier must also have applied to the MVP Planning 2.0 grant in 2023 or 2024 to be eligible for this opportunity.
- Commonwealth's political subdivisions, including, but not limited to:
  - Cities
  - Towns
  - Counties and districts
  - Any authority, commission, board, or instrumentality of the foregoing
    - These entities must apply for projects aligning with an MVP plan and include a letter of support from municipalities, who must be eligible to apply for this grant.
- Tribal governments

# Project Types



Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates



Design and Permitting



Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation


Note: Demonstrate necessary permits & permissions have been secured

# Action Grant – Application Components


- ✓ Required components:
  - ✓ Completed online form (Formstack)
  - ✓ Completed written application (Attachment A to RFR)
  - ✓ Completed scope/budget template (Attachment B to RFR) with clear delineation between fiscal years
    - ✓ More detailed scope/budget spreadsheet is still optional
  
- ✓ Additional Attachments:
  - ✓ Attachment C for construction projects
  - ✓ Statement of match (described in RFR)
  - ✓ Letters of commitment from landowner(s) (if applicable), partners, and municipalities (if regional or political subdivision application)
  - ✓ Required Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool Report attachment for projects that focus on a specific site with physical assets at any stage (e.g. new building, new infrastructure, or redevelopment/retrofit/major maintenance of an existing structure)
  - ✓ Completed Rural and Small Towns Set-Aside (Attachment K)
  - ✓ For land acquisition projects:
    - ✓ Draft Town Meeting/City Council vote language
    - ✓ Appraisal




Application - Written Section: Please upload a document with your answers to all the questions in the "Written Section" of the application of the RFR (pages 25-36). Please make sure to include the name of the lead applicant and the project title at the top of the document.\*

  
Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)  
Max file size: 10 MB


Excel version of Scope and Budget Spreadsheet (Attachment B in the RFR). Please delete the "tips" and "instructions" tabs before submitting.\*

  
Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)  
Max file size: 10 MB

Statement of match from authorized signatory of the applicant (described in Section 1.F of the RFR)

  
Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)  
Max file size: 10 MB

Rural and Small Towns Set-Aside (Attachment K in the RFR)

  
Drag and drop here or [Browse files](#)  
Max file size: 10 MB

**Save and Resume Later**

**Submit Form**

# Attachment B & Budgeting Resources

Attachment B: [Insert name of municipality/project title] FY26 [/FY27] MVP Action Grant Scope & Budget									
Review the list of instructions on the "Instructions" tab to understand how to use this spreadsheet.									
Project Task	Description of Task/Scope	Deliverables	Approximate Start Date	Approximate End Date	Total Grant	In-Kind Match	Cash Match	Total Match	Total Project Cost
Tasks to be Completed by June 30, 2026									
Task 1: Project Kick-off, Management, and Reporting									
Sub-task 1.1 Kick-off meeting with Town, EEA, and Consultant		Meeting notes, sign-in sheet						\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 1.2 Monthly progress reports FY25 (template provided)		Monthly progress reports submitted by the 30th of each month of the grant period to your MVP Regional Coordinator						\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 1.3 Project Case Study (required at end of project; template provided)		Final Case Study Report, PowerPoint slide, project photos						\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 1.4 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 1.5 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00
Insert additional rows above if needed								\$ -	\$0.00
Total Task 1 Cost					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Task 2: Community Engagement in FY26									
Sub-task 2.1 [Description]		[copy tasks from your Engagement Activities (Question 6 in the application) here]						\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 2.2 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 2.3 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 2.4 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00
Sub-task 2.5 [Description]								\$ -	\$0.00
Insert additional rows above if needed								\$ -	\$0.00
Total Task 2 Cost					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00

- Project Task: Task and sub-task name and #
- Description of Task/Scope: Brief, clear explanation of work that will be performed
- Deliverable: The item that will be submitted to MVP to indicate task completion
- Approximate Start and End Date: Anticipated start and end date of each task and/or sub-task
- Grant and Match: Identify the amount of grant funding and/or match required for each project ask

# Attachment B & Budgeting Resources

Reference "Tips" and "Instructions" tabs  
when completing Attachment B.

	A	B																					
1		Review the list of instructions below to understand how to use this spreadsheet.																					
2		General Instructions																					
3	1	For important notes embedded in Scope_Budget and Optional Budget Data tab spreadsheets, hover over cells with red triangle in top right of cell.	<table> <tr> <th>Tasks to be Completed by June 30</th></tr> <tr> <td>Task 1: Project Kick-off, Management, and Reporting</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sub-task 1.1 Kick-off meeting with Town, EEA, and Consultant</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sub-task 1.2 Monthly progress reports FY23 (template provided)</td></tr> </table>	Tasks to be Completed by June 30	Task 1: Project Kick-off, Management, and Reporting	Sub-task 1.1 Kick-off meeting with Town, EEA, and Consultant	Sub-task 1.2 Monthly progress reports FY23 (template provided)																
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Sub-task 1.2 Monthly progress reports FY23 (template provided)																							
4	2	For both Scope_Budget tab and Optional Budget Data tab (if using), add your municipality and project title to the top.	<table> <tr> <th>Project Task Description</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Task 1 Cost</td></tr> </table>	Project Task Description	Total Task 1 Cost																		
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	3	In Scope_Budget and Optional Budget Data tab spreadsheets, <b>yellow cells are for user input. Orange, green, and blue cells contain formulas and should not be altered.</b>	<table> <tr> <th>Total Grant</th><th>In-Kind Match</th><th>Cash Match</th><th>Total Match</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>\$ -</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>\$ -</td></tr> </table>	Total Grant	In-Kind Match	Cash Match	Total Match												\$ -				\$ -
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			+																				

# Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool

## When to use the tool:

Required for site specific projects including a physical asset in any phase.

- New building, new infrastructure, or redevelopment of an existing structure

## Includes elements like:

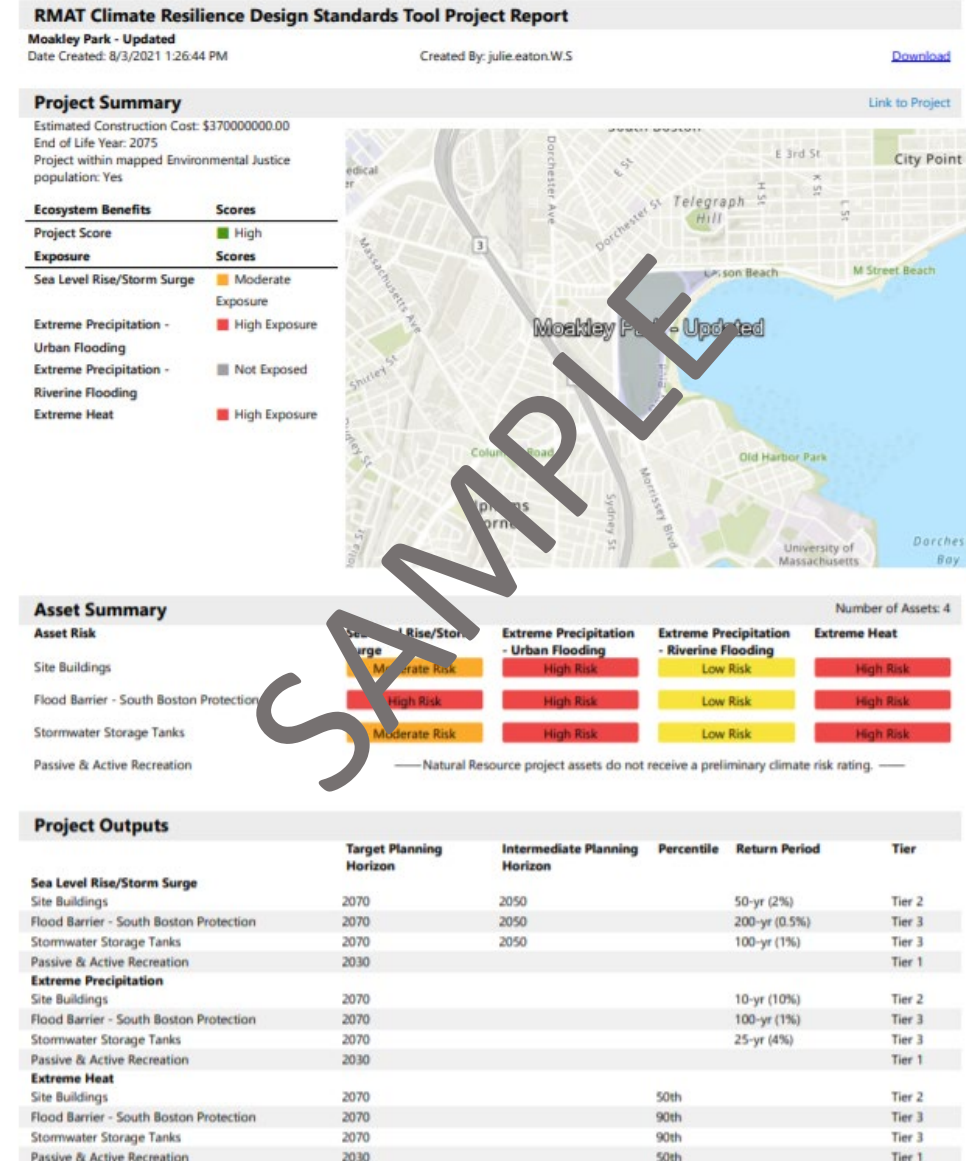
- Location on a map
- Series of questions about the project, location, and climate hazards
- GIS based data from ResilientMass

## Provides:

- Preliminary Climate Exposure & Risk Rating
- Recommended Design Criteria
  - Planning Horizon
  - Return Period
  - Design Standards

## Important Notes:

- When required, use of the tool is incorporated into the scoring of applications
- Additional guidance, text, and user interface updates
- Updated Data (Cornell, MC-FRM)
- Submit the project when finished
- [climatescience@mass.gov](mailto:climatescience@mass.gov) for any questions





# Attachment K: Rural and Small Towns Set-Aside

MVP is committed to supporting climate resilience in small and rural towns that have been under-represented in MVP Action Grant awards and that face barriers to implementing climate resilience in their communities, including limited staff capacity to apply for and administer grants.

- Approximately 30% of this round's funding will be set aside for rural and small towns, as designated by the Office of Rural Affairs.
  - Small towns: population under 7,000
  - Rural towns: population density of under 500 persons per square mile
- Direct response to feedback the program has received over the past several years.
- Projects awarded through this set-aside will include:
  - No match
  - Potential partial up-front funding based on community demonstrated need and EEA approval

# Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Project Goals & Impacts (16 points)
  - Brief project overview and top goals
  - Project clearly relates to previously identified community resilience priority
- Climate Change Impacts & Data (4 points)
  - Connects to impacts identified in Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment
  - Project includes use of Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool, if applicable
  - Incorporation of latest climate change data, projections, and expertise

# Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- **Scope, Budget, & Timeline (15 points)** (including 10% match of total project cost, 0% if eligible Tribe or community meeting requirements in Attachment K)
  - Detail the tasks, description, and deliverable all in Attachment B
  - Project budget (delineated by fiscal year with a clear phases in each fiscal year if applying for FY27 funding)
  - Clear project timeline identified through Attachment B start/end dates with capability to be completed in the contract period (timelines should start around August/September 2025)
  - Identification of regulatory components (including attachment for construction projects)

# Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- **Nature-Based Solutions (14 points)**
  - How well ecological systems and solutions are centered in the project
  - Identification and description of environmental co-benefits of project
- **Environmental Justice (EJ) & Priority Populations (12 points)**
  - Project is located within an EJ area
  - Identified and developed by EJ or priority populations
  - Project continues to involve EJ & priority populations in meaningful ways
  - Increases resilience for these populations



# Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Community Engagement and Capacity Building (9 points)
  - Engagement activities identified and incorporated into Attachment B (Budget)
  - Project builds community capacity for ongoing climate resilience
- Project Partnerships (5 points)
  - Definition: organizations that are not directly related to the lead applicant
  - Project partners are identified in Attachment B (Budget)
  - Detailed letter of commitment from each project partner identified

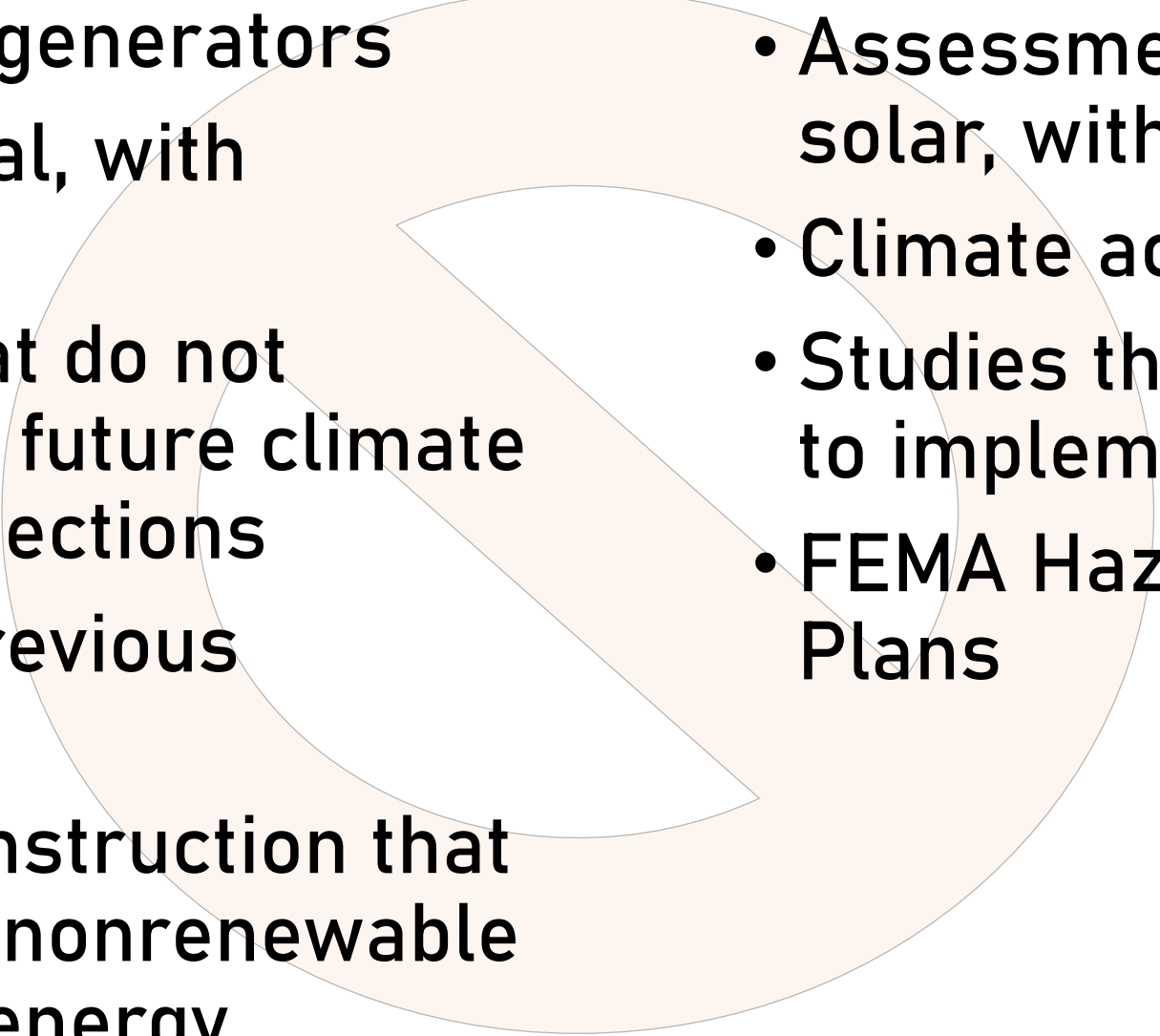
# Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Regional Impact (5 points)
  - Project provides benefit beyond the immediate geographic area of the project location
- Maintenance (2 points)
  - Incorporates plan to maintain project or momentum past project period
- Transferability (2 points)
  - Project learnings shared with other communities
  - Transferability activities identified in Att B (Scope/Budget)

# Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- To be completed by MVP (16 points)
  - Equalized valuation per capita
  - Good standing in MVP program
  - Overall project quality

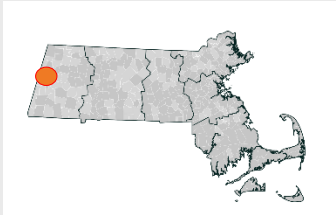
# Action projects that are NOT MVP-competitive:

- 
- Fossil-fuel generators
  - Tree removal, with exceptions
  - Projects that do not incorporate future climate change projections
  - Repair to previous conditions
  - Building construction that will rely on nonrenewable sources of energy
  - Assessment/design of solar, with exceptions
  - Climate action plans
  - Studies that are not linked to implementation
  - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans



# Action Grant Examples

# Francis Avenue Parklet, Stormwater Designs, and Routing Study to West Street



City of Pittsfield, MA FY24 (ongoing)

**AWARD** \$322,425

**MATCH:** \$109,782

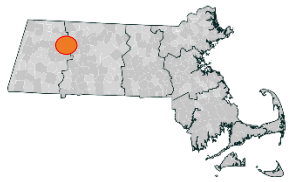
**PROJECT TYPE** Type 2: Design and Permitting

**CORE PRINCIPLES  
DEMONSTRATED** Increasing equitable outcomes for Environmental Justice (EJ) populations; Conducting robust community engagement and supporting strong partnerships with EJ populations

**DESCRIPTION** Addresses concerns of residents in an EJ neighborhood, impacts of Urban Renewal, and inland flooding  
  
Meaningful partnerships and many engagement efforts to shape the process and route/parklet designs



# Conway Center Flood Mitigation Project



## Town of Conway, MA FY24

**AWARD** \$279,000

**MATCH:** \$35,320

**PROJECT TYPE** Type 1: Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

**CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED** Further a community-identified priority, conduct robust community engagement, employ nature-based solutions

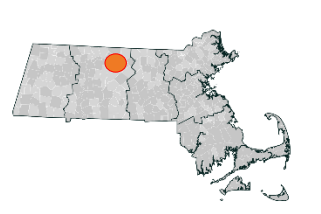
### DESCRIPTION

- Gathered data and modeled flooding and potential flood-reduction strategies with nature-based options
- Created conceptual designs for two priority projects
- Multiple engagement events to share information, get community feedback, and bring people together





# Greening Lord Pond Plaza, Phase 3



## Town of Athol, MA FY25

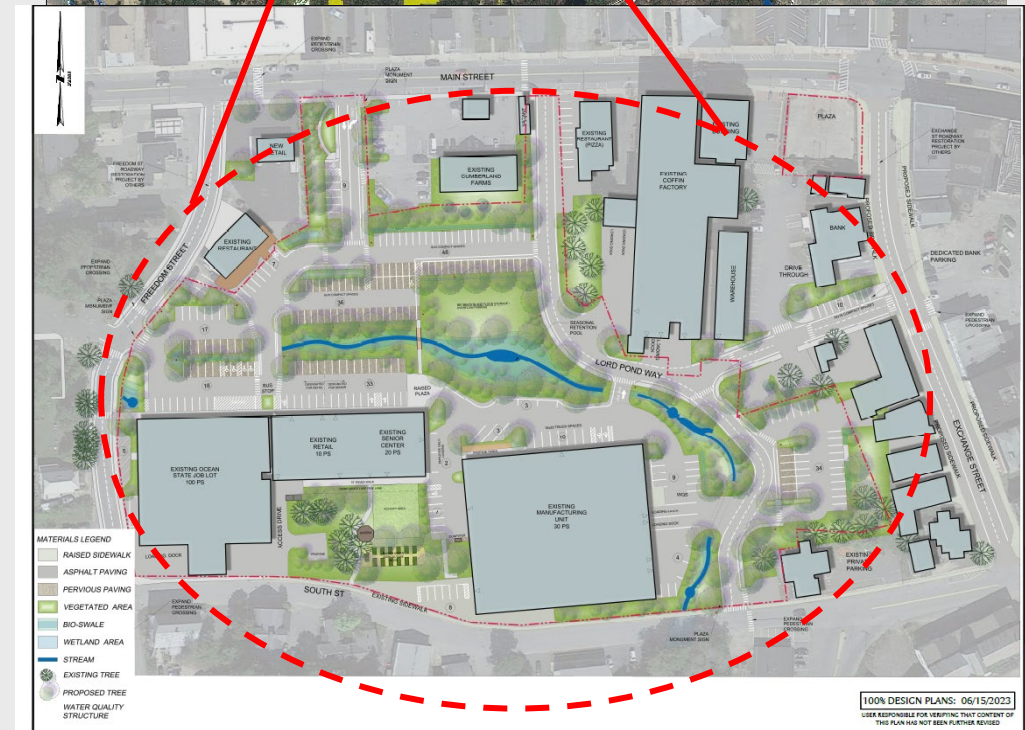
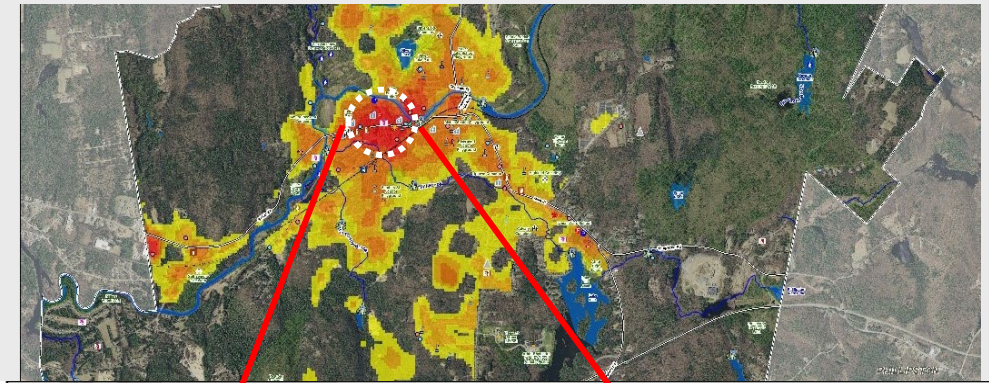
[Greening Lord Pond Plaza Project Website](#)

AWARD \$3M

PROJECT TYPE Type 3: Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation

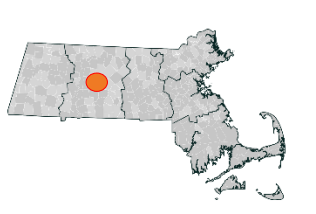
CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED Employing Nature-Based Solutions; Achieving broad and multiple community benefits; and Furthering a community identified priority action.

DESCRIPTION Applies nature-based solutions to daylight a culverted brook, create wetlands, add greenspace, and increase flood storage in downtown Athol.



# Climate Resilient Downtown Affordable Housing

## Northampton FY23 (ongoing)



**AWARD**

\$921,300

**MATCH**

\$344,000

**PROJECT TYPE**

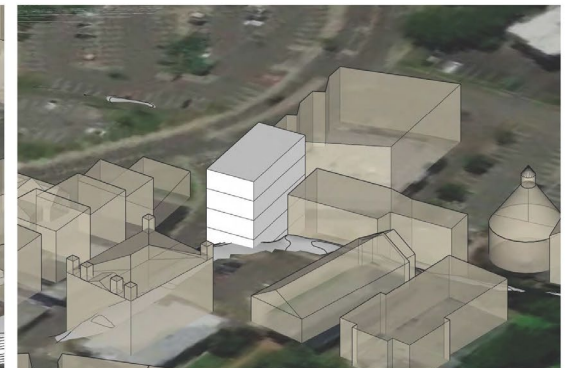
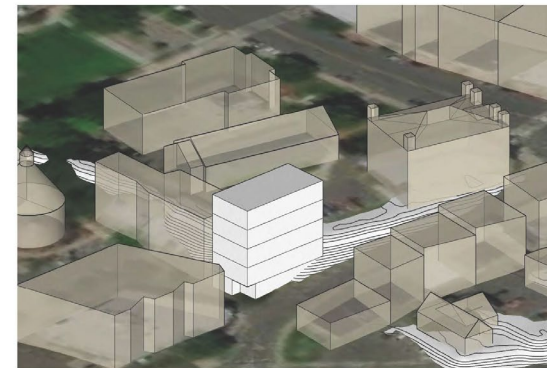
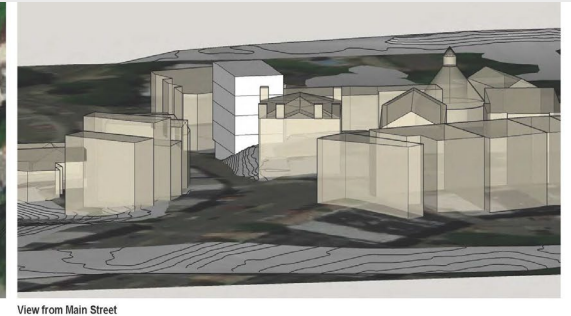
Type 2: Design and Permitting

**CORE PRINCIPLES  
DEMONSTRATED**

Pursuing innovative, transferable approaches;  
Achieving broad and multiple community benefits

**DESCRIPTION**

- Design and permitting for passive house standard ~20+ unit multifamily dwelling
- Will serve priority populations, with a specific focus on those who currently are or are at risk of becoming houseless (highest risks – flooding and extreme heat)
- Strategically located:
  - Near essential services and transportation
  - Elevated out of floodplain
  - Highly visible
  - Epicenter of climate vulnerable populations

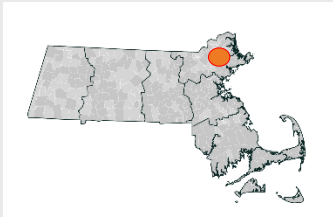




# Maillet, Sommes & Morgan Constructed Wetland



## Reading MVP Action Grant FY23-24



To learn more please visit:

[www.readingma.gov/msm](http://www.readingma.gov/msm)

**AWARD** \$2,221,172.23 **MATCH** \$795,319.34

**PROJECT TYPE** Type 3: Construction & on the ground implementation

**CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED** Furthering a community identified priority action; Employing Nature-Based-Solutions; Achieving multiple community and regional benefits

**DESCRIPTION** The project captures and attenuates stormwater impacting the Aberjona River by creating adjacent offline storage areas. The overall objective is to reduce climate related in-land flooding upstream by increasing stormwater storage capacity through the construction of a series of stormwater wetlands that will also provide co-benefits of: stormwater treatment/water quality; improved ecological and stream stability; invasive species removal; and, additional open space and trail development (including ADA access).

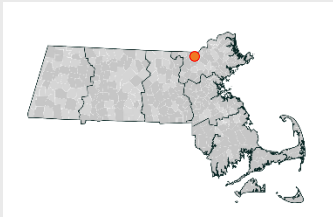




# Resilient Urban Forest Master Plan and Urban Heat Island Assessment



## Lowell FY 23-24



Learn More:

[City of Lowell Urban Forest Master Plan \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

**AWARD**

\$93,000

**MATCH**

\$31,500

**PROJECT TYPE**

Type 1: Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

**CORE PRINCIPLES  
DEMONSTRATED**

Employing Nature Based Solutions, Climate Mitigation

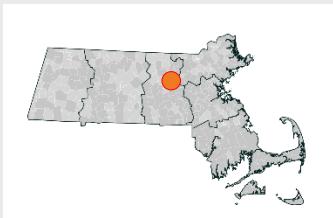
**DESCRIPTION**

Completed an Urban Forest Master Plan and Urban Heat Island Assessment to assist Lowell in enhancing and expanding the existing urban forest, maintaining its health into the future, and creating greater tree equity among our neighborhoods.





# Nashua River Communities Resilient Lands Management Project



Bolton & Clinton FY22

<https://climateresilient.wixsite.com/nashuariver>

AWARD

\$308,691

MATCH

\$77,800

PROJECT TYPE

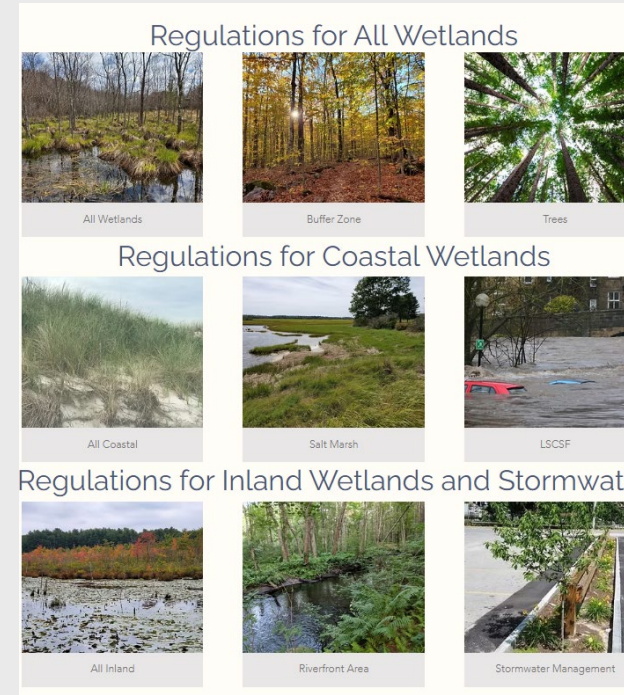
Type 1: Planning Project

CORE PRINCIPLES  
DEMONSTRATED

Achieving broad and multiple community benefits; Pursuing innovative, transferable approaches

DESCRIPTION

- Promote management practices that improve forest and wetland health
- Transform how existing maintenance time and resources are spent through the creation of curated land management guides.
- Create Wetland bylaws and regulations that establish carbon storage/ sequestration and climate resilience interests for Clinton and Bolton wetlands bylaws and regulations and associated performance standards.



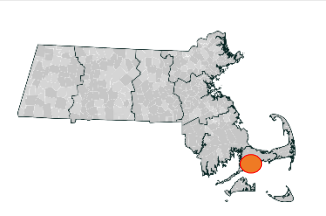


# Increasing Resilience to Harmful Algal Blooms in Santuit Pond

## Town Landing Stormwater Design and Permitting



Mashpee FY24



<https://www.mashpeema.gov/natural-resources/mvp-grant-award-watershed-based-solutions-increase-resilience-harmful-algal-blooms>

AWARD

PROJECT TYPE

CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED

DESCRIPTION

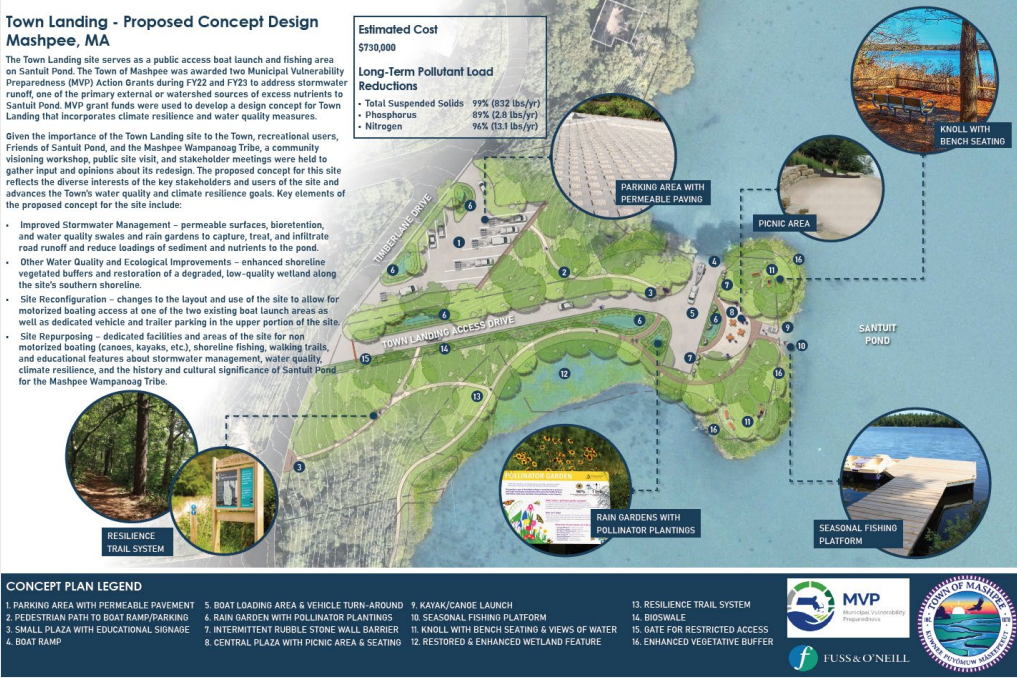
\$228,000

Design and Permitting

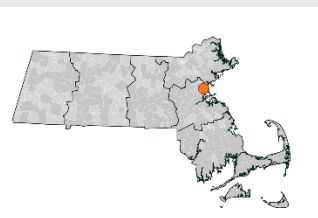
Employing Nature-Based Solutions; Supporting Strong Partnerships with Climate Vulnerable Populations; Achieving Broad and Multiple Community Benefits

- Completed design and permitting for green stormwater infrastructure and other resilience & water quality improvements at the Town Landing site adjacent to Santuit Pond
- Continued partnership between the Town of Mashpee and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, including ongoing community engagement centered around Santuit Pond

MATCH \$86,379



# Beat the Heat



## Everett FY23-24

**AWARD** \$ 339,915      **MATCH** \$ 54,300

**PROJECT TYPE** Type 2: Design and Permitting

**CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED** Increasing equitable outcomes for Environmental Justice (EJ) and other priority populations and addressing the root causes of social vulnerability

**DESCRIPTION**

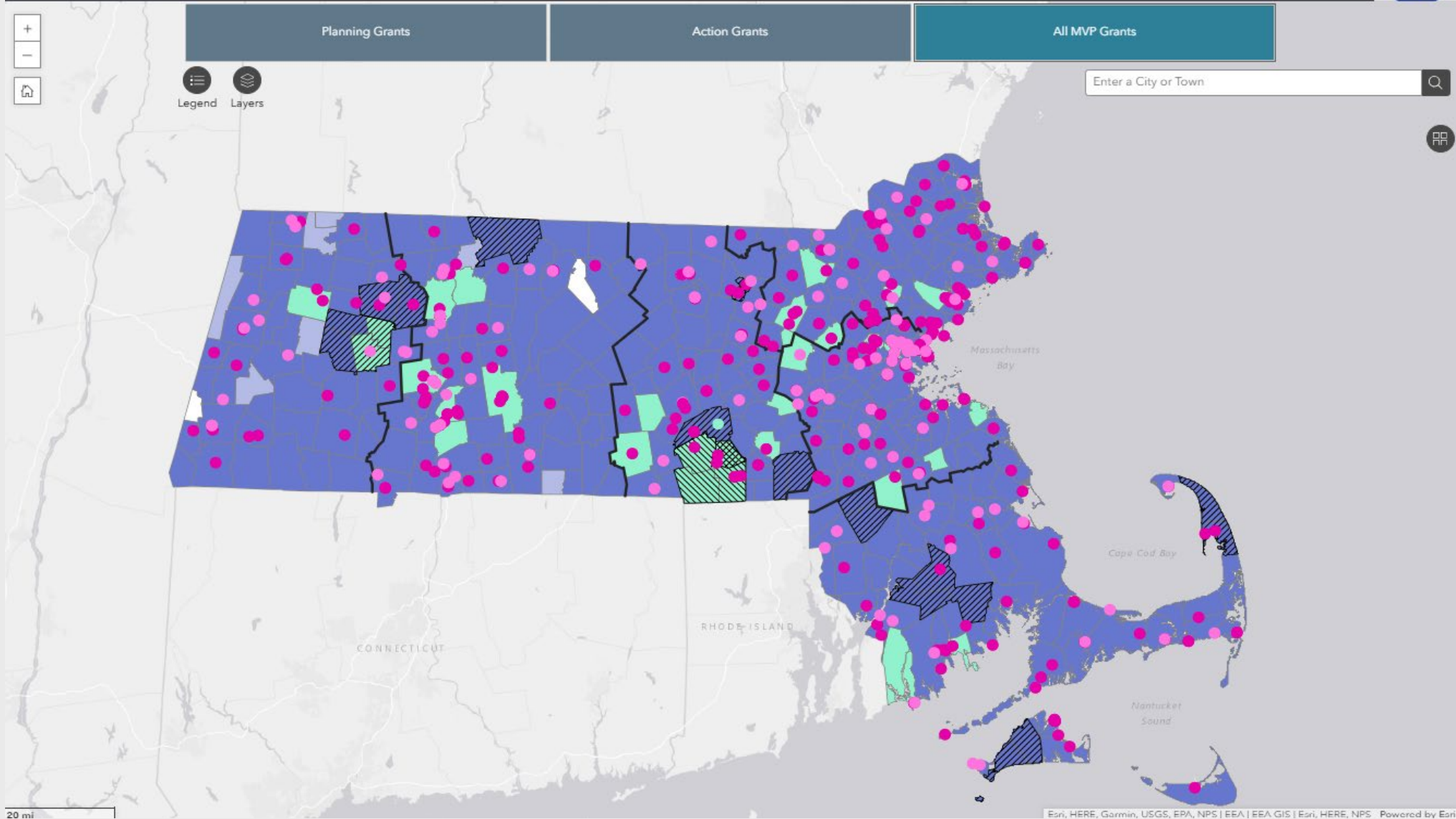
- Engage residents through surveys and other means to ascertain their known hotspots and desired types cooling solutions.
- Determine specific locations in Everett and Chelsea to emplace the cooling solutions.
- Purchase and install of resident-desired misters, and water fountains.





View the MVP grants in the tabs below:

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



**To view more examples of MVP Action Grant Projects:**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-program-action-grant-projects>  
or check out our interactive grant viewer at <https://resilient.mass.gov/mvp/>

# Program Updates

- **MVP Winter Webinar Series 2025**

- Webinar #1: MVP Community Liaison Model Overview and Lessons Learned
  - February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10:30am – 12:00pm
- Webinar #2: Demystifying the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model: Flooding Studies 101
  - March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10:30am – 12:00pm

- **The Climate Resilience Playbook**

- Developed in partnership with MAPC and PVPC
- An online, interactive tool that local planners can use to identify and scope out resilience actions for their communities
- Expected release this spring

- **MVP 2.0**

- Getting ready to announce next round of awarded communities
- Significant updates to the process based on pilot round feedback including:
  - Equity Partners to assist with items like Community Liaison recruitment and inclusive engagement.
  - Updates to the Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience (GEAR tool)
  - And more!



# Questions?

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Find your region by municipality: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/contact-mvp-regional-coordinator>