

Step 3: Implement health-related MVP Action Grant projects based on your priority actions.

Section 3 of this toolkit provides guidance for developing MVP Action Grant project ideas that also address public health and/or healthcare. These examples are categorized per MVP Action Grant project type. For more on these project types, visit the [MVP Action Grant webpage](#).

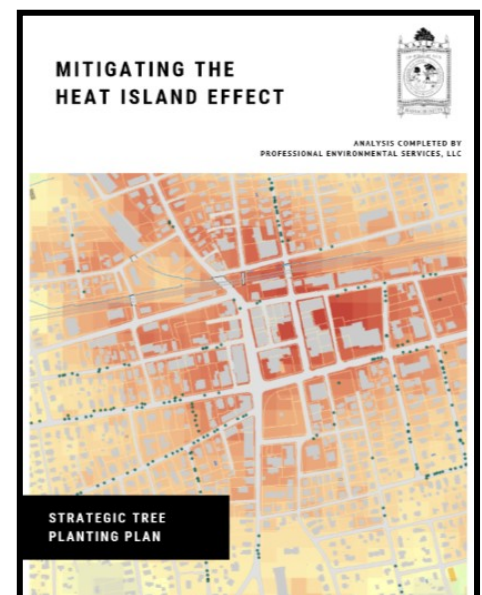
Look through the priority action items described in your municipality's Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings Report that was produced during the MVP planning process. Consider which priority action items directly or indirectly relate to some aspect of public health or healthcare. How could that priority action item be adjusted to strengthen its public health benefits? Then, with your project partner(s), decide which Action Grant Project Type best suits this priority action item.

Type 1. Planning, Assessments, and Regulatory Updates

Is there an assessment or analysis that could be performed to improve your understanding of the intersection between climate hazards and public health in your community?

These assessments may include but are not limited to:

- Heat islands in socially vulnerable areas of your community and how they could be addressed with green infrastructure (see [Natick's FY18 MVP Action Grant Project report here](#))
- Drinking water supply and how increased droughts may impact your community (see [Gloucester's FY18 MVP Action Grant Project report here](#))
- Vulnerability of wastewater, sewer or septic infrastructure in your community considering climate hazards (see [Scituate's FY18 MVP Action Grant Project report here](#), and [Newburyport's FY18 MVP Action Grant Project report here](#))
- Impact of flooding on transportation networks used to access to healthcare and emergency services
- Risk of mold development and its impacts on residents in public/low-income housing developments
- Risks of vector-borne disease
- Other assessments that further study **public health risks of climate change** in your community

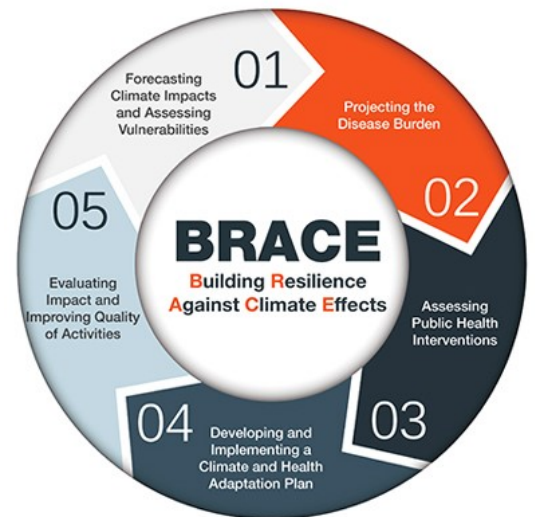


Natick's MVP FY18 Action Grant Report, Mitigating the Heat Island Effect: Strategic Tree Planting Plan. Source: Town of Natick.

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Type 1. Planning, Assessments, and Regulatory Updates Continued

- In addition to the Community Resilience Building Framework and other more targeted health/climate assessments, consider using the **BRACE Framework** offered through the **MA Department of Public Health**. This includes a planning process focused specifically around climate change impacts on public health.



The five steps of the BRACE Framework developed by the US CDC. The MA Department of Public Health maintains grant funding for assisting communities through the BRACE program. Source: US CDC (2019).

Would your community or certain groups within your community benefit from additional education or engagement surrounding a particular climate-driven public health risk?

- Consider developing an outreach plan to educate your community on reducing exposure to vector-borne disease, coping with asthma and other chronic respiratory issues aggravated by environmental allergies, etc.

Are there guidelines or regulations that could be improved or developed to protect public health in light of climate change hazards?

- Consider developing guidelines or zoning regulations that promote low-impact development/nature-based solutions in your community that will improve and/or protect both ecological and public health, particularly for Environmental Justice populations (further described in project type 2; also see the following MVP FY18 Action Grant Project reports: **Boston**, **Brookline**, **Natick**, and **Mendon**).



Low-Impact Design recommendations for Longwood Playground in Brookline. Source: Brookline MVP FY18 Action Grant report.

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Type 2. Nature-based solutions for Ecological and Public Health

Are there natural resources that, if enhanced or preserved, would significantly improve public health?

Through supporting healthy ecosystems, nature-based solutions offer multiple public health services to communities. Consider:

- Planting trees to reduce air pollution and resulting asthma occurrences, as well as reducing nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. Trees planted in developed areas can also reduce heating and cooling needs of adjacent buildings.
- Identifying parcels in environmental justice neighborhoods for “climate smart” park development, providing opportunities for cooling, exercise, stress reduction, and help with healing. In addition to these public health benefits, “climate smart” parks can also incorporate green infrastructure to improve water quality, air quality, and more.
- Restoring wetlands and water systems to protect against damaging floods and provide clean drinking water to residents (see [Manchester-by-the-Sea’s FY18 MVP Action Grant Project report here](#)).
- Implement regenerative agricultural practices to support ecological health and provide food security to our growing population.



Completing a salinity profile across the mud flats of Central Pond for Manchester-by-the-Sea’s ecological restoration project. Source: Manchester’s MVP FY18 Action Grant Report.

Type 3. Redesigns and Retrofits for Critical Facilities and Infrastructure

Are there healthcare facilities or other infrastructure that, if damaged by a climate change related hazard, would severely threaten public health?

- Consider wastewater treatment plants, sewer and/or septic systems, drinking water supplies, transportation networks surrounding hospitals, evacuation routes, pieces of the medical and pharmaceutical supply chain, and food distribution network. Also consider improving energy resilience for any of these facilities.

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Is there a community space or facility that could serve as a strong "Resilience Hub"?

- Resilience Hubs are enhanced community centers that also provide resources for residents that help them to cope with climate hazards. For more information on resilience hubs, check out [this white paper](#) from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, as well as [Cambridge's 2018 MVP Action Grant project](#).



Cambridge created a resilience hub business plan for the Cambridge Community Center for their MVP FY18 Action Grant project. Source: Cambridge's MVP FY18 Action Grant Report.

Are there public housing/affordable housing developments in your community that are particularly vulnerable to climate hazards?

- Consider a project that will explore ways to enhance the adaptive capacity of affordable housing facilities to continue to provide a safe environment to its residents during extreme weather events.

References for non-Mass.gov and non-EEA Sources:

- American Public Health Association. (2020). What is Public Health? <https://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health>.
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- Rudolph, L., Harrison, C., Buckley, L. & North, S. (2018). *Climate Change, Health, and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments*. Oakland, CA and Washington D.C., Public Health Institute and American Public Health Association. https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/topics/climate/climate_health_equity.ashx?la=en&hash=14D2F64530F1505EAE7AB16A9F9827250EAD6C79
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