

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant Case Study

Municipality: Saugus, MA

Project Title: Saugus Climate Adaption & Resilience Plan

Award Year (FY):2023

Grant Award: \$ 75,000

Match: \$ 25,000

Match Source: Town

One or Two Year Project: Two Year

Municipal Department Leading Project: Planning and Development

Project Website URL: www.saugus-ma.gov/planning-and-economic-development

Community Overview:

- What is the population size of your community and where is it located? 29,050
- Do you have any [Environmental Justice](#) or other Climate Vulnerable communities? Yes (Think about both those who live and work in your town.)
- Other unique traits of your municipality like who the top employers are, geography, history, etc. Location of first industrial site in US

Project Description and Goals:

- Where was the project located? Community-wide
- What climate change impacts did the project address? Heat, Flooding, Drought.
- What were the specific goals and tasks of the project as stated in your application? To provide recommendations on climate resiliency.
- Did your project meet the goals set forth in your application in terms of:
 - Employing nature-based solutions - Yes
 - Improving equitable outcomes for and fostering strong partnerships with EJ and other Climate Vulnerable Populations - Satisfactorily
 - Providing regional benefits - Yes
 - Implementing the public involvement and community engagement plan set forth in your application - Yes
 - Finishing the project on time - Extension required

Results and Deliverables:

- Describe, and quantify (where possible) project results (e.g. square footage of habitat restored or created, increase in tree canopy coverage, etc.). Report out on the metrics outlined in your application.

The final report contained several nature based climate resiliency recommendations for the Town to consider adopting. One of the main goals was critical infrastructure resilience. Several vulnerable areas were identified, with mitigation options recommended to address their climate resiliency.

- Provide a brief summary of project deliverables with web links, if available.

A Final Climate Adaption and Resiliency Plan.

The Saugus Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP), also referred to here as “the plan,” is one step in the process of the Town of Saugus preparing for and adapting to the combined threats posed by climate change. The CARP provides a long-term conceptual roadmap for reducing risk from and building resilience to extreme heat, rising seas, increased rainfall, and prolonged drought.

Lessons Learned:

- What lessons were learned as a result of the project? Focus on both the technical matter of the project and process-oriented lessons learned.

The Town has been doing a good job of studying climate change and potential threats. As a coastal community, the potential for life threatening storm related flooding and property damage is significant. Fortunately, the Town has one of the largest marshes in the region on its coast and the plan identified the potential for utilizing this natural asset to mitigate the flooding. The analysis of critical infrastructure vulnerable to climate change also allows the community to consider mitigation in its required 5-Year Capital Plan.

- What is the best way for other communities to learn from your project/process?

Take the nature-based solutions available to you and maximize their potential for mitigating a variety of climate impacts.

Partners and Other Support:

- Include a list of all project partners and describe their role in supporting/assisting in the project.
- Arcadis-grant consultant and project management
- Saugus River Watershed Council -staff assistance and input.
- Saugus Department of Public Works-staff assistance and input.
- Saugus Planning and Economic Development -staff assistance and project and match coordination.
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council-technical assistance and data.

Project Photos:

- In your electronic submission of this report, please attach (as .jpg or .png) a few high-resolution (at least 300 pixels per inch) representative photos of the project. Photos should not show persons who can be easily identified, and avoid inclusion of any copyrighted, trademarked, or branded logos in the images. MVP may use these images on its website or other promotional purposes, so please also let us know if there is someone who should receive credit for taking the photo.



Route 1 Focus Area

Near-term resilience framework map

Note that all recommendation locations shown on this framework map are conceptual and will require further site-specific planning and evaluation prior to design and implementation

