

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant Case Study

Municipality: Wrentham

Project Title: Low Impact Development Regulatory Integration and Green Infrastructure Master Plan

Award Year (FY): 2022

Grant Award: \$ 113,344

Match: \$ 36,895

Match Source: in-kind contributions and cash

One or Two Year Project: One

Municipal Department Leading Project: Planning Department

Project Website URL:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/38c0d67ba7f1471696f385aa0a9c1b88/>

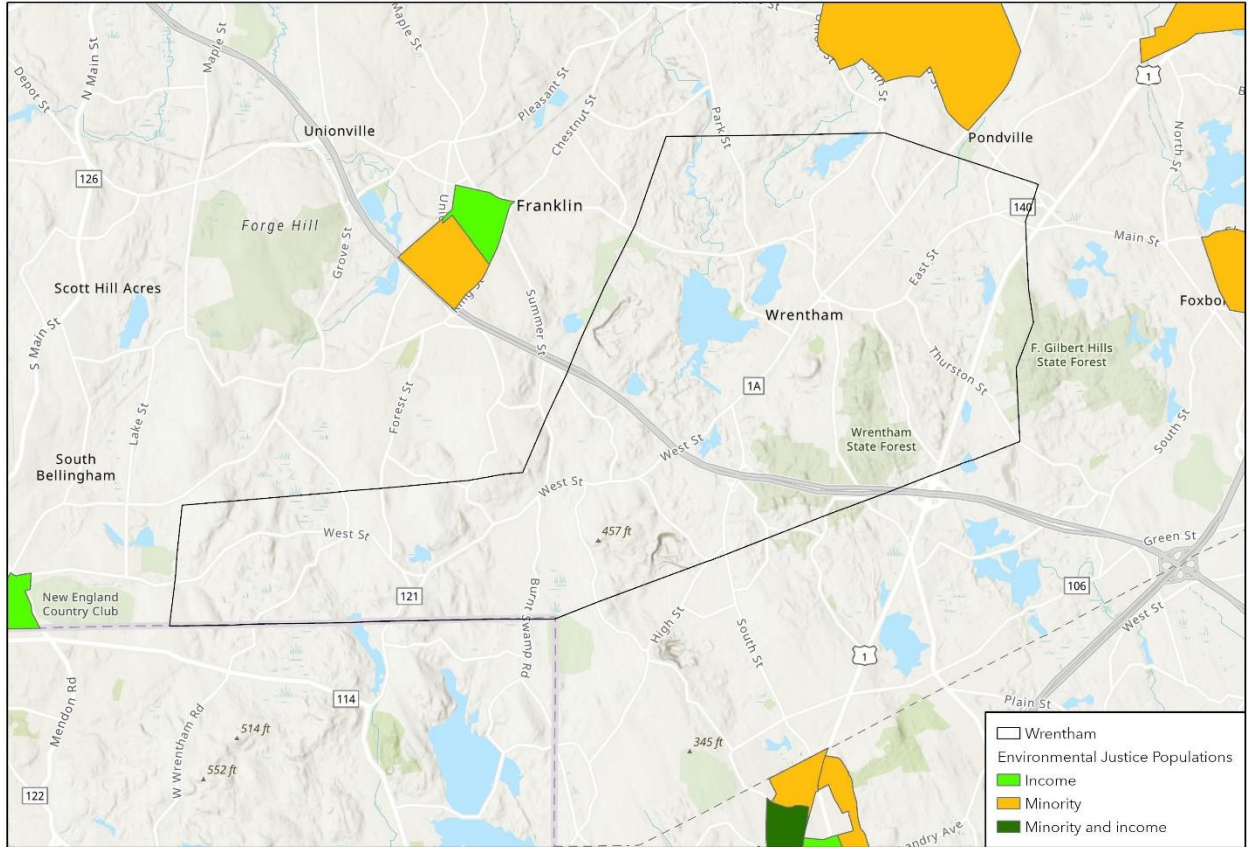
Community Overview:

- *What is the population size of your community and where is it located?*

According to the April 1, 2020 Census there are 12,178 people in Wrentham, MA.

- *Do you have any Environmental Justice or other Climate Vulnerable communities? (Think about both those who live and work in your town.)*

There are no environmental justice communities in Wrentham. According to the Massachusetts Environmental Justice viewer there are at-risk communities downstream of Wrentham in both the Charles River and Taunton River watersheds, the closest being an income disadvantaged population just downstream in the Taunton watershed in the Town of Plainville. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Viewer shows additional vulnerable communities. Portions of Wrentham surrounding Lake Pearl and Lake Archer are listed in the 87th percentile for children under the age of five, and just south of this area is a similarly sized population in the 87th percentile for being above the age of 64.



- Other unique traits of your municipality like who the top employers are, geography, history, etc.

Wrentham is bordered by Norfolk on the north, Foxboro on the east, Plainville and Cumberland, Rhode Island on the south, Bellingham on the southwest, and Franklin on the west. It has two large lakes towards the center of town, Lake Pearl and Lake Archer, as well as Mirror Lake on the Wrentham/Norfolk border and numerous smaller lakes. Wrentham is in a unique geographical location at the headwaters of three major watersheds, the Charles River, Ten-mile River, and the Taunton River.

Project Description and Goals:

- Where was the project located?

The project focused the green infrastructure planning task on 11 locations around Wrentham where green infrastructure would be both feasible and beneficial.

- What climate change impacts did the project address?

This project provided plans to reduce flooding around Wrentham and increase resiliency as a result of the increased frequency and intensity of storms.

- What were the specific goals and tasks of the project as stated in your application?

The main goal of the project was to integrate climate resilience considerations into the Town's land use policies and regulations, which will increase the use of low impact development and green infrastructure town-wide.

- Did your project meet the goals set forth in your application in terms of:
 - Employing nature-based solutions: Yes, plans for green-infrastructure implementation are complete.
 - Improving equitable outcomes for and fostering strong partnerships with EJ and other Climate Vulnerable Populations: Improving stormwater management and strengthening stormwater regulations has a net positive impact on Climate Vulnerable Populations.
 - Providing regional benefits: Wrentham now has concept designs for green infrastructure in 11 locations around town and a draft Stormwater Bylaw, updated Stormwater Regulations that once implemented will work to improve regional water quality.
 - Implementing the public involvement and community engagement plan set forth in your application: Social media was used to spread the word about events and to direct the public to the website to see project updates and to voice their opinion. In addition, several press releases were publicized drawing further attention to the project and the website for public engagement opportunities.
 - Finishing the project on time: Project deliverables completed by June 30, 2022.

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.
 - 11 green infrastructure concept plans
- Provide a brief summary of project deliverables with web links, if available.
 - Stormwater Bylaw and Regulations
 - Regulatory Summary and Recommendations
 - Green Infrastructure Master Plan
- What lessons were learned as a result of the project? Focus on both the technical matter of the project and process-oriented lessons learned.
 - One important lesson that was learned from this project is that opinions can vary greatly when it comes to proposed regulation alterations and changes. The more voices in the room the easier it can be to get to a consensus vote on proposed changes. Small groups or sessions can sometimes limit discussion. The more engagement the better.
- What is the best way for other communities to learn from your project/process?

- Do your best to schedule and promote meetings at times that as many folks can participate as possible. The more engagement the better.

Partners and Other Support:

- Include a list of all project partners and describe their role in supporting/assisting in the project.
 - Mirror Lake Watershed Association: participation in working group meetings, green infrastructure site selection input through the project website
 - Lake Pearl Watershed Association: green infrastructure site selection input through the project website
 - Lake Archer Watershed Association: participation in working group meetings, green infrastructure site selection input through the project website
 - Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA): participation in working group meetings, input on working group meetings regarding regulation updates, workshop outreach via CRWA website and Facebook page, leading workshop discussions green infrastructure site selection input through the project website
 - Fuss & O'Neill Team
 - William Guenther, MS
 - Allen Tevyaw
 - Stefan Bengtson, MSc, MESM
 - Alex Duryea
 - Erik Mas, PE
 - Christina Viera, PE
 - Town of Wrentham Team
 - Rachel Benson - Planning and Economic Development Direct
 - Mike Lavin - Project Lead
 - Kevin Sweet - Town Manager
 - Peter Roman - Board of Health Representative
 - Heather Miller - Charles River Watershed Assoc.
 - Julie Wood - Charles River Watershed Assoc.
 - Janet Angelico
 - Jessica Briar
 - Julie Garland
 - Mike Glass
 - Lisa Kumpf
 - Chad Lovett
 - Darryl Luce
 - Jennie Moonan
 - Penny Nadeau

- John Naff
- Ann Natalizia
- Everett Skinner
- Tom Sousa
- Gayle Sudit
- Nancy Yannuzzi

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.