Newport, Rhode Island

THE ECONOMICS OF FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE IN A HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND CITY
Geographic History Lessons

- 1777 – Large open section of harbor in the “Point” section
- 1876 – Railroad constructed, open harbor now three ponds
- 1893 – More land filled in
- 1907 – Open harbor area completely filled in
In the circled area, there is $4,986,568 worth of buildings constructed on infilled land.
Geographic History Lessons
Geographic History Lessons

- 1876 – Section of lower harbor has open inlet where Spencer Park is located
- 1893 – Area filled in and now housing lots appear
Newport Floodplain Statistics

- 4,574.39 Acres of parcels in Newport
- 2,459.32 Acres of those parcels touch the floodplain
- That is **53.76%**
Newport Floodplain Statistics

Of the parcels in the floodplain:

- **1,324.3** Acres, or **53.85%** are Residential
- **619.59** Acres, or **25.19%** are Commercial/Business
- **515.43** Acres, or **20.96%** are Recreational/Open Space
Newport Floodplain Statistics

- 11,787 Structures in Newport
- 1,988 of those structures are in the floodplain
- That is 16.87%
Newport Floodplain Statistics

$3,817,860,900

Of potential property loss in Newport

Of combined land and structure assessed value in the floodplain
Businesses in the Floodplain

- **585** Businesses identified in the floodplain through e911 data
- **39.5%** Retail Businesses
- **20.3%** Food Service
- **10.8%** Professional Services
- **6.5%** Hotels/ Guest Facilities
Hotels/ Guest Houses in the Floodplain

• **128** Registered Hotels/ Guest Houses in Newport
• **37** of those are in the floodplain
• **55.4%** of the total available rooms in Newport are in the floodplain
Hotels/ Guest Houses in the Floodplain

- $2,796,928.05, or 53.2% of the total taxes collected from these businesses are from businesses in the floodplain.

- $189,198,614.21, or 53.15% of the total estimated income of the Hotel/Guest House industry in Newport comes from businesses within the floodplain.
Road Infrastructure in Floodplain

- **700,513.21** Feet of roadway maintained in the Newport Master Pavement Database
- Designated FEMA Evacuation Routes for Newport
- **191,390.77** Feet of roadway in floodplain, including many sections of designated Evacuation Routes
• **200** Named roads in Newport run through the floodplain
Historic Structures in Floodplain

- **968** Historic structures in Newport in the floodplain
- Worth an assessed value of: $559,992,649
The City of Newport partnered with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission to:

- Identify RI’s historic assets in the coastal floodplain
- Work with a consultant to identify and understand all flood regulations applicable to historic assets
- Lay the groundwork for developing a strategy to protect RI’s historic assets threatened by coastal flooding and sea level rise
RI Statewide CLG Grant

- Coastal floodplain identified
- Affected coastal communities identified
- Applicable historic sites identified
- Applicable historic districts identified
- Applicable historic candidate sites identified
- Individual sites identified through e911 location data and tax assessor records
RI Statewide CLG Grant

21 of Rhode Island’s 39 Cities and Towns contain historic assets in coastal floodplains
RI Statewide CLG Grant

Bristol County

- Barrington – 55 Structures
- Bristol – 319 Structures
- Warren – 226 Structures
RI Statewide CLG Grant

Kent County

- East Greenwich – 35 Structures
- Warwick – 98 Structures
RI Statewide CLG Grant

Newport County

- Jamestown – 24 Structures
- Little Compton – 12 Structures
- Middletown – 4 Structures
- Newport – 968 Structures
- Portsmouth – 6 Structures
- Tiverton – 16 Structures
RI Statewide CLG Grant

Providence County

- Cranston – 69 Structures
- East Providence – 6 Structures
- Pawtucket – 11 Structures
- Providence – 40 Structures
RI Statewide CLG Grant

Washington County

- Charlestown – 9 Structures
- Narragansett – 23 Structures
- New Shoreham – 27 Structures
- North Kingstown – 294 Structures
- South Kingstown – 100 Structures
- Westerly – 185 Structures
Resilient Responsibility

• Newport is taking the lead in attracting resiliency-based industries to locate in Rhode Island
• Our survival as coastal communities depends on adapting to changing natural and man-made hazards
• Newport seeks to attract companies who’s business it is to research and develop new technologies that will increase our chances of survival