Advancing Resilience with Multi-Jurisdictional Regional Frameworks

The Southern Connecticut Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience across 10 municipalities was launched to provide proactive risk assessment, community engagement, conceptual design of on-the-ground projects, and a final Resilience Master Plan in hopes of minimizing the consequences of extreme weather and climate change while strengthening existing and future ecosystems. This is the first time a Regional Framework for Resilience has been conceived and constructed in Connecticut.

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene and Sandy, the population centers of Greater New Haven and Bridgeport recognized a significant vulnerability to extreme weather events. To counteract risks and broaden dialogue, the Southern Connecticut Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience was launched to provide proactive risk assessment, community engagement, conceptual design of on-the-ground projects, and a Resilience Master Plan to minimize extreme weather and climate change impacts while strengthening the resilience of existing and future ecosystems. The main objective of the project is to comprehensively prioritize resilience opportunities for residents across 10 municipalities (750,000 people across 30% of Connecticut’s coastline) using natural infrastructure and hybrid solutions. This unique and critical Regional Resilience Framework is being achieved through a core partnership between Southern Connecticut Regional Council of Governments, The Nature Conservancy, and Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments alongside municipalities, other NGOs, state/federal agencies, academic institutions, youth organizations, businesses, and civic groups. This Regional Resilience Framework developed 20 conceptual designs that integrate natural infrastructure to enhance natural resource, improve public amenities, and reduce risk from hazards over immediate and longer term horizons. This triple-bottom line approach to risk reduction using natural infrastructure is this project’s hallmark and a critical consideration across the USA and globally. This first Regional Resilience Framework provides an flexible organizing structure and process to accelerate resilience across urban to rural coastlines and watersheds. The 20 conceptual designs provide a wide range of common situations available as the Design Guide for Community Resilience Building in Spring 2017.

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