

Belmont's Flooding and Climate Resilience Planning (MVP) Project

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What planning has Belmont done so far for climate resilience?

Belmont completed a Hazard Mitigation - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan in 2020, funded by a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning grant, and the Town is now actively working on a Stormwater Flooding and Climate Resilience Capital Improvement Plan. Belmont is also seeking additional funding to support the permitting and final design so we can construct up to ten high priority projects outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan.

What is the goal of the current 2022 project?

The Office of Community Development is preparing a plan for infrastructure improvements to increase climate resilience and reduce flooding across the community. As the team evaluates scenarios that reflect current and anticipated future rainfall and flooding events, they will use modeling results plus community input to identify priority areas and develop a concepts and associated costs for stormwater management projects.

Will this project result in more trees and green space?

This project prioritizes nature-based solutions which can include planting trees and using tree box filters to manage stormwater. Bioretention (sometimes referred to as rain gardens) also offer an opportunity to add green space to paved areas. Flood storage may also be possible in existing parks and green spaces through enhancement and restoration, providing co-benefits to park users.

What are the funding sources?

The Town was awarded an Action Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) program](#) for \$195,000 to complete this project. The MVP program provides support for cities and towns to plan for climate change and to implement projects to build local resiliency. The Town contributed additional funds and staff time to match 25% of the total project cost.

What is the timeline for this project?

The Stormwater Flood Reduction and Climate Resilience Capital Improvement Plan is expected to be complete in June 2022. Once additional funding is obtained, site-level designs can be prepared for construction.

What are the hazard and flood mitigation strategies that are being explored?

Green Infrastructure and low impact development projects are being assessed across the Town to address extreme heat and extreme precipitation (rain events). These project strategies could include bioretention ponds, bioswales, tree box filters, permeable pavement, underground storage, and floodable parks.



Does this project address current pollution due to existing storm water runoff and interconnected sewage lines?

Stormwater management solutions identified during this project will help reduce pollution running off the land surface from entering local waterbodies from roads, parks, and other properties, but the project is not focused on sewers or modifying the sewer system.

Will these projects be installed in the streets or public open spaces?

The concepts for green infrastructure may be installed along the side of a street or in public open spaces.

How will projects be distributed across the town?

The Town is prioritizing projects based not only on a few factors: stormwater and flooding reduction benefits, co-benefits (reduction of heat, placemaking, creation of habitat), overlap with planned facilities and roadway projects, and also considering equity and distribution of benefits.

Are electric charging station installations being considered?

This work is focused on managing runoff from precipitation and melting snow and does not consider electric charging stations installation. The Belmont Select Board is working with the Belmont Energy Committee to develop an electrification plan for Town vehicles. In addition, the Town is working with the Belmont Light Department to provide charging stations at various locations around Belmont.

