

Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan

Hazard Mitigation Chapter Summary

Greenwich Bay and its watershed are subject to natural hazards that can cause fatalities, injuries, property damage, environmental damage, and other impacts. Hurricanes, nor'easters, and other large storms generate hazards from flooding, storm surge, erosion, wind, snow, and ice. This SAMP chapter describes the natural hazards that present a risk to the Greenwich Bay watershed and recommends actions to mitigate impacts, particularly below the mean high water mark.

What are the key findings?

- Flooding, storm surge, wind, snow, and ice are the most significant natural hazards in the Greenwich Bay watershed.
- Large hazard events, such as hurricanes and large winter storms, regularly impact the Greenwich Bay watershed over the course of a structures or persons lifetime.
- Boat slips in the Greenwich Bay watershed have increased nearly 45 percent in the last 25 years, increasing the potential for high damage costs.
- The city of Warwick and the town of East Greenwich are developing hazard mitigation plans necessary to access federal money for mitigation measures.
- The Rhode Island State Building Code incorporates international standards for building wind and flood resistant structures.
- There is no coordinated response to on-water hazards.

What are the issues?

- Natural events can have a negative impact on people, property, and natural resources.
- Municipal hazard mitigation plans will not address hazards to people, property, and natural resources below the mean high water mark.

What are the SAMP's goals?

- Reduce the impacts of natural hazards on the residents, properties, and natural resources of Greenwich Bay and its watershed.
- Improve the city of Warwick and town of East Greenwich's ratings under the Community Rating System to achieve discounts in National Flood Insurance Program premiums.
- Develop partnerships with businesses to provide a public-private link for coordinated mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery by the 2005 hurricane season.

What are the recommended actions in the SAMP?

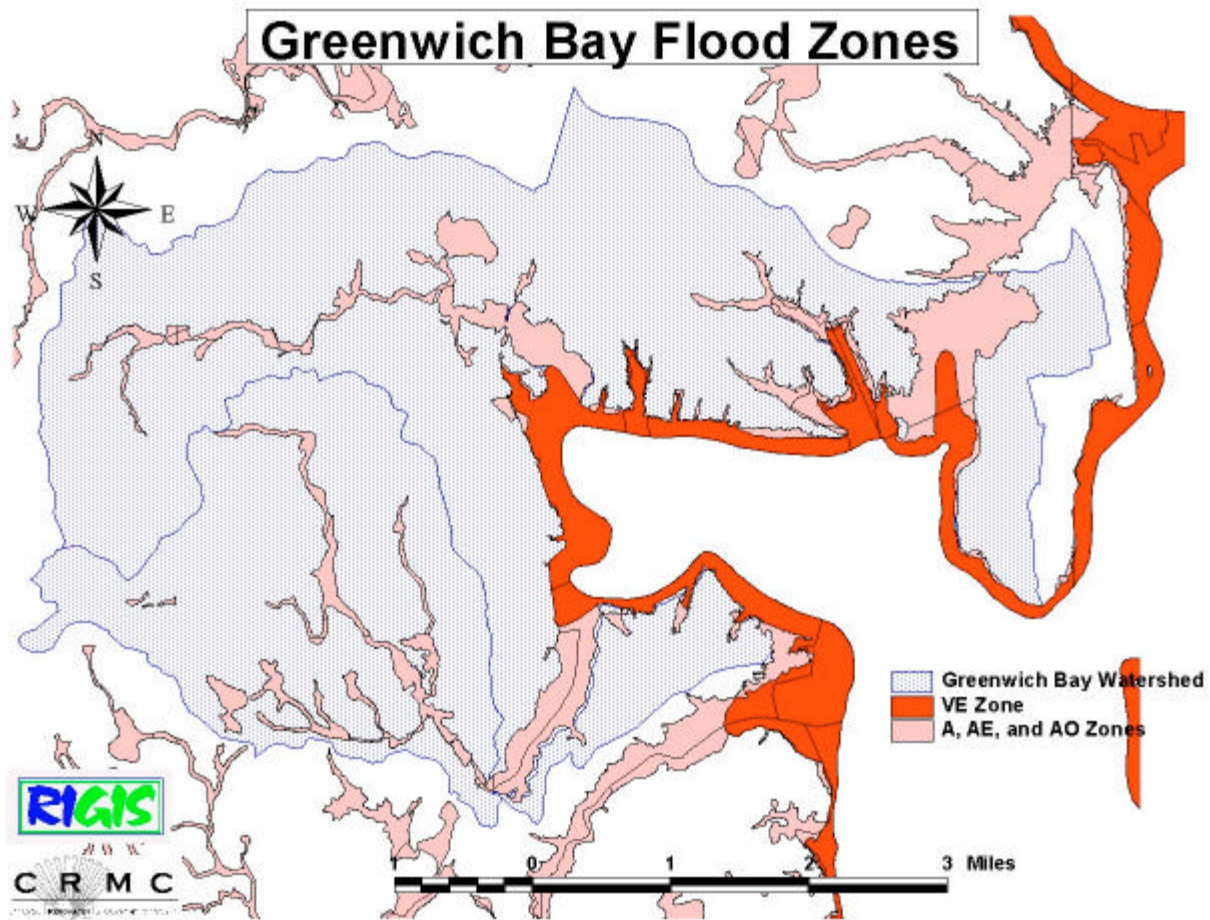
Type of Action	Who will Implement?
Policies	
Encourage construction of hazard resistant structures.	-
Create public-private partnership with marinas for hazard response and recovery	-
Improve communication between the municipalities and Greenwich Bay boaters in the event of a formal disaster declaration.	-
Regulations	
Issue special permit to marinas for debris cleanup on wetlands.	CRMC
Prohibit new construction and rebuilding more than 50% of damaged structures in high hazard areas.	CRMC

Type of Action	Who will Implement?
Apply fully State Building Code in high hazard flood zones along coast and tributary floodplains.	Municipal Building Inspectors.
Recommendations	
Create communication strategy with regional and state tourism councils to prevent tourism losses after hazard events.	Local Economic Development Councils
Designate location to place wrecked boats prior to insurance assessment.	City of Warwick Town of East Greenwich
Implement tree-trimming program to reduce the damage from falling limbs during storms.	City of Warwick Town of East Greenwich
Create town hotline or point-of-contact for locating and checking on boats for property owners.	City of Warwick Town of East Greenwich

How do actions in this chapter relate to other issues in the SAMP?

Hazard mitigation strategies:

- Reduce the impact of natural hazards on current and new development
- Reduce hazard event impacts on the recreational facilities and uses of Greenwich Bay
- Contribute to habitat protection and water quality improvements (vegetated buffers)



VE Zone - High Storm Surge and Flood Risk
 A, AE, and AO Zones - High Flood Risk