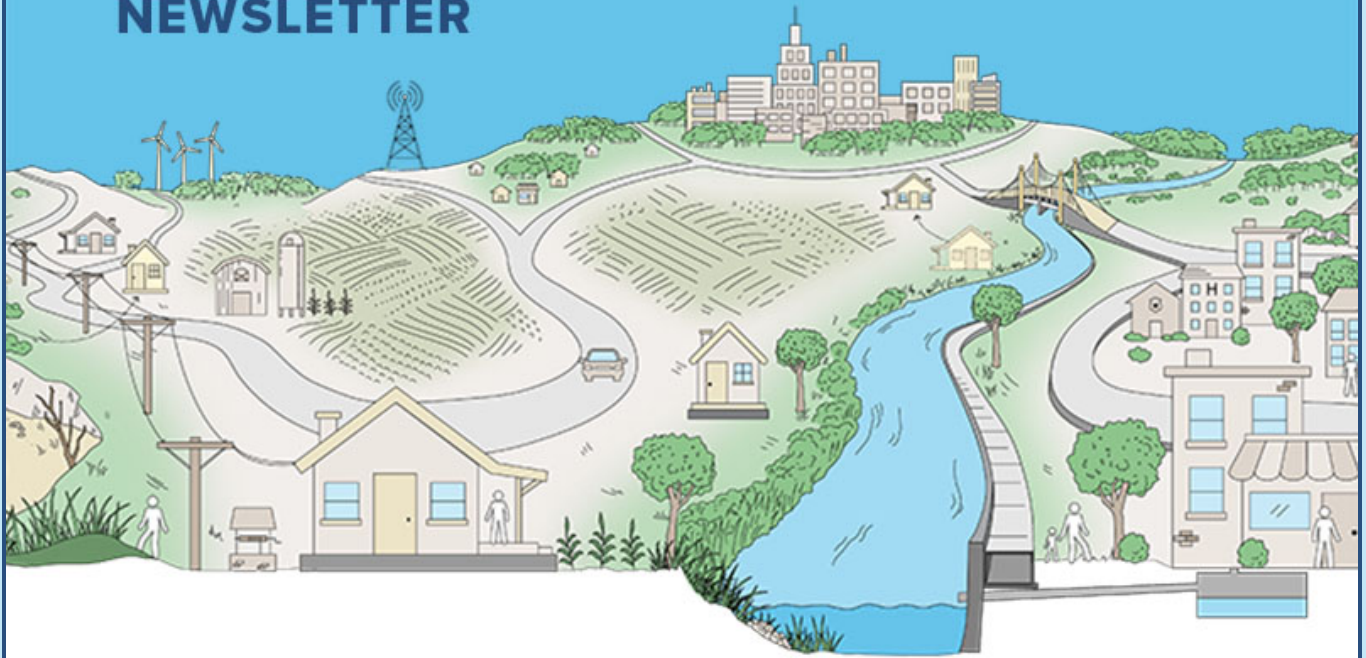


DCR OFFICE OF

Resilience Planning

NEWSLETTER



Tell your flood story this hurricane season

Hurricane season is here, which could mean more storms and flooding in your community. Flooding can cause serious impacts, from damaging property to limiting access to essential services. Informed planning and policies can help prevent or reduce impacts.

Telling your flood story - both recent and older - can help ensure Virginia's decision-makers understand where and how to address flood challenges.

Use the [Flood Story Web Viewer](#) today to explore stories submitted and share your experience with flooding from hurricanes, storms, rainfall, or high tides.

[Learn more](#) about hurricanes and how to be prepared from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

[Share your Flood Story](#)

Flood Stories About Hurricanes

"My car was flooded and totaled. I had to hike through thigh-high water out of the neighborhood...It still shocks me at how it immobilized us in just a few hours."

- Virginia resident on Hurricane Matthew

"Worst flood I experienced was Hurricane Isabel. [T]he storm shut down the Norfolk Tunnels and cut off my access to work. [I] tried to go through town instead and ran into more flooded streets with limited access."

- Virginia resident on Hurricane Isabel



Photo of Hurricane Matthew by Cotton
Puryear, October 2016



Photo of Hurricane Isabel by Ben Bloker, September 2003

Take the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan survey

As development of [Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan](#) (VFPMP) continues, we encourage you to **get involved by taking the Public Feedback Survey.**

Insights gained from the survey help to emphasize how the plan can benefit communities facing increasing flood risks.

If you are interested in connecting with DCR in person, join us at the [Anthem GO Outside Festival](#)! We will be at the festival on Saturday, October 18 to share information about the plan.

[Take the Survey](#)



Update on the VFPMP's Development

In July, we wrapped up the final engagement sessions for the VFPMP. The sessions gathered feedback on implementation approaches for flood strategies. These strategies are divided across six main themes: proactive adaptation, supported local governments, resilience funding, reliable data systems, enhanced capacity, and meaningful coordination. Read the [strategies summary](#) to learn more.

So far, **100%** of the plan's 18 core stakeholder organizations and **90** supporting stakeholder organizations have engaged in its development, illustrating the collaborative nature of this plan. These stakeholders include state agencies, local and regional governments, academia, and non-profits. Visit the [VFPMP webpage](#) to learn more about engagement efforts.

Our flood resilience data in action

Last fall, students at George Mason University worked with local communities to support flood resilience using the Office of Resilience Planning's pluvial flood models and coastal flood data developed for the Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

The civil engineering course, Flood Hazard Engineering and Adaptation, taught by Dr. Celso Ferreira, introduced the students to the basics of flood modeling using ORP's data. Students then worked with clients, like the Pamunkey Indian Tribe and Mathews County, to address flood-related issues in the community using the models they generated.

In one project, students identified areas on the Pamunkey Reservation particularly prone to flooding, including roads and septic systems, in both baseline and future scenarios. This allowed them to then offer adaptation solutions, like raising roads to ensure residents can continue to access transportation when it floods.

Participating clients can utilize these projects and the generated data for future grant applications or resilience plans, filling capacity and resource gaps that many communities face. GMU will offer the class again this fall, working with more clients and continuing to use ORP data. [Learn more](#) about the class and the students' work.

Visit the [Flood Resilience Open Data Portal](#) to explore ORP's flood resilience data products. [Contact us](#) if you have questions or need assistance.



Photo by George Mason University, 2024

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