3.10.4. Hampton, VA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Population Density</strong></th>
<th>2673 /sq. mi.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Form of Government</strong></td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Category</strong></td>
<td>Urban Bayfront</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CRS Rating</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Median Household Income</strong></th>
<th><strong>Median Per Capita Income</strong></th>
<th><strong>% Owner Occupied</strong></th>
<th><strong>Population</strong></th>
<th><strong>2000-2010 Pop Growth Rate</strong></th>
<th><strong>% White</strong></th>
<th><strong>% Hispanic</strong></th>
<th><strong>% Minority</strong></th>
<th><strong>% Seasonal Housing</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67461</td>
<td>40371</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>15430</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Adaptations</strong></th>
<th><strong>Status</strong></th>
<th><strong>Incorporates CC</strong></th>
<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
<th><strong>Impact</strong></th>
<th><strong>Standard Costs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Funding Source</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Appointing Waterways Grants Manager</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Procedural</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Unique</td>
<td>Medium (&lt;$100,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Flood Protection Law</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>Above Required</td>
<td>Very Low (&lt; $1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Waterways Management Plan</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Procedural</td>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>Unique</td>
<td>Medium (&lt;$100,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freeboard - 1 Ft</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>Unique</td>
<td>Very Low (&lt; $1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Beachfront and Storm Protection Management Plan</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>Unique</td>
<td>Medium (&lt;$100,000)</td>
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<td>Tidal Floodplain Study and Protection Plan</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>Unique</td>
<td>Medium (&lt;$100,000)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Contacts**

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Population and Geography

The City of Hampton has a population (as of Census 2010) of 137,436, making it the sixth most populous city in Virginia. The city is very diverse—42.7% of the population is white, 49.6% black, 2.2% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 4.5% are Hispanic or Latino of any race. The median income of the city is $39,532 while median household income is $46,110.

Hampton is a city of 163 sq. mi., 84 sq. mi. of which is water. Hampton is located on a peninsula and shares land borders with Newport News, Poquoson, and York County. The James River is to its west and the Chesapeake Bay is on the east. It is part of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. The entire city is coastal plain, with an average elevation of 10 feet. Staff describe Hampton as a "built out" city, with little room to retreat. (Personal Communication, Aug. 28, 2012). They indicated that adaptations should focus on making the existing community more resilient, since historic communities are unlikely to relocate buildings or infrastructure.

Coastal Issues

The City of Hampton is already dealing with the consequences of subsidence and sea level rise, and residents are taking these threats seriously. As described by Keith Cannady, Manager of Planning and Zoning Division, "On a personal level, people are seeing that water is in their garages every year for the last 5 years and this never used to happen...People know this is out there...they are looking for...tangible explanations as to why," he explained. (Personal Communication, Aug. 28, 2012) "People have lived in certain places for a long time and all of a sudden they are seeing water where they had not seen it before...and they want local government to do something about it."

Hampton has recognized the significance of the waterways as essential to the identity and economy of the city, as well as the challenges this presents. As stated in the Comprehensive Waterways Management Plan, "Hampton is facing short and long term stormwater and waterway related issues which will impact public and private infrastructure, development patterns, tax base, delivery of public services and the quality of life" (Hampton, Va., Waterways Plan, p. 1).

Due to the proximity of water bodies and its low elevation, Hampton is not a stranger to tidal and stormwater flooding. Historically, flooding is worst during hurricanes and nor'easters, though seasonal high tides also cause some flooding concerns. As the Tidal Flooding Subcommittee reported "... tidal events have [had] other significant and negative impacts on Hampton citizens’ quality of life, primarily due to the rise of tidal waters along Hampton’s extensive Chesapeake Bay coastline and tidally influenced rivers and creeks" (Hampton, Va., Waterways Plan, p. 7). Major storms have caused significant losses in the city, such as in 2003, when Hurricane Isabel devastated the Hampton shoreline causing significant flooding, beach erosion, and wind damage throughout the municipality. The tide gauge at Sewell’s Point registered a peak water level of
7.89 ft. MLLW, the second highest on record. The majority of the older homes in the Grandview neighborhood were condemned, while significant flooding occurred in Buckroe, Phoebus, Fort Monroe, and other tidal areas throughout Hampton.

The recent apparent worsening of the frequency and severity of floods has raised the profile of the issue. The result has been a grassroots pressure put on city councils and the mayor. 11,500 structures (30% of land in city) are in the special flood hazard area.

**Adaptations**

**Comprehensive Waterways Management Plan**

Efforts to tackle the problem were launched in November 2010 when the city set about drafting the Comprehensive Waterways Management Plan. The Hampton City Council established a steering committee charged with overseeing the development of the plan through citizen guidance. The charge of the committee was to "[develop] a comprehensive set of goals, strategies and criteria to guide future City policies and investments regarding waterways management" (Hampton, Va., Waterways Plan, p.1). The committee homed on four areas of concern: tidal flooding, stormwater management, shoreline protection, and waterway maintenance and management.

The plan also recognized the significance of sea level rise in exacerbating the city's challenges: "...long term projected sea level rise has the potential to increase the frequency, magnitude and duration of flooding throughout Hampton and to inundate portions of the existing stormwater infrastructure as well as increase shoreline erosion. Increases in sea level will also affect floodplain determinations which will affect Hampton citizens and the pattern of development" (p.2).

The specific responsibilities of the Hampton Waterway Steering Committee were to develop an understanding of the challenges of protecting Hampton’s shorelines from erosion and storm damage to waterfront properties and tidal flooding, including the effect of projected sea level rise; current and future stormwater quality and discharge regulations; management and maintenance of tidal waterways; form and charge subcommittees to investigate and make recommendations for short- and long-term strategies for dealing with each of these issues; work with city staff to develop methods for soliciting public input on these issues; educate the public about the importance of having a comprehensive plan, and draft recommendations for short- and long-term strategies. Once vision statements, goals, and strategies were established, the steering committee developed estimated costs for implementing the strategies, organized the strategies into a time-phased series of actions, and measured preferences for funding mechanisms. An implementation plan was developed that includes projected costs.
**COMPREHENSIVE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Major Action Recommendations**

**Tidal Flooding Committee**

*Near Term*
- Commission LIDAR study
- Undertake comprehensive study to determine Hampton’s flooding vulnerability
- Expand tidal flooding public education effort
- Review building code options to reduce potential flood damage costs

*Longer Term*
- Begin planning modifications to city structures
- Develop home elevation incentive program
- Create purchase program for homes susceptible to significant repetitive flooding damage

**Shoreline Protection Committee**
- Adopt Wetlands Plan
- Appoint a waterways grant manager
- Implement a grassroots lobbying group
- Approve adoption of Sand Dune Resolution
- Adopt Shoreline Maintenance and Protection Plan

**Waterway Management and Maintenance Subcommittee**
- Develop and implement a comprehensive waterway management and maintenance function
- Recognize and minimize the storm water system’s contribution to waterway degradation
- Take the necessary action to correct the historical degradation of Hampton’s waterways
- Make Hampton the preferred waterway destination for the Chesapeake Bay

The plan was accompanied by an extensive public process under the banner "Hampton Engages." The city set up a website (www.hamptonengages.org) to raise awareness and obtain public input. Meeting announcements, documents, and videoed technical briefings were uploaded to the site.

Hampton is actively implementing the recommendations made in the Comprehensive Waterways Management Plan. According to Gail Hicks—Hampton’s acting water resources engineer, floodplain manager, and CRS coordinator—all of the projects in the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2013 and 2014 were recommended by the Waterways Management Plan. Funded projects include efforts at shoreline protection, waterways maintenance, stormwater quality and quantity, and tidal flooding.

Hampton has had a flood district in their zoning ordinance since the mid-1970s. They adopted a new flood zone ordinance in 2011 and it is a part of the zoning ordinance. Staff reported that the amendments were largely made to comply with CRS.

**Appointing a Waterways Grants Manager**

The city also implemented the recommendation to appoint a waterways grants manager. This staff person will be responsible to searching out and applying for funding specifically to implement the recommendations of the waterways plan and other related projects.
The city is also implementing the recommendation in the plan to improve data collection. It is receiving updated LIDAR from the state and is using its own funds to use mobile LIDAR to obtain finished floor elevations of structures.

**Tidal Floodplain Study and Protection Plan**

Hampton has written a number of other related plans. It recently funded and engaged a consultant to begin work on a Tidal Floodplain Study and Protection Plan. The plan will cover impacts and solutions ranging from individual basements to major infrastructure. The plan, a response to worsening tidal flooding, determines the extent of the flooding problem, assesses the impacts, and determines solutions to mitigate or prevent property damage from future tidal flooding events. Detailed neighborhood-level mapping will be made available so that residents will be able to better understand flooding projections in their neighborhoods. The project also includes a significant outreach component.

**Hampton Beachfront and Storm Protection Management Plan**

Additionally, in 2011 the city completed the Hampton Beachfront and Storm Protection Management Plan. This plan is mainly concerned with maintaining the continuous erosion challenges along Hampton's 8.3-mile sandy shoreline along the Chesapeake Bay from Fort Monroe to Factory Point. It assesses various engineering solutions to protect and restore the city's exposed shoreline. The plan considers sea level rise and subsidence in its assessments. Hampton recently implemented part of the plan when it installed three new breakwaters on a public beach. Smaller near-shore breakwaters are costing $500,000 to $600,000 each and are entirely city-funded. The beach has also been renourished, and they hope the breakwaters will minimize the need for maintenance. The city is paying to collect annual data, which it forwards to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for analysis to determine whether the beach needs to be renourished. Hampton also reported that they have a "great working relationship" with the Corps on this project and others. Ms. Hicks said that "the Corps is really committed, through their activities with the Virginia Silver Jackets, to providing assistance to communities related to floodplain management" (Personal Communication, Aug. 28, 2012). Hampton has also been actively engaged in partnerships with neighboring communities. It began a partnership with the city of Newport News to complete a study on Newmarket Creek.
which straddles the border. The Corps obtained a grant for the two cities and they have been sharing data on a study regarding the creek. Partnerships are clearly important to Hampton. Ms. Hicks said that "every community should be looking for ways to partner with other communities...regionally and statewide" (Personal Communication, Aug 28, 2012).