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# The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program: A Case Study in Arlington

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2019 MA Open Space Conference  
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Emily Sullivan, Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent  
Ann LeRoy, Open Space Committee Chair



# The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

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- Administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Grant program that provides support for cities and towns to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects



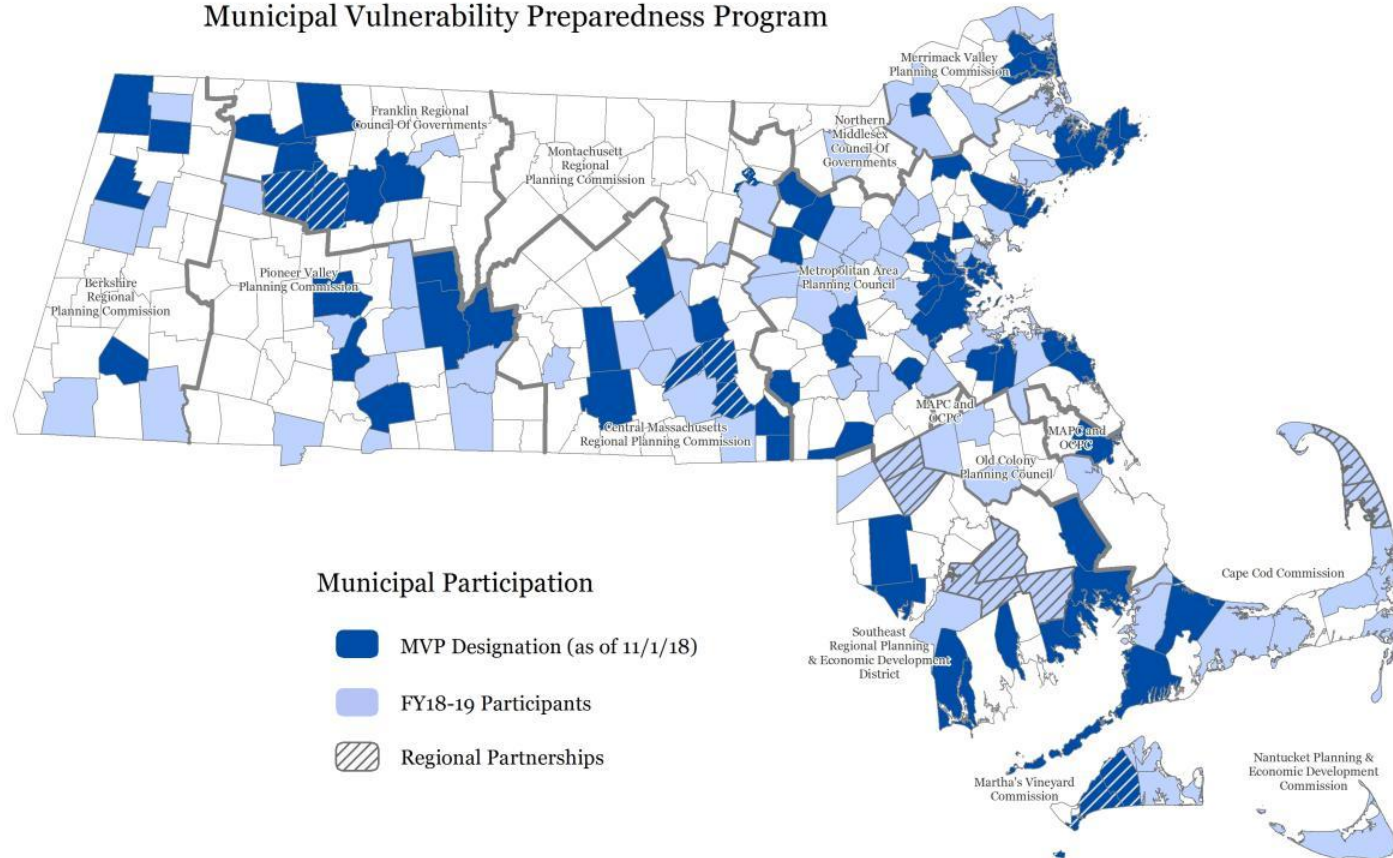
resilient MA

Climate Change Clearinghouse for the Commonwealth

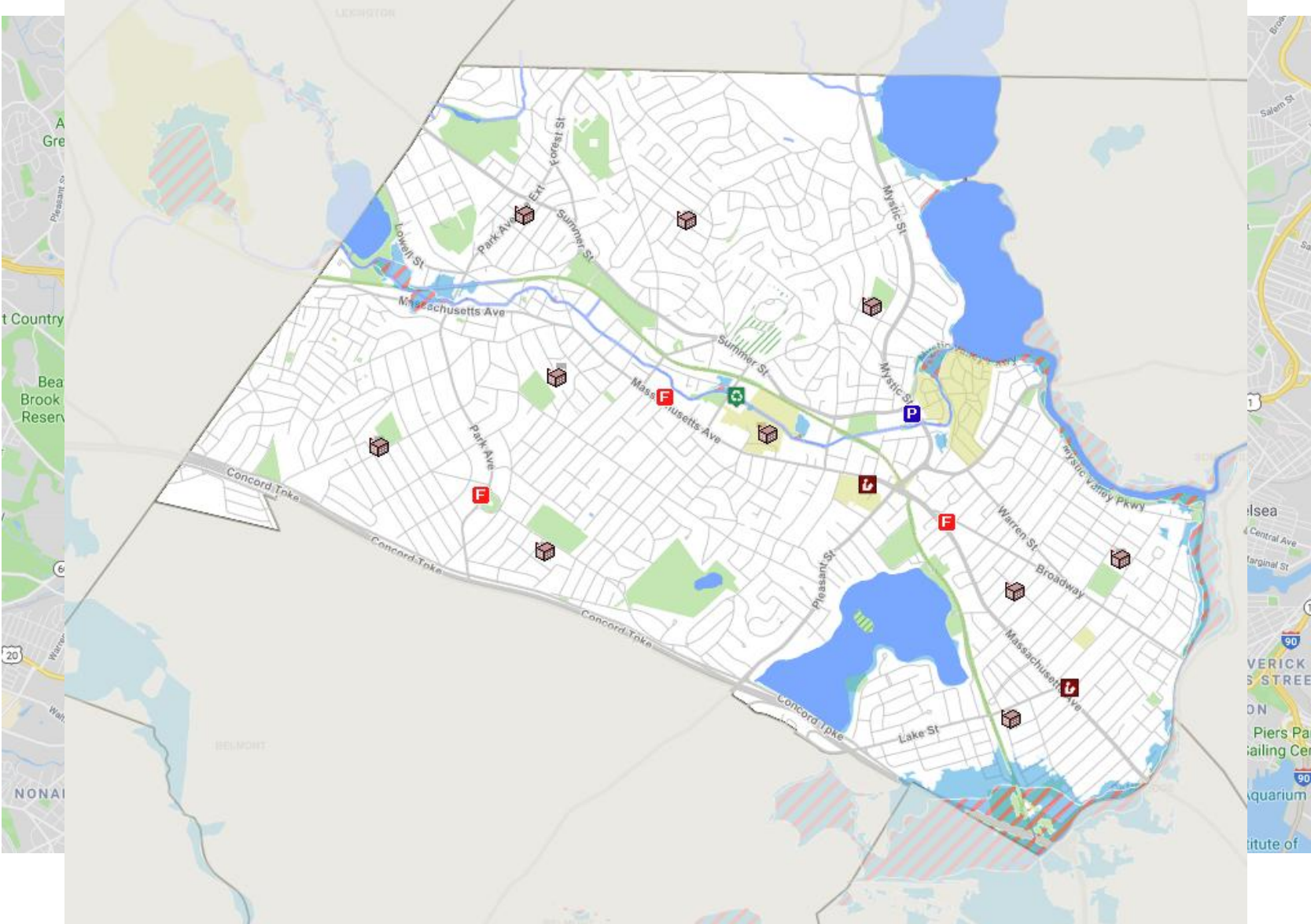


# Benefits of the MVP Designation

## Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



# Arlington: Some Context



# Arlington's Community Resilience Building Workshop

- Received \$23,000 from the MVP planning grant
- Two day workshop: 1/25/2018 and 2/2/2018
- Select Board
- Town Manager
- Planning and Community Development Office
- Health & Human Services
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Recreation Department
- Department of Public Works
- Town committees
- Volunteers
- Watershed association
- Developers
- Businesses



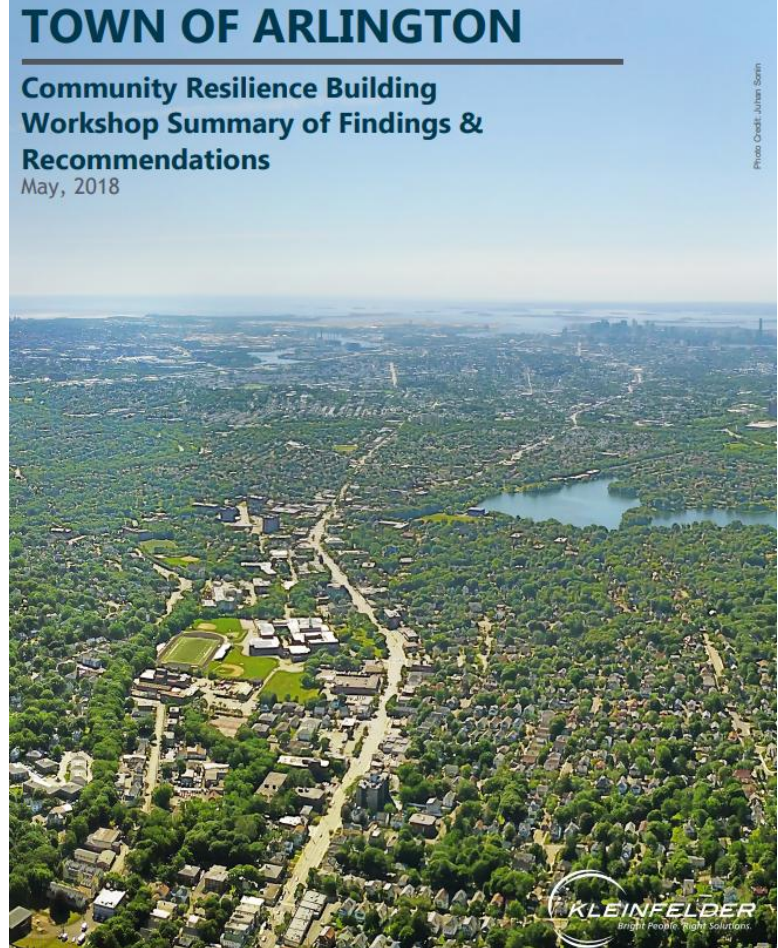
# Arlington's Workshop Findings & Recommendations

## Top Hazards

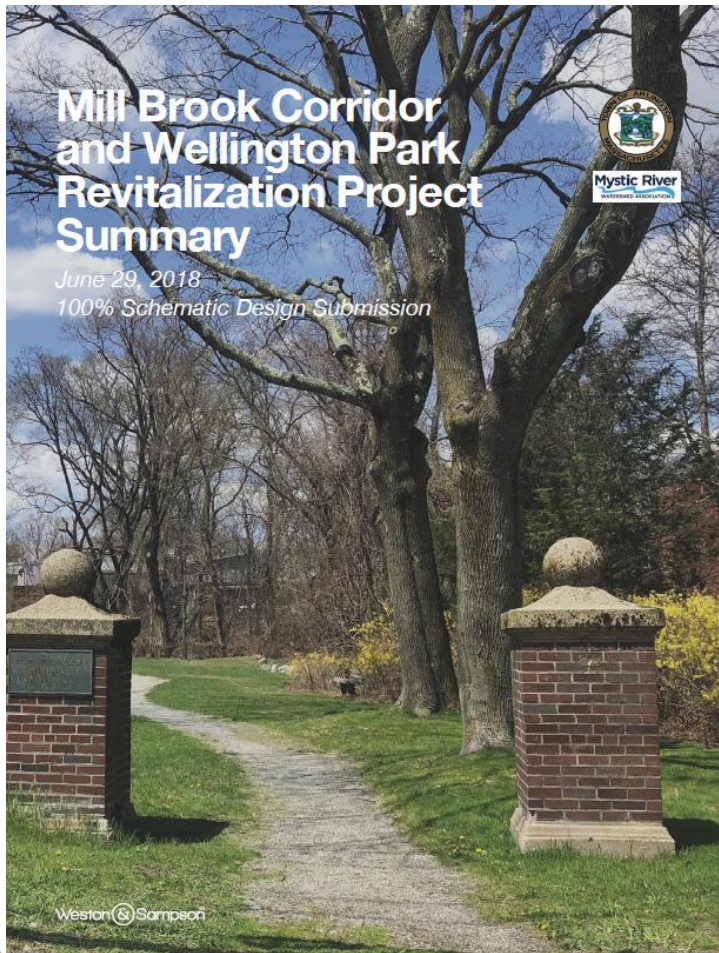
- Extreme heat
- Storm surge & sea level rise
- Heavy rainfall
- Winter storms (snow & ice)
- Drought
- Wind

## Resilience Recommendations

- Multi-benefit solutions (Mill Brook)
- Green infrastructure to address heat and flooding
- Incorporate resilience into big municipal projects



# Arlington's MVP Action Grant



## *“Implement multi-benefit solutions along Mill Brook”*

- Flood mitigation and storage
- Engagement and education of private landowners
- Recreational uses
- ADA improvements
- Water quality
- Invasive plant removal and native plant replacement



# Leveraging Local Funds

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- Community Preservation Act
  - Mill Brook has been an ongoing CPA funded project
- Community Development Block Grant
  - Applied for funding for next phase of park (full loop, more park amenities than flood storage)





# Wellington Park Flood Storage



# Wellington Park Public Engagement

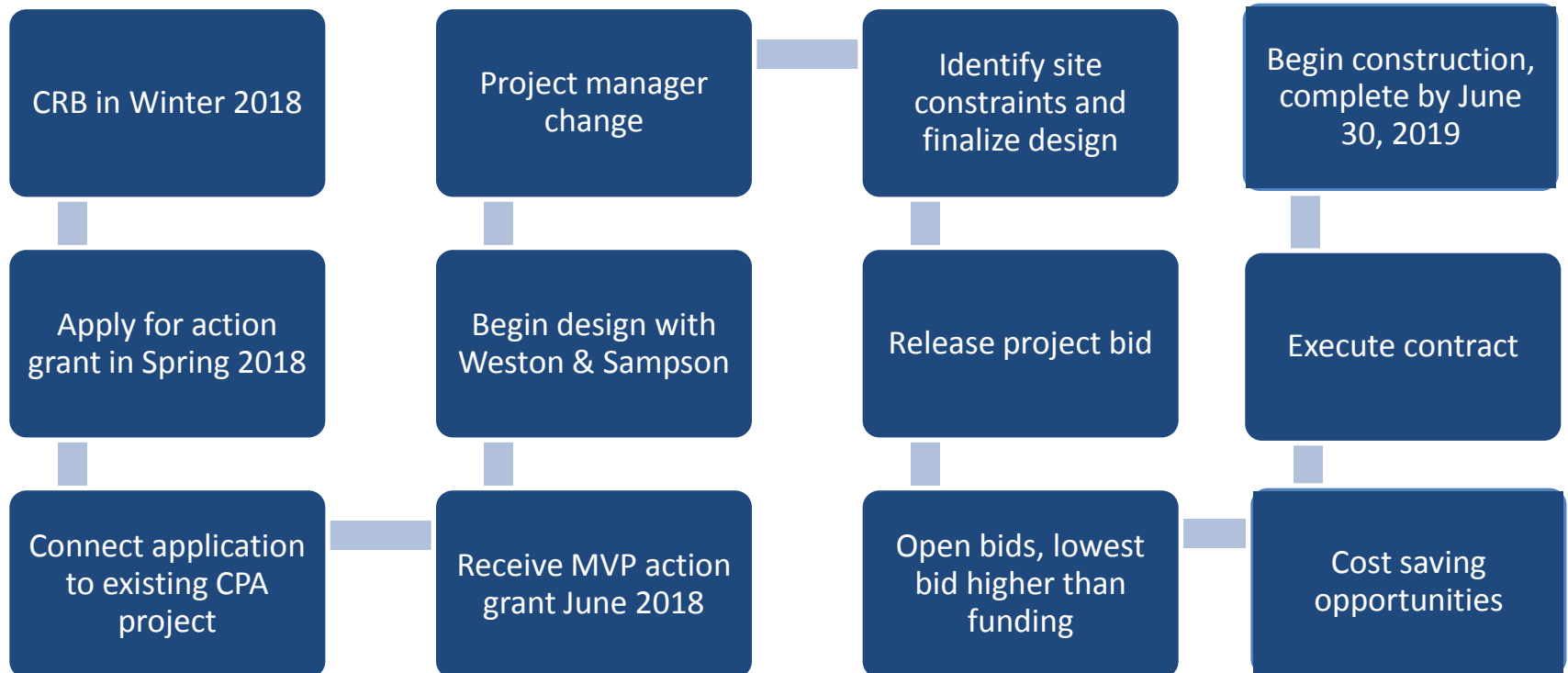
- Abutters Meetings
- Working Group including abutters
- 3 public meetings (March 2018 – June 2018)
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Conservation Commission



# MVP Action Grant: Design and Construction in 1 Year

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- Tight timeline
- Open communication with EOEEA



# FY2020 MVP Funding Opportunities

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- April 19, 2019
  - \$2,000,000 for community action grant
  - \$5,000,000 for regional action grant
- May 3, 2019
  - \$10,000,000 total for all planning grant allocations



# Resilient Mystic Collaborative



- Arlington, Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Medford, Somerville, Winchester, Woburn
- Working groups:
  - Advocacy and Policy
  - Collaborative Governance
  - Lower Mystic Resilient Infrastructure
  - Social Resiliency
  - Stormwater Modeling
  - Upper Mystic Stormwater Management



Photos source: MyRWA

# MVP Influences on Town Plans and Policies

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- Conservation Commission (2018)
  - Town Wetlands Protection Regulations, Section 31: Climate Change Resilience
- Updated Mill Brook Corridor Report (2019)
  - Master Plan (2015) Implementation
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (2020)
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (2022)



# Thank you!

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Emily Sullivan

[esullivan@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:esullivan@town.arlington.ma.us)

781.316.3012

Environmental Planner & Conservation Agent  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
Town of Arlington

