CLIMATE ADDENDUM TO PLYMOUTH OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



Center Hill Beach in Plymouth

Planning for Climate as an Open Space Committee

The Plymouth Open Space Committee (OSC) recently drafted a Climate Change Resiliency Addendum to their Open Space and Recreation Plan. The addendum details how climate change will impact Plymouth's residents, from maintaining good mental health to economic security and protecting freshwater resources to marine aquaculture. The addendum features a matrix developed by the OSC quantifying the relationship between open space objectives and various strategies to fulfil them. Town departments and boards can use the matrix to rank the effectiveness of particular strategies to address climate resilience objectives.

LESSONS LEARNED

Don't reinvent the wheel.
While climate change will impact each town in a unique way, most towns will face many similar challenges. Incorporate models developed by other towns and then customize those to fit your own town's needs.

To download the addendum, click here (or find it on the conference website)





CLIMATE ADDENDUM AND MATRIX OSRP | PLYMOUTH, MA 2021 OPEN SPACE CONFERENCE



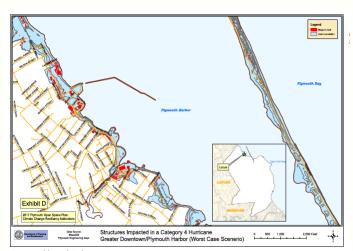
The matrix, available on page 18 of the addendum

MATRIX DEVELOPMENT

To develop the matrix, the OSC team identified 24 climate resilience objectives, and placed them in a row at the left hand column of a grid. They then placed 32 obtainable strategies to meet those objectives along the top of the table, heading up the columns. Each intersection of objectives and strategies was given a value (0, 1 or 2) indicating how effective a strategy addresses a particular objective. By summing the columns, they can determine which strategy provides the greatest potential for meeting multiple objectives. By summing up the rows, they can determine which strategies to employ to meet a particular objective. They can also use the matrix calculations to prioritize strategies leading toward climate resiliency. For example, the objective, "support ecotourism," ranked the highest (with a score of 30) as benefitting from multiple strategies, while the strategy, "conducting outreach and education to encourage specific actions," (score of 39) benefitted the most objectives (see page 18 of the plan).

GAINING SUPPORT

The draft addendum is going through an approval process required by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation Services (DCS). The OSC will present the addendum to the Select Board and several town departments and boards over the next few months, asking each to review the addendum and suggest changes. In addition, OSC is seeking the approval of two local non profit groups involved in climate initiatives. The OSC will then incorporate the suggestions of all of these groups before sending the final addendum, along with each board's approval letter to the DCS for final approval by the Commonwealth.



Projected Cat 4 hurricane impacts on downtown Plymouth from page xiii of the addendum

Many thanks to Sharl Heller of the Plymouth Open Space Committee in assembling this case study. Feel free to contact Sharl with any questions at slheller@comcast.net.











