

NAI Building Blocks

NAI Building Block	Basic	Better	NAI
Hazard Identification and Mapping	Use FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for land use decisions.	Gather and use detailed coastal hazard data (e.g., historic erosion rates, actual observed extents of floodwaters) for land use decisions.	Incorporate coastal hazard data (e.g., erosion rates, vulnerability of environmentally sensitive areas, and sea-level rise rates and impacts) into community-wide planning maps and regulations.
Planning	Use land use planning and zoning through a community master plan.	Develop floodplain management plans that include stormwater management and hazard mitigation measures. Promulgate detailed guidance focusing on reducing flood damage.	Design special area management plans to: protect storm damage and flood control functions of natural resources, promote reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth, and improve protection of life and property in hazard-prone areas.
Regulations and Development Standards	Follow Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program regulations.	Adopt conditions for siting new development. Regulate cumulative, substantial improvements. Revise regulatory tools for addressing erosion along shorelines including: relocation of threatened buildings, building setbacks, beach nourishment and bio-engineering, and stabilization of eroded areas.	Preserve sensitive areas through bylaws and regulations that may: establish maximum densities for development, restrict structures between the shoreline and the setback line, mandate vegetative coastal buffers rather than manmade structures (bulkheads, seawalls, or groins), minimize impervious cover, and preserve stream corridor and wetland buffers. Regulate placement of fill.
Mitigation	Use common practices, such as flood proofing existing structures.	Elevate or relocate buildings. Acquire land. Encourage non-structural methods for shoreline protection.	Stabilize shorelines with vegetation. Prohibit construction in especially damage-prone areas. Prevent filling of wetlands and other lowlands. Nourish beaches where appropriate. Protect watersheds. Monitor corrective efforts. Regulate construction of shore-protection structures.
Infrastructure Siting and Design	Respond to storm events as they occur. After a storm, rebuild/repair to previous condition.	Upgrade damaged facilities to more hazard-resistant standards. Inventory hazard risks of all public buildings. Insure buildings for all hazards (as appropriate). Identify, and if possible, relocate or protect “critical facilities.”	Prohibit major public infrastructure investments in special flood hazard areas. Ensure that roads, sewer lines, and utility upgrades don’t encourage development in hazard-prone areas. Zone to prohibit construction in high-hazard areas. Locate new critical facilities above 500-year floodplain.
Emergency Services	Create and use generic hazard response plan.	Create and test community-wide hazard plans that involve all local boards and departments.	Create plans to ensure that all people who want or need to be evacuated can be moved to safe shelters, and post-disaster plans that improve community flood resistance through: willing land acquisition, determining which structures are “substantially damaged,” and ensuring that appropriate reconstruction meets code requirements. Establish mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.
Public Outreach and Education	Answer questions and provide information as requested by public.	Periodically inform residents of coastal hazards, vulnerability, and mitigation techniques through public workshops, and in forums after storm recovery.	Create comprehensive education and outreach programs using expertise of state and federal agencies (when needed) to encourage community-wide proactive storm preparation. Establish coastal hazard disclosure requirements for property sales.