

<h2>Newark</h2>	<h2>13.5 out of 52</h2>
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In the coming decades Newark will experience sea level rise, groundwater rise, and extreme storms that will affect industrial, commercial, and residential areas. The communities most vulnerable to sea level rise and shallow groundwater rise are located near or on the west side of the railroad tracks that bisect the city. Along the shoreline are a mix of salt ponds and wetlands that provide protection from sea level rise, act as critical habitat, enhance water quality, and provide recreation areas for residents.

Given that residential areas and areas planned for development in Newark will be impacted by groundwater rise and sea level rise in the coming century<sup>1</sup>, Newark should establish flood-resilient development standards and utilize nature-based shoreline resilience solutions. To address stormwater flooding, Newark’s [Green Stormwater Infrastructure \(GSI\) Plan](#) identifies GSI projects, such as green streets projects, that mitigate localized flooding and provide greening benefits. We see an opportunity for Newark to incorporate future storm projections and equity considerations into its prioritization for flood resilience projects.

<sup>1</sup> According to the Ocean Protection Council’s 2024 Sea Level Rise Guidance, sea levels in the Bay can rise by 1.1 ft by 2050 and 6.2 ft by 2100 under a high risk scenario.



### Newark Area 4 Mowry Village Housing

Newark Area 4 is a 500-acre stretch of wetlands and uplands critical to protecting Newark from sea level rise. However, it is under threat of development. The City is considering the [Mowry Village project](#) which would build 200 single-family homes in Area 4. As a [sensitive ecological area](#) that will be inundated [at 3.3 feet of sea level rise](#), Area 4 is not a smart place to build housing. Instead, Newark should focus new developments in high density, mixed use, and transit accessible neighborhoods and restore Area 4 wetlands for open space and recreation. Learn more at [SaveNewarkWetlands.org](#)

## Key Policy & Planning Opportunities

- 1. Restore and protect wetlands:** Promote nature-based solutions, protect critical habitat, and increase Newark’s sea level rise resiliency by preserving and restoring the City’s wetlands. Rezone all wetland areas, including potential buffer zones, as Conservation-Open Space. Prioritize transferring wetlands to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge to ensure no future development can be built.
- 2. Development Design Standards:** Establish design standards, such as minimum base floor elevation, to ensure new developments and infrastructure are resilient to future flood risk. For new private development, implement these standards by incorporating sea level rise and groundwater rise overlay zones in the Zoning Code. For public infrastructure, create flood-resilience design guidelines.

### Alignment with RSAP

Cities are required to create Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plans (RSAP) by 2035 following BCDC’s RSAP guidelines. This report card includes our recommended best practices for creating strong shoreline plans that meet or exceed the RSAP requirements.

The RSAP Guidelines require jurisdictions to include seven "elements", which include key planning steps that are integrated with "strategy standards", or outcomes, that must be achieved within the planning steps. Our policy recommendations align with both RSAP "element" requirements and "strategy standard" recommendations.

<b>Compounding Flood Resilience Score</b>		<b>5.5 out of 29</b>
<b>Highlights</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newark hired a consultant to create a regional Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy.	
<b>Next Steps</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> As part of the SLR Vulnerability Assessment, model the compounded flood risk posed by the interaction between sea level rise, groundwater rise, and stormwater. <input type="checkbox"/> Create design guidelines for capital projects (such as base floor elevation requirements) to ensure that flood resilience and nature-based solutions are prioritized. <input type="checkbox"/> Use existing sea level rise data to establish Shallow Groundwater Rise and Sea Level Rise Overlay Districts and related policies to protect against flooding.	<b>RSAP Alignment</b> The first bullet is a best practice to include in Element C2, the vulnerability assessment. It goes beyond what's required in the RSAP by accounting for stormwater as an additional source of flooding. The second is a best practice to include in Element E1-b (proposed policy changes) and helps achieve Adaptation Standard 8 - "Promote safe, sustainable, and strategic growth and density". The third is a best practice to include in Element E1-a, the proposed land use approach.
<b>Groundwater Rise Resilience Score</b>		<b>0 out of 3</b>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a groundwater rise assessment that identifies the risk posed by buoyancy, seepage, infiltration, liquefaction, corrosion, and potential contamination mobilization.	<b>RSAP Alignment</b> This is a best practice to include in Element C2, the vulnerability assessment.
<b>Sea Level Rise Resilience Score</b>		<b>0.5 out of 4</b>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Protect and restore all existing wetlands in the City's jurisdiction by zoning them as conservation open space for upland migration, flood protection, habitat restoration, public access, and recreation.	<b>RSAP Alignment</b> This is a best practice to include in Element E1-a (the proposed land use approach) and helps achieve Adaptation Standard 5 - "Preserve natural and undeveloped lands".
<b>Green Infrastructure &amp; Stormwater Resilience Score</b>		<b>5.5 out of 10</b>
<b>Highlights</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The GSI Plan identifies opportunities to include GSI in existing development plans, including green streets, and prioritizes GSI projects that provide multiple benefits such as safety, trash reduction, and community enhancement.	
<b>Next Steps</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify communities experiencing heightened flood risk, urban heat, air pollution, and lack of green space to identify priority areas for multi-benefit urban greening projects. <input type="checkbox"/> Update the Storm Drain Master Plan to ensure the storm drain system can accommodate future storm conditions.	<b>RSAP Alignment</b> These policies help the city go beyond Adaptation Strategy 19 (Integrating coastal flood protection with stormwater and riverine flood management) by addressing inland flooding as well as shoreline flooding.
<b>Accountability &amp; Transparency Score</b>		<b>2 out of 6</b>
<b>Highlights</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adaptation strategies are assigned a lead department or agency and a lead staff to oversee the project. Additionally, each adaptation strategy is assigned cost estimates and identifies appropriate funding sources.	
<b>Next Steps</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize adaptation strategies based on an established set of criteria including equity and time-sensitivity. Utilize an equity analysis framework that identifies high-need communities and their priorities.	

**How Scoring Works:** We identified 52 policies that local governments should implement to defend against sea level rise, groundwater rise, and inland flooding. The scores represent how many policies in each category the city has implemented. Partial points may be awarded if a city has implemented a component of a policy but not the full policy.