Coastal and climate hazards like sea level rise, flooding, and storm surge continue to worsen and threaten the Town of Beaufort. The Town is considered a *frontline community* because of its position along the coast and extreme susceptibility to the impacts these hazards bring. Every part of day-to-day life can be interrupted, causing a ripple effect felt throughout the Town.

Planning for these hazards, accounting for future conditions, and developing community and science-driven solutions are vital steps to ensuring the wellbeing and sustainability of our Town. The Town of Beaufort received a grant to participate in the N.C. Division of Coastal Management’s North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP). This exciting new grant program aims improve community resilience to coastal and climate hazards.

**WHAT IS RESILIENCE?** Resilience refers to the ability of a community or system to withstand or “bounce back” from an impact. Here, we’re focusing on climate and coastal resilience, looking at risks to our community from flooding, storm events, and sea level rise. We will be using a triple-bottom-line approach that highlights the social, environmental, and economic impact of these increasing hazards.
The RCCP is organized into four phases:

**PHASE 1**
- Community Engagement; Risk & Vulnerability Assessment

**PHASE 2**
- Planning, Project Identification, & Prioritization

**PHASE 3**
- Engineering & Design

**PHASE 4**
- Implementation

**CURRENT PHASES:** Beaufort has been awarded funding to complete Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP:

**Phase 1: Community Engagement & Risk/Vulnerability Assessment**-
Develop a Community Action Team to champion the effort, set a resilience vision and goals, review existing plans, develop a community engagement strategy, and perform a risk and vulnerability assessment.

**Phase 2: Planning, Project Identification, & Prioritization**- a community- and data-driven process to identify solutions and priority projects.

**DRAFT GOALS AND VISION:** The Town of Beaufort will become coastal North Carolina's leader in enhancing resilience to coastal and climate hazards (including flooding, sea level rise, erosion, and storm surge) by:
- Restoring and protecting natural infrastructure, including the Rachel Carson Reserve and other coastal habitats that provide storm protection and flood reduction benefits;
- Utilizing natural and hybrid shoreline stabilization methods, like living shorelines, to protect against erosion;
- Enhancing built infrastructure to better withstand coastal and climate hazards;
- Engaging key stakeholders and the public, ensuring socially, economically, and/or traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoods receive additional outreach and support;
- Restoring the natural function of the Taylor Creek, Town Creek, and Turner/Gibbs Creek watersheds in which the Town is situated; and
- Explicitly considering coastal and climate hazards in all Town infrastructure planning, construction, maintenance, and budgeting decisions.

**FUTURE PHASES:** Once Phases 1 and 2 are completed, the Town will be eligible to apply for grant funding to complete Phases 3 and 4 - Engineering & Design and Implementation.

**HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?**
We want this to be a collaborative process with YOUR input! Our public meetings will be held on January 27th and March 3rd, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**WHERE DO I GO FOR MORE INFO?**
Visit our webpage at www.beaufortnc.org/planninginspections/page/resilient-beaufort

**WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS OR TO SIGN UP FOR UPDATES?**
Our Town Planner, Sam Burdick, at s.burdick@beaufortnc.org

January 2022