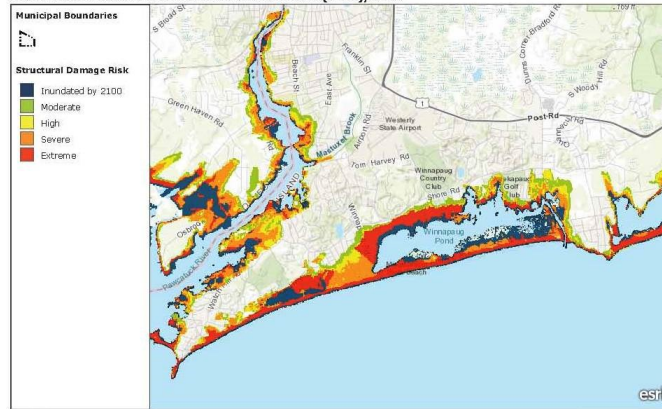


New STORMTOOLS risk and damage app now available to public

A new mobile device app developed by the R.I. Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan (Beach SAMP) team is now available to assist property owners, state agencies, permit applicants, municipal planners, industry users, and the public to view storm risk and damage assessment information on maps for Rhode Island coastal properties in the palm of their hands. The app is available for Android or iOS operating systems.

STORMTOOLS Coastal Environmental Risk Index (CERI), SLR3



A CERI map of the Winauapaug Pond area, showing three feet of sea level rise and structural damage, including inundation (Source: CERI maps)

The STORMTOOLS Risk and Damage Assessment App, also referred to as the Coastal Environmental Risk Index (CERI) App, was developed this year by the CRMC’s Beach SAMP team, led by CRMC Executive Director Grover Fugate, Dr. Malcolm Spaulding, Professor Emeritus, University of Rhode Island Ocean Engineering, and the URI Environmental Data Center (EDC) to provide coastal hazard information on a mobile device platform for ease of use. The app provides access to flood risk data and related damages for a user-selected structure based on the CERI model and the STORMTOOLS Design Elevation maps.

Utilizing the mobile device’s GPS location or a user-selected location and the structure’s characteristics as classified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from their North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (2017), the app will return important information for the site such as elevation, the FEMA base flood elevation (BFE), and the STORMTOOLS flood surge depth (including wave height) for the selected sea level rise (options are present-day or zero, two, three, five, seven, and 10 feet).

Users can select the structure type and sea level rise scenario for the given location and then compare the FEMA BFE (which does not include future conditions from sea level rise) and the STORMTOOLS BFE that considers future conditions to determine any necessary increase in structural elevation to minimize risk from coastal storms into the future. The CERI App is publicly available at no cost to the users.

Instructions on the app can be found on the CRMC web site. To download the app for your phone, simply go into your app store, search for STORMTOOLS, and download the free app.

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Coastweeks focuses on sea level rise in urban landscape

Walking along the river in Downtown Providence one unseasonably warm day in late October, it’s clear that the impacts of past storms and expected future sea level rise is woven into the urban landscape of the city.

The recent walking tour of the river and city was one of the Coastweeks events organized by the CRMC and Rhode Island Sea Grant and the Coastal Resources Center at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography. The tour began at the Providence hurricane barrier.

Providence has a history with storms and flooding. CRMC’s Coastal Geologist Janet Freedman provided the 30 attendees with maps showing the area in which they were standing, which would have been under water during Hurricane Carol. The hurricane barrier, completed in 1966, is comprised of river gates, earthen and rock dikes along each shore, vehicular gates along the shores where roads pass through the dikes, canal gates at the west end of the barrier, and a pumping station.



The pedestrian bridge (photo by RISG)

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