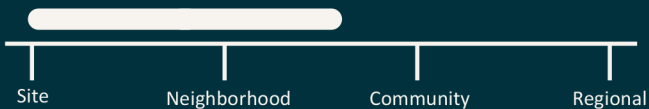


Location

Sawyer Road, Scarborough & Cape Elizabeth

SCALE



Storm surge across Sawyer Road. Photo by PPH.

DESCRIPTION:

Sawyer Road crosses the Spurwink River in tidal areas of the Spurwink Marsh and connects the towns of Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough. The structure was built in 1997 and passes an overage of 1080 daily vehicular trips. The road is overtopped and flooded during certain high tides, in which the road is closed and traffic is rerouted. The crossing infrastructure has localized erosion due to tidal conveyance inadequacies, which impacts the marsh habitat.

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY SITE?

Sawyer Road has been evaluated by both municipalities and could potentially showcase an example of retreat as a strategy to the hazards of climate change. There is also significant potential for future marsh habitat from marsh migration associated with sea level rise.

TRAVEL CORRIDORS & INFRASTRUCTURE:

The road and associated infrastructure is within the FEMA floodplain and vulnerable to flooding from 1.5 feet of sea level rise.

HABITAT:

Sea level rise will force marsh migration towards Sawyer Road and surrounding development. The site also hosts habitat for tidal waterfowl and wading birds.

COASTAL HAZARDS

Two icons: a stylized wave representing 'Storm Surge' and a house with water rising around it representing 'Sea Level Rise'.

VULNERABILITIES

Three icons: a bridge representing 'Coastal Infrastructure', a flame representing 'Habitat', and a road with a cloud representing 'Travel Corridors'.

STRATEGY TYPE

Three icons: a checklist with a checkmark representing 'Policy/Program', a plant in a circle representing 'Nature-based', and a plant on a structure representing 'Hardscape'.

STRATEGIES:

- Retreat - road removal and marsh restoration

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