

CREATE *Resilience*

EASTON – WILSON – BANGOR



Building a Community Vision of Resilience

CREATE Resilience

CREATE Resilience, a four-year project running from October 2018 through 2022, is designed to engage rural, urban and suburban residents in the Lehigh Valley, facing shared and diverse hazards and risks, in a comprehensive education and action initiative, with two goals: **1) improved environmental hazards literacy, and 2) increased engagement in resiliency actions by youth and adults in the region.**

CREATE Resilience will share the findings of a newly updated regional hazard mitigation plan to residents of three hazard-prone communities (Easton, Wilson, and Bangor School District Areas). Hazards, such as flooding and extreme heat, create serious risks for communities in the Lehigh Valley. The LV Hazard Mitigation Plan, recently updated by Northampton County EMA, details those hazards and identifies steps for mitigating risks in our communities. Using this data as well as resources from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, CREATE resilience will drive community-wide engagement in hazards education and mitigation activities.

Partners include the National Weather Service (NWS) Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center and Mt. Holly, NJ Weather Forecast Office, and Weather Prediction Center, as well as Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Northampton County Emergency Management Agency, Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, Lafayette College, and FEMA Region 3 Mitigation Division.



TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES:

Year 1: Needs Assessment and Hazard Education

- Kick-off presentations summarize the findings of the new LV Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Three public education events focus on priority hazards for each community.
- Youth ambassadors events to gather stories and photographs from residents about their history with hazards.
- Youth ambassadors photo-document hazards/successful mitigation efforts on a resiliency tour.
- Risk to Resiliency Forum presenting the year's findings and photo and stories exhibit at NNC.

Year 2: Mitigation Strategies

- Training for the community highlights the range of mitigation strategies available for regional hazards.
- A series of "Hazard Cards," that detail the scientific nature of area hazards, as well as successful models for mitigation, will be created and distributed.
- NNC will hold a Community Mapping workshop and preparedness event focused on household preparedness.
- Each community will have a Risk to Resiliency Strategies forum to identify key mitigation strategies that will be prioritized.

Year 3: Community Vision of Resiliency

- Partnering artists will create three community-specific portable murals that represent the range of hazards and strategies for resilience identified within each community.
- A "Resiliency Guide," a booklet that documents the range of hazards, historical photos and stories, and steps to live more safely alongside the hazards, will be created for each community.
- An educational event further explores options for mitigation based on strategies identified by each community.
- Residents will be able to provide feedback to area decision-makers about community priorities at a final forum and discussion of the Vision of Resiliency Mural.

Year 4: Dissemination and Evaluation of Outcomes

- NNC will develop a short Science on a Sphere film about the CREATE Resilience process.
- Lessons learned throughout the project will be shared with other communities via a guidebook that accompanies the SOS film.
- A final report on community priorities and vision will be delivered and presented to each community.

This brochure was prepared by the Nurture Nature Center, Inc., under award NA18SEC0080005 from the Environmental Literacy Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the U.S. Department of Commerce.



GET INVOLVED!

CREATE Resilience is a multi-disciplinary collaboration between youth and community to increase knowledge of weather and climate science, the risks from local hazards, and strategies for hazard mitigation, while storytelling and co-creating a vision for community resilience. In addition to local partners including NWS weather forecasters, Emergency Managers, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, Lafayette College, and area school districts, high school students and community residents play an important role in this project.

High School Students - Apply to be a CREATE Resilience Youth Ambassador for year two of the project. Applications will open in Fall 2019.

Adults and Families - We need to hear from you about your experiences with local hazards and vision for future resiliency!

Please take our short online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/CREATEResilience> by February 15th to be entered to win a basket of treasures from local organizations and businesses. The story-gathering event, end of year forums, and educational workshops are all great opportunities to make your voice heard.

Please visit <http://nurturenaturecenter.org/> and follow Nuture Nature Center on Facebook for updates and more opportunities to participate.



CREATE Resilience is a project of the Nuture Nature Center, Inc. funded through a federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Education.



About NOAA Environmental Literacy Grants

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Literacy Program supports programs that educate and inspire people to use Earth systems science to improve ecosystem stewardship and increase resilience to environmental hazards through informed decision making.



About Nuture Nature Center

Nuture Nature Center (NNC) is a science-based community center in Easton, PA, developed in 2007 in response to the repetitive flooding along the Delaware River. More than a decade since its founding in the wake of these events, NNC has undertaken numerous regional flood risk education projects, education initiatives and social science research studies about hazards and risk communication. NNC has worked within the informal science education community to create a nationally disseminated model of community dialogue, *From Risk to Resiliency*, designed to engage residents in discussions with community leaders about strategies for addressing local environmental risks. CREATE Resilience is the culmination of those strands of work, and builds upon the efforts of NNC, as well as partnering communities' efforts to improve the effectiveness of their hazard planning response.

Nuture Nature Center
518 Northampton Street, Easton, PA
610-253-4432 www.nurturenaturecenter.org

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