

Workshop Agenda

1. Introductions & Welcome
2. Long Island Resilience Projects & Fowler's Beach
3. What is Resilience Planning?
4. **Discussion: Community Values and Priorities**
5. Technical Assessment Findings & Questions
6. What's Next? Project Funding and Implementation
7. Preliminary Community Survey Responses
8. **Discussion: Fowler's Beach Resilience Strategies**
9. Closing Remarks

Planning for a Resilient Coast

Long Island | Fowler's Beach
Community Workshop

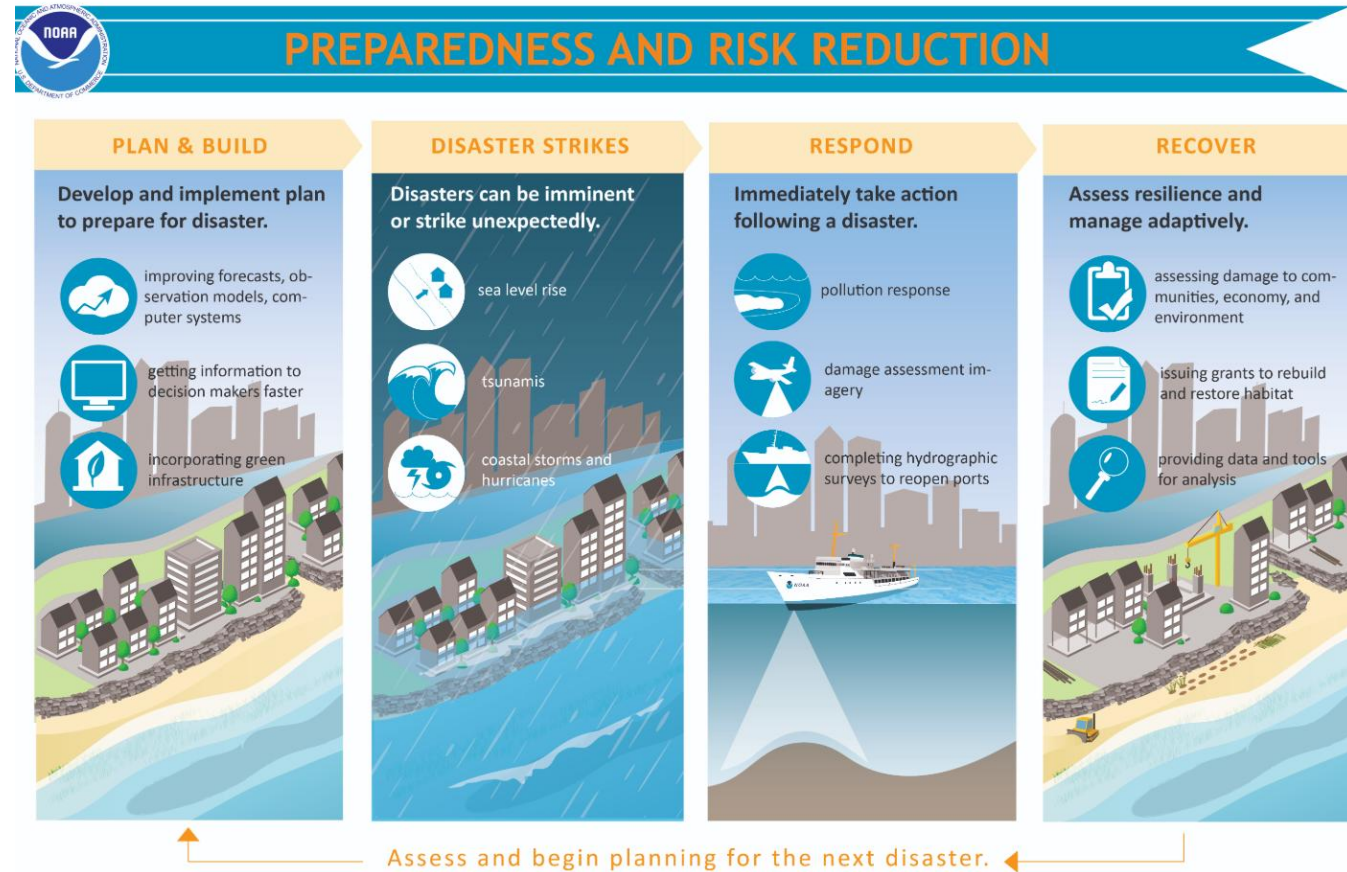
August 27, 2026



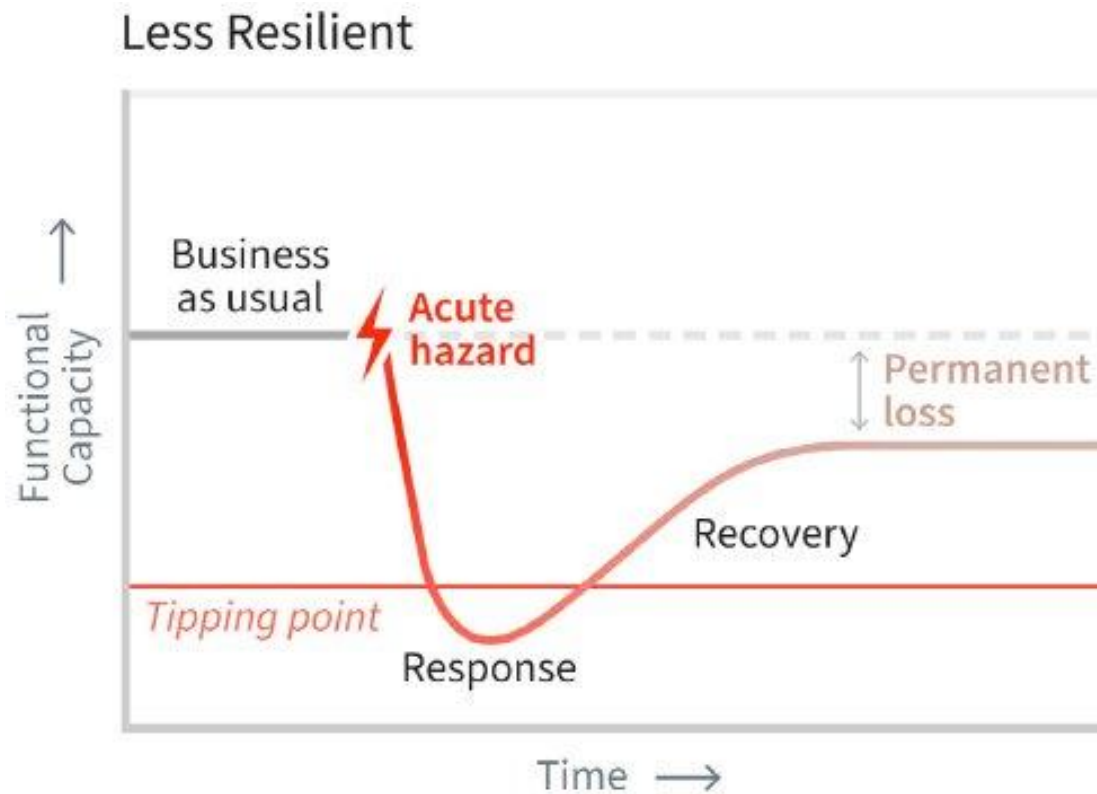
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COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

What is Resilience?

- **Withstanding** the impacts of extreme events and changes over time
- **Recovering** quickly and effectively after hazards, while minimizing long-term damage to people, property, and ecosystems
- **Adapting** to new conditions and maintaining essential functions



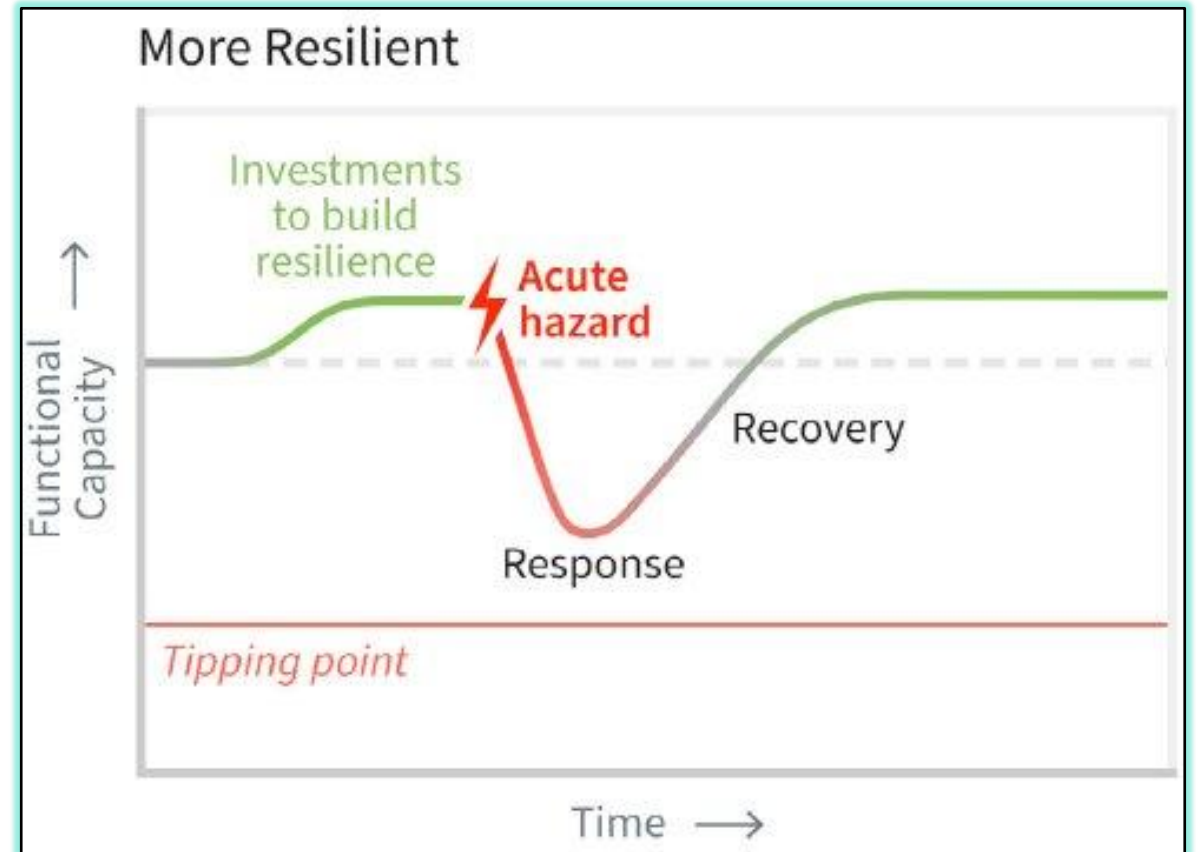
Why does resilience planning matter?



1. Business as usual
2. Acute hazard
3. Response
4. Recovery
5. Permanent loss

❖ A less resilient community experiences a larger drop in function and a slower or incomplete recovery after a major storm.

Why does resilience planning matter?



- ❖ Resilience determines how much a community is impacted by an event and to what level it can recover afterward.

Planning for Changing Conditions

**8 inches
of SLR**

Maine's climate plan reports 8 inches of sea level rise observed to date, with 1 foot of SLR expected to increase nuisance flooding over 15x

**1.5 feet
SLR by
2050**

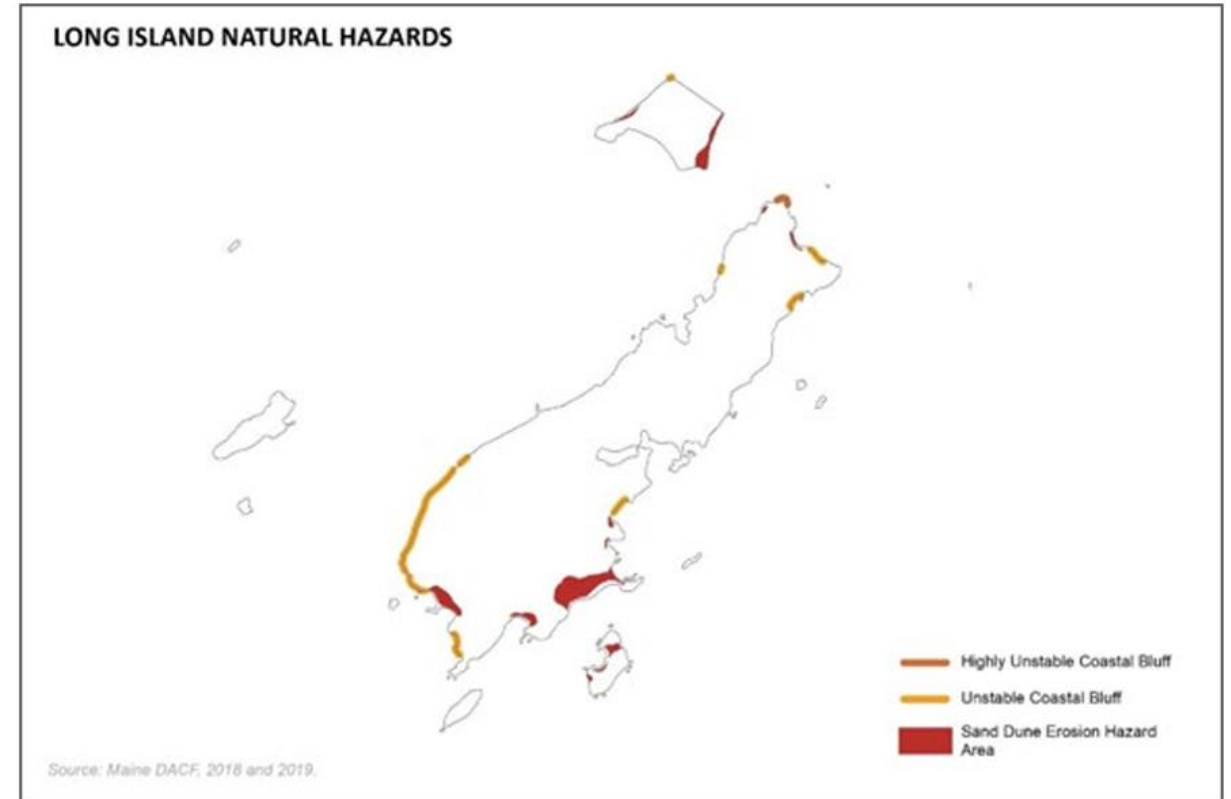
**3.9 feet
SLR by
2100**



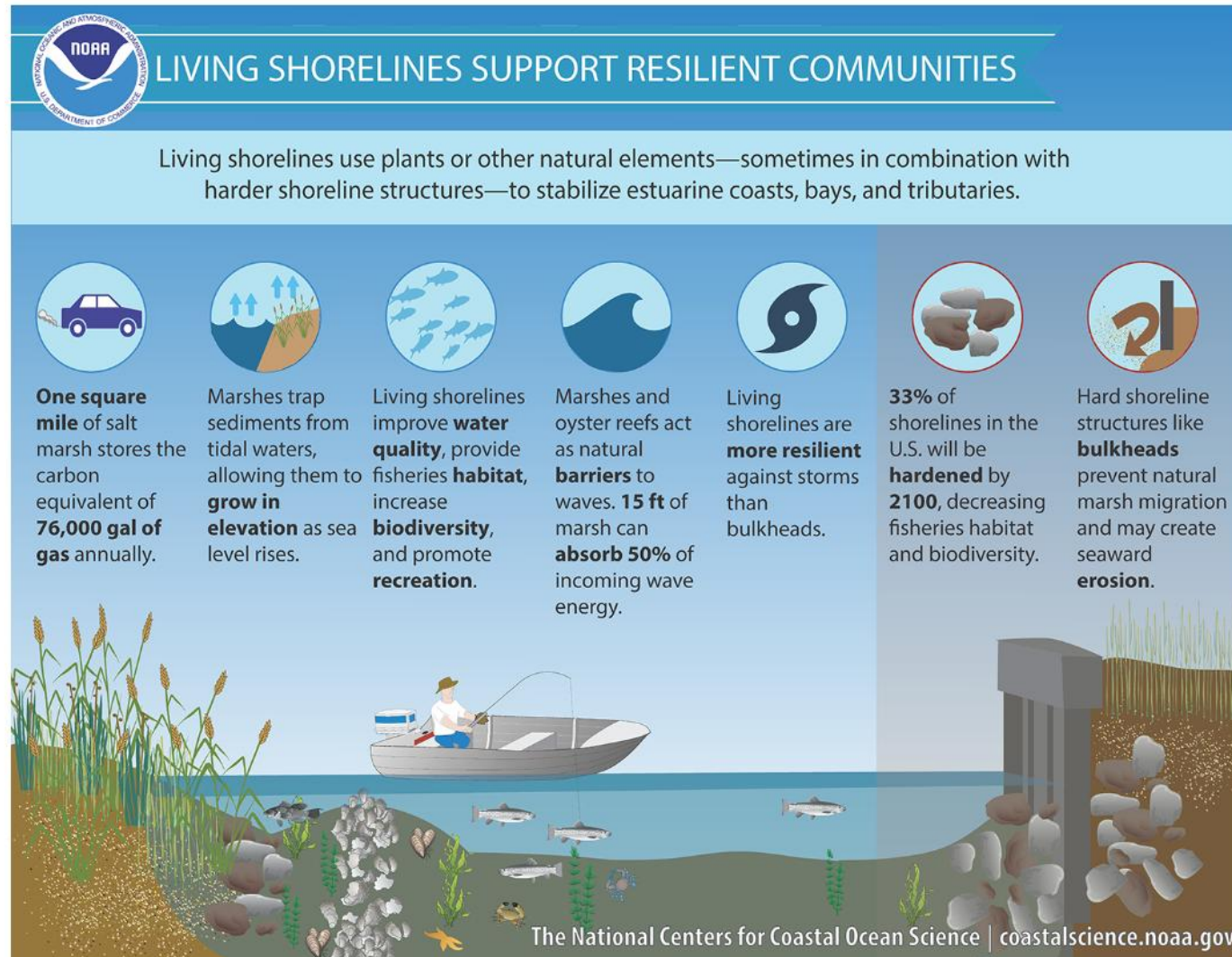
Long Island Coastal Hazards

- Sea level rise
- Storm surge and coastal flooding
- Beach and dune erosion
- Dune instability

The Town's Comprehensive Plan identifies Fowler's Beach, Wreck Cove, and South Beach as areas most vulnerable to dune erosion.



Using Natural Systems to Build Coastal Resilience



Living shorelines can provide many benefits to coastal communities. Credit: NOAA.

What are nature-based solutions?

Nature-based solutions:

- Utilize natural features and processes to help reduce coastal risks
- Provide benefits for people and ecosystems
- Look to work with coastal processes rather than against them
- Can provide cost-savings over time

Examples:

- Combining native plants and natural materials to help stabilize shorelines and reduce erosion
- Introducing sand or fencing to support dune recovery
- Preserve space for wetlands to move inland

Case Study: Blue Hill

The challenge:

- 1,500+ linear feet of eroding shoreline, including unstable bluff and stream bank

The approach:

- The project team implemented a multi-zone living shoreline that included marsh grasses, pinned logs, root wads, and coir lifts filled with organics

Key elements:

- This project worked with the shoreline, combining living materials and organic structural elements
- Following winter storm flooding in 2024, the structures and marsh restoration remained intact



*Stabilized bluff and restored streambank.
Photo Courtesy of Nathan Robbins.*

Case Study: Popham Beach State Park

The challenge:

- Severe storms in early winter 2023 eroded sand dunes

The approach:

- The project team tested the use of used Christmas trees to trap windblown sand and tide sand deposits

Key elements:

- This approach worked with natural processes to allow dune vegetation to re-establish
- Later storms in 2023 and 2024 once again impacted the dunes



Photo 1 (July, 17, 2024) Looking east at center beach at trees fourth months after placement. A fourth row was added and is almost completely covered. Note dune grass growth. N. Whiteman, MGS

What matters most to Long Island?



There's no one size fits all solution, as different hazards and priorities require unique strategies

What should guide decisions at Fowler's Beach?

- What do we want to protect?
- What are we willing to see change?
- What principles should guide decisions when there are tradeoffs?

Breakout Groups:

- Split into equal groups
- Each group will have one lead facilitator and one designated reporter

Reminders

Ground Rules

- Everyone's unique perspective is welcome
- Listen with curiosity and respect, even when you disagree
- Speak from your own experience and perspective
- Share the time so all can participate
- Assume positive intent and seek to understand before responding
- Focus on ideas and issues, not individuals

Comprehensive Plan Values

- Resilient
- Equitable
- Livable
- Resourceful
- Community Spirit

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From Planning to Implementation

Preliminary Design:

Tighe & Bond
Technical Report

**Select
alternative to
move forward**



**Final design and
permitting**

**Construction and
Implementation**

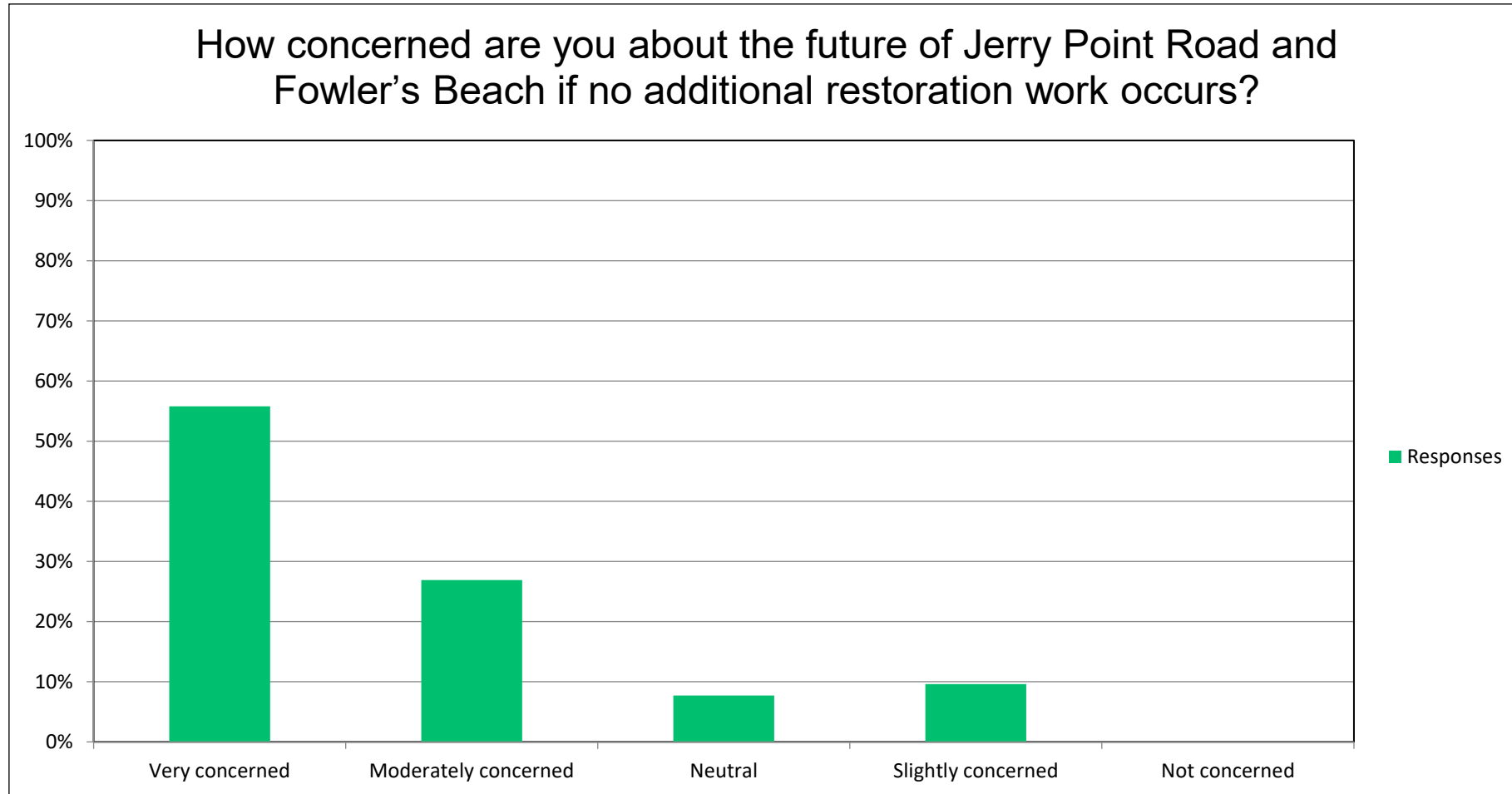
**Maintenance and
monitoring**



Potential Funding Opportunities

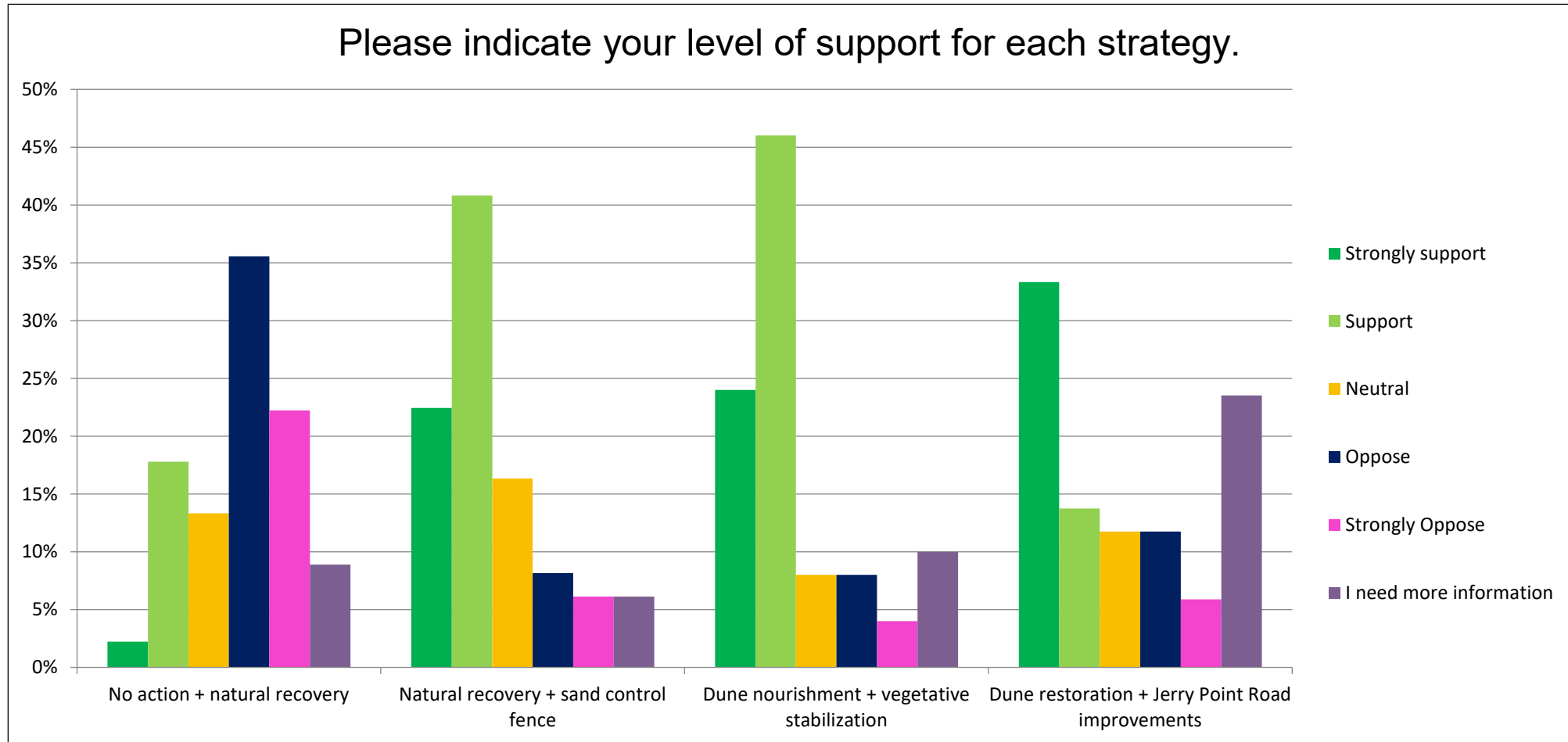
- Fowler's Beach:
 - Multiple funding sources may be needed, and different funding sources can support different project phases
 - Submitted MIAF grant application for final design and construction
 - Additional state and federal funding (i.e. future DEP Dune Restoration grants, NOAA, NFWF)
 - Additional Resilience Funding:
 - Community Action Grants (CRP)
 - Maine Coastal Program
 - Federal grants (i.e., National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)
- ❖ Many funding sources are placing a greater emphasis on **nature-based solutions**

Preliminary Community Survey Responses



Preliminary community survey responses. 52 total respondents.

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Exploring Options for Fowler's Beach



- What are the preferred strategies?
- What concerns do you have?
- What tradeoffs are acceptable?
- What questions do you still have?
- Which strategies align with the values discussed during the first breakout discussion?

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Thank you for participating!

Your input will help shape the future of Fowler's Beach.

Before you go:

1. **Share your preference:** Visit the interactive poster to share which resilience strategy you support.
2. **Complete the Community Survey:** Scan the QR code or take a paper copy.
3. **Stay connected and informed:** Visit the Town website for updated project information.

Community Survey:

