

Find this online: floodready.vermont.gov/info

Safety for Friends, Family, and Neighbors

Make sure your community is on the right track by considering how to promote flood safety for ALL.

Environmental Justice is a term that describes the need to create communities that prioritize the well-being of all without disproportionately exposing anyone (based on national origin, income, etc.) to environmental hazards such as pollution or natural disasters.

Social Vulnerability is a term used to characterize factors such as poverty or difficulty accessing transportation that “may weaken a community’s ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in a disaster” (“CDC/ASTDR Social Vulnerability Index”).

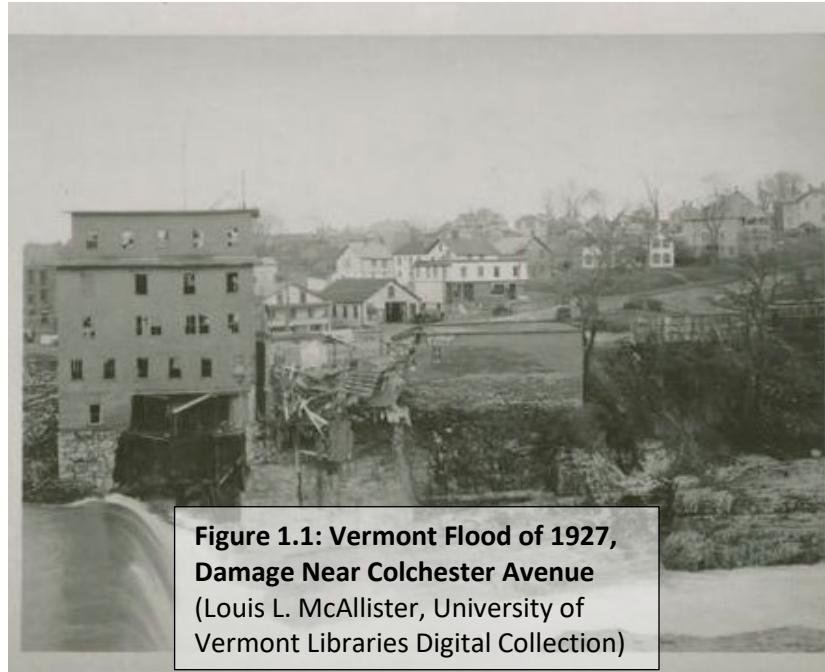


Figure 1.1: Vermont Flood of 1927, Damage Near Colchester Avenue
(Louis L. McAllister, University of Vermont Libraries Digital Collection)

Natural hazards such as flooding do not impact all people equally.



Persons With No
Prior Knowledge of
How to Determine a
Property's Flood
Risk



People With
Limited English
Proficiency



Residents
Who Live in
Rental Units



Black, Indigenous,
and People of
Color (BIPOC)



Persons Living in
Manufactured
Homes



Residents on Fixed-
Incomes/Earning a
Lower-Income

Each of the groups above may face disproportionate risks due to flooding, as well as many other groups that are not listed. For a more comprehensive explanation of why these groups may be more vulnerable to flooding visit [INSERT LINK TO FLOODREADY EJ PAGE]

dec.vermont.gov/watershed/rivers
www.floodready.vt.gov



No Adverse Impact (NAI):
The actions of one property owner
should not adversely impact the
rights of other property owners.



Figure 2.1: Tropical Storm Irene,
Route 12 Damage (Berlin, VT)
(Toby Talbot, National Public Radio)

Adopt No Adverse Impact (NAI) Development Standards:

- **Create a community where flood safety is the priority.**
- According to FEMA, “The philosophy of no adverse impact (NAI) encourages individuals and communities to avoid development that would cause flooding of neighbors or neighboring communities. **Be a good neighbor.**
- Minimize the impact of flooding by decreasing flood damages in your community and **increasing safety for all.**

Why Care?

1. Environmental justice is an issue of safety.

Making sure that all people have adequate protection from flood hazards regardless of race, income, etc. is the bare minimum. Keeping your community safe should be a priority.

2. Seeking creative solutions encourages growth.

Flood equity is a complex issue that requires persistence and innovation to achieve growth at the community level. Does your community clearly acknowledge and address the need for equitable floodplain management and inclusive policies?

3. Flood events are predicted to become more frequent in the coming years.

What is your community doing to address this increased risk? Who in your community may be particularly vulnerable to the increased occurrence of natural hazards?

4. Planning with the future in mind is the right thing to do.

How does your community address the potential impacts of new development on other community members? Will certain groups be at higher risk of flood hazards as a result of new development?

Safe Communities are Strong Communities.

To learn more, check out:

- Link to EJ page on FloodReady <https://floodready.vermont.gov/safe>
- ASFPM's [No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management](#) webpage
- Stephen DeBerry's TEDTalk:
[Why the "wrong side of the tracks" is usually the east side of cities](#)

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.
CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index.
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>