

RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Management should continue to monitor the effectiveness and reach of its current place-based messaging program, Eastwick Alerts. Consider expanding the program to include communication on hazardous air quality information (considering the proximity of local junkyards) and other industrial accidents.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING POLICIES & INCENTIVES

In partnership with the County, State, and environmental organizations, the City needs to incentivize and prioritize investments in environmental monitoring given Eastwick's proximity to major industrial hazards and polluters like the Philadelphia International Airport. The City should continue to monitor facilities' adherence to EPA-set standards for industrial pollution and provide robust information on its website.

EASTWICK ALERTS

Eastwick Alerts is a pilot place-based program and part of the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management's free emergency alert system, ReadyPhiladelphia.

It sends alerts to Eastwick residents on upcoming storms that may result in flooding and of any current flooding as well as any recovery information.

To sign up for alerts: create a ReadyPhiladelphia account online or text READYPHILA to 888-777, and select "Eastwick" from subscription options.

STAYING IN PLACE

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT MEASURES

The City should enforce the Fair Housing Ordinance and work with local groups like Eastwick United Community Development Corporation to help educate tenants and landlords on their rights and responsibilities. Identify priority neighborhoods where action is needed to preserve affordable housing for existing low- to middle-income residents.

FAIR AND SAFE HOUSING PROGRAMS

The City should continue to expand access to its housing programs, such as Philly First Home, which offers assistance grants for first-time home buyers. The City should also allocate additional funding to address substandard housing, home rehabilitation and flood mitigation efforts. Residential redevelopment should be incentive only on upland, vacant sites that are not vulnerable to flooding.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & LAND INITIATIVES

The City should include access to high quality job opportunities and job training for any new developments in Eastwick, prioritizing local residents for jobs. It should further initiate a working group to anticipate growing employment sectors and work with local academic institutions and employers to provide periodic skills training and education at all age levels.

PHYSICAL INTERVENTIONS

GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

The City should establish policies that require any new impervious surface to be offset with Green stormwater infrastructure. In collaboration with the Philadelphia Water Department, the City should develop a local Green stormwater infrastructure plan that works in conjunction with other flood mitigation measures in place, like the Cobbs Creek Levee, and identify incentivization tools and additional funding through grants for implementation.

UPLAND MITIGATION OF CREEKS AND STREAMS

The City should coordinate with upland townships and counties to implement the Darby Creek River Conservation Plan. Prioritize conservation, restoration, and green infrastructure throughout the watershed.

IMPROVED FLOODPLAIN CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

The City should set more stringent standards for municipal projects and new development, like limiting new construction within the 1% (100-year) FEMA floodplains. It can implement tools and incentives for private landowners and developers to discourage building in the floodplain. The City should also periodically review floodplain and building elevation standards against the most current FEMA flood predictions and risk data to update standards as needed.

STORM DRAIN INFRASTRUCTURE & MAINTENANCE

The City should study existing stormwater infrastructure capacity and review past flood and overflow events to identify where storm drain infrastructure needs to be updated. Support public works, streets, and other government department training and maintenance programs.

INDUSTRY

ARMOR, RAISE, PROTECT

The City should evaluate facilities with the capabilities to enact near-term protection plans and incentivize retrofit programs.

EVACUATION ROUTES & LOCAL RECOVERY PLANS

The City should work with local residents to understand current obstacles to access for evacuation routes, as past flood events have inundated local roads before. Establish a local recovery and emergency response plan specific to Eastwick, including information on gathering places and disaster relief. Review current evacuation routes alongside state and industrial facility evacuation plans and facilitate outreach programs with the public to ensure all residents have the most current information.

SITE-SPECIFIC DECOMMISSION PLANNING

The City should plan for the eventual closure and/or redevelopment of the major fossil fuel facilities in the community.

