How NbS solutions can be compared to traditional infrastructure performance?

Workshop 3B: Monitoring efficacy of Nature Based Solutions 26 May 2022

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# Monitoring, managing performance of NbS

- All interventions require monitoring
- Benefits of NbS change overtime because of natural processes
- Monitoring plan should reflect project goals, stakeholder interests



Bridges, T. S., J. K. King, J. D. Simm, M. W. Beck, G. Collins, Q. Lodder, and R. K. Mohan, eds. 2021. *International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management*. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.



## What metrics to monitor?

- Conceptual model to assess NbS benefits & application to risk reduction and benefits
- Useful model to identify metrics to monitor
- Identify metrics early in planning process to incorporate in adaptive management plan



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## Metrics for flood/erosion risk reduction



## **Metrics for flood/erosion risk reduction**

- Shoreline change, stabilized beaches
- Stable, growing vegetation
- Reduced wave overtopping, flood frequency
- Long-term \$ savings in cleanup, maintenance, reconstruction







## Metrics for co-benefits (challenging)

#### Ecosystem

- Filter stormwater runoff
- Habitat creation
- Bank stabilization

#### Societal

- Aesthetics, tourism
- Recreation, access to shore
- Waterfront land/property







#### **Rock Sills**

A hard engineering structure that runs parallel to the shoreline. Rock sills help reduce wave energy and storm surge impact.

#### https://www.mahonebaylivingshoreline.com/

#### **Tidal Wetland**

Fills the area between the rock sill and the shoreline with planted native species. Tidal wetlands naturally filter stormwater runoff and reduce storm surge and wave energy. They additionally create valuable coastal habitat for fish and bird species.

#### Vegetated Bank

Graded areas planted with native shrubs and herbaceous perennials. Vegetated banks help to stabilize the soil.

MNAI example





#### Flood damage



#### Toolbox work-flow



#### Interactive Visualization of wave propagation





## Summary for discussion

### Comparing NbS to traditional infrastructure requires metrics





Flood/erosion risk reduction	Ecosystem	Societal
<ul> <li>Shoreline change</li> <li>Vegetation cover</li> <li>Overtopping</li> <li>Flood frequency (eg MNAI tool)</li> <li>\$ savings in maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Vegetation cover</li> <li>Filter stormwater runoff</li> <li>Habitat creation</li> <li>Bank stabilization</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Aesthetics, tourism</li> <li>Recreation, access to shore</li> <li>Waterfront land/property</li> </ul>
Relatively easier to assess	Challenging – requires definition at planning stage	