



Afternoon Site Visits Thursday, October 22 & Friday, October 23

Site visits will give participants the opportunity to learn from innovative resiliency and sustainability projects in the city of Newport. Please select **1** option for each afternoon.

Thursday, October 22

Thursday only Resilient by Design: Reimagining Easton's Beach: For the past several years, DBVW Architects and Fuss & O'Neill have worked closely with the City of Newport to develop resiliency strategies and a plan for the future of Easton's Beach. Located on a low-lying, narrow piece of land that connects Newport to Middletown, Easton's Beach is a particularly vulnerable property, which has a long history of historic buildings being destroyed by storms. A survey of historic photographs of Easton's Beach provides a lesson in architectural history — from Victorian structures, to Beaux Arts Buildings, to an Italianate complex — all of the previous developments were erased by storms. How do we ensure that this does not continue to happen in the future? This visit will describe the 2025 public engagement process as well as the planning activities that have explored the best and most resilient future for Easton's Beach.

While some of the visit will be sheltered, participants should dress to walk on sand, uneven surfaces, and be outdoors for an hour.

Thursday only Trades Showcase on Bridge Street:

- **The Elements of Elevating a Historic Building with Arron Sturgis and Rick Geddes**
- **American College of Building Arts traditional plaster and timber frame demonstrations**
- **Historic Frame Assessment: Water and Rot in Flood Prone Areas with Andrew Vice**
- **Building Resilient Solutions: Moisture Monitoring Demonstration**

Explore hands-on elements of building vulnerability in the flood zone. Through several "drop-in" sessions, participants will visit flood-vulnerable colonial properties in the historic Point neighborhood and learn to identify the physical threats to these structures and adaptation strategies to protect. Sessions include discussion of elevating a historic building with master timber framer Arron Sturgis and Rick Geddes of Geddes Moving Company; assessment and repair strategies of a historic frame prone to flooding and moisture infiltration; a moisture monitoring probe with Building Resilient Solutions, and traditional plaster and timber frame demonstrations with students from Charleston's American College of Building Arts.

Participants should be comfortable climbing tight stairs, going inside basements, and should dress to be outside for the duration of the trades showcase.

Hunter House Resiliency Tours: Behind the scenes tour of Hunter House (1748), one of the finest examples of Georgian Colonial architecture from the mid-18th century. Located directly on



Newport Harbor, the siting of Hunter House is part of its historical significance yet also making it particularly vulnerable to climate change, sea level rise, and coastal storms. The Preservation Society of Newport County (PSNC) will share near, mid, and long-term resiliency strategies proposed for the property in a recent study.

Recent Design Projects: Kirby Construction: Join Kirby Perkins Construction for a discussion and tour of recent resiliency projects in Newport. An award-winning construction company serving Southern New England, Kirby Perkins specializes in historic restoration. Among its project portfolio is protecting and restoring historic buildings from the effects of water inundation and sea level rise, including the recent elevation of the Pitt's Head Tavern in Newport's Historic Point district.

RISING: A Keeping History Above Water Resiliency Walk: Join contemporary artist Ava Reynolds on a guided walk of her current urban exhibition RISING, an installation visualizing sea level rise and presented as part of the *Keeping History Above Water* 10th Anniversary celebrations. Ava's pieces, spread across several NRF flood-vulnerable colonial properties, bring attention to the reach of the flood zone in Newport and the impact of water on the future of historic resources.

Participants should be comfortable standing and walking up to 1 mile in urban Newport

The Spouting Rock Beach Association Flood Barriers: A behind the scenes look at the Spouting Rock Beach Association dry floodproofing barriers. As an active historic beach club below sea level, an effective resiliency strategy required an approach which could be erected on short notice in the event of a developing hurricane. The project utilizes flood wall technology that protects the National Register listed property with structural steel and aluminum for a flood event to elevation 14.0 feet above MSL, while not negatively impacting the building aesthetics when removed.

Vernon House Open House: Built ca. 1708 and 1760, the Vernon House is one of the most historically significant buildings in Newport, RI and is recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Today, the house is open to the public as a site of contemporary exhibitions, engaging programs, and a preservation learning lab. Explore 300+ years of history and learn more about the challenges—and opportunities—of preserving this site that is integral to the City's fabric.

Vernon House is an old building and has uneven flooring. The second floor is only accessible via stairs. There is a virtual tour onsite to help explore the second and third floors.



Friday, October 23

Friday only Behind the Walls: Resilient Rough Point: Led by NRF senior staff, this tour will give you a look inside the ongoing restoration project at Rough Point as NRF prepares for major capital repairs—including spaces like the East Wing that are currently not open to the public. Central to this plan is water infiltration, resiliency, and preparing the house for increased storm events. Learn about NRF’s preservation plan for Doris Duke’s 130+ year-old Newport home and how this work is part of our greater stewardship of the more than 80 historic sites in our care. Following the tour, Rough Point Museum will be open to explore, including the Newport Galleries and Fashion Gallery.

While most of this tour is accessible by wheelchair, this tour includes spaces that are not currently wheelchair accessible.

Friday only Walking the Talk: Climate Change Strategies at Home: Practical, effective improvements to address sea level rise, extreme heat, and more severe storms can be made in your very own home or small business. This progressive, interactive workshop will take participants on a walk through downtown Newport to examine older and historic buildings with existing and potential resilience measures that reduce climate impacts on a small scale. Participants will learn to identify physical threats to older and historic buildings, including flooding, wind damage, saltwater intrusion, heat stress, and stormwater impacts. Through on-site examples and facilitated discussion, the workshop examines a range of resilience improvements, considering cost, durability, professional assistance needs, and permitting requirements. The session demonstrates how thoughtful property improvements can strengthen climate resiliency while preserving historic character.

Participants should be comfortable standing and walking up to 2 miles in urban Newport

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