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Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
WHERE IS BOWERS BEACH, DELAWARE?
Town of Bowers Beach Demographics

- Historically a small fishing town along the Delaware Bay coast
- The town was originally incorporated in 1907
- Land area of 0.3 square miles
- Population of 335 (2010 Census)
- Town appears to be experiencing a gradual shift from supporting the local fishing industry and tourism to a retirement community with full time residency.
GEOGRAPHICAL MAKEUP OF BOWERS BEACH

- Saint Jones River
- Delaware Bay
- Murderkill River
- Wetland Area
- Project Site
CLOSE PROXIMITY OF PROJECT SITE TO TIDAL WETLANDS
PROJECT SITE IS LOCATED WITHIN AN AE 9’ FLOOD ZONE

Risk Factors:
- Sea Level Rise
- Land subsidence
- Base Flood Elevation is ± 6’ above grade.
18 WILLIAMS AVE. AERIAL VIEW
The property was flooded multiple times during recent mid-atlantic nor’easter storm events:

- **Mother’s Day Storm**
  - May 2008
  - ± 30 inches of water
The property was flooded multiple times during recent mid-Atlantic nor’easter storm events:

- Mother’s Day Storm
  May 2008
  ± 30 inches of water

- Veterans Day Storm
  November 2009
  ± 12 inches of water
FLOODING DURING 2009 VETERANS DAY STORM
The property sustained back-to-back flood damage.
● The property sustained back-to-back flood damage.

● Having just completed repairs from the 2008 Mother’s Day storm event the property owner sought to raise the dwelling above the Base Flood Elevation.
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● The cost of raising the dwelling was not economically feasible.
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● Flood-Rebuild-Flood Cycle
NEXT STEPS

- It never occurred to the property owner that anyone would be interested in the purchase of his property.
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The town was interested in acquiring the property to create a park with a specific purpose, but lacked budget.
EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

centrally located

focused
use
EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

- centrally located
- focused use
- highly visible and safe environment
EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

- centrally located
- highly visible and safe environment
- focused use
- to promote well being and community fellowship
EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

focused use

- centrally located
- highly visible and safe environment
- common area to socialize, exercise, hold events
- to promote well being and community fellowship
EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

centrally located

highly visible and safe environment

common area to socialize, exercise, hold events

bocce ball

to promote well being and community fellowship

focused use
Multiple claims for damage had been filed in the past placing the property in a high risk category and qualified for a buyout.

FEMA Grant: $160,000
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund (DTF) is a matching grant program whose function it is to assist with park land acquisition and outdoor recreation facility development.

DTF Grant: $118,000
DEMOLITION
DEMOLITION
POST DEMOLITION
PARK CONSTRUCTION
MAIN ST. PARK COMPLETED
MAIN ST. PARK TODAY

BOCCCE BALL COMPETITION
IN SUMMARY:

• Property no longer presents a liability.
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- Property no longer presents a liability.
- It has become a place with a purpose.
- The park was the result of a partnership between FEMA, The State of Delaware, and the Town of Bowers Beach.
- Example of how programs can work together to solve a problem, serve a need, and benefit a community.