

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

East Area community members are increasingly more conscious of climate resiliency challenges and the relationship between their quality of life and the quality of the environmental factors within their communities. Community members expressed their interests, concerns, and ideas through online surveys, community workshops, and outreach events.



Trees/landscaping comprised 87 percent of the comments in the 2017 Kick Off Survey and was the most common subtopic under the Environmentally Resilient category.

The top priorities to make the East Area more resilient include:

1. **Healthy tree canopy and tree lawn**
2. **Bringing nature back**
3. **Shared green spaces**
4. **Native vegetation**
5. **Multi-purpose areas**

Several storms during recent years have highlighted flooding concerns within parts of the East Area. Residents from East Area neighborhoods experience recurring flooding during summer rain events. Residents in this area have reported flooding causing property damage to homes and cars and expressed their concerns and ideas for improvement during the recent *Upper Montclair Stormwater Systems Study*.

Community members expressed their interest in implementing policies and incentives for new development in flood prone areas to better accommodate the flood waters and implement green infrastructure systems and materials with multiple community benefits.

Community members mentioned flood protection and green infrastructure improvements should be focused around the Mayfair Town Center, the missing sections of Westerly Creek, parts of Colfax Avenue and 16th Avenue, 7th Avenue and Jersey Street, and the alleys near New Freedom Park.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN EAST, CONT.

### FLOOD PRONE AREAS

Flood Prone Areas are a result of the natural terrain, undersized stormwater infrastructure system, increased impervious surface affecting stormwater runoff, and duration and intensity of a rain event. Potential inundation areas are the location where computer modeling predicts that stormwater runoff can accumulate in depths greater than what the streets are designed to handle during a major flood event.

The East Area has several low-lying areas, including along the alignment of the historic Montclair Creek, Colfax Avenue between the Mayfair Town Center and Dahlia Street, 14th Avenue and Kearney/Krameria Streets in the Mayfair Town Center area, Severn Place and Jersey Street, and 16th Avenue and Dahlia Street.

### FLOOD PRONE AREAS

### PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Parks and open space provide many environmental and climate resilient benefits in addition to the benefits discussed in the previous section. They contribute to a comprehensive urban green infrastructure system. The pervious surfaces, vegetation, roots, and soils that compose these spaces help manage, capture, and infiltrate stormwater, which will also improve water quality and air quality and help reduce air temperature through shade and evapotranspiration. East Area parks contribute to these benefits, although the park footprint is modest compared to other parks in the city.

The East Area contains many small-to-medium-sized parks that have some form of amenities and areas dedicated to passive green space. The area also contains a robust parkway system which provides additional green spaces for the community. For a more detailed look at the parks and open space from a recreational perspective, see Section 2.4.2.

