

1 **6 Built Environment**

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3 **6.3 Stormwater Management**

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5 *Vision Statement – Stormwater Management. The Town’s stormwater drainage system*  
6 *minimizes flood damage to properties due to excessive rainfall and maximizes the prompt*  
7 *removal of flood waters due to bay flooding and ocean breaches, while contributing to the*  
8 *beauty of the Town’s natural environment.*

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10 **6.3.1 Current Situation**

11 As stated in the Town’s 2007 Comprehensive Development Plan, “Stormwater Management  
12 continues to be a problem in Dewey Beach.” True in 2007; still true in 2016.

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14 The Town’s stormwater management system is comprised of two parts:

15 1) a network of stormwater catch basins, culverts and buried storm sewer pipes, and drainage  
16 ditches that direct stormwater from Coastal Highway (SR-1), Bayard Ave., and the side streets  
17 between Coastal Highway and Bayard into Rehoboth Bay. As part of the \_\_\_\_\_ Bayard Ave.  
18 Flood Mitigation Project, the catch basins, culverts, and buried storm sewer pipes along Bayard  
19 were repaired or improved along with improvements made to the weir at the Head of the Bay,  
20 along Bayard Ave. at Bellevue St. and a \_\_\_\_\_ and pumping station were installed to pre-  
21 condition stormwaters prior to returning to the Bay. Associated with the Bayard Ave. Flood  
22 Mitigation Project the Town commissioned a Stormwater Drainage Master Plan for this area that  
23 was funded in part by the State of Delaware through DNREC’s Clean Water Grant initiative.

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25 2) a network of catch basins, culverts and buried stormwater sewer pipes, and drainage ditches  
26 that drain side streets in the north end of Town and King Charles Ave. (SR-1A) into Lake  
27 Gerar/Silver Lake.

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29 In 2016 the Town, in collaboration with Center for the Inland Bays was awarded another Clean  
30 Water Grant to examine and prioritize possible environmentally responsible solutions to  
31 mitigating particulates and pollution returned into the Rehoboth Bay following flooding events.  
32 This grant includes funding to mitigate Bay flooding as a way to reduce the introduction of  
33 pollutants into the Bay.

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35 **6.2.2 Critical Issues and Plan Objectives and Recommendations**

36 No action has been taken on following up any of the recommendations in the \_\_\_\_\_ Clean  
37 Water Grant – which also addressed flooding mitigation – with the development of engineering  
38 solutions as part of the pathway to implementation. While some effort was undertaken to clean  
39 out stormwater sewer lines, there is no strategic plan on routine and/or recurring maintenance. In  
40 fact, the overall status of the catch basins, culverts, and stormwater sewer lines are unknown. It is  
41 visually obvious that the drainage ditches in both drainage systems are impaired. To further  
42 complicate the situation, it is unclear who is responsible for maintenance, repair, and/or  
43 improvement of the various elements of these stormwater drainage systems. As if to emphasize  
44 the need for inspection and maintenance/improvement, in September 2016 high spring tides  
45 resulted in severe flooding on streets abutting Rehoboth Bay and heavy rains resulted in standing  
46 water on streets and in drainage ditches in other parts of town.

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2 In the context of stormwater management, it has to be clear that an comprehensive solution must  
3 both reduce flooding from rising tides and storm driven waters from the Bay, as well as treating  
4 flood waters – from Bay flooding and increasingly intense rain events – to remove particulates  
5 and pollutants prior to returning to the Rehoboth Bay and Lakes Gerar/Silver Lake. The  
6 following objective and recommendations related specifically to drainage and reduction of  
7 pollution of the adjoining lakes and bay; objectives and recommendations related to preservation  
8 of the Bay shoreline are included under the Chapter on Natural Environment.  
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11 ***Obj. S - 1 The Town's stormwater drainage system minimizes flood damage to***  
12 ***properties due to excessive rainfall and maximizes the prompt removal of flood waters***  
13 ***due to bay flooding and ocean breaches, while contributing to the beauty of the Town's***  
14 ***natural environment.***

15 High-priority recommendation to protect property values, to protect against increased  
16 flooding due to global climate change, and to provide for the health safety and welfare of  
17 the population include:

- 18 • The Town should renegotiate appropriate Memoranda of Understanding with  
19 DeIDOT and/or other cognizant State agencies for the routine inspection of, and  
20 repair, maintenance, and/or upgrading of the Town's stormwater drainage  
21 infrastructure;
- 22 • The Town should work/continue to work with Center for the Inland Bays,  
23 DNREC, DeIDOT, Army Corps of Engineers, and other cognizant State and  
24 federal agencies to ensure resources are available to develop, fund, and implement  
25 robust, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally responsible solutions to  
26 stormwater management along the Town's Rehoboth Bay shoreline;
- 27 • The Town should work with the cognizant State agencies to ensure resources are  
28 available to develop, fund and implement innovative and environmentally  
29 responsible solutions to handle stormwater runoff along King Charles Ave., for  
30 example by transforming the existing drainage ditches into rain gardens planted  
31 with flora suitable for creating an extended habitat for pollinators along King  
32 Charles.  
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