



Blue Acres Bulletin

Buyout Info Sessions in Manville | Risk Reduction Areas in Manville | Ensuring Flood Buyout Participants Relocate to Safe, Affordable Local Housing | Forthcoming Webpage

Buyout Info Sessions in Manville Borough - Have Your Questions Answered!

[NJDEP's Blue Acres Program](#) along with [NJDEP](#) will be hosting two virtual buyout information sessions for Manville residents from **5:30pm to 7:30pm on October 5th and October 10th.**

The event will provide an opportunity for residents to virtually connect one-on-one with buyout program staff, housing counselors, and representatives from the United Methodists of Greater New Jersey, a long-term disaster recovery group.

Both events are identical and will provide residents with an opportunity to speak with staff one-on-one to have their questions answered and to get connected to relevant resources. Manville residents, particularly those impacted by the Risk Reduction Area policy, are encouraged to attend.

[Register for the October 5th session.](#)

[Register for the October 10th session.](#)

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About the DEP Office of Climate Resilience

The Office of Climate Resilience at NJDEP helps New Jersey communities

RESCHEDULED

MANVILLE BOROUGH BUYOUT INFO SESSION

CONNECT VIRTUALLY WITH BUYOUT EXPERTS, HOUSING COUNSELORS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM A LONG-TERM DISASTER RECOVERY GROUP WHO WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DIRECTLY ASSIST YOU.

HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 5:30PM-7:30PM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 5:30PM-7:30PM

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 2
 USING THE QR CODE:




Logos for Blue Acres, DCA, and GORO are also present.

Risk Reduction Areas Designated in Manville

A state-led, risk and resilience-centered decision framework has been established to drive the use of post-Ida recovery investments in Manville to support the state's hazard mitigation priorities of saving life first and protecting property.



The Risk Reduction Area policy is a multi-agency decision, relying on predictive [flood mapping](#) by Rutgers University; input from state agencies, including the Office of Emergency Management, Department of Environmental Protection, and Department of Community Affairs; and an [acquisition action plan](#) Manville crafted in 2018.

Ensuring Flood Buyout Participants Relocate to Safe, Affordable Local Housing: New Presentation

In July, DEP Blue Acres and DCA Smart Move presented at the annual Columbia University Managed Retreat Conference. Program representatives focused on the [crosswalk between the Blue Acres buyout program and the Smart Move new housing development program](#), calling out policy challenges, solutions, and opportunities that highlight the intersection between buyouts and housing and specifically how Smart Move

make informed decisions about climate resilience. We coordinate across DEP programs and state agency partners to plan for the climate change impacts and hazards that will affect our communities, businesses, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Learn more about resilience resources, tools, and core programs run by the Office of Climate Resilience using the links below and keep an eye out for additional content in future NJDEP Weekly Updates!

- [Resilient NJ](#)
- [Blue Acres](#)
- [The Interagency Council on Climate Resilience](#)
- [NJ Coastal Management Program](#)

About the DEP Blue Acres program

Blue Acres is part of the DEP Office of Climate Resilience

Since its inception in 1995, Blue Acres has worked to better protect public safety and the environment by relocating New Jersey families whose homes are subject to repeated flooding and acquiring property for use as natural flood storage, parks, and community open space.

Today, DEP Blue Acres has two core missions:

Disaster Recovery: Blue Acres helps New Jersey residents whose homes have

can and will promote housing for vulnerable populations displaced by post-disaster flood buyouts.

Speakers: **Courtney Wald-Wittkop**, Program Manager, DEP Blue Acres; **James Mooney**, Program Manager, DCA SmartMove; **Pat Forbes**, Executive Director, Louisiana Office of Community Development

Manville Hosted National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 1, Manville hosted National Night Out, an event designed to foster positive relationships between members of the community and local first responders. Blue Acres staff attended the event to answer questions from community members.



Photo Credit: Manville Recreation Department, 2023

New Resource Forthcoming: Blue Acres Webpage for Local Governments

Blue Acres is launching a new webpage for local government officials to access the information they need when State-led buyouts are planned or needed within their jurisdiction.

In order to create an effective resource, **local governments, please let us know:**

- What questions or concerns do you have about the Blue Acres program?
- What information would you like to see on our forthcoming Local Governments webpage?
- What would best help guide you and your staff in the event of a flood buyout initiative?

Please send your response(s) to BlueAcres@dep.nj.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

been damaged in flooding events, such as those whose homes were destroyed or damaged when the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida impacted New Jersey in September 2021.

Preparedness: Blue Acres contributes to New Jersey's Climate Change Resilience Strategy through a proactive approach to guide state acquisition of lands that increases host community resilience through the strategic acquisition of lands that have been damaged, or may be prone to future damage, due to sea-level rise, storms, or storm-related flooding, or that may buffer or protect other lands from such damage.

The Blue Acres website includes a [webpage for homeowners](#) interested in selling their flood-prone home and learning more about the buyout process steps.

ICYMI: Inland Flood Rule Published July 17

The rule updates New Jersey's existing flood hazard and stormwater regulations by replacing outdated precipitation estimates with modern data that account for observed and [projected](#) increases in rainfall. These changes will help reduce flooding from stormwater runoff and increase the resiliency of new developments located in flood-prone inland areas.



Also in connection with the rule, DEP launched New Jersey's [Flood Indicator Tool](#) to aid the public in gauging flood risk and to provide a visual display of flood indicators on or near specific parcels.

Contact Blue Acres

DEP Blue Acres helps New Jersey residents and communities identify and avoid risks of flooding through strategic climate resilience planning and the state-led acquisition of flood-prone property.

Email: BlueAcres@dep.nj.gov **Phone:** (609) 940-4140

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is dedicated to protecting New Jersey's environment and public health. The agency prioritizes addressing climate change, protecting New Jersey's water, revitalizing its communities and managing and promoting its natural and historic resources.

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Follow Commissioner LaTourette on Twitter and Instagram [@shawnlatur](#).



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