



Climate Change Resilience: Collaboration is Key



**2024 is the MVC's 50th
Anniversary!**



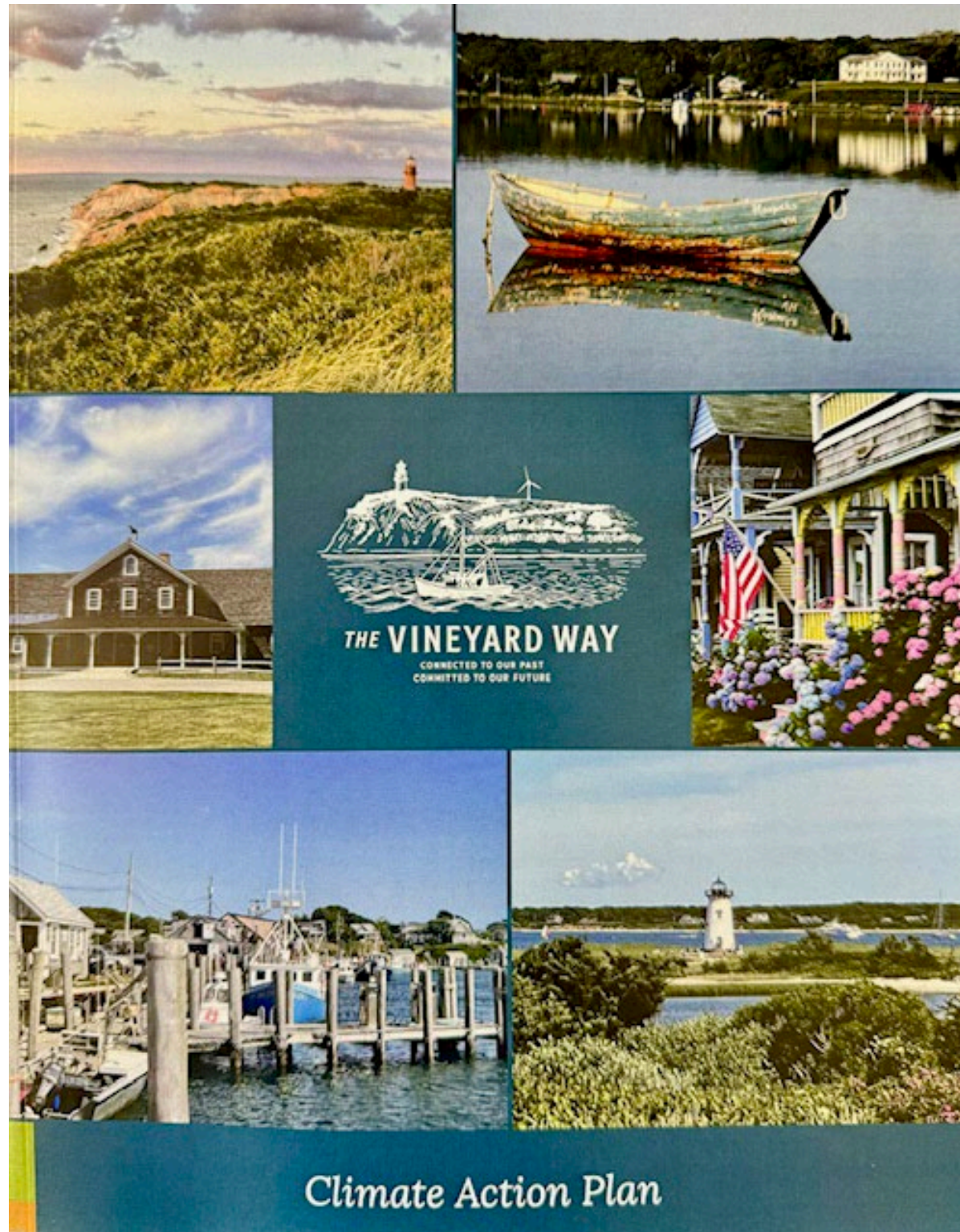
Local Climate Change Action and Collaboration



Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Vineyard Power
High School Protect Your Environment Club
Vineyard Conservation Society
Polly Hill Arboretum
Biodiversity Works
Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
ACE MV
MV Shellfish Group
Great Pond Foundation
MV Agricultural Society
MV Farm Bureau
Island Grown Initiative
Kinship Heals
The Trustees of Reservations
Sheriff's Meadow Foundation
Seed Library
Vineyard Transit Authority
Dukes County
Friends of the State Forest
MV Community Services

MV Interfaith Climate Action Team
Island Climate Action Network (ICAN)
MV Tick Program
Healthy Aging
MV Food Waste Initiative
Dukes County Emergency Management
Association
Island Health Care
Dukes County Health Council
Martha's Vineyard Land Bank
Vineyard Futureworks
Island Eats
NAACP
Native Earth Teaching Farm
MV Shellfish Group
MV Fisherman's Preservation Trust
MV Garden Club
MV Museum
Cape Light Compact
Beach Befrienders
Blue Dot Magazine

Towns:
Climate Committees
Energy Committees
Libraries
Emergency Managers
Fire Chiefs
Shellfish Departments
Planning Boards
Conservation Commissions
Water and Wastewater
Vineyard Sustainable Energy
Committee
Schools



Climate Action Plan - The Vineyard Way Connected to Our Past, Committed to Our Future

www.thevineyardway.org

20-year regional plan

Local consultants, locally-driven

Six thematic areas

Over 100 residents participated in CAP development

Over 200 actions – each with a lead agency

**Implementation through
collaboration**

CAP Community Coordinating Committee

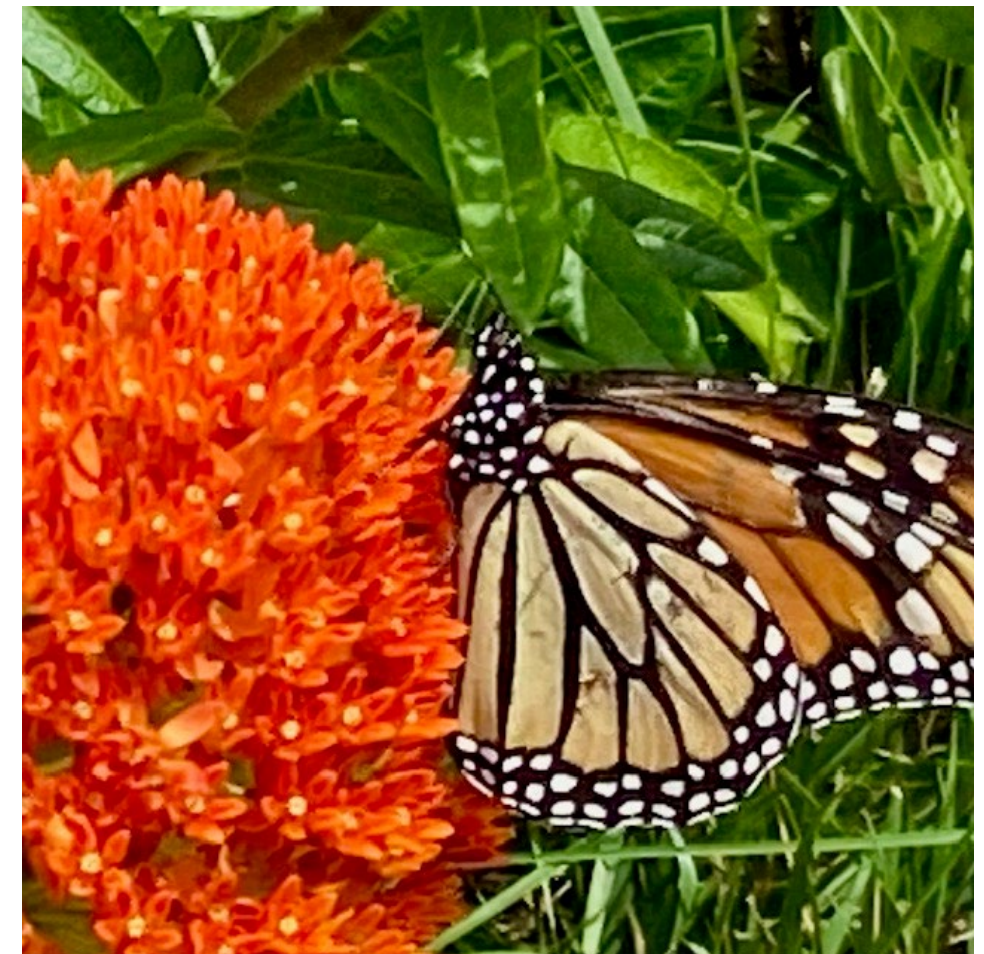
- Reps from the 6 Town climate committees
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
- Dukes County
- NAACP
- CAP Consultant
- MVC climate change coordinator

Meets monthly for updates and collaboration

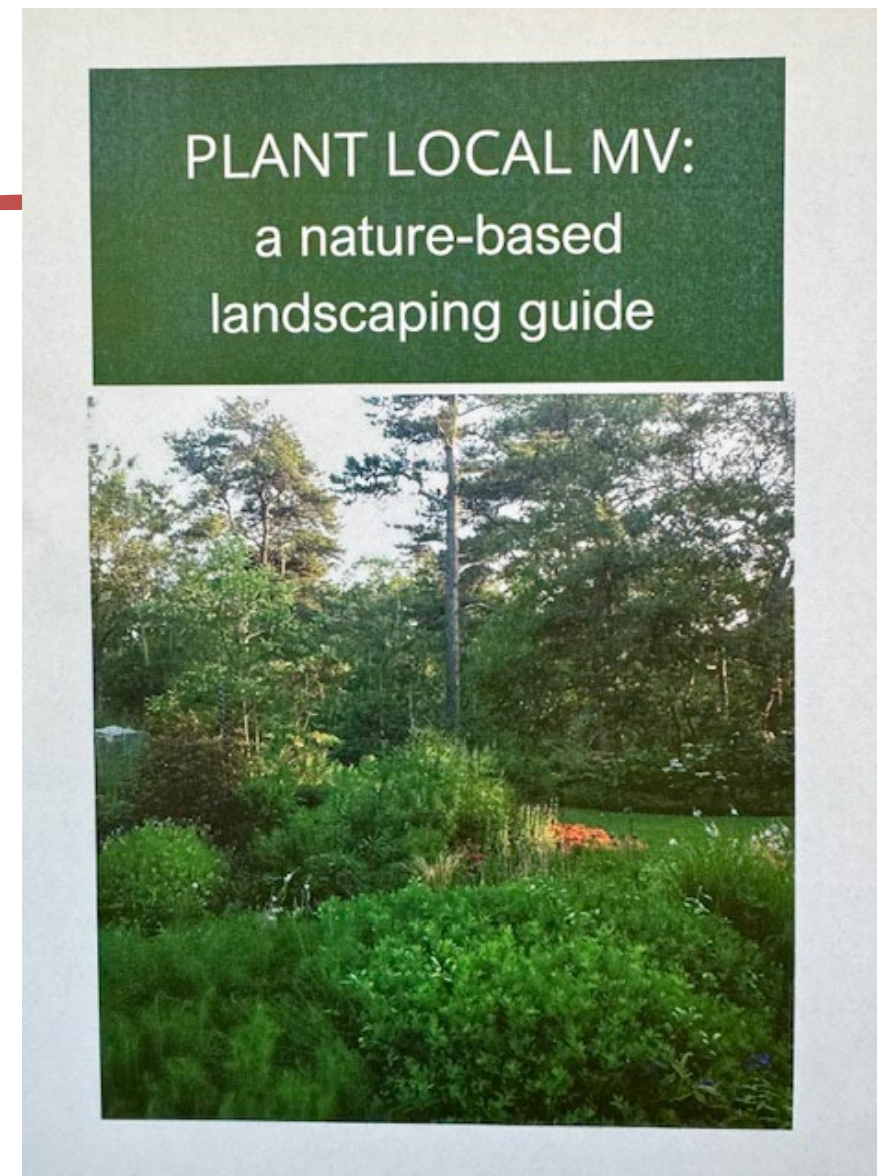
Subcommittee Goals

Towns adopt guidelines for native species on public lands

Towns adopt regulations for maximum disturbance for new development



Fostering Ecosystem Resilience (MVP grant)



Special thanks to MVC GIS Specialist, Chris Seidel

- Updated Vineyard and Nantucket vegetation maps and wildlife corridor maps (Vineyard maps ground-truthed by Biodiversity Works, Polly Hill Arboretum, Great Pond Foundation, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, MV Land Bank, TTOR)
- Mapped eel grass to ID potential aquaculture sites in three Island ponds (MV Shellfish Group, Great Pond Foundation, Town Shellfish Constables and Harbormasters)
- Held focus groups with landscapers, nurseries, and homeowners to understand challenges to native plant use and smaller lawns (Biodiversity Works, Vision Fellow)
- Developed native plant landscaping guides for landscapers, nurseries, and homeowners (Biodiversity Works, Vineyard Conservation Society, Polly Hill Arboretum)

Conservation Summit, May 2024

21 attendees from Island organizations

Biodiversity Works
The Nature Conservancy
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Sheriff's Meadow Foundation
Polly Hill Arboretum
The Trustees of Reservations
Vineyard Conservation Society
MV Vision Fellowship
MV Land Bank
Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
MV Shellfish Group
Great Pond Foundation
Martha's Vineyard Commission
Harvard Forest
Nantucket Conservation Foundation

- ID priority wildlife corridors to protect biodiversity and build climate resilience
- ID issues for collaboration
- ID priority lands for protection and restoration (#1 – Oyster Watcha area)



Island Food Forests (MVP grant)

Develop a food forest in Aquinnah, locate sites and develop design plans for food forests in all six towns: **Landscape designer Mary Sage Napolitan, MVC, Island Grown Initiative, Aquinnah Parks and Rec, Aquinnah Cultural Center, six towns**

Food Security

- Produce more local food
- Island self-sufficiency
- Food after an extreme weather event
- Traditional Wampanoag food customs
- Resilient, equitable food system



Climate Action Task Force

advocacy, education

MVC, Town climate and energy committees, Vineyard Power, Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Island Grown Initiative, Dukes County, Vineyard Futureworks, former EPA professional, guests

Recent dialogues – climate education in the schools, health of forested areas



Enhancing Stewardship of the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest

State Forest Task Force

- Protect and restore native biodiversity
- Improve wildfire mitigation measures
- Complete and maintain SUP network
- Restore staff housing



MVC
Fire Chiefs
Friends of State Forest
Village and Wilderness
Biodiversity Works
Polly Hill Arboretum
Vineyard Conservation Society
The Nature Conservancy

MVC off-Island Collaboration

US Army Corps of Engineers

Carrying Capacity Study

Water-related capacity – ponds,
drinking water, coastal resilience,
ferry travel

Towns, Stakeholders



Woodwell Climate Research Center

Carbon Sequestration Study
baseline for land types

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation

Island Climate Risk Assessment

Expect more extreme drought
conditions and high danger
wildfire days

MVC Water Resource Planner

- Effects of Sea Level Rise on Groundwater Study – **US Geological Survey**
- Cyanobacteria Study – **University of New Hampshire**
- Water Sampling – **Shellfish Departments, UMASS Dartmouth SMAST Lab**
- Up-Island Watershed Management Plan – **abutters, towns, DEP**
- Permeable Reactive Barrier – removing nitrogen from Lagoon Pond, **SMAST, EPA**



Water Sampling Sites

Water Quality Protection

MV Shellfish Group – propagation,
research, advocacy

Town Shellfish Departments – shellfishing,
resource protection

Great Pond Foundation – science and
education

Local Pond Associations – education,
advocacy, town support

MV Water Alliance – education,
collaboration



**Vineyard Conservation Society and
Circuit Arts** – Great Ponds
Documentary Series

The Trustees of Reservations

National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation grant to address
restoration of Cape Poge and
Pocha Pond salt marshes,
Chappaquiddick

Biodiversity Works
Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group
Sheriff's Meadow Foundation
MV Land Bank
MVC
state agencies



2024 Island Towns

- **Tisbury Master Plan** including waterfront area **(MVC)**
- **Edgartown Harbor Plan Update** **(MA CZM, MVC)**
- **Edgartown South Beach erosion/Atlantic Drive vulnerability** **(MVC)**
- **Oak Bluffs: emergency access to hospital** **(MA CZM grant)**

All Towns/MVC

- **Model Floodplain and Wetlands Bylaw updates**
- **Implement Community Wildfire Protection Plan**
- **Regional Transportation Plan update**



High School Protect Your Environment Club (PYE)

Climate Cafes

Six annual **student-led** climate cafes on specific climate issues with **public and climate leaders**, **PYE** advisor, **Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary**



Imagine Corps

Student Climate Visioning Project

West Tisbury School, Charter School, Vineyard Futureworks, Vineyard Power, MVC

Brown University

Vineyard Futureworks

Island Grown Initiative baseline of Island food sources

Climate Action Task Force regional governance for sustainability

MVC grant assistance tools





The Martha's Vineyard Commission is the Dukes County Regional Planning Agency

MVC Mission

1. To assist the region's 7 towns (includes Gosnold) with planning expertise, and
2. Protect and enhance the Island's environment, economy, character, and social fabric

MVC Staff includes

Cartographer/GIS Specialist
Climate Change Coordinator
Island Housing Planner
Research and Communications
Senior Planner
Special Projects Planner
Transportation Planner
Water Resource Planner

MV Vision Fellows:

Energy Planner
Biochar Specialist
Climate Communications Specialist

MV Vision Fellowship

Biochar Vision Fellow

Study the use of biochar for carbon sequestration, soil preservation, water quality restoration, wildfire management



**MVC Fellow
collaborators:**

**everyone, it seems,
including the Vision
Fellowship network**

**Samples of other Vision
Fellow work:**

**Conservation and
biodiversity
Shellfish and fishery
Conservation
Waste
Sustainable Agriculture**

Climate Change Communications Vision Fellow

Campaign to raise public climate awareness and inspire community action



MVC Energy Planner Vision Fellow

ETIPP grant – **Down-Island Water Departments**, technical assistance for resilience in prolonged power failure

Getting to 100% Renewable Report
(Vineyard Power, VSEC, town energy committees)

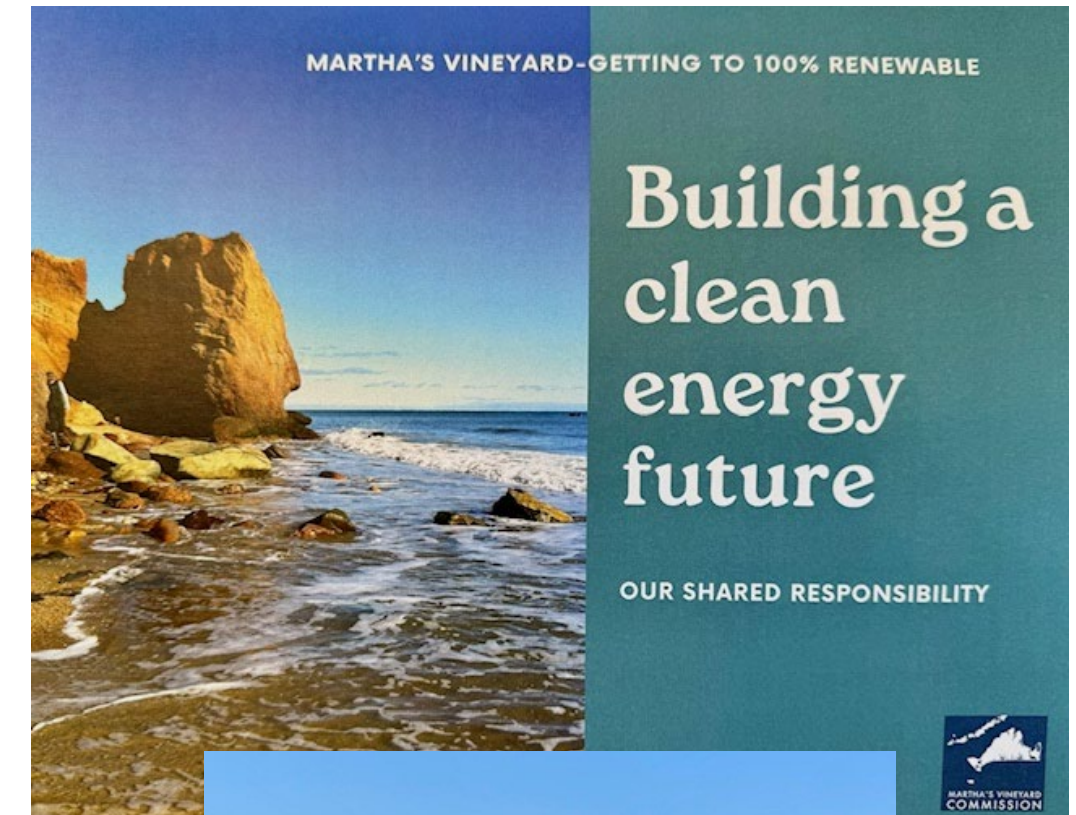
Solid Waste Report
(Waste Vision Fellow)

Urging Steamship Authority toward electrification/lower emissions

Ferries Now! Forum

Denmark, Maine, Washington State, public

Works with **Eversource** on grid modernization and resilience



Community Energy Collaboration

Vineyard Power

Goal: 100% renewable Island by 2040

Cape Light Compact Community Partnership

Energy coaching – free coaching on solar, heat pumps, electric vehicles, rebates, home energy assessments

Youth outreach

Partner with **Vineyard Wind**



All Working Together
Cape Light Compact
Vineyard Sustainable Energy
Committee
Town Energy Committees

Community Engagement

Climate Action Fair

44 participating organizations



VCS Conservation Festival

18 conservation groups

To inspire and educate the community - and an added benefit!

Great public turnout for both!

Grant Agencies – a sample

Local

Eddy Foundation

MV Vision Fellowship

MV Community Fund

Farm Neck Association

Community Preservation Act

State

MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

MA Coastal Zone Management

MA DEP

MA Equity Planning and Capacity Growth

Federal:

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Geological Survey

US Department of Energy

US Environmental Protection Agency

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Big Challenges – So Much To Do (but we're doing it together)

- Long-term decision-making framework for coastal transportation and infrastructure resilience
- Economic impacts of climate change
- Ferry electrification
- Overall renewable energy





Matthijs Bouw

Dutch architect and urbanist
One Architecture

- **Channel the water where you want it to go**
- **Connect people to the solution**
- **Improve economic value of site**
- **Create opportunities for change for the better**



Thank you

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