#ResilientBroward

A two-year planning effort
focused on building community resilience
to the impacts of climate change in Broward County

BROWARD COUNTY: A RESILIENCE PLAN IN THE MAKING

May 2024

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Stakeholder Outreach

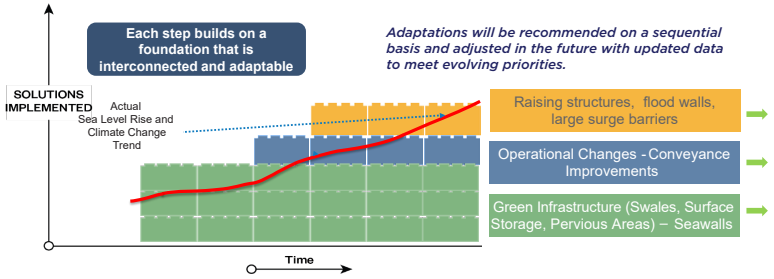
The Hazen Team held regional stakeholder meetings to present final model results, discuss the performance and viability of various options, and identify any remaining strategies for inclusion in the project. Topics of conversation included operational changes to achieve additional groundwater storage, expansion of impervious areas, and strategies for improving systemwide storage. Attendance was geographically diverse, inclusive of municipalities, drainage and water control districts, and the Broward County School District. Feedback was reinforcing of the overall project approach, results, and value.

Adaptation Strategy Continues

The Steering Committee reviewed the overall plan performance with the inclusion of elevated seawalls, groundwater and surface storage, and conveyance improvements via pumps and culverts. The number of residential properties at risk of flooding was reduced by 80,000 or 54%. Previous results showed improvements in flood depth, with 30% of the county's urban area seeing water levels decline by 9 inches or greater, and 42% of the area to realize a 3 to 9-inch reduction in flood depth.

Members of the Committee offered feedback for how these adaptation strategies should be packaged for each of the implementing partners and community stakeholders. Suggestions include supporting local governments by providing data for decision making, tailoring public outreach for a non-technical audience, and focusing on financial costs and operational delays in communications for the business community.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ADAPTABLE SOLUTIONS



360 flood view photos are embedded within the online platform. Users can click and view under each locality scenario.

Flood Viewer

Significant advancement has been made in the development of the Flood Viewer, which now allows for side-by-side comparisons of flood scenarios in addition to viewing of the 360-degree images of notable landmarks with simulated floodwater overlays.

To ensure priority consideration of vulnerable populations and areas, flood results are presented alongside FEMA Disaster Resiliency Zones, census tracks for low-income and socially vulnerable communities, with coupled consideration of heat island zones. It is within these targeted areas that the adaptation modeling analysis will seek to identify additional opportunities for green infrastructure, stormwater storage, and conveyance. The selection committee inquired about the use of economic development overlays and modified development standards to enhance green infrastructure to augment green infrastructure investments in these priority areas of combined flood and heat risk.

Next Steps

Hazen's subconsultants will finalize the economic modeling focused on the adaptation outcomes for presentation at the August Steering Committee Meeting. The Hazen team will also develop the planning-level cost estimates for the recommended improvements in order to present a complete ROI while also developing and site-specific adaptation schematics. The County team expects to share the final plan and all online resources in late fall 2024.

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