

III. COMMUNITY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Importance of Community Guiding Principles

One of the most important reasons for having a Local Mitigation Strategy is to help a local government make decisions that will reduce its overall vulnerability to hazards. While many of these decisions are made after a disaster strikes, it is important to have a strategy in place to ensure that these actions reflect prior planning and coordination. The strategy can also help to ensure that the daily activities of a local jurisdiction, such as issuing building permits and approving development plans, promote a safer community.

First In 1999 and again in 2005, the Levy County Working Group and staff developed the Strategy's overall vision for hazard mitigation. The guiding principles that are listed here should work as a road map to assist Levy County and its municipalities in promoting hazard mitigation - before and after a disaster. In recognition of the efforts of the previous assemblies of the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, those participating in the 2009 update have chosen to continue with the goals and objectives as adopted by previous members of the Working Group.

The Process

The Levy County LMS Working Group and staff reviewed and referenced the existing Local Mitigation Strategy plan, other existing plans, policies, and ordinances that relate to public safety, hazard mitigation, and long-term recovery. Many of the same ideas, such as public safety and loss reduction are repeated in these documents. When collated together through an indexing process, several common themes were evident. These common themes helped establish the Levy County LMS guiding principles for its Mitigation Strategy.

In order to create a successful LMS the documents, studies and plans that currently exist should be reviewed with each update

SLOSH Models and Atlas

Withlacoochee Region Hurricane Evacuation Study - WRPC

US Census (2000 and 2008 estimates)

County Business Patterns

Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BEBR) Economic Outlook

Florida Statistical Abstract

County Tax Assessor

Florida Department of Transportation

Levy County CEMP

Florida Geographic Data Library

Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan for the Withlacoochee Region**County and Municipality Comprehensive Plans**

Just as a community's vision has already been defined through its existing goals and policies, most, if not all, of the Local Mitigation Strategy criteria identified by the Working Group are addressed in existing plans, policies, and ordinances. To avoid duplicating the effort that went into preparing these other documents, an index was prepared to show where the Local Mitigation Strategy criteria have been addressed in these existing documents. This indexing process also revealed how a Mitigation Strategy can concurrently address other community goals such as preserving open space, providing public access to the coast, managing growth, prioritizing capital improvements, and protecting natural resources.

The intent of this index is to identify community mitigation goals that already exist and to provide an overview of how hazard mitigation can progress. The compiled index of existing goals, policies, objectives and regulations is 150 pages long and is therefore not included in this document. .

**Community Guiding Principles
Goals and Objectives****GOAL 1. Protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.**

- Objective 1.1 Inform and educate the public about potential hazards.
- Objective 1.2 Encourage home buyers to research and determine if a property is within a flood-prone area.
- Objective 1.3 Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.
- Objective 1.4 Provide adequate shelter for the population at risk.

GOAL 2. Promote hazard awareness and education.

- Objective 2.1 Notify homeowners of property located within a flood-prone area.
- Objective 2.2 Inform and educate the public about potential hazards.
- Objective 2.3 Prioritize and develop a hazard information program.
- Objective 2.4 Educate the public about disaster preparedness, evacuation procedures and shelter availability.
- Objective 2.5 Coordinate to provide public information regarding commercial hazardous materials and educate the public to safely store and dispose of household hazardous materials.

GOAL 3. Develop mitigation initiatives that protect business and industry.

- Objective 3.1 Minimize business interruptions through disaster preparedness and education.
- Objective 3.2 Assist business and industry in the preparation of emergency operations plans.
- Objective 3.3 Encourage public-private partnerships.

GOAL 4. Ensure intergovernmental coordination in disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation between all applicable local governments.

- Objective 4.1 Maintain and update (as necessary) the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- Objective 4.2 Coordinate emergency evacuation procedures.

- Objective 4.3 Coordinate inter-jurisdictional resources during recovery efforts.
- Objective 4.4 Conduct annual updates and revisions (as necessary) to the Local Mitigation Strategy.
- Objective 4.5 Coordinate and prioritize applications for hazard mitigation grants.

GOAL 5. Develop and implement guidelines for post-disaster redevelopment.

- Objective 5.1 Expedite post-disaster recovery through the development of a Post-disaster Recovery Ordinance.
- Objective 5.2 Enable small businesses to utilize public property in the event of a disaster.
- Objective 5.3 Advocate property acquisition in repetitive loss areas.
- Objective 5.4 Encourage mitigation initiatives in the Coastal High Hazard Area.
- Objective 5.5 Consider options to mitigation initiatives that may result in substantial reduction of the local tax base.
- Objective 5.6 Establish and implement a plan for long-term temporary housing.
- Objective 5.7 Encourage the diversion of Community Development Block Grant funds to disaster recovery.

GOAL 6. Encourage the protection of natural resources.

- Objective 6.1 Participate with the state in the acquisition of lands for environmental protection.
- Objective 6.2 Conserve and improve wetlands.
- Objective 6.3 Limit discharge and protect natural resources from toxic substances and harmful pollutants.
- Objective 6.4 Protect the functions of natural drainage areas and surficial aquifer recharge areas.
- Objective 6.5 Restrict infrastructure supporting expansion to offshore islands, coastal swamps, marshlands and beaches.
- Objective 6.6 Minimize the impacts of public facilities and utilities on the natural environment.
- Objective 6.7 Mitigate wetland losses to establish an overall net benefit.

GOAL 7. Encourage the conservation of historic and cultural resources.

Objective 7.1 Identify and document historic and cultural resources.

Objective 7.2 Prioritize funding for post-disaster redevelopment.

GOAL 8. Encourage the resolution of stormwater problems.

Objective 8.1 Develop or maintain a Stormwater Management Plan that identifies and recommends solutions to stormwater problems.

Objective 8.2 Encourage the creation of a stormwater utility where appropriate.

Objective 8.3 Maintain and improve existing drainage systems.

Objective 8.4 Require all new development and redevelopment to regulate the rate and volume of stormwater.

Objective 8.5 Protect the function of natural drainage features and surficial aquifer recharge areas.

GOAL 9. Reduce property damage caused by flooding.

Objective 9.1 Elevate new construction above the base flood elevation.

Objective 9.2 Protect and preserve wetlands floodplains and coastal lands.

Objective 9.3 Identify and correct local flooding conditions.

Objective 9.4 Ensure compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Objective 9.5 Participate in or improve ratings under the Community Rating System.

Objective 9.6 Control development in the 100-year floodplain.

Objective 9.7 Implement substantial damage provisions.

Objective 9.8 Continue compliance with Floodplain Management Plans.

GOAL 10. Regulate the impacts of development and redevelopment through code enforcement.

- Objective 10.1 Prohibit new development of mobile home parks in flood zones.
- Objective 10.2 Prohibit development of critical care facilities in the Coastal High Hazard Area.
- Objective 10.3 Ensure compliance with the Coastal Construction Code for all construction.
- Objective 10.4 Provide and protect open space.
- Objective 10.5 Preserve natural vegetation.
- Objective 10.6 Ensure new development and redevelopment complies with Federal Flood Insurance regulations.
- Objective 10.7 Encourage the inclusion of window and door protection standards in the Building Codes.
- Objective 10.8 Require lot grading plans addressing drainage with each building permit.
- Objective 10.9 Encourage mitigation for repetitive loss properties.
- Objective 10.10 Enforce wellhead protection ordinances.

GOAL 11. Regulate, limit and prioritize the construction of critical facilities.

- Objective 11.1 Maintain or improve critical evacuation routes.
- Objective 11.2 Prioritize and retrofit existing critical facilities.
- Objective 11.3 Control the siting and development of new critical facilities within the Coastal High Hazard Area.

GOAL 12. Establish pre- and post-disaster mitigation initiatives through the Local Mitigation Strategy.

- Objective 12.1 Limit public expenditures that support new development in the Coastal High Hazard Area.
- Objective 12.2 Encourage capital improvement expenditures for critical evacuation routes.
- Objective 12.3 Implement Stormwater Management programs.
- Objective 12.4 Utilize project evaluation criteria developed in the Local Mitigation Strategy for prioritizing mitigation initiatives.
- Objective 12.5 Provide sufficient shelter space to satisfy in-County demand.

Objective 12.6 Identify and pursue available grant funds and other funding sources for hazard mitigation activities.

Objective 12.7 Annually review and update projects identified in the Local Mitigation Strategy.