



# The City of Jacksonville Beach

April 20, 2021

For Immediate Release:

The Jacksonville Beach Planning Division has completed its 2021 annual review of the City's progress towards implementing the relevant goals and objectives contained in the Duval County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). **The County LMS serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan.** Attached is a copy of the 2021 LMS Progress Report provided to the Jacksonville Beach City Manager, Mayor and City Council, and made available to the public.

A required 5-year update of the Duval County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), prepared by the City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, was completed in 2020. The 2020 LMS was adopted by the City of Jacksonville Beach City Council on January 19, 2021 via Resolution No. 2073-2020. Jacksonville Beach staff participated in the update process. An electronic copy of the adopted 2020 LMS is available through the City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division or the City of Jacksonville Beach Planning and Development Department.

While not all of the goals and objectives of the county-wide LMS are applicable to the City of Jacksonville Beach, the City has made progress in several areas, as noted in bold text following each relevant goal and objective in the attached progress report. Jacksonville Beach will continue to participate in the LMS review, update and implementation process.

Residents and businesses interested in learning more about the City's participation in the Duval County Local Mitigation Strategy process may contact the Planning and Development Department, Planning Division at (904) 247-6231.

# Duval County LMS Progress Report – 2021

## Duval County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) City of Jacksonville Beach Projects & Other Objective-Related Actions

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The following is a complete list of the adopted Goals and Objectives of the Duval County LMS. Following various relevant objectives, **in bold**, is any information related to projects and efforts by the City of Jacksonville Beach during this reporting period towards implementation. The county-wide LMS was updated in 2020 by the Duval County/City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division (EPD) of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD). The updated LMS was unanimously adopted by the City of Jacksonville Beach City Council on January 19, 2021 via Resolution No. 2073-2020.

City staff attended in person and virtual meetings of the Duval County LMS Advisory Committee (*Duval Prepares*) to participate in the 5-year update. The primary purpose of these meetings was to discuss the update of the 2015 LMS to the 2020 LMS and to report progress. Meetings included discussions on updating LMS goals and objectives, hazards analysis and risk assessment, and projects. Due to COVID, regular in person meetings were cancelled, however city staff had an opportunity to review the updated LMS and provide comments back to the EPD staff.

The LMS is reviewed a minimum of every five years, and review and maintenance is implemented by the Working Group with assistance from the City of Jacksonville's Emergency Preparedness Division. Monitoring of the LMS is the responsibility of the EPD on behalf of the Working Group and the LMS Advisory Committee. Implementation of the LMS is a multi-faceted initiative among local government, business, industry and residents.

A copy of the adopted 2020 LMS document is available for review electronically through the Jacksonville Beach Planning and Development Department website at [www.jacksonvillebeach.org](http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org), or the City of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, Emergency Preparedness Division at 515 N. Julia Street, Jacksonville, FL. A copy of the adopted LMS is available for download at <https://www.jaxready.com/> under the mitigation section.

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*Note: In accordance with Article 1, Section 1.102 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville, any reference made to the Consolidated City of Jacksonville and Duval County shall include the Cities of Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, and the Town of Baldwin, and collectively called the City of Jacksonville.*

## **LMS Goals & Objectives**

**GOAL 1:** Minimize future losses from disasters by reducing the risk to people and property.

### **Objective 1.1**

Protection of populations and properties in the City of Jacksonville susceptible to economic or physical loss from natural and man-made disasters shall be consistent with the standards established in the Local Mitigation Strategy and other planning documents.

**City of Jacksonville Beach 2030 Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the County Local Mitigation Strategy. The City of Jacksonville Beach Land Development Code is consistent with the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The City of Jacksonville Beach recently updated the Coastal Management Element of the adopted Comprehensive Plan to comply with Florida’s “Peril of Flood” requirements of the Florida Statutes. The amendments were adopted in May of 2020 via Ordinance 2020-8144.**

### **Objective 1.2**

Encourage higher standards of maintenance to existing drainage systems and retention ponds, and monitor cumulative development impacts with a macroscopic view.

**The City continues its systematic street sweeping program in an effort to reduce the amount of wind-blown beach sand and debris entering the City’s stormwater facilities. All major drainage facilities are also inspected and maintained on a regular basis, with an emphasis on the months preceding the beginning of hurricane season each year, (on-going). The City is also currently implementing a multi-year project to upgrade and improve drainage in south Jacksonville Beach, (on-going). Additionally, the Florida Department of Transportation is implementing a multi-year drainage project for portions of State Road A1A which will enhance the City’s stormwater infrastructure.**

### **Objective 1.3**

Work with the National Weather Service to enhance communication and coordination before and during severe weather events.

**Staff participated in two Hurricane activations for Tropical Storm Eta and Tropical Storm Isaias. The City also hosted supervisor level staff hurricane training in May of 2020.**

**GOAL 2:** Emphasize pre- and post-disaster planning to decrease vulnerability of existing and new construction to loss.

### **Objective 2.1**

Identify and prioritize vulnerable properties by using topographic and storm surge maps, traffic analysis and evacuation modeling, economic and environmental impact analysis.

**The 2020 LMS update process included an updated Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA). The 2020 LMS indicates that the City of Jacksonville is susceptible to twelve (12) natural hazards and eight (8) man-made hazards. City of Jacksonville Beach staff will continue to attend Duval Prepares LMS Advisory Committee meetings to discuss potential changes to data, analysis, goals, objectives and policies. The HIVA information can be used to prioritize infrastructure improvements.**

### **Objective 2.2**

Review evacuation time estimates taking into consideration the impact of railroad and bridge openings on travel times.

### **Objective 2.3**

Encourage structure retrofit programs to address identified flood, wind, and evacuation vulnerabilities based on income level.

### **Objective 2.4**

Where feasible, purchase land in known vulnerable areas to prevent placing people and infrastructure in harm's way.

**City staff prepared one acquisition and demolition project Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant application with required documentation, for an interested property owner that approached the City, and provided the grant documentation to the County to apply on behalf of the property owner. The City**

**can continue to leverage pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant program funding to acquire property when and where possible.**

#### **Objective 2.5**

Identify post-storm redevelopment options in vulnerable coastal areas, taking into consideration short and long-term environmental, economic and structural issues.

**The City of Jacksonville Beach recently updated the Coastal Management Element of the adopted Comprehensive Plan to comply with Florida’s “Peril of Flood” requirements of the Florida Statutes. City staff participated also in the creation of the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan led by Duval County and in partnership with various collaborating agencies.**

#### **Objective 2.6**

Identify vulnerable existing public and private critical facilities and encourage pre-disaster retrofit.

**GOAL 3:** Prevent flood-related repetitive losses from natural disasters through regulation and education.

#### **Objective 3.1**

Develop and support public and private projects and programs to retrofit, relocate or acquire properties susceptible to repetitive flooding.

**The City, through its annual outreach efforts to repetitive loss property owners and properties in repetitive flood loss areas, provides information related to flood protection and structure alteration or retrofitting, (on-going).**

#### **Objective 3.2**

Require systematic maintenance programs for stormwater management systems.

**The City carries out systematic maintenance of its entire public stormwater management system, with emphasis on major drainage way inspection and clearance prior to the start of hurricane season each year, (on-going).**

### **Objective 3.3**

Encourage non-residential or low-density residential development in flood zones consistent with municipal plans and policies that guide development.

**Undeveloped areas within the Pablo Creek floodplain are zoned *Residential, single family: RS-1*, the City's lowest intensity zoning category. There have been no zoning or land use changes to properties within this floodplain within this annual reporting period that would increase density.**

**GOAL 4:** Strengthen and utilize comprehensive planning, regional and local area plans, zoning codes, development standards and incentives to protect vulnerable properties and vulnerable areas, and support development in less vulnerable areas.

### **Objective 4.1**

Monitor floodplain regulations and enforcement to assess effectiveness.

**Staff updated the City's floodplain management regulations on April 16, 2018, via Ordinance No. 2018-8107. The update was intended to correct internal cross references and update information to maintain consistency with the most recent Florida Building Code requirements.**

### **Objective 4.2**

Develop and support economic incentive programs for both public and private sectors promoting benefits of structural retrofitting.

### **Objective 4.3**

Discourage variances and exceptions in flood hazard areas as identified by Flood Insurance Rate Maps, storm surge and historical flooding.

**Jacksonville Beach Land Development Code (LDC) Sec. 34-467, containing specific standards for variances requested in Flood Hazard Areas, has recently been updated. Variances or exceptions are not considered as policy.**

#### **Objective 4.4**

Promote the Florida Building Code standards requiring new developments and construction to meet applicable wind load standards for proximity to coast.

**Construction in the city is regulated by the most recent Florida Building Code, (on-going).**

#### **Objective 4.5**

Promote regulations for new structures in 100-year flood areas to be elevated in conformance with or exceeding current Florida Building Code.

**Jacksonville Beach Land Development Code Sec. 34-467 contains this requirement, and it is enforced by the Building Inspection Division (on-going).**

#### **Objective 4.6**

Encourage locations of critical facilities (schools, hospitals, etc.) to be away from the proximity of identified hazardous materials facilities and areas prone to flooding.

#### **Objective 4.7**

Enact development standards in wildland urban interface areas, such as setbacks, forest maintenance, access of response vehicles and construction materials.

#### **Objective 4.8**

Strengthen existing land use regulations and policies through enhancement of review procedures, and enforcement.

#### **Objective 4.9**

Review and consider policies to assure more permeable area in development, by limiting construction of paved surfaces and decreasing run-off.

**The City strictly enforces the maximum lot coverage standards of the Jacksonville Beach Land Development Code for all permitted redevelopment and new development activity and encourages the use of pervious materials, (on-going).**

#### **Objective 4.10**

Promote and support incentives to encourage higher standards of protection to structures and facilities from hazards.

#### **Objective 4.11**

Identify and implement a system to rebuild and protect the dunes system, with crossovers, restoration and revalidation.

**A Beach Survey was completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Duval County Beach Renourishment project that took place in 2016. Hurricane Matthew in 2016 caused damage to the dunes and a dune renourishment project took place in 2017, prior to any impacts of Hurricane Irma. A project to replace and elevate several existing dune walkover structures, including three ADA accessible walkover structure, is still in progress. The dunes were revegetated following the rebuilding project.**

**GOAL 5:** Strive to protect the public and private sector by reducing their economic vulnerability and increasing their recovery capabilities.

#### **Objective 5.1**

Encourage disaster planning training through collaborative programs with appropriate government agencies and the private sector.

**Planning Division staff and the City's Fire Marshal represent the City on the Duval County LMS Advisory Committee, as well as on its Risk Assessment Subcommittee and participates annually in the maintenance of the LMS, and its five year cycle update. Staff participated in the review and update of applicable portions of the 2015 LMS for inclusion in the 2020 LMS, which was adopted by City Council in 2021. Additionally, Staff participated in two Hurricane activations for Tropical Storm Eta and Tropical Storm Isaias. The City also hosted supervisor level staff hurricane training in May of 2020.**

#### **Objective 5.2**

Analyze the factors involved in small business decision making regarding preparing for disasters and integrating hazard mitigation into their management practices.



### **Objective 5.3**

Promote mitigation guidelines for businesses to raise awareness about local hazards, assist in vulnerability assessment, aid in the identification of financial and technical assistance available, and facilitate hazard mitigation implementation to include continuity of operations.

**GOAL 6:** Hazard Mitigation should promote personal awareness and responsibility, with an emphasis on education and training for property owners, families and individuals, which should be communicated to the public in a simple, easy to understand format

**The City and local media provide detailed hurricane and flood preparation information each year to property owners, utility customers, businesses and subscribers prior to the start of hurricane season. (on-going). The City has made available a Flood Information Flyer published on the City’s website and made available at City Hall. The City also makes available the County’s Annual “Hurricane Preparedness Guide” at City Hall and other public buildings.**

#### **Objective 6.1**

Promote disaster preparedness education and awareness programs, targeting specific benefits to homeowners, families and individuals.

**The City of Jacksonville Beach helps distribute the County’s Hurricane Preparedness Guide annually by providing copies that are made available at City Hall, other public buildings, and the Beaches Branch of the Public Library. The County Preparedness Guide for 2020-2021 is posted on the County’s website.**

#### **Objective 6.2**

Promote disaster preparedness education and awareness programs, targeting specific benefits to public and private sector.

#### **Objective 6.3**

Encourage public information programs for hazard mitigation, emphasizing its direct benefits to citizens, including public officials and private businesses.

**Objective 6.4**

Identify and coordinate hazard mitigation public information programs and events such as contests and festivals with public and private partners.

**Objective 6.5**

Identify and seek multiple funding sources that will support hazard mitigation awareness and training program.

**Objective 6.6**

Educate and promote elected officials, builders and potential homeowners, the economic and safety benefits of designing mitigation features into new construction.