



LAUDERTRAC



RESILIENCY UPDATE FORT LAUDERDALE

Tracking Progress on Commission Priorities for 2021

March 2021

CREATING A STRONGER COMMUNITY



Installation of resilient infrastructure

In January 2021, the City Commission convened to reflect on the progress of the 2020 priorities and identify the focus areas for the coming year. The Commission unanimously agreed that although Fort Lauderdale has made significant progress on several initiatives designed to position the city as a stronger and more resilient city in 2020, resiliency will remain a top priority this year.

2020 Major Accomplishments

- ▶ Improved protection against flooding and sea level rise by completing the elevation of the Isle of Palms and Cordova Road seawalls. Nine hundred linear feet of the Isle of Palms seawall was replaced in August 2020, and 2,400 linear feet of the Cordova Road seawall will be complete in May 2021. Both seawalls are being replaced with an entirely new structure consisting of deep sheet piles and a new, higher top elevation of five feet North American Vertical Datum.
- ▶ Partnered with Cityworks to create an asset management system that will allow for tracking of conditions, repairs, inspections, and the cost of assets for water, stormwater, and wastewater underground infrastructure.
- ▶ Conducted a Repetitive Loss Area Flooding Analysis.
- ▶ Purchased 18 high-clearance vehicles for public safety use in the event of flooding or hurricanes.
- ▶ Performed hurricane mitigation during the Housing Rehabilitation Program including installing impact-rated windows and doors in 16 homes and new roofs in 14 homes.
- ▶ The City Commission adopted, by resolution, the Unified Regional Sea Level Rise Projection that was updated in 2019 by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact as the basis for sea level rise adaptation planning activities.



Newly elevated Isle of Palms Seawall



Window installation

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Looking Forward: 2021 Major Initiatives

In 2021, the City will focus resiliency efforts on planning and the implementation of initiatives within five major topics:



Asset Management

Like all urban municipalities, the City of Fort Lauderdale is heavily reliant on utility assets (e.g., pipes, pumps, lift stations, catch basins, and valves) to function effectively as a community. Asset management planning considers the criticality of those assets and the risk to our community if they fail. Understanding our assets helps the City plan for the best operation and maintenance strategies of our utility systems and supports risk-based prioritization of capital improvement investments. The City will launch its asset management system in 2021.



Beach Resiliency

The City of Fort Lauderdale has more than seven miles of beach that offers residents and visitors premier opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and enjoyment. The beach also acts as a protective barrier to tropical storm impacts from storm surge and wave action. Beach nourishment and dune management are two critical components providing improved resiliency of our beaches.



Sea Level Rise

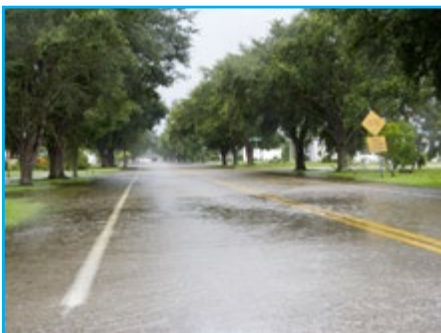
In 2020, the City recorded 138 high tides that exceeded the threshold for flooding in the lowest lying areas of Fort Lauderdale. In addition to adopting the 2019 Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's Unified Regional Sea Level Rise Projection, the City has prioritized city-owned seawall repair, elevation, and replacement in several neighborhoods to address the impact of rising seas on our roadways. The City is also exploring the issue of road elevation to understand which street segments are vulnerable to future flooding and policy implications of City investments in this adaptation strategy.



Stormwater Infrastructure

In January 2018, the City of Fort Lauderdale finalized the Stormwater Master Plan to install drainage improvements in seven flood-vulnerable neighborhoods. The City has allocated \$70 million to initiate comprehensive drainage improvements in the Edgewood and River Oaks neighborhoods. Following the adoption of a new stormwater rate methodology and the transfer of the stormwater fee to the property tax bill in 2020, the City is now pursuing a bond validation of the rate to finance revenue bonds. The City is also pursuing low-interest Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act funding from United States Environmental Protection Agency to support funding the stormwater improvements in the five additional neighborhoods.

Following widespread flooding from Tropical Storm Eta, the City will also work toward restoring the drainage system in the Melrose Park neighborhood and initiating the conceptual design of a stormwater management system for Melrose Manors.



Flooding

Beyond implementation of the City's Stormwater Master Plan, several critical activities will also support resiliency to flooding including finalizing improvements to provide back-up generators at the two critical stormwater pumps in the downtown area, reviewing the designated Adaptation Action Areas, and ensuring new construction is integrating resilient practices.

The City will report on progress within each topic throughout the year. As projects advance within the different areas, the City will move closer to becoming a more sustainable and resilient community.

For more information on resiliency efforts, visit gyr.fortlauderdale.gov