



RESILIENT JACKSONVILLE

ANNUAL UPDATE

OCTOBER 2025



Jacksonville is a growing city navigating an evolving set of shocks and stressors that require sustained attention and action. From more frequent and intense storm events to rising temperatures, the city's future resilience must embrace change from increasing and uncertain risks. The way Jacksonville prepares for and responds to these challenges will shape the city's future for generations to come.

Since the release of the award-winning *Resilient Jacksonville* strategy in 2023, the City has demonstrated a clear and ongoing commitment to advancing resilience. The Office of Resilience continues to apply a science-based, data-driven approach to decision-making, with an emphasis on strategic planning and methods tailored to the City's scale and complexity.

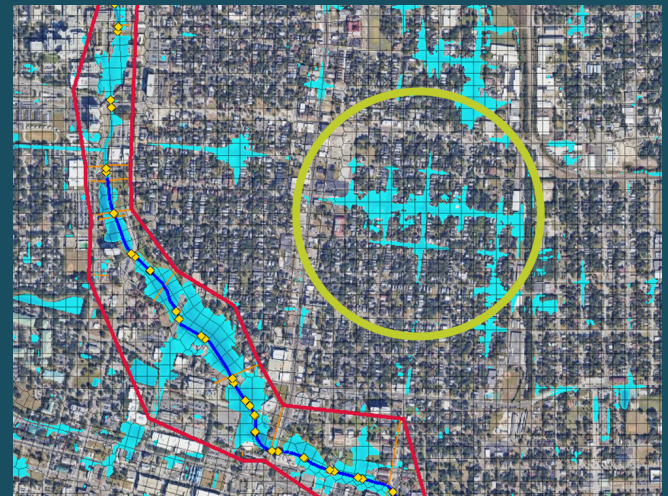
Over the past year, Jacksonville has invested in initiatives designed to deliver both immediate and long-term benefits. These targeted efforts include continuing projects that are building momentum, as well as newly launched initiatives that expand the City's capacity to address resilience challenges. This annual summary highlights key accomplishments from the past year and outlines projects that will help chart a more resilient path forward.

Nearing Completion

Many of the projects led by the Office of Resilience tackle long-range and complex subjects that unfold in multi-year planning phases. Two of the key projects now nearing completion include the first-of-its-kind citywide compound flood model and a resilience update to the City's Land Development Regulations. These initiatives have been at the forefront of the City's resilience program over the last two years to ensure Jacksonville is making smart, risk informed land use decisions.

Compound Flood Model & Real-Time Forecasting

The Office of Resilience worked with a team of experts to develop a probabilistic compound flood model for Jacksonville. Unlike existing flood data, this cutting-edge model measures the combined impacts of coastal surge, tidal fluctuations, riverine flooding, and inland stormwater flooding. The model is running over 50,000 flood scenarios, incorporating current conditions and future projections based on the best available science, which will provide city staff with the most advanced flood data in the country to guide project development and planning decisions. The compound flood modeling project also incorporates real-time flood forecasting to support emergency response, allowing fine-scale data to be used in guiding storm preparation and improving efficiency of flood response efforts.



(The figure to the right shows preliminary results from the compound flood model around Hogans Creek. While typical models provide information on flooding around creeks, such as the area outlined in red, the City's compound flood model will provide novel information on inland stormwater/street flooding such as, the area outlined in green.)

Land Development Regulations Update

In 2025, the Land Development Regulations Update Committee completed its final report, outlining research-backed solutions to steer future growth in Jacksonville. The Committee – comprised of local experts, developers, neighborhood advocates, and city staff – recommended a series of development incentives for residential housing built with affordability and resilience elements in areas capable of accommodating growth without flooding.



* The figure above shows how increased density and height along low-flood risk transit corridors could expand housing availability without impacting existing single-family neighborhoods.

New Projects

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Office of Resilience is working with emergency management staff to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Jacksonville currently has a higher Wildfire Hazard Potential than 92.4% of counties in the nation, and this plan will outline policies, practices, and priorities for wildfire management and will guide mitigation projects on public and private lands to protect public safety and property from the risk of wildfires.

State of the Food Plan

The City of Jacksonville is conducting a robust analysis of Jacksonville's food system to better understand food production, processing/distribution, access, and waste/recovery. The results of this study will be used to inform a citywide food plan that will outline actionable goals, policy recommendations, and partnerships to enhance the resilience of our local food system.

Green Infrastructure Projects

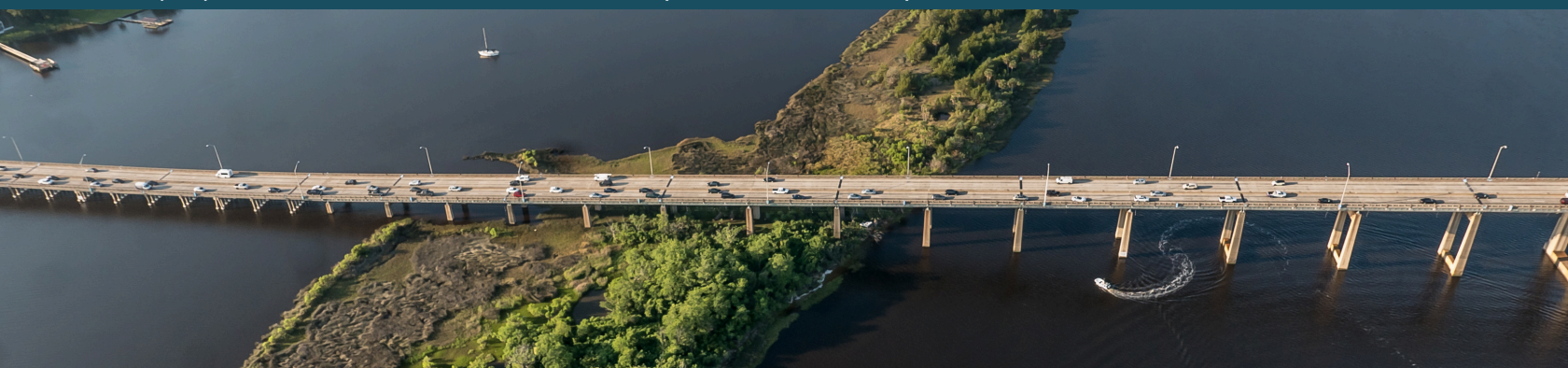
The Office of Resilience is building on the findings of compound model to develop a decision-making process for where green infrastructure projects will have the greatest positive impact on Jacksonville. When deployed strategically, green infrastructure can be an incredibly cost-effective way for the city to manage stormwater and address extreme heat. The Office of Resilience is also working with the Parks and Public Works Departments to construct several green infrastructure pilot projects and expand the City's Low Impact Development Manual.

Adaptation Plan

The City of Jacksonville is utilizing grant funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to establish a framework for prioritizing capital projects based on their resilience needs and benefits, such as level of flood risk and potential mitigation. The resulting adaptation plan will help the city tier project prioritization and identify construction projects that will be competitive for future cycles of Resilient Florida grant funding.

Living Shoreline Suitability Model

The Office of Resilience is currently developing a geospatial suitability model of over 300 miles of shoreline within the St. John's River watershed. This project, led internally by city staff, is identifying the appropriate locations for different shoreline types – from grey solutions like bulkheads to green options like living shorelines – to ensure that shoreline projects are located in areas where they will be most likely to succeed.



Continuing Projects

Urban Forestry Management Plan

The Office of Resilience is leading the creation of Jacksonville's first-ever Urban Forestry Management Plan, a foundational effort to strategically manage the city's tree canopy. The plan will include a detailed analysis of the current state of the City's tree canopy and will provide City staff with information on potential planting areas, which will allow the City to prioritize future planting projects to maximize benefits and address issues such as extreme heat.

Extreme Temperature Readiness

Jacksonville is developing standards and procedures for coordinating citywide response to extreme heat and freeze events, to ensure the city's emergency management professionals and partners can respond to extreme temperatures in an organized and efficient manner. The City has engaged a team of engineers to examine the effects of extreme heat on critical infrastructure to better understand how prolonged periods of heat or freeze may impact assets across our city.

Over the Years

APA National Planning Award

In 2024, the *Resilient Jacksonville* strategy won the American Planning Association's award for excellence in resilience and sustainability.

ASLA Florida Design Award

In 2025, *Resilient Jacksonville* received a design award for planning and analysis from the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Regional Excellence Award

In its inaugural year, *Resilient Jacksonville* won a Regional Excellence Award from the Northeast Florida Regional Council for excellence in resilience.



Ten Across Cohort

The City of Jacksonville is an active member of the *Ten Across (10X)* cohort, where sunbelt cities come together to address emerging risks across the I-10 corridor. In 2025, Jacksonville held a regional extreme heat tabletop exercise with 10X cities and was the host city for last year's conference which brought together policy makers, planners, and practitioners issues from heat to insurance.

Tour with the Consult General of the Netherlands

The Office of Resilience had the honor of providing a resilience tour for the Consult General for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This tour showcased some of the groundbreaking work being done locally, such as the Emerald Trail and the restoration of McCoys Creek, which incorporate and build upon many Dutch resilience principles, including making room for rivers.

Regional Resilience Action Plan

The Office of Resilience worked closely with staff at the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the First Coast Collaborative to develop the *Regional Resilience Action Plan*. This Plan establishes clearly defined actions that can be taken by the Council and Collaborative to advance resilience in Northeast Florida. This regional approach to resilience will enable progress far beyond what individual local governments could achieve on their own.

Heat Resilience Exchange

The City of Jacksonville's Office of Resilience is engaged in the Atlantic Council-led *Heat Resilience Exchange*. Through participation in this national cohort, Jacksonville is learning directly from peer cities that are leading innovative efforts to protect communities from heat impacts.

Green Schools Partnership

The Office of Resilience is working collaboratively with Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) and the Public Works Department to create a streamlined tree-planting process for schools with high heat vulnerability and low tree canopy cover. Resulting tree planting projects will reduce the adverse impacts of extreme heat and will positively impact student health.

Insurance for Good Cohort

Jacksonville participates in the Insurance Solutions for Escalating Climate Extremes in U.S. Cities cohort which works to address pressing issues of insurability through collaboration and innovation. Through this program, Jacksonville is working with insurers, reinsurers, and peer cities to explore new frameworks for managing the risks posed by disasters. Jacksonville's work to better quantify flood risks and guide smarter investments is helping shape community resilience across the U.S.