Alachua County, Florida

Alachua County Ready

2026 Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy

Alachua County Emergency Management

Cover photograph taken by Kim Davidson

2026 LMS Work Group Chair: Kenneth Allen
(352) 273-2100 / kfallen@ufl.edu / University of Florida Department of Emergency Management
2026 LMS Work Group Vice Chair: Andy Renshaw
(352) 393-8522 / renshawal@cityofgainesville.gov / City of Gainesville Public Works Department
Alachua County LMS Coordinator and Primary Author: Cadyn Gentry
(352) 264-6540 / cgentry@alachuacounty.us / Alachua County Emergency Management

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

Executive Summary

Alachua County is vulnerable to a variety of hazards that present threats to its residents, visitors, businesses and the environment. These hazards could be natural, societal or technological and may have significant adverse human, environmental or economic impacts on the community. The Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) establishes a framework to lessen the vulnerability of Alachua County and its municipalities to these hazards. The LMS addresses projects, policies and programs to reduce the County's vulnerability to the impacts of disasters before and after they happen. The LMS also outlines actions that are initiated post-disaster to prevent recurring losses from future disasters.

Alachua County Emergency Management (ACEM) is one of many Emergency Management Agencies that conduct multi-hazard mitigation planning. ACEM serves as a liaison for all participating jurisdictions to monitor, coordinate, update and maintain this all-hazard mitigation document in an effort to develop a disaster-resilient and sustainable community. Formal local mitigation planning began in 1998 and continues with this 2026 revision.

Introduction

I. Mitigation Framework

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), which amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, provides the legal basis for FEMA mitigation planning requirements. State, local and tribal governments must comply with these requirements to qualify for mitigation grant assistance.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 emphasizes the need for close coordination of state, local, and tribal mitigation planning efforts to implement mitigation activities and projects. Mitigation plans are to be based upon a Threat, Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

II. LMS Work Group Mission Statement

The Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group is committed to implementing effective mitigation strategies to significantly reduce or eliminate loss of life, damage to property, the environment or the local economy due to a natural, societal or technological disaster. These strategies will be expressed in a comprehensive Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Plan, to be adopted by Alachua County, participating municipalities, and agencies or institutions. The Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group will rely upon information and resource sharing and the integration of activities among all jurisdictions within Alachua County to develop a coordinated all-hazards interdisciplinary and intergovernmental approach to hazard mitigation.

III. Mitigation Strategy Goals and Objectives

The Local Mitigation Strategy goals and objectives align with current mitigation doctrine as well as the mission of the LMS Working Group.

Goal 1 – Establish an ongoing Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy Planning Process as part of a comprehensive community-based emergency management program to protect public health, life safety, economic vitality, the environment and property through inter-agency cooperation.

Objective 1.1: Seek participation and LMS Plan adoption by every eligible Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group member agency or jurisdiction.

Objective 1.2: Provide the adopted LMS Plan to the State Hazard Mitigation Office and Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and acceptance.

Objective 1.3: Identify and prioritize projects in the LMS Plan so that participating jurisdictions qualify for hazard mitigation funding and disaster assistance.

Objective 1.4: Provide a process for implementation, ongoing maintenance and periodic updates of the LMS Plan, including the Project Priorities lists and Critical Facilities Inventory.

Objective 1.5: Encourage local jurisdictions to participate in the Community Rating System, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Objective 1.6: Foster inter-agency coordination, collaboration, and regional mitigation and prevention activities through open lines of communication, education for elected officials and

agency staff, joint-planning efforts, and consistency between various agency emergency preparedness plans, comprehensive plans and other such planning documents.

Goal 2 – Promote disaster resilience for individuals, communities and businesses through greater self-reliance and public-private partnerships.

Objective 2.1: Foster partnerships with local businesses and Chambers of Commerce to educate the business community and build resilient, disaster-resistant communities.

Objective 2.2: Support member agencies of the LMS Work Group in their efforts to increase public awareness and emergency preparedness.

Goal 3 – Engage in hazard mitigation project planning and implementation to protect public health and safety, economic vitality, property, natural and cultural resources, critical facilities and governmental buildings and facilities.

Objective 3.1: Identify, secure and allocate appropriate resources for the mitigation of natural, societal and technological hazards.

Objective 3.2: Develop hazard mitigation proposals for construction and planning projects to protect the county from the effects of civil disturbance, terrorist acts, hazardous materials, wildland and urban fire, high winds, storms, drought, flooding, and other hazards.

Objective 3.3: Actively pursue all available funding sources for identified hazard mitigation projects in order to implement these projects and reduce community vulnerability.

Goal 4 – Integrate hazard-mitigation planning into the local Comprehensive Plans and land-use decision-making processes of all jurisdictions in Alachua County.

Objective 4.1: Consider natural and man-made hazards during the land use decision-making process.

Objective 4.2: Provide for mitigation of identified hazards during the development review process.

Objective 4.3: Include hazard mitigation requirements into development approvals and development orders.

Planning Process

The Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy was significantly revised in 2009 by a multi-jurisdiction, multi-agency work group coordinated by Alachua County Emergency Management. It was significantly updated in 2015 and 2021, and this 2026 revision to the LMS represents another substantial review of mitigation efforts in Alachua County. This plan was developed by Alachua County Emergency Management and coordinated with the entire 2025 LMS Work Group. The public was invited to participate in the revision process for the 2026 version of the LMS. A review of requirements for the LMS was conducted and updates were solicited from the LMS Work Group in the summer of 2025. All local partners provided updates or feedback for their relative sections of the document, and edits were made by Alachua County Emergency Management. The document was then distributed to the Work Group, and the public was invited to provide feedback and participate in all planning meetings. An initial planning meeting was held August 19, 2025, a midterm meeting September 16, 2025, and a final review meeting was held on September 30, 2025 with those groups for final review of the document. Alachua County Emergency Management finalized revisions and submitted the draft local mitigation strategy to the Florida Division of Emergency Management for their review on October 7, 2025.

The membership of the 2025 LMS Work Group and participating organizations are listed in Attachment A: LMS Work Group Members, Organizations and Roles. LMS Work Group members are kept informed of Work Group meetings, revisions to the LMS, information concerning mitigation, notices of funding availability and similar information through direct contact either in person or by telephone and email. New stakeholders are invited to join the LMS Work Group as they are identified.

Public comment on the revised LMS was solicited using press releases via the Alachua County Communications Office and social media. All meetings of the LMS Work Group are open to the public. No feedback was provided by the public. Any feedback received would have been evaluated by the Working Group before potential incorporation.

Plan Evaluation and Maintenance

Alachua County Emergency Management is responsible for the development, monitoring, evaluation, review, maintenance and update of the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy. A current copy of the LMS is available for public review on the Alachua County Emergency Management website. Generally the LMS is reviewed, evaluated and updated in three timeframes: the required five-year update, an annual review and progress report and as needed to address the impacts or consequences of an incident. New mitigation project proposals are submitted on a rolling basis and reviewed quarterly.

Any changes to the Alachua County LMS that may be outside of the five-year update are coordinated with, reviewed, and approved by the LMS Work Group as well as the representatives of the member local governments and other stakeholders.

The Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Coordinator is a designated position from Alachua County Emergency Management who monitors all mitigation activities related to the LMS Working

Group. This includes monitoring changes with mitigation programs, distribution of mitigation notices, receipt of project updates from member organizations, and other associated tasks.

I. 5-Year Revisions

The Alachua County LMS will be evaluated, reviewed and updated on a 5-year basis as required by Title 44, Part 201 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This process officially begins upon notification of expiration of the document, typically 18 months before expiration. However, efforts may begin unofficially before that time. During the 5-year update, the LMS will be reviewed and evaluated to determine changes in local conditions that may affect mitigation strategies, changes in review criteria or statutory requirements that require action and needed adjustments to the goals of the LMS. The five-year update is developed by Alachua County Emergency Management and coordinated with the LMS Work Group. Significant changes to the LMS are ultimately ratified by the governing bodies of the local governments and the appropriate representatives of other participating entities.

II. Annual Revisions

An annual review of the LMS is conducted to support NFIP Community Rating System requirements and to complete reporting processes to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. This annual report is generated by Alachua County Emergency Management and summarizes the progress towards meeting the goals of the LMS, addition of new mitigation projects, evaluation of mitigation efforts, and other mitigation activities which have occurred in the previous year. Each participating entity is asked to summarize their mitigation activities. This review also identifies necessary modifications to keep the LMS current.

Typically, new mitigation project proposals are solicited from the members of the LMS Work Group on an ongoing basis. The mitigation projects are then reviewed and ranked by the Ranking Task Force quarterly. Projects are removed from the list as they are completed or found to be not applicable by the Ranking Task Force during review.

III. Post-Incident Revisions

The LMS will be amended and updated as needed to appropriately address the consequences of a disaster or incident that may present opportunities for mitigation activities. During post-incident damage assessments and recovery activities, potential hazard mitigation opportunities will be identified and hazard mitigation projects will be developed by the LMS Work Group for their respective jurisdictions.

IV. Public Participation

The public is encouraged to engage in the LMS planning process. As noted in the Mitigation Strategy section of this document, all levels of government attempt to engage the public in disaster awareness, preparation, and mitigation efforts throughout the year on a nearly continuous basis. For example, Alachua County publishes press releases regarding Working Group meetings and activities.

Attachment J: Public Invitation for Planning is an example of the press releases distributed to inform the public about local mitigation efforts.

Moving forward, the LMS Working Group will continue with the same methods of outreach used previously and will continue to look for new ways the reach the community and increase participation and input.

V. Recent Development and Growth

Priorities and projects in the LMS will be revised to reflect changes in development. Since 2015, limited growth has occurred which would impact the vulnerability of the County. This is in part due to stringent development codes including updates to the countywide storm water management requirements.

The most significant areas of growth have occurred in unincorporated Alachua County just West of Gainesville where residential communities have developed. The City of Newberry has seen some commercial and industrial growth, which could increase vulnerability to hazardous material incidents in the future. However, they have reduced their vulnerability to power outages and flooding through installation of stand-by generators. Additionally, the City of Hawthorne has annexed 1300 acres for industrial development which may increase their susceptibility to hazardous materials incidents in the future, but no development permits have been issued on those properties to date.

Aside from minor residential growth, no significant changes have happened throughout the rest of the County.

Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

The following hazard analysis (Table 1) is used to determine the hazards that pose threats to Alachua County and is developed from historical data. The Likely Frequency of Occurrence is defined as, in increasing frequency: < (less than) 100 years, <10 years, <2 years, and Annual. The Vulnerability Impacts are defined as, in increasing severity: Low, Moderate, High, Extensive, and Catastrophic.

There have been no significant, regularly occurring hazards for Alachua County which have been omitted. Omitted hazards include: erosion, winter storms, seismic incidents and tsunami incidents. These hazards have been omitted as they do not affect Alachua County. Erosion is not a concern as the geography and ecosystems of the county do not contribute to erosion. The climate of the county limits winter storms. The location of the county does not contribute to a vulnerability to seismic incidents or tsunamis. Mitigation of these hazards would not likely pass cost-benefit analyses, and will not be a focus of the Local Mitigation Working Group.

This hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment speaks to all jurisdictions in Alachua County and is based on current populations. Future increases in population may increase the vulnerability of the community to particular hazards.

Hazard Vulnerability Category	Likely Frequency of Occurrence	Population Impact	Property Impact	Environment Impact	Government Operations Impact
Wind from Tropical Cyclone	Annual	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Flooding	<2 years	High	Extensive	Moderate	High
Hazardous Material Spill	<2 years	Extensive	Extensive	High	High
Nuclear Reactor Incident	<100 years	Low	Low	Low	Low
Civil Disturbance	<2 years	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate
Mass Migration	<100 years	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate
Coastal Oil Spill	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wildland Fire	<2 years	High	High	Extensive	High
Terrorism	<100 years	High	High	Moderate	High
Exotic Pest and Disease	<2 years	Low	Moderate	High	Low
Disease and Pandemic Outbreak	<50 years	High	Low	Low	High
Critical Infrastructure Disruption	<10 years	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate

Hazard Vulnerability Category	Likely Frequency of Occurrence	Population Impact	Property Impact	Environment Impact	Government Operations Impact
Special Event	Annual	Extensive	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Major Transportation Incident	<2 Years	High	Moderate	High	Moderate
Drought	<10 years	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Geological Incident	<100 years	Low	Low	Low	Low
Extreme Heat	<10 years	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low
Freezing Temperature	<100 years	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Severe Weather	Annual	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Cyber Attack/ Disruption	Annual	Moderate	Low	Low	High

Table 1: Alachua County Hazard Vulnerability Impact Summary

I. Wind from Tropical Cyclone (Hurricane, Tropical Storm)

A. General Description:

A tropical cyclone is a rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has a closed low-level circulation. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

- **Potential Tropical Cyclone:** A term used to describe a disturbance that is not yet a tropical cyclone, but which poses the threat of bringing tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours
- **Tropical Depression:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less
- **Tropical Storm:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots)
- **Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher
- **Major Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph (96 knots) or higher, corresponding to a Category 3, 4, or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale[1].

B. Location and Extent:

Alachua County is located approximately sixty miles from both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, the entire County is subject to the effects of tropical cyclones. The extent varies by tropical cyclone, with some events producing tropical storm force winds or higher, and

[1] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale*.

others producing significant rainfall totals. There is potential for category 5 hurricane force winds in Alachua County, albeit that has never occurred.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Damages related to tropical cyclones vary widely from minor vegetative damage up to instances causing widespread power outages, blocked roadways and severely damaged or destroyed buildings. Non-retrofitted structures and older structures are the most vulnerable. This hazard can threaten life safety and public health through physical injury, generation of secondary hazards such as debris, and damage to facilities resulting in exposure to the elements. Wind from tropical cyclones can damage critical facilities, disrupt infrastructure such as power or water, halt the local economy, and result in long term tax impacts from residents who do not return following an event. This impact is the same for all non-retrofitted or modern structures across Alachua County, in every jurisdiction. Climate change is increasing ocean temperatures and atmospheric moisture, which can fuel stronger tropical cyclones with heavier rainfall and greater wind damage.

D. Previous Occurrences:

Hurricane winds and other hazards associated with strong tropical systems have reached Alachua County. The storm of record for the County is the Storm of 1896, which was a strong Category 3 storm when it passed through the northwest portion of the County. Tropical cyclones have caused both wind and water damage. Since the Storm of 1896, Alachua County has felt the tropical storm force or greater wind and/or rain impacts of multiple tropical cyclones in recent history, including:

- **2016**: Hurricane Hermine
- **2016**: Hurricane Matthew
- **2017**: Hurricane Irma
- **2021**: Tropical Storm Elsa
- **2022**: Hurricane Ian
- **2022**: Hurricane Nicole
- **2023**: Hurricane Idalia
- **2024**: Hurricane Debby
- **2024**: Hurricane Helene
- **2024**: Hurricane Milton

II. Flooding

A. General Description:

A flood is defined as an overflow of water that submerges land which is usually dry. The Floodplain is an area of land adjacent to a river or stream that stretches from the banks of its channels to the base of the enclosing valley walls that experiences flooding during periods of high discharge.

B. Location and Extent:

There are areas of the county which are part of river watersheds that are vulnerable to flooding from rising water. These areas include the extreme southeast portion of the county along the shores of Newnans, Orange and Lochloosa Lakes; portions of Gainesville along Hogtown Creek; and the Santa Fe River floodplain.

Alachua County also has areas of floodplain that are associated with closed basins that have no outfall to other external bodies of water such as a stream or river. In these closed basins, the primary cause of flooding is direct rainfall rather than riverine flooding.

A large portion of the eastern half of Alachua County lies in the 100-year floodplain. However, much of this area is agricultural or silvicultural, or is publicly owned and contains limited structural development. Currently, the population concentrations and developed areas in eastern Alachua County are generally associated with the communities of Cross Creek, Island Grove, Hawthorne, Melrose, Waldo, and the eastern section of Gainesville. Certain areas of Alachua County are within the 500-year floodplain.

There are also areas in Gainesville which are prone to flooding. These areas are identified within: Attachment F: Gainesville FIRM Zones, Attachment G: Gainesville Additional Flood Hazard Areas, Attachment H: Gainesville Hurricane Irma Flood Locations, and Attachment M: Alachua County FIRM with Jurisdictions.

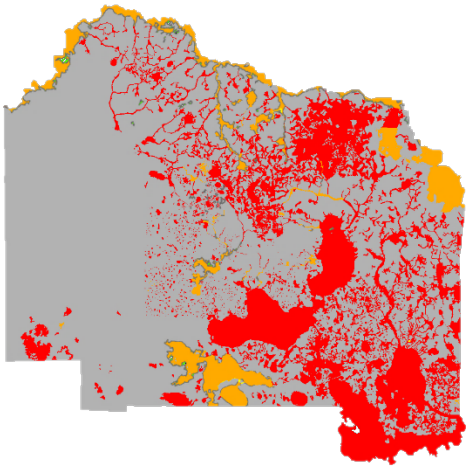

Figure 1: Floodplains in Alachua County[2]

The other primary flooding threat involves storm water runoff that occurs in many locations. Runoff can be exacerbated by an increase in impervious surfaces associated with development in areas subject to flooding.

Paynes Prairie is a large protected natural floodplain in the County. It acts as a buffer against flooding.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Minor flooding may only impact agricultural and silvicultural production within Alachua County and structures in highly flood prone areas. Moderate to heavy flooding may result in blocked or damaged roadways, damaged power lines, damage to homes and significant agricultural or silvicultural losses. These events can threaten life safety and public health through drowning, production of secondary hazards such as hidden debris, facilitation of mold growth in buildings, can block access to or damage critical facilities, disrupt infrastructure such as roads or power, may

[2] FEMA, *FEMA Zones-2018.*

restrict access to businesses, and result in long term financial consequences from loss or closure of business. Buildings and structures in flood prone areas highlighted in Figure 1 are the most vulnerable. Potential impacts are the same across the zones highlighted in Figure 1. High Springs, Alachua, LaCrosse, Waldo, Hawthorne and Micanopy are within the highlighted zones. Climate change increases the risk of flooding by intensifying heavy rainfall and overwhelming drainage systems more frequently.

1. Repetitive Loss Properties

There are currently no severe repetitive loss and sixteen identified repetitive flood loss properties in Alachua County. These residential properties are in or near the communities of Gainesville, High Springs and Micanopy. Annually, as part of the Community Rating System recertification process, these property owners are sent information about the NFIP.

The City of Gainesville has a property considered to be repetitive loss in the Highland Court area.

D. Previous Occurrences:

While minor flooding is a regular occurrence in Alachua County, there are periods of higher flooding often associated with tropical cyclones. Previous occurrences of moderate to heavy flooding include:

- **2004**: Flooding associated with Hurricane Frances
- **2004**: Flooding associated with Hurricane Jeanne
- **2012**: Santa Fe River flooding associated with Tropical Storm Debbie
- **2017**: Santa Fe River flooding associated with Hurricane Irma
- **2017:** Paynes Prairie flooding associated with Hurricane Irma
- **2017:** Hogtown Creek watershed flooding associated with Hurricane Irma
- **2021:** Urban flooding associated with Tropical Storm Elsa

Additional discussion concerning historic flooding within Alachua County and Gainesville are within the document “Flood Hazard and Remediation in Alachua County” which is available from the City of Gainesville.

III. Hazardous Material Incident

A. General Description:

Hazardous materials are substances that, when released, can pose a risk to people's health, safety, or the environment, if not handled properly. These materials can be found in various settings, including homes, transportation, workplaces, and industrial facilities. They are categorized based on the hazards they present, which can include physical hazards (like flammability or explosiveness) and health hazards (like toxicity or corrosiveness). A hazardous material incident is the release of any chemical substance or a combination of substances that have the potential to produce serious health, fire, or explosive hazards impacting people, property or the environment. Hazardous materials incidents are common in Alachua County because industry, business, government and private citizens use, store, manufacture and transport them daily.

B. Location and Extent:

The entirety of Alachua County is at risk from hazardous material incidents. Risk areas along major roadways, railroads, fixed facilities and pipelines cover a majority of the County. Fixed facilities are

located throughout the county. Surface transportation incidents regularly occur on major roadways such as I-75, US 27, US 41, US 301, US 441, SR 121, SR 235, SR 236, SR 222, SR 331, SR 20, SR 24 and SR 26. CSX Railways are in eastern, western and northern portions of the County. Additionally, several large natural gas pipelines run through the county as part of an interstate pipeline system. One regional airport with commercial flights and freight operations.

Alachua County has several industrial parks with chemical and biological R & D labs, as well as several large chemical manufacturing facilities. Alachua County also has several distribution centers which handle, store and transport hazardous materials daily. The county also has (1) LQG Hazardous Waste processing facility.

As a Tier 1 research institution, the University of Florida has numerous facilities containing hazardous materials, although many in small quantities. Robust laboratory safety, biological safety, radiation safety and hazardous materials management programs are in place through UF Environmental Health & Safety to mitigate risks.

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department – hazardous materials section conducts routine facility inspections on approximately 1200 facilities to ensure compliance with County, State and Federal regulations and mitigate potential incidents / releases within the County.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Minor hazardous material incidents cause onsite impacts to involved individuals. Incidents involving stronger agents or those that may be readily carried by weather conditions may be capable of causing significant medical impacts to affected populations, cause damage to the environment, result in suspension of operations at critical facilities for a period of time, may injure critical workers, and could result in individuals moving away from an area. Areas around facilities and transportation routes are the most vulnerable. Ground water impacts impacting drink water wells for municipalities and/or residential homes is a routine risk.

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department – hazardous materials section provides 24/7 Emergency Response for all Hazardous Materials incidents / releases to ensure the safety and protection of people, property and the environment. The hazardous materials section provides oversight from initial release through the complete remediation of hazmat discharges.

D. Previous Occurrences:

Incidents such as diesel spills and minor natural gas line strikes happen regularly within the County.

Well-documented instances of higher risk events:

- **2023:** Air Liquide facility explosion, I-75 Closure 10 hours – Styrene Tanker crash / spill
- **2021:** Family Pool & Spa warehouse chemical reaction incident with Chlorine Gas release
- **2017:** CSX Derailments x 2
- **2012:** I-75 Closure 24 hours – Fog/Smoke 28 crash-11 fatality incident, Chemical lab explosions – Gainesville & Alachua
- **Various Years:** Plane crashes x 5

IV. Nuclear Reactor Incident

A. General Description:

Nuclear reactor incidents occur when an event surpasses the defense-in-depth measures taken at a site which may result in the release of radiological effluents into the environment from a nuclear reactor. These incidents are primarily of concern when offsite radiation dosages would surpass the levels detailed in the Protective Action Guidelines.

B. Location and Extent:

The University of Florida maintains a training reactor on campus. The reactor is located centrally in the County within the City of Gainesville. Due to the low levels of material used at this site and the design of the reactor, the threat is limited to the building in which it operates[3].

There are no Emergency Planning Zones from commercial reactors which overlap Alachua County.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

A nuclear reactor incident within Alachua County is extremely unlikely. Any incidents would result in the shutdown of a single facility and would result in extremely low exposures to on-site operators. There are no additional life safety, health, critical facility, infrastructure, or economical threats.

D. Previous Occurrences:

There are no previous occurrences of nuclear reactor incidents in Alachua County.

V. Civil Disturbance

A. General Description:

Civil disturbance is activity such as a demonstration, riot, or strike that disrupts a community and requires intervention to maintain public safety.

B. Location and Extent:

Portions of Alachua County, especially the urban areas and the University of Florida campus area, are particularly vulnerable to civil disturbance.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

These incidents may result in damage to government or personal property, injuries to the public or government personnel, critical facilities as well as damage to businesses. All areas of the County could be affected.

D. Previous Occurrences:

In 2017 the University of Florida hosted a controversial speaker from the National Policy Institute, which required extensive planning to minimize the threat of a civil disturbance. Alachua County declared a Local State of Emergency (LSE) and a Governor's Declaration of Emergency in anticipation of this event. Additionally, the University of Florida routinely hosts prominent political and cultural figures.

[3] University of Florida, *Emergency Plan – University of Florida Training Reactor*

The Dove World Outreach Center Qur'an-burning Controversy occurred from 2010 – 2011 in Alachua County. This event sparked violence and civil unrest globally.

Since 2020, there have been several protests throughout Alachua County regarding a variety of topics. These protests/demonstrations have remained largely peaceful and have not escalated beyond the point of minimal public safety intervention.

VI. Wildland Fire (Brush Fire, Wildfire and Forest Fire)

A. General Description:

Wildland fires are fires that occur on wildland that do not meet forest management objectives that require a suppression response to avoid damage to natural areas or property, and threats to life safety.

B. Location and Extent:

The most at-risk portions of Alachua County are the urban interface (where community development meets wildland), and rural areas where wildland fuels are present. It should also be noted that significant fuels exist in each jurisdiction past the urban interface. This denotes a significant area of the County, impacting all jurisdictions. There are few exceptions such as developed retail or healthcare areas along Archer Road in Gainesville. Wildfires may rapidly spread over large swaths of land, and could last for days or even weeks. However, wildfires in Alachua County are typically well controlled due to the rapid coordinated initial attack response efforts of county and state wildfire agencies.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

In addition to the potential for structural damage, wildland fires can also cause significant losses and destruction for timber interests in Alachua County. Those homes along the wildland-urban interface and agricultural interests are the most vulnerable. Individuals may receive acute or chronic injuries, and critical facilities may be damaged. All jurisdictions in Alachua County are vulnerable to wildfires and would experience similar impacts. Areas become increasingly vulnerable when Alachua County experiences drought conditions. Climate change increases the risk of wildfires by creating hotter, drier conditions that dry out vegetation and extend fire seasons.

D. Previous Occurrences:

Wildfires are a somewhat common occurrence in Alachua County. Appendix C contains information on previous occurrences of wildfires within the County.

VII. Terrorism

A. General Description:

Terrorism, including cyber terrorism, is a violent, dangerous, or disruptive act done to coerce, intimidate, or harm any segment of the community (i.e., government, businesses, or civilian population) for political, social, or financial objectives.

B. Location and Extent:

The potential for terrorism exists in Alachua County due to the presence of potential targets such as an international university and events which draw large numbers of people, high profile

speakers, and visitors. Government buildings, transportation and commercial infrastructure, cultural, academic, research, and athletic facilities are also potential targets for terrorist attacks with the intent of causing extensive, if not catastrophic, levels of property and environmental damage, injury and loss of life.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Impacts on the local population, critical facilities, infrastructure and property resulting from terrorism can range from disruptions in service up to high-impact, high damage events. Cyber-attacks, vehicles, ballistics, explosives and other hazardous materials may be used to perpetuate an attack. Public spaces, government buildings and critical facilities are the most likely to be targeted.

D. Previous Occurrences:

In the past 5 years, there have been a total of 5 separate bomb threats or suspicious packages reported in Alachua County.

- 2020: Unexploded ordinances (WWII era mortars) found in residence in High Springs
- 2021: Multiple suspicious containers near the City of Alachua
- 2022: Bomb threat against Gainesville Highschool
- 2024: Report of unexploded ordinances in a parking lot in High Springs
- 2024: Suspicious Package in Gainesville

VIII. Exotic Pest and Disease

A. General Description:

Exotic pests and animal disease events are incidents associated with the spread of any insect, animal or pathogen that could pose an economic or health threat to human or animal populations, and/or the environment.

B. Location and Extent:

Exotic pests and diseases such as Mediterranean fruit flies, screw worm, citrus canker, and the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) may affect many parts of Florida. Biological hazards are a pervasive threat to the agricultural community and interests throughout the geographical area of Alachua County. These incidents may occur over a period of months and may have far reaching impacts.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Damages from pests and diseases can vary widely but cause the most concern towards environmental and agricultural resources which would be the most vulnerable to such an incident. It is difficult to predict how extensive impacts may be, or what may be affected. These incidents could affect gardens, parks, nature preserves, the economy, and many other aspects depending on species. Effects would be similar across the entirety of Alachua County, in all jurisdictions.

D. Previous Occurrences:

The Southern Pine Beetle is one insect that has specifically adversely affected Alachua County. Florida suffered an unprecedented outbreak of Southern Pine Beetle in 2001, which was especially severe in North Central Florida. In addition, Aedes aegypti (Yellow Fever Mosquito) can carry diseases such as the Zika and Dengue, while the now well-established Asian Tiger Mosquito, Aedes

albopictus, along with Culex nigripalpus, can transmit West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis to horses and humans. In the past 5 years, only one case of locally acquired West Nile Virus in a human has been confirmed in Alachua County, but numerous travel related cases of Dengue and Malaria have been reported in residents returning from high-risk countries. These travel-related cases pose a low risk for local transmission when reported and appropriate interventions are implemented.

IX. Disease and Pandemic Outbreak

A. General Description

A disease outbreak is the occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy. Disease outbreaks are usually caused by an infection, transmitted through person-to-person contact, animal-to-person contact, or from the environment or other media[4]. Pandemics are large-scale outbreaks of infectious disease that can greatly increase morbidity and mortality over a wide geographic area and cause significant economic, social, and political disruption[5].

B. Location and Extent:

The entire population of Alachua County may be vulnerable to disease and pandemic outbreaks, especially the population center in and surrounding the City of Gainesville. Areas with higher concentrations and traffic of individuals such as airports and bus stations can act as vectors. Disease and pandemic incidents may occur over the course of weeks, months, and potentially even years.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Disease and pandemic outbreaks may place greater demand upon the healthcare system, cause supply shortages, widespread loss of income, government and business closures, staffing issues in all industries as well as have psychological impacts upon the public. This hazard directly targets members of the population, the most vulnerable groups vary between diseases. The entire population which is impacted by a disease or pandemic would experience similar impacts and vulnerability across Alachua County. The transient and international nature of the University community increases the risk of disease transmission and spread.

D. Previous Occurrences:

The COVID-19 pandemic which began in 2020 highlights the impacts a global pandemic can have on Alachua County. Other incidents include the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic, the Asiatic Influenza of 1957, as well as the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

X. Critical Infrastructure Disruption

A. General Description:

A critical infrastructure disruption is the failure or interruption of systems which support the overall function of society. These events may be caused by intentional acts, weather events or be the result of aging infrastructure.

[4] World Health Organization, *Disease Outbreaks*

[5] National Institute of Health, Pandemics: Risks, Impacts, and Mitigation

B. Location and Extent:

Disruptions in critical infrastructure and technology have the potential to impact all portions of Alachua County, including all geographic areas, populations, and businesses within the County.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Disruptions may include, but are not limited to cyber-attacks, telecommunications failures, utility outages and pipeline disruptions. Telecommunications failures could lead to a reduction or complete termination of some public and private functions, including emergency services. Utility outages disproportionately impact the County's most vulnerable residents, as they are most reliant on electricity to power medical equipment and maintain a reasonable indoor ambient temperature to avoid the exacerbation of pre-existing medical conditions. In addition, critical facilities could have their functions reduced. A critical infrastructure disruption could have a significant impact on the local economy.

D. Previous Occurrences:

Critical infrastructure disruption occurs regularly within the county. Minor weather events, accidents and maintenance can result in the temporary loss of systems. Past critical infrastructure disruptions of significant impact have followed tropical cyclone events detailed earlier in this document.

XI. Special Event

A. General Description:

Special events are designated events that may be the target of criminal activity as a result of national significance and high visibility.

B. Location and Extent:

Many special and routine mass gatherings are held throughout the year at the University of Florida (UF), and throughout the County. Gator Nationals is a National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) drag racing event which occurs in the Northeast area of the County. The Alachua County Sports and Events Center routinely hosts large scale sporting events. There are also numerous cultural events that occur in the various municipalities throughout the year.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Due to large crowds associated with these events and potential accidents, local traffic infrastructure can become congested or damaged. Healthcare providers may see higher numbers of patients. Law Enforcement, Fire Rescue and other public safety organizations may have staffing challenges.

D. Previous Occurrences:

Special events are held throughout the year in Alachua County and are considered a regular occurrence.

XII. Major Transportation Incident

A. General Description:

Major transportation incidents occur when public transportation or transportation infrastructure such as highways, railroads and airports are significantly impacted by an event. These types of

incidents typically occur due to operator error, inclement weather, mechanical failure or infrastructure collapse.

B. Location and Extent:

State Roads and highways across the county are a concern, with Interstate-75 running through the center. Railroads run in the eastern and northwestern portions of the county. Gainesville Regional Airport is located centrally to the County.

C. Impact and Vulnerability:

Major transportation incidents can result in damage to property, loss of infrastructure, and injury or loss of life.

D. Previous Occurrences:

Alachua County regularly experiences transportation incidents along Interstate-75, US 441, and US 301. The only event recorded in Alachua County which qualifies as a major transportation incident is the Interstate 75 Incident which occurred on January 29th, 2012. This incident occurred in Paynes Prairie, involving 24 vehicles across 6 crashes. This incident resulted in 11 fatalities and 46 known injuries.

XIII. Drought

A. General Description:

Drought is a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals, and/or people. A drought may occur across the entirety of the County; and may occur over the course of weeks, months, and potentially even years. Drought conditions are monitored using the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI).

B. Location and Extent:

Drought has the potential to adversely impact all of Alachua County as well as surrounding jurisdictions. Severe drought may cause issues with availability of both water as well as locally grown food. Additionally, these conditions increase the County's vulnerability to wildfires, which may ignite due to the lack of moisture in the soil.

C. Impacts and Vulnerability:

Some specific impacts seen during a drought may include reduced agricultural production, reduced quantities of local flora and fauna, a potential increase in the occurrence of sinkholes, and a potential increase in the occurrences of wildfires. In extreme cases this may lead to water use restrictions and water emergencies. Natural ecosystems and agricultural interests would be the most vulnerable during this type of incident. Individuals with interests in unincorporated Alachua County, Waldo, Micanopy, Archer, Hawthorne, Newberry, High Springs, Alachua, and LaCrosse would be the most impacted. Climate change increases the risk of drought by raising temperatures and altering precipitation patterns, leading to longer and more intense dry periods.

D. Previous Occurrences:

There have been several historic instances of drought within Alachua County. Attachment N shows the past 5 years of drought conditions.

XIV. Mass Migration

A. General Description:

Mass migration occurs when a migration of undocumented aliens that is of such magnitude and duration that it poses a threat to the national security of the United States, as determined by the President[6]. The migration could occur in any area in the county, and vulnerability would be generated in the public safety and humanitarian response to the incident, which would strain resources. This has not previously occurred in the County.

B. Location and Extent:

Mass migration may affect any portion of Alachua County, but is most likely to occur in the City of Gainesville, as it is a resource-rich environment. The extent of a mass migration incident can vary depending on the situation that is causing the migration.

C. Impacts and Vulnerability

All of Florida, including Alachua County, is vulnerable to mass migration due to the state's close proximity to the Caribbean islands. Alachua County would coordinate closely with State and Federal resources to support humanitarian and other needs of a mass migration incident.

D. Previous Occurrences:

Alachua County has not experienced a mass migration incident.

XV. Coastal Oil Spill

A. General Description

Coastal oil spills occur when oil is released into the environment along a coastline.

B. Location and Extent

Alachua County is located approximately 50 miles from the nearest coast and is therefore not directly susceptible to coastal oil spills.

C. Impacts and Vulnerability

No portion of the county is directly vulnerable to coastal oil spills. If an oil spill were to occur off of the coast of Florida, it may impact the local economy due to a decrease in tourism to the state overall.

D. Previous Occurrences

No portion of the county is directly vulnerable to coastal oil spills, and one has never significantly impacted the County.

XVI. Severe Weather

A. General Description

Severe Weather incidents occur when weather patterns create hazardous conditions. Hazardous conditions may include high winds with sustained wind speeds of 40 mph or greater, lasting for one hour or longer, or winds of 58 mph or greater for any duration. Hail, as defined by the NWS, is showery precipitation in the form of irregular pellets or balls of ice, more than 5mm in diameter

falling from a cumulonimbus cloud. The final, and potentially most consequential hazard encompassing severe weather is the tornado. A tornado is defined as a violently rotating column of air. Tornadoes are categorized using the Enhanced Fujita Scale. These incidents may create impacts across the entire county, typically over a short period of time such as a few hours.

B. Location and Extent

These incidents may damage personal property, down trees across infrastructure, damage power lines, destroy homes in some cases, hail may damage crops and/or property, among other impacts. Residents living in weaker structures or those with reliance upon electricity for medical equipment are especially vulnerable to these incidents. Concentrations of mobile home parks exist around the outskirts of Gainesville as well as in the rural areas and may be more vulnerable. However, all jurisdictions are vulnerable to this type of incident because of the presence of older homes, mobile homes, suspended power lines, and other vulnerable structures throughout Alachua County.

C. Impacts and Vulnerability

The impacts of severe weather range from localized to one property to more significant incidents that impact one or more jurisdictions or properties. All of Alachua County is vulnerable to severe weather. Climate change increases atmospheric heat and moisture, which can intensify the conditions that produce severe weather, making events like tornadoes and hailstorms more likely to be stronger

D. Previous Occurrences

These incidents occur annually inside of the County, most often with limited impacts. Previous occurrences of this hazard can be found in Attachment I: Severe Weather Occurrences (2021 – 2025).

XVII. Extreme Heat

A. General Description

Extreme Heat incidents occur when outside temperatures exceed those typically experienced within a region, and may strain or surpass climate control capabilities commonly available. These incidents may occur across the entire county over a few hours, days, and potentially even weeks. These incidents may lead to heat related health impacts, most notably when occurring concurrently with a widespread power outage. The National Weather Service in Jacksonville (NWS Jax) issues Extreme Heat Watches when an extremely dangerous heat index (temperatures ≥ 113 degrees Fahrenheit) is possible within the next 24-72 hours. Extreme Heat Warnings are issued when the heat index is measured to be ≥113 degrees Fahrenheit. Per the NWS Jax, Extreme Heat Watch and Warning criteria vary across the country. The definitions above are specific to Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida.

B. Location and Extent

Extreme Heat affects all of Alachua County when it occurs. The extent of the impacts is dependent on the incident and is driven by other factors such as power outages.

C. Impacts and Vulnerability

The impacts are typically more severe for the medically vulnerable as well as the elderly. Climate change increases extreme heat by raising average temperatures and making heat waves more frequent, longer lasting, and more intense.

D. Previous Occurrences

Since 2015, Alachua County has experienced 1 Excessive Heat Warning, 6 Extreme Heat Warnings, and 57 Heat Advisories.

Heat Advisory	Month/Day	Month/Day
2020	July 11	September 5
2021	July 31	August 19
2022	June 15-16, 24	
2023	July 3-4, 7, 9, 15, 20, 22, 30	August 6, 11-12, 15, 26-27, 29
2024	June 25	July 4-6, 8
2025	July 18-22, 26-27, 29-30	
Extreme Heat Warning	**Month/Day**	**Month/Day**
2025	July 29	
Excessive Heat Warning	**Month/Day**	**Month/Day**
2025	August 8-9, 13-15	

Table 2: List of Heat Events (2020-2025)

XVIII. Geological Incident

A. General Description

Geological incidents occur when significant shifts in the ground occur which generate hazardous conditions. Sinkholes are a geological hazard that places people, property, infrastructure, and possible environment (ground water) at risk. Dissolution of carbonate rock forms karst topography which is dominated by sinkholes. Dissolution slowly occurs when naturally acidic rainwater, surface water, or groundwater encounters Florida's carbonate rocks, limestone and dolostone. A weak carbonic acid naturally forms as water mixes with carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and soils and is the primary dissolution mechanism leading to a cavity (sinkhole) development.

A sinkhole is classified based upon formation rate and process, as well as geological and hydrogeological characteristics. There are four types of sinkholes present in Florida; however, for the purposes of this report it will focus on sinkholes as a hazard to human life and property, sinkholes will be simply classified based upon their rate of formation. Sinkholes form either rapidly (minutes to hours) or slowly (months to years). Sinkholes can form by natural and anthropogenic influences.

The primary geological threat for Alachua County is from sinkholes. A sinkhole being, in Alachua County, a significant subsidence of the ground caused by the collapse of topsoil over an area where lower layers of soil have been weakened or removed by natural processes.

B. Location and Extent

These incidents could occur across the entire county, and may occur slowly or suddenly. The areas of High Springs, Newberry, Alachua, LaCrosse, Gainesville, and Micanopy are near areas of higher vulnerability to sinkholes[7].

C. Impacts and Vulnerability

Impacts range from negligible to permanent depending on the circumstances of the incident and impacted area. For example, the opening of a sinkhole in unincorporated Alachua County may have no impact, while the opening of a sinkhole in a residential neighborhood in Alachua County or underneath an apartment complex may displace residents from their homes and destroy property. Further, the opening of a sinkhole could destroy private businesses, hazardous materials/waste facilities, critical infrastructure, or public safety related buildings or roadways and temporarily impact local capabilities.

The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department – hazardous materials section provides 24/7 Emergency Response for all Sinkhole 911 reported incidents to ensure the safety and protection of people, property and the environment. The hazardous materials section and Natural Resources section provide oversight from initial sinkhole report through the complete remediation of a sinkhole. Climate change can increase sinkhole risk by altering rainfall patterns, where intense downpours and prolonged droughts weaken underground limestone and soils, making ground collapse more likely.

D. Previous Occurrences

Sinkholes occur periodically within Alachua County. The Environmental Protection Department maintains a list of sinkhole occurrences within Alachua County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection maintains the Subsidence Incidents Reports Database.

XIX. Freezing Temperature

A. General Description

Freezing temperature incidents may occur with a significant decrease in outside temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. The National Weather Service in Jacksonville (NWS JAX) will issue a Extreme Cold Watch when wind chill temperatures are forecast to be ≤15 degrees Fahrenheit within the next 24-72 hours. Likewise, an Extreme Cold Warning is issued if the measured wind chill is ≤15 degrees Fahrenheit.

B. Location and Extent

Freezing temperature would likely occur countywide. On average, Alachua County experiences 8 days with lows ≤32 degrees Fahrenheit each year.

C. Impacts and Vulnerability

Alone, these impacts are most likely to impact low-income households or the homeless through various health impacts. These incidents may result in power losses, health impacts, traffic crashes, and heightened casualty rates when combined with other weather such as freezing rain. In those complex cases various infrastructure such as power lines, those using motor vehicles, and the

[7] [1] FDEP, Subsidence Incidents Reports Database

electrically dependent become the most vulnerable. Climate change can influence freezing temperatures by disrupting atmospheric patterns, which can increase temperature variability and occasionally allow extreme cold outbreaks in regions that do not typically experience them.

D. Previous Occurrences

Since 2015, Alachua County has experienced 46 instances of a Freeze Warning, and 8 separate instances of a Hard Freeze Warning.

Freeze Warning	Month/Day	Month/Day	Month/Day	Month/Day
2020	January 21-22	February 22, 28	December 2, 9, 18, 25	
2021	January 10, 17, 19	February 3-4		
2022	January 18-19, 23-24, 29	March 13	December 27-28	
2023	January 15-16	November 29-30	December 31	
2024	January 17-20	December 2-4, 7-8		
2025	January 3, 5, 7-10, 12, 20, 22-26	February 21	November 11-12, 28	December 15
Hard Freeze Warning	**Month/Day**	**Month/Day**	**Month/Day**	**Month/Day**
2020	January 22	December 26-27		
2022	January 30	December 24-26		
2024	January 21			

Table 3: List of Freezing Events (2020-2025)

XX. Cyber Attack

A. General Description

As individuals, businesses, governments, and critical infrastructure grow increasingly reliant on technology, the threat of cyber attack has, in turn, increased. Cyber attacks may be targeted towards any sector, including healthcare and critical infrastructure. The threat of critical infrastructure such as a power grid or water supply going offline due to an attack would have significant consequences if not restored quickly. Similarly, if an attack were to target a key part of one of all of the healthcare systems in Alachua County, the effects of that would be consequential

B. Location and Extent

All of Alachua County could experience the consequences of a cyber attack if the attack were to affect countywide systems, such as the 911 system or communications. The extent of the impacts

are dependent on the nature of the attack but attacks on critical infrastructure are the most likely to cause widespread issues.

C. Impacts and Vulnerability

The whole of Alachua County is vulnerable to cyber attacks. The impacts are completely dependent on the target of the attack but the impacts range from affecting only one household to countywide.

D. Previous Occurrences

There are no known instances of significant cyber attacks in Alachua County.

Mitigation Strategy

Code of Federal Regulations Title 44 Section 201.6 requires the county local mitigation strategy to "analyze a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure."

The following summary outlines actions that have been and could be conducted to reduce the community's vulnerability to the identified hazards that are relevant to LMS activities in Alachua County: inland flooding, wind events/severe weather, and wildfire. Many of the identified mitigation strategies and actions concern the protection of critical facilities or natural resources from natural or manmade hazards. The remaining identified hazards do not readily lend themselves to mitigation activities funded through the LMS but are being addressed outside of the LMS Working Group by partner agencies. Those hazards are: hazardous material incident, nuclear reactor incident, civil disturbance, terrorism, exotic pest/disease, disease/pandemic outbreak, mass migration, special event, freezing temperatures, geologic incidents, extreme heat, cyber attack, and major transportation incident. The LMS Work Group can act accordingly when a practical, achievable activity is identified to mitigate one of these hazards.

I. Wind Protection & Severe Weather

The retrofit of critical structures for wind protection has been an on-going process. Several critical facilities have been retrofitted for wind and severe weather protection such as fire stations, Alachua County Fire Rescue Headquarters, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Administration Building, the Martin Luther King Junior Multipurpose Center, Grace Marketplace, the Alachua County Freedom Community Center, as well as the Department of Health/Community Support Services building.

The protection of new buildings and existing buildings from wind damage and severe weather is being accomplished through implementation of building code requirements. Buildings must be designed and constructed to comply with wind load specifications. Doing so reduces the effects of wind and severe weather hazards on the buildings in the community, makes for less damage to structures and displacement of the population during wind events. Several University of Florida and Alachua County Public School District facilities have been constructed according to Enhanced Hurricane Protection Area (EHPA) standards, as appropriate.

II. Wildfire

Current wildfire mitigation efforts in Alachua County are primarily a public outreach/education program of Florida Forest Service through their statewide wildfire mitigation efforts. Additional efforts in wildfire fuel management are undertaken by the Florida Forest Service, Florida State Parks, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Alachua Conservation Trust, and the University of Florida. In addition, local agencies participate in the development of the Alachua County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

III. Flooding and Storm Water Management

Recognizing the significance of the flooding and the need to protect natural water bodies, Alachua County included specific guidelines in the 2001-2020 Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2005) to better manage storm water. Those guidelines resulted in the implementation of a Storm Water Management Program (SMP).

Two main requirements of the SMP are listed in the Comp Plan 1) the SMP must have a Dedicated Funding Source; 2) the SMP must be comprehensive and address all of the County's storm water management issues. Provisions for a Dedicated Funding Source are a critical element to the success of the SMP. Therefore, one of the main goals of the SMP is to specify the funding source, initiate its operation and ensure that it is dedicated to the goals of the program.

The development of a comprehensive storm water management plan sets in place a system that will address all aspects of storm water management within the county. A major goal of the SMP is to comprehensively address necessary capital improvements and continued maintenance and administration of the program. Capital improvements will correct existing deficiencies in flooding and water quality. Maintenance will be bolstered to ensure existing and new systems perform as designed. Administration of the program is necessary for leadership, coordination and direction of the program. These three elements of the program form a comprehensive approach to proactive management of storm water.

A key component of developing an effective SMP is preparing a Storm Water Master Plan. Master planning provides an opportunity to assess the state of storm water management on a County-wide basis for unincorporated areas. The focus of the plan will be to identify management needs and costs to address flooding problems, water quality deficiencies, maintenance of drainage systems, and compliance with regulatory requirements. Costs associated with meeting the goals of a comprehensive program will be refined to allow the most appropriate funding options to be evaluated. When these flood abatement projects are refined and funding sources are identified, the projects would then be included in the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements when the timing is appropriate.

The County and the City of Gainesville coordinate with the Suwannee River and the St. Johns River Water Management Districts and FEMA to identify and delineate flood risk areas through the Risk Mapping and Assessment Planning process (RiskMAP). The Alachua County and the City of Gainesville share ongoing studies and plans to refine FEMA flood maps. The County and the City of Gainesville conduct and coordinate special flooding studies as well to improve the management of water quantity or water quality. One of the joint County and City of Gainesville programs to help promote water quality is the Clean Water Partnership as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

In addition, the City of Gainesville has several Watershed Master Plans (WMP) including flood studies that show areas of potential flooding. Since 1988 the City of Gainesville has an active Storm Water Maintenance Utility (SMU) that actively funds drainage Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and minor projects in areas that have been identified as either active drainage deficits or to mitigate potential drainage shortcomings. These projects improve drainage and mitigate flooding during smaller storm events as well as larger “100 Year” storms. Watershed

Master Plans are also being updated throughout the City of Gainesville, starting with Hogtown Creek, which covers over 21 square miles within the municipal limits. The updated Hogtown WMP also included revised Hydrologic and Hydraulic modeling and will revise the Flood Hazard Areas with current data. Using modeled results coupled with data from past storm events will allow for targeted identification of potential flood risks outside of the current FEMA FIRM maps, and appropriate projects to mitigate future flood damage. Building codes are being updated to include the ”500 Year” floodplain as a high risk area.

Additional possible mitigation activities concerning flooding within Alachua County and Gainesville are within the document “Flood Hazard and Remediation in Alachua County” which is available from the City of Gainesville.

Emergency services activities in response to flooding include public messaging, provision of sandbags and other activities performed by local agencies in accordance with the Alachua County Flood Warning and Response Standard Operating Procedures.

IV. Education and Outreach

Various public information programs at the local, regional, state, and national level have been initiated to inform the community of the various hazards that they may face and options for preparing for and mitigating against the effects of these hazards. Examples of these programs are structural fire prevention programs; wildfire mitigation programs such as *Firewise Communities, the Ready, Set, Go!* Program, and the *Fire Adapted Communities* program; hurricane awareness programs; water conservation programs; and hazardous materials awareness programs.

The jurisdictions in Alachua County take advantage of local special events throughout the year to distribute hazard awareness, mitigation, and preparedness materials. Local jurisdictions also use social media and web sites to promote public awareness of hazard mitigation and preparedness activities.

The aforementioned NPDES Clean Water Partnership between the County, City of Gainesville and FDOT, conducts continual water quality outreach including several items that help improve awareness of resident actions that can improve water quality. Public outreach programs implemented by the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department promote the use of xeriscape, reporting illegal dumping, picking up pet waste and disposing of it in solid waste containers, and facilitate proper function of natural and municipal stormwater systems. This includes nutrient reduction, such as fertilizer and pet waste, as well as physical impairments like yard waste.

The County and City of Gainesville are also active in Community Rating System outreach, and are currently developing a unified Plan for Public Information which will cover key FEMA flood related topics within projects that are targeted toward specific audiences within the communities. Topics include preventative measures and structural improvements including promoting flood insurance, health and safety during and after floods, and recovery of flood damaged property.

V. Mitigation Projects and Initiatives

Specific mitigation projects are listed in Attachment D, Priority Ranked Projects. The list of Priority Ranked Projects is for the purpose of determining which projects would be submitted for funding

should hazard mitigation funding become available. This list reflects mitigation projects targeted to the hazards most likely to affect Alachua County as noted in the hazard analysis.

New mitigation proposals are solicited from the LMS Work Group and other entities on an ongoing basis, with an emphasis placed on new and existing buildings and infrastructure. The proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by the Project Ranking Task Force using the procedures and criteria listed on Attachment C: Project Score Guide. They will then be considered for inclusion by the LMS Work Group.

VI. Regulatory Information and Framework

Section 201.6 (c)(3) of 44 CFR requires that the local mitigation strategy plan "…shall include a mitigation strategy that provides the county-wide blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources, and its ability to expand on and improve these existing tools. The hazard mitigation strategy shall include a description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards."

Alachua County LMS Work Group has developed goals with the intent of reducing the County's vulnerability to identified hazards discussed in the Hazard Analysis. Other planning documents and regulatory frameworks created at the local, regional, and state levels of government also help support and inform an overall hazard mitigation strategy. The comprehensive plans, master plans, land development regulations, codes and ordinances of the political entities in Alachua County would be amended under the provisions of Florida Statutes to incorporate hazard mitigation goals and activities.

A. Comprehensive Plans, Development Regulations and Building Codes.

The comprehensive plans and development regulations adopted and implemented by Alachua County and its municipalities are designed to reduce the effects of natural hazards on new buildings, existing buildings in some cases, and infrastructure. For example, the potential for flooding of structures has been reduced as a result of Comprehensive Plan policies. Alachua County does not allow the creation of new building parcels in wetlands or floodplains and requires that wetlands and floodplains be set aside in permanent conservation/preservation areas prior to final development approval. Alachua County development regulations also require that non-conforming buildings other than single-family dwellings that have suffered substantial damage in excess of two-thirds of their fair market value be restored in conformity with applicable regulations. Single family dwellings cannot be structurally altered in excess of fifty percent of the fair market value unless done so in compliance with current regulations.

Alachua County and the City of Gainesville require a minimum of one foot freeboard from a known base flood elevation for structures built in a flood zone on parcels of record that preceded the current land development regulations. Alachua County adopted a floodplain management ordinance and began participating in the NFIP in 1982. Alachua County's floodplain regulations have been modified to be consistent with the Florida Building Code and the State's model ordinance which satisfies the regulatory requirements of the NFIP. Floodplain management is achieved primarily by ensuring the application of the Flood Hazard Reduction Standards set forth in Chapter 406, Article 7 of the Alachua County Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). The

Ordinance and the ULDC meets the requirements of the NFIP Program for community participation as set forth in Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 59 and 60.

Alachua County's Unified Land Development Code requires new developments to apply for a Letter of Map Revisions (LOMR) due to fill before final project plats are recorded. The LOMR process then removes the burden from individual homeowners of having to apply for a LOMA (Letter of Map Amendment) for their particular parcel. This process also establishes the base flood elevations for structures to be built above in these areas thereby reducing the potential for structural flooding.

All jurisdictions in Alachua County are required to comply with and enforce at least the minimum requirements of the Florida Building Code regarding building within flood hazard areas. Alachua County Growth Management and Public Works Departments currently provides building plan review and inspection services for the municipalities of Archer, Hawthorne, Lacrosse, and Micanopy. The remaining municipalities of City of Alachua, Gainesville, High Springs, Newberry, and Waldo oversee building code compliance in their jurisdictions.

Similarly, Alachua County Public Works provides administration and enforcement of permits and development in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) for unincorporated Alachua County, as well as for the municipalities of Archer, Hawthorne, LaCrosse, and Micanopy through interlocal agreements. The remaining municipalities (Alachua, Gainesville, Newberry, High Springs) are each individually responsible for the permitting and enforcement of development in SFHAs in their respective municipalities.

The following is a summary of the comprehensive plan and land development code provisions of Alachua County, its municipalities, and the activities of the Alachua County Library and Public School Districts. The following sections describe their activities as participating entities in the Alachua County LMS that are relevant to hazard avoidance or mitigation, floodplain regulation, or the LMS.

B. Alachua County

Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan contains a general strategy to minimize the conversion of land from rural to urban uses by incorporating hazard-resilient land planning into the land use decision-making process [Future Land Use Element (FLUE) General Strategy 1]; provides for clustering in rural subdivisions to avoid natural hazards [FLUE Policy 6.2.9]; provisions to include hazard mitigation into storm water management system design, public education about floodplain protection, avoidance of actions that would change or obstruct floodways [Storm water Element Obj 7.1 and policies]; provisions for mapping of flood and fire prone areas [Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) Policy 2.1.1]; provisions for public education concerning flood and fire hazard mitigation [COSE Policy 2.2.2]; provisions to maintain the natural function of flood plains and flood ways [COSE Obj 4.8 and Policies]; provisions for wildfire hazard mitigation [COSE 5.6.2, 5.6.4]; provisions to implement hazard mitigation plans such as the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) [Intergovernmental Coordination Element (ICE) Policy 1.1.9]; provisions for capital improvement projects for public facilities that mitigate hazards as ranked in the LMS Project List [CIE Policy 1.5.2]; provisions for the protection of natural drainage features through floodplain management [Storm water Element Goal 1]; establishes levels of service that require all new

building lots to include adequate buildable area above the 100-year floodplain and all new habitable structures must be constructed outside the floodplain and prohibits adverse impacts to the 100-year floodplain [Storm water Element Policy 3.1.1]; designation of wetlands, surface waters and floodplains as conservation areas [COSE Policy 3.1.1]; provisions for the protection of the natural functions of floodplains and floodways and other areas of 100-year flood elevation [COSE Obj 4.8 and policies]; provisions that floodplains be designated as open space in development plans [COSE Obj 5.2 and policies].

The Alachua County Unified Land Development Code provides for the protection and maintenance of the natural functions of floodplains, floodways, and all other natural areas having hydrological characteristics of the one hundred (100)-year flood elevation, establishes minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare, and minimizes public and private losses due to flooding through regulation of development in flood hazard areas [ULDC Chapter 406, Article VII]; recommends the inclusion of Firewise design principles in landscape plans [ULDC Chapter 407, Article IV].

The above policies are reviewed and updated during Comprehensive Plan and ULDC updates whenever necessary to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements.

Some recent examples of how the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan and ULDC have incorporated and furthered the goals of the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy are measures such as a requirement for Alachua County to develop watershed management plans (Conservation and Open Space Policy 4.6.14), requirements protecting surface waters, wetlands and associated buffers by regulating significant alterations to those areas (Conservation and Open Space Policy 4.7.7), the encouragement of the use of permeable hardscapes in new development (Potable Water Policy 8.1.8), policies reducing speeds on County roads which may reduce the likelihood of mass transportation incidents (Transportation and Mobility Policy 1.8.5), and requirements that landscape plans for new development include Low Impact Design (LID)/Green Stormwater Infrastructure technologies, such as landscape islands and strips designed to accommodate stormwater management, parking spaces of pervious materials, bioswales, ecovaults, and other technologies, as part of a comprehensive Low Impact Design approach to stormwater management (ULDC Chapter 407, Article IV). These additions and revisions to the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code demonstrate progress in local hazard mitigation efforts. F.S. 163.3184A also provides a basis for on-going Plan amendments. Alachua County is well positioned to engage in all facets of mitigation activities.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

C. City of Alachua

The City of Alachua's Comprehensive Plan establishes goals, objectives, and policies to reduce the impact of development upon flood prone areas. Policy 1.12.e of the Conservation & Open Space

Element (COSE) states that the City shall protect the natural function of flood plains, and that flood plain regulations shall be based upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM.) Policy 1.12.f of the COSE states that the City shall work with FEMA, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Alachua County to regulate development within special flood hazard areas susceptible to the one percent annual chance flood. Additionally, this policy states the City will require development to occupy only the non-floodplain portion of a site when feasible; preserve the natural function of the floodplain; require the minimum Finished Floor Elevation (FFE) to be at least one foot above the established Base Flood Elevation (BFE); and prohibit the storage of hazardous materials or waste within the floodplain.

Section 6.9.4 of the City's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) provides for the regulation of structures built within flood prone areas. Flood prone areas are mapped and referenced to the Flood Insurance Rate Map, as may be amended from time to time, and all supporting data and revisions. The City's floodplain management standards were updated in 2018 to incorporate a model ordinance developed by the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM). FDEM and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) worked together to develop the FDEM model floodplain ordinance, which has been recognized by FEMA as meeting the requirements of the NFIP. Adoption of these standards in 2018 ensures the City remains compliant with NFIP requirements.

Section 6.9.4 requires new construction or substantial improvements to be constructed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage. The City's LDRs require structures to be built outside of flood prone areas when other alternatives for the location of the structure exist on the site. When no other alternatives exist, any structure built within the 100-year floodplain must be elevated a minimum of one foot above the BFE. When a structure is proposed in a flood prone area and the BFE is undetermined, the City's LDRs require the structure to be elevated 5 feet above the highest adjacent natural grade.

Any encroachments, including fill, new construction, or substantial improvements in a flood prone area must be certified by a professional engineer demonstrating that the encroachments shall not result in an increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

The above policies will be reviewed and amended during Comprehensive Plan updates and implemented through the LDRs, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements.

The Conservation & Open Space Element (COSE) and Future Land Use Element (FLUE) of the Comprehensive Plan require development plans to consider any limitations of on-site soils (Objective 1.5, COSE, Policy 5.1.b, FLUE), geologic features (Objective 1.7, COSE), wetlands (Objective 1.10), and flood plains (Policies 1.12.d - 1.12.f). Development plans must address limitations of soil types that may be presented by the construction methods to be utilized by a proposed development (Policy 1.5.a, COSE). The Comprehensive Plan requires any geologic features, such as sinkholes, to be identified, protected, and conserved to preserve their natural functions (Objective 1.7, COSE). New development is required by the Comprehensive Plan to provide minimum buffers from wetlands and water bodies to ensure potential hazards are

mitigated and to maintain the natural function of such features (Policies 1.10.g, 1.10.h, and 1.12.g, COSE).

These goals, objectives, and policies are reviewed and updated as needed. Updates occur no less than as part of the evaluation and appraisal of the Comprehensive Plan as mandated by Florida Statutes. The most recent evaluation and appraisal of the Comprehensive Plan occurred in 2019 and 2020, with the amendments implementing the evaluation and appraisal updates to the Comprehensive Plan being adopted in July 2020. These revisions further the goals of the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

D. City of Archer

Archer's Comprehensive Plan provides for the restriction of development in areas subject to flooding and the regulation of flood prone areas to maintain the flood storage and flood carrying capacity of floodplains. Flood prone areas are mapped and referenced to the Flood Insurance Rate Map. Plan policies require coordination with the Suwannee River Water Management District on all proposed development in the basins of all priority water bodies. The plan establishes level of service standards for storm water management systems for pre- and post-development runoff and design storm events. Plan policies require residential construction to be elevated 1 foot above the 100-year storm elevation. Code provisions include requirements that uses vulnerable to floods be protected from flooding, regulate activities that would change or diminish the flood storage capacity of function of floodplains and floodways, and provisions for compliance with the NFIP.

The above policies will be reviewed and updated during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. The City of Archer continues to improve its gaps related to funding mitigation projects. Additionally, as with most smaller municipalities, limited staffing can be a factor in the ability of jurisdictions to manage mitigation projects and programs.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

E. City of Gainesville

The City of Gainesville's Comprehensive Plan provides for the protection of wetlands and wetland function through avoidance, minimization, mitigation of detrimental impacts, property protection activities, emergency services activities, and public information activities. [COSE Obj 1.1, Policy 1.1.1]; require buffers and setbacks from creeks, lakes and wetlands [COSE Policy 1.1.2]; provide

for coordination with various entities to develop basin storm water management plans [COSE Policy 1.1.5]; provides for the preservation of wetland function and acreage in designated basins [COSE Obj 2.1, Policy 2.1.1]; adopts the 100-year critical duration storm event as the storm water management Level of Service Standard [SME policy 1.1.1]; provides for specific basin storm water management projects – Depot Avenue, Sweetwater Branch, Hatchet Creek-Lake Forest Creek, NW 22nd Street, SW 35th Terrace [SME Policy 1.2.2]; the provisions of adequate storm water management systems to meet projected needs by maintaining or reducing the elevation of the 10-year flood channel and the 100-year floodplain as established by the most recent FIRM or local study using FEMA-approved methods [SME Obj 1.3 and associated policies]; provides for maintenance of the storm water management systems to reduce or eliminate structural flooding, street flooding, enhance water quality, and to enhance environmental quality.

The City of Gainesville's Code provides specific implementation of the Comprehensive Plan objectives and policies. The City's code establishes a floodplain management district for the purposes of preventing or minimizing future flood damage; managing activities or development which may increase flood damage or erosion potential; managing the alteration of flood hazard areas, watercourses, and shorelines to minimize the impact of development on the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains; minimizing damage to public and private facilities and utilities; maintaining a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood hazard areas; minimizing the need for future expenditure of public funds for flood control projects and response to and recovery from flood events; and meeting the requirements of the NFIP for community participation.

The above policies will be updated during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. The City of Gainesville is well positioned to carry out all facets of a mitigation program.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

F. City of Hawthorne

The City of Hawthorne significantly amended its land development code in 2012 to comply with the provisions of the NFIP Program for community participation as set forth in Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 59 and 60. Among other things these amendments provided for adoption of flood hazard maps for the community, provide for procedures and criteria for development in flood hazard areas, and adopt local administrative amendments to the Florida Building Code.

The above policies will be updated during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. Additionally, as with most smaller municipalities, limited staffing can be a factor in the ability of jurisdictions to manage mitigation projects and programs.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

G. City of High Springs

The High Springs Comprehensive Plan provides for the elevation of structure one foot above the 100-year flood elevation, restrict development within flood prone areas, require regulation of development at and below the riverine 100-year flood elevation, the preservation of the flood storage capacity and natural functions of the floodplains and floodways, mapping of flood prone areas, and participation in the NFIP. City Code contains provisions to prevent or limit activities that will alter floodplains such that the capacity of those floodplains is diminished or the areal extent of the floodplain. Code provides for avoidance and minimization of impacts to floodplains and floodways. Requirements that new construction or substantial improvements to structures be built one foot above the base flood elevation.

The above policies will be updated during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. Additionally, as with most smaller municipalities, limited staffing can be a factor in the ability of jurisdictions to manage mitigation projects and programs.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

H. Town of LaCrosse

Comprehensive Plan provisions to participate in the NFIP and require that construction be done outside of flood prone areas. For parcels of record that are all floodplain then buildings must be built two feet above grade. Require maintenance of floodplain function such as flood storage capacity. The plan establishes level of service standards for storm water management systems for pre and post-development runoff and design storm events. Plan policies require residential construction to be elevated 1 foot above the 100-year storm elevation. Floodplain areas are mapped, referenced to FIRM.

The above policies will be updated during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. Additionally, as with most smaller municipalities, limited staffing can be a factor in the ability of jurisdictions to manage mitigation projects and programs.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to

homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

I. Town of Micanopy

Comprehensive Plan policies to require residential landowners whose property lies within the 100-year floodplain to construct outside the floodplain, maintain a floodplain ordinance to reduce floodplain uses to agricultural, forest, and wildlife management and such other uses that are not likely to be severely disrupted by flooding, and participation in the NFIP along with regulation of development and the installation of utilities in flood hazard areas in conformance with NFIP requirements. Plan provisions for transferring development rights from wetlands and flood plains to upland areas. Requirements to elevate buildings 1-foot above 100-year flood elevations. Plan policies to protect the natural function of floodplains, recognizing the role of flood patterns in maintaining water quality and quantity. Flood plain regulations are to be based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

The above policies will be updated during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. Additionally, as with most smaller municipalities, limited staffing can be a factor in the ability of jurisdictions to manage mitigation projects and programs.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

J. City of Newberry

Newberry's Comprehensive Plan provides for the location of development outside of floodplains and wetlands, establishes storm water management standards for quantity and quality, prohibits the alteration or interruption of natural drainage flow, the preservation of floodplain and wetland function, clustering of development onto the non-flood prone areas of parcels or the elevation of structures if an entire parcel is flood prone. Newberry's Land Development Code [Flood Management Ordinance]provides for the use of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize future flood damage; the management of activities or other development which may increase flood damage or erosion potential; limitations on the alteration of flood hazard areas, watercourses, and shorelines to minimize the impact of development on the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain; minimize the need for future expenditure of public funds for flood control projects and response to and recovery from flood events; and meet the requirements of the NFIP for community participation.

The above policies will be updated during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. The City of Newberry has expanded their mitigation capabilities since the last version of this plan. They have been forward leaning on

addressing infrastructure needs through existing LMS funding and other mechanisms. They are positioned to continue to grow their mitigation efforts in the future.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

K. City of Waldo

Plan provisions to require clustering of buildings outside of floodplain, provisions to participate in the NFIP, and require that construction be done outside of flood prone areas. For parcels of record that are all floodplain then buildings must be built two feet above adjacent grade. Prohibits structures in wetlands except for water dependent uses [docks, etc.]. Plan policies require coordination with the Suwannee River Water Management District on all proposed development in the basins of all priority water bodies. The plan establishes level of service standards for storm water management systems for pre- and post-development runoff and design storm events.

The above policies will be reviewed and amendments considered by City Council during Comprehensive Plan updates, if necessary, to ensure continued compliance with NFIP requirements. Additionally, as with most smaller municipalities, limited staffing can be a factor in the ability of jurisdictions to manage mitigation projects and programs.

Post disaster, Alachua County compiles all damage information via a damage assessment. Alachua County Emergency Management works with all jurisdictions to identify damaged properties in their areas of responsibility that are also within the floodplain to ensure proper notifications to homeowners and procedures related to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations. Damage assessment staff use the latest FEMA damage assessment guidance when determining what percentage of damage a structure has sustained.

L. Alachua County Library District

The Alachua County Library District has no authority or responsibility for land use decisions. The Library District buildings and facilities are located within municipal boundaries or urbanized areas in the case of unincorporated Alachua County locations. These facilities are located upon small parcels of land, typically with significant parcel coverage by buildings and impervious surfaces.

M. Alachua County Public School District

The School Board of Alachua County and Alachua County have structured an inter-local agreement that provides for coordination of land use and school capacity. Along with this agreement the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan contains a Public School Facilities Element which generally provides for the accommodation of anticipated public school enrollment. Objective 3.6 of this Element provides for development standards for schools and school sites. Policy 3.6.1 provides specific requirements for school site development, one of which is consistency with the applicable policies of the Conservation and Open Space Element [COSE] of the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan. As noted above, the requirements of the COSE provide for storm water management and floodplain function in particular.

VII. Local Incorporation and Integration

Alachua County provides building permitting services [plan review, permitting, and inspection] for the municipalities of Hawthorne, Micanopy, Lacrosse and Archer. Through this process the provisions of the Florida Building code [such as those concerning flood abatement, or structural flood proofing] are enforced. Taken on the whole, all of these requirements when implemented will help advance the goals of the LMS and ensure continued compliance with the NFIP.

Local government comprehensive plans are required to be periodically reviewed and assessed. Section 163.3191, FS requires that every seven years local governments review their comprehensive plans to determine if they adequately reflect state requirements and are "encouraged to comprehensively evaluate and, as necessary, update comprehensive plans to reflect changes in local conditions". This evaluation and appraisal process affords all local governments in Alachua County the means to incorporate current hazard mitigation strategies and activities into their local community planning efforts. Beyond the evaluation and appraisal process, local governments can amend their comprehensive plans as needed to reflect and react to changing conditions within their jurisdictions. Specific mitigation projects that involved capital expenditures and that are funded in whole or part by local governments in Alachua County have typically been incorporated into the local government's Capital Improvements Plan as part of their adopted comprehensive plan and capital projects programs.

It is through the above processes that each jurisdiction will improve their policies and programs to be in-line with the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy.

The documents and activities noted below provide support to and furtherance of the 2026 Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy. These documents are consulted during revisions, and also consider the Local Mitigation Strategy during their revisions:

A. Community Development:

- Alachua County Comprehensive Plan (County)
- Municipal Comprehensive Plans (Cities)
- University of Florida Campus Master Plan
- Unified Land Development Regulations (County and Cities)
- Debris Management Plan (County and Cities)
- National Flood Insurance Program (County-wide)
- Community Rating System (County and Gainesville)

B. Protecting Public Health and Safety:

- Florida Statutes Chapter 252 (County)
- Alachua County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (County/Cities)
- Floodplain Ordinance (Cities and County)
- Adopted Comprehensive Plans (Cities and County)
- Dept. of Environmental Protection Regulations (Cities and County)
- County and City Debris Management Plan
- University of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (UF)
- Solid Waste Plans and Regulations (Cities and County)
- Fire Prevention Codes and Regulations (County)

- Florida Building Code (Cities and County)
- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Alachua County Flood Warning and Response SOP

C. Building and Retrofitting to Minimize Potential Property Damage:

- Alachua County Unified Land Development Code
- Floodplain Ordinances (Cities, County)
- Florida Building Code (County)
- University of Florida Design and Construction Standards

D. Fostering Economic Activities within the County:

- Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Element

E. Educating to Promote Community Awareness:

- Florida Statutes Chapter 252 (County)
- Hazard Awareness and public outreach activities (County)

F. Protecting Natural Resources and the Environment:

- Alachua County Floodplain Management Ordinance
- Alachua County Countywide Wetland and Natural Resources Protection Codes
- Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element, Potable Water and Sanitary Sewer Element
- City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan, Conservation Element, Potable Water/Wastewater Management Element
- Alachua County Hazardous Materials Code and Cost Recovery Ordinance
- Watershed Management Plans (City of Gainesville)

G. Managing Storm Water to Protect Community Resources:

- Alachua County Water Quality Ordinance
- Alachua County Storm Water Management Plan
- Alachua County Comprehensive Plan, Stormwater Element
- City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan, Stormwater Element
- St. Johns River Water Management District Regulations (all jurisdictions in southeastern Alachua County)
- Suwannee River Water Management Regulations (all jurisdictions in northern and western Alachua County)

H. Coordinating Local and State Government Activities During a Disaster:

- Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement, Florida Statutes Chapter 252
- State of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Alachua County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Alachua County Code, Chapter 27
- University of Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- City of Gainesville Emergency Operations Plan
- Santa Fe College Emergency Management Plan
- Emergency Support Functions Annexes

Appendix A: Local Mitigation Strategy Adoption Documentation

Appendix B: NFIP Enrollees & CRS

NFIP #	Community Name	Department/Agency	Joined NFIP	Current FIRM Date
120001	Alachua County - CRS Class 5	Public Works	09/28/1984	06/16/2006
120664	City of Alachua	Planning Division	06/09/1994	11/2/2018
120670	City of Archer	City Manager	06/09/1994	06/16/2006
125107	City of Gainesville - CRS Class 6	Public Works	10/01/1971	09/24/2021
120682	City of Hawthorne	City Manager	07/29/2010	06/16/2006
120669	City of High Springs	Planning Department	03/24/1994	06/16/2006
120679	City of Newberry	Public Works	02/03/2000	06/16/2006
120003	City of Waldo	City Manager	11/04/1988	11/2/2018
120626	Town of LaCrosse	Mayor	12/13/2011	06/16/2006
120344	Town of Micanopy	Town Administrator	06/16/2006	06/16/2006

Table 4: National Flood Insurance Program Enrollees and FIRM Dates

The NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood losses; (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating; and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance. As a class 5 community, policy holders in unincorporated Alachua County qualify for up to a 25% premium discount. As noted in the adopted Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy, Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code regulate and restrict development in floodplains. As a class 6 community, policy holders in the incorporated limits of the City of Gainesville qualify for up to a 20% premium discount.

Appendix C: Alachua County Wildfire Statistics

2011 – 2021

note: specific dates are unavailable due to recent changes in the Florida Forest Service database/reporting system

Cause	Number	Percentage	Acres	Percentage
Campfire	16	4.21	30	0.65
Children	7	1.84	6.8	0.15
Debris Burn*	0	0	0	0
Debris Burn--Auth--Broadcast/Acreage	12	3.16	107	2.33
Debris Burn--Auth--Piles	0	0	0	0
Debris Burn--Auth--Yard Trash	13	3.42	76.1	1.66
Debris Burn--Nonauth--Broadcast/Acreage	16	4.21	57.3	1.25
Debris Burn--Nonauth--Piles	5	1.32	16.5	0.36
Debris Burn--Nonauth--Yard Trash	35	9.21	116.1	2.53
Equipment use*	0	0	0	0
Equipment--Agriculture	4	1.05	9.4	0.2
Equipment--Logging	4	1.05	0.8	0.08
Equipment--Recreation	5	1.32	84.5	1.84
Equipment--Transportation	1	0.26	1	0.02
Incendiary	23	6.05	136.1	2.97
Lightning	85	22.37	1294.9	28.22
Miscellaneous --Breakout	3	0.79	109	2.38
Miscellaneous --Electric Fence	1	0.26	2	0.04
Miscellaneous --Fireworks	1	0.26	8	0.17
Miscellaneous --Power Lines	26	6.84	40.4	0.88
Miscellaneous --Structure	4	1.05	1.4	0.03
Miscellaneous --Other	12	3.16	36.5	0.8
Railroad	2	0.53	1.3	0.03
Smoking	1	0.26	0	0
Unknown	74	19.47	2361.7	51.46
Total	380	92.09	4589.1	98.05

Table 5: Alachua County Wildfire Statistics(2011-2021)[8]

2021 - 2025

Cause	Type	Cause Specific	Fires	Acres
Human	Arson	Hot set	7	92.95
Human	Arson	Other (remarks required)	1	5
Human	Arson	Unknown	3	7
Human	Arson	Unknown (remarks required)	7	216
Human	Debris and open burning	Burn Barrel	1	0.4
Human	Debris and open burning	Burn Barrel	1	0.2
Human	Debris and open burning	Burning personal items	1	1
Human	Debris and open burning	Escaped Prescribed Burn	1	34
Human	Debris and open burning	Field/agricultural burn	5	1.75
Human	Debris and open burning	Hand pile/slash	1	7.5
Human	Debris and open burning	Hand pile/slash	1	0.25
Human	Debris and open burning	Hand pile/slash	1	0.5
Human	Debris and open burning	Machine pile/slash	11	9.85
Human	Debris and open burning	Machine pile/slash	9	0.5
Human	Debris and open burning	Machine pile/slash	1	0.25
Human	Debris and open burning	Open trash burning	3	0.25
Human	Debris and open burning	Other (remarks required)	1	0.1
Human	Debris and open burning	Unknown	11	10.47
Human	Debris and open burning	Unknown	1	7
Human	Debris and open burning	Yard debris	1	11.49
Human	Debris and open burning	Yard debris	1	0.1
Human	Debris and open burning	Yard debris	1	0.5
Human	Debris and open burning	Yard debris	1	0.1
Human	Debris and open burning	Yard debris	1	0.52
Human	Equipment and vehicle use	Chainsaw/brush saw/weed trimmer	1	0.12
Human	Equipment and vehicle use	Heavy equipment & implements	1	0.5
Human	Equipment and vehicle use	Tractors/mowers/brush hogs	7	227.4
Human	Equipment and vehicle use	Unknown	1	0.1
Human	Misuse of fire by a minor	Lighter/matches	1	0.25
Human	Other causes	Other (remarks required)	1	0.3
Human	Other causes	Unknown (remarks required)	2	0.25
Human	Power generation/transmission/distribution	Electrical transmission/distribution systems	3	2.55
Human	Power generation/transmission/distribution	Other (remarks required)	1	0.25
Human	Railroad operations and maintenance	Unknown (remarks required)	1	15
Human	Recreation and ceremony	Campfire	2	0.35
Human	Recreation and ceremony	Ceremonial fire	1	6

Cause	Type	Cause Specific	Fires	Acres
Human	Recreation and ceremony	Unknown	2	2.65
Human	Smoking	Cigar/cigarette/pipe	2	2
Human	Smoking	Unknown	2	2
Human	Undetermined (remarks required)	Under investigation	2	2.6
Human	Undetermined (remarks required)	Under investigation	1	1
Human	Undetermined (remarks required)	Unknown	2	2
Human	Natural	Lightning	32	630.86
Human	Undetermined	Origin and/or cause not identified	1	1.66
Human	Undetermined	Origin destroyed	1	0.02
Human	Undetermined	Under investigation	1	0.25
Total			140	1305.79

Table 6: Alachua County Wildfire Statistics (2021-2025)[8]

Appendix D: Alachua County Stormwater Master Plan

Appendix E: Alachua County Final Stormwater Management Needs Assessment, Program Recommendations & Cost Analysis

Appendix F: Alachua County Flood Warning and Response Standard Operating Procedures Manual

Appendix G: City of Gainesville Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan

The above appendices are part of this LMS Plan, but due to the size of the documents they could not be included in this main document.

Attachment A: LMS Work Group Members, Organizations & Roles

Jurisdiction	Agency	Title	Representative	Role	Contact
*Alachua County	Public Works	Civil Engineer III	Lalit Lalwani	Member	llalwani@alachuacounty.us
*City of Gainesville	Fire Rescue	District Chief, Emergency Manager	Sean Withers	Member	witherssl@cityofgainesville.org
*City of Gainesville	Fire Rescue	Captain, Emergency Management	Alvin Jones	Member	jonesac@cityofgainesville.org
*Alachua County	Emergency Management	Director	Jen Grice	Member	jgrice@alachuacounty.us
*Alachua County	Emergency Management	EM Program Coordinator	Francine Vincent	Member	fvincent@alachuacounty.us
*Alachua County	Emergency Management	EM Program Coordinator	Cadyn Gentry	Coordinator	cgentry@alachuacounty.us
*Alachua County	Growth Management	Principal Planner	Chris Dawson	Primary Contact	cdawson@alachuacounty.us
Alachua County Library District	Director's Office	Director	Shaney Livingston	Primary Contact	slivingston@aclib.us
*City of Alachua	Planning Department	Principal Planner	Carson Crockett	Primary Contact	ccrockett@cityofalachua.org
*City of Archer	City Manager's Office	City Manager	Deanna Alltop	Member	dalltop@cityofarcher.com
*Gainesville Regional Utilities	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Principal Engineer	Rick Hutton	Member	huttonrh@gru.com
*Gainesville Regional Utilities	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Utility Emergency Manager	Scott Holowasko	Member	holowaskows@gru.com
*City of Gainesville	Public Works	Floodplain Administrator	Andy Renshaw	Primary Contact	renshawal@cityofgainesville.org
*City of Hawthorne	Office of the City Manager	City Manager	Robert Thompson	Primary Contact	citymanager@cityofhawthorne.net
*City of High Springs	City Manager's Office	City Manager	Jeremy Marshall	Member	jmarshall@highsprings.us
*City of High Springs	High Springs Fire Rescue	Fire Chief, Emergency Coordinator	Joseph Peters	Primary Contact	jpeters@highsprings.gov

Jurisdiction	Agency	Title	Representative	Role	Contact
*City of Newberry	Finance and Administration	Director	Dallas Lee	Member	DLee@NewberryFL.gov
*City of Newberry	Newberry Fire Department	Fire Chief	Jason Lyman	Member	jlyman@newberryfl.gov
Florida Division of Emergency Management	Bureau of Recovery	Recovery Regional Coordinator	Amber Durden	Member	Amber.Durden@em.myflorida.com
Florida Forest Service	Waccasassa Forestry Center	Wildfire Mitigation Specialist	Ludie Bond	Member	Ludie.Bond@fdacs.gov
Saint John's Water Management District	Saint Johns Water Management District	Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator	William White	Primary Contact	wwhite@sjrwmd.com
*Santa Fe College	Safety and Risk Management	Safety Coordinator	Marian Nesbitt	Primary Contact	marian.nesbitt@sfcollege.edu
School Board of Alachua County	Safety and Security	District Chief	Douglas Pelton	Member	peltondm@alachuaschools.net
Suwannee Water Management District	Resource Management Division	Director	Warren Zwanka	Primary Contact	Warren.Zwanka@srwmd.org
*Town of LaCrosse	Mayor's Office	Mayor	Dianne Dubberly	Primary Contact	mayor@townoflacrosse.net
*Town of Micanopy	Town Administrator's Office	Town Administrator	Sara Samario	Primary Contact	ssamario@micanopytown.com
*Town of Waldo	City Manager's Office	City Manager	Kim Worley	Primary Contact	Kim@waldo-fl.com
*University of Florida	Emergency Management	Director	Kenneth Allen	Chair	kfallen@ufl.edu
*University of Florida	Emergency Management	Assistant Director	Brady Nettina	Member	bradynettina@ufl.edu
*University of Florida	UF Health – Emergency Management	Emergency Preparedness Manager	Cory Hunte	Member	Cory.hunte@ufhealth.org

Jurisdiction	Agency	Title	Representative	Role	Contact
*University of Florida	UF Health – Safety, Security, and External Transportation	Director of Safety, Security, and External Transportation	Suzanne Dekay	Member	Suzanne.dekay@ufhealth.org
*Alachua County	Environmental Protection Department	Resiliency Specialist	Jennison Kipp	Primary Contact	jkipp@alachuacounty.us

Table 7: LMS Member and Organization Roster

*2026 Agencies Seeking Adoption

Attachment B: Project Ranking Task Force Procedures

1. Purpose and Authority
   1.1. These procedures describe the process for submission, ranking and adoption of projects for the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS).
   1.2. Authority for the procedures is derived from approval of the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group and Rule 9G-22.005(6)-(7), Florida Administrative Code.
   1.3. The purpose of the procedures is to create and maintain both a ranked and an unranked project list. The ranked list, referred to as the LMS Project Ranking List, will be employed to set the order of priority for projects.
2. Project Ranking Task Force
   2.1. The Project Ranking Task Force is a permanent Task Force of the Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group. The Task Force is established by Article III.B.ii of the *Bylaws of the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group*.
   2.2. Task Force members will be appointed annually by the Work Group. Task Force Members are not required to be voting members of the Work Group.
   2.3. Task Force members will be responsible for meeting and electing a Chair and Vice-Chair.
   2.4. A minimum of three (3) appointed Task Force members is required in order to conduct a Project Ranking Task Force meeting.
3. LMS Project Ranking List
   3.1. The purpose of the *LMS Project Ranking List* is to comply with Rule 9G-22.005(7), Florida Administrative Code by maintaining a list of approved projects in order of priority. The priority will be employed to determine distribution of funding under mitigation grant programs such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
   3.2. Project Application Submission
      3.2.1. Jurisdictions participating in the Alachua County LMS may submit projects for inclusion on the Project Ranking List. Project proposals must be submitted by March 15th of each year or an alternate date determined by the Work Group.
      3.2.2. For a project to be considered, a completed *Mitigation Project Proposal* must be submitted either electronically or hard copy by the appropriate deadline to the Alachua County Division of Emergency Management. Copies of the project application and instructions are available from the Division.
      3.2.3. Following an incident which impacts Alachua County, such as hurricane, the Work Group may instruct the Task Force to meet, accept and rank new projects. The Work Group will be responsible for setting project application and ranking deadlines should this occur.
   3.3. Project Ranking
      3.3.1. The Task Force will meet within thirty (30) calendar days following the project application deadline to validate and rank all submitted projects.
      3.3.2. Alachua County Division of Emergency Management will email each jurisdiction's voting member the Task Force validated score for all projects submitted by the member's jurisdiction.
   3.4. Appeals of Task Force Validated Scores by a Jurisdiction
      3.4.1. Following notification in Section 3.3.2, a jurisdiction's voting member may appeal a Task Force validated score within thirty (30) calendar days. The appeal must be in writing, e-mail or hard copy, to the Alachua County Division of Emergency Management.

3.4.2. All appealed projects will be removed from the Task Force recommended ranked list and the Alachua County Division of Emergency Management will notify all Task Force members of the appeal.

3.4.3. The Task Force will meet within thirty (30) calendar days following the appeals date deadline in Section 3.4.1 to re-evaluate all appealed projects.

3.4.4. Jurisdictions may make a presentation and submit additional, relevant information to the Task Force regarding each appealed project.

3.4.5. Alachua County Division of Emergency Management will e-mail each jurisdiction's voting member the Task Force validated score for all re-evaluated projects submitted by the member's jurisdiction.

3.4.6. The validated scores of all appealed projects will be placed on the ranked list unless a jurisdiction's voting member disagrees with the re-evaluated score.

3.4.7. Jurisdictions not satisfied with the re-evaluated project score validated by the Task Force may appeal to the Work Group for final resolution.

3.5. Approval by Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group

3.5.1. The Work Group must vote to approve and accept or reject the ranked list of validated scores recommended by the Task Force.

3.5.2. If approved and accepted by the Work Group, the list will become the *LMS Project Ranking List*.

3.6. Maintenance and Publication

3.6.1. Alachua County Division of Emergency Management will be responsible for clerical maintenance of the Project Ranking List.

3.6.2. Publication and distribution of the Project Ranking List as directed by the Work Group will be the responsibility of the Alachua County Division of Emergency Management.

4. LMS Initiative List

4.1. The purpose of the *LMS Initiative List* is to maintain an unranked list of mitigation projects.

4.2. The list will denote each project submitted by jurisdictions participating in the LMS. Jurisdictions will appear alphabetically on the list. The list will **not** be employed to determine distribution of funding under mitigation grant programs.

4.3. Project Application Submission

4.3.1. Projects submitted for the Ranking List will automatically be included on the Initiative List.

4.3.2. Jurisdictions participating in the LMS may submit projects for inclusion on the Initiative List that are not submitted for the Ranking List.

4.3.3. For a project to be included on the Initiative List, a completed *Score Guide Cover Page* must be submitted either electronically or hard copy to the Alachua County Division of Emergency Management. Copies of the *Score Guide* and instructions are available from the Division. The jurisdiction should indicate on *the Score Guide Cover Page* that the project is for inclusion solely on the Initiative List.

4.3.4. Jurisdictions participating in the LMS may submit or remove projects for the Initiative List year round.

4.4. Maintenance and Publication

4.4.1. Alachua County Division of Emergency Management will be responsible for clerical maintenance of the Initiative List.

4.4.2. Publication and distribution of the Initiative List as directed by the Work Group will be the responsibility of the Alachua County Division of Emergency Management.

4.4.3. Alachua County Division of Emergency Management will e-mail an updated version of the Initiative List to voting members of all jurisdictions participating in the LMS within ten (10) working days of a project being added or removed from the list.

5. Public Record

5.1. The *LMS Project Ranking List* and *LMS Initiative list* will be considered public records. Jurisdictions should exercise appropriate judgment when naming project proposals since project titles will be included on both lists.

5.2. Jurisdictions will be considered custodian of their submitted project proposals, not Alachua County Division of Emergency Management or Alachua County LMS Work Group.

5.3. Some project proposals may be exempt from public release based upon the provisions of Section 119.071, Florida Statutes. Jurisdictions are responsible for documenting projects that qualify for exemption from public by completing LMS Exemption Form A or B and note "Exempt" on the *Score Guide.*

Attachment C: Project Ranking Task Force Score Guide

Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy

Score Guide

Jurisdiction/Agency:

Date of submittal:

Project Contact:

Contact Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Is your agency in good standing with the LMS Work Group? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Project Name:

Project Description: (provide a brief project overview):

Project Estimated Cost:

Project Estimated Completion Timeframe:

If project is exempt from the Public Record Act, provide Florida Statute and statement from legal representative documenting exemption. Exempt: Yes/No

This project submitted for:

- ☐ **LMS Project Ranking List* (score required)**
- ☐ **LMS Initiative List (score not required)**

*** If project listed on LMS Project Ranking List, the project will also be listed on the LMS Initiative list**

Proposed Project Type:

Please indicate the type of project proposed in accordance to the four tier approach of the LMS Workgroup.

☐ Life Safety ☐ Critical Operations and Infrastructure

☐ Economic Vitality ☐ Preparedness Planning and Studies

When scoring projects, assign a score to the nearest quarter point (0.25) within the Decision Factor score range, unless the Decision Factor requires a whole number score.

1. Jurisdictional Benefits:

This decision factor evaluates the extent of the jurisdictional benefits of the proposed mitigation project. For purposes of scoring projects, the following are considered jurisdictions: County Government, Municipalities, Public Institutions of Higher Education, Special Taxing Districts, Constitutional Offices, Unincorporated Areas, and School Board. For purposes of scoring projects, "directly" is defined as primary recipients of the benefits of the project and does not include indirect benefits of project implementation.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
3	Project will directly benefit all of Alachua County		
2	Project will directly benefit part of more than one jurisdiction but less than the county as a whole		
1	Project will directly benefit a single jurisdiction		
0	Project has indirect benefits but lacks direct benefits		

2. Estimate of Population Benefited:

This decision factor evaluates the benefit to human health and safety derived from the implementation of the project. The beneficial effects of the proposed project may affect more than the population of the sponsoring entity. For purposes of scoring projects, "directly" is defined as primary recipients of the benefits of the project and does not include indirect benefits of project implementation.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
5	This project would directly benefit the health and safety of at least 200,000 people by reducing personal injury and/or risk of illness.		
4	This project would directly benefit the health and safety of between 100,000 to 199,999 people by reducing personal injury and/or risk of illness.		
3	This project would directly benefit the health and safety of 5,001 to 99,999 people by reducing personal injury and/or risk of illness.		
2	This project would directly benefit the health and safety of 2,501 to 5,000 people by reducing personal injury and/or risk of illness.		
1	This project would directly benefit the health and safety of 1 to 2,500 people by reducing personal injury and/or risk of illness.		
0	This project has no direct benefit to the health and safety of the population.		

3. Cost Benefit Adjustment

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation

0	This project costs less than $1,000,000 or this project directly benefits 5,000 or more people		
-1	This project costs $1,000,000 or more and directly benefits fewer than 5,000 people		

4. Environmental and Public Health Risk Reduction

This decision factor is intended to assess the potential environmental and public health outcomes associated with the implementation of a proposed project. It considers the magnitude, clarity, and evidentiary support of anticipated impacts. Projects that provide strong, credible evidence of significant and measurable benefits receive higher scores, while those with uncertain, minimal, or unsupported impacts score neutrally. Projects that present reasonably foreseeable negative consequences score negatively. The goal is to apply this decision factor in a consistent, objective, and transparent manner, ensuring that environmental and public health considerations are meaningfully incorporated into project prioritization.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
2	**Exceptional, Transformative Positive Impact:** The project is anticipated to produce extraordinary, transformative improvements in environmental quality and/or public health. Impacts are not only clear and measurable but also broad in scale, long-lasting, and highly significant. This score requires robust quantitative evidence, such as modeling data, third-party evaluations, or regulatory impact assessments, demonstrating that the project's outcomes are well beyond standard expectations for similar initiatives.		
1	**Demonstrable Positive Impact:** The project is expected to deliver clear, measurable, and significant benefits to environmental or public health outcomes. Supporting evidence must include quantitative data (e.g., reduced emissions, improved water quality metrics) or strong qualitative documentation (e.g., professional assessments, policy alignment).		
0	**Minimal, Indirect, or Uncertain Impact:** The project may produce limited or secondary environmental or public health benefits that are indirect, incidental, or difficult to measure. This score is also appropriate when insufficient data is provided to justify an expected impact or where the effects are ambiguous or speculative.		
-1	**Reasonably Foreseeable Adverse Impact:** The project is likely to result in negative environmental or public health outcomes, based on credible analysis or risk assessments. This may include disruption of ecosystems, degradation of natural resources, increased exposure to pollutants, or other documented risks.		

5. Consistency with other Plans and Programs:

This decision factor is used to consider the level of consistency that the mitigation project has with other current plans and programs that have been approved, accepted, or utilized by the community to be affected or benefited by the project. The premise here is that the proposed project should be ranked higher if they are consistent with and further these other plans and programs, rather than if they are inconsistent or in conflict with the goals and objectives of generally accepted guiding principles.

The following types of plans, policies, and programs to be considered under this decision factor are the following:

- The goals and objectives of the Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)
- Entities adopted Comprehensive Plan, or another guiding plan or document.

- Special Area Plans or Conservation Management Plans
- The jurisdiction's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and or the Alachua County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).
- Any applicable land development code or zoning ordinance.
- Any applicable environmental resource preservation or protection plan, policy, or ordinance
- Any other applicable local, state building code, or federal law, regulation, or plan.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
4	The project or activity is incorporated into at least three of the documents listed or judged to be highly consistent with all.		
3	The project or activity is incorporated into at least two of the documents listed.		
2	The project or activity is incorporated into at least one of the documents listed.		
1	The project or activity is consistent with other standards deemed acceptable, however not specifically listed above.		
0	The project is neither consistent nor inconsistent with the documents listed.		
-1	Project or activity is inconsistent with [conflicts with] adopted comprehensive plan or land development code.		
-2	Project or activity is inconsistent with [conflicts with] a Special Area Plan or a Conservation Management Plan.		

6. Community Exposure:

The proposed project mitigates a known hazard identified in the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). The scoring factor is based on combinations of high, medium, and low levels of exposure and frequency, as indicated in the LMS.

Exposure is defined as hazards that have had impacts on either the **Population, Property, Environment,** or **Government Operations.**

- Low Impacting 1 of the above
- Medium Impacting 2-3 of the above
- High Impacting all 4 of the above

Frequency is defined as the number of times the Hazard occurred.

- Low Less than once in the last 10 years
- Medium Once in the last 5 to 10 years
- High Greater than once in the last 5 years

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
5.0	High Exposure and High Frequency		
4.5	High Exposure and Medium Frequency		
4.0	High exposure and Low Frequency		
3.5	Medium Exposure and High Frequency		
3.0	Medium Exposure and Medium Frequency		

2.5	Medium Exposure and Low Frequency		
2.0	Low Exposure and High Frequency		
1.5	Low Exposure and Medium Frequency		
1.0	Low Exposure and Low Frequency		

7. Supports Natural Resources, Critical Infrastructure, Critical Services or Key Resources:

This decision factor evaluates how the project will support public or private critical infrastructure, services, or man-made or natural resources that provide a hazard mitigation function. The critical infrastructure, service, or resource must provide some capacity for or type of hazard mitigation, such as the enhancement of storm water systems [man-made resource] or the restoration of floodplains [natural resource] to attenuate flooding potential.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
4	The project will mitigate hazards to critical infrastructure, critical services, or natural resources with a history of loss or damage within the last 5 years.		
3	The project will mitigate hazards to critical infrastructure, critical services, or natural resources with a history of loss or damage between the last 5-10 years.		
2	The project will mitigate hazards to critical infrastructure, critical services, or natural resources with a history of loss the last within the last 10+ years.		
1	The project will mitigate hazards to critical infrastructure, critical services, or natural resources without a history of loss or damage.		
0	The project's operation would have no impact on critical infrastructure, critical services, or natural resources.		

8. Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government:

Continuity of Government (COG) refers to a coordinated strategy and set of plans designed to ensure that essential government functions continue without interruption during and after a wide range of emergencies or disasters—such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, or other catastrophic events.

Continuity of Operations (COOP) is an internal effort within individual departments, agencies, or organizations to ensure that their critical functions continue without interruption when normal operations are disrupted.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
1	The project will provide for continuity of government or continuity of operations of critical infrastructure or services.		
0	The project will not provide for continuity of government or continuity of operations of critical infrastructure or services.		

9. Probability of Receiving Funding for Implementation:

This decision factor considers the likelihood that a project will be adequately funded for its implementation or completion as proposed. The underlying assumption is that one of the fundamental purposes of the Alachua County LMS is to secure funding for meritorious project proposals that otherwise may not be funded in a timely manner. Please list the likely funding sources for the proposed project:

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation

4	The only potential funding sources for this project are readily available through mitigation or emergency preparedness funding sources.		
3	The only potential funding sources are other state or federal grants or similar funding sources.		
2	Funding may be accomplished through matching local jurisdiction dollars with funds from budgeting, capital improvement, or a mixture of other funding sources.		
1	Funding may be obtained through available locally controlled budget sources.		

10. Feasibility of Implementation:

This decision factor considers the feasibility of implementation of the project from an administrative or managerial perspective. At a minimum, the following external factors are to be evaluated for each proposed project:

- The time involved to complete a project, including planning and engineering studies, environmental assessments, and ecological surveys
- The type, number, and time needed to secure permits and approvals
- If the project proposal would require a referendum vote by the general public
- If the project proposal would require a public hearing and/or specific commission/council approval

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
4	The project would be relatively easy to complete or implement within one year.		
3	The project is not anticipated to be difficult to implement; no external factors affect the proposed project or would only have a minimal influence on the implementation process.		
2	The project may be somewhat difficult to implement because one identified external factor will impede the implementation process.		
1	The project may be fairly difficult to implement because two external factors will impede the implementation process.		
0	The project may be difficult to implement because three or more external factors will impede the implementation process.		

11. Community Rating System:

This decision factor takes into account a proposed project's positive effect upon Community Rating System (CRS) flood-related activities. These activities would enhance public safety, reduce damages to property and public infrastructure, avoid economic disruption and losses, reduce human suffering and protect the environment.

- Project supports public information activities such as Elevation Certificates, Map information services, Outreach projects, Hazard disclosure, Flood Protection Information, Flood Protection Assistance, and Flood Insurance Promotion
- Project supports mapping (i.e. GIS) and regulations such as Floodplain mapping, open space preservation, higher regulatory standards, flood data maintenance, and stormwater management
- Project supports flood damage reduction activities such as floodplain management planning, acquisition and relocation, flood protection, and drainage system maintenance
- Project supports flood preparedness activities such as flood warning and response, levees, and dams

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
4	The project supports all four elements of CRS flood-related activities.		
3	The project supports three elements of CRS flood-related activities.		
2	The project supports two elements of CRS flood-related activities.		

1	The project supports one element of CRS flood-related activities.		
0	The project has no component applicable to the CRS.		

12. Repetitive Loss Mitigation:

This decision factor rates how the project would mitigate Severe Repetitive Loss (RL) properties which are structures flooded two or more times in a ten-year period.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
4	Project protects 50% or more of RL structures within Alachua County		
2	Project protects less than 50% of RL structures within Alachua County		
0	Project does not protect any RL structures		

13. Non-Residential Repetitive Loss Mitigation

This decision factor rates how the project would mitigate government structures and other non-residential structures or property that have been impacted two or more times in a ten-year period. These occurrences must be documented with suitable and substantial proof.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
4	A total of 4 flood insurance claims or more per 10-year period		
3	A total of 3 flood insurance claims in a 10-year period		
2	A total of 2 flood insurance claims per 10-year period		
0	Less than 2 flood insurance claims per 10-year period		

14. Age of Issue

This decision factor provides additional points for projects identified as long-standing issues within a community. This must be backed up by documentation demonstrating the longevity of the issues the project is addressing.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
4	Issue has existed 10 years or more		
3	Issue has existed more than 7 but less than 10 years		
2	Issue has existed more than 5 but less than 7 years		
1	Issue has existed more than 2 but less than 5 years		
0	Issue has existed less than 2 years		

15. Benefit to Community Lifelines

This decision factor credits the project for benefits relating to one or more of the seven community lifelines. Projects will be attributed per community lifeline that is directly benefited by the project. A project will benefit a community

lifeline if it increases the resiliency of one or more contributing functions of that lifeline. A project will receive points for having at least one or more element of each lifeline. The scoring for this section is cumulative. Projects will not be attributed points for community lifelines that are indirectly benefited.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
0.5	**Safety and Security** - Law Enforcement/Security, Fire Service, Search and Rescue, Government Service, Community Safety		
0.5	**Food, Hydration, Shelter** - Food, Hydration, Shelter, Agriculture		
0.5	**Communications** - Infrastructure, Responder Communications, Alerts Warnings and Messages, Finance, 911, and Dispatch		
0.5	**Transportation** - Highway/Roadway/Motor Vehicle, Mass Transit, Railway, Aviation, Maritime		
0.5	**Hazardous Material**: Facilities, HAZMAT, Pollutants, Contaminants		
0.5	**Water Systems -** Potable Water Infrastructure, Wastewater Management		
0.5	**Health and Medical** - Medical Care, Public Health, Patient Movement, Medical Supply Chain, Fatality Management		
0.5	**Energy**: Power Grid, Fuel		

16. Benefit to Vulnerable Populations

This decision factor credits the project for benefiting identified vulnerable populations. Projects will be attributed points according to the vulnerability of the areas they **directly** benefit as identified in the Centers for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index map. Projects will be scored based on the percentage of each vulnerability zone they benefit.

Score	Description of the Decision Factor	Percentage of Area	Applicant Score	Committee Validation
5	Project benefits an area with a **high** level of vulnerability			
3	Project benefits an area with a **moderate to high** level of vulnerability			
1	Project benefits an area with a **low to moderate** level of vulnerability			
0	Project affects resilience in an area with a **low** level of vulnerability			

Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Workgroup

Project Description Form

Jurisdiction/Agency:

Proposed Project Name (brief description)

Please present a brief description of your project that includes:

A. Justification of self-evaluation scores of the Decision Factors.
B. Components of your project that warrant special attention.
C. Any other pertinent information that can be used in ranking the proposed project.

Provide an overall description of your proposed project, including your goals to be accomplished by the project and the objectives to be completed as intermediate steps towards the goal(s).

1. Provide information on the jurisdiction's population that will potentially benefit from your project, such as demographics and an estimated number of people. Indicate if the project would provide multi-jurisdictional benefits.

2. Describe how the project will directly influence the health and safety of the population of Alachua County or a portion thereof.

3. Explain the cost-benefit adjustment of the project. This is the process of reviewing and possibly modifying a project's evaluation score based on how well the expected benefits justify the cost of the project. If a project is expensive but delivers very little value or a low-cost project provides significant benefits. This adjustment helps make sure that limited funding is spent on projects that give the most value for money.

4. Explain how the project will directly affect the environment and public health risk reduction. Include possible risks or adverse effects that may be associated with the implementation or completion of the proposed project.

5. Provide documentation explaining the consistency of your project with the plans and programs of the applicable jurisdiction, including an explanation of consistency with the adopted Alachua County Comprehensive Plans, Special Area Plans, Conservation Management Plans, or other applicable plans, policies, and/or guiding principles.

6. Assess the relative exposure to an identified hazard of your community and the frequency with which this hazard occurs.

7. Illustrate how your project will affect essential or non-essential services or infrastructure necessary to support life (power, water, sewer, gas, medical care); provide for safety and security (law enforcement, fire, telecommunications); minimize adverse impacts to the economy(fueling facility, food retail outlet); protect cultural resources (artifacts, historical buildings); protect natural resources and/or their functions (floodplains, flood attenuation, water quality); or promote educational programs.

8. Describe if the project will enhance Continuity of Government or Continuity of Operations

9. Present the likelihood that your project proposal would receive funding for implementation from HMGP or another funding source. Indicate if the project is eligible for short-term, long-term, or capital improvement grants.

10. Present an explanation of the feasibility of implementing your project, including, but not limited to supplying information on the complexity of implementation and a timeframe for completion

11. Describe how your project is complementary to one or more of the components or activities of the Community Rating System (CRS).

12. Describe how your project would mitigate Repetitive Loss properties identified by FEMA or known to a jurisdiction.

13. Provide substantial documentation showing impacts and their date(s) of occurrence that this project would mitigate.

14. Provide documentation showing the original submission date of the project.

15. Illustrate how the project will benefit each of the community lifelines by identifying the benefited contributing functions and providing a supporting narrative.

16. Provide a graphic depicting the benefited area of the project and how it corresponds with the Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index map located at: https://svi.cdc.gov/map.html. Explain the impacts to resilience in the area. Provide a breakdown by percentages for projects that benefit several zones.

Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Work Group
Validation Worksheet

Sponsor/Agency Contact: _____

Project Proposal Name (or brief description) _____

Date Scoring validated by LMS Committee: _____ Project Confidential: Y / N

Applicant Scores	Determining Factors	Committee Validation
	1. Jurisdictional Benefits	
	2. Estimate of Population Benefited	
	3. Cost-Benefit Adjustment	
	4. Environmental and Public Health Risk Reduction	
	5. Consistency with other Plans and Programs	
	6. Community Exposure	
	7. Supports Natural Resources, Critical Infrastructure, Critical Services, or Key Resources	
	8. Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government	
	9. Probability of Receiving Funding for Implementation	
	10. Feasibility of Implementation	
	11. Community Rating System	
	12. Repetitive Loss Mitigation	
	13. Non-Residential Repetitive Loss Mitigation	
	14. Age of Issue	
	15. Benefits to Community Lifelines	
	16. Benefit to Vulnerable Populations	
Total Applicant Score		**Total Validation Score**

Authorized LMS Official:

(1) _____ _____

Ranking TF Chair Signature

(2) _____ _____

LMS Work Group Chair Signature

Attachment D: Priority Ranked Projects

Name	Project Jurisdiction/Agency	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Estimated Time to Complete	Score
Alachua County EOC/Fire Rescue Headquarters Window Hardening	Alachua County	HMGP Debby	500000	4	1 Year	39.5
Airport Runway Creek Stabilization	City of Gainesville	HMGP Ian	1000000	1, 3	2 Years	36
ACFR Emergency Generators Project	Alachua County	HMGP Debby	300000	2	1 Year	35.5
Sweetwater Branch Bank Stabilization	Gainesville Regional Utilities	HMGP Helene	7000000	2	3 Years	34.5
Public Works Hurricane Hardening Project	City of Gainesville	HMGP Helene	2274887	2	2 Years	34
GRU LS Diesel Pumps	Gainesville Regional Utilities	HMGP Helene	130000	2	1 Year	34.4
Airport Road Culvert Replacement	City of Gainesville	HMGP Ian	1900000	2	2 Years	34
SW Public Safety Center- Code Plus	City of Gainesville	HMGP Helene	2518048	2	2 Years	33.5
UF Health Psychiatric Hospital Emergency Generator Upgrade	University of Florida	HMGP Helene	640000	1	1 Year	33.5
GRU KWRF Fiber	Gainesville Regional Utilities	HMGP Milton	300000	2	1 Year	32.9
City of Newberry Easton Shelter Wind Hardening	City of Newberry	HMGP Helene	165000	2	1 Year	31.5
Glen Springs Creek Restoration	City of Gainesville	Other Mitigation Funding	479812	3	2 Years	31.5
City of Newberry Utility Feed	City of Newberry	HMGP Helene	3326196	4	2 Years	31

Name	Project Jurisdiction/Agency	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Estimated Time to Complete	Score
GRU MSWRF Backup Generators	Gainesville Regional Utilities		2000000	2	3 Years	30.2
GRU KWRF Electric Feed	Gainesville Regional Utilities		1000000	2	1 Year	30.1
Florida Park Elevation	City of Gainesville		205000	4	1 Year	30
GFR Fire Station 3- Code Plus	City of Gainesville		1280837	2	2 Years	30
GPD Property and Evidence Expansion- Code Plus	City of Gainesville		1755367	2	2 Years	29
Hills of Santa Fe House Acquisition (2023)	Alachua County		327760	3	1 Year	28.5
Black Acres Gravity Sewer Main Relocation	Gainesville Regional Utilities		550000	4	1 Year	28.5
Mason Manor Buyout Phase 2	City of Gainesville	HMGP Ian	323000	4	1 Year	28
Reitz Union Hotel Window/Glass Door Retrofits	University of Florida		1000000	3	1 Year	28
Pump House Generator at 13975 SW 174th Street	City of Archer	HMGP Idalia	80000	2	3 Months	27
Pump House Generator at 16639 SW 137th Avenue	City of Archer	HMGP Idalia	80000	2	3 Months	27
Pump House Generator at 12955 SW SR 45	City of Archer	HMGP Idalia	80000	2	3 Months	27
Southwest Recreation Center (Hurricane Shelter) Roof Replacement	University of Florida		3000000	2	1 Year	26.5
Emerald Woods Acquisition	Alachua County		478000	1, 3	1 Year	26.5
Archer City Hall Generator	City of Archer	HMGP Idalia	80000	2	3 Months	26.5
GRU Elizabeth Creek Sewer	Gainesville Regional Utilities		3000000	3	3 Years	26.1
The Cove Floodwall	City of Gainesville		88000	4	1 Year	26
SW 12th Avenue Flooded Houses Acquisition (2023)	Alachua County		328950	3	1 Year	26

Name	Project Jurisdiction/Agency	Funding Source	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Estimated Time to Complete	Score
SW 12 Av Acquisition	Alachua County		917000	1, 3	1 Year	23.5

Table 8: Project Priority List

Funding Sources:
Most probable funding sources – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program.

Please refer to the project score guide to see the list of potential funding sources for the above table

Projects are the responsibility of the Jurisdiction/Agency they fall under. Primary Contacts are responsible for the projects of each jurisdiction/agency, and are identified in Attachment A: LMS Work Group Members, Organizations & Roles.

Attachment E: Critical Facilities List

This section exempt from public records under: 119.071(3)(a), F.S., 119.071(2)(d), F.S., 252.34, F.S., and 395.1056, F.S.

Attachment F: Gainesville FIRM Zones

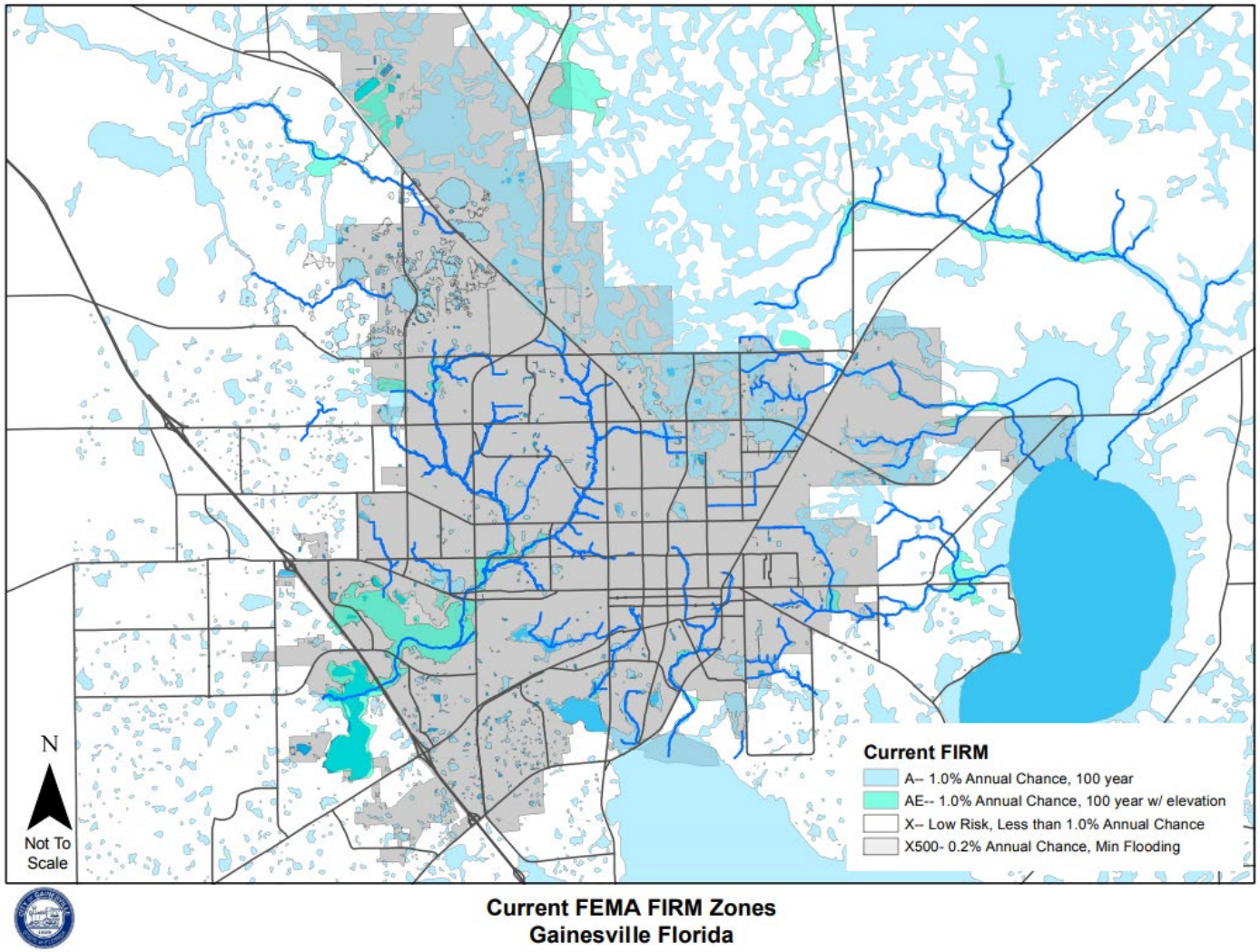

Figure 2: Gainesville FIRM Zones

Attachment G: Gainesville Additional Flood Hazard Areas

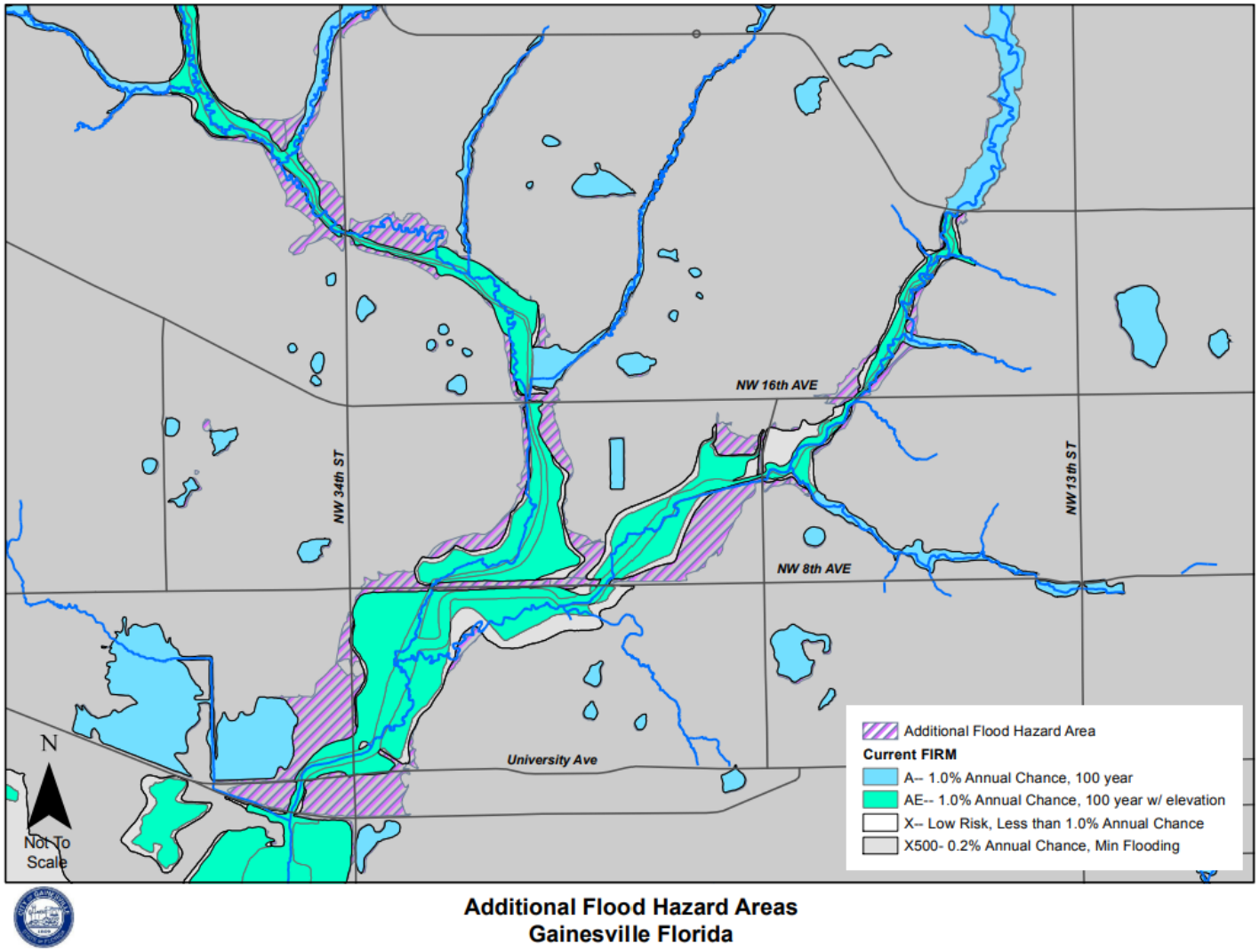

Figure 3: Gainesville Additional Flood Hazard Areas

Attachment H: Gainesville Hurricane Irma Flood Locations

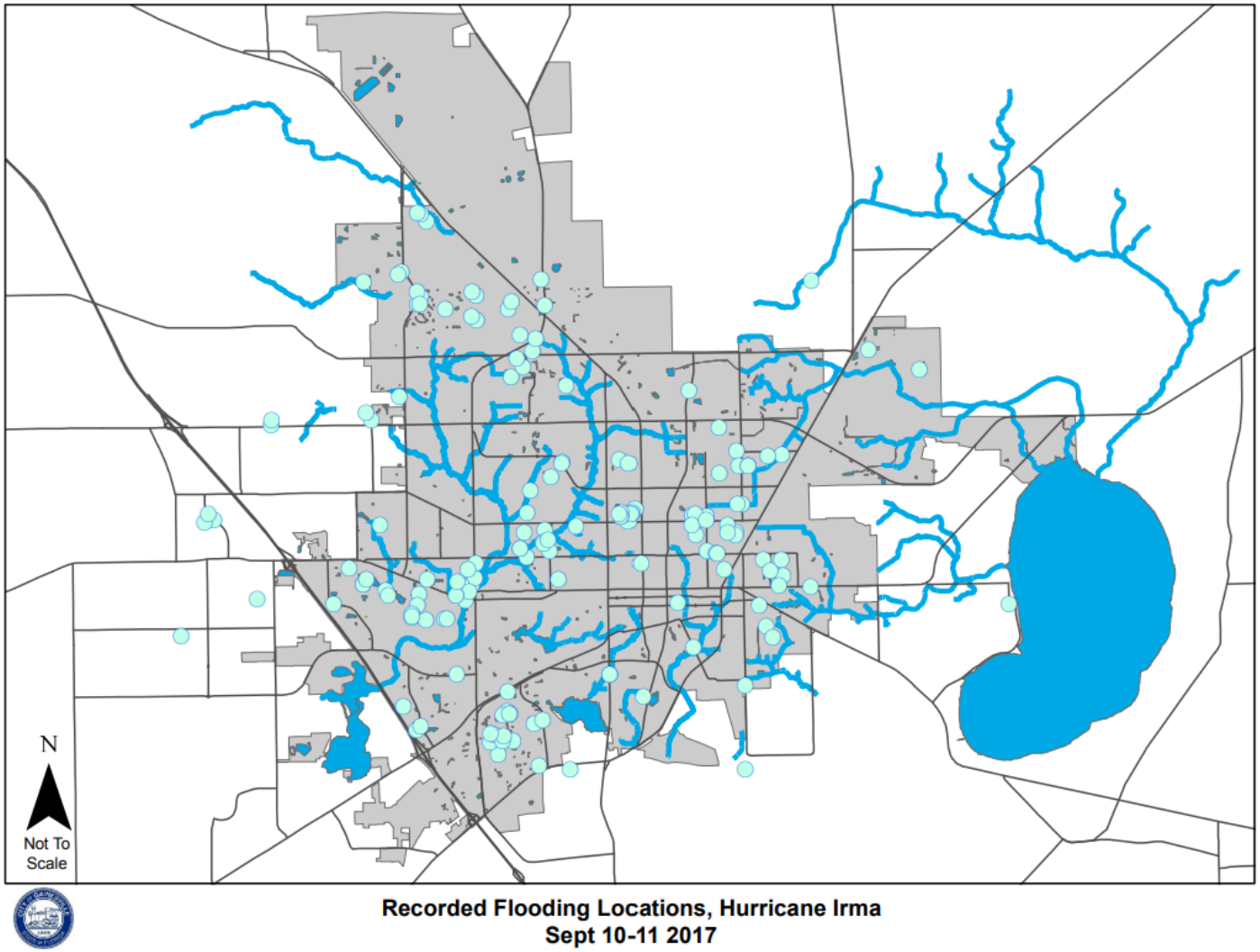

Figure 4: Gainesville Hurricane Irma Flood Location

Attachment I: Severe Weather Occurrences (2021 – 2025)

The below table details different severe weather occurrences, as defined in Severe Weather, for Alachua County from 1/1/2021 – 7/25/2025. Data was acquired from the NOAA Storm Events Database.

Location	Date	Time	Type
EAST ALACHUA	2/6/2021	1710	Hail
PEACH ORCHARD	4/11/2021	356	Hail
DAYVILLE	6/15/2021	1630	Thunderstorm Wind
NEWMANS LAKE	6/15/2021	1630	Thunderstorm Wind
GAINESVILLE NORTH	6/15/2021	1635	Thunderstorm Wind
WACAHOOTA	6/15/2021	1740	Thunderstorm Wind
ISLAND GROVE	9/18/2021	1724	Tornado
AIR BASE	3/12/2022	743	Thunderstorm Wind
	3/12/2022	1459	Strong Wind
	3/12/2022	1740	Strong Wind
HIGH SPGS	3/24/2022	1100	Thunderstorm Wind
NEWBERRY	3/24/2022	1145	Thunderstorm Wind
ROCHELLE	4/2/2022	1135	Thunderstorm Wind
	4/9/2022	1335	High Wind
GAINESVILLE WEST	5/6/2022	2105	Thunderstorm Wind
KIRKWOOD	5/29/2022	2032	Hail
AIR BASE	5/29/2022	2117	Thunderstorm Wind
(GNV)GAINESVILLE ARP	5/29/2022	2124	Thunderstorm Wind
PHIFER	6/19/2022	250	Thunderstorm Wind
LA CROSSE	6/19/2022	340	Thunderstorm Wind
LA CROSSE	6/19/2022	345	Thunderstorm Wind
EVINSTON	6/19/2022	1445	Thunderstorm Wind
FAIRBANKS	6/24/2022	1420	Thunderstorm Wind
HAGUE	6/24/2022	1514	Thunderstorm Wind
GAINESVILLE WEST	7/26/2022	1738	Thunderstorm Wind
ARCHER FLYING TEN AR	7/26/2022	1739	Thunderstorm Wind
HIGH SPGS	8/3/2022	1736	Thunderstorm Wind
TRAXLER	8/3/2022	1820	Thunderstorm Wind
(GNV)GAINESVILLE ARP	8/3/2022	1825	Thunderstorm Wind
BUNKER	8/8/2022	1513	Thunderstorm Wind
GAINESVILLE NORTH	8/8/2022	1521	Thunderstorm Wind
HIGH SPGS	8/8/2022	1603	Thunderstorm Wind
SANTA FE	8/20/2022	2025	Thunderstorm Wind
ARCHER	1/4/2023	1525	Thunderstorm Wind
AIR BASE	3/13/2023	149	Thunderstorm Wind
HAWTHORNE	3/13/2023	220	Thunderstorm Wind

Location	Date	Time	Type
HIGH SPGS	4/15/2023	2235	Thunderstorm Wind
PEACH ORCHARD	4/26/2023	1847	Hail
ARCHER	4/26/2023	1850	Hail
ARREDONDA	4/27/2023	2000	Thunderstorm Wind
CLARK	5/11/2023	1555	Hail
HIGH SPGS	5/11/2023	1620	Hail
HIGH SPGS	5/12/2023	1830	Thunderstorm Wind
NEWBERRY	6/14/2023	2215	Thunderstorm Wind
DAYVILLE	6/16/2023	640	Thunderstorm Wind
DAYVILLE	6/16/2023	650	Hail
GAINESVILLE WEST	6/16/2023	700	Thunderstorm Wind
DAYVILLE	6/20/2023	443	Thunderstorm Wind
WINDSOR	6/23/2023	1830	Thunderstorm Wind
DAYVILLE	7/25/2023	1630	Hail
GAINESVILLE	9/21/2023	1609	Thunderstorm Wind
PHIFER	10/12/2023	800	Thunderstorm Wind
SPRING HILL	1/9/2024	1415	Thunderstorm Wind
WALDO	1/9/2024	1455	Thunderstorm Wind
DAYVILLE	2/4/2024	1456	Hail
DAYVILLE	2/4/2024	1456	Hail
DAYVILLE	2/4/2024	1501	Hail
SPRING HILL	5/10/2024	750	Thunderstorm Wind
CANNONS	5/10/2024	810	Thunderstorm Wind
HAGUE	6/5/2024	1535	Thunderstorm Wind
GAINESVILLE NORTH	6/11/2024	1920	Thunderstorm Wind
HIGH SPGS	6/11/2024	2020	Thunderstorm Wind
DAYVILLE	6/24/2024	2030	Thunderstorm Wind
ARCHER FLYING TEN AR	4/11/2025	1727	Hail
PHIFER	4/11/2025	1742	Hail
PHIFER	4/11/2025	1745	Hail
PHIFER	4/11/2025	1748	Hail
PHIFER	4/11/2025	1755	Hail
PHIFER	4/11/2025	1800	Hail
FAIRBANKS	4/11/2025	1800	Hail

Table 9: Severe Weather Occurrences (2021-2025)

Attachment J: Public Invitation for Planning

Alachua County Emergency Management coordinates with the Alachua County Communications Office to publish press releases. These press releases typically invite public participation in Alachua County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Meetings, but were also leveraged during the planning process for this document.

The below image is pulled from the Alachua County Communications Archive.

Figure 5: Alachua County Public Invitation for Planning

Attachment K: 2025 Completed, Deleted, Deferred List

The following table represents the mitigation projects from the previously approved Local Mitigation Strategy (2020). This list identifies which items have been completed, deleted, or deferred as of the current LMS update (2025). If the item has been deferred, an explanation of why no changes were made is included.

Name	Project Jurisdiction/Agency	Status
Mobile Generators	City of Waldo	Complete
Generator of City Hall Central Command	City of Newberry	Complete
FD Generator	Town of LaCrosse	Complete
Messenger Cable West Hills and University Acres	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Possum Creek Manhole Imp	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable SW Williston Rd	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 34 St to NW 38 St off NW 16 Blvd	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Taps to south off SW 24 Ave Tower Rd to SW 84 St	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NE 8th Ave Duval	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Meadows	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Coclough Hills	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 8 Ave from NW 13 St to NW 23 St	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable SW 63 Blvd & SW 75 St & Archer Rd & SW 49 Place	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable SW 2 Ave NW 8 Ave NW 34 St NW 23 St Golf view	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 77 St north of Millhopper Rd.	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable North of NW 23 Ave btwn NW 71 St & 62 Trrc	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 43 St to 34 St and NW 8 Ave to NW 16th Ave	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable SW 91 St, 8 Ave & 24 Ave	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
FL Park Berm Sewer Relocation	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable W Univ Av & NW 8 Av - NW 34 St & NW 35 Trrc	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Kirkwood	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Sbrbn Heights 546	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete

Name	Project Jurisdiction/Agency	Status
Messenger Cable SE 39 Terrace south of Hawthorne Rd	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Forest Ridge	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Fletcher's Mill	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Northwood	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 6 St & NW 13 St and NW 30 Ave & NW 39 Ave	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Sbrbn Hts 1037	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Brywood	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Clear Lake	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Broadmoor Area	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NE 9 St E Univ. Ave. to NE 10 Ave	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Glen Springs Rd	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable SW 35 Drive S Williston Rd fuse pole P37960	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Buckingham & Sunningdale	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Durant Estates	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 34 St- NW 39 Ave and NW 13 Ave. Circuit 542	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 16-8 Av NW 23-34 St Circt 211&216	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Creekside Mall	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable Robin Lane off NW 39 Ave & area	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 43-38 ST NW 16 Av Circt 541	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
Messenger Cable NW 39th Av Circuit 542	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Complete
UF Golf Course Bunkers	University of Florida	Deleted or Deferred
SE 35th St.	Alachua County	Deleted or Deferred
SE 15th St.	Alachua County	Deleted or Deferred
SE 27th St.	Alachua County	Deleted or Deferred
Sunningdale Acquisition	Alachua County	Deleted or Deferred

Name	Project Jurisdiction/Agency	Status
Pine Hills Pump Station	Alachua County	Deleted or Deferred
Sunningdale Pump Station	Alachua County	Deleted or Deferred
Robin Ln Grav Otfll	Alachua County	Deleted or Deferred
Mason Manor Flood Wall	City of Gainesville	Removal Requested
Anglewood Levee Improvements	City of Gainesville	Removal Requested
Mason Manor Buyout Phase 1	City of Gainesville	Removal Requested
UF Golf Course Electrical	University of Florida	Removal Requested
Lake Breeze Buyout	City of Hawthorne	Removal Requested
Backyard Sewer Relocation	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Removal Requested
Glen Springs Creek Restoration	City of Gainesville	Duplicate
The Cove Floodwall	City of Gainesville	Duplicate
Southwest Recreation Center (Hurricane Shelter) Roof Replacement	University of Florida	Duplicate
MLK Shelter Generator	City of Gainesville	Deleted or Deferred
GFR Administration Building Generator	City of Gainesville	Deleted or Deferred
Building U Generator	Santa Fe College	Complete
FL Park Berm	City of Gainesville	Complete
Hills Santa Fe Emer Accs	Alachua County	Removal Requested
Robin Ln Full Optn	Alachua County	Removal Requested
Hills of Santa Fe Full Prjct	Alachua County	Removal Requested
Robin Ln Acquisition	Alachua County	Updated Score Guide Not Submitted
Hills of Santa Fe Acquisition Only	Alachua County	Updated Score Guide Not Submitted
GRU Hogtown Creek Sewer Abandon	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Selected for Submission Primary

Name	Project Jurisdiction/Agency	Status
Gravity Wastewater Sewer Lining	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Removal Requested
GRU MWTP Well 9 and 11 Generators	Gainesville Regional Utilities	Removal Requested

Table 10: 2021-2025 Mitigation Initiatives

Attachment L: Countywide Inundation Modeling Technical Memo

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM JonesEdmunds

Alachua County Vulnerability Analysis

TO: Shane Williams, PE; Alachua County

FROM: Justin Gregory, PE; Alyssa Guariniello, EI

DATE: June 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Countywide Inundation Modeling (Task 2)
Jones Edmunds Project No. 01560-157-01

Justin Haig Gregory, State of Florida, Professional Engineer, License No. 69831.

This item has been digitally signed and sealed by Justin Haig Gregory on the date indicated here.

Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the signature must be verified on any electronic copies.

Justin H Gregory 2023.06.13 18:05:44 -04'00'

1 BACKGROUND

Alachua County is concerned about the impact of climate change on its critical infrastructure and natural resources and the well-being of its citizens and their property. To help evaluate these impacts, the County is completing a critical infrastructure and land use climate vulnerability analysis. One of the primary climate impacts in the County will most likely be altered flooding conditions due to changing rainfall volume, frequency, and intensity.

Rainfall-driven flooding occurs throughout Alachua County, but not all flooded areas are presented in flood risk maps or represented in existing flood models. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has not studied large portions of the County. FEMA mapping studies typically focus on riverine or lake flooding with occurrence intervals of 100 or 500 years and generally with a drainage area of at least 100 acres. These studies also focus on current rainfall conditions and do not consider the future probability of extreme rainfall events.

Predicting inundation areas that result from various current and projected future storm depths, including ones greater than those modeled by FEMA, is particularly important for understanding flood vulnerability.

2 COUNTYWIDE MODELING APPROACH

Jones Edmunds developed a two-dimensional (2D) inundation model for Alachua County within TUFLOW HPC (Release 2020-10-AF). The model covers approximately 1,300 square miles and includes all of the County and portions of adjacent counties that drain into Alachua County. The model is referred to herein as the *countywide model* and uses a rapid-flood modeling approach to predict inundation areas for rainfall events. Figure 1 shows the countywide model broken into three planning regions to reduce model run times.

The full memo can be found Here.

Attachment M: Alachua County FIRM with Jurisdictions

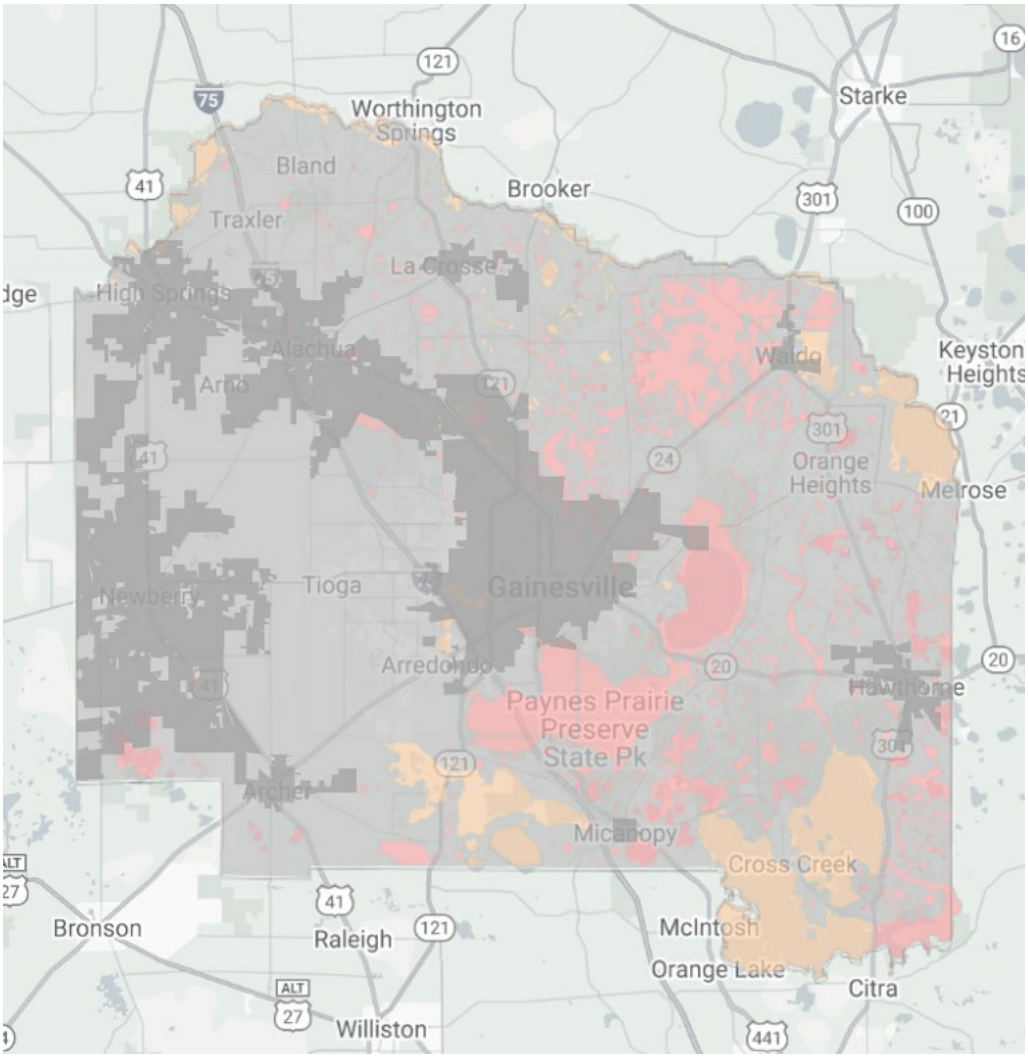

Figure 6: Alachua County FIRM with Jurisdictions

Attachment N: Historical Drought Conditions for Alachua County (2020-2025)

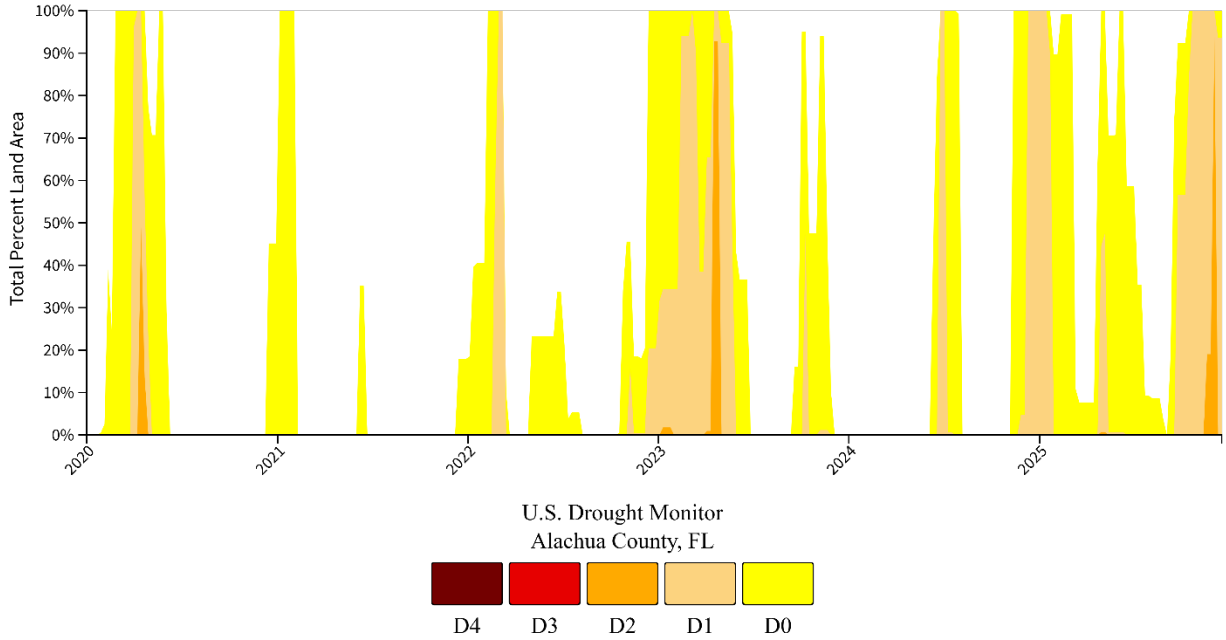

Figure 7: Historical Drought Conditions for Alachua County (2020-2025)

Attachment O: LMS Plan Adoption by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2021	2026
Alachua County	Adopted	
City of Alachua	Adopted	
City of Archer	Adopted	
City of Gainesville	Adopted	
City of Hawthorne	Adopted	
City of High Springs	Adopted	
City of Newberry	Adopted	
City of Waldo	Adopted	
Town of LaCrosse	Adopted	
Santa Fe College	Adopted	
University of Florida	Adopted	

Attachment P: LMS Final Planning Meeting Notification

Jen Grice

Subject:	LMS Plan Final Planning Meeting
Location:	Alachua County EOC 1100 SE 27th St. Gainesville, FL 32641
Start:	Tue 9/30/2025 2:00 PM
End:	Tue 9/30/2025 4:00 PM
Recurrence:	(none)
Meeting Status:	Meeting organizer
Organizer:	Jen Grice
Required Attendees:	Jen Grice; Cadyn Gentry; David Peaton; Francine Vincent
Optional Attendees:	cbryan@clayelectric.com; Holowasko, W Scott; Hutton, Rick H; jonesac@cityofgainesville.org; Jane Sullivan; marian.nesbitt@sfcollege.edu; amber.durden@em.myflorida.com; Clark C. Collins; Jennison Kipp; Suzanne L.; CityManager-Hawthorne; Chris Dawson; Jeffrey L. Hays; Lalit Lalwani; Renshaw, Andy L; Allen, Kenneth; Bobby; bradynettina@ufl.edu; ccochran@aclib.us; cory.hunte@ufhealth.org; Suzanne L."; Dallas Lee; ei_abbas@cityofalachua.org; Jeff Taylor; jlennon.uf@gmail.com; Kim-CityofWaldo; Leslie McLendon; lovettjl@gm.sbac.edu; Ludie.Bond@fdacs.gov; martinsfa@gru.com; Mayor-Lacrosse; Mehdi J. Benkhatar; mowrygl@cityofgainesville.org; renshawal@gainesvillefl.gov; sdavis@sjrwmd.com; Shaney Livingston; sowen; Todd Martin; Williams, Evan Shane; Withers, Sean L; wwhite@sjrwmd.com; Jamie Dicks

1