



THE SUNRISE CITY  
**FORT PIERCE**  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT *Florida*



To: Mayor  
City Commissioners

Through: Richard D. Chess, MBA, City Manager *RDC*

From: Paul Thomas, CBO, CFM, Building Director, Floodplain Administrator, CRS Coordinator *P*  
Shaun Coss, CFM, Assistant Building Director *SC*

Re: **Annual Community Rating Service (CRS) Project Status Report**

Date: April 16, 2025

In order to remain compliant with the rules of the CRS program, the CRS Coordinator is required annually to provide a progress report apprising the Commission of activities critical to maintaining the City's current rating in the Community Rating System (CRS). Also, this report is required to be distributed to the media and made available to the public. Therefore, a press release will be sent through our communications manager informing the public that the report will be available on the City's website. Hard copies of this report are available for review at City Hall, 100 North US 1.

The CRS program offers a substantial number of points to cities that either establish their own "Local Mitigation Strategy" or collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions in a county-wide approach. The City chose to collaborate with each jurisdiction within St. Lucie County and other State agencies who participate in a county wide hazard mitigation plan called the "**St. Lucie County Local Mitigation Strategy (SLCLMS)**." The SLCLMS is administered by a steering committee composed of members from each jurisdiction and has three main functions: (1) identify natural, technological, and societal hazards throughout the entire county; (2) compile a list of projects that will mitigate the hazards identified in step one; (3) prioritize them in order of importance and seek to procure grant funding for projects as funding sources become available.

Each municipality and State agency identifies and lists hazards within their respective jurisdictions annually and recommends projects to mitigate these hazards. Each jurisdiction submits their local project list to the steering committee which ranks each project according to the stakeholders' priorities after which they are added to the "**(SLCLMS) Countywide Project List.**" Attached is the current SLCLMS Countywide Project List, which has a total of 124 projects, of which seven are located within the City of Fort Pierce. The current status of each City of Fort Pierce project is listed on the next page. FEMA grant funding is not always available; therefore when it does become available the steering committee will review the project list and select the highest ranked projects to receive funding.

Below are current projects submitted by the City to be part of the SLCLMS Project List:

- (1) Virginia Avenue Canal Bank Stabilization  
**Status: Deferred, awaiting funding**
- (2) Edwards Road Canal Bank Stabilization  
**Status: Deferred, awaiting funding**
- (3) Storm Drain Replacement (Avenue Q between 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> St.)  
**Status: Deferred, awaiting funding**
- (4) 17<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction  
**Status: Completed**
- (5) Moore's Creek Linear Park Phase II  
**Status: Deferred, awaiting funding**
- (6) Stormwater Master Plan  
**Status: Deferred, awaiting funding**

Below are other Capital Improvement Projects not listed as part of the SLCLMS, that the City has implemented or will be implementing to reduce hazards and protect the well-being and property of our citizens during future flood events.

- (1) Street Projects:
  - a. Indian River Drive (Avenue A to Seaway Drive)
    - i. Reconstruction of the roadway and replacement of the Moore's Creek bridge and drainage improvements.
  - b. Granada Street (Porpoise Avenue to north of Gulfstream Avenue)
    - i. Paving, drainage, and sidewalks for unpaved section of Granada Street.
  - c. Avenue D (US Hwy 1 to Indian River Drive)
    - i. Reconstruction to include new roadway and upgraded drainage infrastructure.
- (2) Stormwater Utility Projects:
  - a. Frances Ave (Fernandina Ave to Thumb Point Dr)
    - i. Replacement of failing metal side drains along Frances Ave. between Fernandina Ave. and Thumb Point Drive. The pipe will be replaced with concrete pipe and new inlets will be constructed.
- (3) Park Improvements:
  - a. Moore's Creek Linear Park – Phase II
    - i. The continuation of the linear park concept from 15th Street west to 29th Street. Project includes canal enlargement and reshaping.

**Local Initiatives:**

The City continues to maintain a **class 6** in our Community Rating System (CRS) classification.

- **Thus, the citizens enjoy a 20% discount on flood insurance for properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)**

The Building Department is tasked with conducting post event damage assessments. In order to systematically evaluate and document damage to buildings and assure compliance for those that have been substantially damaged, as required by FEMA, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and our local floodplain management regulations, we have created the attached Substantial Damage Management Plan. Each year the floodplain administrator will review the plan for its effectiveness and provide an evaluation of the plan as part of this Annual CRS Project Status Report.

**CRS Coordinator's Functions:**

Below is a list of activities that the CRS Coordinator has implemented and continues to maintain annually:

- (1) Provide flood prevention/preparedness information to residents by using a variety of methods including:

- Flood protection references maintained at the public library.
- Flood information is maintained on the City's website.
- Links to important websites on the City's website.
- Notices to the community through utility bill inserts.
- Flyers to residents within the repetitive loss area.
- Flood protection references maintained in the Building Department.

**Library:**

Flood Protection references are located in the reference section at the Susan Broom Kilmer Branch Library located at 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce FL.

**City's Website:**

- Mailers are available
- Many FEMA and flood related links
- Elevation certificates are available

**Community Mailings:**

- Two separate mailers are completed each year:
  - All Fort Pierce Utility customers – July 2024
  - Repetitive Loss Area – January 2025

**References:**

Flood protection references are maintained in the Building Department:

- FEMA's FIRM Maps (Flood Hazard Maps)
- FEMA's Flood Study
- *Elevated Residential Structures* (FEMA 54)
- *Answers to Questions About the NFIP* (FEMA F-084)
- *Protecting Manufactured Homes from Floods and Other Hazards* (FEMA P-85)
- *Protecting Building Utility Systems from Flood Damage* (FEMA P-348)
- *Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference* (FEMA P-758)
- *Floodproofing Non-Residential Buildings* (FEMA P-936)
- *Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures* (TB-1)
- *Ensuring That Structures Built on Fill in or near special flood hazard areas are reasonably safe from flooding in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program* (TB-10)
- *Non-Residential Floodproofing - Requirements and Certifications* (TB 3-93)
- *Flood Resistant Design and Construction* ASCE 24-14
- *Flood-Resistant Materials Requirements for buildings located in special flood hazard areas in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program*
- *Reducing Damage from Localized Flooding*, a guide for communities
- *Protecting Floodplain Resources*, a guidebook for communities

- (2) Review permits to verify compliance with regulations related to development in the special flood hazard area (SFHA).

**Status: This is an ongoing activity – all new construction complies with FEMA regulations and with the Florida Building Code.**

- (3) Provide site-specific information and assistance to the public, including flood map information.

**Status: This is an ongoing activity.**

PT/sc

Attachments: Local Mitigation Strategy Annual Evaluation  
Substantial Damage Plan and Annual Evaluation