

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

MAY 16, 2023

**Expanding the
Conversation**



**working for
environmental
justice**

Housekeeping



Please join by phone or computer, not both



You are on mute, please enter questions and comments into the Q&A pod



If selected to speak during dialogue, please limit comment to 1 minute



Recording and transcript will be available online in the near future

En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- ☐ *How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- ☐ *Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- ☐ *Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

***MINDFULNESS
MOMENT***



mindful
EPA

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood in North Port St. Joe, Florida. The image shows a mix of single-story houses, some with blue roofs, and larger buildings. There are many trees, including palm trees, and a body of water is visible in the background. A semi-transparent grey rectangular box is overlaid on the upper half of the image, containing the title and event information in white text.

North Port St. Joe: Environmental Challenges and Successes

National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

May 16, 2023

Presenters on behalf of the community:

Dannie Bolden, North Port St Joe Project Area
Coalition, Pioneer Bay Community
Development Corporation (CDC)

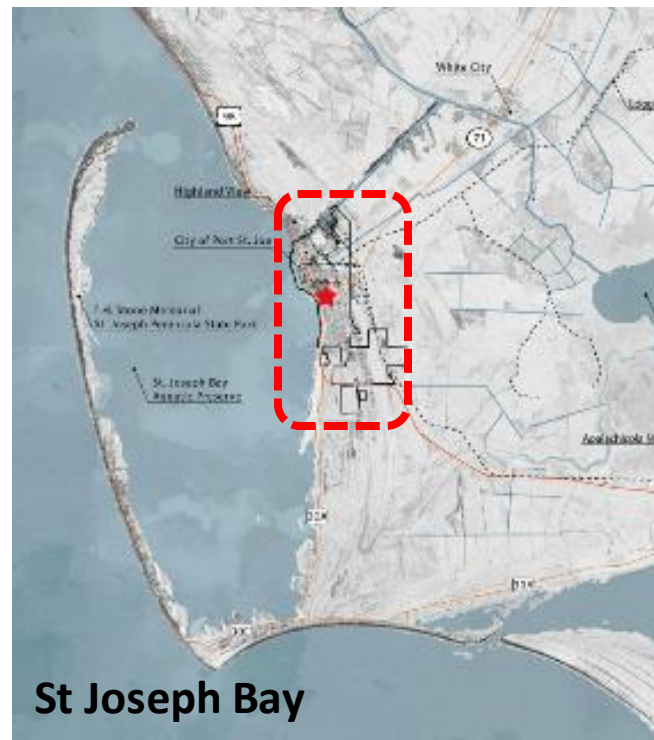
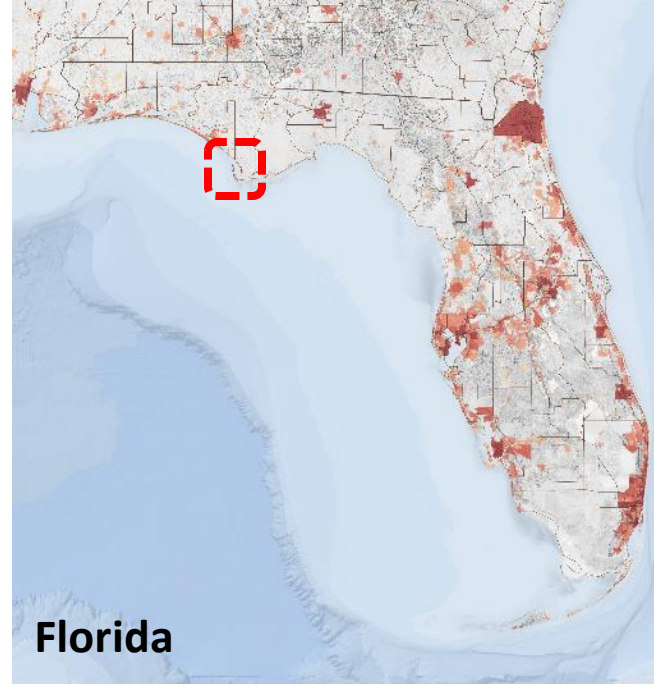
Jeff Carney, Florida Institute for Built
Environment Resilience (FIBER), University of
Florida

John Hendry, North Port St Joe Project Area
Coalition, Pioneer Bay Community
Development Corporation (CDC)

Michael Volk, Center for Landscape
Conservation Planning, University of Florida



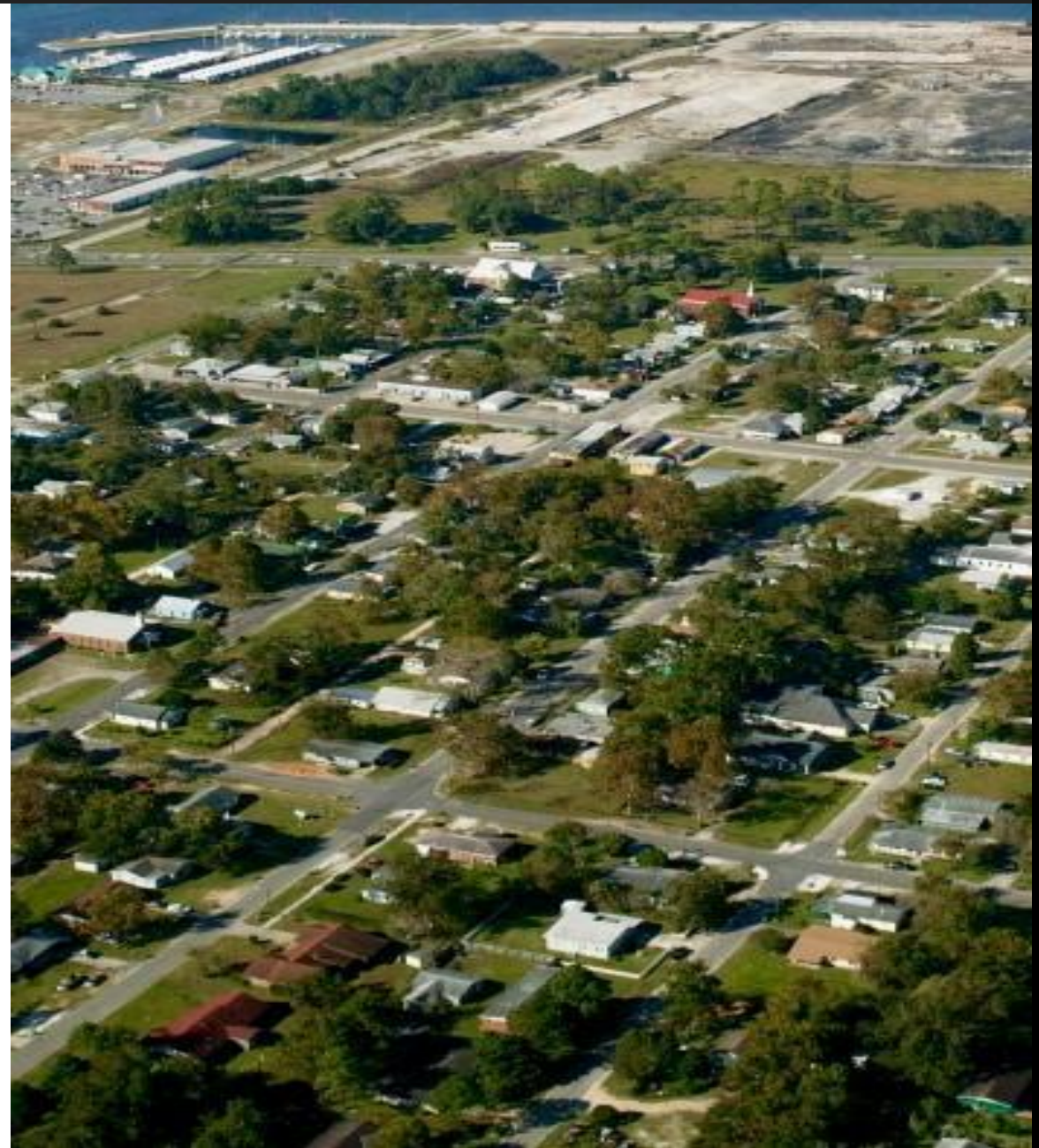
North Port St Joe Location and History



Port St. Joe

North Port St. Joe

- 395 acres
- 1,385 residents
- 608 households
- 80% African-American
- \$ 21,472 per capita income
- 82% of households earn less than \$50,000 per annum
- 25% of households earn less than \$25,000 per annum



North Port St Joe Location and History



Photograph 6: Decomposing Wood Chips
Mill View Subdivision Study Site
Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida





Port St. Joe's incorporation	Paper Mill opens	Civil Rights	Paper Mill closes	Impacts of the Mill	Finding of Necessity	Master Plan Shelved	PAC formed: new Master Plan	H'cane Michael	Covid- 19
1913	1938	1970	1999	2003	2008	2009	2016	2018	2020





Redeveloping North Port St. Joe implementing the community's plan



North Port St. Joe
P.A.C.
project area committee



Replacing the 2009
North Port St. Joe
Master Plan.

Creating a new
illustrated plan.

Paving the way for
redeveloping the
community.

December, 2016

Redeveloping North Port St. Joe implementing the community's plan



North Port St. Joe
P.A.C.
project area committee

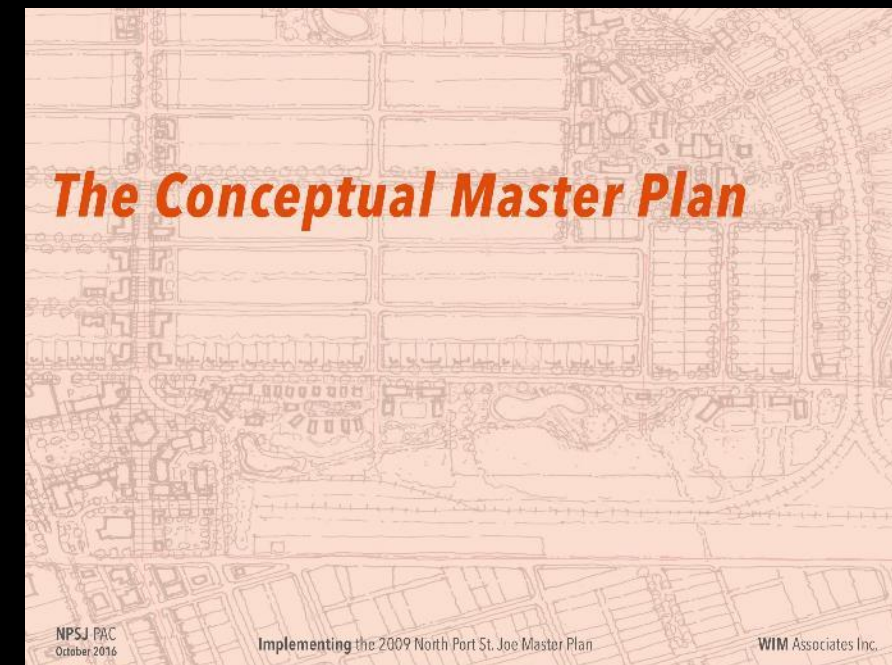


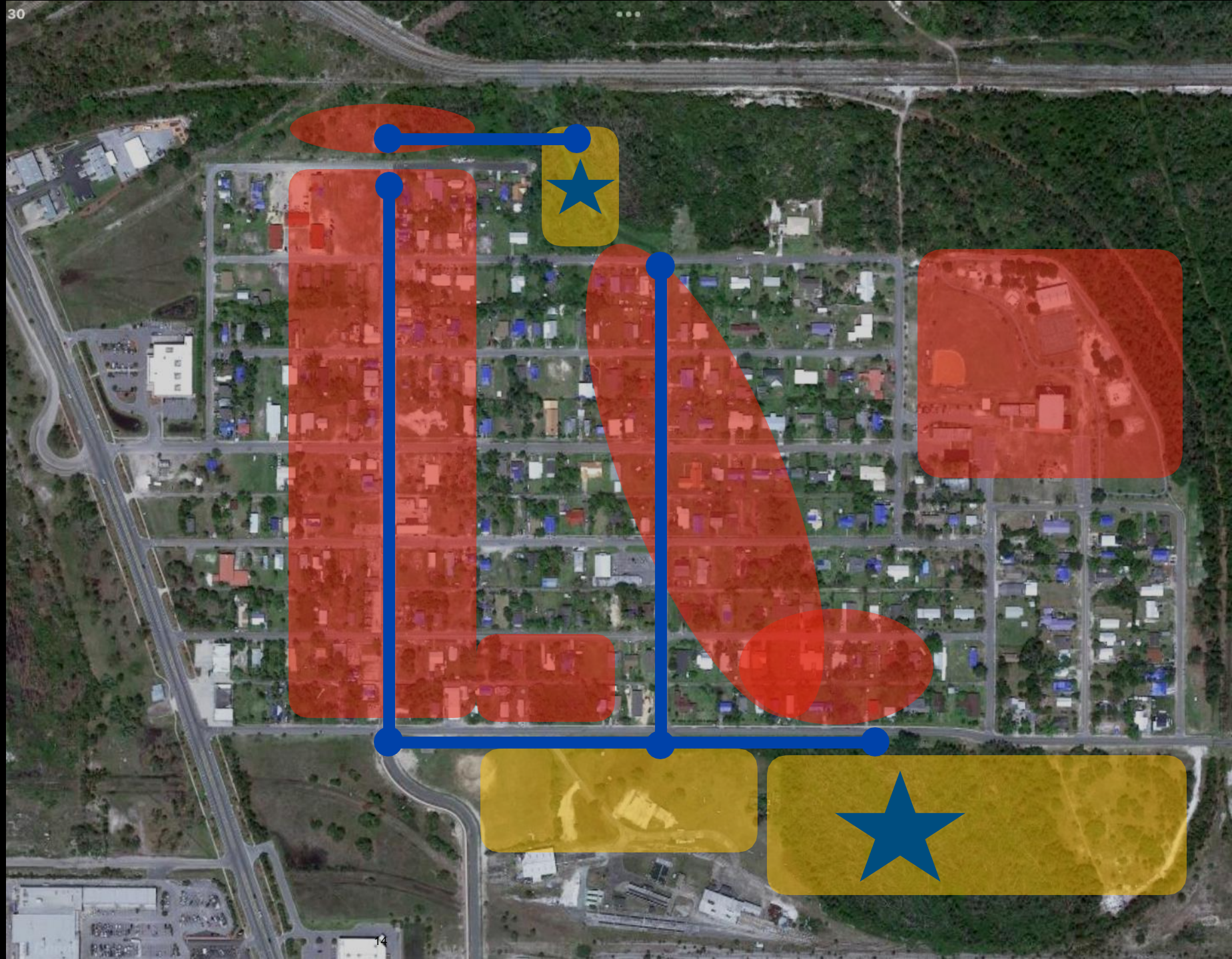
APPENDIX

Next steps

Maintaining the
momentum of Phase 1

December, 2016





Funding Success and Program Partners

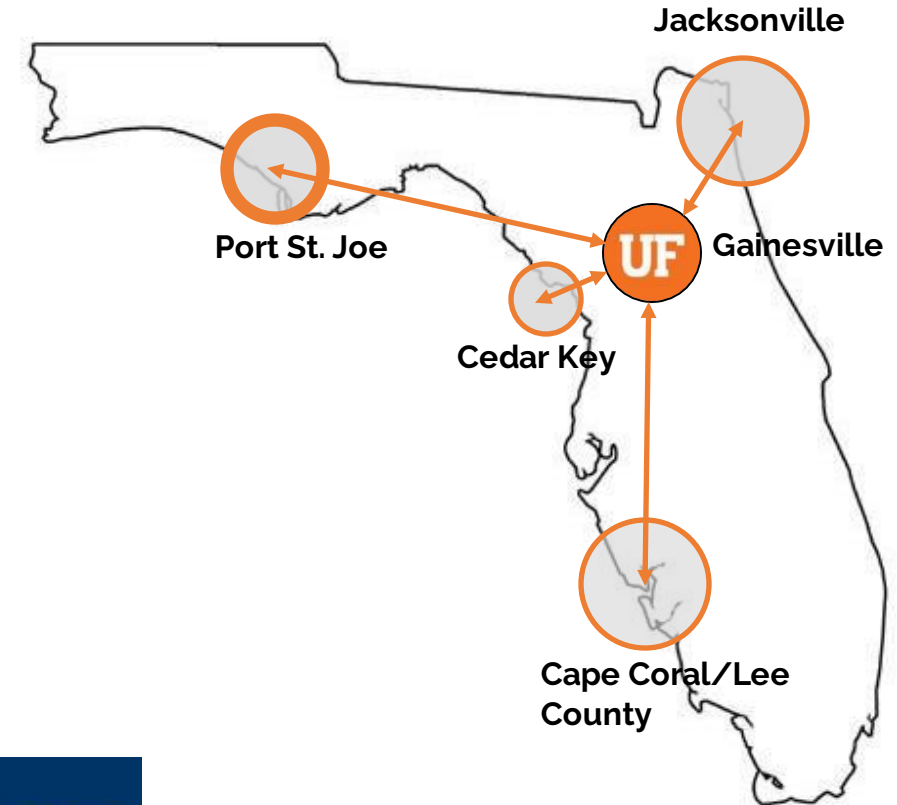


Florida Resilient Cities Program

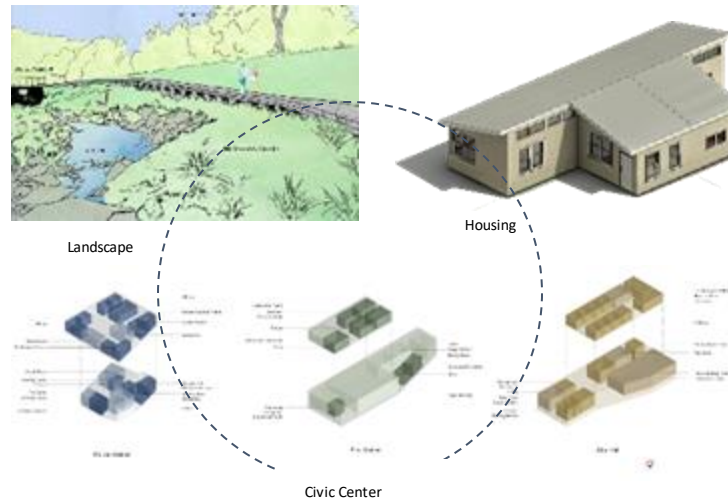
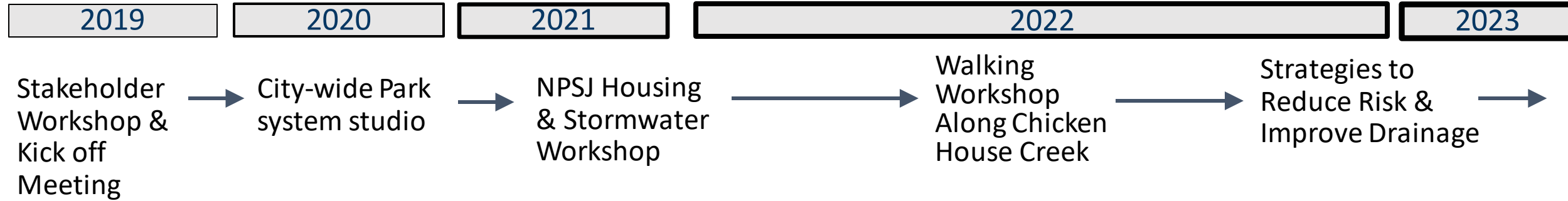
UF

Florida Resilient Cities (FRC) helps communities across Florida develop the capacity to be more prepared for, and more resilient to increased risk.

Led by The Florida Institute for Built Environment Resilience (FIBER), Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, and the Center for Landscape Conservation Planning (CLC), the program **bridges community needs with design research through the College of Design, Construction, and Planning, partnered with faculty from across the University of Florida.**

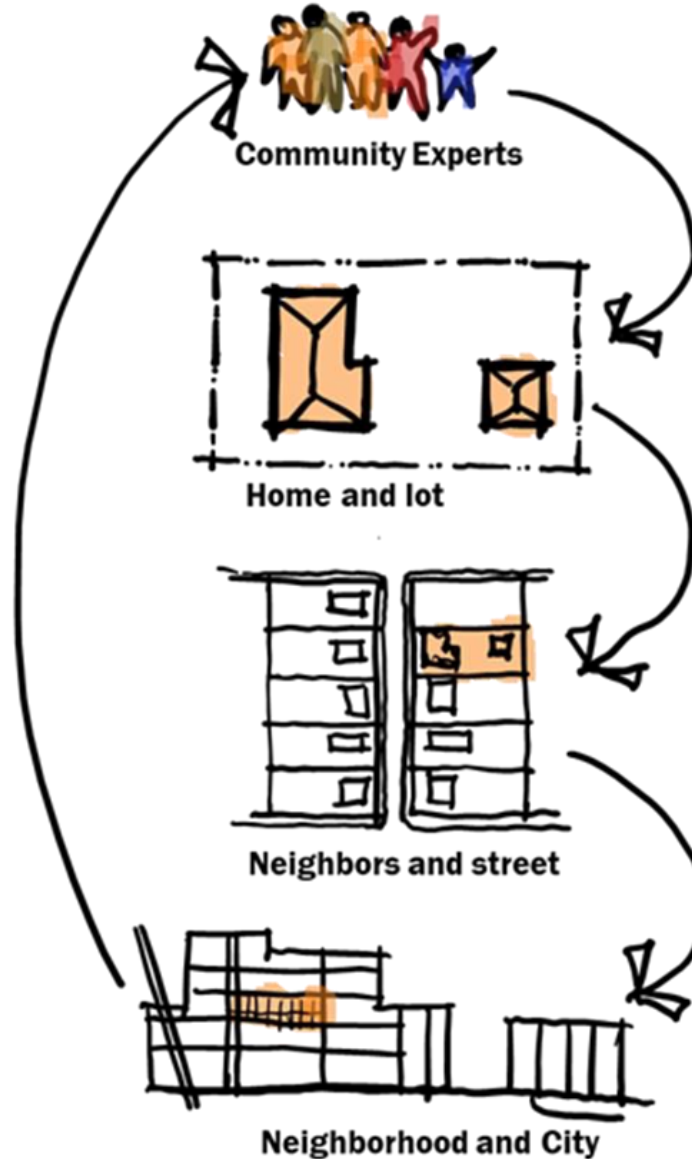


Florida Resilient Cities Program



Nature-based Solutions:

- Nature Based Solutions to Mitigate Climate Impacts in **North Port St Joe (2022)**
- Phase 1: Identify nature-based projects for North Port St Joe to:
 - *Enhance community health and/or resilience*
 - *Mitigate climate hazards*
 - *Incorporate equity into the planning and design process*
- Phase 2: A fully designed nature-based project for North Port St Joe.



Nature-based Solutions:

Based on a 2021 Public Workshop Series

Rights of Way

1. Battles Street

Wetland Restoration

2. Avenue F-G Water Quality Improvement Wetland

3. First St-Avenue A Stormwater Reduction Wetland

Occupied parcels

4. Individual stormwater reduction strategies

Unoccupied/vacant parcels

5. Stormwater management

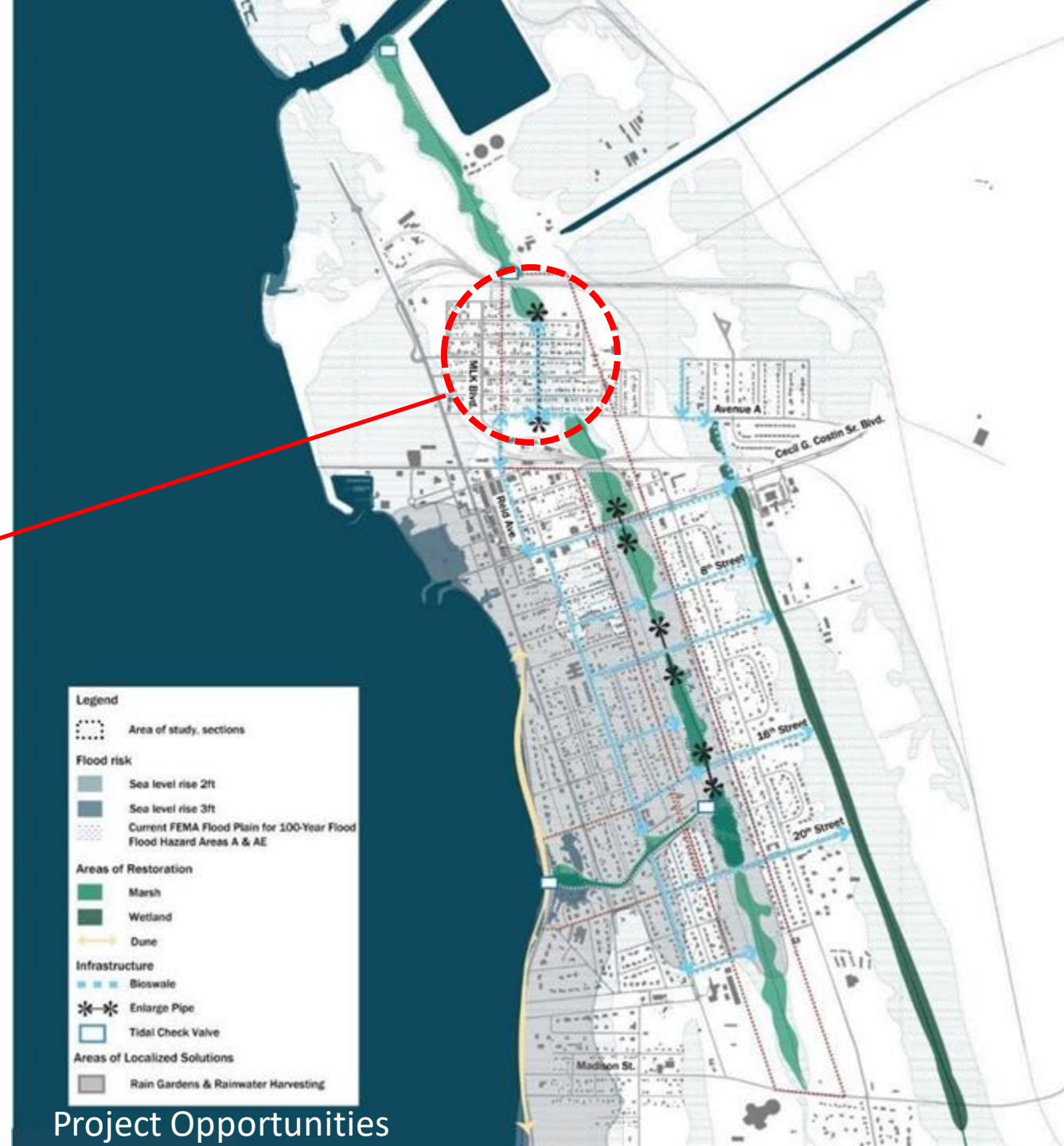
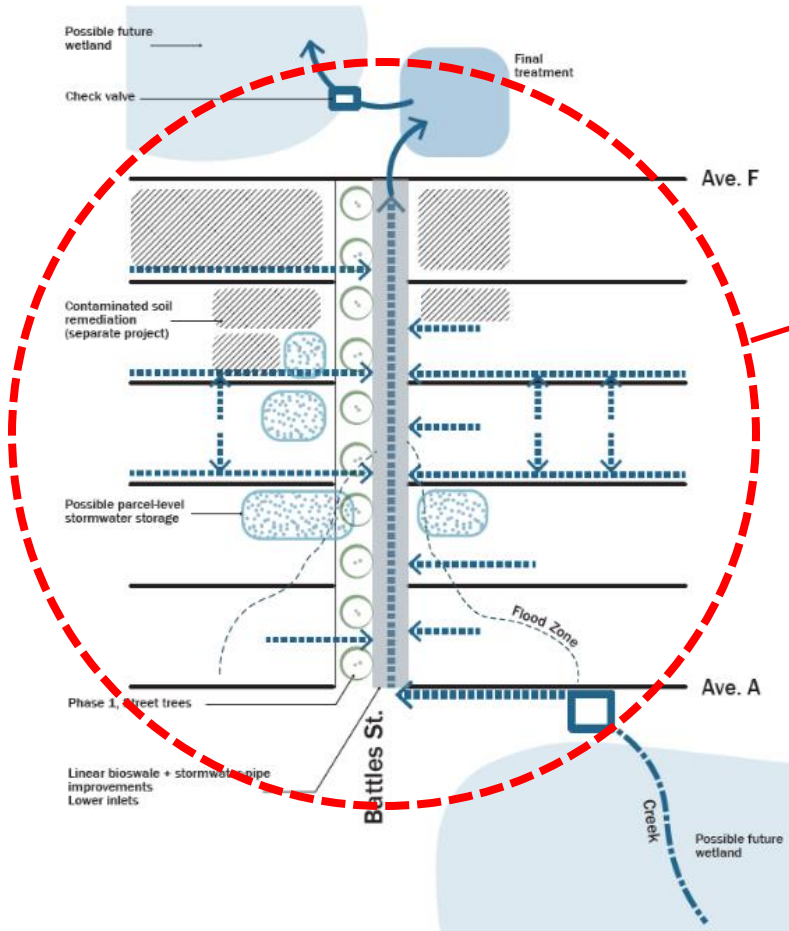
Three Tiers

- Private Properties
- Public Infrastructure
- Long term needs



The Broader Context:

Nature-based solutions as part of a broader system and set of plans



Project Opportunities

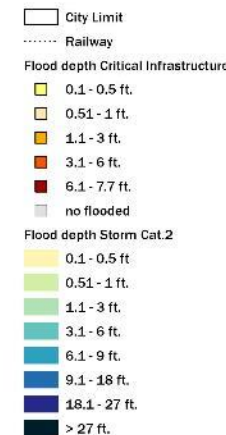
The Broader Context:

- Port St Joe Vulnerability Assessment (2022)
 - *Prioritize needs and values of community stakeholders*
 - *Data collection and vulnerability assessment focused on flood risks*
 - *Comprehensive plan amendments and policy recommendations to manage growth*
 - *Identification of adaptation actions to address future risks*



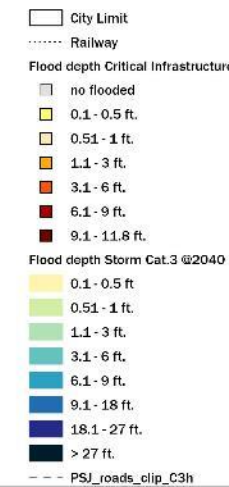
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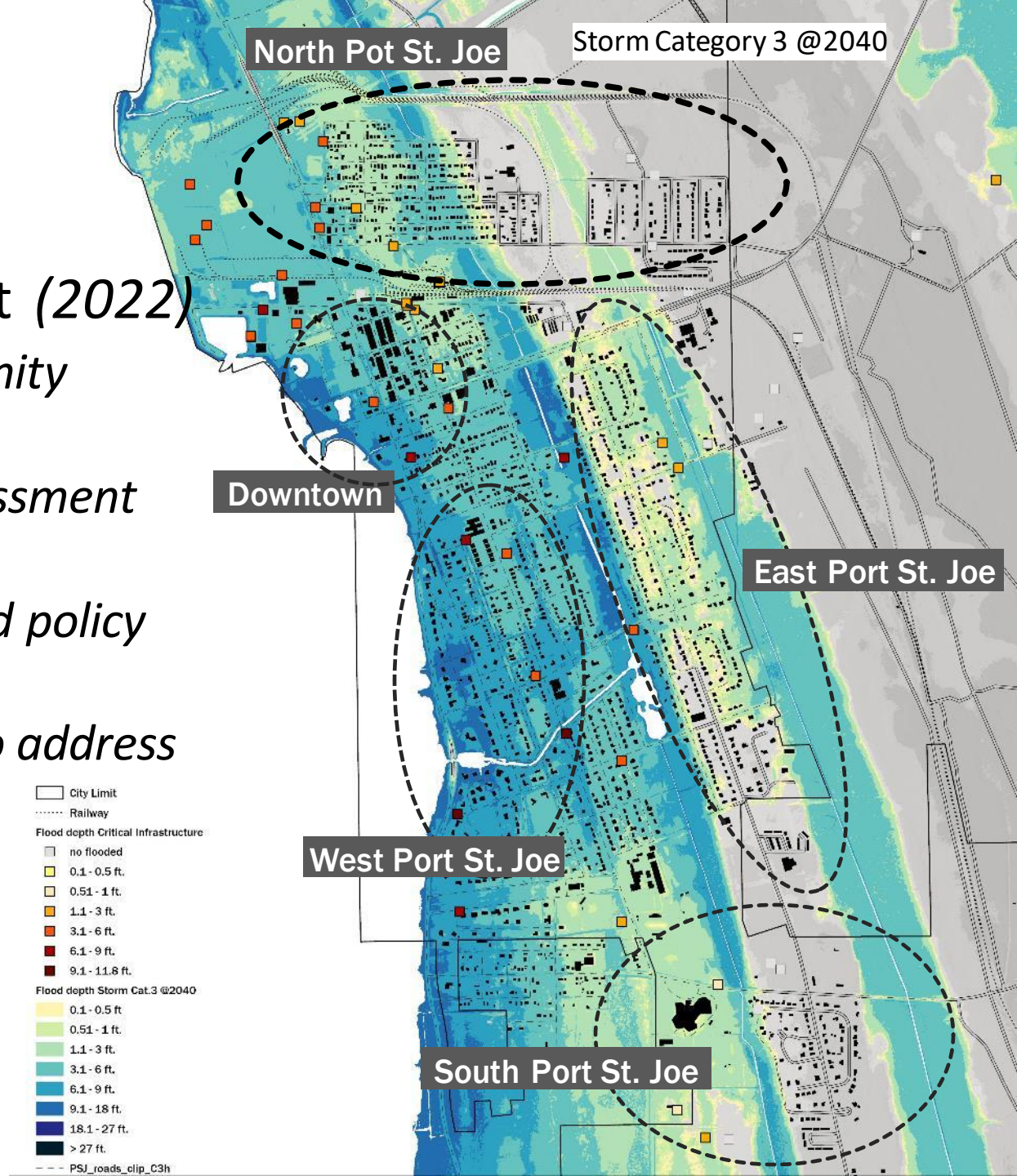
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Ongoing Community Needs



An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. In the foreground, there are several houses with various roof colors (blue, brown, white) and some palm trees. A road is visible on the left. In the background, there is a large body of water, possibly a lake or a bay, surrounded by more trees and some industrial structures. The sky is clear and blue.

Thank You!

- **National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call**
- **May 16, 2023**

ALLENSWORTH

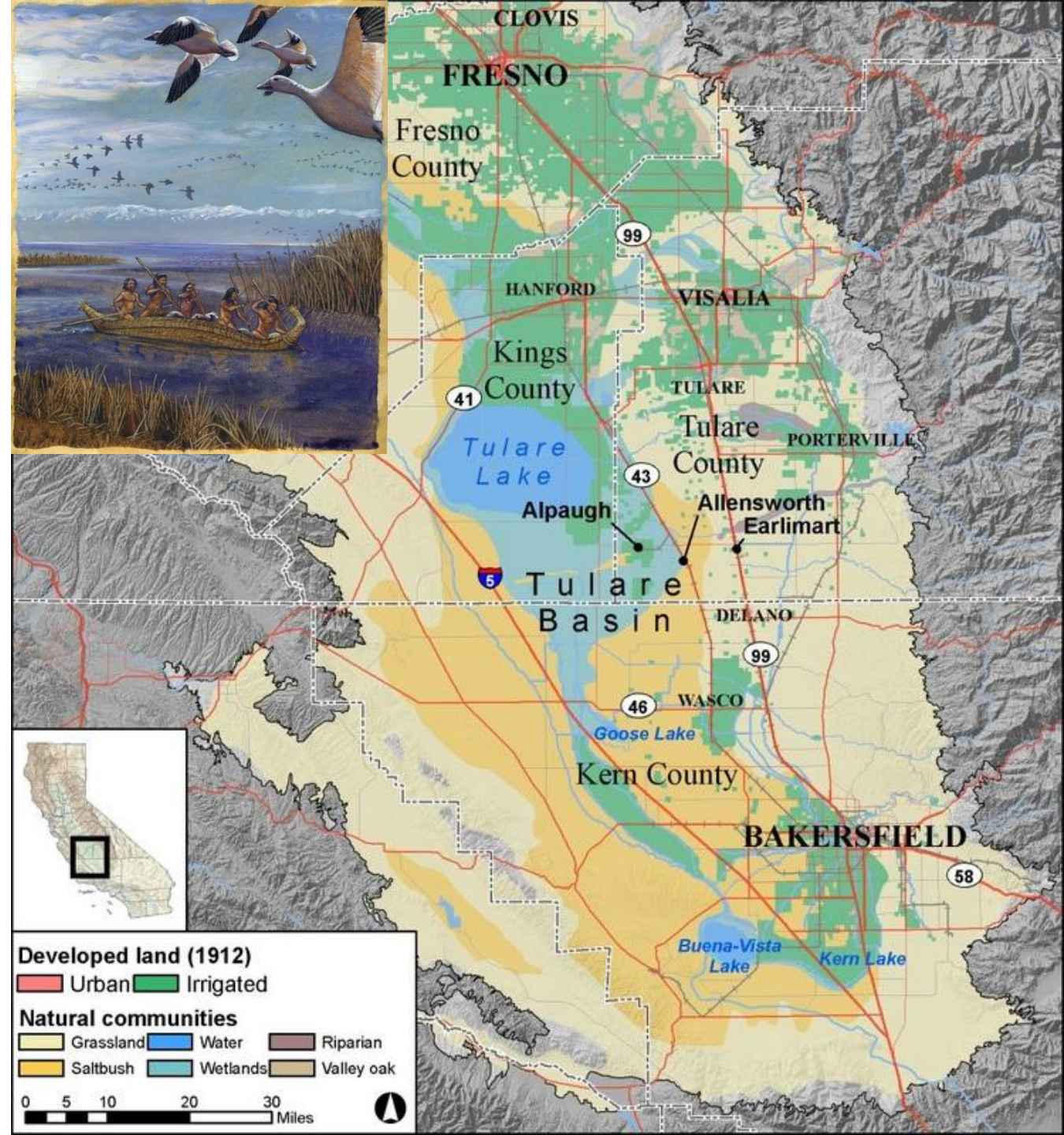
THE TOWN THAT REFUSES TO DIE



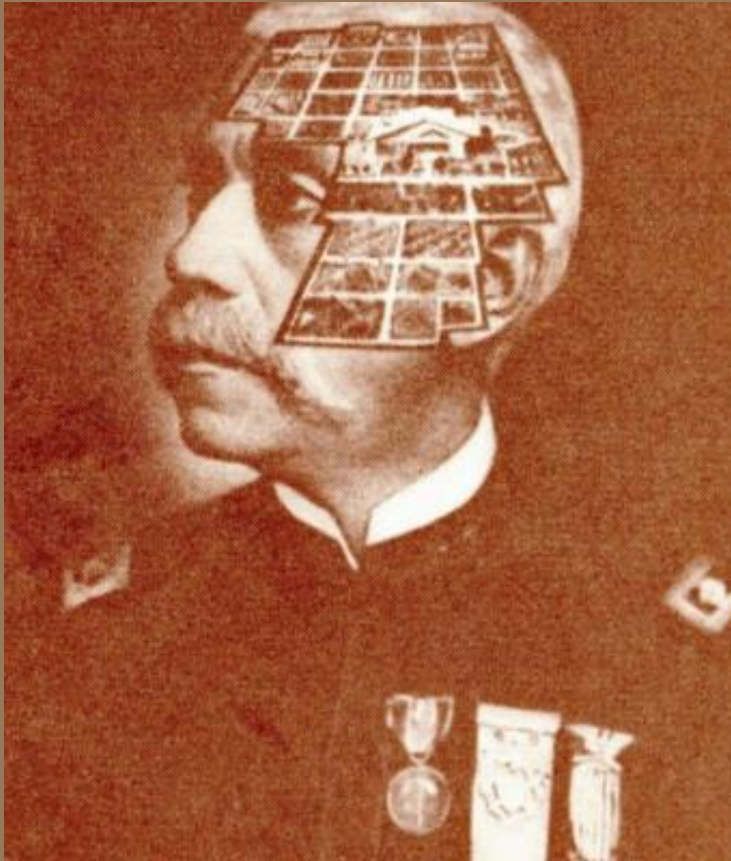
SW TULARE COUNTY | CALIFORNIA

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"Allensworth is on the ancestral lands of the Yokuts, which today includes the federally recognized Tachi Yokuts Tribe and Tule River Indian Tribe. Allensworth is within the traditional territory of the Wowol, the area of the beaver. Chawlown was a Wowol village near present-day Allensworth that moved with the tides of Tulare Lake. Tulare Lake is the center of the Yokuts' world and their creation place, despite its destruction. After the invasion, many of the Wowol arrived at the Santa Rosa Rancheria, which belongs to the Tachi Yokuts Tribe."



Allensworth History



- Founded in 1908 by retired army chaplain Col. Allen Allensworth and Professor William Alexander Payne
- 900-acres on the shoreline of Tulare Lakebed in the southern Central Valley of California
- "Tuskegee of the West"
 - Self-government
 - Self-sufficiency
 - Community resilience



Allensworth Progressive Association

- Original governing body
- Revived in 1997 as a 501c3
 - Community health & education programs
- Advancing sustainability, restoration, and revitalization



Allensworth Community Plan Update

- 2017 - Allensworth Hamlet Plan produced by Tulare County
- 2021- community outreach efforts began for Allensworth Community Plan (ACP) update
- 2022 - ACP framework approved by Tulare County Board of Supervisors



Allensworth Community Plan Update

- Priority projects submitted to the CA Legislative Black Caucus for funding
- \$40million allocated to Allensworth & Col. Allensworth State Historic Park from the Governor's budget

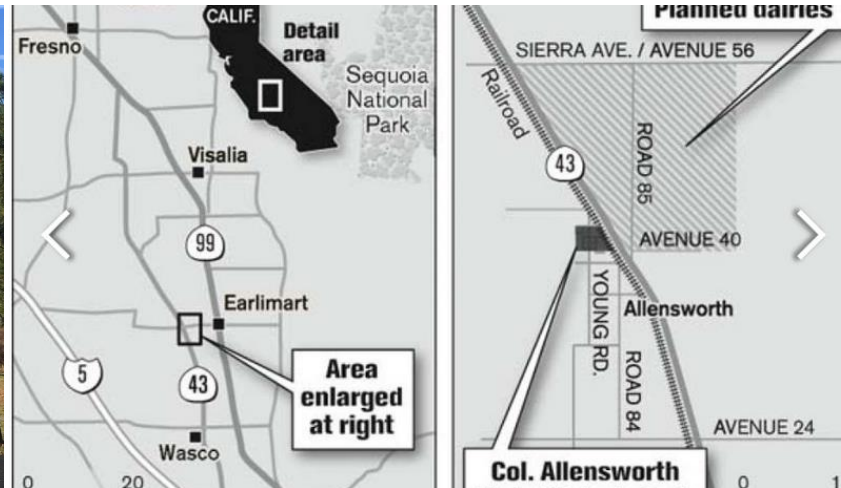


The Work Done



COL. ALLENSWORTH STATE HISTORIC PARK ESTABLISHED

- Established in 1974
- Original buildings restored & reconstructed
- Nettie Morrison establishes Friends of Allensworth
- Nettie Morrison establishes annual park events celebrating history & culture



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

- 2007 - 2 proposed neighboring mega-dairies threaten historic park & living community
- Nettie Morrison rallies residents to advocate against the intrusion & win!
- Legislation passed establishing a 2.5-mile buffer zone around Col. Allensworth State Historic Park



NOURISHING THE SPIRIT OF ALLENSWORTH

- Moved to Allensworth in 1979
- Nettie Morrison, unofficial 'Mayor of Allensworth'
- Establishes community food commodities program
- Raised funds to save & move Allensworth Christian Church

A Holistic Vision



Allensworth Community
& Capacity



Sustainable Agriculture &
Water Resiliency



Col. Allensworth
State Historic Park








Landscape Restoration
& Conservation



The map illustrates the Allensworth Historic Park area, highlighting various landmarks and proposed developments. Key features include:

- Col. Allensworth State Historic Park:** The central focus of the map, shaded in light blue.
- Proposed Urban Boundary Line:** A dashed line indicating the future urban limit.
- North Entrance State Park:** Located at the top of the map.
- Colonel Allensworth Highway:** A major road running diagonally through the park.
- Vegetative Buffer:** Areas marked with stars, indicating designated buffer zones.
- Allenworth Savannah Ecological Preserve:** Shaded in light green, located to the west and south of the park.
- Proposed Tri-County Water Authority Reservoir:** A large area to the west of the park.
- Town Center District:** Includes public services, commercial buildings, and new housing.
- Vegetative Buffer:** Another star-marked area to the west.
- Solar Farm:** A designated area for solar development.
- Allenworth Savannah Ecological Preserve:** Another shaded green area to the south.
- Route of High Speed Rail:** A line running vertically along the western edge.
- Sustainable AG District:** A designated area for sustainable agriculture.
- Allenworth Civic Center:** A star-marked area to the east of the park.
- Community Center:** A star-marked area within the park.
- Allenworth Academy:** A star-marked area within the park.
- Cemetery:** A star-marked area within the park.
- TAC Learning & Innovation Farm:** A star-marked area at the bottom of the map.
- Allenworth Station:** A star-marked area to the east of the park.
- Allenworth Savannah Ecological Preserve:** A shaded green area to the south.
- Route of High Speed Rail:** A line running vertically along the western edge.
- Sustainable AG District:** A designated area for sustainable agriculture.

KEY

	PROPOSED URBAN BOUNDARY LINE
	COLONEL ALLENSWORTH STATE HISTORIC PARK
	PROPOSED TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY RESERVOIR
	ROUTE OF HIGH SPEED RAIL
	ALLENSWORTH STATION

'TUSKEGEE OF THE WEST'

**ALLENSWORTH
CIVIC CENTER**

TAC LEARNING & INNOVATION FARM




1" = 1000'-0"

ALLENSWORTH

BOUNDARIES & NOTATIONS MAP

06-23-21

THE HISTORIC ALLENSWORTH CEMETERY

- Preservation a Nettie Morrison endeavor
- Owned & managed by Allensworth Community Services District (ACSD)
- Seeking funding for restoration and preservation



CA PUBLIC UTILITIES Commission's (CPUC) Affordable Energy Pilot Program

- CPUC approved 11 affordable energy projects throughout the Central Valley
- Allensworth a recipient community
- Establishing solar power as the energy source



TAC TEACHING & INNOVATION FARM LAB

- Model for re-envisioning agriculture in the Central Valley
- Serve as an economic engine in Allensworth
- Regenerative and sustainable closed-loop system



CENTRAL VALLEY BIPOC FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM AT TAC FARM

- Provide hands-on training in regenerative agriculture
- Cultivate community-grown solutions to ongoing challenges in Central Valley rural communities.



THE TULARE LAKE PROJECT- BASED LEARNING PROGRAM (TL PBL)

- 4-week environmental youth summer program for regional
- Hands-on activities, mentoring, and exploratory field trips
- Introduce knowledge & skills needed to address drought, flood, and climate change



WATERSHED RESTORATION: FROM OUR HEADWATERS TO OUR GROUNDWATER

- Allensworth located at the valley-end of the Deer Creek watershed
- Last undammed rivers in the state of California
- Regional efforts aimed at holistic restoration of the watershed
- Headwaters to groundwater
- A model for other California watersheds



UC BERKELEY ARSENIC REMEDIATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

- UC Berkeley | Gadgil Lab
- Arsenic contamination
- Electrochemical arsenic remediation (ECAR)
- Air Cathode Assisted Iron Electrocoagulation (ACAIE)
- 2 pilot projects at TAC Farm in Allensworth, CA
- Excellent pilot results
- Further development and state approval



WATER SECURITY

- In 2021 \$3.8M secured in funding for a new community well & 500k gallon storage tank
- New well site and tank location have been identified
- Projects awaiting final authorization from the Dept. Fish and Wildlife



REGIONAL, RURAL SEWERAGE TREATMENT

- Allensworth is on a septic system
- Health risks
- Sewer studies completed
- Regionalization



FLOOD WATER STORAGE & PASSIVE RECREATION

- Tri-County Water Authority
- Capture flood waters from White River to store for future use
- Passive recreation in dry years



COMMUNITY STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

- Complete study to commence soon



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY CENTER

- Offices and gathering spaces
- Community cooling/heating center
- Cottage market
- Café with commercial kitchen
- Public Services
- Medical Center
- Design underway





The
Future
of
Allensworth
is
Bright!



On Allensworth's Horizon

TAC Regenerative
Farm



Farmer's Market



Modern Waste
Water Treatment



Solar Farm



Civic Center



Elderly &
Veteran Housing



Community Forest



Nature & Community
Trail



Green K-14
School Facilities

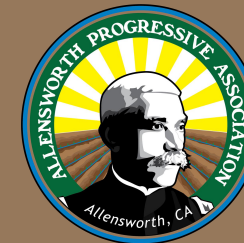


Ecotourism





Partners



CalEPA
California Environmental
Protection Agency



**Sustainable
Economies
Law Center**



**CENTER for
LAND-BASED
LEARNING**



USC University of
Southern California



USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



**COMMUNITY
WATER CENTER**
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA



CRPE
CENTER ON
RACE, POVERTY
& THE ENVIRONMENT



GADGIL LAB
for Energy and Water Research



**TOMKAT
RANCH**
— K —
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION



Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



**Tulare County
Office of Education**
Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools



Tule Basin
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION TRUST



Contact Us



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