RESILIENCE!

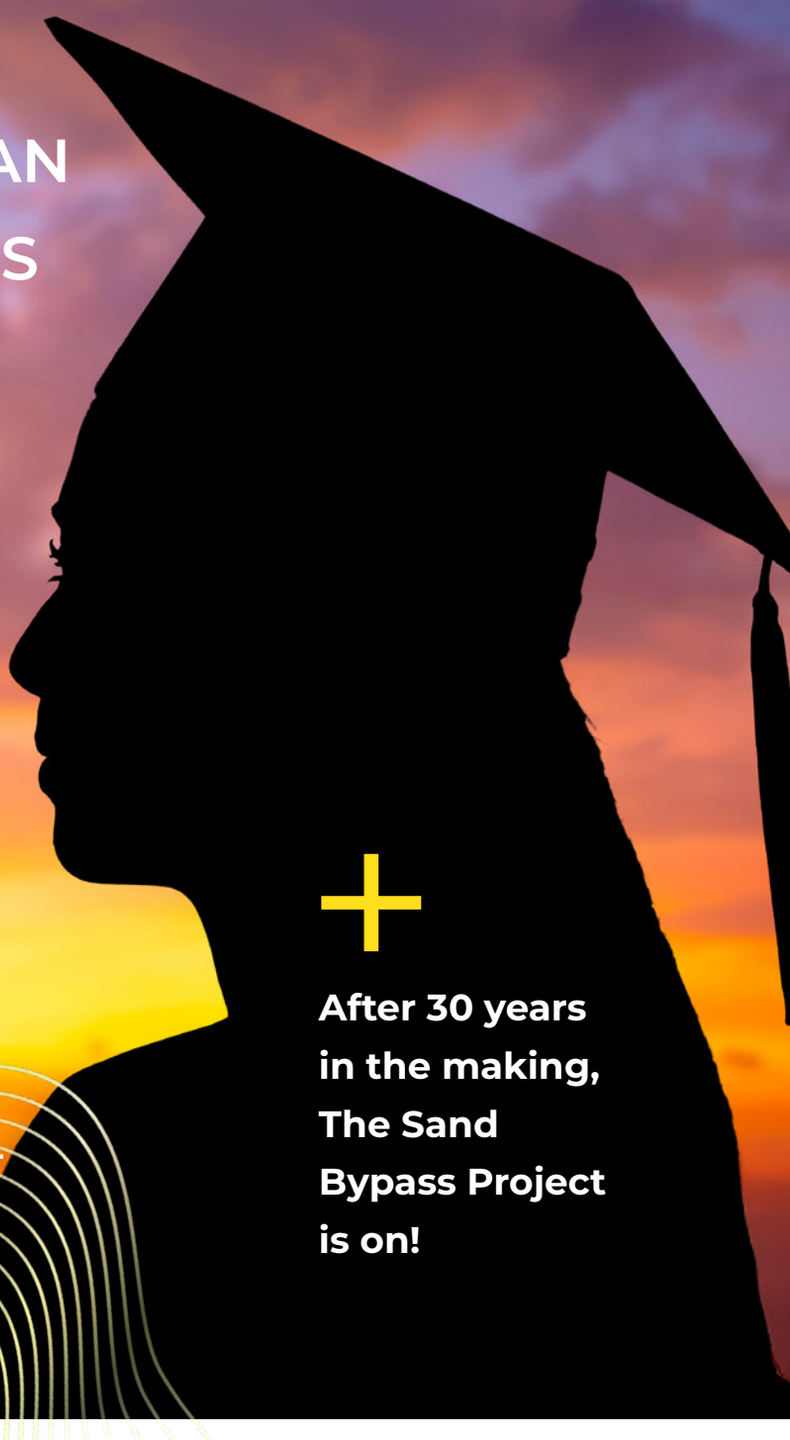
NOVEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RESILIENCE UNIT

A RESILIENT EDUCATION

HOW YOUNG GRADUATES CAN BUILD CAREERS IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE



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After 30 years in the making, The Sand Bypass Project is on!

BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA

PUBLIC WORKS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

IN THIS ISSUE...

Resilience Plan

The Broward County Resilience Plan has now been finalized. Here are the key updates:

- A series of stakeholder meetings were held to present key findings, data, and insights from the plan.
- All relevant plan documents and adaptation project data are now available for download on the *Resilient Broward* website.
- GIS files detailing the locations and attributes of the proposed adaptation projects are accessible for public use.
- An Excel spreadsheet outlining the cost estimates for each proposed adaptation project has been provided.
- A County-wide map illustrating future water storage needs is included as part of the available resources.
- A Project Tracker has been developed to monitor the status of adaptation projects, with updates provided by local stakeholders, including cities and regional agencies.
- To support ongoing collaboration, a Survey123 form is available on the Resilient Broward website (under the Tools section), allowing agencies to submit updates and input on projects within their jurisdictions.

RESILIENT BROWARD

Read more at *ResilientBroward.com*

EVENTS

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

WHERE:
Palm Beach Convention Center in West Palm Beach.

WHEN:
December 16–17, 2025 Palm Beach County will be hosting the 17th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit on at the This year's theme, "Roots of Resilience: Cultivating a Sustainable Future," reflects the region's commitment to advancing innovative, collaborative solutions for a changing climate.

BROWARD RESILIENCE CHILI COOKOFF!

WHERE:
Broward County Governmental Center, Room 301/302

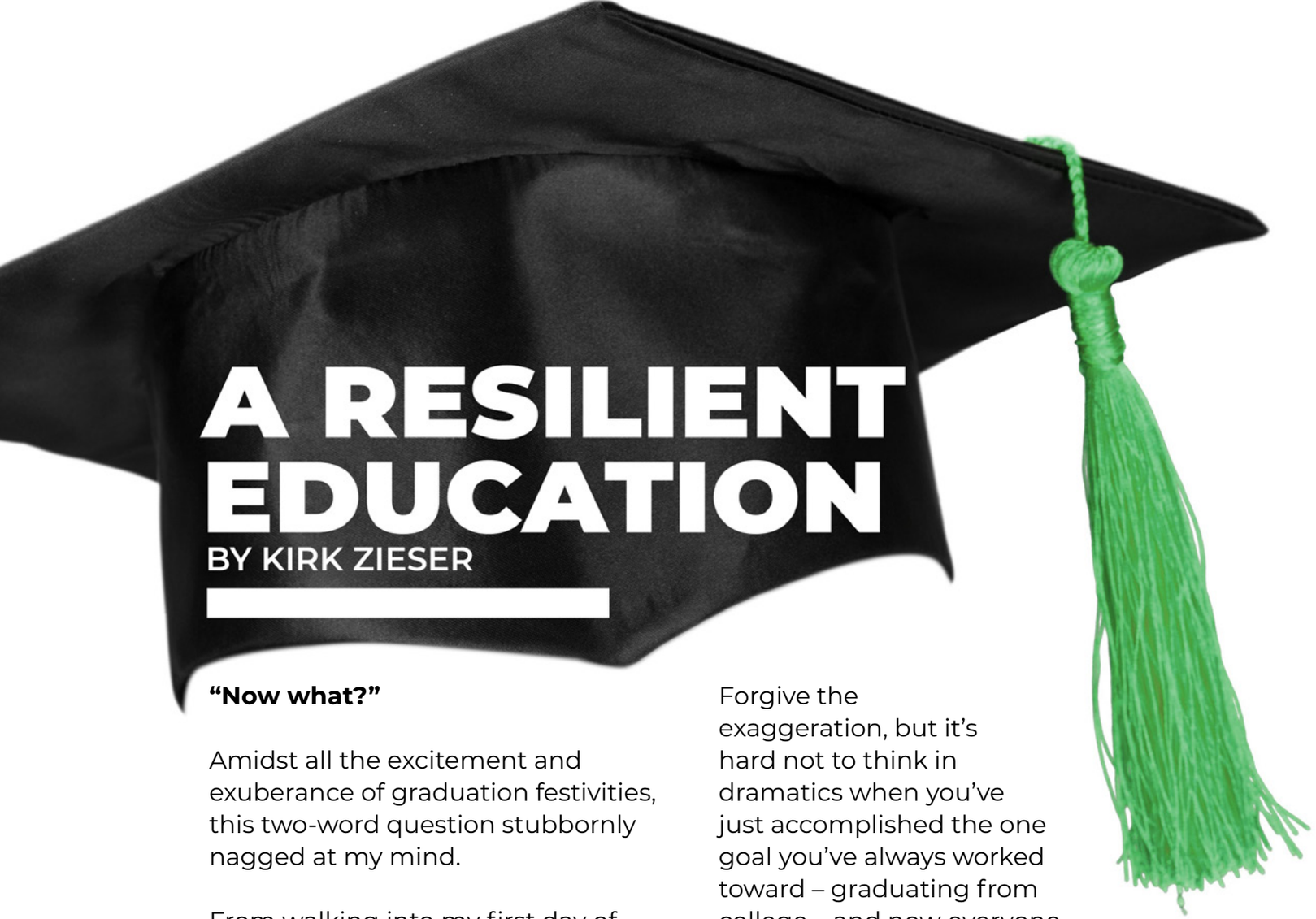
WHEN:
Thursday November 20 2025, 12 – 1:30 PM

The Resilience Unit's annual United Way Chili Cookoff is back. Now through December 6, employees are encouraged to give what they can to those in need. Stay spicy!

COASTAL CLEANUP

On September 20, 2025, the world came together for the 40th International Coastal Cleanup! Each year, Broward County joins this global effort led by the Ocean Conservancy, alongside more than one million volunteers in over 122 countries.

The cleanup takes place typically on the third Saturday of September each year, helping to keep our oceans and coastlines clean. Contact CoastalCleanup@Broward.org for more information and to register for next year's event.



A RESILIENT EDUCATION

BY KIRK ZIESER

“Now what?”

Amidst all the excitement and exuberance of graduation festivities, this two-word question stubbornly nagged at my mind.

From walking into my first day of kindergarten to walking across the stage to receive my diploma, my life in school always had a relatively known “next step.” After elementary school, middle school; after middle, high; after high school, I knew I wanted to go to college. Not yet ready to leave university life, I then chose to go to grad school.

While this was still a big step and a new experience, there was something comfortable about extending my time in the known world of academia. After grad school, though, I really found myself standing at the precipice, staring into an abyssal plain of exhausting job applications to roles with vague titles at companies I’d never heard of, all while suppressing a worry that my first job would lock me into a career path I was neither familiar with nor could escape.

Forgive the exaggeration, but it’s hard not to think in dramatics when you’ve just accomplished the one goal you’ve always worked toward – graduating from college – and now everyone you’ve ever met is asking, “what are you going to do with your life?”

Dear reader, if you’re also asking yourself “now what?”, I come bearing news. It can be good or bad, depending on how you choose to receive it. I choose to think of it as good. Your horizon of career options is no less expansive than the ocean and has no more structure than the dark void you see when you close your eyes. Intimidating? For someone like me, coming from an adolescence of structure, it certainly is.

Read this negatively: *there’s no one path for you to take, no outline for how you’ll achieve your ambitious goals.* Sit with that for a moment. Now go back and read it positively. *You* get to forge your path You *have* to forge your path. Don’t worry

“Just as we seek to build a more resilient world, so too must we be resilient in our search. ”

about what’s at the end of the path – you won’t be able to see it until it comes into view. Focus on the next step and allow yourself to be guided by your internal compass; if it feels right, trust that it is and make it so.

OK, back to the present. If you’ve read this far into a newsletter titled “Resilience!”, I assume you’re interested in a career in climate resilience. And if you’re anything like 25-year-old me, you may not know what that entails. You could, like me, Google “climate resilience jobs” and spend the next untold hours of your life agonizing at why there are so few jobs with this specific title and this specific focus. You could, also like me, prowl through LinkedIn and reflexively send anyone remotely in proximity of your network a request for a “quick chat.” Been there, done that.

These are exhausting endeavors, but not worthless ones. You’ll have to keep your head up while being battered with non-responses, but the mere act of clicking and clicking and clicking and clicking can open your eyes to previously unknown companies and roles, hiding deep within website submenus and “you may also be interested in” pop-ups.

It may seem overwhelming, but chin up! Just as we seek to build a more resilient world, so too must we be resilient in our search. This brings me to the crux of my early-career wisdom: a career in climate resilience can be made wherever you are. Allow me to explain.
Yes, there are some jobs quite literally called “climate resilience coordinator” and some companies with this specific wording in their mission statement. But just as the climate impacts every facet of society, each industry has a role to play in building resilience.

CONTINUES

“Resilience is too pressing a need to wait around for the perfectly suited job to present itself... get creative with what being climate resilient means in your current role”

Those government agencies with “resilient” in their name? They’re staffed by planners, academics, and policy folks. They work with consultancies full of subject-matter experts and with contractors and engineers in the field. Beyond the realm of government, any company with a product has a supply chain.

However long or short it may be, that supply chain’s links expose the company to additional risks that require a thoughtful approach to ensure resilience against external shocks. Every company relies on accountants, and the accountant who models future climate impacts will be called upon to steady the ship when financial waters get rough.

Although planning for climate resilience often conjures images of macro-scale community maps, the impacts of resilience are acutely felt on an individual basis. Medical professionals can consider climate factors when advising patients on holistic care. Delivery drivers, construction workers, real estate agents, athletes – anyone who, for any part of the day, works outside or with an asset exposed to the elements, must make contingencies for when the climate doesn’t cooperate and impacts how they intend to do their job. All these efforts constitute climate resilience.

Working in climate resilience is nuanced, and it’s no one thing. It means infusing your responsibilities with forward-looking preparations to ensure stability in times of climate chaos. Resilience is too pressing a need to wait around for the perfectly-suited job to present itself.

Stay on the lookout for that job, but in the meantime, get creative with what being climate resilient means in your current role. You may already be working in climate resilience, even if you haven’t thought of it as such.

We all have a brick to lay in building the metaphorical – and sometimes literal – seawall of climate resilience, and laying each brick is a step in the right direction.

SAND BYPASS IS A GO!

30+ YEARS IN THE MAKING: THE SAND BYPASS PROJECT IS FINALLY GOING TO CONSTRUCTION!

It's not every day that someone gets to work on a project that is older than they are, but that's exactly what the Sand Bypass Project is to me.

The concept of sand bypassing near the Port Everglades Inlet dates back to at least 1963. Since then, Broward County has invested in understanding how best to manage sand transport in the area. After many decades of design, development, and permitting, the Sand Bypass Project will commence construction on October 1.

The purpose of the Sand Bypass Project at Port Everglades is to collect and move excess sand across the inlet, from north to south, in a controlled and cost-effective manner. The project will reduce sedimentation in the channel and provide a sustainable, local source of sand for beach nourishment events for southern beaches.

In fact, the Project is expected to provide 50% of the sand needs for the area south of the inlet, which is the most chronically eroded stretch of beach in Broward County.

The Project will reduce the scale, cost, and impact of future nourishment events and is the environmentally preferred solution for sand management in the area. Sand flow on the east coast of Florida occurs in a north-to-south

1968 aerial view of the groynes built along Miami Beach near 41st Street. The groynes were built to trap ocean sand filtering south from the Savannah River to maintain a good bathing beach. In reality these structures disrupted the natural flow of sand, robbing beaches downdrift of sand and causing new erosion problems.

Photo showing the shoreline south of the Port Everglades Inlet over time – before traditional beach nourishment (March 2020), immediately after sand placement (March 2023), and just two years later (March 2025). This area experiences the highest rate of erosion in Broward County, demonstrating the critical need for the Sand Bypass Project.

direction. In a perfect world, sand can travel down the coastline and naturally replenish beaches as it moves. However, we all know that conditions near the beach are far from perfect – storms and hurricanes churn up the ocean and can cause detrimental erosion along the coast.

Development can also impede natural alongshore sand flow; jetties and groins are designed to hold sand in a particular location, which can work to the benefit of that location, but they interrupt what mother nature intended.

At the Port Everglades Inlet, stark differences in shoreline widths on either side of the inlet demonstrate this concept all too well. The beaches south of the inlet receive no natural input of sand to replenish the rate of sand loss. Traditional beach renourishment has been implemented as a management strategy for this area for many years, but these events are not enough to maintain a sustainable beach width.

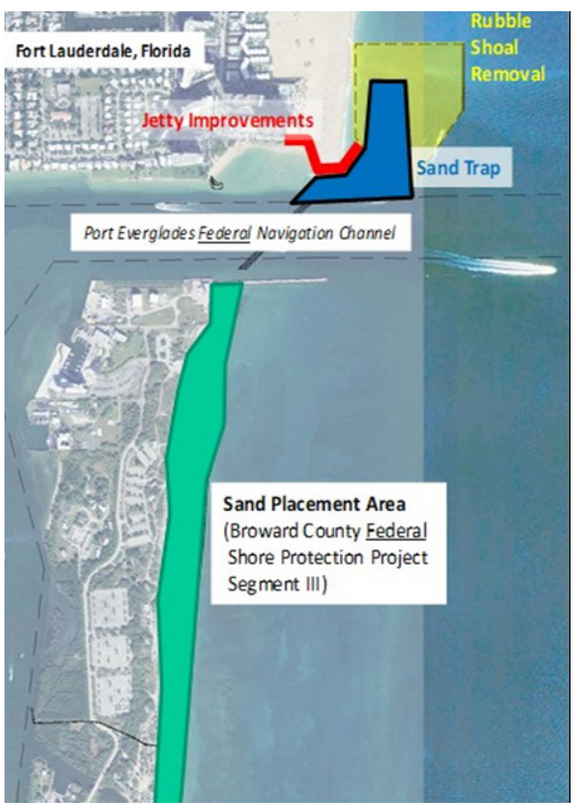
Additionally, traditional beach renourishment events can be costly, are often infrequent (occurring every 10+ years), and can be disruptive. Reliance on infrequent traditional nourishment leaves the beaches south of the inlet vulnerable to storm events, high tide impacts, and storm surge. As the literature suggests, the only solution to maintain a resilient shoreline in this area is a successful sand bypassing program.

Lago Mar Beach, north of the Fort Lauderdale jetties as it is today.

The Port Everglades Sand Bypass Project has several elements including sand trap construction, north jetty improvements, artificial reef construction, and rubble clearing.

Once the Project is complete, it is anticipated that maintenance dredging events will occur every 2-4 years. During those events, sand will be harvested from the newly constructed sand trap and placed on the beaches south of the inlet. Sand placement events are expected to last just about 90 days, which is much shorter in duration compared to traditional beach nourishment projects.

The Project is a critical addition to Broward County's beach management program and will function as one of the most environmentally sustainable projects in the area, while also serving as a landmark coastal resilience project for Broward County.



A graphic of the Sand Bypass Project. Excess sand will be trapped in the underwater sand trap, to be harvested every 2-4 years for placement on the shoreline south of the inlet.

RESOURCES

Project website:
Broward.org/Beaches/Pages/PortEvergladesSandBypass.aspx
Public webinar (July 2025):
https://vimeo.com/1101319629

BROWARD COUNTY'S EXTREME HEAT INITIATIVE

Extreme heat is becoming one of the most serious climate risks in our region, threatening the health and safety of residents. To respond effectively, Broward County launched its Extreme Heat Initiative to better understand where heat is hitting hardest and how communities can be protected.

Our efforts began by mapping surface temperatures across the County, giving us a clear picture of where the hottest areas are located. Next, we contacted the Medical Examiner's office for data on heat-related illnesses. The illness data revealed an eye-opening statistic; approximately 600 people visit the emergency department every year due to extreme heat-related illnesses. However, our findings indicate these numbers are likely just scratching the surface.

Heat illness data is hard to come by with incidents underreported, thus obscuring the complete impact of extreme heat events. Many incidents go unrecognized, are misclassified, or aren't documented at all, partly because of gaps in reporting standards or limited awareness among healthcare professionals.

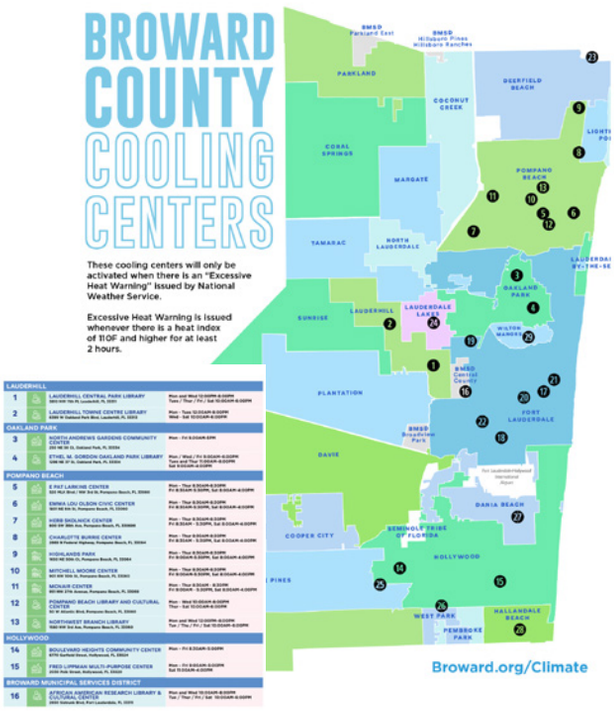
For instance, if an elderly person with heart problems faints after extended sun exposure at work,

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer at Broward County Resilient Environment speaking.

the case may be reported strictly as a heart illness, overlooking the influence of extreme heat.

According to Medical Examiner, the actual number of deaths linked to extreme heat may be four times higher than what is currently recorded. This significant underreporting suggests that many individuals affected by extreme heat often go unreported as part of official records.

In response, in coordination with the Medical Examiner, we initiated the "Take the Temp" campaign, reminding medical professionals and first responders to consistently record patient temperatures as a standard practice. This simple but powerful step helps capture more accurate data on heat-related illness. The campaign has already gained recognition among the South Florida



Urban Heat Research Group and is now being replicated by Miami Dade County while seeking to improve their own reporting systems.

Back to the data. Once we were able to fully review the available data we overlaid health and temperature data. This allowed us to identify neighborhoods at highest risk for exposure and public health impacts as a focus for priority consideration. From there, we launched a public program with 13 cities across Broward County. Together, we established and promoted cooling centers where residents can escape the heat, and combined this with significant messaging.

These cooling centers are public spaces, such as libraries and community centers, equipped with air conditioning, restrooms, and drinking water. They are activated whenever there is an excessive heat warning. We also encouraged cities to explore additional affordable cooling options. The City of Pompano Beach responded by successfully implementing subsidized public pool rates to

CONTINUES >

TAKING THE TEMPERATURE

HIMANSSHU PANWAR

BROWARD COUNTY HEAT SPECIALIST

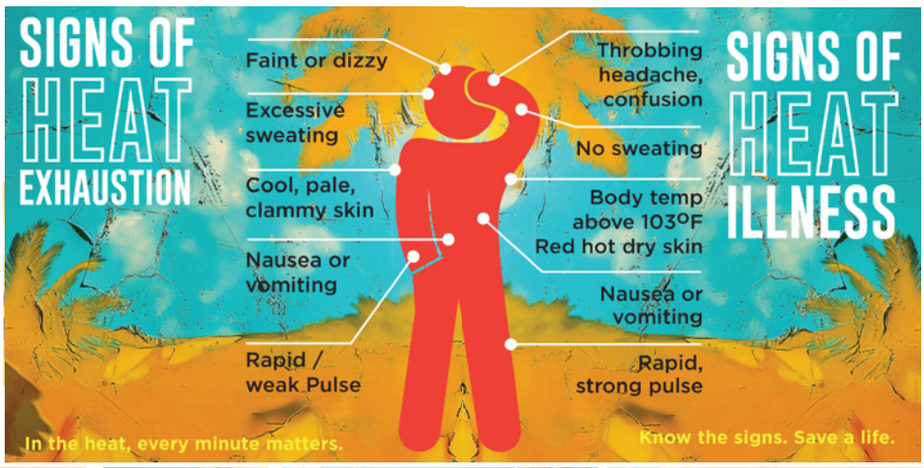
Working on the Extreme Heat Initiative has been one of the most rewarding projects of my career. It's more than just data and maps, it's about confronting a silent but growing threat that impacts our neighbors, families, and communities every day.

What motivates me most is knowing that the work we do can make a real difference in people's lives, especially those most vulnerable to rising temperatures. Through this initiative, I've learned that effective climate resilience requires a strong blend of science, community voices, and practical solutions. The collaboration between data experts, medical professionals, local leaders, and residents has been inspiring and humbling.

Coming from a spatial planning background, with a skillset involving data analysis, GIS, policy framework, stakeholder mapping, and dashboard development, I was able to see the problem and tentative solutions through a comprehensive lens. This interdisciplinary approach has helped me connect the science with real-world impact and community needs.

I am deeply interested in continuing this work because it represents how GIS and spatial analysis can be applied with true urgency and empathy. I look forward to advancing solutions that bring data and community engagement together for public good in Broward County and beyond.

Launch



Tips for kids

Cool commute

Keep yourself cool

Cool down your home

Examples from our 2025 Heat Awareness Campaign running on Broward Resilience social media channels throughout the summer.

provide safe recreation opportunities during heat warnings.

Community engagement has been another cornerstone of this work. We created and shared heat-related outreach materials in three local languages on social media, County websites, and directly with local governments so that residents have tips and resources at their fingertips. We have also engaged with community groups, ensuring that messages resonate with those most affected by heat and that solutions reflect their lived experience.

Looking forward, we are developing a public-facing dashboard that will display local heat and health data in an accessible way. This transparency will help residents understand how extreme heat is affecting their neighborhoods and strengthen community-wide awareness of the risks.

Broward County's leadership in this area has also been recognized globally. The County was recently selected as part of the cohort of lead cities for the Sustainable Markets Initiative through the Resilient Cities Network, working at the nexus of public health and the impacts of a changing climate.

Over the next year, we will partner with 29 cities across 19 countries to share knowledge and collaboratively test climate-health solutions. The overarching goal is to create environments that help people stay healthy despite changing climate. Through this global collaboration, we aim to scale effective tools and interventions that address the health impacts of climate change. This recognition highlights Broward County's leadership role as a model for other communities facing similar climate and health challenges.

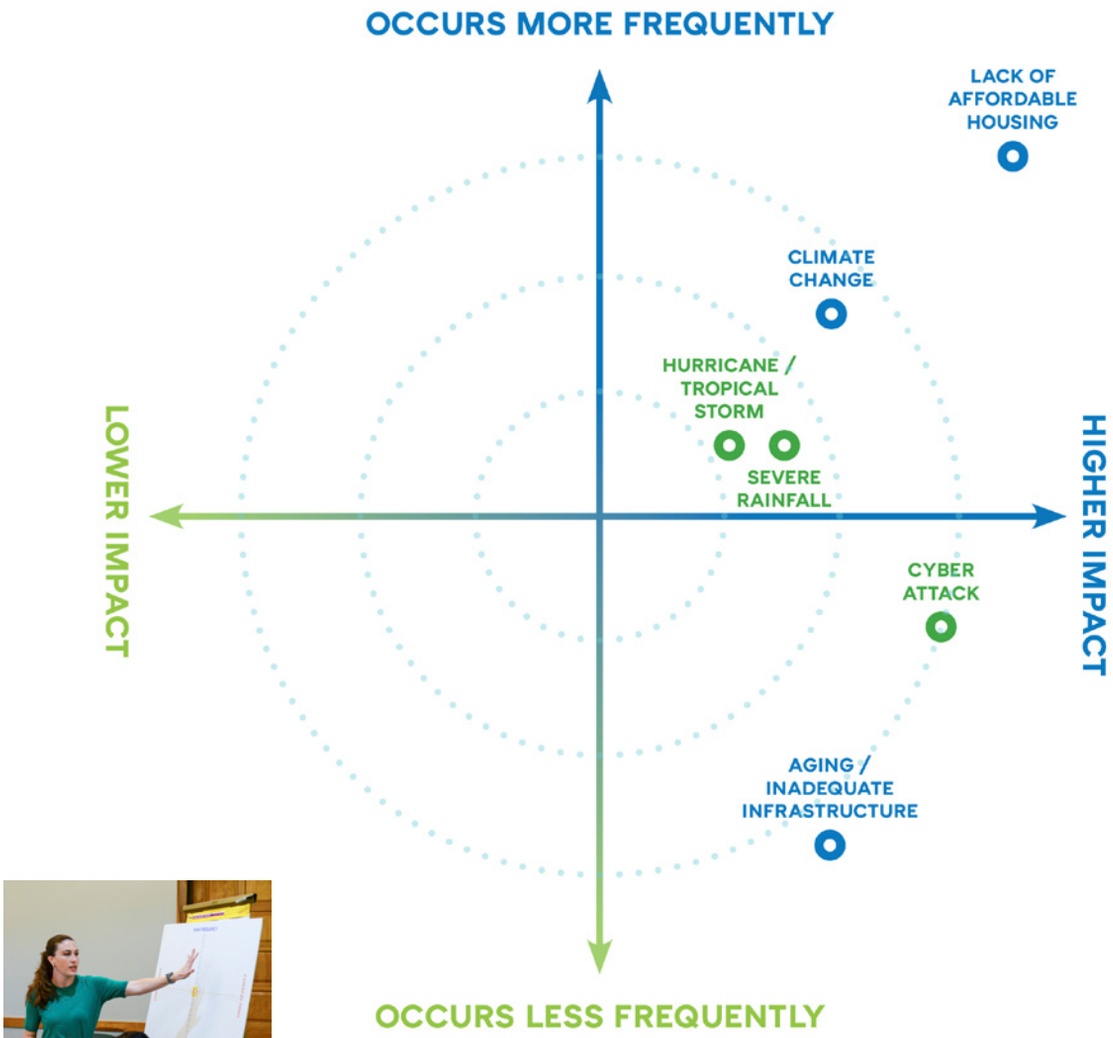
Through mapping, medical partnerships, community outreach, and innovative pilot programs, Broward County is taking a comprehensive approach to addressing extreme heat. These steps are helping us build resilience today while preparing for the greater climate challenges of tomorrow.

INTRODUCING BROWARD COUNTY'S RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Broward County's new Resilience Strategy represents the culmination of more than a year of collaboration across departments and divisions throughout the organization. It is the result of extensive coordination, analysis, and planning by County leadership and staff, working together to strengthen how Broward anticipates, manages, and adapts to change.

The Resilience Strategy reflects Broward County's commitment to building a stronger, smarter government that is ready for the future. It was developed through a comprehensive engagement process that included workshops, roundtable discussions, and assessments with County directors, senior managers, and key staff. These sessions examined the County's ability to withstand and recover from both immediate disruptions and long-term stresses, while maintaining the services residents rely on every day.

The strategy builds upon years of progress within Broward County government to integrate resilience into daily operations. It provides a framework for how the County can continue improving performance, strengthening coordination, and managing risk across all departments. This work was facilitated, shaped and supported by the County's participation as

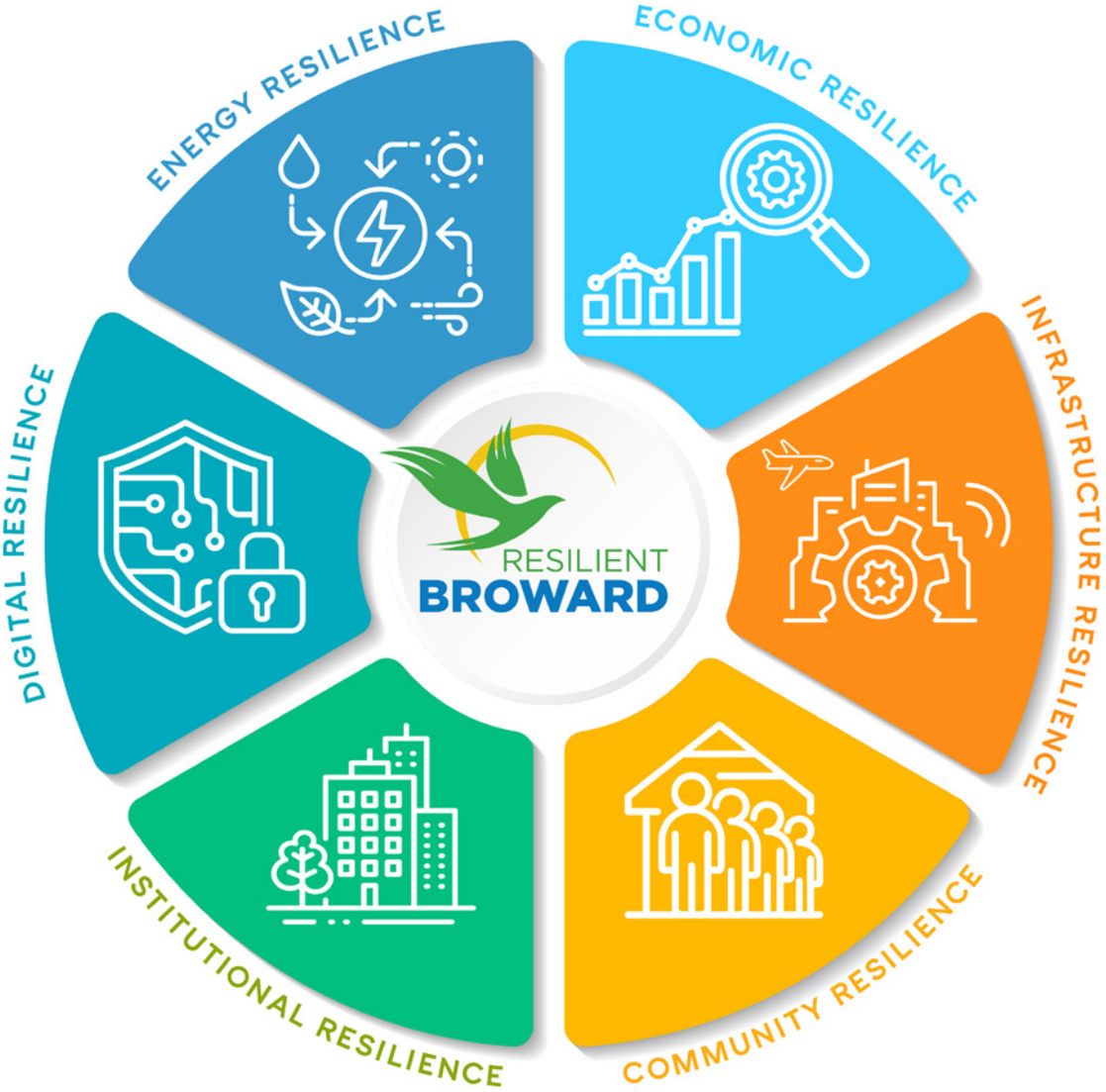


Top leaders across Broward County were able to discuss their unique challenges, allowing for a comprehensive picture of the most pressing concerns faced today.

a member of the Resilient Cities Network, providing access to international best practices and tools that help local governments embed resilience into planning, budgeting, and service delivery.

The document is organized around six core focus areas: economic resilience, digital resilience, infrastructure resilience, community resilience, energy resilience, and institutional resilience. Each section identifies current challenges, outlines priority actions, and provides clear direction for how departments can work together to make operations more adaptable and efficient. From strengthening flood management systems and expanding digital access, to improving interagency coordination and enhancing emergency preparedness, the strategy connects ongoing initiatives with future priorities to ensure consistent progress.

The Resilience Strategy is both a reflection of where the County stands today and a guide for where it aims to go next. It encourages departments to think holistically about how their work contributes to the overall strength and stability of the organization. It also establishes a shared language



Resilience touches every corner of the County. The Resilience Strategy delves deeply into the core issues and how to address them to ensure a better tomorrow for all residents.

and approach for addressing risks, whether they stem from natural hazards, economic pressures, or operational challenges.

Importantly, this effort reinforces that resilience is not the responsibility of a single agency or program. It must be embedded into how we operate every day: how we plan for growth, maintain infrastructure, manage emergencies, invest in our workforce, and serve our residents.

By integrating resilience thinking into every level of decision-making, Broward County can continue to deliver reliable, high-quality services even in the face of uncertainty.

The release of the Resilience Strategy marks a significant milestone for Broward County. It captures the insight, experience, and dedication of staff from across the organization who contributed to its development over the past year. Most importantly, it sets the foundation for continued collaboration and improvement, ensuring that Broward County remains proactive, prepared, and united in building a future-ready organization.

HERE COMES THE RAIN

A COUNTYWIDE SYSTEM DESIGNED TO DETECT ROADWAY FLOODING AS IT HAPPENS, INTRODUCING THE RAPID ALERT AND INFORMATION NETWORK, OR RAIN

It is no secret that Broward County is highly vulnerable to roadway flooding, and those floods are becoming more frequent and severe. The April 2023 storm made that reality clear, leaving more than 5,000 vehicles damaged and prompting dozens of water rescues.

During that event, there was no real-time way for the County to know which roads were underwater or to share that information with drivers and first responders.

In the past, the County had to rely on field crews or phone calls from residents to find out which areas were flooding. Today, that approach is no longer enough. Florida's weather is unpredictable and often hyperlocalized, with one street under water while the next stays dry.

With Broward County now Home to more than two million residents and some of the busiest roads in the state, the need for a modern, connected flood awareness network has never been greater.

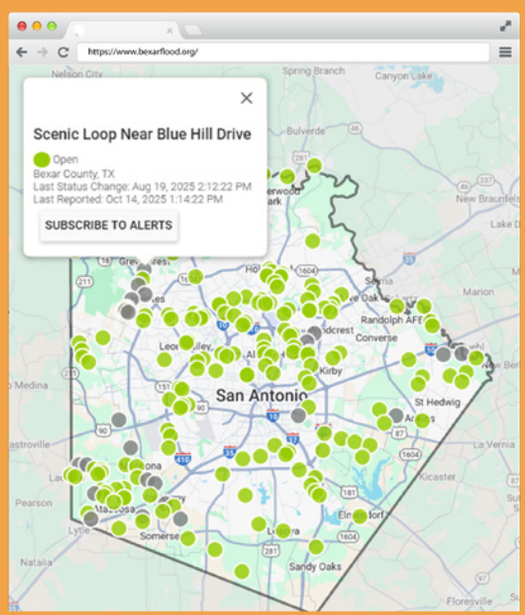
To meet that challenge, the Broward County Resilient Environment Department is launching The Rapid Alert and Information Network, or RAIN, a countywide system designed to monitor real-time environmental conditions, detect roadway flooding as it happens, and alert commuters and public safety crews to hazards as they develop.

Over the past year, the department conducted a pilot study and an extensive information-gathering campaign to identify the most effective technologies and learn from other communities already

using similar systems. This effort included field visits to active networks in Texas, partnerships with the University of Georgia, and collaboration with multiple Public Works divisions. The pilot program tested several sensor configurations and communication methods, and now, with dedicated funding secured, the County is ready to expand the system.

At the heart of RAIN are sensor towers, compact and solar-powered telemetry units connected to pressure transducers installed within roadside catch basins. As water levels rise, these sensors measure flood depth and send data to a central dashboard. This allows County staff and the public to see real-time flooding information across key locations without having to send crews into the field.

Broward County Public Works has played an integral role in the execution of RAIN's pilot phase. Without the help of Traffic Engineering, Highway and Bridge Maintenance, and Highway and Bridge Construction, this project would not have been possible. These partners helped procure materials, navigate the permitting process, and install the pilot locations. We look forward to our continued partnership as our departments merge.



Learning from current flood warning systems has been a key component in RAIN's first year. One such network is Bexar County's HALT, which allows residents to monitor low-water crossing areas of roadways throughout the county.

Individuals can subscribe to alerts so that when the next time unsafe conditions occur, HALT will email/text them. Active systems like HALT will serve as models for Broward County moving forward.

Because Broward is a densely developed area, it is not practical to install a sensor on every block. To address that, the County is exploring the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to model and predict flooding between sensor locations. These models will provide countywide visibility and

forecasting capabilities as the network grows, improving both the speed and accuracy of flood detection.

Current work is focused on establishing interlocal agreements with cities throughout Broward County to install sensor towers on municipal roads. These partnerships will help expand RAIN's coverage and data-sharing capabilities. The long-term goal is a connected, intelligent flood monitoring network that improves public safety, supports emergency response, and strengthens Broward County's resilience in the face of a changing climate.

The County is also building on existing technology to enhance RAIN. Broward's LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) systems are being used to identify flooding hotspots with millimeter-level precision. The County's Innovation Unit is integrating these LiDAR scans into 3D modeling technology to create visual projections of flooding at specific sites. These realistic models will help the residents and emergency planners see how flooding events affect specific locations and convey the danger.

A Broward County first, LiDAR data collected by Dr. Greg Mount was successfully converted into a 3D mesh by Michael Trujillo. Allowing Michael to create realistic flooding events and 3D scenes. Future work will aim to integrate 3D scenes with sensor information to illustrate conditions throughout the County.

In addition, the County is exploring ways to share this information directly with drivers. Integration with commuter apps such as Waze could allow flood alerts to appear in navigation systems, helping motorists reroute quickly and safely. This could also ease congestion and reduce the number of stranded vehicles and emergency calls during heavy rain events.

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The launch of RAIN marks a major step forward in Broward County's efforts to create a safer and more resilient community. By combining sensors, modeling, and advanced communication tools, RAIN will give residents, first responders, and public works teams the real-time information they need to make better decisions and stay safe during storms. As Broward County continues to adapt to the challenges of a changing climate, projects like RAIN show how innovation and collaboration can protect people, safeguard infrastructure, and keep our roads open when they are needed most.

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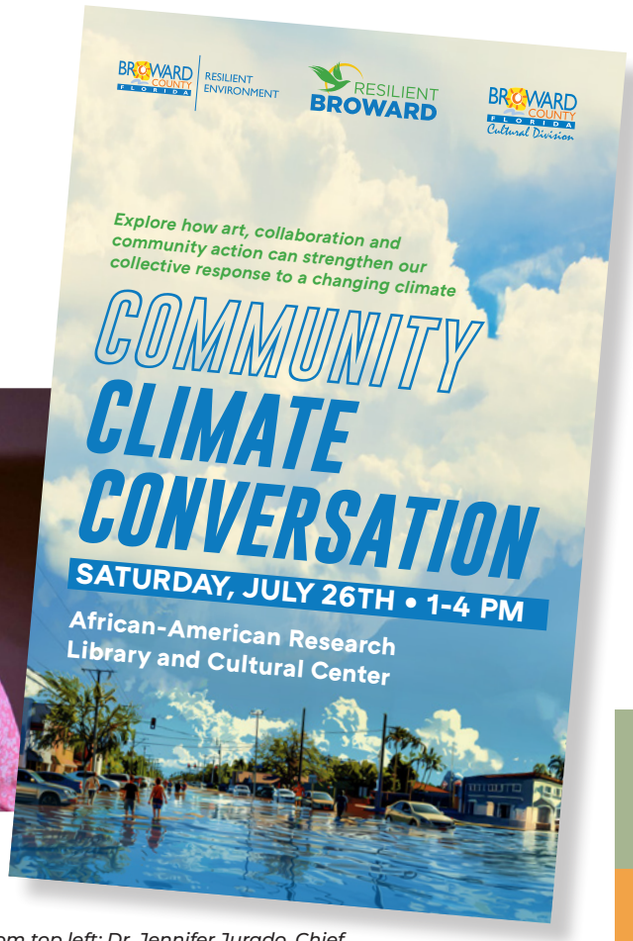
Clockwise from left: Commissioner Steve Geller introduces the event; Question and Answer session;
Below - Artist Xavier Cortada and Adam Roberti , Executive Director of the Cortada Foundation addresses attendees.

CLIMATE CONVERSATION 2025

Our July 26th Community Climate Conversation was a fantastic afternoon filled with lively discussion, inspiring artwork, and meaningful ideas for enhancing community resilience. We were thrilled to see such a strong turnout and commitment to building a more resilient Broward, together.

The Underwater effort is designed to personalize the connection between sea level rise and flood risk through art featuring local elevations. This collaboration is designed to expand conversations beyond the traditional audience to engage students and communities where flood risk and local demographics indicate the potential for higher risk and lower adaptive capacity.



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer, Broward County; Delani Wood, project coordinator, Broward Resilience; Busy scenes in the lobby prior to the event.

The event had 127 attendees and over 10 exhibition tables from organizations supporting community resilience, including Broward agencies like Emergency Management and Natural Resources division.

Attendees were from across Broward County, and came from as far as Orlando and Islamorada. We look forward to building on these partnerships to help address our most pressing concerns throughout the county.

Looking ahead, the Underwater: Broward project will continue next year with workshops and murals at six additional public schools, plus another Community Climate Conversation that promises to be bigger and better than ever! To stay connected, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Linkedin @BrowardResilience.

FLOOD CONTROL ADVANCEMENTS

South Florida leaders and water managers are advancing work on the Section 203 feasibility study of the Central & South Florida (C&SF) flood control system, with a focus on critical structures in Broward County.

On September 9, 2025, Senator Steve Geller opened the public meeting that saw the release of the Tentitively Selected Plan (TSP) for the Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basin - jointly funded effort by Broward County, the South Florida Water Management District, and the State of Florida. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting the required federal activities, and providing technical assistance. The TSP is a significant milestone that proposes five new pump stations, significant structure hardening and conveyance improvements .

The USACE estimates that, once fully funded, this project could take 10–15 years to complete. The report's recommendations are being prepared with the goal of obtaining congressional authorization and appropriations for study recommendations as part of the 2026 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) with the aim of saving trillions in avoided flood damages.

S-37B is a structure located on Canal 14 (also known as the Cypress Creek Canal) in Broward County, Florida. It is a gated spillway operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District for flood control and to prevent saltwater intrusion.

A flow equalization basin - or FEB - is a reservoir designed to temporarily capture and hold stormwater runoff for release to the Everglades stormwater treatment areas (STAs). By tempering flow rate, FEBs help maintain desired water levels in the STA. The A-1 Flow Equalization Basin (pictured above), just north of the Broward County line along US Highway 27, is part of Florida's Restoration Strategies Plan for clean water for the Everglades, and assists in optimizing the performance of two nearby stormwater treatment areas in removing phosphorus. It can hold up to 60,000 acre-feet of water up to 4 feet deep, and then delivers water in a controlled manner to the treatment areas. It is surrounded by 21 miles of levees and has 15 associated water control structures.

In the full study scope, the South Florida Water Management District evaluated three alternative plans with various degrees of improvements such as: strengthening existing structures, adding new pump stations, modifying canals, incorporating nature-based solutions, and expanding water storage features. Modeling results supported a hybrid solution that combines the three approaches to maximize benefits while keeping costs competitive for federal funding.

This proposed Tentatively Selected Plan would improve flood protection for communities while maintaining compliance with environmental safeguards, showing no significant predicted impacts to threatened or endangered species.

Next steps include finalizing the TSP, conducting further modeling and design refinement, and preparing the package for submission to WRDA in 2026. The ongoing C&SF flood control study represents a critical investment in South Florida's safety and resilience, positioning the region to manage rising seas and heavier rains for decades to come.

RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLE 2025

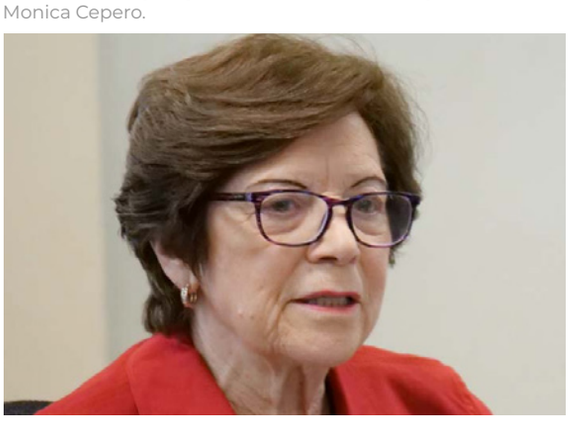
Broward Leaders Resilience Roundtable Brings Together Regional Leaders to Advance Climate Resilience

On Wednesday, October 15, Broward County hosted the Annual Broward Leaders Resilience Roundtable at Long Key Nature Center in Davie. The event convened 81 attendees, including Mayor Beam Furr, Commissioner Nan Rich, members of the Broward County Administration, 15 municipal mayors and elected officials, 6 municipal managers, 22 municipal staff, 2 Tribal government representatives and 10 private sector and business representatives.

The agenda featured a State of the Climate and County Resilience Advancements presentation by Dr. Jennifer Jurado, who provided updates on regional climate trends, ongoing initiatives, and progress achieved over the past year. Her presentation included new data on rainfall intensification and extreme heat, underscoring the importance of proactive planning and collaboration in addressing these accelerating climate impacts.

Broward County Chief Resilience Officer Dr. Jennifer Jurado addresses attendees.

Broward County Mayor Beam Furr with County Administrator Monica Cepero.



Above: County Commissioner Nan Rich.
Below: Dan Lindblade, President & CEO Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

Representatives from the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented updates on the Central and South Florida Flood Risk and Resilience Study, as well as other resilience initiatives underway to enhance regional water management and flood protection systems.

A new addition to this year's program was the Business Leadership Panel: "Building a Resilient Broward," which explored private sector perspectives on resilience challenges, opportunities, and needs across the county. The discussion was moderated by Ken Morris, Senior Vice President at JLL, and featured Dan Lindblade, President and CEO of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; Ron Drew, Executive Vice President of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance; and Peter Moore, Co-Chair of the Community Resilience Committee at the Broward Workshop.

The program concluded with municipal resilience updates, providing local governments the opportunity to highlight innovative projects and share progress on efforts to enhance community resilience throughout the County. Together, we are advancing a unified vision for a more resilient, sustainable, and climate-ready Broward County, ensuring that our communities remain strong in the face of future challenges.

Eva B. Velez, Chief, Ecosystem Branch, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD);

Panel Discussion with Dan Lindblade, President and CEO, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce; Ron Drew, Executive Vice President, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and Peter Moore, Co-Chair of the Community Resilience Committee, Broward Workshop..

SAVE THE DATE

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

Palm Beach County will be hosting the 17th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit on December 16–17, 2025, at the Palm Beach Convention Center in West Palm Beach.

This year's theme, "Roots of Resilience: Cultivating a Sustainable Future," reflects the region's commitment to advancing innovative, collaborative solutions for a changing climate.

The Summit has become the premier regional forum for advancing climate action, drawing leaders and stakeholders from across Southeast Florida and beyond. Attendees include elected officials, scientists, nonprofit organizations, business leaders, academics, community advocates, international organizations, and members of the media—all united by a shared goal of building a more resilient future.

Throughout two days of interactive sessions, panels, and networking opportunities, participants will have the opportunity to exchange innovative ideas and highlight cutting-edge climate initiatives, showcase impactful projects that are ready for immediate implementation, build cross-sector partnerships to strengthen community resilience, and leverage collective expertise to address South Florida's most pressing climate challenges.

A panel of city and county mayors from the Compact region at the 2024 Climate Leadership Summit held in Key West.

By cultivating strong regional partnerships, the Summit continues to play a vital role in shaping strategies that protect communities, safeguard natural resources, and promote sustainable growth across Southeast Florida.
Stay tuned for more details on registration, speakers, and program highlights in the coming weeks.

Visit broward.org/Climate/Pages/Summit.aspx

TROPICAL SOLICE ON BROWARD BOULEVARD

On July 8, 2025 Broward Cultural Division officially unveiled "Tropical Solace"—a stunning five-story mural by artist Muta Santiago, aka MutaVision, —at the Governmental Center Parking Garage in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Inspired by public input and the wild beauty of the Everglades, it brings color, movement, and meaning to the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Unveiled by community leaders County Mayor Beam Furr, Commissioner Hazelle P. Rogers, Commissioner Alexandra P. Davis and County Administrator Monica Cepero, and partners - artist Muta Vision, Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and Twenty6NorthProductions. This vibrant new addition to Broward Boulevard replaced a history-themed mural that has been a fixture on Broward Boulevard since 1988. The new mural stands as a testament to the influence of the Everglades on local culture.

Thank you to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and Fort Lauderdale DDA for helping bring this vision to life.

County Administrator Monica Cepero, left, Broward Commissioner Hazelle Rogers, artist MUTA Vision, Broward Mayor Beam Furr, and Broward Commissioner Alexandra Davis

BY SARAH PARISEAU

State lawmakers are gearing up for the 2026 legislative session with interim committee meetings scheduled this fall.

The Florida House of Representatives will hold its first interim committee week beginning September 8, 2025, while the Senate will convene its first round of interim meetings starting the week of October 6, 2025.

These Committee Weeks give legislators a chance to workshop bills, hear testimony, and prepare budget priorities ahead of the official start of the regular session. The 2026 Legislative Session will begin on January 13, 2026. More developments to come as the Legislative Session progresses.

Edward "Eddy" C. Bouza II

NEW FLORIDA RESILIENCE OFFICER

In other developments, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has appointed Edward "Eddy" C. Bouza II as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)s new Chief Resilience Officer.

Bouza, a certified floodplain manager, has led the Resilient Florida Program, which provides grants to communities statewide to address the impacts of hurricanes, flooding, and sea-level rise. In his new role, Bouza will continue to oversee cross-agency coordination of mitigation strategies and direct investments aimed at strengthening Florida's climate resilience.

Environmental leaders have praised the appointment, noting Bouza's expertise in nature-based resilience approaches and his track record in advancing statewide adaptation projects.

NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

DRONE EDUCATION CLASS

In collaboration with the Broward County Attorney's Office, Resilience Unit staff conducted a continuing legal education class to inform and educate the attorneys on Florida and Federal laws governing the use of drones. The class concluded with a hands on demonstration and flight time for any of the attendees.

SUSTAINABLE CIVIC LEADER OF THE YEAR

CITY Furniture recognized our County Administrator Monica Cepero with their 2025 Sustainable Civic Leader of the Year Award at their 4th Annual Green Summit.

CITY Furniture CEO Andrew Koenig shared: "this award celebrates a servant leader....who puts people and community first, and does it with passion, purpose, and impact...while playing a major role in advancing sustainability across Broward County..."

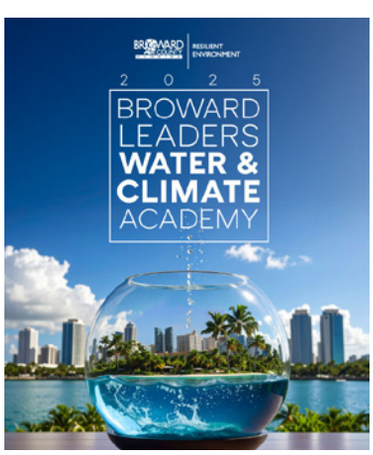
CITY Furniture Sustainable Civic Leader of the Year Award.

"I'm proud to serve this amazing community with such Civic minded leaders who positively impact, while giving back!" said Monica, on receiving the award.

BROWARD LEADERS WATER AND CLIMATE ACADEMY

The 2025 Broward Leaders Water Academy kicked off on September 27th, with elected officials and community leaders invited to dive into key water issues facing Broward, including planning, policy, climate impacts and more.

Offered every two years, the Broward Leaders Water Academy delivers four focused sessions crafted for busy decision-makers to gain essential information to help sharpen planning, improve policy, and make better decisions for local challenges.



MEET THE TEAM

KIRK ZIESER

Hi, I'm Kirk! My path to the Resilience Unit may not have followed a particularly straight geographic path, but since high school, I've been unwaveringly resolute in my commitment to working for the betterment of nature and the climate.

Growing up in Colorado, my love for animals was kindled by the big (seeing a moose striding through Grand Lake) and small (being endlessly entertained by bunnies scampering around the suburbs). Undergrad brought me to Washington, D.C., where I spent four years hanging out with Jack the Bulldog and studying Science, Technology, and International Affairs (Energy and Environment concentration) at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. My eastward travels continued after graduation, when I hopped across the pond to study a master's in Climate Change, Management, and Finance at Imperial College London. After a few years of enjoying fish & chips and all London has to offer, I traded my football kit for an (American) football jersey and returned to the US to join Broward County's Resilience Unit.

Outside of work, you can hear me singing, strumming ukulele, honking away on the harmonica, or jamming on the piano. You can also find me sweating on the pickleball court or photographing Florida's amazing wildlife.

Funding for the Resilience Newsletter is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Resilient Environment Department. An equal opportunity employer and provider of services. 50 copies of this public document were promulgated at a gross cost of $95.00 and $1.980 per copy to promote the Broward County Resilient Environment Department.

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