



**Urban Land Institute Resilience Advisory Services Panel
The Intersection of Health, Economics and Resiliency
Arch Creek Basin, Miami-Dade County
May 22-27, 2016**

Project Overview

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) was awarded a major grant from The Kresge Foundation to implement a multidimensional program focused on helping cities plan for resilience in the face of climate change. As part of this program, ULI is administering special resilience-themed advisory services panels (ASP) that will work with selected cities to develop strategies for resiliency that are tailored to their respective communities and that draw upon international best practices. Miami-Dade County has been selected by ULI to be the recipient of a special resilience panel focused on the Arch Creek Basin.

Miami-Dade County is often considered as 'ground zero' for sea level rise, increased inland flooding, and other effects of climate change. In 2010 the County, along with Monroe, Broward and Palm Beach County, adopted an agreement to become partners in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact), to coordinate mitigation and adaptation activities across county lines and to develop a Regional Climate Action Plan. In 2013, Florida passed legislation to create Adaptation Action Area (AAA) designation for areas uniquely vulnerable to climate impacts to serve as a planning tool and to encourage technical assistance and funding opportunities. Miami-Dade County added the tool to its Comprehensive Development Master plan in 2015, and is currently working to identify pilot projects. The ULI Advisory Services Panel work will help launch the county's work for one such area – the Arch Creek Basin in Northeastern Miami Dade County. This panel process will be able to build upon the robust climate change adaptation planning work already done in the Southeast Florida region by Miami-Dade County and the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, which has also been generously supported by The Kresge Foundation since 2013.

Commencing on May 22nd, 2016, ULI will provide a panel of experts who will study the designated area; consult with public and private officials, representatives of other relevant organizations, such as The South Florida Water Management District (District), and other individuals familiar with the problems involved; and prepare its conclusions and recommendations which will be presented to the Sponsor in oral form at the close of the on-site assignment. This process will actively engage elected officials and appropriate staff of the municipalities within the Arch Creek Basin, namely The Cities of North Miami, Miami Shores, Biscayne Park, and North Miami Beach.

Understanding that future plans for practically any location in South Florida must take resiliency concerns into consideration, it is proposed that this advisory services panel focus on recommendations for the intersection of building healthy places, creating economic prosperity, and utilizing the best adaptation strategies possible to create a livable, sustainable place. It will also be key to include specific recommendations on implementation and funding mechanisms for the strategies identified.

Project Geographical Focus: The Arch Creek Basin in NE Miami Dade County

The 2,838 acre Arch Creek Basin is the proposed study site for this advisory services panel. It is located east of I-95, main roadways include sections of US 1 and State Highway 922 (NE 125th Street). The study area encompasses land within four municipalities: North Miami (1,784 acres), Miami Shores (51 acres), Biscayne Park (332 acres) and North Miami Beach (92 acres). The remaining 579 acres is located within unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

Approximately 67% of the study area is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, as defined by FEMA, and approximately 62% of the study area is vulnerable to storm surge from a Category Storm 3 or greater. There are 78 properties classified as repetitive losses in the basin, with 7 of those properties classified as severe repetitive losses. Many of the repetitive losses in the area are not associated with a tropical event. The repetitive loss properties are primarily located in the low-lying areas that experience dry weather flooding due to extreme high tides. The area is dotted with a number of the region's major drainage canals that are managed by the South Florida Water Management District, including the Arch Creek Canal and the Biscayne Canal which run along the southern boundary. Waterways located within and adjacent to the study area provide critical habitat for Johnson's Sea Grass and the West Indian Manatee.

Significant portions of the study area include low and very low income census tracts. Median family incomes here tend to be well-below county averages, and Miami-Dade County ranks among the top locations nationally for cost-burdened communities. A large portion of the study area is located within the North Miami Community Redevelopment Area. Forty-six percent (46%) of Miami-Dade's housing stock was built prior to development of the 1973 creation of FIRM maps (first maps identifying flood areas). In fact, 22% of the housing stock was built before any county flood regulation was put in place.

The FEC rail line bisects the study area, and a proposed commuter rail station site is located in the center of the study area (North Miami). The primary land use within the study area is single-family residential. Other land uses include multi-family residential, commercial and industrial. Johnson and Wales University and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and are located within the study area. There are 47.5 acres of park space within the study area including a 9.3-acre Environmentally Endangered Lands site. A portion of the 123-acre Miami Shores Golf Course is also located within the study area boundary and the Oleta River State Park lies just northeast of the study area boundary. These green spaces may become important focal points for special emphasis within the study area.

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