



# Sustainability Initiatives

By Tanya Wilson-Sejour, AICP  
Planning Manager, CP&D

## What is Sustainability:

"the ability to sustain" or, in other words, "the capacity to endure."

Or, simply put...

"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

# Significance of Sustainability to North Miami

## Impacts of Climate Change:

- Gradual temperature Increase - Green House Gas Emissions
- Rising Sea Levels
- Ocean becoming more acidic
- Increases risk of hurricanes and flash floods

## Threats to Coastal Communities (low lying areas):

- Environment
- Economy
- Infrastructure
- Public Health, Safety, Welfare

# Evidence of Local Impacts



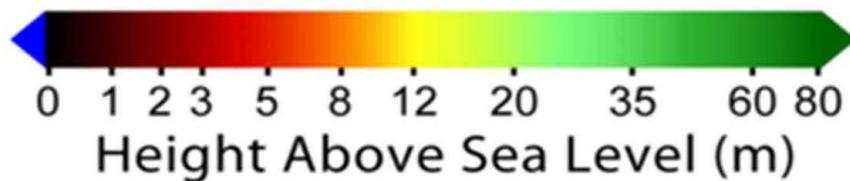
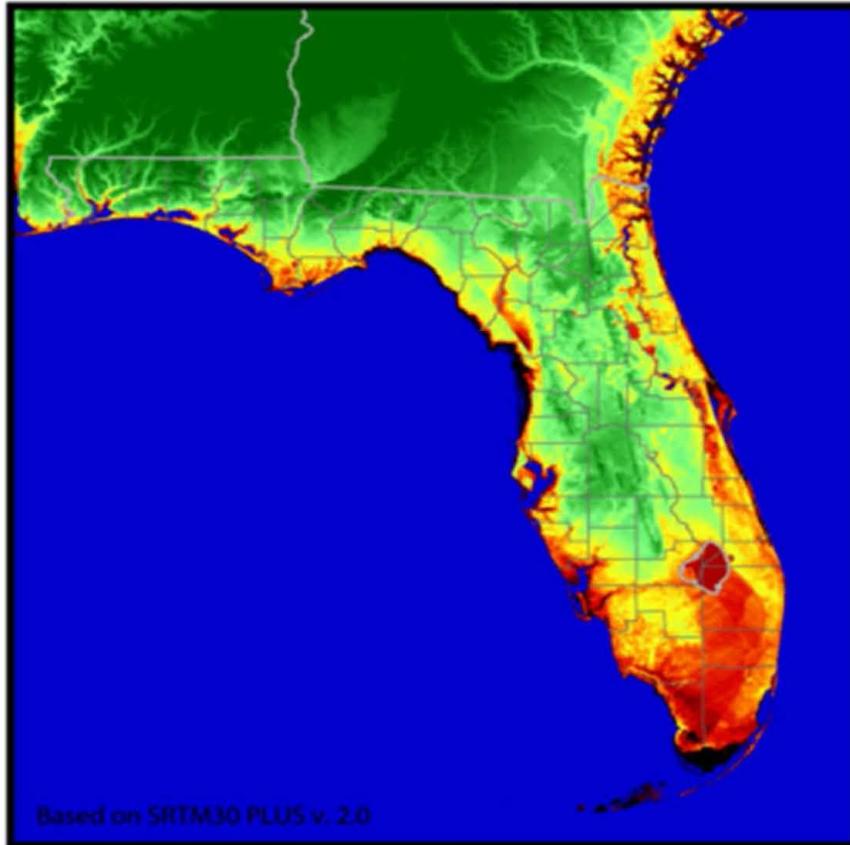
October 2012



Today

# Rising Waters

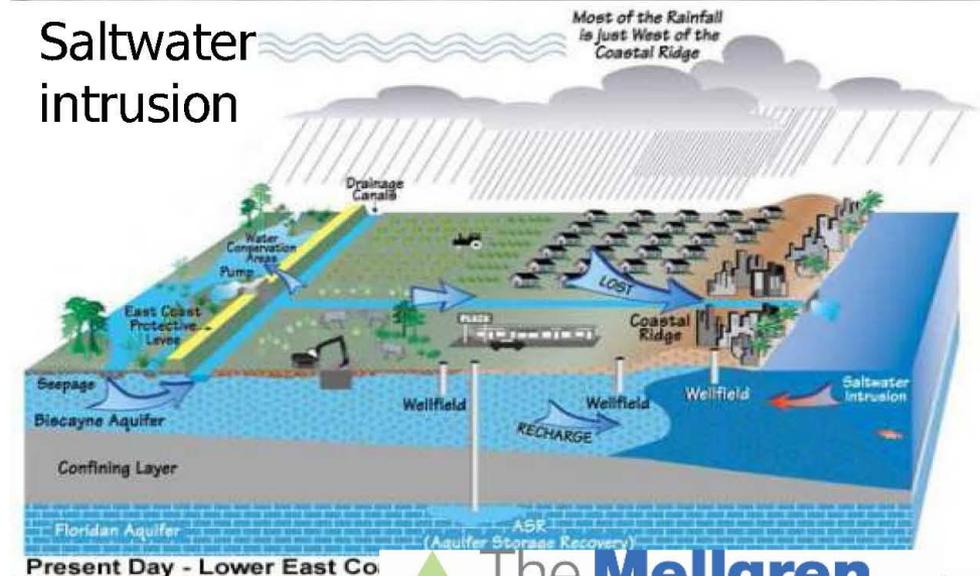
## Sea Level Risks - Florida



Climate Compact



## Saltwater intrusion



## Types Of Threats to Coastal Communities:

- ▶ Increased flooding and drainage problems
- ▶ Destruction of natural habitat
- ▶ Susceptibility to storms surge and tidal surges
- ▶ Increased evacuation areas and evacuation time frames
- ▶ Increased shoreline erosion
- ▶ Saltwater Intrusion
- ▶ Stresses on ecosystems and community infrastructure, roadways, water and sewer facilities, solid waste facilities, stormwater facilities, marinas, park facilities
- ▶ Loss of land and damage to existing development.



# CITY OF NORTH MIAMI

Water-Dependent Uses within the Coastal Planning Area

Map 5-2

### Legend

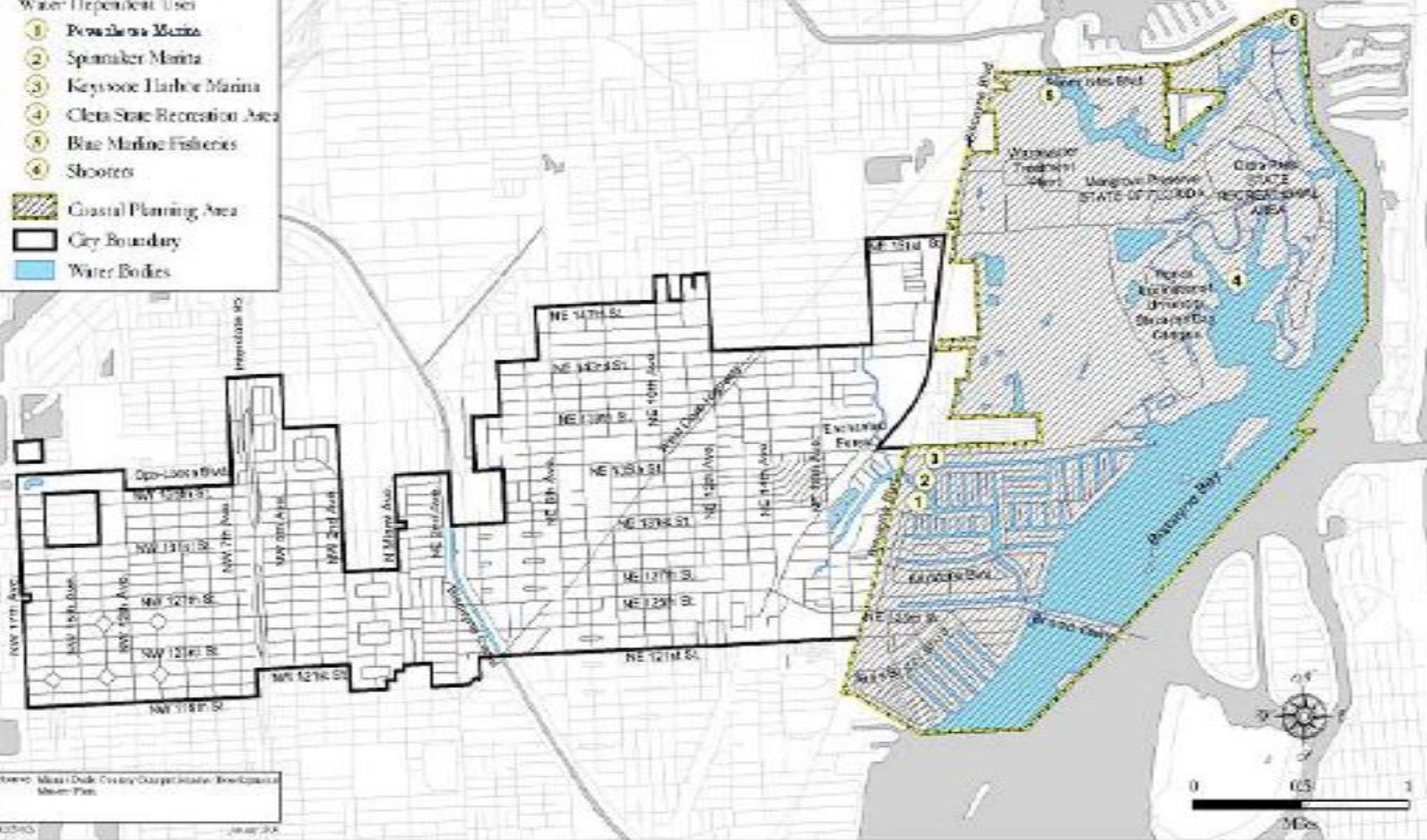
#### Water-Dependent Uses

- 1 Pottery or Marina
- 2 Sparker Marina
- 3 Keyhole Harbor Marina
- 4 Cleta State Recreation Area
- 5 Blue Marine Fisheries
- 6 Shooters

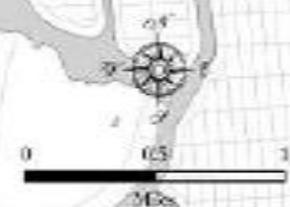
Coastal Planning Area

City Boundary

Water Bodies



Source: Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Management  
 10/20/03



## Adaptation:

City has developed policies, practices and programs to help plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change such as:

## Policies Framework

- ▶ Support of the South Florida Regional Climate Change Compact - passed **Resolution R-2013-62** back in 2013 to actively support the South Florida Regional Climate Change sustainability plan.
- ▶ **2007 Comprehensive Plan - Sustainable Policies**
  - ▶ Objective 1.9 and 1.10 - Address Environmental Sustainability And Green Building Standards
- ▶ **City's Code of Ordinances**
  - ▶ Chapter 20 Tree Protection - Maintaining and Increasing Canopy
  - ▶ Chapter 29, LDR - Sustainable Green Building Guidelines
- ▶ Flood Plain Management Plan -  
Preserving open space, mitigate drainage, manage floods, and to safe guard potable water.



## Current Practices & Programs

- ▶ Water Conservation, through Public Works
  - ▶ Shower head give-a-way
  - ▶ Commercial Restaurant Sprayer give-a-way
- ▶ Recycling
  - ▶ City wide recycling program
- ▶ Energy Efficiency
  - ▶ (Proposed) Green Enterprise Grant for small businesses
  - ▶ CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program (Fed Funded Green Retrofits)
- ▶ Reducing Green House Gas Emissions
  - ▶ NOMI Shuttle Bus (Biodiesel)
  - ▶ Tree City USA Commitment - Maintain Canopy to reduce pollution, and heat island effect
- ▶ Sustainability
  - ▶ Community Gardens (4 in the City)with rain barrels
- ▶ Wildlife Protection
  - ▶ Bird Sanctuaries
  - ▶ Butterfly Gardens



# Current Infrastructure Protection

- Salinity Barriers
- Exfiltration System
- Wellfield Protection



# Goals for 2015 and Beyond

- ▶ Energy Efficiency Initiatives
  - Energy Audits for all City owned facilities to reduce energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emission and operating cost
- ▶ Planting Site Assessment and Urban Tree Canopy Master Plan (Completed June 2015)
- ▶ Comprehensive Plan Update to add (Climate Change Element, Completed in Sept 2015)
- ▶ Assess vulnerable areas and develop resident educational program
- ▶ Identify grant funding for additional retrofits



# Awards and Certifications

- ▶ Since 2007 Member of US Green Building Council (LEED)
- ▶ Florida Green Building Coalition - Silver Certified Green Local Government
- ▶ Tree City USA Certification - Last 24 years
- ▶ 2014 US Conference of Mayor Climate Change Award



# Membership and Affiliations

- ▶ South Florida Climate Change Compact
- ▶ FGBC Green Local Government Committee
- ▶ Miami-Dade Million Tree Initiative
- ▶ ICELI-Local Governments for Sustainability



# Thank you

