



Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Meeting

May 20, 2020

Zoom Video Conference



Introductions

- **Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at LSU**
 - Lauren Stevens – Associate Director, Disaster Management Programs
 - Chris Rippetoe – Hazard Mitigation Program Manager
 - Catherine Street – Hazard Mitigation Student Worker
- **Ascension Parish OHSEP Director/Parish Staff**
 - Rachael Wilkinson – OHSEP Director
- **Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)**
 - Jeffrey Giering – State Hazard Mitigation Officer



Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Zoom Ground Rules**
- **Hazard Mitigation Overview**
- **Hazard Mitigation**
- **Planning Process Risk Assessment**
- **Public Outreach Activity**

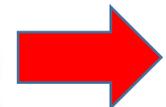


Zoom Meeting Ground Rules

- All microphones **will be muted** for the duration of the meeting, with the exception of the host and designated co-hosts.
- If using web-cams, please be aware of your surroundings as to not distract others. Web-cam function is currently locked.
- Please utilize the chat function for all collaborative discussion and questions.
- We will answer all questions posted in the chat at the end of the PowerPoint presentation.
- The host or co-host have the ability to remove participants for inappropriate or off-topic comments in the chat.



Why are we here?



STATE OF LOUISIANA

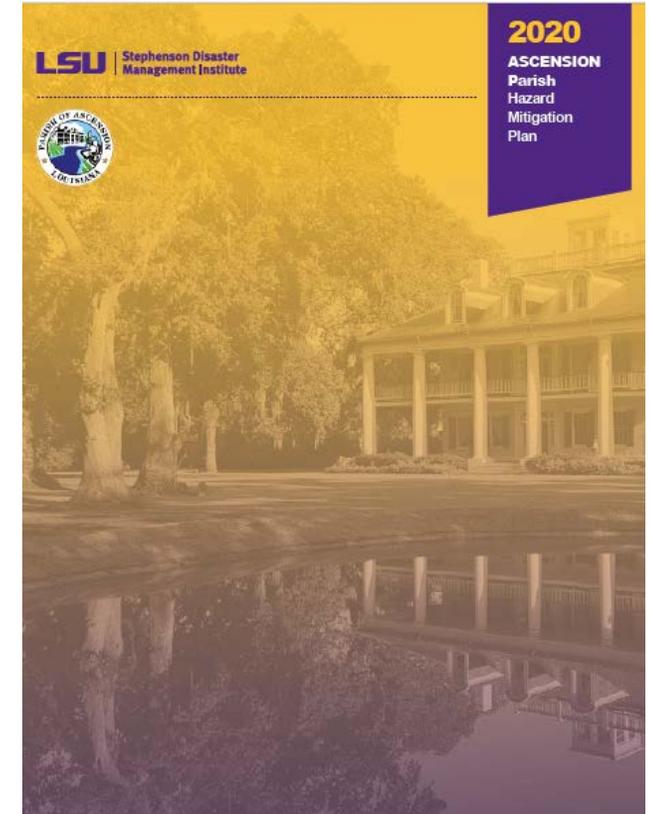
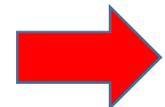
This document has been prepared by:
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HAZARD MITIGATION GUIDE
2019



Hazard Mitigation Is.....

- Any action taken to reduce long term risk to life and property;
- On-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters;
- Mitigation actions help prevent damage to a *community's infrastructure, economic, cultural and environmental assets*;
- Implementation of mitigation actions leads to building stronger, safer and smarter!



Why Are We Required To Have A Hazard Mitigation Plan?

- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000)

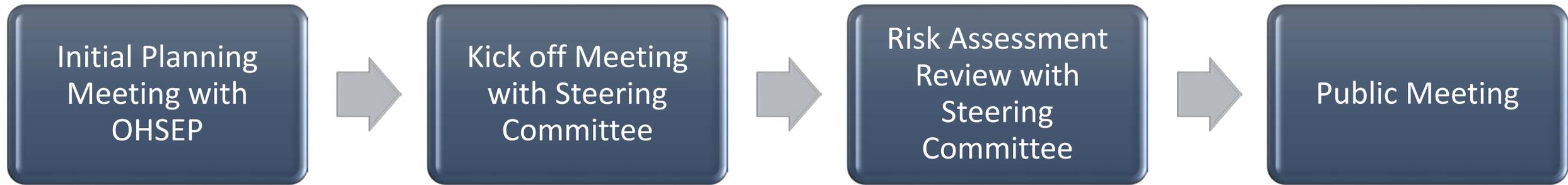
Section 322 of the Act specifically addresses mitigation planning and requires state and local governments to prepare multi-hazard migration plans as a precondition for receiving FEMA mitigation project grants.

- Meet federal requirements of Title 44 Code of Regulations (CFR) §201.6 for approval and eligibility to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

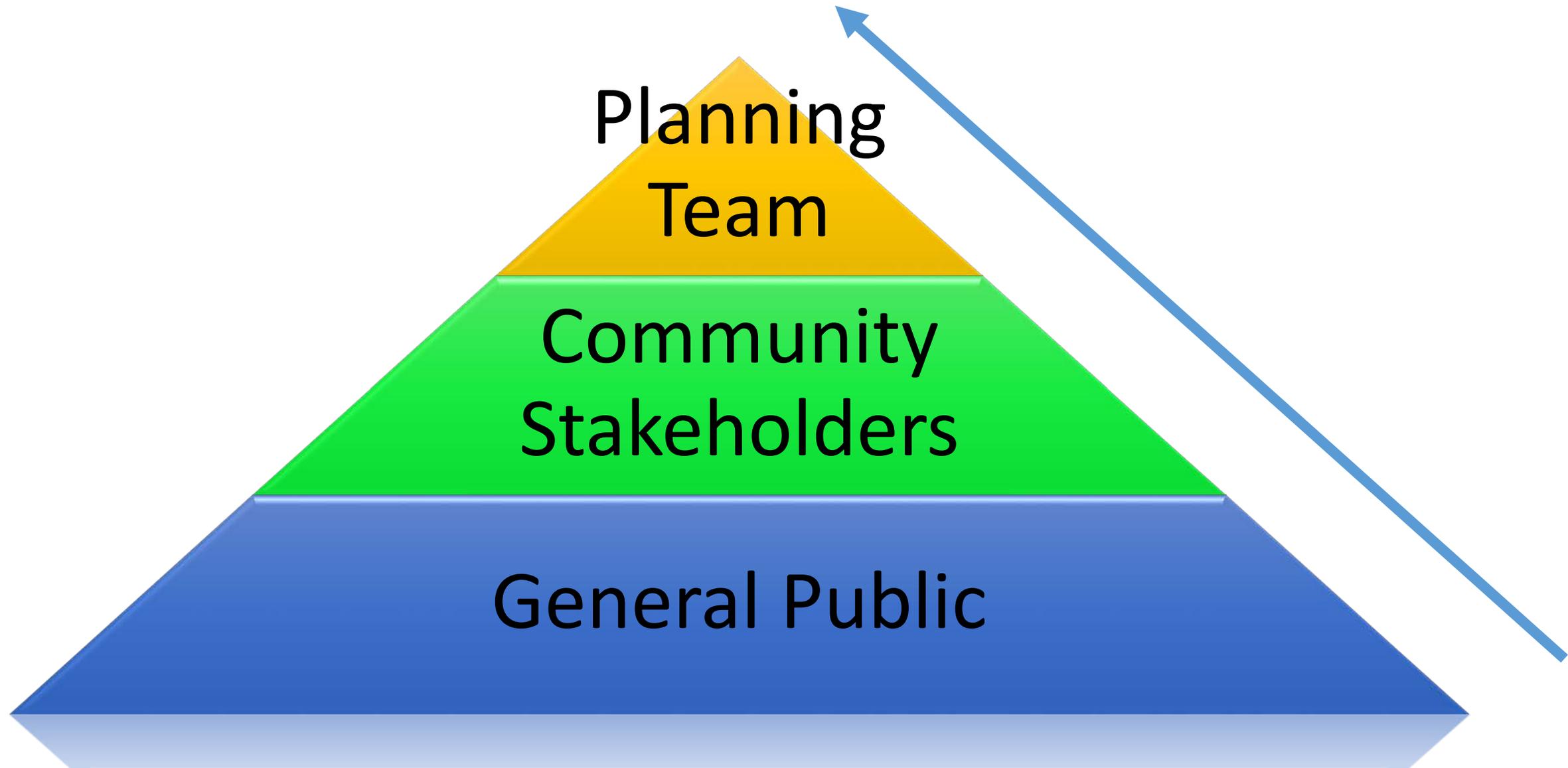


- The approved Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow for distribution of HM funding following future disasters.

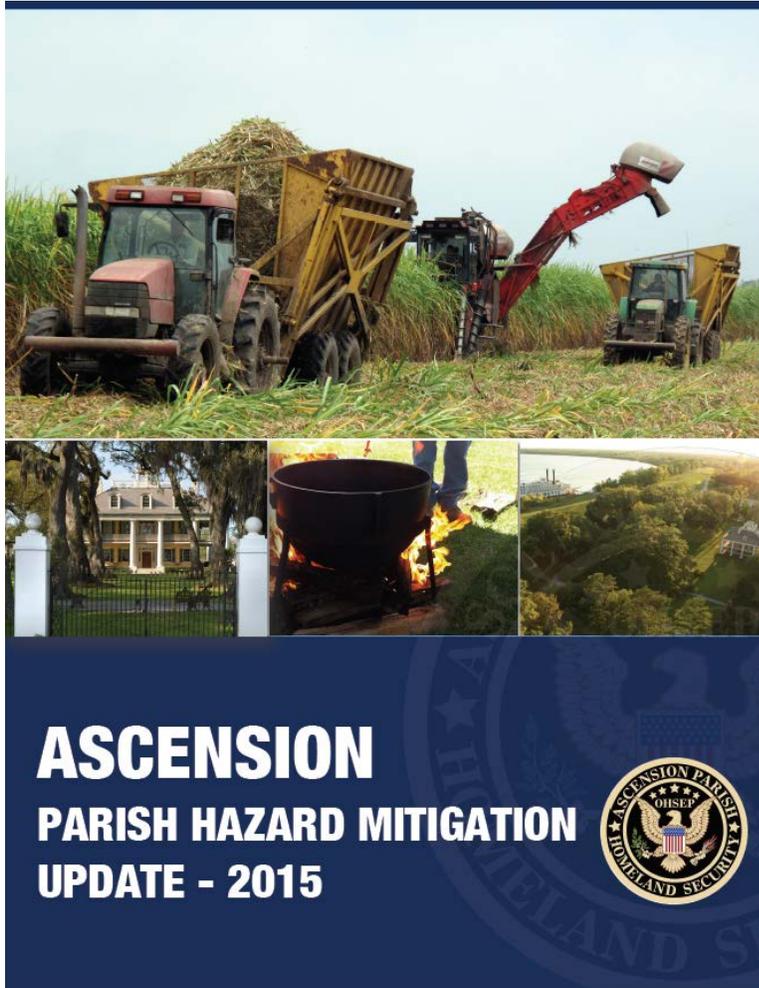
Planning Process to Date



Collaborative Planning Approach



Planning Development



Plan Layout

- **Section 1: Introduction**
 - Updated parish description
 - Updated demographics
 - Economics
- **Section 2: Hazard Identification and Parish-wide Risk Assessment**
- **Section 3: Capability Assessment**
- **Section 4: Mitigation Strategies**
 - New actions
 - Action updates
 - Survey results



Plan Layout

- **Appendix A:** Planning Process
- **Appendix B:** Plan Maintenance
- **Appendix C:** Parish Essential Facilities
- **Appendix D:** Plan Adoption
- **Appendix E:** State Required Worksheets



Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- The plan includes descriptions of the natural hazards that affect the jurisdictions in the planning area.
- The hazards identification includes the following:
 - *locations affected*
 - *extent or strength*
 - *previous occurrences*
 - *probability of future events*



Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- Based on Currently Profiled Risks
- Any Newly Identified Risks
- Prevalent Hazards
- Previous Occurrences
- Probability of Future Events
- Assets Inventory
- Essential Facilities
- Hazard Impact
- Future Development
- Future Hazard Impacts
- Zoning and Land Use
- Hazard Profiles



Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- **Flooding**
- **Levee Failure**
- **Subsidence**
- **Thunderstorms**
 - Hailstorms
 - High Winds
 - Lightning
- **Tornadoes**
- **Tropical Cyclones**
- **Winter Weather**
- **Sinkholes**



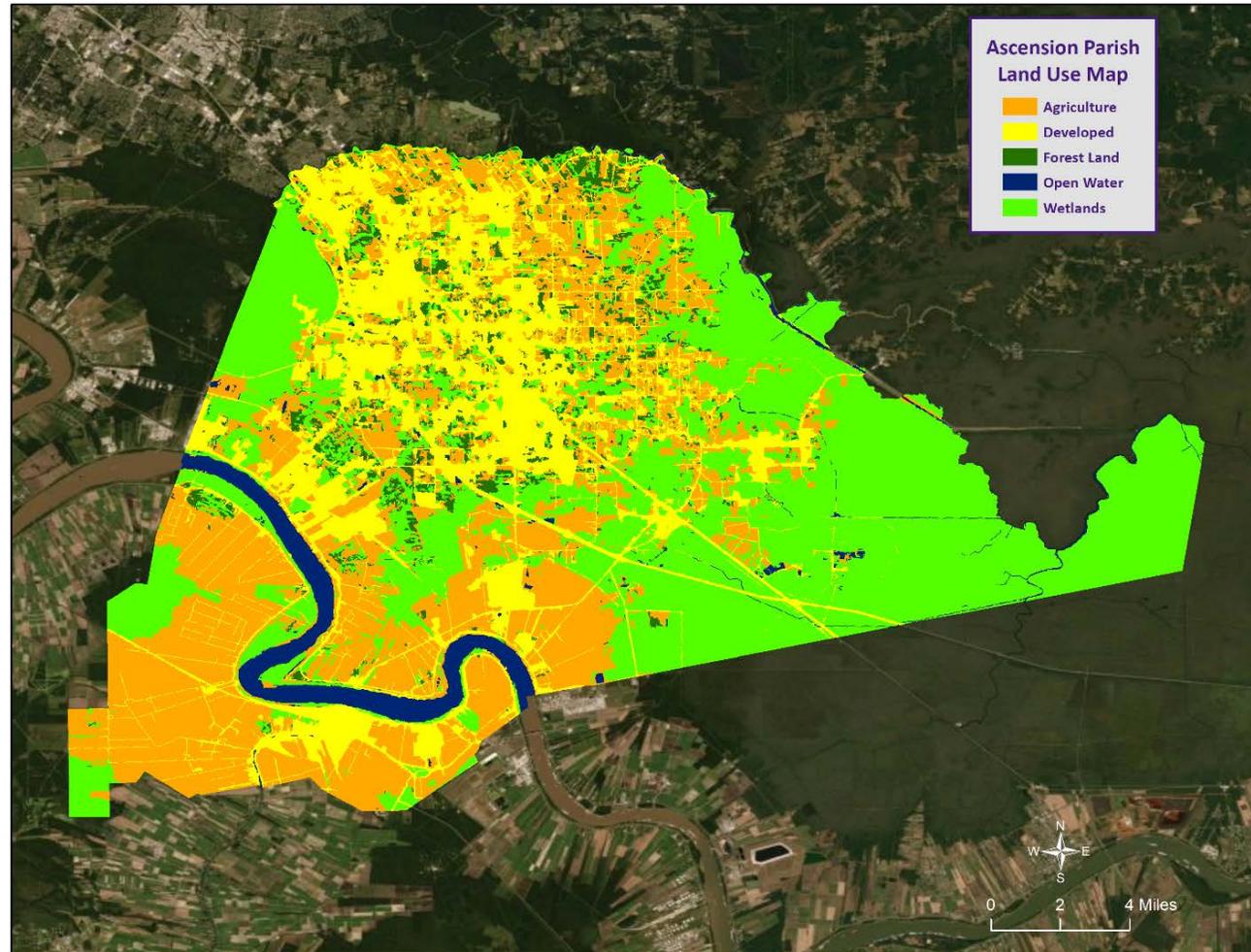
Risk Matrix for Ascension Parish

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	Overall Risk
Flooding	3	4	3	4	3	3.4
Levee Failure	1	4	3	4	3	2.9
Sinkholes	1	1	1	4	2	1.6
Subsidence	1	1	1	1	2	1.15
Thunderstorms (Hail)	3	2	2	3	1	2.25
Thunderstorms (High Winds)	3	2	3	3	1	2.45
Thunderstorms (Lightning)	3	2	3	3	1	2.45
Tornadoes	3	3	2	4	3	2.95
Tropical Cyclones	3	4	4	1	4	3.3
Winter Storms	3	1	4	1	4	2.55

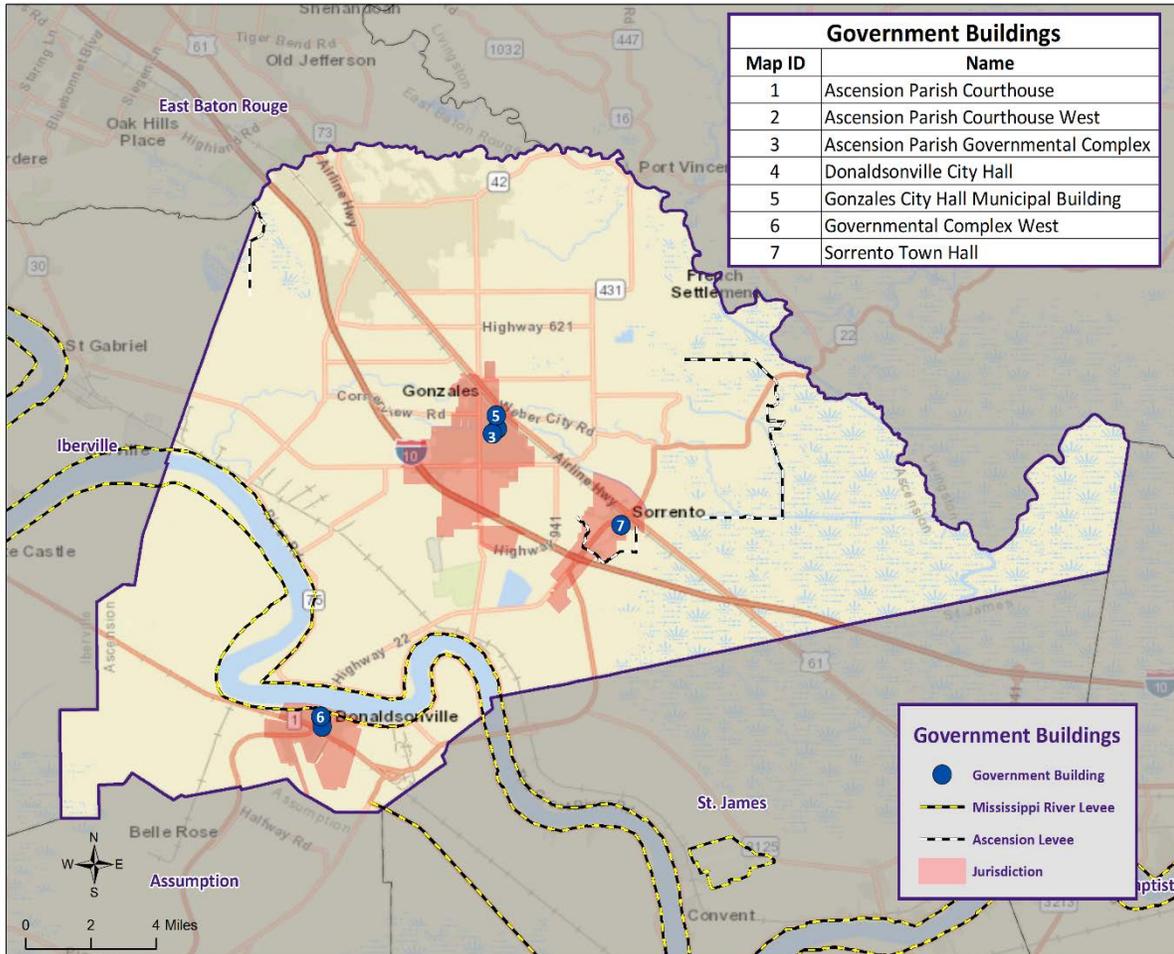
Risk Assessment Maps



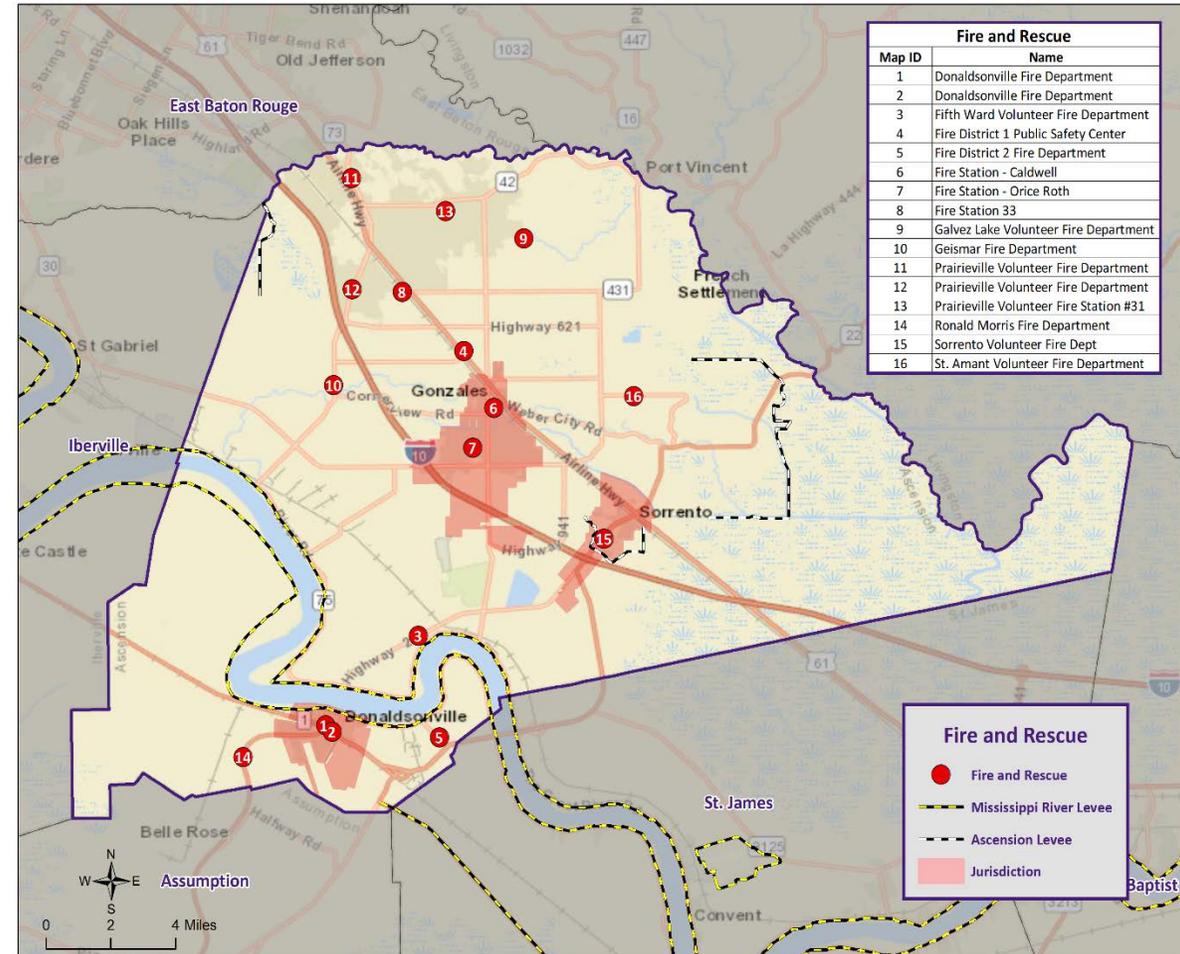
Ascension Parish Land Use



Critical Facilities: Civil Government

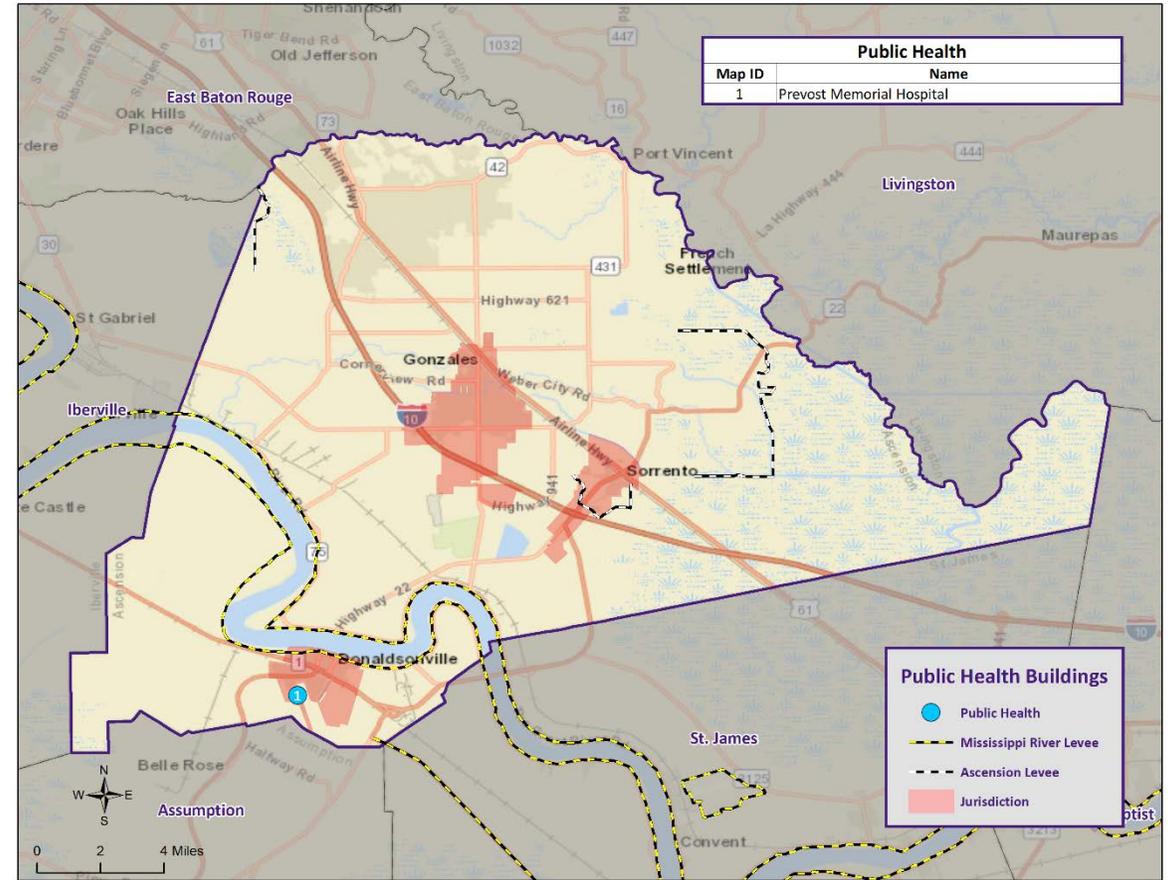
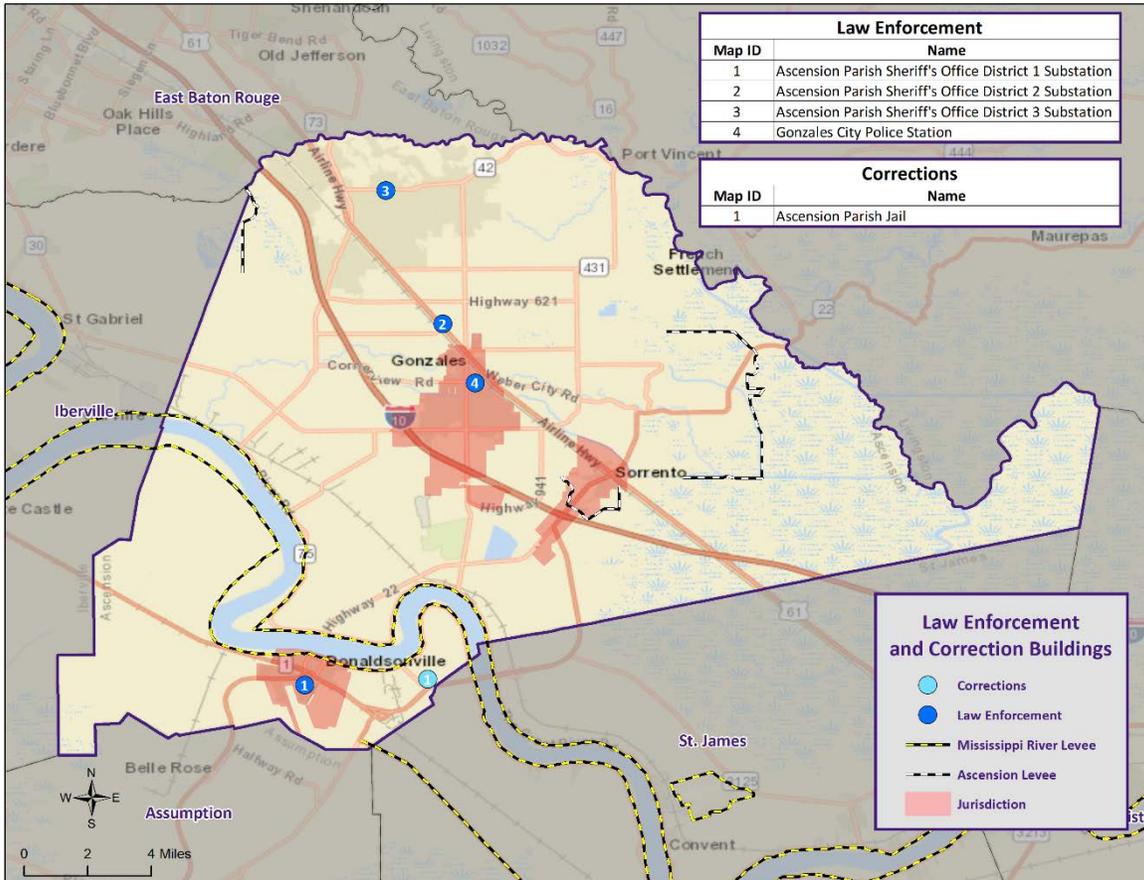


Critical Facilities: Fire & Rescue

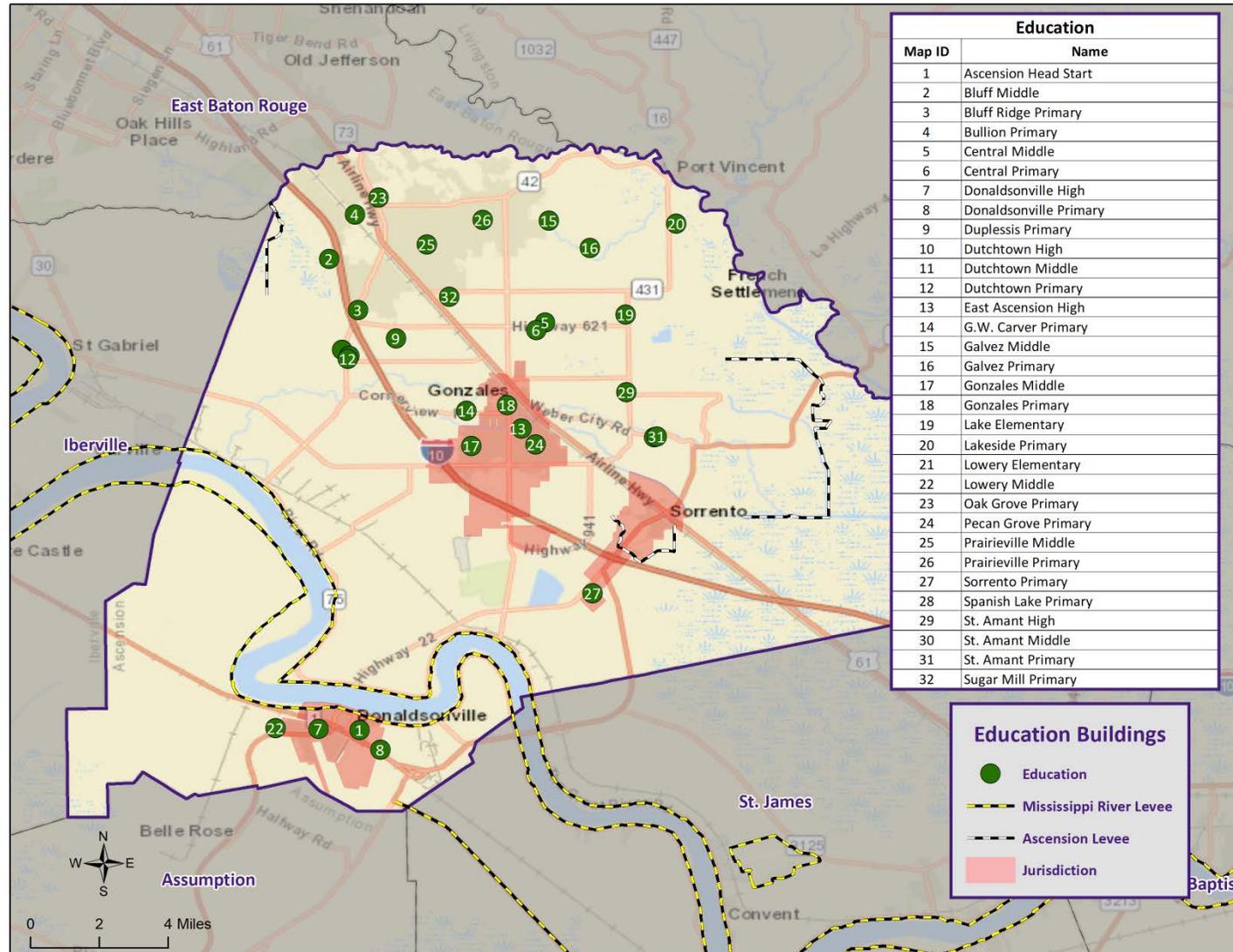


Critical Facilities: Law Enforcement

Critical Facilities: Public Health



Critical Facilities: Schools

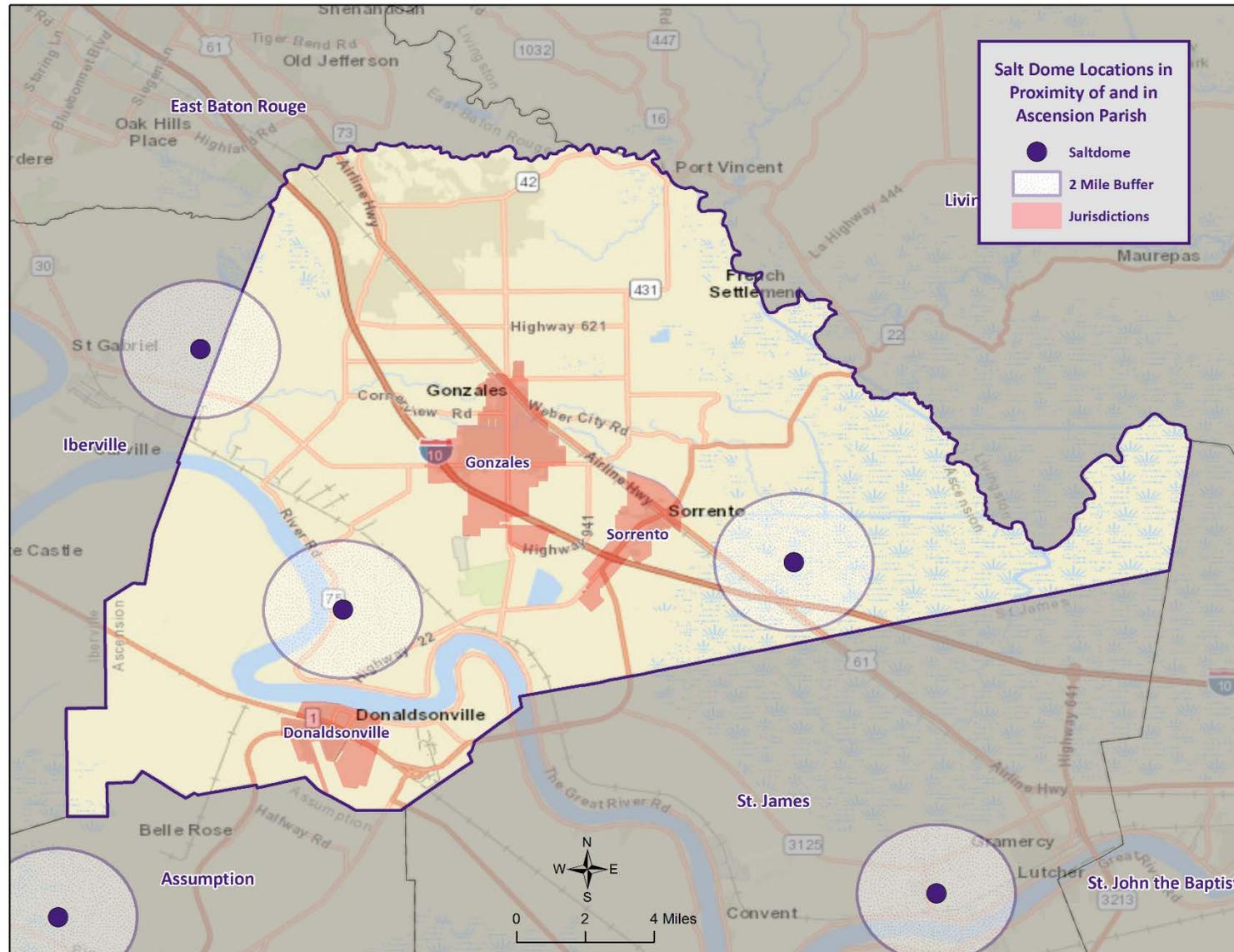


Sinkholes

- Sinkholes are areas of ground—varying in size from a few square feet to hundreds of acres, and reaching in depth from 1 to more than 100 ft.—with no natural external surface drainage.
- Sinkholes can occur naturally or through human influence.
- In Louisiana, most of the sinkholes are precipitated by the human-influenced collapse of salt dome caverns.
- Currently, there are two identifiable salt dome locations in Ascension Parish and one salt dome within a two-mile radius of Ascension Parish.



Salt Dome Locations

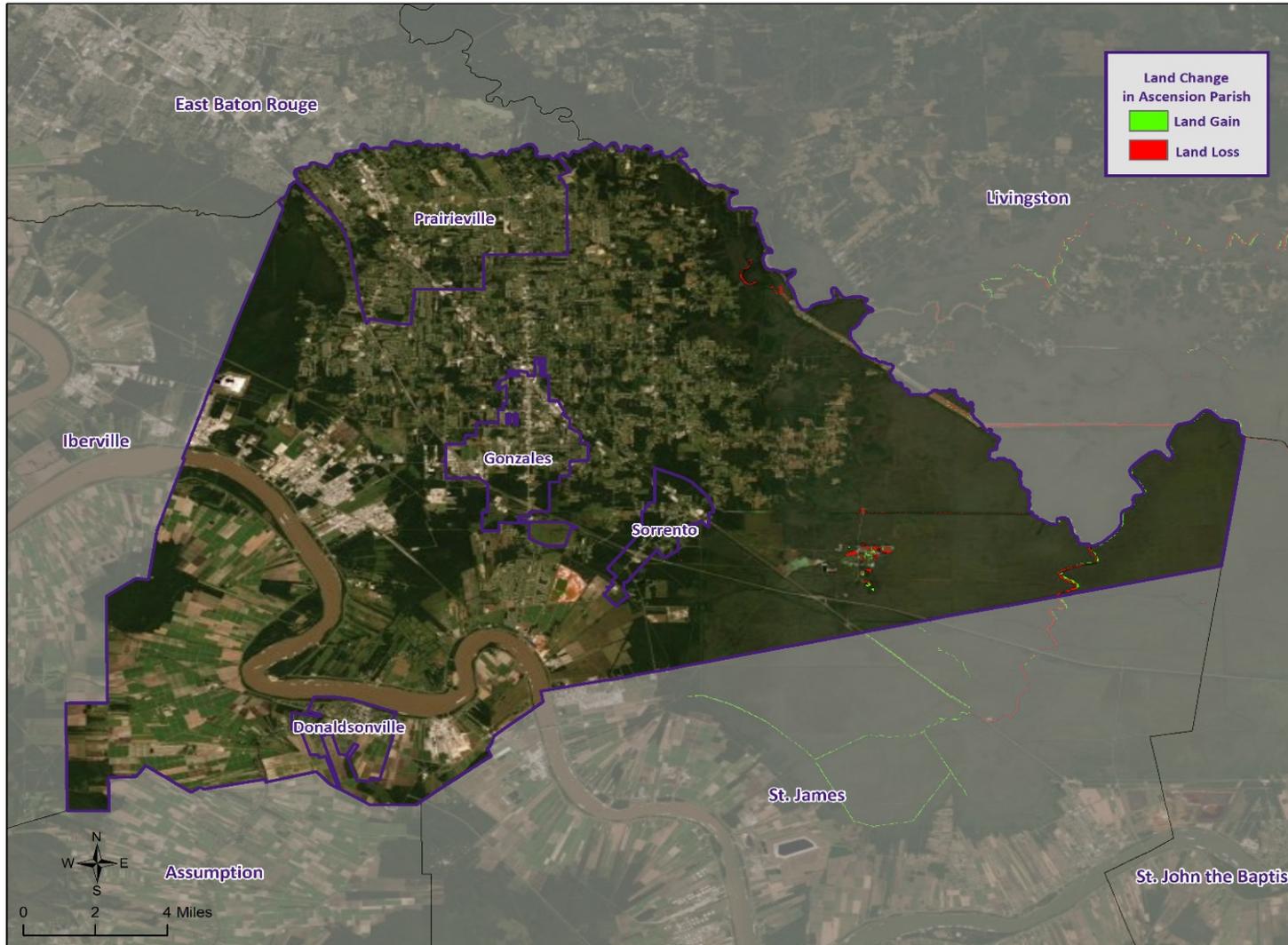


Subsidence

- **Subsidence** is the gradual caving in or sinking of an area of land
 - Slow-acting process with impacts that can be readily seen in coastal parishes over the course of decades
 - Lowers elevations in coastal Louisiana, accelerates the effects of saltwater intrusion
 - Causes structures to become more vulnerable to flooding by lowering elevations



Land Gain & Loss



Flooding

- A flood is the overflow of water onto land that is usually not inundated.
- The National Flood Insurance Program defines a flood as “a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or more properties from overflow of inland or tidal waves, unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source, mudflow, or collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels that result in a flood as defined above.”



Flooding

Types of flooding may include the following:

- Riverine
- Flash
- Ponding
- Backwater
- Urban
- Coastal

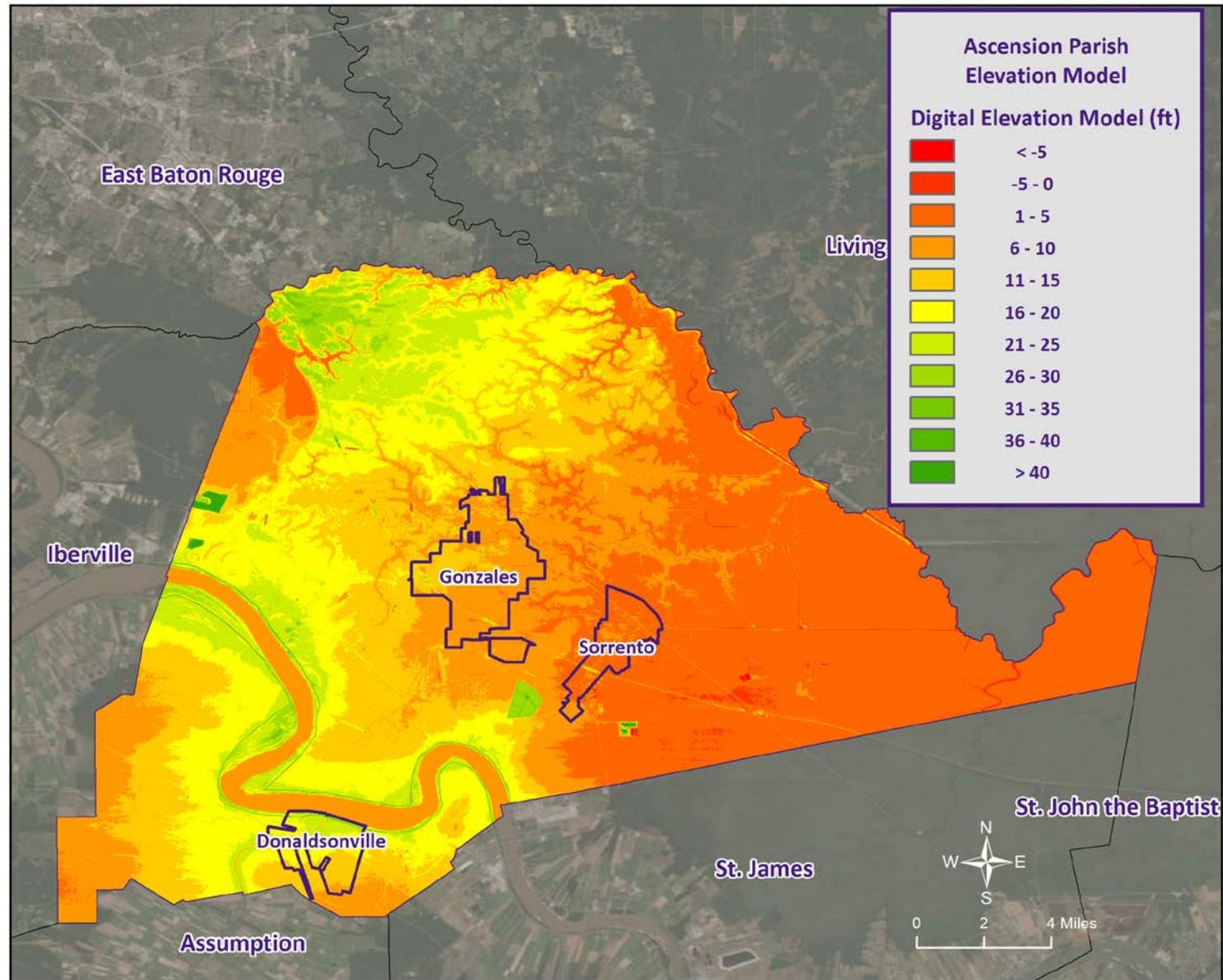


Flooding

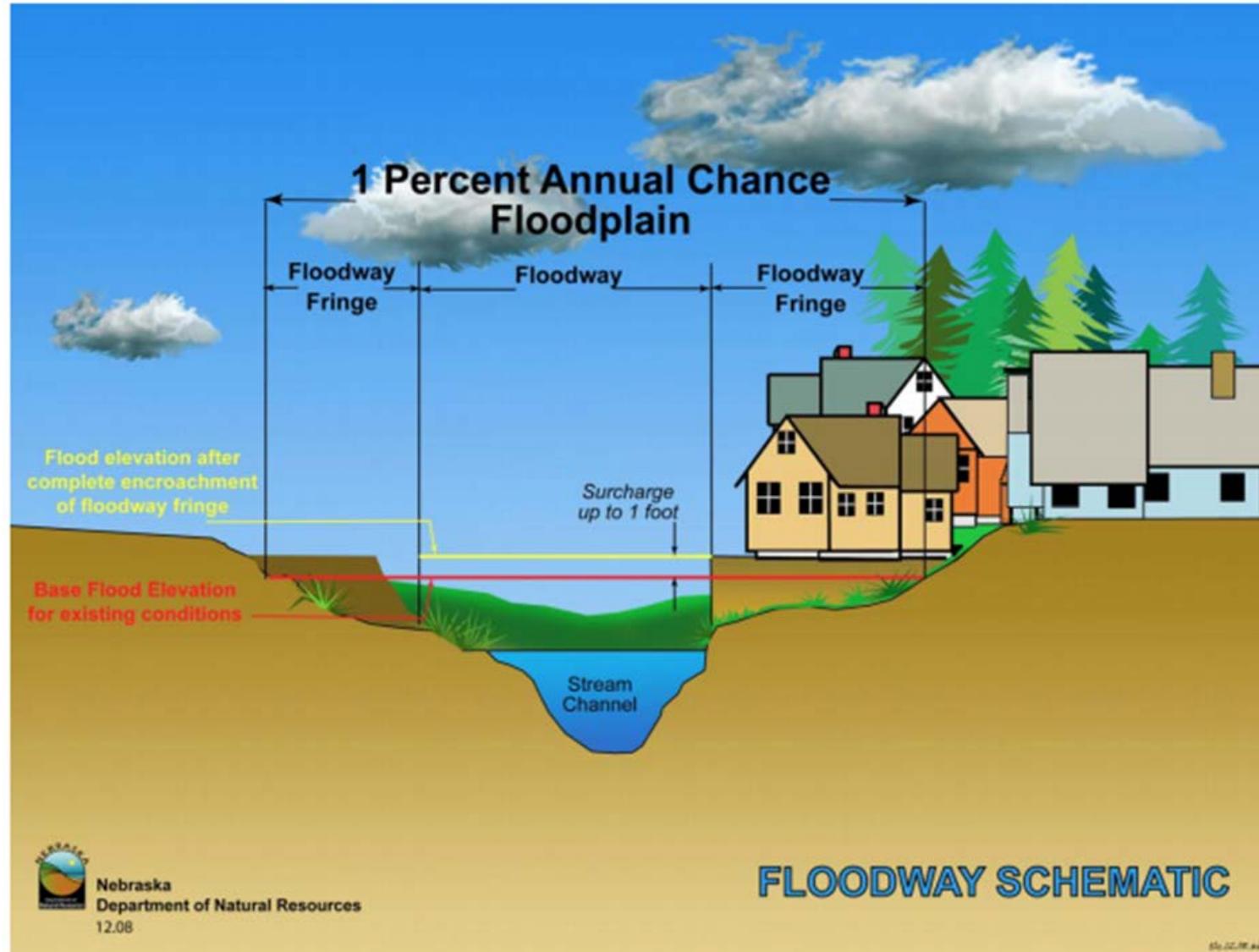
- Some areas flood more often than other properties, even more than those in the mapped 100-year floodplain.
- FEMA defines a “repetitive loss” property as one which has received two flood insurance claim payments for at least \$1,000 over any 10-year period since 1978.
- These properties are important to the National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System because even though they comprise 1% of the policy base, they account for 30% of the country’s flood insurance claim payments.



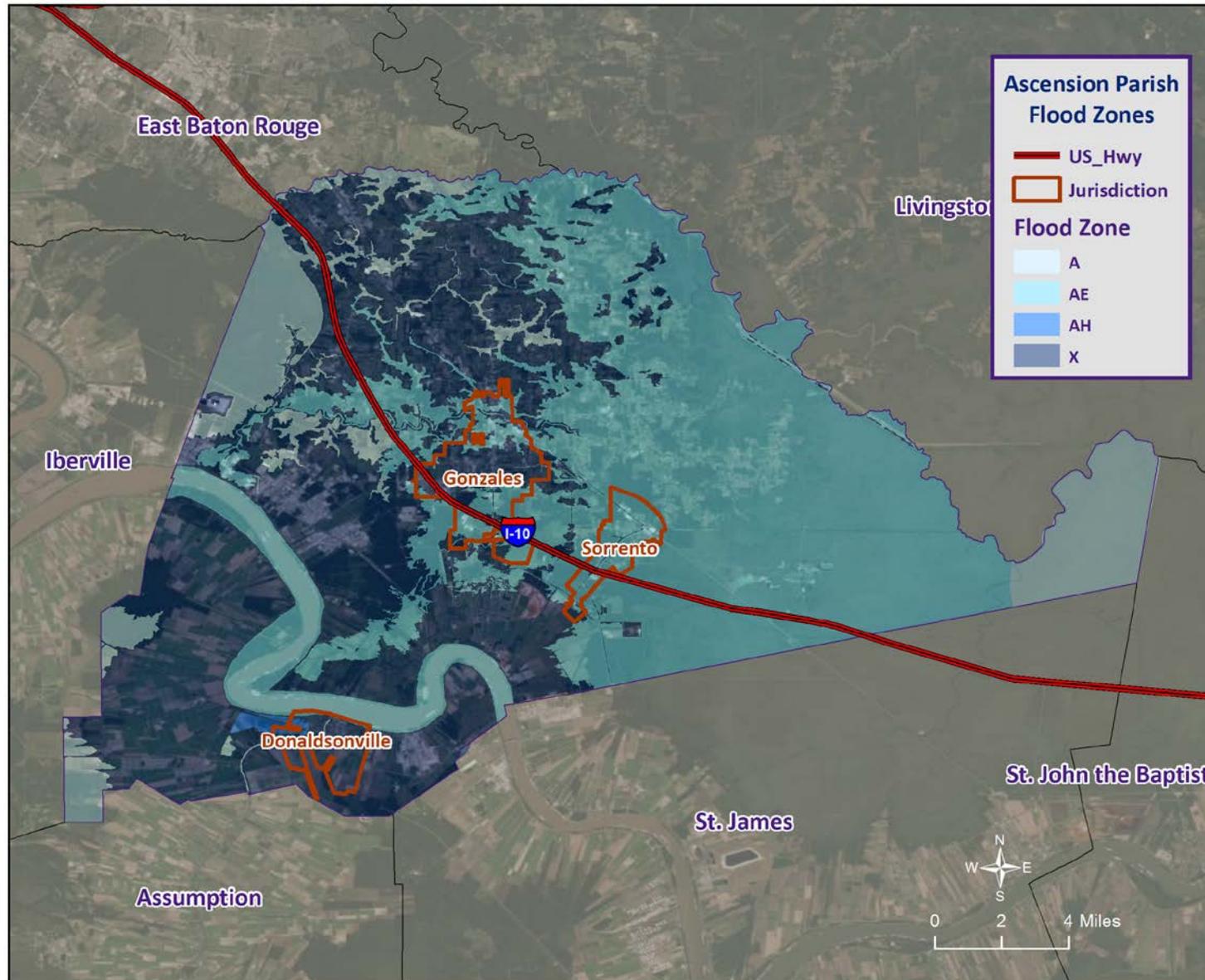
Digital Elevation Model



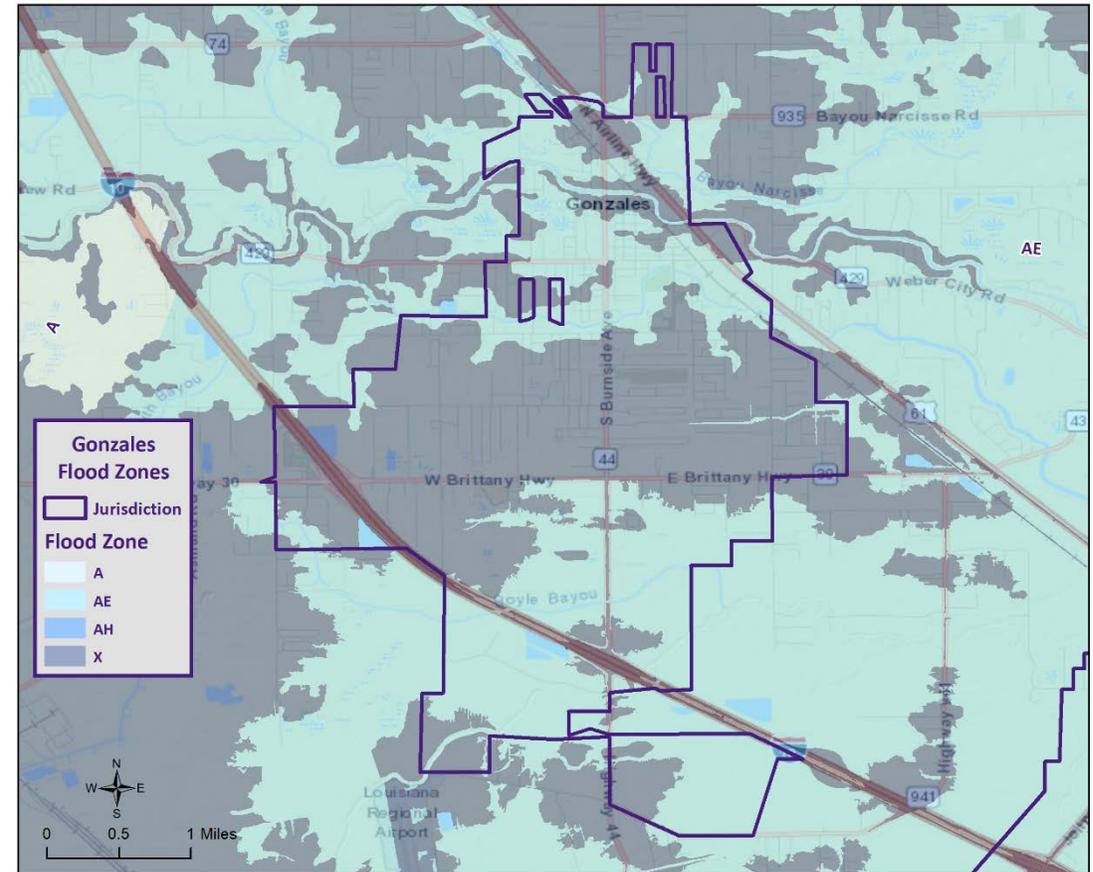
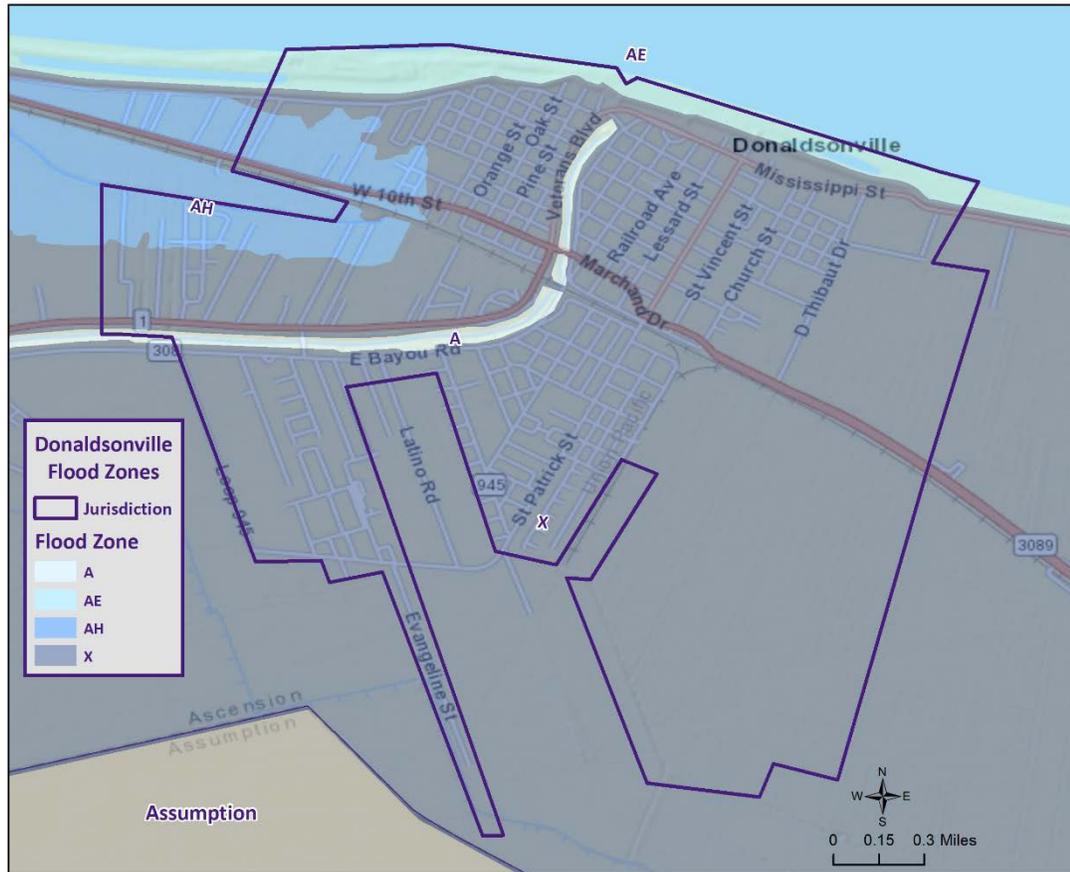
Floodway Diagram



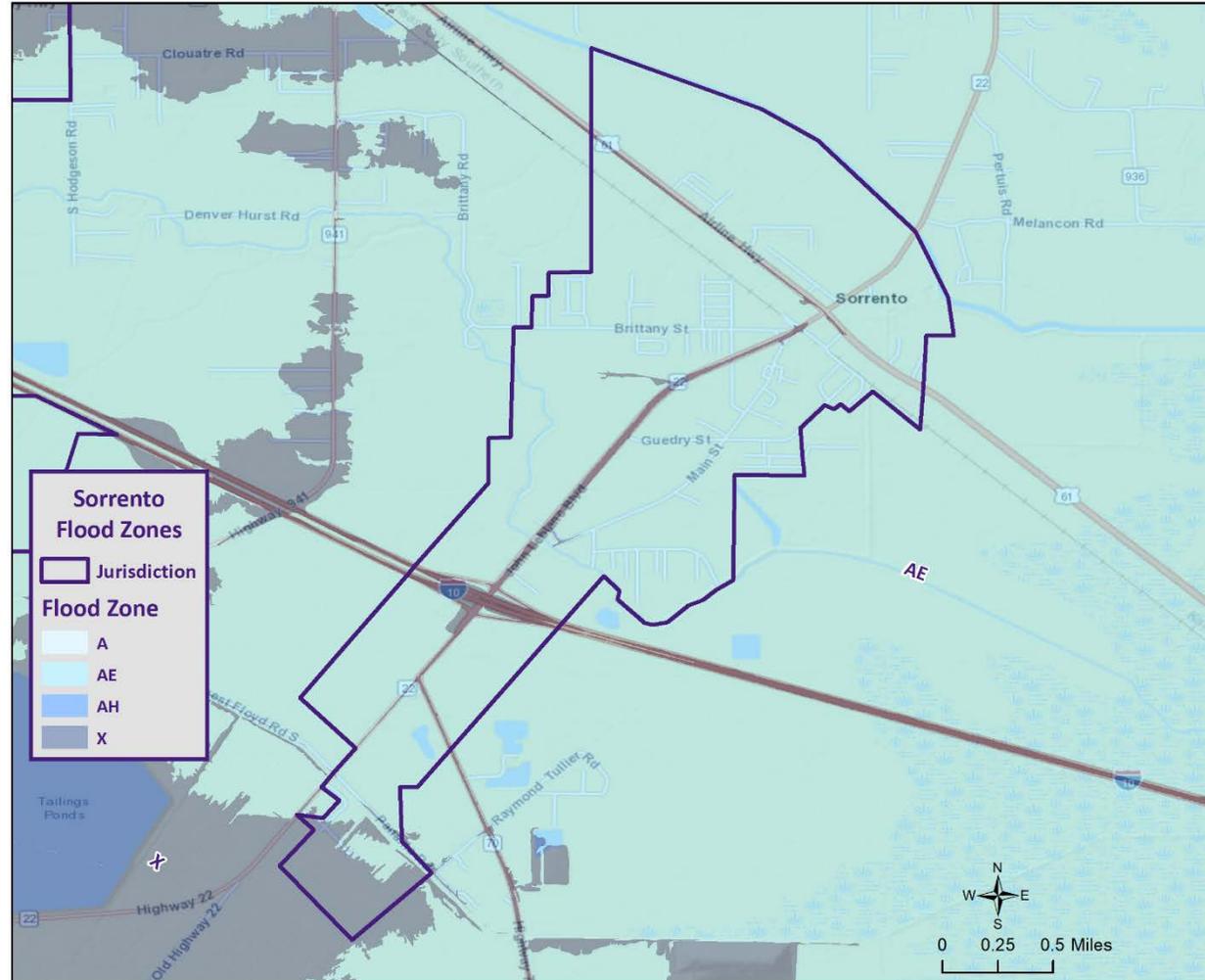
Ascension Parish Flood Map



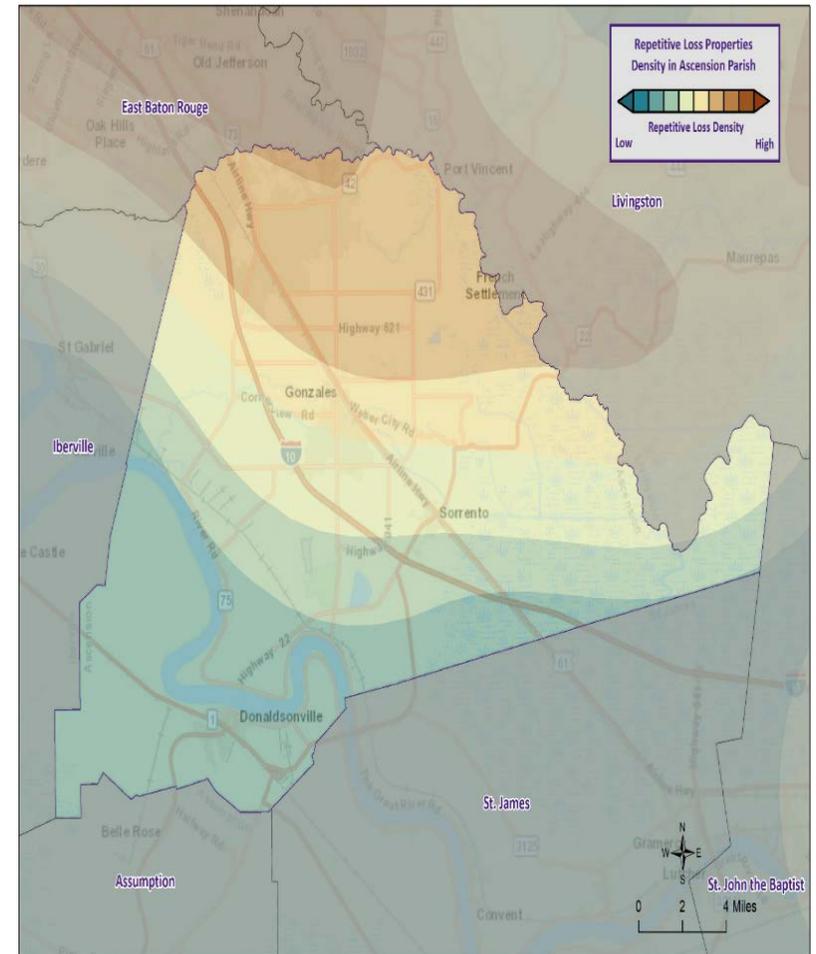
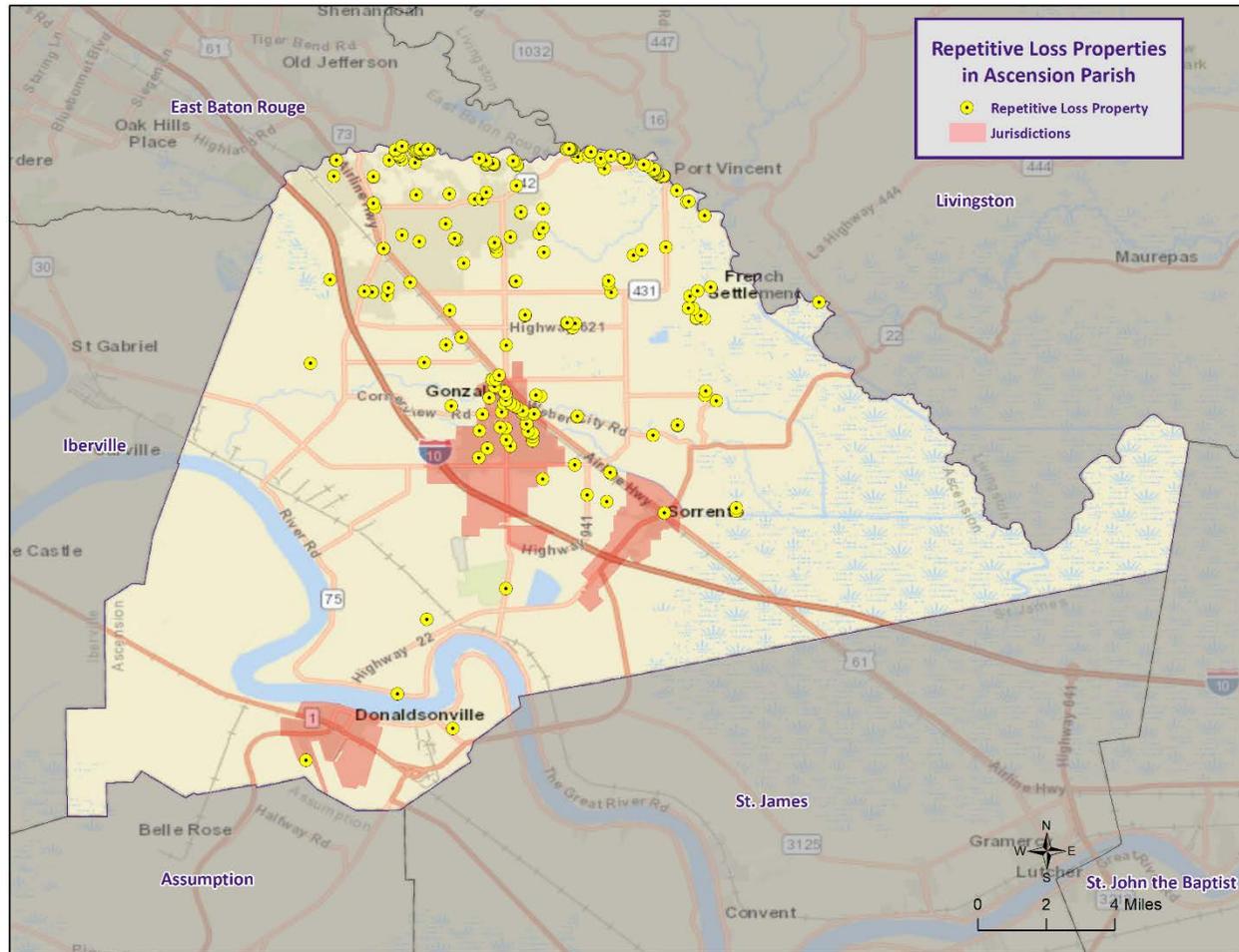
Flood Maps: Donaldsonville and Gonzales



Flood Map: Sorrento



Repetitive Loss Properties



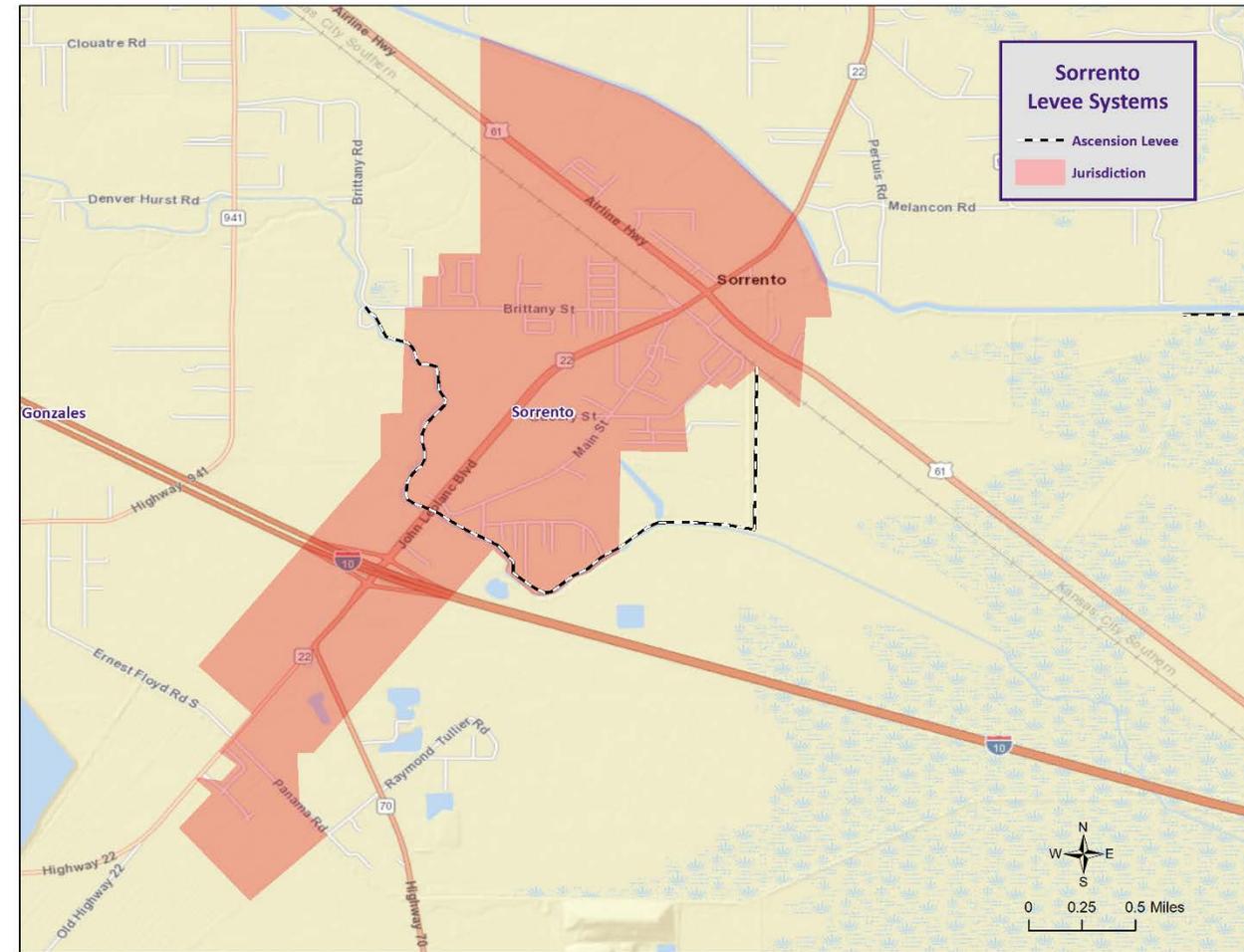
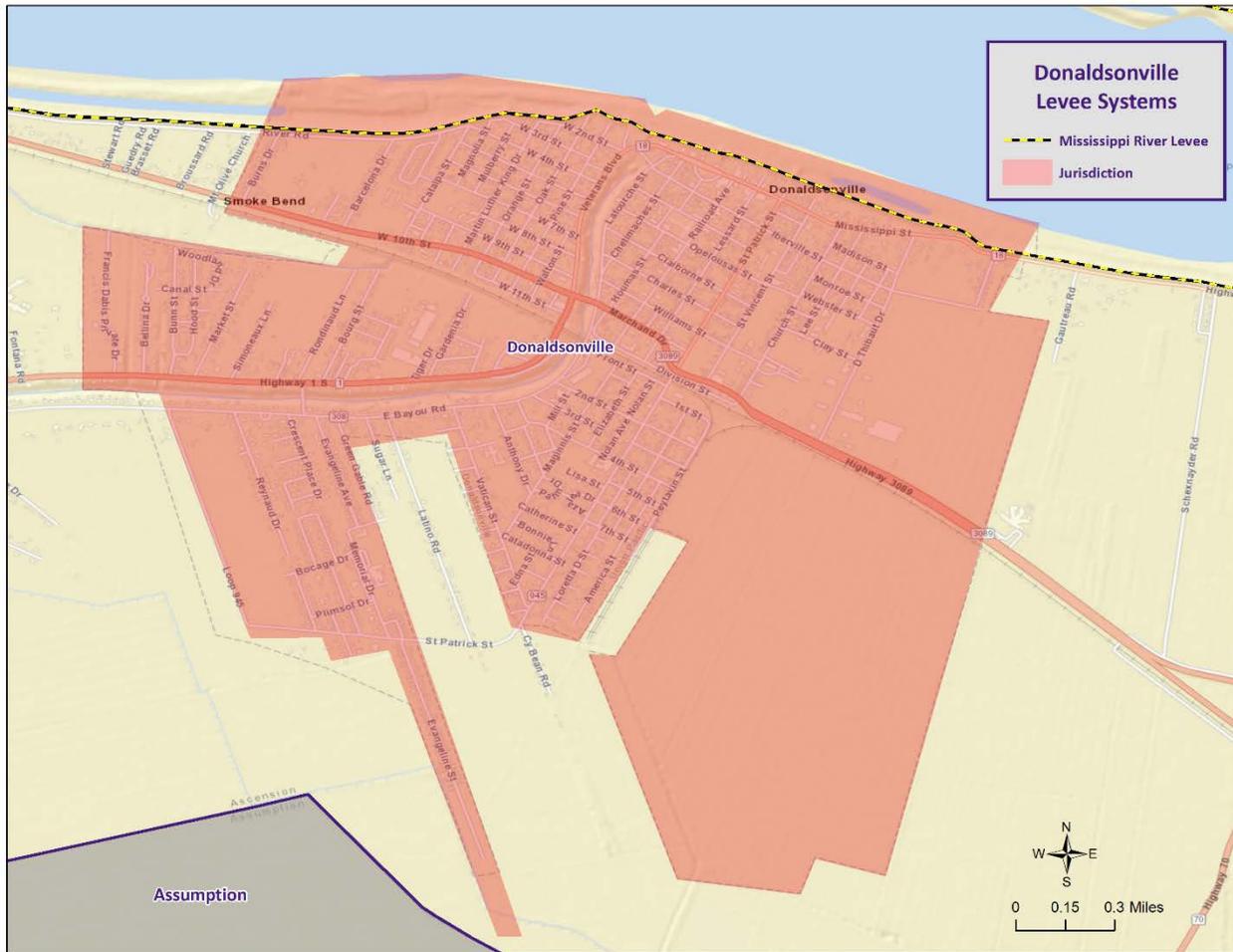
Levee Failure

- Levees are flood control barriers constructed of earth, concrete, or other materials that protect significant areas of residential, commercial, or industrial development.
- Levee failure involves the overtopping, breach, or collapse of the levee.





Levee Locations

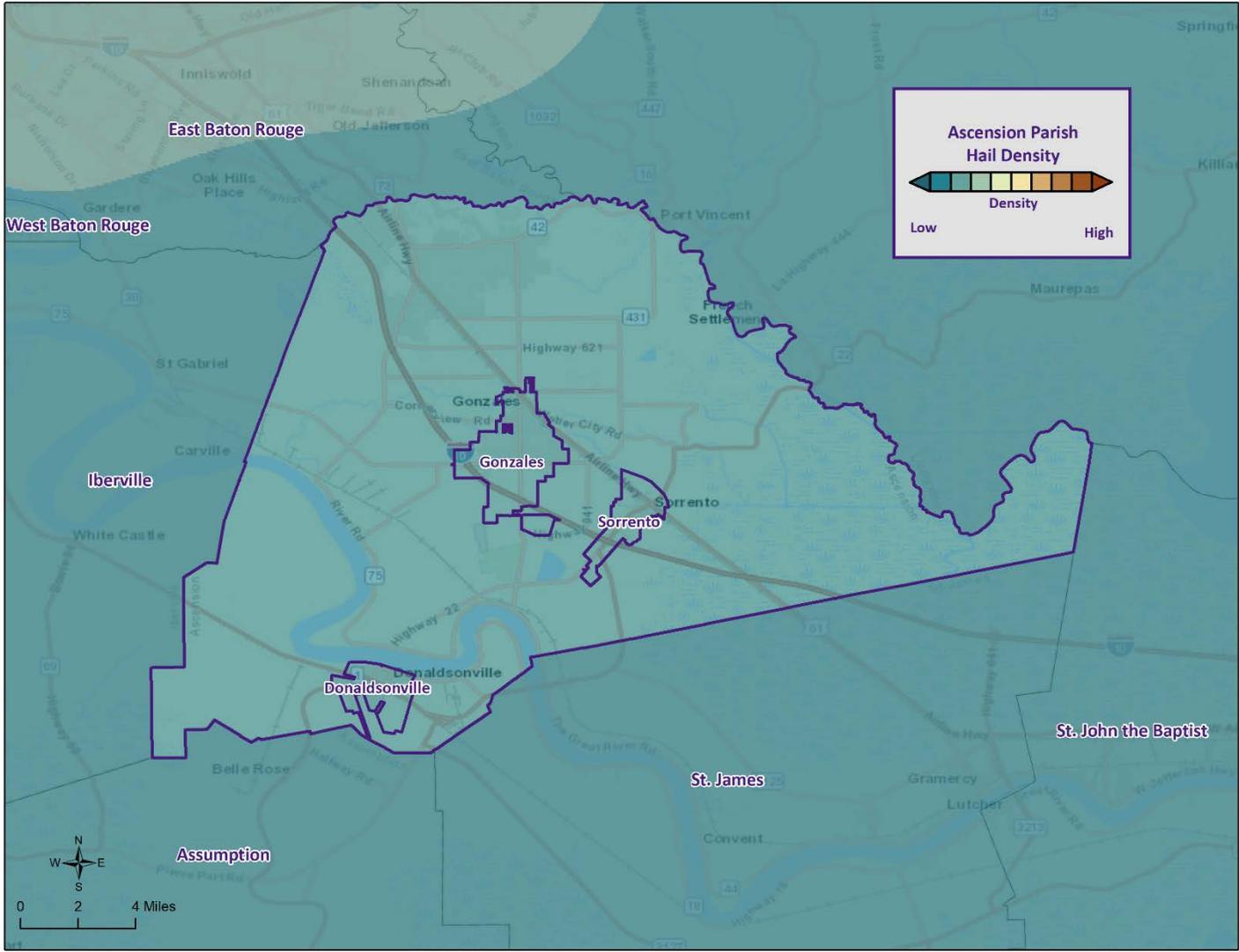


Thunderstorms

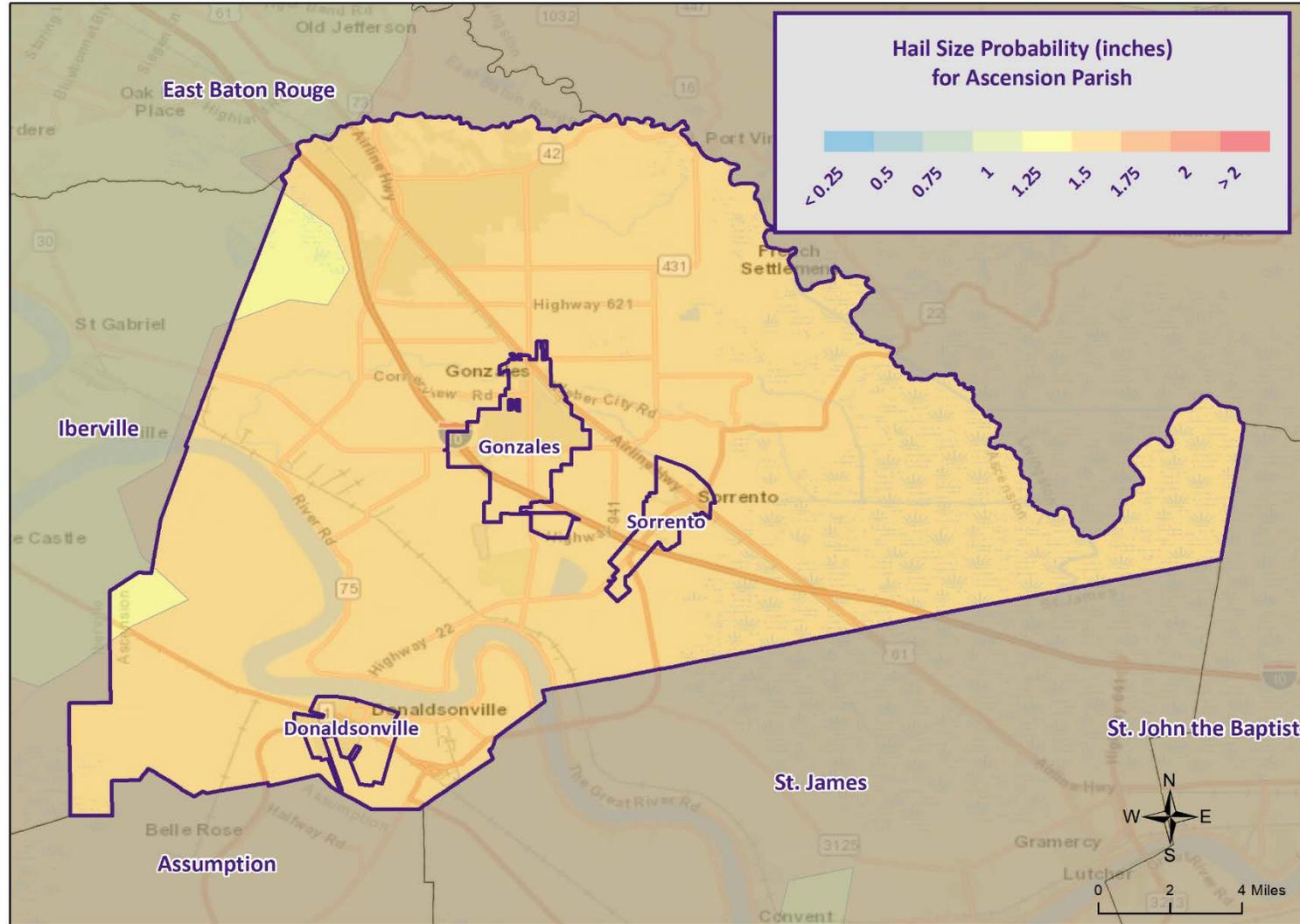
- A **thunderstorm**, also known as an **electrical storm**, a **lightning storm**, or a **thundershower**, is a type of storm characterized by the presence of lightning and its acoustic effect on the Earth's atmosphere known as thunder.
- They are usually accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain, and sometimes snow, sleet, or hail.
- Thunderstorms may line up in a series or rainband, known as a squall line. Strong or severe thunderstorms may rotate, known as supercells. While most thunderstorms move with the mean wind flow through the layer of the troposphere that they occupy, vertical wind shear causes a deviation in their course at a right angle to the wind shear direction.



Density of Prior Hailstorms



Hail Size Probability



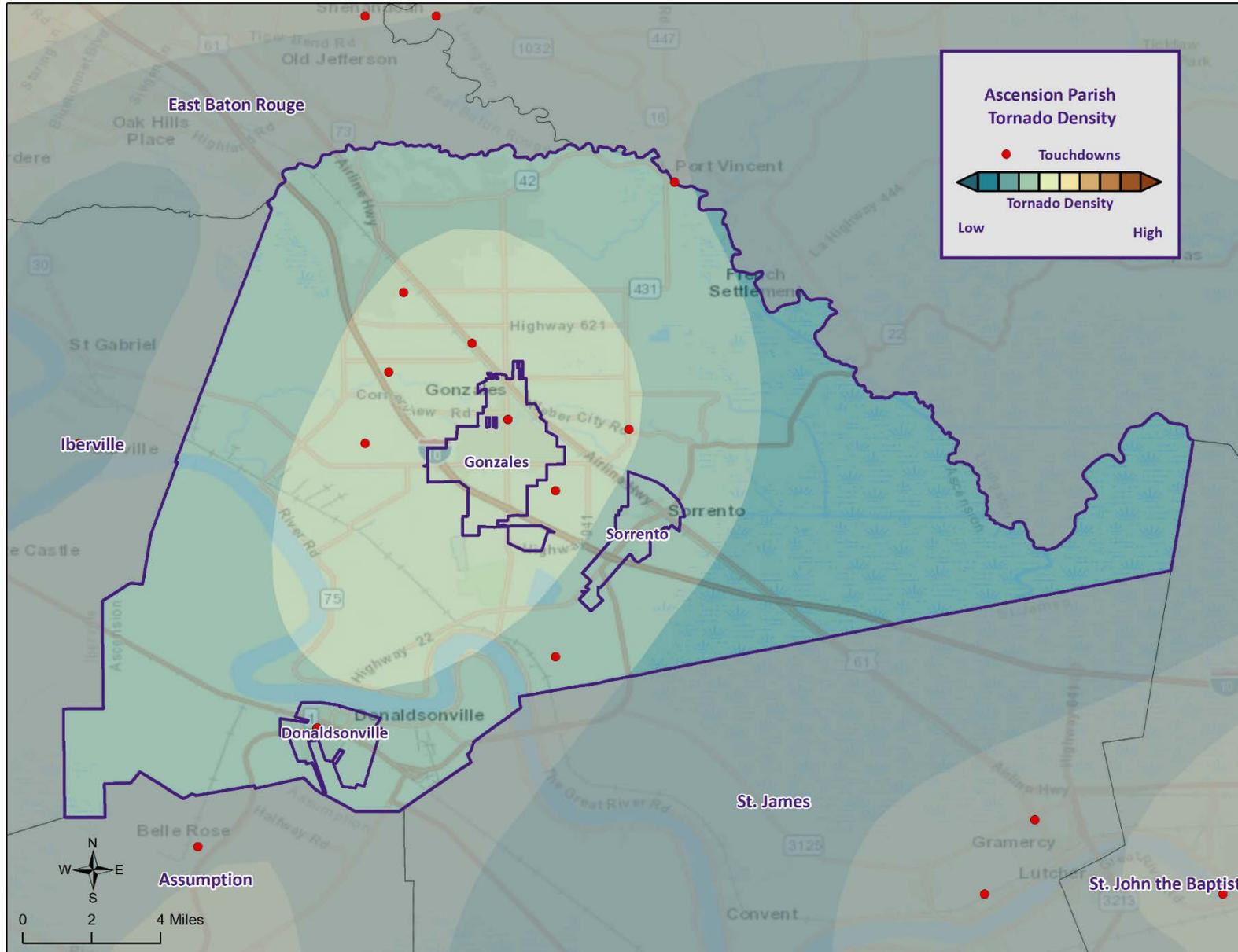
Tornadoes

- Tornadoes (also called twisters and cyclones) are rapidly rotating funnels of wind extending between storm clouds and the ground.
- Tornadoes are the most severe storms for their size, and 70% of the world's reported tornadoes occur within the continental United States.

ORIGINAL FUJITA SCALE		ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE	
F5	261-318 mph	EF5	+200 mph
F4	207-260 mph	EF4	166-200 mph
F3	158-206 mph	EF3	136-165 mph
F2	113-157 mph	EF2	111-135 mph
F1	73-112 mph	EF1	86-110 mph
F0	<73 mph	EF0	65-85 mph



Tornadoes



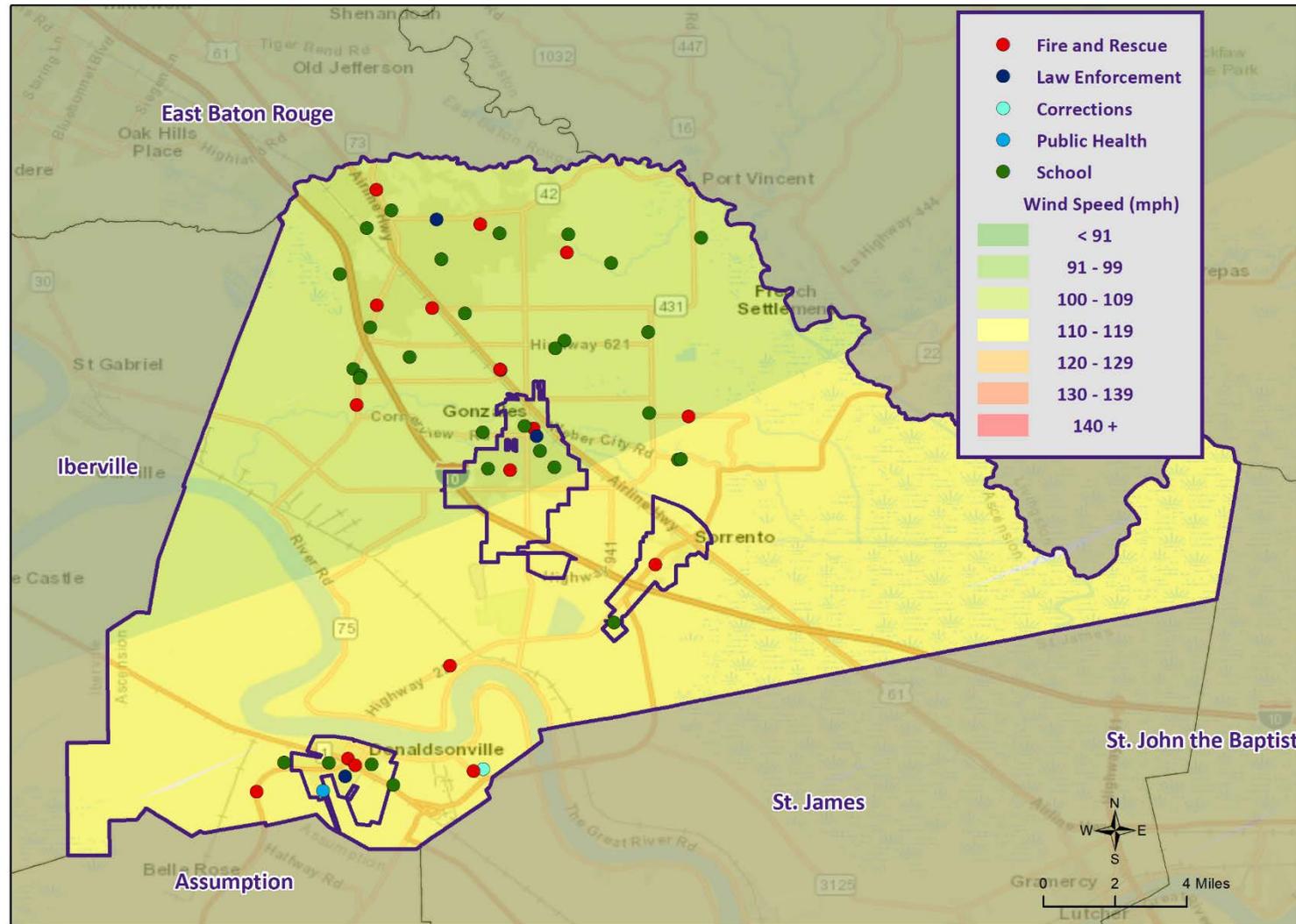
Tropical Cyclones

- Tropical cyclones are defined spinning, low-pressure air masses that draw surface air into their centers and attain strength ranging from weak tropical waves to the most intense hurricanes

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale		
	Sustained Wind Speed	Effects
Category 1	74-95 mph (119-153 km/hr)	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage. Low-lying coastal roads flooded, minor pier damage
Category 2	96-110 mph (154-177 km/hr)	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage. Major damage to exposed mobile homes, evacuation of some shoreline residents
Category 3	111-130 mph (178-209 km/hr)	Devastating damage will occur. Some structural damage to small buildings; serious flooding at coast and many smaller structures near coast destroyed
Category 4	131-155 mph (210-249 km/hr)	Catastrophic damage will occur. High risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Long-term water shortages will increase human suffering. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
Category 5	> 155 mph (249 km/hr)	Catastrophic damage will occur. People, livestock, and pets are at very high risk of injury or death from flying or falling debris. A high percentage of frame homes will be destroyed. Long-term power outages and water shortages will render area uninhabitable for weeks or months.



Wind Speed Impacts on Critical Infrastructure



Parish Mitigation Goals

- **Goal 1:** Identify and pursue preventative structural and non-structural measures that will reduce future damages.
- **Goal 2:** Enhance public awareness and understanding of disaster preparedness.
- **Goal 3:** Reduce repetitive flood losses in parish and municipalities.
- **Goal 4:** Facilitate sound building practices in the parish and municipalities so as to reduce or eliminate the potential impact of hazards.
- **Goal 5:** Improve the ability of the parish and municipalities to rapidly recover and restore facilities and services to the public.



Parish Hazard Mitigation Project Update

- Ascension Parish OHSEP/Ascension Parish Government Discussion



Public Outreach Activity

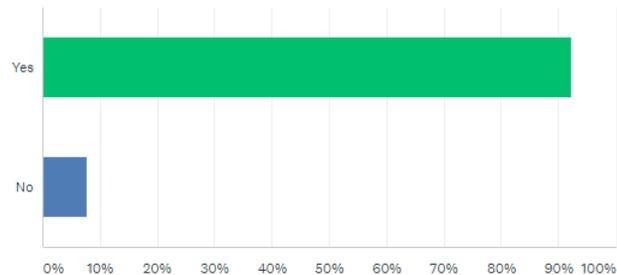
Hazard Mitigation Public Opinion Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AscensionHM2020>

- 27 responses (as of 2:30 this afternoon), average time spent is 9 minutes.

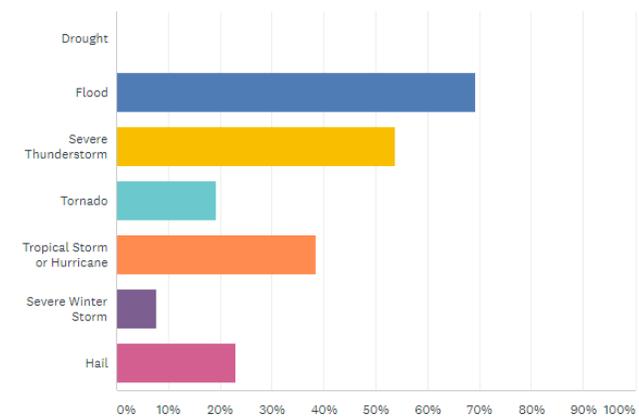
During the past five years in the parish you currently reside in, have you or someone in your household directly experienced a natural disaster such as a severe windstorm, flood, tropical storm or other type of natural disaster?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1



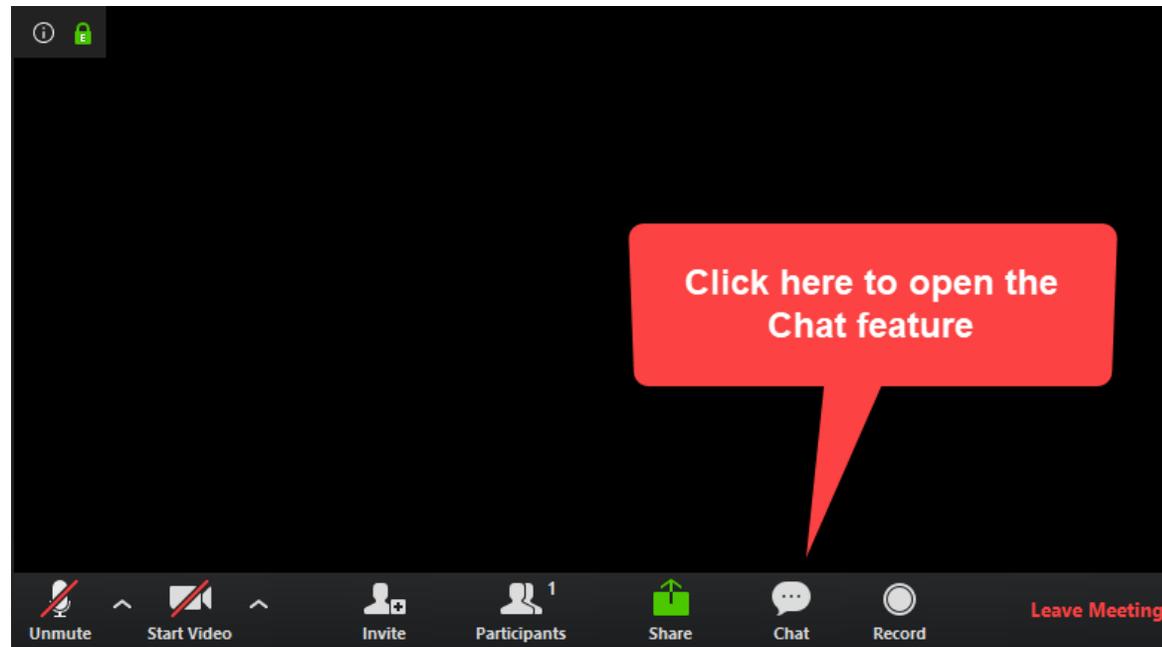
Which of these natural disasters have you or someone in your household experienced in the past five years? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1



Chat Questions

- SDMI Moderator answers to public chat questions that were not addressed directly in the chat function.



Contact Us

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